



FinLine 2021

It is finally time to register yourself for the no. 1 skating event in Finland!

Last summer we were forced to cancel our annual skating holiday first time in its history after 28 consecutive years.

*We are trying again in **August 2021** if the COVID-19 situation allows. In order to get everything prepared for the event in the next two months, we are **collecting registrations now!***

Route Overview

Finland is (still) a large country with big forests – and some paved roads in middle of them. We will re-use our existing plans: after the Swedish-speaking western coastline of FinLine 2019, FinLine will be skated in the wilderness of North Karelia, in the huge backwoods with bears and wolves split by the Russian border. <https://w.wiki/mqu>



Skating on Punkaharju ridge between lakes.

The plan is to follow roughly the borderline up to the most uninhabited areas of the province. During the journey, we will see many of the officially declared national landscapes of Finland, like Olavinlinna Castle, Punkaharju Ridge, North Karelian hillside villages and the Koli National Park.



Some FinLine 1996 skaters on the top of Koli. Johan Korhonen

Our plan is again to add optional “extras” on the route map for some of the skating days. Skaters that like to enjoy more kilometers can choose to skate the extras depending on their feeling and weather.

Skating starts from Savonlinna and ends in Joensuu, the capital of North Karelia and a lively university town. On the way, in addition to the national landscapes, we will enjoy the clear Puruvesi Lake, skate along the border less than half kilometer from Russia, see traditional houses like Orthodox tšasounas, be able to visit the easternmost place of the continental EU and cruise across the huge Lake Pielinen.¹

¹ Route details are subject to change.

Event Schedule

Please note the updated event dates!

Please note that this time the tour would start on **Monday** morning (August 2) and end on **Sunday** (August 8). This leaves Sunday August 1 for travelling in case the travelling restrictions are not relaxed before the end of July. It is a pretty minor adjustment but, on the other hand, we wanted to do everything that could help us in making this possible.

The bus will start from Helsinki on early Monday morning August 2 and skating will finish in Joensuu on Saturday August 7. The return to Helsinki will be on Sunday August 8 with an estimated arrival time **in Helsinki around 7 p.m.**

Preliminary skating legs of the basic route (extras excluded, changes possible):

Monday	Savonlinna – Punkaharju	37 km
Tuesday	Punkaharju – Kitee (Puhos)	95 km
Wednesday	Kitee (Puhos) – Tuupovaara (Hoilola)	75 km
Thursday	Tuupovaara (Hoilola) – Ilomantsi (Hattuvaara)	93 km
Friday	Liekka (Kitsi) – Kontiolahti (Romppala)	77 km (+ cruise)
Saturday	Kontiolahti (Romppala) – Joensuu	50 km
Total		427 km

For a detailed up-to-date version of the route map and further link to the daily elevation profiles, visit: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1orAaoIORSVkJLuWqe41zMC6jZZQhPGnA>

In order to serve the needs of different skaters we have designed the basic route with average day-trip distances. However, skaters who want to enjoy more kilometers, do not need to worry: optional “extras” will be added to the online version of the route map closer to the event. On the other hand, the service bus is available for those who are worried about completing the full distances listed above.

Can I participate?

FinLine is a skating event that almost everyone can attend. No previous experience of multi-day skating tours is necessary. To join the FinLine you only need to:

- have some experience of skating trips of 50+ km – i.e. you are able to skate 50 km a day at your own speed
- enjoy a vacation week among other skaters
- be a member of Street Gliders (or join Street Gliders, which can be easily done at the same time when you register for the event)

In this traditional event we are not competing against the clock but we are enjoying the skating and the landscapes. There will be skaters of varied skill and fitness levels participating and we all want to enjoy skating at speed enjoyable for ourselves. Five to seven skating groups allow you to choose your skating speed between 15 and 25 km/h. You can also change your group whenever you feel like that.

The service bus is following the skaters all the time and enables you to choose the number of skating days as well as the daily skating distance according to your feelings and weather conditions. The organizers will take care of the accommodation and dinner arrangements, so you can concentrate fully on skating and enjoying.

What does it cost? What is included?

The participation fee is 175 € including the services of the bus, basic snacks, transportation of your luggage during skating, charter cruise across Lake Pielinen and bus transportation from Helsinki to Savonlinna and back from Joensuu to Helsinki. In addition, because FinLine is officially organized only for members of our club, you have to pay also the annual membership fee 25 € of Street Gliders.

Furthermore, there are costs of the dinners and accommodations, about 40 – 80 € per day and lunch and personal snack costs according to your personal preferences.

