Itinerary

Experience the heart of Karelia in Joensuu region

Explore the culture, nature, history and flavours of North Karelia through a selection of guided day excursions while enjoying the comfort of a one-hotel stay in Joensuu.



DAY 1 FRIDAY: Welcome to Lakeland Finland

Arrival at Kajaani Airport and transport to Joensuu by bus. Check in to the award-winning Lietsu Boutique Aparthotel, located in the heart of the city of Joensuu. Settle into your charming Karelian-inspired accommodation and enjoy a welcome dinner featuring local flavours.

DAY 2 SATURDAY: The Heart of Karelia

After a traditional Karelian breakfast, discover Joensuu on a guided walking tour introducing the city's history, architecture and local way of life. Following lunch at Lietsu, visit the Orthodox Cultural Centre and Seminary Church for a guided introduction to the rich traditions of Eastern Orthodox culture, an important part of North Karelia's heritage. The day concludes with a traditional Karelian dinner featuring local specialities.

DAY 3 SUNDAY: Winter Sports and Activities

Breakfast at Lietsu starts the day, followed by a variety of winter activities in the Joensuu region. Depending on the snow and ice conditions, you can try your skills in skating, skiing or sledging, followed by a late lunch. At the end of the day, you may test the Finnish sauna and dip into an ice-cold lake.

DAY 4 MONDAY: Explore North Karelia

Choose one of four fascinating full-day excursions showcasing different sides of North Karelia. The day trip includes a warm meal.

Option 1 | Ilomantsi – The Soul of Karelia Travel to Finland's easternmost municipality and experience authentic Karelian culture. Visit Hermanni Winery & Distillery for a guided tour and tasting of locally crafted berry wines. Continue to Parppeinvaara Rune Singer's Village to discover Karelian traditions, stories and kantele music, and enjoy a traditional Karelian feast at Parppeinpirtti Restaurant.

Option 2 | Valamo Monastery Discover Valamo Monastery, Finland's most renowned Orthodox monastery and a unique spiritual and cultural destination. Explore the monastery church, museum and exhibitions before enjoying lunch at Restaurant Trapesa. The afternoon includes a guided visit to the monastery winery and distillery with a tasting of selected products.

O**ption 3 | North Karelia Through History** Visit the war history museum located in the former Kontioranta garrison area and gain insights into regional history. Continue to historic Venejoen Mylly, where the mill hostess shares stories of the old watermill over coffee and local pastries.

Option 4 | Wild Food & Heavy Metal Experience two of North Karelia's most unexpected exports. Visit the Nightwish Story Exhibition Centre in Kitee and discover the story behind Finland's world-famous symphonic metal band. Continue to Tohmajärvi for a wild food experience showcasing local ingredients, followed by a traditional Finnish sauna and outdoor hot tub surrounded by nature.



DAY 5 TUESDAY: Nature & Finnish Wellbeing

Nature is never far away in Joensuu. After breakfast, join a local nature guide for an excursion to the lakeside countryside surrounding the city. Enjoy an authentic Karelian outdoor meal prepared over an open fire and learn about local nature traditions. During mid-winter, guests also have the opportunity to try ice fishing.

The experience concludes with a Nature-Based Stress Recovery session inspired by the Finnish connection to nature and wellbeing. Dinner is served at Lietsu Hotel.

DAY 6 WEDNESDAY: Explore North Karelia

Select another day trip from DAY 4 options.

DAY 7 THURSDAY: Arts, Gardens & Local Life

Following breakfast, choose between a handicraft workshop at Taitokortteli Arts & Crafts Centre or a guided visit to Museum Eliel, exploring the history and identity of North Karelia.

Enjoy free time in Joensuu city centre before visiting Botania Art Garden, a unique destination combining tropical nature, art and immersive experiences. A guided tour and farewell dinner are enjoyed in the garden surroundings.

DAY 8 FRIDAY: The way home

Enjoy the final Karelian breakfast at Lietsu and head towards Kajaani Airport by bus. Lunch on the way.

- **DURATION** 7 nights (Friday to Friday)
- **VALIDITY** Weekly on Fridays between 17.12.2027–24.3.2028 (except Friday 24.12. due to Christmas)
- **GROUP SIZE** 30 pax on request basis

INCLUSIONS

7 nights accommodation and breakfast, with meals, guided activities and transportation described in the programme.

FROM PRICE

- For 30–50 pax 1480 € pp / twin share
- Single supplement from 210 €
- Day trip option 4: Wild food and heavy metal +100 € pp

ARRIVAL POINT Kajaani

MAIN TARGET CITY Joensuu (North Karelia region)

TRANSFER TIMES

- Kajaani – Joensuu | Joensuu – Kajaani 3.5 hours by bus
- Joensuu airport – hotel 15 min by bus
- Joensuu railway station – hotel 10 min on foot
- Joensuu – Ilomantsi 1 hr
- Joensuu Valamo 1 hr
- Joensuu Kontiolahti 30 min
- Joensuu Kitee/Tohmajärvi 1 hr

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES ON REQUEST

- Guided seasonal nature tours and activities
- The Joensuu City Orchestra concert
- Finnish theatre experience

Lietsu Boutique Aparthotel

Top 3 nomination for Best hotel at Finnish Travel Gala 2026

Lietsu Boutique Aparthotel

Karelia à la carte company of the year 2025

CONTACT DETAILS FOR BOOKING

Lietsu Services Ltd. (DMC)
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Full itinerary www.lietsuhotel.fi/en/lietsudmc

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