



TOP 3

- 1. The Koli harbour and its services at the Pielinen lake
- 2. Old-growth forests and slope groves at Ipatinvaara
- 3. Iconic landscapes of Ukko-Koli

Koli National Park

Sataman polku Trail

The Sataman polku Trail (Harbour Trail), presumed to be the oldest signposted trail in Finland, leads you through the footprints of artists inspired by Karelianism and the first visitors to enjoy the most iconic landscapes of Koli.

For long, no trails disturbed the wilderness around Koli which is why waterways in Pielinen were the primary method of getting there. At the Koli harbour, you can still see the text "Matkailiamaja 2 km" ("Guest house") and a pointing finger carved into a boulder which the first travellers would follow to the hike up towards Ylämaja, the refuge that accommodated travellers of the time, and the stunning views of the hill tops.

The trail ascends up the Ipatinvaara slope through the oldest forest in the national park and old slash-and-burn cultivated land. The information boards along the trail let you experience nature like the first explorers in

Koli and the artists and writers that were inspired by Karelianism, such as Järnefelt, Aho and Sibelius. The seating area in Ipatinvaara, located just before the climb to the Yläpiha courtyard, is a great place to stop and eat your packed lunch.

You can also take a break in Yläpiha courtyard to enjoy its services, including Koli Nature Centre Ukko with its exhibitions and visitor's café as well as the hotel-restaurant. From the Yläpiha courtyard, take the last steep stairs to the top of Ukko-Koli where artists and travellers have been climbing for years with hearts racing to experience something larger than themselves.



METSÄHALLITUS 12/2022. PHOTOS: SAARA LAVI.

AVAILABLE: In the snow-free season.

STARTING POINT: Koli Harbour parking area, Rantatie 12, Lieksa.

TRAIL MARKINGS: Purple circles on signposts at trail junctions. The signposts have been numbered and the numbers correspond to the numbering of the Koli service and trail map (1:20000).

RECOMMENDED GEAR: Weather-appropriate clothing and shoes suitable for varying terrain, drinks and a packed lunch, (fire-making tools), rubbish bag, first aid kit, charged phone and map.

SAFETY: The emergency number: 112

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 Prime Minister's campfire site. 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



Sataman polku Trail





