

Paistjärvi, Pirunkirkko

Medium 4.4 km
58 m 2-3 h

 Impressive rock formation Pirunkirkko | Pristine lakes | Wilderness

The Pirunkirkko area in Paistjärvi is a hidden treasure for hikers in Heinola. The Paistjärvi hiking area in the north-eastern part of Heinola provides a great setting for hikers with its wilderness landscape and pristine lakes. The Pirunkirkko ("Devil's Church") rock formation is a breathtaking sight, even for seasoned nature lovers.

Description

The trail to Pirunkirkko starts from the Niinilampi parking area. The first section of the trail follows a forest road, from which it turns onto a path. The path passes through about 300 m of hilly forest terrain and leads to Lake Iso-Vuorttunen. The next 300 m section of the trail follows the shore of the lake, and the final section of 200 m leads through forest to the Pirunkirkko formation.

This is a great place to have a break and enjoy the impressive view. There is a bench and a compost toilet at Pirunkirkko, but no campfire site. From Pirunkirkko, you can return to the starting point using the same route or continue on the circular trail towards the Simonlampi parking area.

The first section after Pirunkirkko is a 300-m path towards Lake Iso-Vuorttunen. This hilly section leads through beautiful, lichen-covered terrain. The most difficult incline is right after Pirunkirkko. After the wilderness and lake shore, the trail leads to the forest and onto the Simonlammi parking area, which is about 600 m ahead. The section from the lake to the parking area is easier and more level. North of the trail, there is a small pond called Simonlampi, surrounded by swamp. From the Simonlampi parking area, the trail continues 2.2 km along a forest road back to the Niinilampi parking area.

Good to know

Apart from the Pirunkirkko Trail, there are other walking trails and campfire sites in the Paistjärvi area. See outdoors.fi for more information. The only campfire site along the Pirunkirkko Trail is next to the Niinilampi parking area. There are three toilets along the trail: at Niinilampi, Pirunkirkko and the Simonlampi parking area.



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Difficulty

The trail includes very hilly sections and varied terrain. Some of the stairs and duckboards of the trail have been repaired during autumn 2016 to make it easier to pass the most difficult sections. The most challenging part is the path west of Lake Iso-Vuorttunen; the other sections consist of fairly even paths or forest roads.

How to get there

Paistjärvi is in a remote area that is only reachable by car. There are no public transportation connections.

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DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO NIINILAMPI PARKING AREA: From road E75 take road 46 towards Kouvola (5 km), turn onto road 4143 (19 km), when you reach Lake Sonnanen, turn left onto Kesätientie (1.6 km), then turn right towards Pirunkirkko (0.5 km).

STARTING POINTS:

Niinilampi parking, Pirunkirkko 60, Heinola, N61 18.005, E26 23.502
Simonlampi parking, Kaijanniementie 244, Heinola, N61 18.877, E26 23.671

TRAIL MARKINGS: Yellow poles

MORE INFORMATION, PHOTOS AND SERVICES

OF THE SURROUNDING REGION: www.visitpajanne.fi



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