



PHOTO: TEA KARVINEN / METSÄHALLITUS

## Päijänne National Park

- Location: Padasjoki, Asikkala, Sysmä
- 14 sq.km
- Established: 1993



## Metsähallitus, national park management

- Customer Service  
mon–fri from 9 am to 3 pm:  
tel. +358 (0)206 39 5270,  
sisasuomi@metso.fi
- Hut reservations, Metsähallitus (Eräluvat web store):  
verkkokauppa.eraluvat.fi/en,  
tel. +358 (0)20 692 424
- nationalparks.fi/paijannenp



# National Park Päijänne

Sandy beaches with lagoons and surprisingly rising rocky beaches await boaters, paddlers and day hikers at Päijänne. On the Pulkkilanharju nature trail, you can also enjoy the atmosphere of Lakeland Finland without needing to set out on the water. The pristine waters of Lake Päijänne wash the sandy shores of esker islands, and the cry of the osprey echoes over the smooth shoreline rocks.

## Hiking and boating

The heart of the Päijänne National Park, Kelvenne is one of Finland's largest and most impressive esker islands, which was formed during the last Ice Age. A hiking trail (approximately 9 km) runs across the island of Kelvenne, from

Kirkkosalmi to Likolahti. The trail is mostly easy to hike. In the summer, Kelvenne is served by passenger ship and water taxis: [nationalparks.fi/paijannenp/services/partners](http://nationalparks.fi/paijannenp/services/partners).

Boaters are served by guest harbours, including Laivaranta at Padasjoki, Kirkonkylä and New Port (Suopelto) at Sysmä and Lehmonkärki and Vääksy in Asikkala. Visitors without a boat can visit the national park by taking the Pulkkilanharju Esker nature trail, which starts from the rest area next to the Karisalmi bridge.

The park includes part of Päijätsalo Island in Sysmä, which is accessible by boat (Pyydyniemi) or by road (Päijätsalo parking area). The island has marked trails of different lengths and a campfire site. An observation tower, which also served as an air surveillance tower during the war, was built in 1899. The tower offers a spectacular view of Lake

Päijänne's largest stretch of open water, Tehinselkä.

The local waters of the national park are well suited to paddle touring. However, the widest expanses of the lake should be avoided due to the possibility of large waves forming. The Päijänne National Park is part of a boating route and circular paddling trail ([www.nationalparks.fi/en/paijannenp/trails](http://www.nationalparks.fi/en/paijannenp/trails)).

When Lake Päijänne freezes over, ski routes to the park ([padasjoki.fi](http://padasjoki.fi)) are maintained in winter if weather and ice conditions permit it.

## Geological heritage of international value

Päijänne National Park with its impressive eskers and rocky islands is one of the most significant sites in Salpausselkä UNESCO Global Geopark: [visitlahti.fi/en/frontpage/salpausselka-geopark](http://visitlahti.fi/en/frontpage/salpausselka-geopark).

## Enjoy the outdoors while protecting nature

- Visitors are allowed to move about the park on foot, skiing, rowing and paddling, except in certain restricted areas (see map). Some of the park's islands are off-limits to visitors from 15 April to 31 July, in order to protect birds during their nesting season.
- Cycling is permitted on national park trails and roads.
- Campfires are only permitted at designated sites. Campfires are strictly prohibited during forest and grassland fire warnings.
- Short-term camping (max. 2 nights) is allowed in camping areas and at lean-to shelters.
- Short-term overnight stays in boats (max. 2 nights) are allowed in guest marinas.
- Follow the rules of litter-free hiking. Please take all wastes away when you leave.
- The water areas in Päijänne are not part of the national park. Visitors are allowed to fish in water areas in accordance with the Fishing Act ([kalastusrajoitus.fi](http://kalastusrajoitus.fi), [ekpk.fi](http://ekpk.fi), [kalat.fi](http://kalat.fi)).
- Visitors are allowed to pick berries and edible mushrooms, but not rocks or plants. Remember to leave wild animals undisturbed.
- Please note that the dry toilets are not stocked with toilet paper.
- Pets must be kept on a leash.

## Instructions and Rules

[nationalparks.fi/paijannenp/instructionsandrules](http://nationalparks.fi/paijannenp/instructionsandrules)

## Outdoor Etiquette

[nationalparks.fi/hikinginfinland/visitorguidelines](http://nationalparks.fi/hikinginfinland/visitorguidelines)

**Emergency number 112**  
Some parts of the park have no mobile phone reception!

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