



Kouvola®

The Repovesitie geocaching trail

Summer 2018



The Repovesitie geocaching trail

The Repovesitie geocaching trail will take you all the way from the wonderful scenery of the Repovesi National Park to the Verla World Heritage Site. The series of caches contains a total of 10 geocaches suitable for geocachers of all levels.

The growth rings of a tree show the tree's life and history, with all its good years of growth and the more challenging times that it has faced. At the same time the rings form the trunk of today's tree, which supports the flourishing top part. On Repovesitie, you can see several historical locations that serve as growth rings for the Repovesi-Verla area, from billions of years ago up to the most recent history. From nine of the caches in the series, you will find numbers that will help you find the Treasure of Repovesitie situated in the vicinity of the Verla World Heritage Site.

The trail can be covered in one day but, if you want to take it more slowly, you should reserve at least a couple of days for it. Along the way are many interesting sights at which it is very easy to spend more time. Geocaching is an adventurous outdoor pursuit suitable for the whole family, where you can find little boxes hidden in the terrain using satellite positioning. Geocachers share their experiences on the international Geocaching.com website. You can easily get started by downloading a geocaching application on your smart phone. Further information about the activity and instructions for forming a Gade key code for coordinates can be found at geokatkot.fi (in Finnish).

> <https://geokatkot.fi/repovesitien-geokatkoilyreitti/>

Coordinates in WGS84 format.



Repovesi National Park - Repovesitie

Location: N 61° 09.646' E 026° 50.198'

The 2000s

Welcome to Repovesi National Park!

Repovesi National Park was founded in 2003. The park is the largest continuous unbuilt area of forest, marshland and lakes in Southeast Finland. For a long time, the area has been in forestry use, and the waterways have been important log floating routes. In the 1910s, the area of Repovesi was taken over by the Kymi company.

In 2001 UPM-Kymmene, which was formed from the old Kymi company, donated a large part of the national park to the state, and at the same time proposed the establishment of the private Aarnikotka forest conservation area in its own grounds.

Repovesi National Park has exceptionally many interesting sights for hikers. It has a suspension bridge, observation tower, rock paintings and a large number of campfire sites. The restored log chute in the Kuutinkanava channel brings back memories of the park's log floating history. The basic fauna of Repovesi includes the red-throated diver, the lynx, the moose, owls and different species of fowls.

The park contains trails for many tastes. The 5-km Ketunlenkki (fox loop) that begins here at Lapinsalmi is the most popular of the trails, and is also very suitable for beginners. The ferry connection by the trail is not in use in the winter. Along the Ketunlenkki are the Lapinsalmi suspension bridge, Katajavuori hill and the Ketunlossi ferry. There are also three campfire sites.

The geocache is situated in Repovesi National Park on the 5 km-long Ketunlenkki trail.

> Further information about the national park: nationalparks.fi/repovesi

Katajavuori - Repovesitie

Location: N 61° 10.227' E 026° 50.225'

The creation of the bedrock

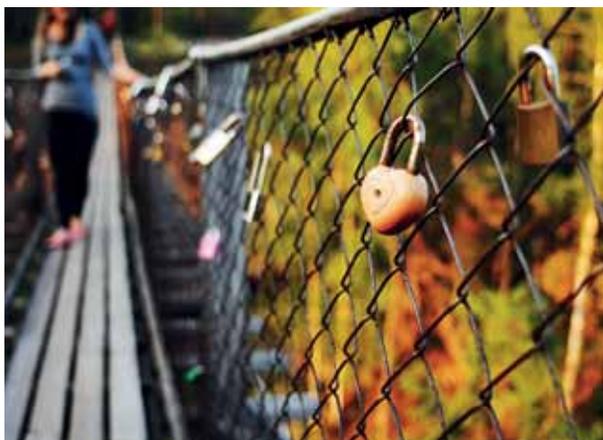
Suomen kalliooperä on Euraasian mantereen vanhimpia osia. Se on osa Finnish bedrock is amongst the oldest on the Eurasian continent. It is part of the Fennoscandian Shield. The rock was formed 3 - 1.4 billion years ago.

The oldest rocks found in Finland are 3.1 billion years old. For the purpose of comparison, based on present knowledge modern man only began to evolve 200,000 - 250,000 years ago.

After its formation, the bedrock was mauled and broken up by several ice ages, which evened out and lowered its forms. Under the surface of the ground, however, there is still plenty of rock. At its deepest, the bedrock in Central Finland continues down to a depth of 65 km. The rock in Repovesi National Park is mainly made up of microcline and rapakivi granite. The rock formations in the area are exceptionally powerful, and there are many precipices and cave formations tens of metres high. The precipices are amongst the largest in Finland.

