Asikkala ice age trail

Original trail descriptions:
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At some 100km long, the Asikkala ice age trail tells the story of the birth of the nature and the landscape of southern Päijänne. Along the route, visitors will be able to take in seven unique sites that reflect the ice age and the development of the Päijänne area. There are several other sites of interest along the trail.

1 Vääksynjoki river and canal

Meijeritie 1, 17200 Vääksy

A visitor information board can be found at the car park close to Päijänne House and Vääksynjoki. Vääksynjoki is a river that was created twice. After the ice age, the water level in the present day Asikkala area decreased rapidly. The lowest level was reached some 9,500 years ago when Päijänne formed an independent lake. The Ancient Päijänne flowed initially from the northern end of the basin. As the post-glacial rebound tilted the land towards the south, the water to the south of the basin flooded land that had already dried once. The flood came to an end 7,000 years ago with the creation of the Kymijoki river. At that time, the waters of the Ancient Päijänne stretched up to Lake Vesijärvi and to what is now the present day city of Lahti in the south. As the Kymijoki river was created, Päijänne water levels at Vääksy fell and Vesijärvi and Vääksynjoki were formed again. The surface of Vesijärvi is 3 metres higher than the surface of Päijänne.

2 Aurinkovuori ridge, Asikkalantie 14, 17200 Vääksy

A visitor information board can be found in the area between the Aurinkovuori athletics ground and the indoor sports arena. Aurinkovuori is a handsome example of a ridge formed at the glacier terminus. It is the terminal moraine of the so-called Second Salpausselkä, which reached the level of the Baltic ice lake some 11,7000-11,500 years ago. Large slabs of ice detached from the edge of the glacier and became buried in the sand and gravel. The melting ice formed indentations known as kettle holes, still visible to this day along the trail. At more than 100 metres, Aurinkovuori boasts a uniquely thick layer of gravel that serves as an excellent groundwater filter.

3 Tallukanmäki,

Tallukantie 1, 17200 Vääksy

A visitor information board can be found adjacent to the observation tower. Tallukanmäki forms part of the Second Salpausselkä ridge system. It was formed concurrently with Aurinkovuori.

4 Syrjänsupat kettle holes

To visit the Syrjänsupat kettles, drive approx. 7km from Asikkala towards Jämsä along Highway 24 and turn right onto the Asikkalan kirkonkyläntie (road 3141). Stay on this road for approx. 1km until you come to a large box on the left of the road which marks the start of a forest road. Drive along the forest road for 1.5km until you arrive at a visitor information board. **Important!** The forest road is in poor condition. If necessary, you can park your car at the start of the road and walk the 1.5km distance to the information board. The enormous kettles were created by the melting of large slabs of ice buried underneath the sand and gravel in the area.

Päijänne House

At Päijänne House, visitors will discover a wealth of information about the area's flora and fauna and fishing heritage, covering both the past and present day. You can also find out more about local sights and attractions and book fishing and outdoor excursions. The Päijänne National Park information centre is also based at Päijännetalo.

Vääksy canal

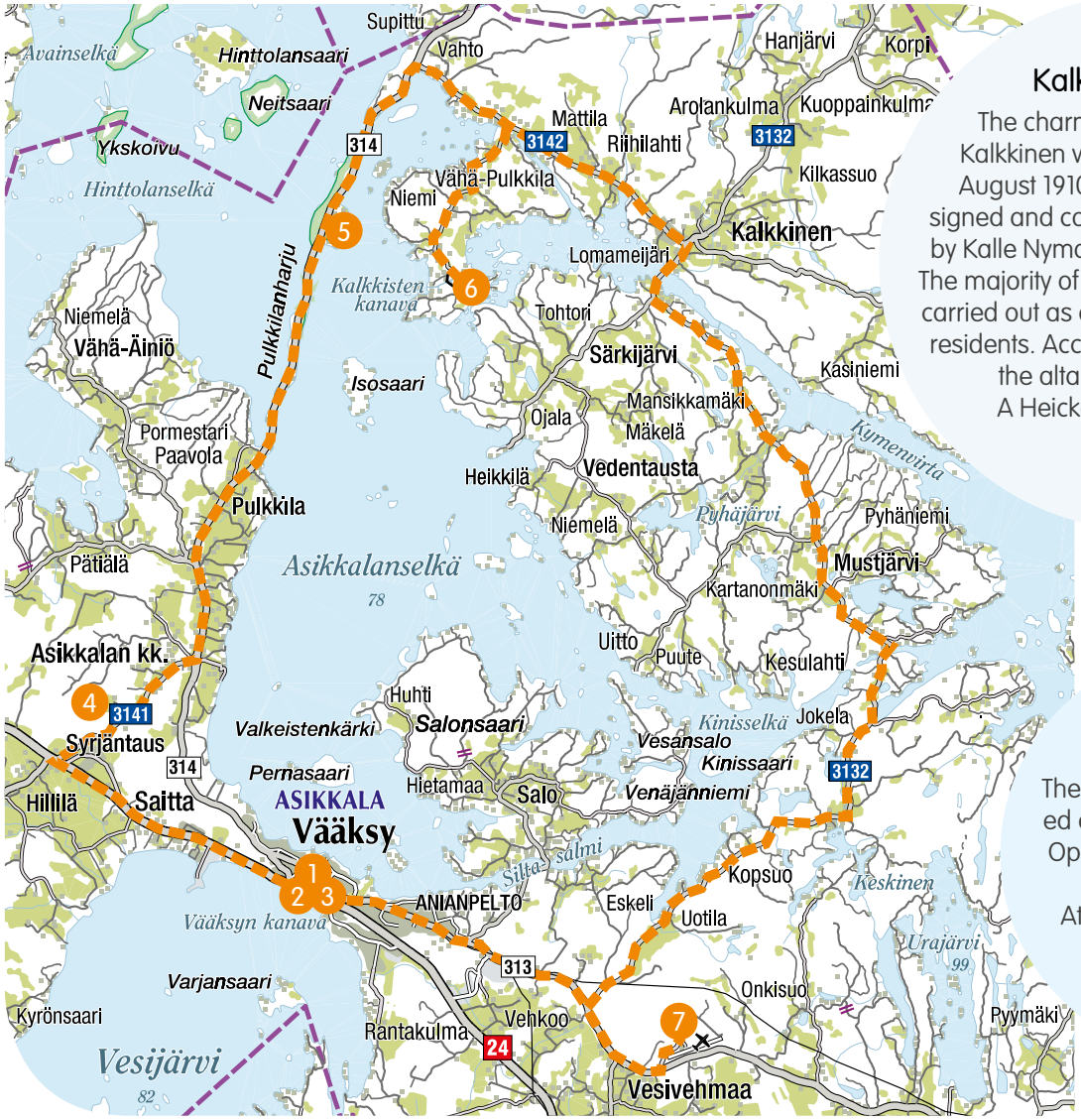
Construction of the Vääksy canal began in 1868 and was completed in 1871. Today, Vääksy is one of the busiest inland leisure waterways in Europe. The area is a popular destination in summer and boasts many attractions and a choice of charming local shops.

