

# VisitKouvola

THE BEST TRAVEL MAGAZINE IN KOUVOLA IN 2020

# 4X high point

VERLA  
REPOVESI  
TYKKIMÄKI  
ARBORETUM  
MUSTILA

**New!**

MotoGP & KymiRing

Kimola Canal opens

Exercise and spectate sports

**Kouvola®**

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Photograph  
Julius Kontinen



When you mention Kouvola, what springs to mind for lots of people is the city centre, but Kouvola is so much more – such as its incredibly beautiful nature. I like to tell everyone about the Repovesi National Park. I hike there every summer.

When I'm in town, I visit my family who still live in Kouvola. As a child-friendly city, Kouvola was a good place for me to grow up. I have small but precious moments of my childhood etched in my memory, such as the small hill near my home in Kankaronmäki where we used to sledge before sauna. At the time, it seemed like a huge mountain.

There are plenty of sports and exercise facilities, and lots of events for armchair athletes. In the summer, I watch pesäpallo and in the winter, ice hockey and basketball. I used to play football in the Sudet Kouvola club for more than ten years. If you want to go shopping, I recommend the Veturi Shopping Centre.

I'm proud of my roots and talk about Kouvola whenever I get a chance. My "personal" photographer, Nadi Hammouda, also happens to have grown up in Kouvola. When I hosted the Miss Finland beauty pageant and Nadi was the photographer, we once again bonded over our hometown Kouvola.

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# ALONG HIGHWAY 6

Highway 6 is the artery that runs through Kouvola. You can stop in Elimäki and go to the Arboretum Mustila and its nursery shop, enjoy a drink in the Viinitupa and delicious treats in café Piika ja Renki. The Moisio Manor and Elimäki village are also well worth seeing.

## Arboretum Mustila

From the latter half of May to the first half of June, when rhododendrons are in bloom, the Mustila car park is brimming. But the valley of rhododendrons is only a small part of the 120 hectare arboretum where evergreen conifer woods with hemlocks, giant thuyas and red silver firs play the leading role.

## Mustila Puutarha

How about growing an arboretum of your own? There are more than 250 tree species at Arboretum Mustila. Some of these rarities you can buy in the Mustila nursery shop and plant in your own piece of wood or garden.

## Wine Chamber

After walking in the arboretum, you can enjoy some of Mustila Viini's wines and liqueurs. The Mustila Viini beverages are made from pure Finnish ingredients. Half of these come from the contract farmers of the region and the rest from home gardens and the wilderness.

## Piika ja Renki

The old rural building of this atmospheric summer café is visible from Highway 6. There is an art exhibition in the café's loft.

## Moisio Art and Catering Manor

Not far from Mustila you will find the Empire-style Moisio Manor designed by architect Carl Ludvig Engel. It has been renovated to its former glory, right down to the ceiling art and ornaments. The Moisio Manor offers periodically changing art exhibitions. Upstairs you will find the memorial exhibition for Wäinö Aaltonen (1894–1966), compiled from the manor's own collection.

## Elimäki Village

Elimäki is a great place to stop by in the autumn during the Pestoomarkkinat Fair. The museum and its courtyard and outbuildings are also well worth a visit. A specialty of the village is the windmill, which can be seen from Highway 6 and which used to belong to the Mustila Manor. The wooden church in Elimäki was built in the form of a rectangle in 1638, but during a later extension it was made cruciform. Particularly notable features of the church are its unique altar device and altar-piece, baroque screen and pulpit.

## Rhododendron varieties

**Raisa.** When Mikhail Gorbachev received four varieties of rhododendrons from Arboretum Mustila, he took a liking to the broad one with red flowers. Consequently, it was named after the President of the Soviet Union's wife.

**Axel Tigerstedt.** A medium-high variety of rhododendron with white flowers. It was named after the grandson, Axel Tigerstedt (1930–2010), of the Arboretum Mustila's founder.

**Hellikki, Kullervo ja Pohjola's daughter.** The names of these plants were inspired by the Kalevala.

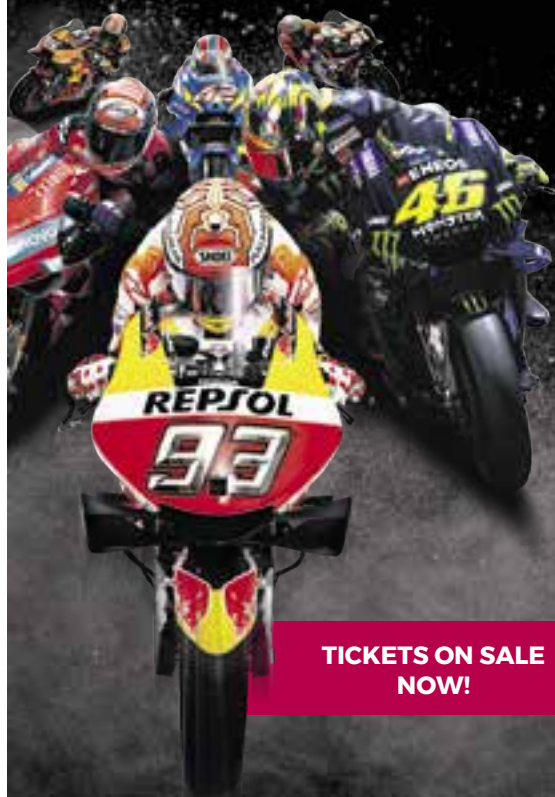
- **Arboretum Mustila** / Mustilantie 57 / mustila.fi
- **Mustila Puutarha** / Mustilan Puistotie 23 / mustilapuutarha.fi
- **Mustila Viini** / Mustilan Puistotie 21 / mustilaviini.fi
- **Piika ja Renki** / piikajareнки.fi
- **Moision taide- ja pitokartano** / Moisiontie 163 / moisionkartano.fi
- **Pestoomarkkinat** / Vanhamaantie 17 / elimäenpestoomarkkinat.fi
- **Elimäen kotiseutumuseo** / Alppiruusuntie 98 / kotiseutumuseo.fi
- **Elimäen kirkko** / Vanhamaantie 16
- **Kymen Paviljonki** / Helsingintie 408 / kymenpaviljonki.fi





KymiRing in Iitti is Northern Europe's only GP track which meets the highest FIM and FIA standards. The 4.6 km long track has height differences of 23 metres, guaranteeing excellent conditions for MotoGP™ spectators to watch the races. The 1.2 km straight stretch in the 18-curve track is the longest straight run of GP tracks in Europe.

[kymiring.fi](http://kymiring.fi)



**FINLAND**  
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The grand prix motorcycle racing event returns to Finland after almost 40 years, when the long-awaited two-wheeled premier class MotoGP™ event is held in Finland in July. The new KymiRing GP-track hosts, for the first time ever, the grand prix event in the classes MotoGP™, Moto2™ and Moto3™.

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[lippu.fi](http://lippu.fi)

[finlandmotogp.fi](http://finlandmotogp.fi)



The premier class in motocross returns to Finland  
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KymiRing is building an MX track where you can experience  
MXGP, MX2, EMX2500, EMX125 and EMX 2t.

[mxgpfinland.fi](http://mxgpfinland.fi)





Opening this summer for boaters and cruise ships, Kimola Canal and its tunnel form an extraordinary water route.

