



Repovesi-
Verla

Day Trips

Kouvola & Mäntyharju



Repovesi-Verla

Easy day trips for nature lovers

> 10 tips on routes for easy, but phenomenal and inspiring adventures in nature amid the stunning landscapes of the National Park and UNESCO World Heritage Site!

The rugged cliffs and extensive forests of the Repovesi National Park, together with the fascinating cultural history of the Verla World Heritage Site, create an irresistible destination for nature lovers. The National Park and its surroundings offer a broad network of routes even for demanding hikers. But if you prefer an easy, fun trip without compromising on beautiful sceneries and stunning experiences in nature, the routes in this guidebook are for you.



In this guidebook, you will find ten tips on routes for easy day trips in the Repovesi-Verla area, Kouvola and Mäntyharju. The trails are suitable for seniors, families with children and others seeking a calmer pace in beautiful natural surroundings, or for passers-by looking for an easy, attractive picnic spot. Of the routes, only Immo's Trail is accessible by wheelchair, but a few other trails can be walked with a pushchair (these are mentioned in the route descriptions). For some routes, we present two alternatives with different levels of difficulty.

The tips on routes and experiences in the Finnish wilderness offered in this brochure are presented by VisitKouvola, the state forest enterprise Metsähallitus and the regional development association Mäntyharjun Seudun Elinkeinojen Kehitys Ltd.

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 **METSÄHALLITUS**

 The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas



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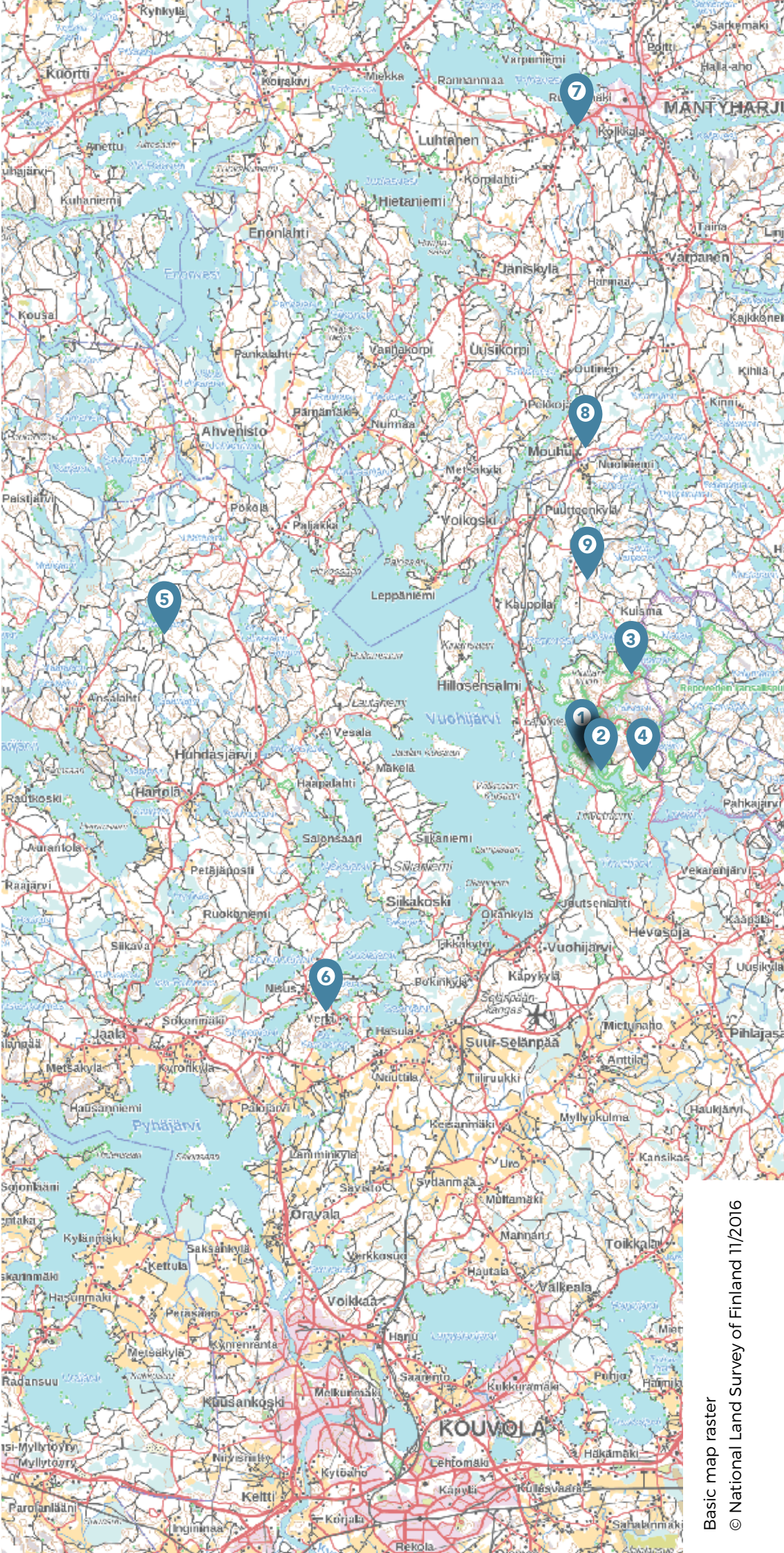
Repovesi National Park and
UNESCO World Heritage Site
Verla are easily accessible by
train via Kouvola or Mäntyharju



