

Tainionvirta canoeing route



Medium



43 km



14 m



1-4 days



Bright water

| Beautiful countryside

| Good fishing opportunities

The canoeing route from Hartola to Sysmä passes through a cultural heritage landscape and offers an unforgettable adventure in the calmly flowing river with sounds of aquatic birds in the background. The route is suitable even for beginners. Most of the rapids are easily passable, and the most difficult sections can be skipped by walking along the shore. The route makes for a good weekend trip, and it can be accessed from spring until late autumn.

Description

KOSKENNISKA – GASTHAUS CAMPING KOSKENNIEMI 3.6 KM

The first section passes through inhabited areas. The first shoots are at the very beginning of the route, in Ekonkoski. The Ekonkoski rapids are approached using the right-hand side of the river, and the rapids are shot on the right-hand side. After this, the route continues in a calm stream past the Itä-Häme Museum towards the Highway 4 underpass, where you can dock at a coffee house's landing stage. The next shoot is the quietly flowing Vuoteenkoski next to Gasthaus-Camping Koskenniemi.

GASTHAUS CAMPING KOSKENNIEMI

– KEIJULANKOSKI LEAN-TO SHELTER 4.0 KM

The route continues in an easy stream until it reaches its most difficult section, Vanhanmyllynkoski rapids. This is a relatively long shoot section including a turn to the left. It's a good idea to familiarise yourself in advance with the currents and rocks, and the exact course you'll take. The rapids can also be passed by carrying the canoe on the shore. The first canoe-carrying route is the Hotilankoski dam before the Keijulankoski lean-to shelter. The landing site is on the right-hand side of the dam. The landing site for the Keijulankoski lean-to is before the rapids on the right-hand shore.

KEIJULANKOSKI LEAN-TO SHELTER – KIRVESKOSKI DAM 3.8 KM

In the Keijulankoski section, the canoeing course is on the left-hand side of the rapids. After this, the route continues in an easy stream through field landscapes all the way to the Kirveskoski dam. The landing place in Kirveskoski is on the right-hand shore. The easiest way to get your canoe to the launching site is to pull it in the brook for the last 20 metres before the landing stage.

KIRVESKOSKI DAM

– HAAVISTONNIEMI LEAN-TO SHELTER (HUUTONIEMI) 5.6 KM

Approximately 700 metres downstream after the dam, it seems as though the river divides into two. Pass the surface rocks from the right. The final 2.9-km section of this leg is in a lake.

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STARTING POINT: Hartola Koskenniska, Aurinkorannantie 86, Hartola
N61 34.042 E26 02.823

END POINT: Sysmä centre, Vellamontie, Sysmä.
N61 30.000 E25 41.470

MORE INFORMATION, PHOTOS AND SERVICES

OF THE SURROUNDING REGION: www.visitpajanne.fi

HAAVISTONNIEMI LEAN-TO SHELTER (HUUTONIEMI)

– MAATIAISKOSKI DAM 9.9 KM

This leg of the route consists of both lake and river sections. There are three resting places: the Joutsjärvi lean-to shelter, Enojärvi landing, and Krouvin Camping's landing. If the wind is high, it is safer to stay close to the lake shore. Before the Maatiaiskoski dam, there is a river section that divides twice. Always choose the left side. Pass under the Nuoramoinen bridge on the right-hand side. The landing site is quite close to the dam, on the right-hand shore of the river.

MAATIAISKOSKI DAM – ROUVASAARI ISLAND 3.3 KM

This is the longest, most open lake section of the route, so you must pay attention to wind conditions when choosing your course. You can pull the canoe ashore on Rouvasaari island. On the northwest side of the island, there is a sheltered landing place, whereas the northeastern side has lots of surface rocks.

ROUVASAARI – VIRTAANKOSKI DAM 4.8 KM

The route continues across Lake Nuoramoisjärvi onto the last river section. Before the Virtaankoski dam, there is a 3-km river section with easy shoots. At the dam, the landing site is on the left-hand shore. You must carry the canoe about 50 metres to pass the dam. This can also serve as the end point of the canoe trip for those who don't want to complete the final, longer lake section.

VIRTAANKOSKI DAM – CAMPING SYSMÄ 7.6 KM

The first kilometre of this final leg is a river section with an easy stream. Then, you paddle along the shores of the lake for about 6.6 km and arrive in the centre of Sysmä. There are no common resting places along this leg.

Good to know

Canoes are available for rent in Hartola. The Kuninkaanpolku trail (see p. 11) goes close to the river at the start of the route, and the Itä-Häme Museum by the suspended bridge is also worth visiting.

Tainionvirta is one of the most popular rapids fishing destinations in Southern Finland for both fly and spinning fishers. A special permit and the State Fisheries Management Fee are required for fishing in the river. Permits are sold separately for the Hartola and Virtaa areas. The lakes along the route are also rich in fish. On the lakes you are allowed to fish with the State Fisheries Management Fee. Angling with a float and bait is covered by everyman's rights on the lakes, but not in river.

Difficulty

There are six Class I rapids along the route, as well as four dams where you have to carry the canoe. During high water, the Ekonkoski and Vanhanmyllynkoski shoots have quite a strong flow, and should be followed from the shore before attempting them. All rapids can be skipped by walking along the shore. There are four dams that must be skipped on ground by carrying the canoe. In lake sections, wind conditions must be taken into account when determining the course.

How to get there

Apart from the official starting point Koskenniska, the route can be started in Koskenniemi, Keijulankoski, Kirveskoski, or Krouvi Camping, for example. Hartola has good bus connections. The other starting points can be reached by car.



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