# BY WATER FROM PIELAVESI TO VOIKKAA

ALMOST ready to use, Kimola log-floating canal is being transformed into a boating route. Starting from Voikkaa in Kouvola you can get to Pielavesi via Lake Päijänne through the waters of Ruotsalainen and Konnivesi, which is the west end of the canal.

Kimola Canal has been dredged, widened and strengthened with the erosion banks required for transport by boat. The canal bank had collapsed, and earth had fallen into it along quite a distance,

The dam in the Canal was demolished and replaced with a boat lock, which a lock height of 12 metres. Kimola bridge and Taipale private road bridge, which cross the canal, were rebuilt.

The most demanding section was digging and reinforcing a 4.8-metre high log-floating tunnel. The quality of the stone was assessed as particularly challenging.

CONSTRUCTION of the original log-floating canal at Kimola began in 1962. It was inaugurated in August 1966, but work on floating booms and other structures continued until 1969 ported by road. The last logs went through the canal in 2002.

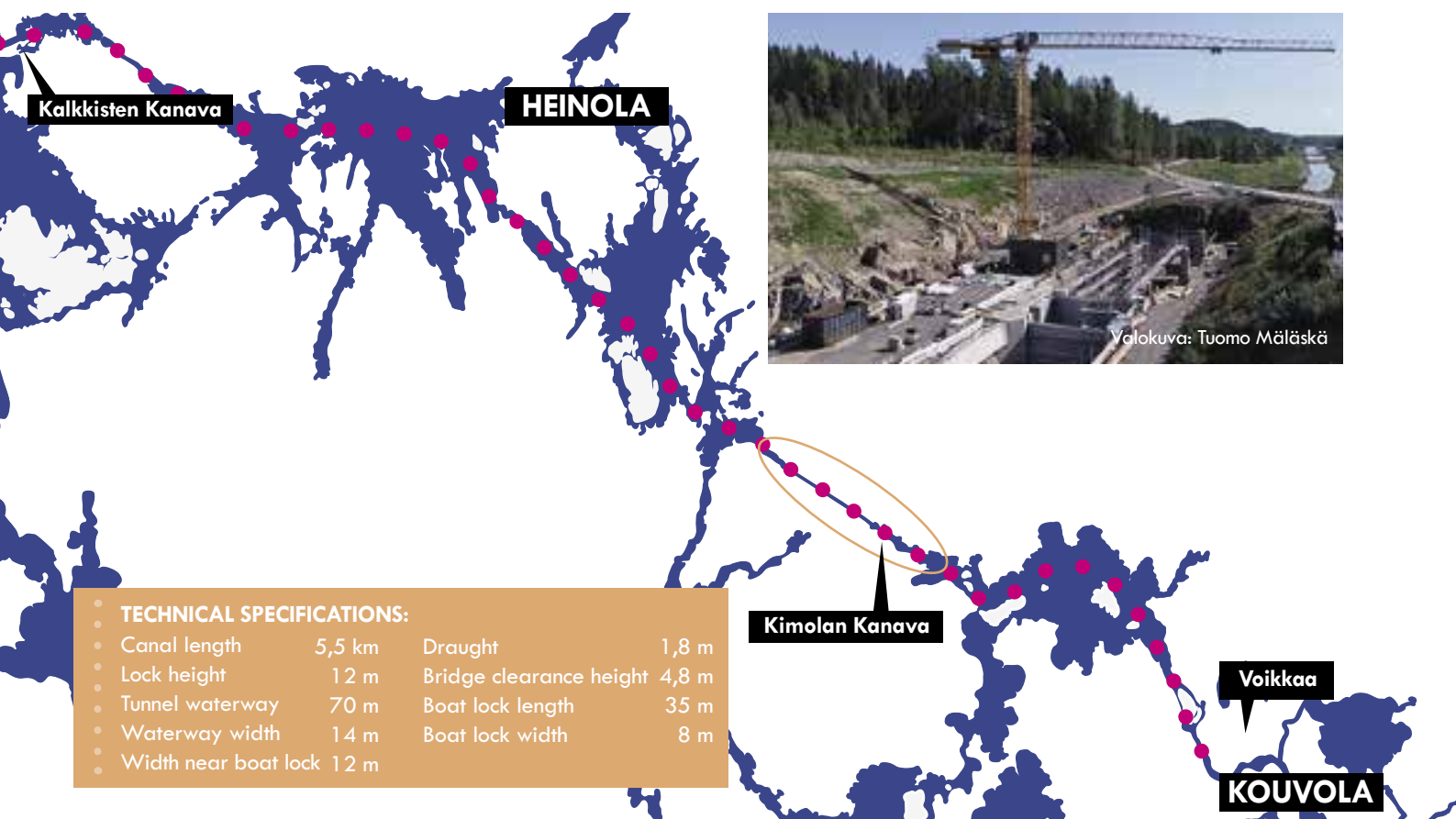
The canal made it easier to float timber from Lake Päijänne to the Kymi River, but boats had no access to it.

The Kimola canal was built by The National Board of Public Roads and Waterways. It did not have locks, but the water level was balanced by the dam built on the cutting, below which bundles of logs were transferred with two 30-tonne cranes. Once completed, the canal was a tourist destination, and it even had a viewing platform on its banks. In the 1990s log floating decreased, as the wood was increasingly transported by road. The last logs went through the canal in 2002.

RENOVATION work started in July 2018. The new and unique Kimola Canal opens to water traffic in the summer of 2020, after the locks have been trialled.

The canal will be the beginning of a new long water route starting from Kouvola, which can be reached by boat from a distance of up to 400 kilometres.

Its 70-metre-long tunnel and exceptionally high lock, at over 12 metres, make Kimola a memorable experience for boaters. The lock is eight metres wide and can accommodate vessels up to about 30 metres long.





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# THE VERLA OF STORIES

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Verla Groundwood and Board Mill introduce visitors to the history of board production.

The Verla Mill Museum operates in the buildings of the former Verla Board Mill and was the first factory museum in Finland. Visitors may enter the mill only with a museum guide. The guided tour of the mill includes fascinating stories about its everyday life and the people who worked there.

In 1996, the Verla Groundwood and Board Mill became a UNESCO World Heritage site. The factory buildings by the rapids are surrounded by a remarkably well-preserved village, and tourists can take lodgings in the mill workers' former homes. Perhaps the most beautiful of the Verla buildings is the Owner's Residence, which was built in 1885. Many traditional perennials bloom in the Owner's Garden, such as fall phlox, monkshood and daylilies. The Mill Museum's gardener leads guided tours of the garden.

At the head of the Verlankoski Rapids is a series of rock paintings estimated to be 7,000 years old. Eight elk and three people can be made out in the images. In the summer, you can visit crafts shops in the old stables next to the museum. Restaurant Verla and the Viiniverla wine shop operate in the former warehouse.



**Jussi Lemminkäinen**  
Verla's long-term head guide



"As a sideline, carpenter Matti Mustonen made coffins for the factory workers. The coffins were made to measure. Whenever someone's steps began to get shorter and their work grew slower, Matti took to walking behind them, measuring tape in hand. And just like that, the worker's small ailments disappeared."

"The owner Bruno Breitenstein walked around the factory at the same time every evening. One day he had other plans and arrived at the corner of the drying loft an hour earlier than usual. He found a group of men smoking there. He reminded them that smoking was not allowed in the mill grounds. One of the men pointed out that the owner had come at the wrong time. And that was that, no more was said about it."

