



TOP 3

- 1. Culturally and historically valuable landscapes in Mattila and Vaarala
- 2. Versatile services in the Koli village and Yläpiha
- 3. Iconic views in Ukko-Koli

Koli National Park

Kylän polku Trail

Koli is quite a character. It has never been easy on its travellers, but it rewards fearless visitors generously. The Kylän polku Trail (Village Trail) leads you to the heart of Koli through whispers of the past.

For a long time, stories of spirits living on the fells kept permanent inhabitants away from Mustarintanen on the hills of Koli. The trail leads you from the centre of a lively cultural village to the trails walked by settlers and travellers centuries ago.

First, the trail leads through a forest along the old village road to the Mattila farm where you can have a bite at a café and meet farm animals in the summertime. As the trail ascends to Vaaralanaho, the cultural landscape and its meadows hide an idyllic campfire site where you can take a moment to rest. Nearby, the old slash-and-

burn birch forests at Ipatinvaara tell the tales of the old livelihood of the villagers and the nature preservation endeavours in Koli.

As you traverse higher up, the trail leads you through the phases of the national park's story to its colourful origins. Past the well-known Uhrihalkeama sacrificial crevice, enjoy the versatile services at the Yläpiha courtyard and Koli Nature Centre Ukko with its exhibitions. After the last, steep climb up the stairs, your efforts are rewarded by ancient hilltops of Koli and the breathtaking views from them.

AVAILABLE: In the snow-free season.

STARTING POINT: Koli Church parking area, Ylä-Kolintie 4, Lieksa.

TRAIL MARKINGS: Petrol blue colour on the map. The crossroad signposts have been numbered and the numbers correspond to the numbering of the Koli service and trail map (1:20000).

RECOMMENDED GEAR: Weatherappropriate clothing and shoes suitable for varying terrain, drinks, lunch, firemaking tools, toilet paper, rubbish bag, first aid kit, charged phone and map.

SAFETY: The emergency number: 112

You may encounter snakes in the meadows and rocky areas of the trail as well as ticks in high grass. Koli's peaks and many other scenic viewpoints have a rough terrain and the bare rock areas are particularly slippery when it rains. There are no handrails at the viewpoints. Visitors must leave the hilltop during a thunderstorm. Before your trip, always check for any weather warnings: en.ilmatieteenlaitos.fi/warnings

INSTRUCTIONS AND RULES:

During a forest and grass fire warning, making a fire is not allowed at the Kylän polku Trail campfire sites. Keep pets on a leash and stay on the trail to protect the sensitive nature of the area from erosion. Please read before your trip: nationalparks.fi/hikinginfinland/visitorguidelines nationalparks.fi/kolinp/instructionsandrules



METSÄHALLITUS 12/2022. PHOTOS: SAARA LAVI



Kylän polku Trail