THE GUIDEBOOK INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ROUTES:

1. Lapinsalmi hanging bridge
 2. Lapinsalmi-Ketunlossi-Määkijä
 3. Saarijärvi-Sukeltajaniemi
 4. Tervajärvi-Talas
 5. Heisanharju
 6. Kokkokallion Nature Trail
 7. Immo's Trail
 8. Matkoslampi lean-to shelter
 9. Pitkälampi lean-to shelter
 10. Cruises in the Repovesi area
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Lapinsalmi hanging bridge

> **Test your courage in Repovesi**

Trail description

Crossing the Lapinsalmi hanging bridge is always a fabulous experience! This bridge across Lake Kapiavesi is one of the most famous landmarks of the Repovesi National Park. Next to the bridge there is a campfire site where you can enjoy your packed lunch by the fire or under the shelter.

Good to know

The trail is part of the Ketunlenkki Trail that circles Lake Kapiavesi and has painted orange markings along it to help you stay on track, as do all the Repovesi trails. There is a campfire site after the hanging bridge. During the most popular times, you may have to wait for your turn to cross the bridge. In the winter, the trail becomes trampled and icy so please remember to be careful, especially on the cliffs.

Level of difficulty

Please note that there are stairs, cliffs and elevation changes along the route and therefore it is not suitable for pushchairs. Please pay special attention to safety in the vicinity of the hanging bridge, especially when travelling with children.



700 m in one direction

INFO

nationalparks.fi/repovesi, visitrepovesi.com

WHERE TO START

The Lapinsalmi car park, address:
Riippusillantie 55, Kouvola



Lapinsalmi – Ketunlossi – Määkijä

> Ferry to a restored forest

Trail description

The trail leads to the Repovesi National Park on the shores of Lake Kapiavesi and offers you the chance to cross the strait using the hand-operated ferry, Ketunlossi. From the ferry you will have a magnificent view of Lake Kapiavesi. As you walk across the Määkijänniemi area of forest that has been burned for restoration purposes, you may hear a wood- pecker or two drumming on rotted trees. At the Määkijä campfire site, you can enjoy your packed lunch while admiring the beautiful landscape. There is even the Määkijä rental Lapp hut next to the campfire site if you want to spend the night in peaceful natural surroundings. Along the route you will find signposts with information about the area's flora and fauna.

Good to know

The easiest place to start is the Lapinsalmi car park, where the rescue road leads you to the shore of Lake Kapiavesi where the trail turns right. After Määkijänniemi the trail to the campfire site takes a right turn at the crossing. The trail is part of the Ketunlenkki Trail that circles Lake Kapiavesi and has painted orange markings along it to help you stay on track, as do all the Repovesi trails. The changing water levels affect the distance between the landing stage and the Ketunlossi ferry, but usually it is only a distance of a few steps. Please note that the Ketunlossi ferry only travels while there is no ice on the water. Do not cross the ice of Lake Kapiavesi in the winter.

Level of difficulty

There are no significant elevation changes along the route and the trail is reasonably easy to walk and follows a wide track. After the ferry, the trail becomes more rugged due to tree roots and stones. Crossing the lake using the hand-operated ferry requires some strength.



1,8 km in one direction



INFO

nationalparks.fi/repovesi, visitrepovesi.com

WHERE TO START

The Lapinsalmi car park, address:
Riippusillantie 55, Kouvola



Saarijärvi-Sukeltajaniemi

> Beautiful scenery and lapping waves

Trail description

The Sukeltajaniemi campfire site on the shore of Lake Valkjärvi in the Repovesi National Park is an atmospheric and easily accessible spot in the heart of nature. Starting from the Saarijärvi car park, you follow the dirt road that runs through the park and then a short trail that branches off it towards the campfire site at the tip of the headland. Along the route, you will pass the serenely beautiful Tolonen pond.