"Antti Kaivola worked in the packing workshop and was a strong fellow. Three men were once talking at the Selänpää railway station and pondering how to move an oil barrel from A to B. Antti listened to them talk, lifted the barrel and set it down a little way away. Then he moved it back and said, 'that's how I'd do it'."

## Factory museum opening hours

- 2 May to 21 June Tue-Sun 11 am to 4 pm
- Midsummer Eve 19 June closed
- 22 June to 15 Aug Every day from 10 am to 6 pm
- 16 Aug to 30 Sept Tue-Sun 11 am to 4 pm
- Finnish guided tours begin on the hour, other languages by appointment.



# VERLA. A WORLD HERITAGE SITE FULL OF STORIES.



Verla is an unparalleled historical factory village, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a Finnish cultural treasure. Admire this beautiful rural milieu during a day trip, or take lodgings in one of the workers' houses in the lush, green surroundings of the factory museum, which are brimming with 19th century charm.

Find out more at [verla.fi](http://verla.fi)

VERLA MILL MUSEUM  
Verlantie 295, 47850 Verla  
tel. +358 2041 52170  
[museum.verla@upm.com](mailto:museum.verla@upm.com)



*Verla is owned and maintained by UPM.*

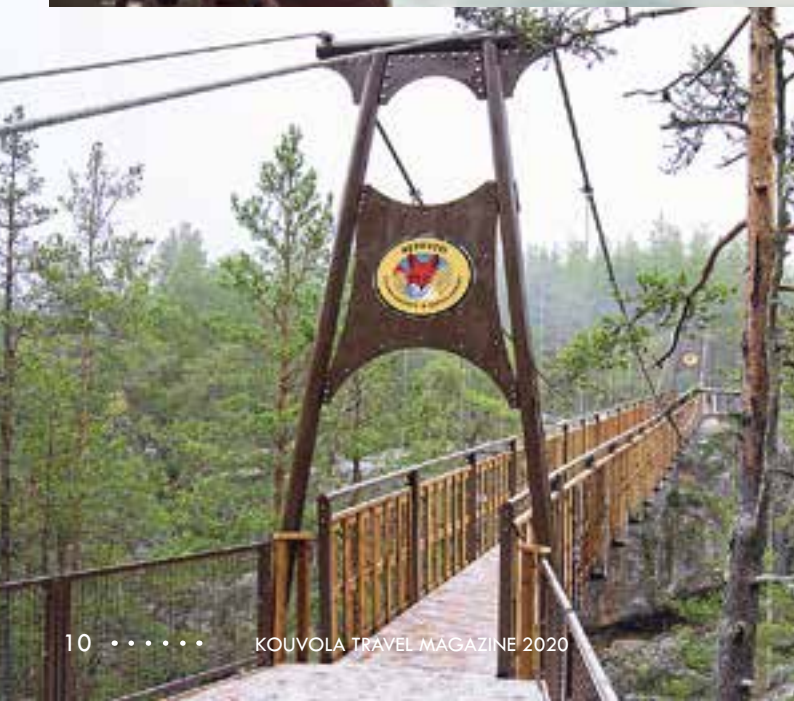
# HIKING AND MUCH MORE

The Repovesi National Park offers beautiful, rugged sceneries, bewitching hiking trails and an opportunity for various activities in nature.

**The Repovesi National Park** is one of the most popular nature destinations in Southern Finland. Its high season is at the end of spring and during the summer.

The best way to get there is by car. There are three entry points. The northern car park is in Saarijärvi, the southern in Tervajärvi and the western in Lapinsalmi.

In the summer, you can catch a bus to the park from the Kouvola Travel Centre or the Tuuletär II boat from the Orilammen Maja. You can also cycle to the park along the Mäntyharju-Repovesi bicycle route.



**The most popular hiking trail** is the five kilometre long Ketunlenkki Trail. It includes a climb of more than 200 steps up the almost vertical Katajavuori hill and crossing the Määkijänsalmi sound using the hand-pulled Ketunlossi cable ferry.

The Korpinkierros Trail is the shortest of the trails. It goes round the Olhavanlampi lake in the north of the park and past the rugged Olhavanvuori hill.

The Kaakkurin Kierros Trail is 26 kilometres long. It passes by all the attractions and car parks of the Repovesi National Park. Hiking through it will take a day or two.

**Along the trails** there are campfire sites equipped with firewood where you can camp out or make a pot of coffee. There are also some cottages you can rent.

Famous sites along the routes include the Lapinsalmi hanging bridge and the Mustalamminvuori hill with its observation tower, which affords a stunning view of the entire national park.

As well as hiking in Repovesi, you can swim, canoe, ski, cycle, cook, snowshoe, photograph, enjoy the sights using binoculars, sing around the campfire or climb. The Olhavanvuori hill with its vertical walls is one of the best climbing sites in Finland.

- For more detailed information about bus services go to [visitkouvola.fi](http://visitkouvola.fi) and [kouvolanbussit.fi](http://kouvolanbussit.fi).
- More information about activities:
- [www.luontoon.fi/repovesi](http://www.luontoon.fi/repovesi)



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# THE TYKKIMÄKI AREA.....

Tykkimäki is known for its amusement park, aquapark and camping but there's a lot more to it.

## Tykkimäki Amusement Park

The amusement park at the top of Mäntykangas hill has a huge number of exciting rides for children. Those looking for thrills will enjoy the Endeavour, Loop Fighter and Trombi, while the 72-metre tall Star Flyer offers the best view. The Atrénalin Rope Trail is built up in the trees and is a great way to burn off some energy. Top Finnish performers entertain visitors at the Tykkimäki evening concerts.

## Tykkimäki Aquapark

Aquapark has five long water slides and three pools for splashers of all ages. The Park Hopper wristband allows you to switch between Aquapark and the Tykkimäki Amusement Park at will.

## Tykkimäki Camping

Tykkimäki Camping is located next to the Käyrälampi beach and Aquapark. You can rent holiday cabins, camping cottages and pitches for caravans and mobile homes.

## Tykkimäen Sauna

Public sauna open to all. The sauna is by the waters of Käyrälampi, where you can swim all year round. A big hole in the ice is made for this in winter.



## Bogey Golf

No green card or golf club membership is required on the Everyman's course. You can rent golf clubs and no reservation is necessary beforehand. There is a 9 hole par 3 course where the longest fairway is 172 metres. The golfers range from first-timers and holiday makers to professionals practising their short game.

## Kouvola Circuit

Between the eskers, sands and groves, there are a 2.2 kilometre long motocross track, a rallycross track for everyman racing, an RC model car racing track and a formula K track.

## Käyrälampi

Käyrälampi is the number one beach in Kouvola for swimming. It also offers the Beach Volley Stadium with its 12 courts.

## Käyrälampi DiscGolfPark

This 18-hole forest course for experienced disc golfers begins near the beach for dogs at Käyrälampi. The shortest course is 76 metres and the longest 215 metres.

## Tykkimäki Action Park

Actionpark offers the joy of physical activity all year round, whatever the weather. The indoor park with its 25 different activities is a great place to play and be active. The TykkiPlay area is intended for the smallest members of the family, the TykkiSport area offers a chance to try various ball games and at TykkiAction you can practise somersaults and other tricks!