Note that because of the tighter schedule in organizing the event and the increased risk related to COVID-19 situation, this year we are not going to order custom FinLine shirts for the participants. Instead, participants shall use their favorite skating shirt having a **highly visible (safe) color**. This change (the saved cost of technical shirts) has been taken into account in the participation fee.

Registration Instructions

Because we want to maintain the cozy small event feeling of FinLine and in order to find suitable accommodations for the group (+ limit the size of the event to match better any COVID-19 safety limits), the number of participants is limited to 30.

The official registration is now open! You will find the registration form on our web pages at <https://katukiitajat.fi/english/finline-in-english/> Because there are some new questions related to e.g. emailing and photographing, we kindly ask **everyone, including former FinLine participants**, to fill in the registration form.

To confirm your registration you need to pay Street Gliders' membership fee **25 €** and the registration fee **175 €** (+ possible bank charges). Because of the tight schedule for confirming the event, you should pay your fees in **a timely manner after submitting your registration**. If we are forced to cancel the event because of lack of participants or local COVID-19 restrictions set by authorities, we naturally refund the fees.

Please instruct your bank to forward payment orders through:

Bank:	Nordea Bank Abp
BIC (Swift code):	NDEAFIHH
IBAN:	FI25 2185 1800 0329 49
In favor of:	Katukiitäjät ry

Important Dates

May/June	FinLine 2021 registration period starts.
June 20 (latest)	Last day for registrations <u>and payments</u> (unless fully booked before).
June 27 (latest)	We inform if we have enough paid registrations for the event.
July 4 (latest)	We confirm if the event will be organized (the COVID-19 restrictions for August are estimated to be favorable); after this we will cancel the event only if changed authority regulations/restrictions would make it practically impossible.
August 2	FinLine 2021 starts from Helsinki.

Please understand that no one can predict for sure what will be the COVID-19 situation in early August. Therefore we have to reserve the right to cancel the event even with a short notice in case organizing it will not be practically possible.

When making your travelling reservations, please consider this risk when choosing e.g. the ticket cancellation options. **In any case Street Gliders' will refund the event registration and the membership fees only. All indirect costs (e.g. airline tickets) are on your own risk.**

Refund Policies

You might be especially interested in the cancellation terms on this kind of exceptional year. The FinLine 2021 organizing team members are doing their best to make this event possible after one lost summer. If we need to cancel the event, it also hurts ourselves!

Because Street Gliders organizes FinLine with minimized cost structure, every confirmed payment is needed to cover the fixed costs. Therefore,

- (a) **Payments are not refunded if you cancel your participation** after the registration period has ended. This includes any reason, not limited to: personal decision, sickness of yourself or other person, voluntary or official quarantine, injury preventing travelling/skating, travelling restrictions, difficulty/problems in travelling etc. (A suitable travel insurance is recommended to cover many of these cancellation reasons.)
- (b) **Street Gliders reserve the right to cancel the event at any time** (even after initially confirming the event) if organizing the event will not be practically possible because of changed authority regulations. In this case we will refund your registration and membership payments on request. Your indirect costs are not refunded in any case.
- (c) **No refunds are made if the event has been already started** and it needs to be interrupted because of imperative reason, like sickness or quarantine making continuing practically impossible. Most fixed costs have been already realized on day zero and any remaining budget is likely consumed for extra arrangements needed because of the interruption.

Especially, please check the up-to-date travelling restrictions before starting your FinLine 2021 trip. **It is your own responsibility to check if travelling for FinLine from your area is possible at all and if you need any additional documents** (like specific type of COVID-19 test or vaccination certificate) in order to enter Finland.

COVID-19 Safety

The nature of FinLine (small well-integrated group sharing accommodations, saunas, a bus and roadsides) makes it difficult to apply general COVID-19 safety measures like masks or social distancing. It is mostly up to each participant to follow all regulations set by authorities and use common sense depending on the COVID-19 situation:

- Be brave and cancel your attendance if you have any symptoms before the start of the event.
- Get tested or vaccinated especially if required by authorities in order to travel to Finland
- Avoid behavior that unnecessarily increases your exposure risk before the event if possible.
- Follow good hygiene practices during the event, especially when dealing with people outside our FinLine “bubble”.
- Be prepared for using a mask indoors during the event if it is recommended/required by local authorities or merchants.

If you have any open questions, please contact us through info@katukiitajat.fi

Really hoping to see you in August!

The FinLine organizing team:

Vidhuran, Leea, Kaisa, Anne, Panu & Ilpo feat. Ari