



Where to Find More Information

The website Outdoors.fi is designed to help people interested in outdoor activities to find suitable destinations around Finland, and plan their trips. The website is easy to use, regularly updated, and contains many more destinations and details than this leaflet. A flexible search function helps all kinds of people to find suitable places to visit. The site's 'Hiking in Finland' pages include tips on interesting destinations, useful information about everyman's right, and advice about the clothes and equipment visitors might need at different times of year.

outdoors.fi

The web pages on destinations in the website Outdoors.fi contain links to [Metsähallitus's](http://Metsähallitus.fi) Excursionmap.fi website. This service enables hikers to find detailed maps of destinations, showing trails and facilities, and available free of charge until further notice.

excursionmap.fi

Many national parks and hiking areas have their own visitor centres or nature information huts. Visitor centres provide useful information about local natural features and facilities for hikers. They also house impressive exhibitions and show audiovisual presentations featuring local wildlife and scenery. At nature information huts the visitor will get plenty of information about what to see and do in the area. [Metsähallitus's](http://Metsähallitus.fi)

other customer service points conveniently located around Finland are good sources of information about services and facilities for hikers.

How to Find a Suitable Destination

Choose a destination using the table and map on the other side of this leaflet. More detailed information about the listed destinations is available from the phone numbers provided and on the Outdoors.fi website. More details about destinations and services are also available from [Metsähallitus's](http://Metsähallitus.fi) customer service number +358 205 64 125.



Services Provided by Metsähallitus

[Metsähallitus](http://Metsähallitus.fi) administers State-owned lands and waters covering about a third of Finland. [Metsähallitus's](http://Metsähallitus.fi) work is divided into commercial forestry, and natural heritage services – which include nature conservation work and the provision of facilities for hikers and other visitors. Almost half of Finland's State-owned forests are protected as nature reserves, national parks or wilderness areas.

[Metsähallitus](http://Metsähallitus.fi), Natural Heritage Services
P.O. Box 94 (Vernissakatu 4)
01301 Vantaa, Finland
Tel. int. +358 205 64 100
Fax. int. +358 205 64 4350
www.metsa.fi/english
www.outdoors.fi
www.excursionmap.fi



ENGLISH

Enjoy Nature in Finland

Find the Best Places



[Metsähallitus](http://Metsähallitus.fi) Natural Heritage Services head office 11708 • 3rd edition • Illustrations: Jari Kostet
• Translation: Fran Weaver • Erweko Painotuote Oy, Helsinki 2008, 5,000 copies

 **METSÄHALLITUS**

Answer the Call of the Wild

Nature-lovers can enjoy many different kinds of trips through the Finnish countryside, by land or by water, at any time of year. Visitors can freely roam the great outdoors almost everywhere in Finland. Many of the best scenery and facilities for walking, trekking and boating can be found in national parks, hiking areas and nature reserves managed by Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services. In many areas visitors can also use nature tourism services provided by local firms.

This handy leaflet lists many of the best places to enjoy nature in Finland, from the wild arctic fells of Lapland to the beautiful Baltic archipelagos. The list includes suitable destinations for everyone, from families with small children to trekkers wanting to spend a week in the wilderness. In areas managed by Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services visitors can view varied natural scenery, watch fascinating wildlife, or simply enjoy peaceful natural settings.

There are no charges for visiting the listed destinations or using their hiking facilities. For even more ideas of places to visit, see the website Outdoors.fi.



Rights and Responsibilities

Finland's liberal laws of access to the land – known as 'Everyman's right' – give people of all nationalities a free right to roam the countryside and enjoy outdoor activities in a natural setting, no matter who owns the land.

This free right comes hand in hand with a responsibility to avoid any damage or disturbance to the natural environment, people's property and other visitors.

Everyman's right enables visitors to freely walk, ski, ride, cycle, row or paddle around the countryside, except in the immediate surroundings of people's homes, or in cultivated fields. Visitors can also picnic, swim, and even camp out for a night or two. Motor vehicles, including snowmobiles, may not be used off road without the landowner's permission. In certain sensitive areas in national parks and other protected areas visitor's movements and rights are restricted to protect wildlife.

Everyman's right also allows visitors to pick wild berries and mushrooms, and to fish with a simple rod and line in most waters all year round. Hunters need the landowner's permission, as well as official hunting permits.



The landowner's permission is also required for letting pets off lead or lighting open campfires. Campfire sites specially provided by Metsähallitus can be used freely, except when forest fire warnings are in force.

More information on these extensive rights is available at www.environment.fi/everymansright.

Respect Nature

Many of the areas featured here are run by Metsähallitus according to waste-free principles. Hikers are expected to take their own wastes away to suitable recycling and collection points. This helps to reduce the need for disruptive waste collection in natural areas. Visitors are also encouraged to pack their food and supplies in reusable containers to prevent waste.

Tips for hikers wishing to reduce their impact on the natural environment:

- Avoid unnecessary travel by visiting nearby destinations.
- Use public transport or share car journeys.
- Follow the local regulations.
- Leave no trace where you hike or camp.
- Do not make any unnecessary noise, or otherwise disturb wildlife.
- Wash yourself and your dishes on dry land.

For more tips see the Outdoors.fi website.