- **Tykkimäki** / Kanuunakuja 2 / tykkimaki.fi
- **Aquapark** / Käyrälämmentie 20 / tykkimaki.fi
- **Tykkimäki Camping** / Käyrälämmentie 22
- **Bogey Golf** / Tykkimäentie 11 / bogey.fi
- **Tykkimäen moottoriurheilukeskus** / Tehontie 51
- **Tykkimäen Sauna** / Lautarontie 3 / tykkimaensauna.fi
- **Käyrälammen uimaranta ja Beach Volley Stadion** / Käyrälämmentie 16
- **Käyrälampi DiscGolfPark** / Käyrälämmentie 16
- **Action Park** / Tommolankatu 9 / tykkimaki.fi/actionpark







# SPORTS CITY KOUVOLA

There are not many sports that you can't try or follow in Kouvola. Here are a few recommendations.

## Mielakka

The skiing centre Mielakka is the home slope of snowboarder Roope Tonteri. Tonteri has won two World Championships in big air and one in slopestyle. Mielakka is located almost in the centre of Kouvola and offers slopes for all kinds of skiers and snowboarders, from beginners to experienced ones.

## Outdoor routes

Kouvola has more than 110 km of lit ski tracks. This is such a dense network that many Kouvola residents can start skiing almost at their front door. Kouvola also has 292 km of bicycle lanes and 350 km of nature trails.

## Nature trails

The Alakylä Nature Trail is a path over the rocks along the River Kymijoki (Peltokyläntie 89) and the Myllypuro Nature Trail (Kiehuvantie 7) follows a small fork in the river. The Niivermäki Conservation Area (Kytöahontie 2) is a unique destination close to the Veturi Shopping Centre. The area's steep rapakivi granite rocks are impressive and the fern growths framing the beautiful brook are unforgettable. The Heisanharju Conservation and Recreational Area has been called the Punkaharju of Kymenlaakso.

## Disc golf

Kouvola has several disc golf courses. The course in the Urheilupuisto park (Topinkuja 1) is the easiest one, while the DiscGolfPark (Käyrälämmentie 14) by Lake Käyrälampi is the most challenging.

The Koivusaari DiscGolf-Park (Suolasenkoskentie) twists and turns by the River Kymijoki and the Harjumäki disc golf course (Toikkalantie) zigzags in the beautiful esker landscape of Valkeala. The Jaala disc golf course (Jaalantie 75) is surrounded by lush rural scenery and the course by Koski-Golf (Eerolanväylä 12) by a thick forest.

## Canoeing

Väliväylä is a popular canoeing route starting from Lake Saimaa. Väliväylä is known for its idyllic landscapes of rapids and lakes and its pure, fresh water. In Kouvola, Väliväylä begins in Kannuskoski, runs into Lake Käyrälampi and continues from there via Lake Lappalanjärvi along the River Harjunjoki into the River Kymijoki.

## Stand up paddleboarding

Lake Käyrälampi is a popular stand up paddleboarding site. You can rent equipment at the Tykkimäki sauna or Tykkimäki Camping.

## Skydiving

Skydive Finland in Utti is the largest skydiving club in Finland. It has about 900 members and provides almost 15,000 skydives a year. If you are interested, you can try tandem skydiving with a trained tandem skydive instructor. This will allow you to enjoy almost a minute-long free fall and the amazing view as the parachute is opened at 2,000 metres. If you wish, your tandem skydive with Skydive Finland can be recorded on video.

## Beach volley

Kouvola's own Beach Volley Stadium is located on the shore of Lake Käyrälampi. It has 12 courts. So put on your Bermuda shorts and join the game!

## SPECTATOR SPORTS IN KOUVOLA

- **KooKoo** / ice hockey / Lumon Areena / kookoo.fi
- **Kouvot** / basketball / Jatke Areena / kouvot.fi
- **KPL** / finnish baseball / KSS Energia Areena / kouvolanpallonlyojat.fi
- **Kouvottaret** / basket ball / Jatke Areena / kouvot.fi/kouvottaret
- **Indians** / american football / Kuusankosken stadion / kouvola.indians.fi
- **Mypa** / football / Kymenlaakson Sähkö Stadion / mypa.fi
- **Sudet** / football / Kouvolan keskusurheilukenttä / sudet.fi
- **Sudet Salibandy** / floorball / Jatke Areena / sudetsalibandy.fi
- **Korian Klubi** / floorball / Jatke Areena / korianklubi.net
- **KoLe** / volley ball / Kuntotalo / kole.fi



The Kymi River valley, Kymenlaakso, is steeped in history, from the wars between Sweden and Russia to the early days of papermaking.

# ..... ON THE BANKS OF THE KYMI RIVER



## Taideruukki

In the Ruukki district of Kymi, the old warehouse building of a paper mill is now an art factory, Taideruukki. It houses artisan workshops, an art library, boutiques and art galleries with regular temporary exhibitions and free admission.

Taideruukki hosts a variety of events from beer and wine fairs to stand-up comedy clubs and yoga courses. The Pato Club has become a popular venue that leading Finnish artists have fallen in love with. The club's walls resounded to the sounds of jazz, blues, rap, pop and even the occasional symphony concert.



● Kymin Huvila (Villa)



## Other attractions

Next door to Taideruukki is the **Kymin Huvila (Villa)**, known as the banqueting venue of the Kymi Company, and now open to all as a restaurant. We serve a daytime buffet lunch and evening à la carte menu. You can also stay overnight in rooms at the manor-style villa.

**Virtakivi Sauna** is situated in an idyllic river landscape. The former sauna and laundry for the Kymi Company staff is now a summer café, restaurant and coffee roastery. Inside there is also a meeting and exhibition space and outside, a bar with a river terrace.

- **Kymin Huvila (Villa)** / Ahlmanintie 1 / [kyminhuvila.fi](http://kyminhuvila.fi)
- **Virtakivi Sauna** / Brejlinintie 8 / [virtakivensauna.fi](http://virtakivensauna.fi)
- **Taideruukki** / Kyminväylä 2 / [taideruukki.fi](http://taideruukki.fi)
- **Ankkapurha Culture Park** / Ankkapurhantie 15 / [ankkapurha.fi](http://ankkapurha.fi)





● Ankkapurha Culture Park

### Ankkapurha Culture Park

Ferdinand von Wright immortalised the landscape of Ankkapurha on his oil painting of Anjala Rapids, Anjalankoski. Many other nineteenth-century painters captured the same impressive rapids. Ankkapurha Culture Park combines places to visit on both banks of the Kymi River.

On one side of the rapids is Ankkapurha Industrial Museum, Warpunen House Museum, and an industrial and residential area designed by Alvar Aalto.

On the other shore is the historic Anjala Manor. Its former granary houses the Granary Café and Anjala Youth Centre, which offers accommodation and activities, particularly for school groups.



