

Both Sides of Finland



arctic
LAKELAND
FINLAND





Welcome

TO ARCTIC LAKELAND

Arctic Lakeland is where Lapland meets Lakeland offering the best sides of Finland. We are part of Lakeland Finland, Europe's largest lake district. Arctic Lakeland is a region of wild contrasts and 4 distinct seasons offering something different in each season. With fewer crowds and better value for money, Arctic Lakeland is a destination to be discovered in Kainuu, Finland. All of our 7 key regions are easily reached within 30 min-2.5 hr transfer from Kajaani airport.

Escape the ordinary and experience our lakes, vast forests, winter wonderland and Midnight sun magic – Arctic Lakeland is a hidden gem awaiting you.

12 reasons

TO VISIT ARCTIC LAKELAND



Experience Dark Skies and Midnight Sun



Unique cuisine and local flavours



Northern Lights



Summer activities

Biking, hiking, fishing, rapid floting, golf, water activities and cruises



One of Europe's best places for wildlife watching



Snowiest place in Finland



Escape the crowds



Unique local culture

Unesco City of Literature Kuhmo, Birthplace of Finland's National Epic Kalevala



World Class Chamber Music Festival



Quirky sport events all year round

Swamp Soccer World Championships, Snow Soccer, Lost in Kainuu Adventure Race



Exotic Sauna Experiences

Bear sauna, sleigh sauna, smoke sauna, Sauna World, yurt sauna, saunas with a view



Winter Excursions

Huskies, reindeer, skiing, showshoeing, snowmobiling, fatbiking, ice fishing, ice floting

Introducing our tourism destinations

Arctic Lakeland is a unique combination of distinct tourism destinations offering wide selection of adventures, experiences, events and accommodation options.

Kajaani -Oulujärvi

Kajaani is the capital and gateway to Arctic Lakeland. Located beside Lake Oulujärvi, the 5th largest lake in Finland, in Kajaani, you are never far from a shoreline. Kajaani-Oulujärvi is filled with various culture experiences close to nature - the forest covered rolling hills and glistening lakes. For your stay, choose from Finland's northernmost manor house to city center hotels.

Wild Taiga Kuhmo -Suomussalmi

In Wild Taiga the local everyday culture and way of life lie at the core of the destination with a close relationship with nature. Personal artisan entrepreneurs have collated their knowledge to offer visitors the best, unique experience like observing rare carnivores in their natural environment.

Kuhmo

Kuhmo, a Finnish gem where nature meets culture. As a UNESCO City of Literature, it invites you to explore its literary heritage inspired by the Finnish epic, Kalevala. Uncover more at Juminkeko, a cultural center preserving Karelian and Finnish folklore. Kuhmo hosts the world-famous Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival, attracting global culture enthusiasts annually.

Hossa -Suomussalmi

Hossa National Park feels like home, with tranquil wilderness and soft paths for nature explorers year-round. Mountain bikers and hikers enjoy scenic trails and exploring the unique Värrikallio rock paintings and Julma-Ölkky Canyon Lake. The crystal-clear waters invite you to enjoy water activities like canoeing and fishing.

Vuokatti

Vuokatti offers the best mixture of the Finnish experience all year round. In snow season everyone can ski on trails that are maintained according to the high Olympic Training Center standards and in snow-free season conquer the magnificent chain of 13 hills. Year-round the tropical spa invites to relax and after an active day the only brewery in the Arctic Lakeland area welcomes to a guided tour.

Paljakka

Paljakka is a cozy small resort, offering tourists the highest peaks in Arctic Lakeland and their well-maintained routes for winter and summer activities. It is a holiday paradise for nature-lovers and in winter the snowiest place in Finland, featuring e.g., Europe's oldest primeval forest and one of the highest free waterfalls in Finland, Hepoköngäs (Best Outdoor site to visit in Finland 2022) and Best Snowmobiling Destination in Finland 2020.

Ukkohalla

Ukkohalla Resort is a holiday destination packed with arctic experiences and fun activities. Discover the northern lights at the comfort of your luxury suite, visit the local reindeer farm or experience the husky safari on a trail through the magical snowy forest. Spend an active day out in our ski resort and take your time to relax in the unique Sauna World.