You can climb steep steps to the top of Katajavuori hill, and the effort is rewarded with fantastic views. When climbing the steps, you can admire the Finnish bedrock on the near vertical slopes of the hill. The geocache is situated in Repovesi National Park on the 5 km-long Ketunlenkki trail. The ferry connection by the trail is not in use in the winter.

> Further information about the national park: nationalparks.fi/repovesi



Määkijä - Repovesitie

Location: N 61° 09.442' E 026° 51.450'

Prehistoric time

The area of the Repovesi has been home to human settlement for a very long time. Ancient settlement is indicated by, among other things, the rock paintings on Olhavanvuori hill.

Evidence of early cultivation has also been discovered. Barley pollen dating back to the end of the Stone Age in approximately 2200 BC has been found in the area.

A stone-age campsite has been found at Määkijänniemi. It was probably a temporary hunting camp, as dishes and quartz cement indicating the making of tools have not been found there. The remains of a historic coal pit have also been discovered near Määkijä.

For the people of today, the Määkijänniemi peninsula offers good opportunities for hiking. On the peninsula, there is a well-equipped campfire site on the lake shore and a 'kota' hearth belonging to Metsähallitus, which can be hired out. The geocache is situated in Repovesi National Park on the 5 km-long Ketunlenkki trail. The ferry connection by the trail is not in use in the winter.

> **Further information about the national park:** nationalparks.fi/repovesi

Ketunlossi - Repovesitie

Location: N 61° 09.526' E 026° 50.764'

The era of log floating

Extensive commercial log floating began in Finland after the mid-19th century. Floating the wood enabled the more efficient use of timber in industry. Floating is a cheap way to transport timber from the forest to sawmills and factories. Finland's extensive waterways formed a vast network for log floating.

Trees were felled during the winter, and their floating began in spring when the snow was melting and the water in the rivers and streams was at its highest. Log floating often required preparation and different structures along the rivers. In Repovesi National Park, the Kuutinkanava channel built specifically for log floating is a sign of the area's log floating history.

As forest roads were developed, the transportation of timber by road became more profitable, and the importance of log floating declined. River and stream floating ended in the 1990s, but timber is still transported by floating on large lakes like Saimaa. In modern log floating, the logs are tied together in bundles forming a large log raft on the water.

The geocache is situated in Repovesi National Park on the 5 km-long Ketunlenkki trail. The manually operated cable ferry connection by the trail is not in use in the winter.

> **Further information about the national park:** nationalparks.fi/repovesi



Hunkerinromput - Repovesitie

Location: N 61° 04.844' E 026° 47.555'

The Ice Age

The large estuary area of Selänpää is clearly distinct from the rest of the landscape. The area is part of the Second Salpausselkä ridge which traverses Southern Finland. The Salpausselkä ridges were created at places where a melting ice-age glacier was 'momentarily' frozen in place when the climate cooled again. When the retreat of the glacier stopped, terminal moraine transported by the ice began to accumulate there.

A large glacial river then descended onto the area of Selänpää, piling up large amounts of soil there. Large blocks of ice were transported with the current, some of which became stuck at the river estuary. Further soil accumulated around the blocks of ice, and in the end large holes formed where the ice blocks were. These holes are called 'kettle holes', and two groups of them can be found in the area of Selänpää. They are called Hunkerinromput and, further west, Halisenromput.

The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation has selected the area of Selänpää as one of the 100 treasures of nature for the 100th anniversary of Finnish independence.

Selänpää Airfield - Repovesitie

Location: N 61° 03.684' E 026° 47.837'

The War Years

Entry to the airfield area is forbidden. The geocaching route goes through a military area, so do not deviate from the road. The people from the flying club know about the geocache.

Plans for Selänpää Airfield were initiated during the Winter War and it was completed during the Interim Peace in 1940. 270 men and 70 horses took part in its construction. Four runways and accommodation facilities, among other things, were built there. One of the original barracks is still in use.

The airfield was built on top of the Selänpää estuary area formed during the Ice Age. Before the outbreak of the Continuation War, the 2nd Flight of the 24th Fighter Squadron was transferred there. The flight consisted of American Brewster fighters that achieved significant victories in the skies. After the Continuation War, the airfield was a little used until the end of the 1950s when it became a site for general aviation activity. In 1962, the Kouvola Flying Club was granted permission by the Ministry of Defence for gliding at the airfield.

Nowadays, the Kouvola Region Flying Club, which leases the premises from the Ministry of Defence, operates at the airfield. The Selänpää Airfield is an active venue for gliding and general aviation. It is also one of Finland's busiest airfields for general aviation. Two of the original runways still remain.



The Aerial Battle of Verla - Repovesitie

Location: N 61° 03.306' E 026° 38.515'

The War Years

The first aerial battle of the Continuation War was fought in the skies above the village of Verla. On 25 June 1941 at 7:10 am, the 2nd Flight of the 24th Fighter Squadron stationed at Selänpää Airfield received an alert about 18 Soviet SB-2bis bombers that were approaching. The aircrafts were on their way to bomb Heinola.

