

Visit Rovaniemi in Finland

7 destinations for 7 unforgettable and alternative days in Rovaniemi (Lapland)

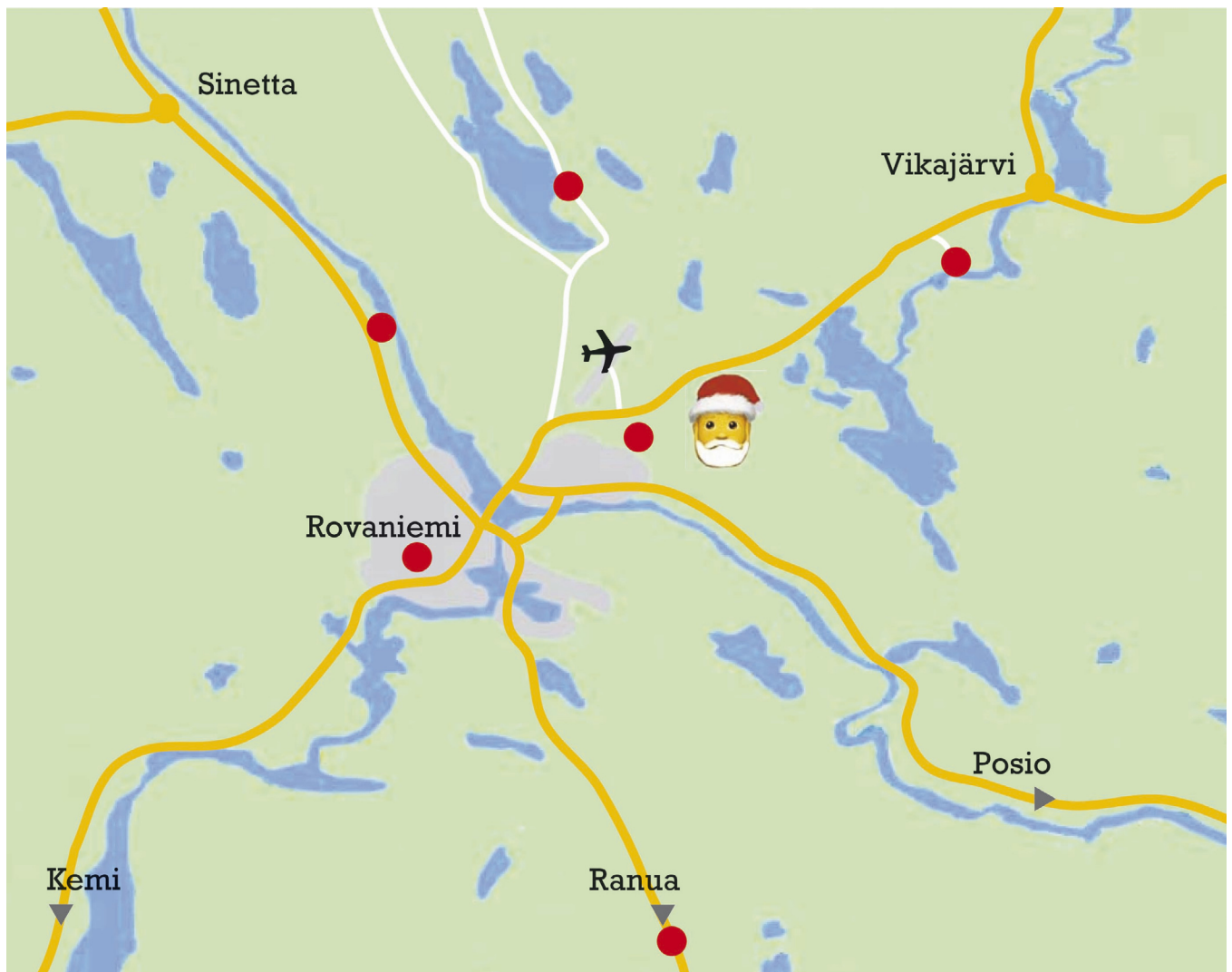
Rovaniemi is not just the place for visiting Santa, there are many other interesting things to see.

Visiting the modern museum about Lapland “Arktikum” will transport you in the past.

Or visiting the reindeer farm, where you can be dragged along a pathway sitting on a sled.

Do not miss a visit to the Ranua Zoo, where only Arctic animals are found.

You will find many other useful tips in the online guide below.