Sustainability

Sustainable tourism means that tourism operators and tourists together, through their choices and actions, do more good than harm. Responsibility means considering current and future economic, social and environmental impacts.

We in Arctic Lakeland have been acting responsibly for a long time and are constantly working to ensure that we can offer our guests responsible services. Like many other notions, responsible action starts with small but essential steps. A responsible approach requires continuous improvement and development; it is a path toward a more holistic way of life.

Several companies in Arctic Lakeland area have already achieved different certificates attesting to their sustainable and responsible operations.

In addition to private operators, regional development organizations as well as tourist regions are also actively working to promote responsible practices.

Our aim is to achieve Sustainable Travel Finland destination label by 2026.

For more information on sustainability, please visit our website: arcticlakeland.com/en/sustainable-tourism-in-arctic-lakeland-kainuu

Accessibility

We are committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive experience for all visitors. Our goal is to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, can enjoy the beauty and attractions of Arctic Lakeland.

We are working towards creating more accessible travel experiences by:

- increasing number of accessible accommodation options
- increasing accessible nature experiences such as canoeing trips
- offering electric scooters and off-road rollators (Hossa)
- offering accessible hiking trails
- offering the most comprehensive ski equipment for adaptive alpine skiing and other adaptive exercise equipment (Vuokatti)

The Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities has recognized Arctic Lakeland's work for promoting accessible tourism in 2023 with a grant, which will be invested in improving assistance equipment for nature-based travel.

For us, social responsibility also means accepting and treating people equally, and we do not tolerate racism in any form and support equality and gender equality.

For more information on accessibility, please visit our website: arcticlakeland.com/en/accessibility



The most forested landscape

FEEL HAPPY IN OUR NATURE, LAKES AND RIDGES.

One of Europe's biggest wild forest areas.

Paths, trails and activities suitable for everybody.

Over 5000 lakes, ponds and rivers for water fun.

Experience the pleasures of nature like pure air, clean water and calmness of the forests, without the crowds.

Three National Parks (Hossa, Hiidenportti and Tiilikajärvi), Kuhmo Friendship Park and Paljakka Strict Nature Reserve.



A close-up photograph of a brown bear sitting in a lush green forest. The bear is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. Its fur is thick and brown, with some darker patches on its chest. The background is a soft-focus green forest.

Wildlife

EUROPE'S BEST
LOCATION FOR
NORTHERN WILD-
LIFE WATCHING
AND PHOTOGRAPHY.

See Finland's Big Five: bear, wolf, wolverine, moose and elusive lynx in nature.

One of the few destinations where wildlife watching is available all year.

Home to several professional photographers offering wildlife and nature photography courses.

Photo: Arctic Lakeland photobank

Region with wild contrasts

WINTER & SPRING

Snow sure winter destination.

Awarded as internationally attractive snow destination.

Arctic Lakeland is located under the aurora oval offering excellent chances for seeing the Northern Lights.

SUMMER & AUTUMN

Northern nature, full of life.

Pure nature for picking wild herbs, mushrooms and berries.

Vast landscapes of lakes and forests to enjoy under the Midnight Sun.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands playing a kantele, a traditional Finnish zither. The person is wearing a red dress and a white patterned blouse. The background is dark, making the red dress and the wooden instrument stand out.

Unique culture

ENVIRONMENT THAT HAS INSPIRED ARTISTS THROUGHOUT CENTURIES.

In the heart of Finnish national epic Kalevala.

World famous Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival.

Experience the exotic sauna culture and local traditions.

Enjoy the taste of local food with fresh berries, game, fish and tar.

An aerial photograph of a snowy mountain landscape. The trees are heavily covered in snow, and the ground is a mix of white snow and dark rocks. In the distance, two skiers are visible on a slope.

Sports and active holidays

CHAMPIONS ARE MADE HERE.

World class sports facilities such as world's first ski tunnel.

Downhill skiing in region's ski resorts: Vuokatti and Ukkohalla.