● Anjala Manor



● Granary Café



● Anjalala Rapids -oil painting



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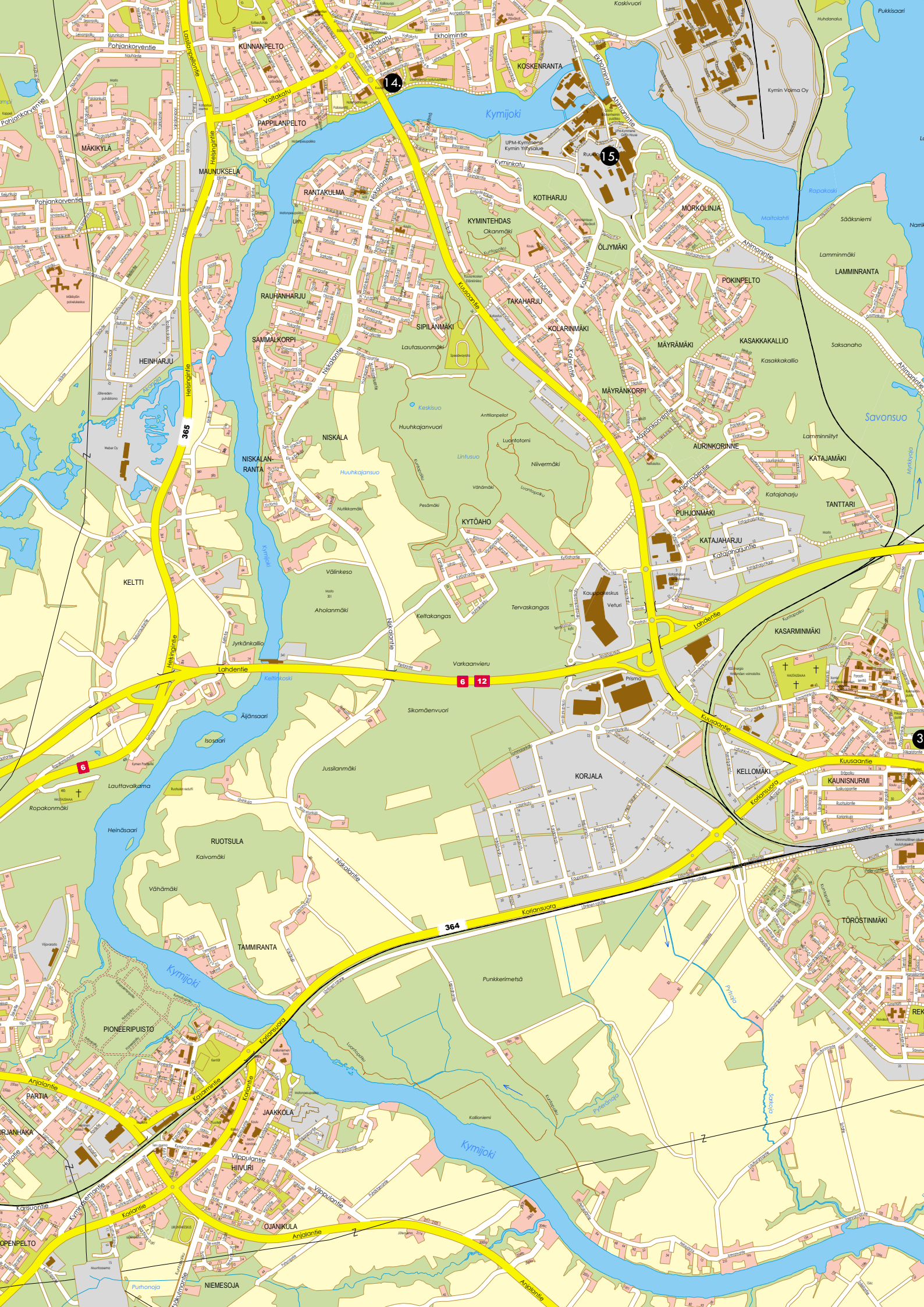
Guided tours and guided activities throughout the summer, including Ankkapurha ghost walk, Alvar Aalto and Stories of the Manor guided tours.

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info@ankkapurha.fi  
www.ankkapurha.fi



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# Kouvola®

1. Kouvola House and Museum Quarter
2. Central Church
3. Greek-Orthodox Church
4. City Hall
5. Market Place
6. Railway and Bus Station
7. Library
8. Theatre
9. Sports Park
10. Trotting Track
11. Mansikka-aho Sports Hall
12. Tykkimäki Amusement Park
13. Käyrälampi Beach and Tykkimäki Aquapark and Camping
14. Kuusankoski House
15. Art Factory (Taideruukki)



# THE CITY OF ALVAR AALTO

Kouvola belongs to the network of Alvar Aalto cities. The architect's hand is visible especially in Inkeroinen, but also in Sippola and the columns of the Kasarminmäki gate.



When Tampella Oy founded the Anjala paper mill in Inkeroinen in the late 1930s, architect Alvar Aalto was commissioned to design it. The work began with a plan for the building project in the factory area. It formed the basis for the plans for the paper mill's factory, warehouse and production buildings.

In addition to numerous factory buildings, Alvar Aalto's architect firm designed, for example, the Tehtaanmäki school, the teachers' dormitory, new residential buildings for the factory workers, supervisors and engineers, as well as a building for a medical clinic. Not all the plans were realised and some of the buildings have been pulled down or changed beyond recognition.

Nine different Puutalo Oy house types designed by Alvar Aalto were implemented in Karhunkangas, as well as a shared sauna and laundry building, a cooperative shop and a pumping station. The buildings were manufactured by the factory's building unit. The apartments were handed over to the factory workers for the price of the materials.



**Mäntylä**  
Mäntyrinne 3  
Alvar Aalto, 1938



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# Upcoming

## Events 2020

- 21. - 23.2. Repovesi outdoor and adventure days
- 17. - 18.4. Lempo folk music and dance festival
- 25.4. Accordion orchestra and band Finnish championships
- 13. - 16.5. Kuulas – children's theatre event
- 5. - 6.6. Kouvola 24th Detective Novel event – literature event
- 12.6. Defence Forces Summer Tour, Rykmentinpuisto
- 12. - 13.6. SM OK Car Rally
- 26. - 27.6. KymiGP - international horse racing event
- 10. - 12.7. MotoGP – Finland Grand Prix at KymiRing
- 10. - 11.7. Kouvola Rock in the City
- 18. - 19.7. Jättömaa (Wasteland), interdisciplinary art event
- 31.7. - 1.8. Wiipurintien markkinat – Medieval event
- 7. - 8.8. Kymijoki Beer Festival - Kallioniemi
- 21.8. Night of Arts
- 22. - 23.8. MXGP – Motocross World Championship at KymiRing
- 28.8. InkJazz concert, Inkeroinen
- 12. - 13.9. Local food fair, Elimäki

Check the event data, changes are possible.  
More events: [visitkouvola.fi](http://visitkouvola.fi)





# HIGHLIGHTS FROM KOUVOLA

## Mylykoski

The most legendary football sanctuary in Kouvola is the Kymenlaakson Sähkö Stadion. This is where the former MyPa players Sami Hyypiä and Jari Litmanen started from. MyPa holds the Finnish Cup Championship for 1995 and the Veikkausliiga Championship for 2005.

- **Kisatie 2**  
[www.mypa.fi](http://www.mypa.fi)



## Sippola

The cheese master Rudolf Klossner developed the first Emmental cheese in Finland in 1856 at the Sippola Manor dairy. The cheese pot is still on display by the dairy. Today, the dairy is home to the Art Center Antares. Next door to it is Alexander von Daehn's former home, the Sippola Manor, the largest wooden manor in Finland.

- **Pien-Liikkalantie 6**  
[galleriaantares.fi](http://galleriaantares.fi)



## Vuohijärvi Nature and Culture House

Vuohijärvi Nature and Culture House is near Repovesi National Park. During the summer, it is the venue for exhibitions and all year round, for various events and concerts.

Café Kaakkuri, a boutique and gallery are inside the house, and the Love Park is in the garden.

