

LIETVESI CYCLING TOUR, 5 DAYS, 4 NIGHTS, 60KM

-IN LAKE SAIMAA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPES – THE ARCHIPELAGO TOWN OF PUUMALA

Sahanlahti Resort / Nestorinranta / Guide Tiina, Pienniemen hut

2016 (page 1)

Day 1.

3:00pm → Arrive in Puumala, [Sahanlahti Resort](#).

Accommodation in a hotel room for two or a villa for 2–4 people.

Go for a sauna and then a swim at the traditional wood-fired sauna on the shore of Lake Niskalampi. Take a walk in the forest to collect branches to make a traditional birch vasta (depending on the season). Dinner prepared from seasonal food at the Koskivahti restaurant, which boasts unique views of Lake Saimaa.

Day 2. (32km of cycling)

8am–11am Breakfast in Sahanlahti. Over breakfast, hear about the colourful history of Sahanlahti and its transformation from an export sawmill and village with 200 inhabitants into a tourism hub.

The area is home to rapids and a gutter track for transporting timber, as well as a museum detailing the living conditions of Finnish workers in decades gone by.

11:00am Stand-up paddling. Instructions and guidance will be provided. Enjoy the activities that Lake Saimaa has to offer.

1:00pm Departure from Sahanlahti by bicycle towards the idyllic centre of [Puumala](#) 7km (if necessary, you can leave your car in the Sahanlahti car park)

Tour of the Puumala church village (including the bunkers, glass-blowing at Lasiruusu, shops, cafes, restaurants, the harbour, the bridge cafe, cruises).

Lunch in the centre of Puumala or at the Niinipuu restaurant

Reached by cycling along the archipelago road [to Niinisaari](#), where the Niinipuu restaurant is located (10km from the centre of Puumala) and a tour of the sights and services, such as a vineyard, smithy, museum farmyard and flea market. The journey involves a cable ferry.

Evening arrival at [Nestorinranta](#) (15km from Niinipuu in Niinisaari). Finnish evening fun; accommodation in a hut or room, visit to the sauna, swimming and summer barbecuing in the Finnish style. You may choose to take a fishing trip. During the evening, you will hear tales about archipelago life, [Nestori Miikkulainen](#) and ringed Saimaa seals. Juha Vainio sings about seals in his song, "Vanhoja poikia viiksekkäitä" ("old bearded boys"). Ringed seals inhabit these waters.

Day 3. (12km of cycling)

10:00am Breakfast at Nestorinranta

11:00am Departure for Rokansaari on a covered motorboat, guided tour of the nature, culture and history on Rokansaari island and a picnic lunch, duration: about 4 hours, or longer if desired. The island is home to a beautiful inland lagoon and sandy beaches. We will take our bicycles with us. At about 3:00pm, the motorboat will take us from Rokansaari to Hurissalo, the third largest island in Lake Saimaa. Cycling (2km) to the Hurissalo shop. Opportunity for a coffee break at the shop (cafe).

Cycling to the natural farm of the Lake Saimaa nature services, Opas Tiina, [Pienniemi hut](#) (about 10km from the shop). On the way, visit the [Rakokivet](#) natural attraction, the largest glacial erratics in Finland.

At about 6:00pm, arrival at Pienniemi, a homely hut built in the 19th century. Shared accommodation in the hut and a nourishing organic dinner (food prepared at the hut). Visit the sauna and sit round an open fire. Hear stories of archipelago life then and now. Tales and mysteries of the forest and rugged rocky mountains.



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Day 4. (16km of cycling)

9:00am Shared breakfast in the hut

10:00am Departure on a guided Taiga tour to see the landscapes of Haukkovuori, you may choose to go kayaking, hear tales of the secrets and wisdom of the meadow flowers on Pienniemi. Visit to see the sheep, approximately 2 hours

about midday: Lunch break at the hut

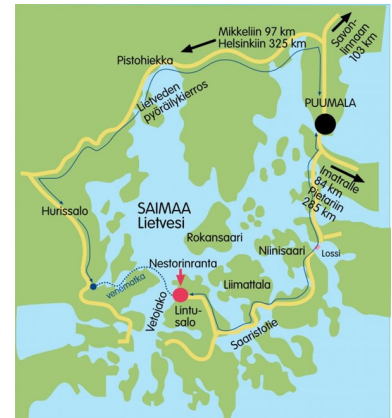
2:00pm Departure by bicycle towards Sahanlahti (on the way, visit the Lietvesi kiosk and Mörkinaho cafe), on the way, there will be time to take a break and swim on the sandy beaches of Pistohiekka. The beautiful Lietvesi scenic route winds through hilly roads, all the time close to the shore.

About 5:00pm Arrival in Sahanlahti. Accommodation in a hotel room for two or a villa for 2–4 people. Evening meal in the atmospheric Rantamakasiini restaurant (on Wednesdays in July, bonfire song evenings, and dancing on Fridays).

Day 5.

8am–11am Breakfast in Sahanlahti

Midday: check-out. Thanks for the journey!



DETAILS

Group size: 2–4 people

Availability: June–August 2016

Language: Finnish, English

Price: from EUR 590 per person

THE PRICE INCLUDES

Accommodation with breakfast
Evening meals and lunches/
picnics in accordance with the schedule.
Bicycles, helmets and map
Rokansaari trip
Boat transportation to Hurissalo
Taiga trip and canoes/kayaks

Coffee breaks and lunch in Puumala/
Niinipuu are not included in the price.

RESERVATIONS

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OR

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Responsible trip organisation

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