Practical tips

Rovaniemi is a touristic and university city. It has about 60,000 inhabitants. It is structured with modern buildings (it was almost completely destroyed by bombings during the Second World War). On the outskirts of Rovaniemi an immense expanse of trees and ponds with scattered houses.

To Rovaniemi by train

The Finnish double-decker night train known as Santa Claus Express, travels from Helsinki to Rovaniemi, and then goes on to Kemijärvi, its final destination.



The language

At school the Finns learn Swedish as a second language, and study English only later. Therefore everybody speaks a well-timed English, understandable even to those who chew it just a little.



The flight

Domestic flights (apart from charter flights) are operated by "Finnair", the national carrier, and all flights have a stopover in Helsinki. So if you stop in Helsinki and you have time available before taking the next flight, go and visit the city.

There are free Finnair City Buses. The route takes about 20 minutes. A short itinerary of 2-3 hours will be described later.

Things to do in Helsinki

Things to do in Helsinki, a short 2-3 hour walking tour with the free bus from the airport.

As anticipated, there are free “Finnair City Buses” which depart from the airport to the center (about 20 minutes). Therefore we’ll take advantage of the intermediate stopover for a short trip to the city.

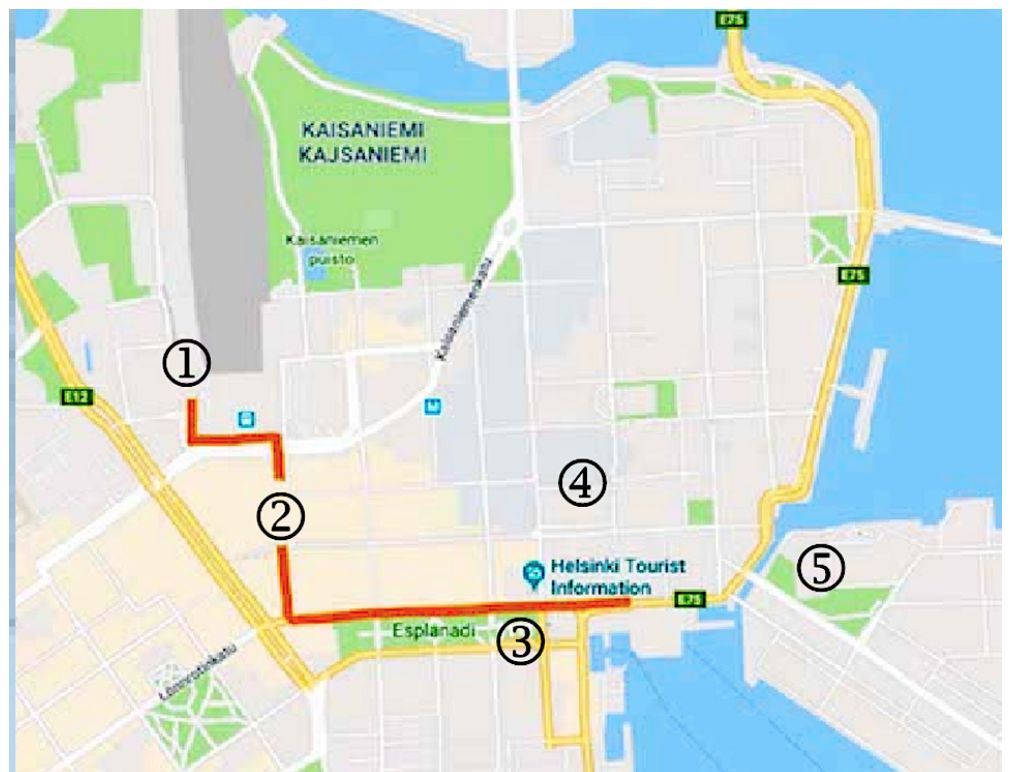
Once you get off the bus (in front of the central station) **(1)**, follow the path showed on the map.

At number 4 of Kekuskatu Street you’ll find the Pub IGUANA **(2)** where from Monday to Friday between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm you can have lunch with a good buffet (salads, hot dishes and sliced pizza) for 10 euros.

Alternatively, inside the small park, KAPPELI **(3)** is a good restaurant decorated like in the old times. Continue on the Kekuskatu Street and then on the Pohjoisesplanadi, then turn right along the small park and you’ll come out on the shore of the frozen Baltic Sea. From this point you will see the bell towers of the two cathedrals, the Lutheran one (white) **(4)** in neoclassical

style, with its large dome (it is among the most visited monuments in Helsinki), opening hours every day 9.00-18.00; and the Orthodox one (red) **(5)** in neo-Byzantine style. Opening hours Tuesday-Friday 9.30-16.00 Saturday-Sunday 12.00-15.00.