- **Näkkimistöntie**  
[kulttuurivuohijarvi.fi](http://kulttuurivuohijarvi.fi)



## Kouvola Theatre

Musicals, farces, premières, improvisation, children's plays, the traditional Christmas Show and guest stars. This versatile virtuoso theatre will make you laugh, entertain and touch the hearts of the whole family.

- **Salpausseläntie 38**  
[kouvoluteatteri.fi](http://kouvoluteatteri.fi)



**Kouvola is more than just the high-rise buildings in the centre - it's suburbs, nature and the peace of the countryside.**

## Kymi Sinfonietta

The Philharmonic Orchestra plays concerts in two towns – not only Kouvola, but also Kotka. The programme includes symphonies, concerts for young soloists, Baroque music and silent films with live accompaniment. The orchestra is known for its acclaimed albums, and the finale concerts of the International Uno Klami Composition Competition

- [kymisinfonietta.fi](http://kymisinfonietta.fi)



## Poikilo Museums

In Kouvola House, Poikilo Art Museum holds three thrilling exhibitions every year. On the second floor is the Poikilo gallery of Kouvola City Museum, which hosts temporary exhibitions about the varied history of the modern region of Kouvola.

- **Varuskuntakatu 11**  
[poikilo.fi](http://poikilo.fi)





### Nature trails

The city maintains a network of 11 nature trails across Kouvola. Dominated by steep granite rocks, Niivermäki starts right by the Veturi shopping centre. For a more peaceful location, go to Heisanharju, Kymenlaakso's answer to that famous beauty spot, Punkaharju. The trails wind through river and lake scenery, taking you along streams and into old-growth forests.

- [kouvolanluonto.fi/luontopolut](http://kouvolanluonto.fi/luontopolut)

### Kouvola's Museum Quarter

Located near the city centre, the Museum Quarter is an idyllic block of wooden buildings that today houses many lovely little boutiques. In the Museum Quarter, you will find several craftspeople, the Kouvola Home and Radio Museum and an atmospheric café with exhibitions. The Crafts and Skills Day is organised in the Museum Quarter in the spring, the Night of the Arts and the Old-time Fair in the autumn, and lastly the Christmas Event.

Varuskuntakatu 3–9

- Café Onnenkukko, [onnenkukko.fi](http://onnenkukko.fi)
- Studio Ullakko, [studioullakko.fi](http://studioullakko.fi)
- Design Studio Taimi, [designstudiotaimi.com](http://designstudiotaimi.com)
- Pikkupuoti Aino, [pikkupuotiaino.com](http://pikkupuotiaino.com)
- Kouvola Home and Radio Museum, [putkiradiomuseo.fi](http://putkiradiomuseo.fi)



### Finnish shop museum

Located in the original Pokki family's shop building, the Shop Museum tells a fascinating story about business activities through different eras.

- Vanhatie 22  
[valkealanmuseo.fi](http://valkealanmuseo.fi)



### Model Railroad Museum

Kouvola's Model Railroad Museum, Semaforo, is located in an old building that used to house the school of the state railway company, VR. The museum displays model trains and railway lines, as well as railway-related articles. One of its main attractions is a large wooden train (scale 1:25) that chugs along above visitors' heads in a 35 metre long circle.

- Asemakatu 2  
[elisanet.fi/pienoisrautatiemuseo/semaforo](http://elisanet.fi/pienoisrautatiemuseo/semaforo)



### Elimäki local food fair

The Local Food Fair is held every year on the second weekend of September in the Mustila school yard. Elimäki is known as the shrine of local food.

- Alppiruusuntie 99  
[lahiruoka.fi](http://lahiruoka.fi)



### Mielakka

The skiing centre Mielakka is located almost in the centre of Kouvola. This compact skiing centre offers slopes for skiers of all levels. The area also has the Minipark, the children's Lastenmaa and Snowpark. In Mielakka's Lappkoti hut, you can have a barbecue and right next to it is a hill for sledging. The skiing centre is surrounded by lit ski tracks.

- Ojaniityntie 3  
[mielakka.com](http://mielakka.com)







## Finnish SHOP MUSEUM

The shop museum vividly describes trading activities in different eras. The original Pokki shop building houses the museum, a unique attraction in Finland. Besides the permanent display, you can experience a new temporary exhibition every year.

The same site is home to the old district court house, summer theatre and children's own shop, Aittapuoti. Opening hours and price information on our website:

[www.valkealanmuseo.fi](http://www.valkealanmuseo.fi)

Vanhatie 22, 45370 Valkeala Tel. +358 45 667 2505  
[valkealan.museoyhditys@gmail.com](mailto:valkealan.museoyhditys@gmail.com)



## Kouvola Home and Radio Museum

The Home Museum is in the centre of Kouvola, in an idyllic district of wooden houses. The museum displays middle-class living rooms from the 1920s to the 1960s. You can also listen to audio recordings of old radio programmes and hits from different eras.

The Radio and Military Radio Museum is on the same site. The museum presents the development of radio from 1920 to 1960 and Finland's most extensive collection of military radios.

For opening hours, visit our website:

[www.putkiradiomuseo.fi](http://www.putkiradiomuseo.fi)

Enquiries: [museo@putkiradiomuseo.fi](mailto:museo@putkiradiomuseo.fi)

or tel. +358 20 615 5157

Pajaraitti 1, Kouvola. Next to the museums is a café.



# Experience the model railroad on the timeline of technical history from yesterday to today.

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Home page: [www.elisanet.fi/pienoisrautatiemuseo/semaforo](http://www.elisanet.fi/pienoisrautatiemuseo/semaforo)

Asemakatu 2, 45100 KOUVOLA

p. 0400 711 607 |







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Charlotta Jacobina  
from the manor.

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Poikilo Kouvola City Museum

## Poikilo Kouvola Art Museum

### MYÖTÄ/TOGETHER

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tenth anniversary exhibition  
6 Feb. to 9 Sep. 2020

### LUONNON EDESTÄ/ FOR NATURE

Heino Art Foundation collection  
exhibition  
7 May to 30 Aug. 2020

### KAUNEUDEN AARTEITA/ TREASURES OF BEAUTY

Art from the Emil Aaltonen  
Museum collection  
24 Sep. 2020 to 10 Jan. 2021



Ferdinand von Wright, Pair of Marsh Warblers, 1892. Emil Aaltonen Museum of Art. Image © the museum

**POIKILO**  
museot

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Kouvola House, Varuskuntakatu 11, 45100 Kouvola  
museums and museum shop open:

Tue-Fri 11 am to 6 pm,  
Sat-Sun 12 noon to 5 pm,  
Mondays closed





# 15 FACTS ABOUT KOUVOLA

What should everyone know about the most significant suburb close to nature in the most populated area of Finland?

## 1 Location, location, location.

Kouvola is situated between two metropolises. Just over an hour from Helsinki and two from St. Petersburg.

## 2 Nature.

You can admire the monumental Pohjola building from the window of a train, but you can't see Kouvola's 450 lakes or the River Kymijoki from there.

## 3 Architecture.

The readers of the *Ilta-Sanomat* newspaper have voted the Kouvola City Hall the most beautiful in Finland. While the city centre is a perfect example of 60s modernism, you will also find architecture by Alvar Aalto, numerous manors and other historical buildings elsewhere in Kouvola.

## 4 Boating.

A new waterway will be opened in time for the 2020 boating season: the Kimola canal. The canal will link Kouvola to the boating region of Lake Päijänne.