Hundreds of kilometres of trails and routes for biking, hiking, running and cross country skiing also for professional athletes.

Special events like Swamp Soccer and Snow Soccer World Championships, Lost in Kainuu, Vuokatti Hiihto skiing event, hiking events etc.

Accommodation

Discover the perfect blend of luxury, wilderness and everything in between, with our diverse accommodation options. Experience Arctic elegance in our panoramic hotels with rooms with a view or enjoy being by the lakeside in a traditional Finnish cottage. For the adventurous spirit, a night in a bear hide offers an immersive chance to view the wildlife in their natural habitat. With over 14,000 beds available, there are hotels, villas, cottages, holiday apartments and unique places to stay to suit all tastes and budgets. We welcome you to embrace Arctic Lakeland – where comfort meets the call of the wild.

Photo: Arctic Giant



COTTAGES



Photo: Fade Creative

HOTELS



Photo: Ukkohalla Resort

HOLIDAY APARTMENTS



Photo: Ukkohalla Resort

GLASS CABINS AND VILLAS



Photo: Bear Centre

HIDES FOR WILDLIFE WATCHING

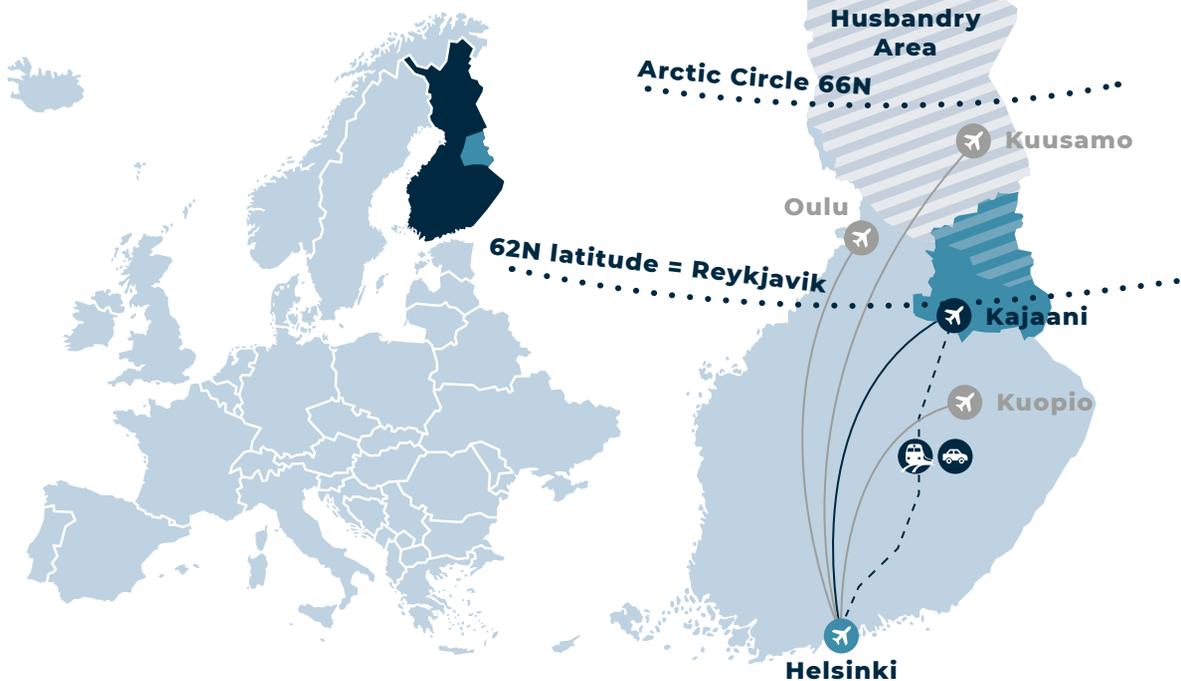


OLD FASHIONED AND
ATMOSPHERIC ACCOMMODATION

arctic
LAKELAND

FINLAND

How to get here



[ARCTICLAKELAND.COM](https://arcticlakeland.com)



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Lakeland

REGIONAL COUNCIL
OF KAINUU



Co-funded by
the European Union