From both cathedrals you can enjoy a wide panoramic view.



Arktikum museum

Arktikum, modern museum about Lapland

The visit is recommended in case of bad weather.

Located in the city, in a large modern building adjacent to the university frequented by many foreign students. This interactive museum tells the story of Rovaniemi and Lappish customs and traditions.

Even if it is rather scientific and educational, the visit is suitable for adults and children.

Life reconstructions and multimedia images will fascinate you and transport you in other times.

The entrance ticket to the Arktikum is available to everyone. At the entrance there are lockers where you can store your items and hooks for your jackets. Duration of the visit 2-3 hours.

www.arktikum.fi



Visit the hidden tower

The Syvasenvaara Fell, the hidden tower in Rovaniemi ... from where you can see the infinite!

Park your car at the “Santa Park” where the “Arctic Tree House” hotel is located. Follow the road that runs along the hotel, up, up, at the top where its last facilities are located.

Then leave the road and go up to the right, after 5 minutes you have reached. Climb the tower and admire the immense 360 ° panorama.

If you are at “Santa Klaus Village” instead, you can reach the tower by taking a nice walk of about 30 minutes, it’s worth it!



Santa Park

This Elves-themed attraction (derived from an old anti-atomic bunker) offers attractions for children.

It is open only during Christmas time and in summer.





Picnic area

Returning on the path you will reach some huts open to the public and equipped to light fires and cook on the grills.

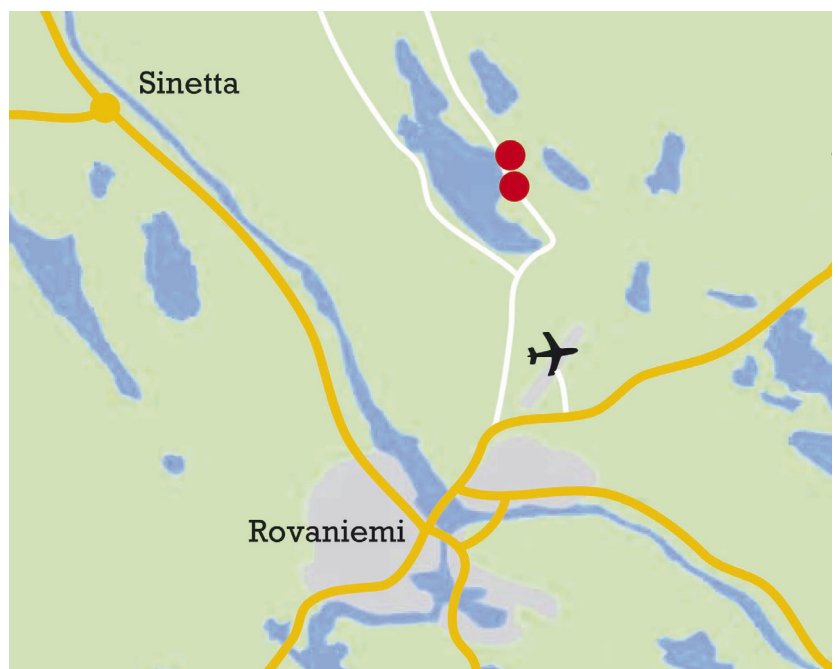
The Memorial

The Memorial (German Soldier's Cemetery) is dedicated to the German soldiers who died during the Second World War.

(Atrocious madness of a dictator who has caused the death of millions of people).

Take the road that passes behind the airport following the signs "German Soldier's Cemetery".

Once reached the parking lot, walk into the woods following the signs. After a few meters, on the left there is a prayer structure.



Reindeer farm in Rovaniemi

Approximately 7 kilometers north of Rovaniemi along the road to Sinetta is the “Poro Farmi” farm.

Being in transit we stopped and made an appointment for the next day, as there was an influx of tourists coming by buses from everywhere.

After some explanations from the manager we climbed on the sled and we let ourselves be towed along a route well known by the reindeer.

At the end of the tour we visited the farm and had the possibility to offer moss to the reindeers. Tea with biscuits was offered to us travelers.



Reindeers

In addition to living in large numbers in the wild, they are also bred in large enclosures in semi- domestic conditions, for their meat, leather, stages and, in a minor way, milk and transport.