## 5 Silk Road 2.0

The Helsinki-St. Petersburg line that runs via Kouvola will turn 150 this year. One of the largest railway junctions, it is also a gate to Asia, with a container train running to China in just 12 days. There is also an intermodal terminal under construction which will combine different transport modes. In the future, trains as long as a kilometre will be handled in Kouvola.

## 6 Space.

For the price of a one-bedroom apartment in Helsinki, you will be able to buy an apartment and a summer cottage in Kouvola. In Kouvola, nature begins from your garden and half the city's residents live in single-family houses.

## 7 Time.

Do you want an annual holiday's worth of more free time? When you live in Kouvola you are just 10 minutes away from everything you need. At the same time, you'll half your mortgage.

## 8 Wonders.

What other city has a national park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an amusement park? Kouvola has Repovesi, the Verla Groundwood and Board Mill and Tykkimäki. And of course, the largest and oldest tree park in Europe: Arboretum Mustila.

## 9 Rock city.

Many successful Finnish bands, such as Peer Günt, Viikate and Tuure Kilpeläinen, have learned their trade at the band facilities in the old city hall. Among the newcomers are the indie band Have You Ever Seen the Jane Fonda Aerobic VHS and Finland's Eurovision representative Norma John. The karaoke restaurant Pyöreä Torppa is well worth visiting. Pato Areena has climbed to the top of the ranking list for gig venues.

## 10 Culture.

The detective novel event Kouvola Dekkaripäivät, which has been run since 1997, is one of the largest literary events in the country. Kymi Sinfonietta and the Kouvola City Theatre provide excellent sustenance for the culture hungry.

## 11 The City of Army Uniforms.

Kouvola is the largest garrison city in Finland. The Karelia Brigade and the Utti Jaeger Regiment train 4,400 conscripts a year.

## 12 One Big Allotment Garden.

With its 7,700 summer cottages, Kouvola is the 7th largest locality for summer homes in Finland. It has about 30,000 summer-time residents.

## 13 Tastes.

Kouvola Lakritsi liquorice is enjoyed all over the country. Sysi-Kymi and Kouvola-kahvi coffee is roasted at Inka Paahtimo in Voikkaa. Kaslink is known for its high-quality dairy and oat products. The vegetarian pasty Vihis, made by Hoviruoka, has become the symbol of the vegan boom.

## 14 The capital of the paper and forest industry.

Stora Enso runs the Anjala paper mill and the Inkeroinen board mill, while UPM Kymmene runs the Kymi paper and pulp mill. Anjala is home to the Ankkapurha Industrial Museum and Jaala to the UPM Verla Mill Museum.

## 15 Sports enthusiasts.

Kouvola has 8 sports centres, 4 ice stadiums and 5 public swimming pools. It also has more than 110 sports clubs and sports organisations. Plus 110 km of lit ski tracks, 292 km of bicycle lanes and 350 km of nature trails.



# KOUVOLA AS A HOME TOWN

## Ömer Acar

Ömer Acar moved back to Kouvola after studying dentistry and set up a business. He spent ten years in the Helsinki metropolitan area. Moving to Kouvola reduced the family's living costs to a quarter of what they had been.

"Because of my background, I've been thinking a lot about my relationship with my home town and home country," says Ömer, who moved to Finland with his family at the age of one.

"In Kouvola I feel welcome and that I have a lot of opportunities here. To me, home town means the place where it's nice and easy to be."

"I'm proud to say that I'm from Kouvola. When I am dealing with people from here, I see myself as one of them. It feels good."

As a child Ömer enjoyed astronomy, and got his first SLR camera at the age of 12. Photography became a new hobby, for which Ömer is now widely known. As a student, he spent most of his free time at weddings, as the photographer.

"Wedding photography is not at all easy, and also quite psychologically draining, because it is such a unique event. I mainly photograph my friends' weddings these days."

Today, Ömer is most excited about portraying Nordic nature. His sources of inspiration are "Finnish Lapland, northern Norway, Iceland and wild animals."

Ömer is also accomplished on social media, which means that he has been offered a variety of collaboration opportunities. In 2018, he was selected as Rajala Ambassador.



Text and portrait: Kirsi Markkanen  
Aerial photograph: Ömer Acar

"We take our guests to Repovesi  
— it's an easy way to make an impression."

"Of course, it feels good to get recognition. It hasn't always been easy to get to this point as a photographer, where other people like my pictures too, not just my mother. These days there are so many photographers."

Ömer welcomes the fact that Kouvola's "off-trend" reputation is changing. "In reality, Kouvola is anything but grey concrete, at least no more than anywhere else. If I notice someone being dismissive of Kouvola, I take issue with it. I might ask if they ever even have visited Kouvola."

Ömer Acar is thriving in Kouvola. His home town is his home town. Founded just over a year ago with a colleague, Ömer Acar's dental clinic has hired three dentists and a few more nurses. Clients have responded very positively. "Kouvola is full of opportunities, it's a good place to be an entrepreneur."





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# IN BY RAIL, OUT BY RAIL

Kouvola grew around the railway station of a major junction. Along with the EU and Finnish state the town develops conditions in the sector, so Kouvola is and remains to be a strong centre for rail logistics.

## History

The Helsinki-Riihimäki-St Petersburg railway was completed exactly 150 years ago. The junction station at Kouvola was born when lines were built running south to Kotka, north to Savo and east to Karelia. The local forest industry needed railways, and it spurred the concentration of services in Kouvola.

## Passenger transport

Every hour, an express train leaves Kouvola for Helsinki. The travel time is about 1 hour 20 minutes. Allegro operates four trains a day to St Petersburg, which is just over two hours away.

## Logistics business

Railway logistics is Kouvola's most significant source of employment besides trade, forest industry and garrisons. Kouvola is the starting point for the container train route between Northern Europe and Asia. The city has about 200 logistics-sector companies with 1700 employees.

## International


Kouvola is the only city in Finland in the EU's core transport network which has a rail and road terminal status. Kouvola is building a new railway terminal which can handle trains up to 1100 metres long. Eastern Finland's railway control centre is located in Kouvola.

## Training

In recent years, training in the Finnish railway sector has centralised in Kouvola. Its nationwide educational institutes are the Kouvola Railway and Adult Education Company (KRAO) and FTA education centre for rail technology (ROK). You can also study railway logistics in Kouvola at the University of Applied Sciences.

## The future

Kouvola is listed on both the EU and Asia Pacific markets as an important railway hub. The State of Finland, the EU and the City of Kouvola are investing heavily in Kouvola's rail logistics. The city remains a key player in domestic and international rail transport.



### ● Rail and road terminal Kouvola, RRT

Intermodal terminal building site

Photo: City of Kouvola, Tuomo Mäläskä



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# InkJazz

**InkJazz concert on Friday**  
**28.8.2020 at 7 pm**  
 Ankkapurha Industrial Museum  
 Inkeroinen, Kouvola  
 Entrance fee.  
 Organised by City of Kouvola Cultural Services

Find out more on:  
[www.kouvola.fi/inkjazz](http://www.kouvola.fi/inkjazz)



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# Mystical Northern Lights

The magic of Lapland at Vuohijärvi. Impressive, beautiful, rugged northern nature and glowing northern lights in this summer's exhibition.

The artists are nature photographer Jorma Luhta and visual artist Riitta Heleva



Jorma Luhta - Purjekari, Oulu october 2015

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1–7 persons.



