



The landforms and species of Oulanka National Park are a versatile entity, the heart of which is formed by the deep valley of the River Oulankajoki, which runs into the White Sea. The famous Kiutaköngäs Rapids gush out between the handsome quartzite and dolomite walls. The unhurried flow of water downstream is suitable for canoeing excursions. The River Kitkajoki, which joins the River Oulankajoki by the State border zone, has rapids and offers breathtaking scenery. The northern part of the park is dominated by a wide wilderness area where the peatland types vary from flark bogs to spruce mires.

The specialities of Oulanka's wildlife come courtesy of the varied geological history of the area. The majestic landscape and the nutritious bedrock create variety for the microclimate and provide appropriate living conditions for the eastern, southern and northern species. The calypso, the park's floral emblem, thrives in Oulanka's calciferous soil.

The river valley functions as an important migration route for various species. For example, the river has transported the seeds of the Tartar catchfly to their habitats. The special character of the riverside wildlife also extends below the water's surface: the brown trout that swim up the Oulankajoki and Kitkajoki rivers are a sought after catch and are amongst the last migratory brown trout populations in Europe to have remained genetically pure.

Oulanka's terrestrial animal species are typical of the coniferous forest zone. All of Finland's large carnivore species thrive in the area and you can spot Siberian jays, red-flanked bluetails, white-throated dippers and grey wagtails there. The herb-rich forests, the lush spruce-dominated slopes and the meadows are home to some beetle and butterfly species that are few in number elsewhere in Finland.

Hiking Trails

Karhunkierros Trail, 80 km

When setting off on the Karhunkierros Trail from the north, the route runs via wide aapa mires that have duckboards and high, wooded hills. The differences in altitude are quite significant. The wild raging rapids, the rugged riverbanks, the dry pine heaths and the winding eskers lend variety to the scenery. To take the entire trail, you should be quite fit

and have some hiking experience. You can also take a shorter section of the trail.

Oulanka Canyon Day-trip Trail, 6 km

The starting point for the trail is located in the parking area at the end of the Savilampi forest road, where you will find signposts and a trail map. On the trail, you will see the dramatic difference between the managed forest and the old-growth forest as well as the gorgeous riverside scenery of the Oulanka Canyon. The Savilampi open wilderness hut is a comfortable rest spot.

Kiutaköngäs Day-trip Trail, 8 km

The starting point for the trail is the Oulanka Visitor Centre, which is open all year round. The trail lets you view the surges of the Kiutaköngäs Rapids and its red dolomite cliffs, the versatile natural features of the Hiidenlampi Culture Trail, the rippling brooks and the river valley scenery.

Pieni Karhunkierros Trail, 12 km

The trail runs along the Karhunkierros Trail via the Jyrävä Falls and the Siilastupa open wilderness hut to Harrisuvanto, from where it returns, via the Kallioportti look-out point, to the starting point. The trail, along which you will see beautiful rapids and hanging bridges, will certainly make you work up a sweat.

Keroharju Trail, 17 km

The trail runs along Keroharju Esker, which is surrounded by wide aapa mires, and continues to the Kerojärvi open wilderness hut. The trail's starting and ending points are located at Liikasenvaara at the end of Taka-ahontie Road and at Hautajärvi by Niitselyksentie Road.

Nature Trails

There are two nature trails at Oulanka: the nature trail presenting the cultural heritage of Hiidenlampi (5 km) and the Rytisuo Nature Trail (5 km), which focuses on mires and meadows. In addition, there are information boards on the most typical plants of the area along the Kiutaköngäs Trail (2 km). These trails are also excellent snowshoeing trails.



In Oulanka National Park, the following are allowed

- walking independently
- cycling (with some restrictions)
- picking berries and mushrooms
- making a campfire and camping on the designated sites.

Lighting campfires is forbidden if a forest fire warning is in effect.

forbidden

- disturbing nature and animals
- littering
- using motor vehicles
- pets running freely
- picking plants or their parts
- storing boats/canoes - only allowed with the permission of Metsähallitus.

Instructions for Hikers

The open wilderness huts are meant for one-night stays. Leave the hut clean! Keep your pets outside. In high season, it is advisable to take a tent with you. A camping stove reduces the need for firewood.

Litter-free Hiking

There are no waste collection bins at the rest spots, so clear away your own rubbish! Burn combustible waste on a campfire, put organic waste on the compost and take mixed waste to the nearest collection point.

Fishing

Permitted in accordance with the national park's fishing licence conditions. Ice fishing and angling are allowed on the ponds and lakes except for Savilampi, Aventolampi and Haalarampi, which are located in the riverbed.

Maps

Rukatunturi—Oulanka Outdoor Map 1:50 000, Kuusamo Tourist Map 1:100 000, Karhunkierros Trail Hiking Guide and Map (1:50 000) and the Excursionmap.fi web service.

Further Information

www.outdoors.fi/oulanka

- Oulanka Visitor Centre, Liikasenvaarantie 132, 93999 Kuusamo, Finland, tel. +358 (0)205 64 6850, oulanka@metsa.fi
- Hautajärvi Visitor Centre, Hautajärventie 414, 98995 Hautajärvi, Finland, tel. +358 (0)205 64 6870, hautajarvi@metsa.fi
- Karhuntasu Customer Service Point, Torangintaival 2, 93600 Kuusamo, Finland, tel. +358 (0)205 64 6804, karhuntasu@metsa.fi
- Oulanka National Park Camping Ground (open 1 June - 31 August) Liikasenvaarantie 137, 93999 Kuusamo, Finland, tel. +358 (0)205 64 6855
- Safaricafe Susi (Oulanka Visitor Centre's café), Liikasenvaarantie 132, 93999 Kuusamo, Finland, tel. +358 (0)40 913 6652, cafe@erasusi.com
- Hautajärvi Visitor Centre's café, Kodin Kädet / Paula Mattila, Hautajärventie 414, 98995 Hautajärvi, Finland, tel. +358 (0)40 569 3974, paula@kodinkadet.fi