The Brewster fighters that took off from Selänpää engaged the bombers near Verla. The fighters shot down five bombers. On their way home they shot down one more. The lead aircraft of the bomber squadron shot down by Corporal Heimo Lammi crashed on the Pitkäniemi peninsula at Iso-Kamponen near Verla. The crash site can be seen from the site of the geocache. All the crew on the aircraft were killed when it crashed into the lake. The pilots were buried on the Pitkäniemi peninsula.

In 2002, the remains of the buried pilots were transferred to the Russian Cemetery for Prisoners of War at Utti.

Rajakivi 1743-1809 - Repovesitie

Location: N 61° 02.568' E 026° 37.509'

The time of Swedish rule 1250-1809

Here you are at a former national border. To the west of the river was Sweden-Finland and to the east the Russian Empire. North of the bridge, you can still see Rajakivi, a large stone marking the border, which was later engraved with the text RUOTSIVENÄJÄ 1743-1809 (SWEDENRUSSIA 1743-1809).

The Hats' War was a war fought between Sweden-Finland and Russia from 1741 to 1743. It was won by Russia. As a result of the victory, Russia occupied Finland from 1742 to 1743. This period of occupation is called Lesser Wrath. The occupation ended with the Treaty of Åbo in 1743, and a new border was negotiated following the westernmost branch of the Kymijoki river. A riding path for Russian border guards once followed the eastern bank of the river. Lippu's Cottage, which has been preserved in the village of Verla, was a building constructed for Russian border guards in the late 18th century.

The border was redrawn in 1809 at the conclusion of the Finnish War. The Russian Empire had occupied Finland and part of Swedish Lapland. The Finnish War came to an end with the Treaty of Hamina, and Finland became a grand duchy of Russia.



Verla Groundwood and Board Mill - Repovesitie

Starting point N 61° 02.568' E 026° 37.509'

Geocache: N 61° 03.JMG' E 026° 38.TQE'

A time of industrialisation

Finland began to industrialise strongly from the 1860s onwards. New factory jobs began to proliferate alongside old agricultural and artisan professions. New factories were established at locations that had access to water power.

Hugo Neuman founded a small groundwood mill at Verlankoski rapids in 1872.

Neuman's mill only existed for a short time as it was burnt down just a couple of years after its establishment. The owner returned to the service of the railways. In 1882, Gottlieb Kreidl from Austria, Luis Hänel from Germany and Wilhelm Dippell from Vyborg set up a new groundwood mill at Verla and with it a board mill. Beside the factory, the 'Patruunan pytinki' (master's house) was built, a fine dwelling and office for the mill manager. The mill employees lived in barracks buildings in the grounds of the mill and in their own cottages on both sides of the river. The mill made woodpulp board, which was used in book covers and boxes, amongst other things. There was demand for high-quality board, and the mill's products were exported to many countries including the USA.

The mill's drying plant was destroyed in a fire in 1892. The decision was made to build a new one of more fire-proof red brick. The buildings were designed by Wilhelm Dippell's brother, architect Eduard Dippell, who is also famous for designing Vyborg Cathedral, among other buildings.

In 1920, Kissakoski Oy bought the Verla Groundwood and Board Mill. Two years later, Kissakoski sold it to Kymi Ltd. The new owner did not make any great investments in the mill, and working methods and production volumes remained about the same. In the 1960s, the mill had become obsolescent with production volumes well below those of modern mills. However, the value of the mill's surroundings and equipment, which had been preserved in their original form, was understood even then and the decision was made to turn it into a museum.

Production at the Verla Board Mill ended on 18 July 1964. The Verla Groundwood and Board Museum was opened in 1972, 100 years after it was first established as a groundwood mill. In 1996, the museum was accepted as the fourth Finnish attraction to be listed as a World Heritage site.

The museum is open to the public from the beginning of May until the end of September.

You can learn about the history of the mill on a guided tour lasting about one hour.

Multi-Cache. You will find the redbrick drying plant of the Verla Groundwood and Board Mill at the starting point. On the wall of the building is a year. Form a Gade key code from the numbers of the year and put the numbers corresponding to letters on the coordinate template.

The Treasure of Repovesitie

Geocache: N 61° 03.HLG' E 026° 38.VKF'

As you go around all nine Repovesitie geocaches, you will get numbers to help you find the Treasure of Repovesitie. The treasure is located along a beautiful nature trail near the Verla World Heritage Site.

Mystery cache. Once you have been able to collect all the hints from the other geocaches in the series, you can form the Gade key code from the numbers and put the numbers corresponding to letters on the coordinate template.





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



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