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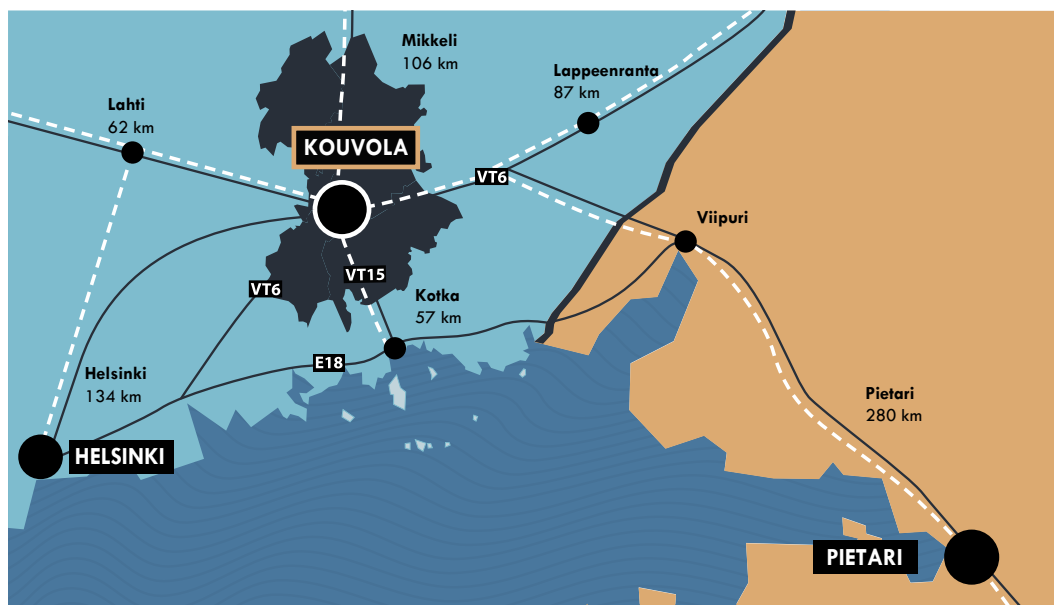
# ALL ROADS LEAD TO KOUVOLA.....

You can easily get to **Kouvola** from any part of Finland as the city is a well-known railroad hub. Trains from Helsinki-Vantaa Airport run every hour, the travel time is just over one hour. In Kouvola the travel centre (railway and bus station) is in the city centre, the pedestrian street starts just where you step out of the station.

Kouvola is the first city where the train from **Russia** stops after the border. The journey from **St Petersburg** to Kouvola by Allegro train takes just over 2 hours. You can get from Moscow to Kouvola travelling overnight with the Tolstoy train. Simply hop on the train in the evening and in the morning you have reached your destination.

Highways 6 and 15 intersect in Kouvola. The distance from **Helsinki** to Kouvola is 136 km, from **Lahti** 60 km, **Lappeenranta** 86 km and **Kotka** 50 km.

**Ryanair**, and it's subsidiary **Lauda**, have started flights to Kouvola's neighbouring city, **Lappeenranta**. Helsinki-Vantaa is thus not the only airport close to Kouvola. From Lappeenranta you can easily travel to Kouvola f.ex. by train in about 40 min.



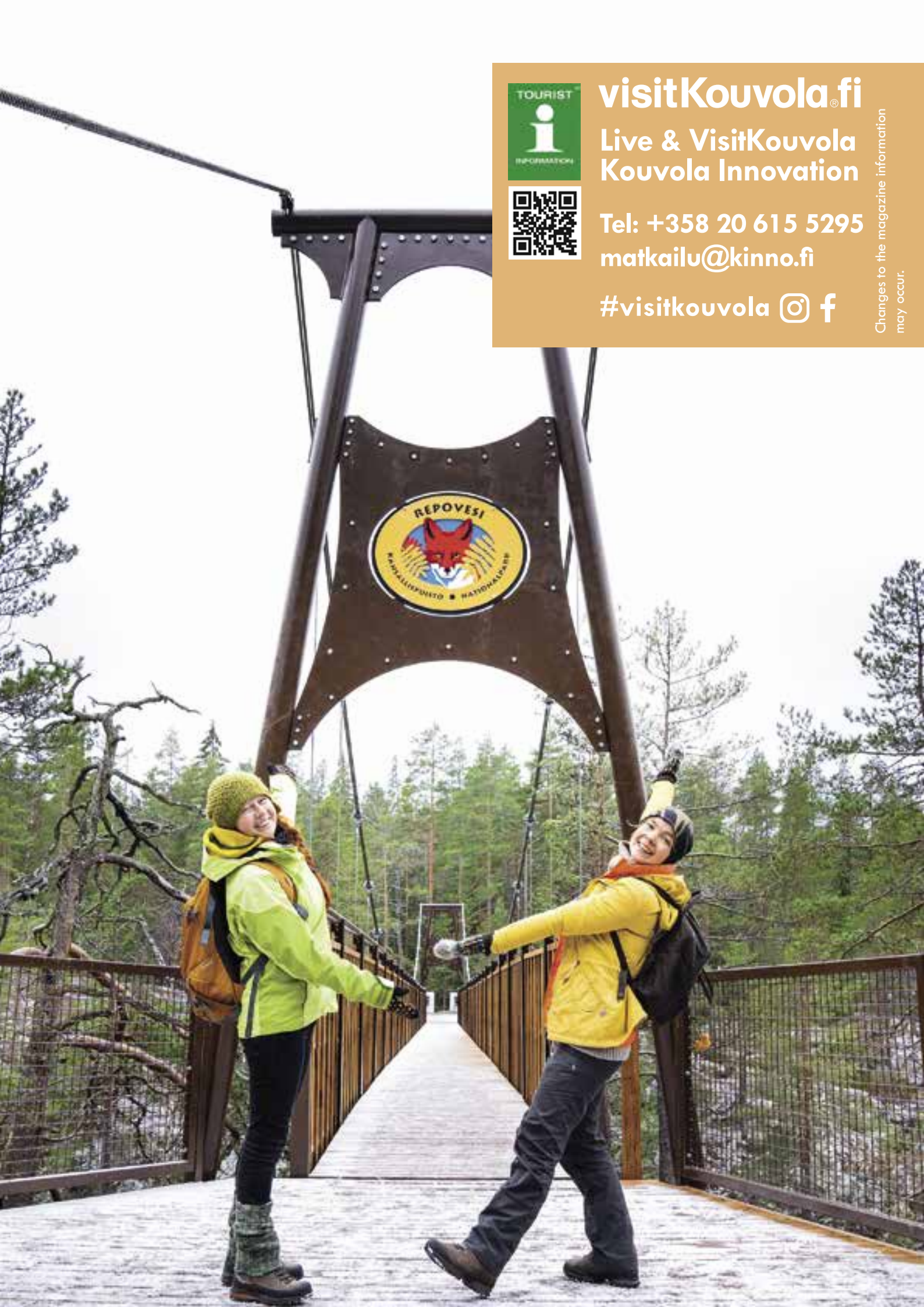
## KOUVOLA

- 85.000 inhabitants
- 2.885 km<sup>2</sup> in area
- 450 lakes and 7700 holiday cottages
- one of the largest railway junctions in Finland
- Finland's largest garrison city
  - Karelia Brigade & Utti Jaeger Regiment









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may occur.