Good to know

If you choose, you can combine your trip with a walk around the Tolonen pond along the hiking route. This makes the hike 2.1 kilometres long in total. There are fewer route markings along the road sections of the route. Please be careful on the road sections as there may be some traffic and there is no separate pedestrian and bicycle way. The road is not open for private vehicles so please leave your car at the Saarijärvi car park.

Level of difficulty

When travelling along the road, the route is suitable for pushchairs (blue). Along the hiking route, the trail is more demanding and includes climbing a hill (red). The trail is mainly fairly even and good to walk on.



900 m in one direction

INFO

nationalparks.fi/repovesi, visitrepovesi.com

WHERE TO START

The Saarijärvi car park, address:
Kuismantie 990, Kouvola



Tervajärvi-Talas

> **An idyllic picnic site**

Trail description

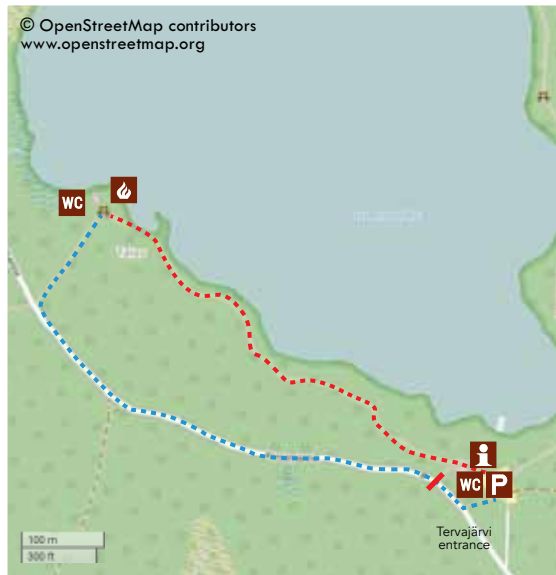
The Talas campfire site by Lake Tervajärvi offers an idyllic place for a picnic or for admiring the stunning Repovesi landscape. From the Tervajärvi car park you follow the dirt road to the park for 600 metres and then take the short trail that branches off it towards the campfire site at the tip of the headland. You can also get to Talas from Tervajärvi along the trail that follows the Hermusenlahti shoreline.

Good to know

Please be careful on the road sections as there may be some traffic and there is no separate pedestrian and bicycle way. The road is not open for private vehicles so please leave your car at the Tervajärvi car park. There are no route markings along the road section of the route.

Level of difficulty

Most of the route travels along a dirt road, and the short trail from the road to the campfire site also acts as a service track and is therefore wide and accessible with, for example, a pushchair (blue). The trail along the Hermusenlahti shoreline is stony in places and therefore more demanding. This route is not suitable for pushchairs (red).



800 m in one direction

INFO

nationalparks.fi/repovesi, visitrepovesi.com

WHERE TO START

The Tervajärvi car park, address:
Kivisilmäntie 720, Kouvola



Heisanharju

> Esker trails in peaceful forests

Trail description

The Heisanharju area is a labyrinth of several clear-watered lakes and the narrow eskers bordering them. Its stunning pine needle-covered trails invite you to make a day trip in the peace and quiet of the forest. The easy trails and excellent resting place structures offer a comfortable setting for an enjoyable trip. In the middle of the area there is a Lapp 'kota' hut, from which you can continue your journey either along the eastern or western esker of Lake Kelesjärvi.

Good to know

The car park has a signpost to guide you to the esker. There are no markings along the trail but the area's many lakes, and the eskers following them, will guide you in the right direction. The distance between the car park and the Lapp hut is about 500 metres in one direction. The nature trail skirting the shores of Lake Iso Luotojärvi and Lake Kelesjärvi is 2.9 km long.

Level of difficulty

The trails are easy to walk. The area has no significant elevation changes. The track between the car park and the Lapp hut is fairly even and good to walk on. Hiking on the other parts of the nature trail is more challenging in places, due to the narrow trail and peatland sections. Some of the duckboard structures along the nature trail are dilapidated.

Services

The Heisanharju area is maintained by the Kyvi Association, which takes care of recreational areas in the Kymenlaakso region. The area also has a rental Lapp hut and a hut for general use, as well as a toilet



Route area with several alternative trails

and a stock of firewood. The rest spot has a jetty. Sinibell Farm and the Aurantola Guest House offer accommodation in the near-by area.