In winter they feed mainly on lichens, in particular the so-called “reindeer lichen”. However, they also eat willow and birch leaves and grass.

A curiosity: they are the only mammals able to see ultraviolet light.



Places to visit near Rovaniemi

The hiking area of Vaattunkiköngäs Places to visit near Rovaniemi

The hiking area of Vaattunkiköngäs consists of a dense network of well-marked trails, reduced in the winter months.

Located about 20 km from Rovaniemi towards Vikajarvi, this area is ideal for summer activities.

With its wooden bridges that cross rivers and streams in the lush forest.

In the winter, the landscape is breathtaking, it seems to live in a fairytale, surrounded by snow-capped vegetation.

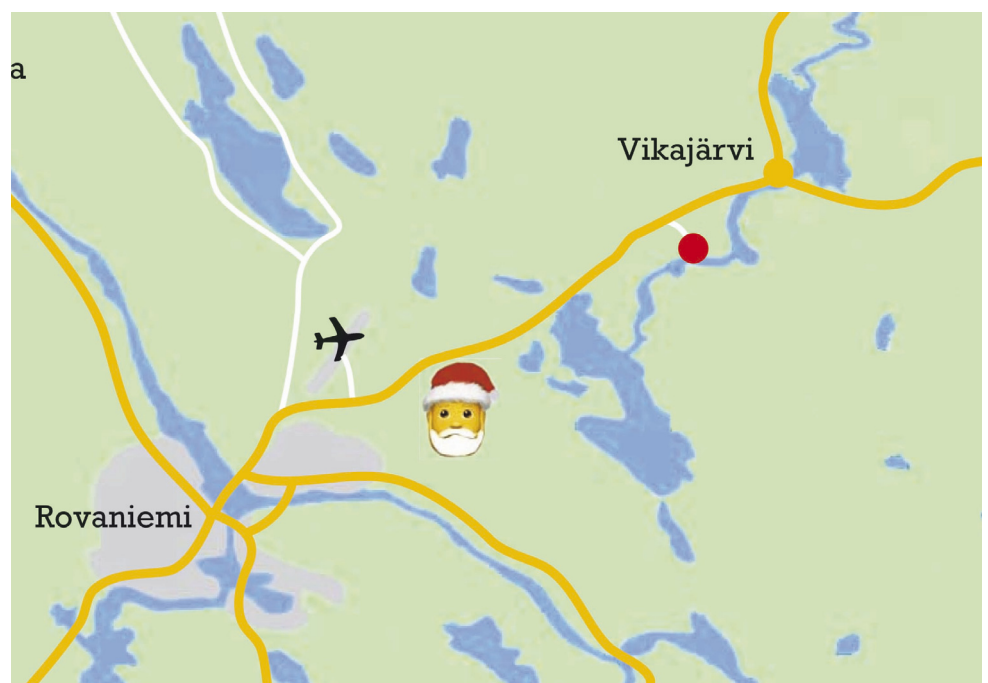
It is possible to eat in the wooden huts on the route.

How to get here

From Rovaniemi continue for about 20 km towards Vikajarvi.

Take the detour to the right that leads to the Vaattunkikongas car park after about two kilometers.

Taking a map (available at the tourist office) is recommended.



At the Ranua Zoo

Comment, beautiful!

Not to be missed, as different and unique in its kind!

Here arctic animals of every breed are found, saved and healed, victims of road accidents.

They live in very large enclosures, so that they feel at home, impeccably cared for.

The Ranua Zoo is an hour's drive from Rovaniemi. Even being snow-covered, all roads are accessible, and cars all equipped with studded tires. The zoo can also be reached by bus.

The Zoo is immersed in the forest, at its entrance tourists will be provided with a map of the trail. The visit takes around 2 hours.

You will also find a self-service restaurant and a souvenir kiosk.



Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis)

Best time for the Northern Lights in Lapland (Rovaniemi)

Nothing is "easier"!