Pihamaa Winery and Gardens

Pihamaa Winery and Gardens in the village of Kalkkinen is an excellent place to visit and offers a wonderful opportunity for a spot shopping. The shop and wine bar are an ideal place to pick up a few souvenirs or to relax, enjoying the wonderful atmosphere and idyllic rural setting.

Asikkala church

Asikkala's million-brick church is located some 6km from the centre of Vääksy towards Sysmä along the Asikkalan kirkonkyläntie road. The church, designed by the architect Georg Wilenius, was completed in 1880.



Kalkkinen church

The charming village church at Kalkkinen was consecrated on 28 August 1910. The building was designed and construction work overseen by Kalle Nyman, a local master builder. The majority of the construction work was carried out as a community effort by local residents. According to Professor Zatzka, the altarpiece was painted by A Heickell, a well-known Finnish landscape painter.

Aviation Museum

The aviation museum is located at the Vesivehmaa Airport. Opening hours: June-August Mon-Sun 11:00 -17:00. At other times, the museum is open by arrangement.

5 Pulkkilanharju esker

From the Syrjänsupat kettles take the Asikkalan kirkonkyläntie (Kirkkotie, road 3141) towards road 314. From here, continue for approx. 10km towards Sysmä, crossing the Karisalmi Bridge along the way. **A visitor information board is located at the Karisalmi rest area.** Pulkkilanharju is the longest uninterrupted esker formed by melting glacial ice. The formation of the esker began some 11,600 years ago and was completed some 11,400 years ago. The pressure that had built up under the glacier over time and, to an extent, the elevation of the bedrock, were responsible for determining the exact location and orientation of the esker. A trail runs along the top of Pulkkilanharju, with visitor information boards placed along the way to provide information on the area's flora and fauna.

6 Kalkkinen canal and rapids

From Pulkkilanharju, continue past the Käkisalmi bridge and turn towards Kalkkinen village (road 3142). Before you arrive at the village, you will see a sign for Kalkkinen canal (Kalkkisten kanava). Continue along the dirt road for some 4km. 10,000 years ago, the Kalkkistenkoski rapids flowed in the opposite direction. Some 500 years later, the uplift of the formerly depressed land tilted the land towards the southeast and the water flooded onto dry land. As the water level rose, Ruotsalainen was at risk of becoming part of Ancient Lake Päijänne and the Kalkkinen rapids into a wide strait between two lakes. However, some 7,000 years ago, a new channel opened up in the south, leading past present day Heinola and Vuolenkoski to the River Kymijoki. With the creation of this channel, the water level in Ancient Lake Päijänne reduced by approx. 12 metres. The landscape was now beginning to assume its current appearance, with the exception of the rapids. It took another 6,000 years before the tilting of the land towards the southeast created the Kalkkistenkoski rapids, limiting the flow of water to River Kymijoki. Indeed, the impressive rapids that you now see only date back to the Viking Age.

7 Vesivehmaankangas

Return to road 3142 and continue through Kalkkinen village across the stunning bridge to Kopsuontie (road 3132). Continue along this road until you come to road 313. At the crossroads, take a left towards Vesivehmaa/Vierumäki. The route to the Vesivehmaa Airport (on the left) is signposted along road 313 at a distance of about 1 kilometre. **A visitor information board is located at the Vesivehmaa Airport close to the air traffic control tower.** Vesivehmaankangas is an ice margin delta formed through deposition. It forms part of the Salpausselkä ridge system, which begins in Asikkala and continues via Jaala and Taipalsaari to Northern Karelia. The features consist primarily of deposits carried by the glacial melt water to the Finnish Lake District glacier front.