INFO

kyvi.fi

WHERE TO START

Starting point address: Viitasentie, Kouvola
By car, the area can be accessed from the east, via Mäntyharjuntie. The forest road from the west has been closed off with a barrier.



Verla Kokkokallio, Nature Trail

> **Scenic trail above the Verla village**

Trail description

The Kokkokallio Nature Trail climbs up the cliff on the west side of the Verla village. The close-knit village community used to hold lively Midsummer balls here, with blazing bonfires. On the top of the hill, hiding in the forest, is a 3 metre deep pothole created by the Ice Age. Kokkokallio is a geologically fascinating area also due to its porphyritic rapakivi granite formations. The trail is also suitable for hikers who want to enjoy peace and quiet and listen to the sounds of the forest.

Good to know

The Kokkokallio Nature Trail is located close to the Verla Mill Museum and offers a great opportunity to combine your trip with a visit to the museum. The trail is signposted with wooden arrows to guide you and notice boards along the route to provide information about the flora and fauna in the area. Close to the Mill Museum there is the UPM forest quiz track which begins from the eastern side of the museum car park.

Level of difficulty

The route is fairly easy to walk, but the cliffs can be dangerously slippery when wet. The route involves climbing to the top of the Kokkokallio rock and therefore there are quite significant elevation changes. The trail is narrow in places but fairly even and good to walk on.

Services

The services of the Verla Mill Museum area are available in the vicinity of the route. There are no rest spots along the route, but



Route length 2,3 km

along Kantokoskentie, north of the starting point of the trail, you will find a lean-to shelter maintained by the Verla Village Association. There is also a place to swim along the road.

INFO

verla.fi

WHERE TO START

The starting point for the trail is located along Kantokoskentie, about 400 m north from the Verla Mill Museum's car park. Starting point address: Kantokoskentie, Kouvola



Immo's Trail

> **Barrier-free shoreline trail to a nature church**

Trail description

Immo's Trail hugs the Siirlahti shoreline, making the most of the beautiful lakeside landscape. It passes small sites that reflect the region's cultural history and crosses the beautiful wooden arch bridge of Katiskalahti. Along the trail, you will have opportunities to stop and do some angling or spend a pleasant moment eating your lunch at the Katiskalahti rest spot. The route ends at the nature church where you can stop and relax for a while and listen to the sounds of nature. The trail is named after Ilmari Nikkinen who was actively involved in various local activities in the Mäntyharju village for many years.

Good to know

There are no markings along the route, but it travels mainly on wooden duckboards so there is no danger of getting lost. Turn back at the nature church. Alternatively, you can make your trip longer by taking the dirt road sections from the nature church back to the starting point. We recommend combining your trip with a visit to the Art Centre Salmela, which offers barrier-free access to its main exhibition.

Level of difficulty

Immo's Trail runs along even terrain and is extremely easy to travel. The trail is barrier-free and also suitable for pushchairs.

Services

Close to the route is the Art Centre Salmela. The village kiosk is open at the starting point of the trail in the summer-time. Restaurant Kesäheinä is also within an easy walking distance.



900 m in one direction

INFO

mantyharju-repovesi.com

WHERE TO START

Mäntyharjuntie 22, Mäntyharju



Matkoslampi

> An oasis in the middle of the forest

Trail description

Located on the shores of a little wilderness pond, the Matkoslampi lean-to shelter is an oasis of calm in the middle of the forest. The spot is ideal for observing nature, angling, picnics and resting during hiking or cycling trips. As unbelievable as it is, you can actually take a sauna here! This site is located along the Mäntyharju-Repovesi route and is easiest to access from the south by bicycle or on foot.