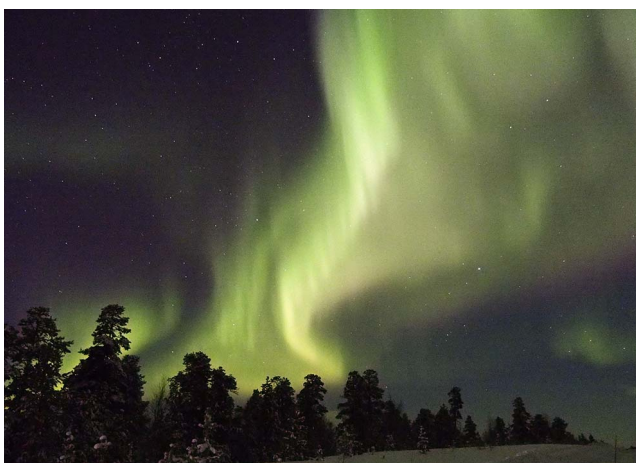
The further north you go beyond the Arctic Circle, the more chances you have to admire the Northern Lights.

Solar storms, geomagnetic fields, wind speeds and many other factors contribute to create this fantastic lighting effect.

An application (not expensive) allows you, by entering the site "auroraalert.fi" to be informed by text message, at any time of the night, should the magic of the lights occur. Only on clear nights of course.

Have your clothes and camera ready before going to bed, in order to speed up the departure as the phenomenon could be of long or short duration.

www.auroralert.fi



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Aurora Alert Realtime alerts when auroras are visible in Rovaniemi, Finland. This is the only aurora service which uses own sensors, making the service accuracy, informative and reliable. Every evening you will get aurora- and weather forecasts for coming night.

In case of alert, you will get SMS alert message and the Aurora map to your mobile which shows the direction where auroras have been detected. Alternatively,

WORKS ON ROVANIEMI CITY AREA

Where to eat in Rovaniemi



We will recommend you the cheapest restaurants serving Finnish dishes and the coffee shops which open early in the morning.

Finns accompany their meals with beer or milk. They consume a lot of meat (with a bit of 'luck you'll also find the bear steak). Try the delicious "lohikeitto" salmon soup. Their mashed potatoes are delicious (they are cooked with cream).

Breakfast

All bars open very late in the morning, especially on Sundays.

At the entrance of the city there is a "McDonald's" open 24 hours a day. In the city center the "Koti" that opens at 7.30 serves Finnish breakfast at a good price. In front of the village of Santa Claus (attached to the Shell petrol station) there is a "Helmi Simpuka" service station open 24 hours a day.



Lunch

From Monday to Friday the "Mariza" offers the traditional Finnish buffet lunch for less than 10 euros (opening hours only from 10.00am to 2.00pm, closed on Saturdays and Sundays).

The nearby "Koti" with its salad buffet and soup of the day for 8.50 euros.

The "Helmi Simpuka" offers for lunch an à la carte menu (excellent grilled salmon) and a buffet for a few euros.



Dinner

In the evening, restaurants close generally early so do not delay too much for dinner. In Rovaniemi you will find ethnic dishes from around the world. Plan B, have dinner at home in the warmth.

How to dress in Lapland



Clothing for cold times

Cover head and ears well with a wool cap.

Thinsulate gloves (a synthetic fiber that isolates very well from the cold). The ones used for climbing are the best as they are fingerless but have a hood for total finger coverage. To take pictures, handle coins etc. the hood is turned back so that the finger tips are free.

The ski suit must be of good quality.

Wool sweater.

Adhering to the skin, polypropylene, polyester or cotton shirt.

Leggings recommended for everyone.

Fine cotton socks and a nice pair of wool socks on top.

Leather boots lined with wool (forget the classic moon-boots).



Although the temperatures in Lapland are very rigid, the perception of the cold is bearable as the air is dry.

We have shown you how to dress in Lapland. So let's not forget to wear appropriate clothes.



To keep in mind



Keep in mind that during Christmas all the accommodation facilities are much more expensive than during the rest of the year. It is advisable to book well in advance, several months or even a year before.

Christmas decorations go on throughout the winter, if you go to Lapland during Carnival you will still find Santa Claus waiting for you.

Fun gifts to take home for friends can be found everywhere; very popular are elks, reindeers and bears printed woolen socks for adults and children.

A special delicacy is the “reindeer dropping” licorice candy, found only at the reception-shop in the village of Santa Claus in Rovaniemi.



Other activities

This guide shows you alternative places to visit, outside the classic routes.

Not included in this route guide, snowmobile tours, husky sled rides, ice fishing, etc, as well as the “Santa Klaus Village” as all the information can be found online.

These are the best-known portals:

www.arcticcircle-information.fi

www.visitrovaniemi.fi



All the itineraries are handcrafted by us after having visited each destination

Book with us the best hotels and rent a car throughout Europe for wonderful holidays!

ginkotours.com

Hôtel

