



Hepoköngäs Nature reserve

- Established: 1956
- Area: 1,7 km²
- Location: Puolanka

Maintained by: Metsähallitus

- Tel. +358 206 39 6380, petola@metsa.fi
- Nationalparks.fi/hepokongas
- Excursionmap.fi

Tourism services:

- Paljakka.fi
- Ukkohalla.fi



Nature Reserve

Hepoköngäs



Hepoköngäs Nature Reserve is located in the hilly terrain of Arctic Lakeland Kainuu region. The pearl of the area is the waterfall and an accessible nature trail with campfire shelter. Area is praised for the old spruce forest and rare bird species.

Rushing waterfall

Hepoköngäs is a 24 m high waterfall, one of the highest natural ones in Finland. Its waters run to Gulf of Bothnia via Heinijoki and Kiiminkijoki rivers.

Explore History of the Earth

Geological nature trail (1,5 km) runs through river ravine and mires. The oldest rock on Earth meets petrified sediments of ancient sea in the ravine. A continental tectonic plate has sunk here under an underwater plate pushing up a mountain range, now worn out by billions of years and ice ages.

Old forests

Diversity of lichens, mosses and ferns is great due to both torrent and damp, shady spots on the cliffs. Springs, streams and annual flood of the river add nutrients to the soil. Half of the area is spruce dominated old growth forest with much dead wood.

Birds of forests and running waters

Hazel grouse (*Bonasia bonasia*), black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*) and western capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) live in the forests. White-throated dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*) nests by the waterfall and grey wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) hops in the summer on the stones under the waterfall.

In Hepoköngäs the following are

allowed

- walking, skiing and canoing
- angling and ice-fishing in ponds
- berry and mushroom picking

restricted

- making a campfire is allowed only on the campfire shelter. If a forest or grass fire warning is in effect, lighting campfires is forbidden.
- lure fishing requires a permit
- hunting requires a permit

forbidden

- littering or damaging structures
- pets running free
- camping
- collecting plants or invertebrates
- damaging animals and nature
- snowmobiling and off-road traffic using a motor vehicle

Nationalparks.fi/ hepokongas > Instructions and rules

The emergency number is 112 – know where you are!

GEOLOGICAL TRAIL. PHOTO: SANNA NURILA

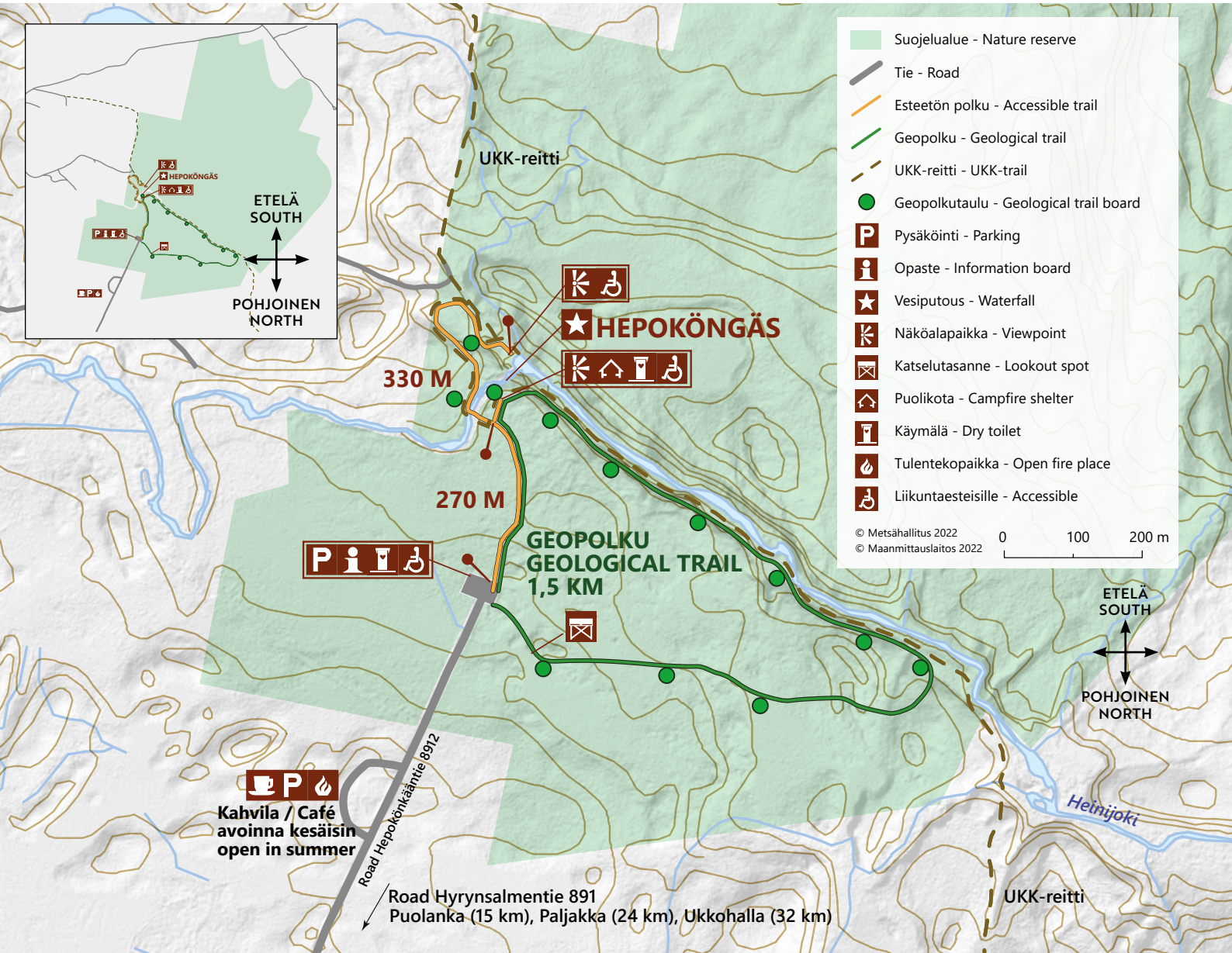


METSÄHALLITUS 4/2022
MAIN PHOTO: MARI LIMNELL



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How to get to Hepoköngäs

- Hepoköngäs is 15 km from the center of Puolanka.
- There are signposts to the parking area from the road Hyrynsalmentie.
- For navigator use the address Hepokönkäntie 21, Puolanka.

Respect nature!

- Leave no traces of your visit behind.
- Burn burnable waste, if possible.
- Put bio waste into a composting toilet.
- Take all other litter out of the area.
- Keep in mind the Outdoor Etiquette!!



PURPLEPORE BRACKET. TRICHAPTUM ABIETINUM. PHOTO: RAIIJA KÄRENLAMPPI