Good to know

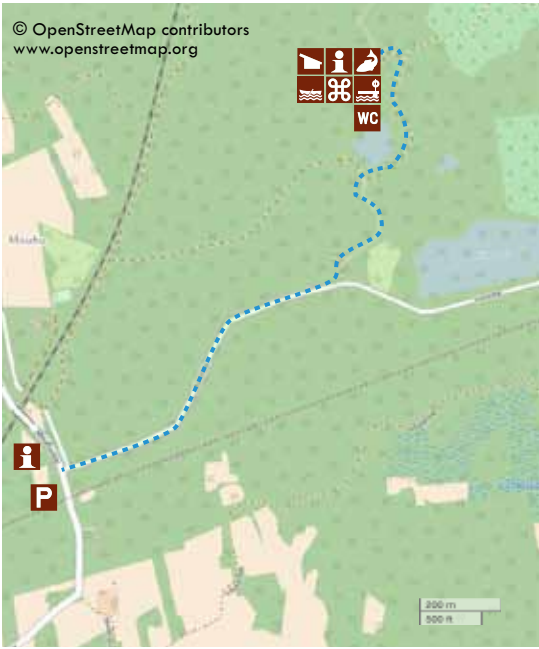
The local Lions Club has donated the lean-to shelter to the Mäntyharju municipality. There is no rubbish bin at the site, so please carry everything back that you carried to the lean-to shelter. For cyclists looking for an additional challenge, we recommend combining your trip with a visit to the Pitkäjärvi lean-to shelter slightly north of the Mäntyharju-Repovesi route.

Level of difficulty

The Matkoslampi lean-to shelter is easily accessible for hikers on the Mäntyharju-Repovesi route. It is easiest to reach when approaching from the south, from Mouhuntie. The route includes a short trail section, but mostly follows a forest road. The route is excellent for mountain biking.

Services

Matkoslampi is a full-service lean-to shelter with a swimming jetty, rowing boat, sauna, toilet and a stock of firewood waiting for the hiker. Accommodation nearby is offered, for example, by Linkkumyly, which also has a summer café.



Approximately 2 km in one direction

INFO

mantyharju-repovesi.com

WHERE TO START

Mouhuntie 350, Mäntyharju



Pitkälampi

> **Rugged cliffs and peace and quiet**

Trail description

A wilderness-like area, Pitkälampi is a real treasure hidden in the forest, the last leg before reaching the forest road from the north which leads to the Repovesi National Park. For a hiker approaching from the Mäntyharju direction, the rugged landscapes are a harbinger of what's to come in ample measure throughout the national park. The site is suitable for everyone who wants to enjoy the cliff panoramas and the peaceful surroundings of the Repovesi region.

Good to know

The route connects to Pitkälampi via the Mäntyharju-Repovesi route, which is sign-posted with orange paint marks along the route. Please note that slightly north of the Mäntyharju-Repovesi route there is a site with a very similar name: Pitkäjärvi.

Level of difficulty

The connecting route to Pitkälampi travels on the Mäntyharju-Repovesi route from the south. The beginning of the trail is easy to walk, but the climb to Pitkälamminvuori at the end is challenging. On the top of the summit next to the route there is a precipice with hazardous places along the edge. The descent down to the Pitkälampi shore is steep and the trail is challenging here. This route is recommended for experienced hikers.

Services

On the Pitkälampi shore there is a rest spot with a simple lean-to shelter, both of which are maintained by the Kyvi Association.



1 km in one direction

INFO

kyvi.fi

WHERE TO START

Kuismantie, Kouvola. The starting point of the trail is where the Mäntyharju-Repovesi route crosses the Kuismantie road. There is a very limited number of parking spaces here.



Cruises in the Repovesi area

> **By water to the heart of the national park**

Trail description

The rugged cliffs of the Repovesi National Park and the forests bordering the shorelines are a stunning sight also from a boat. A boat trip offers you an easy way to dive into the heart of the park, close to its most popular attractions. The Lapinsalmi hanging bridge, Kuutinkanava canal, Olhavanvuori and many other fascinating features, as well as the well-equipped rest spots, present an opportunity for a special, enjoyable trip. Will you choose the traditional Orilampi cruise known as the Golden Route of Finland or a boat trip tailored specifically to meet the interests of your own group?

Services

At the Repovesi National Park, waterway transport includes both scheduled services and charter traffic. Jump on board the Tuuletar II, starting from the Orilampi hut, and see the popular attractions of Lapinsalmi, the Kuutinkanava canal and other destinations in the park. Chartered cruises for groups are organised at the Repovesi National Park also by Kymisun, Kuutinkolo and SeikkailuviiKari. In addition, Kuutinkolo and SeikkailuviiKari offer boat taxi services that can be combined with a hiking trip to the park, if you like.

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INFO

Orilampi.fi
Kuutinkolo.fi
Kymisun.fi
SeikkailuviiKari.fi

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For more information about tourism services in the area contact

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REPOVESI NATIONAL PARK

nationalparks.fi/repovesi
visitrepovesi.com



METSÄHALLITUS

Also, remember other VisitKouvolan key attractions: Arboretum Mustila (mustila.fi), World Heritage Site Verla (verla.fi), and Tykkimäki Amusement Park (tykkimaki.fi).

