



FinLine 2024

Six-day inline skating holiday in Finland

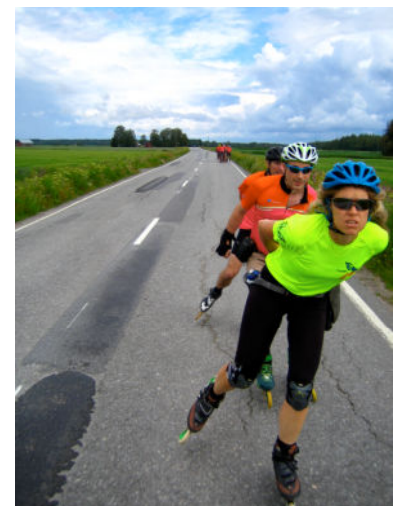
*Already a half of a year has elapsed since the 31st FinLine skating event, which was skated in July 2023 from Tampere to Mikkeli. — **Register now** to secure your place on the 32nd FinLine!*

Route Overview

Last few years we have skated either in the southern part or in the distant areas of Finland. In 2024 we skate again more in the western, the flatter part of the country.

Skating starts from Saarijärvi, a small town a few tens of kilometers north from Jyväskylä. From there we head to north, leaving the undulating terrain of the Central Finland after a few days. After that we head through the Bothnian flatness towards the sea. On the last day we skate through Larsmo via the *7-Bridge Archipelago Road (7 broars skärgård)*, finally celebrating our achievement in the night of Kokkola, the capital of the region.

The Ostrobothnia area is well known for its wide, open and flat agricultural areas. On the other hand, while the flatness means that there are less hills, there are also less “pits” for water to dwell. However, we managed to find a route that still allows keeping our traditional swimming breaks!



FinLine 2019 skaters in the South Ostrobothnia region. Photo: Panu Tuominen

We have recently skated in Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark and visited the World Heritage listed Verla cardboard mill. To continue our “United Nations theme”, we will enjoy a lunch break in Kaustinen while the town is celebrating the famous Kaustinen Folk Music Festival. Kaustinen fiddle playing and related practices and expressions has been inscribed in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2021. <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/kaustinen-fiddle-playing-and-related-practices-and-expressions-01683>

As usual for FinLine, our accommodations will include basic hotels to set the baseline plus various other places from cottages to spa resorts; a few of them are even with lakeside saunas for recovering and debriefing after a good day.¹ To get an idea what else FinLine is than just skating, watch what happened and what we saw last summer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vgo6FLPzVSA>

We considered carefully having a straight five-day route through the area, with an extra bonus day either in the Helsinki area or in the middle of the event. However, the availability of accommodations in this “not-the-busiest” part of the country forced us to have a less straight route with six skating days.

¹ Details subject to change.

Event Schedule

The bus starts from Helsinki Sunday **morning** on July 7, and after a half day of travelling we reach Saarijärvi and start skating directly from there. The sixth leg will finish in Kokkola on Friday afternoon and our bus takes us back to Helsinki in the **late evening** on Saturday July 13.

Preliminary skating legs (changes possible):		Main route	With all “extras”
Sunday	Saarijärvi – Kannonkoski	41 km	77 km
Monday	Kannonkoski – Lestijärvi	67 km	127 km
Tuesday	Lestijärvi – Toholampi	65 km	136 km
Wednesday	Toholampi – Lappajärvi	75 km	142 km
Thursday	Lappajärvi – Nykarleby	82 km	107 km
Friday	Nykarleby – Kokkola	61 km	86 km
Total		391 km	675 km

For a detailed up-to-date version of the route map, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/474uuzj7>

In order to serve the needs of different types of skaters, we have designed the main route with “average” day-trip distances. The service bus is available during the whole day for those who do not want to skate the full distances listed above.

On the other hand, skaters who are in extremely good shape to skate safely even more, may enjoy more kilometers by skating the optional “extras”. Note that the service bus is available only on the main route and the skaters doing all the extras may need to skip the evening sauna, depending on their skating speed. In addition, each of the extras is subject to the minimum number of skaters; it is not possible to skate alone, neither on the main route nor on the extras.

Can I participate?

FinLine is a skating event that almost every recreational skater 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 at least 50 km in a day at your own preferred speed
- be able to enjoy one vacation week together with other skaters
- become a member of Street Gliders club (which can be easily done at the same time when you pay the registration fee of 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 follows the skaters all the time and enables you to choose the number of days to skate 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 180 € including the services of the bus, basic snacks, transportation of your luggage during skating and bus transportation from Helsinki to Saarijärvi and back from Kokkola to Helsinki. **Because FinLine is formally organized only for members of our club, you also have to pay the annual membership fee of 30 € of Street Gliders (total 210 € unless already a member for 2024).**



*Accommodation in Tyrnävä on FinLine 2022.
Photo: Panu Tuominen*

Furthermore, there are costs of the dinners and accommodations, about 75 – 100 € per day and lunch & extra snack costs according to your personal preferences. The accommodations are chosen based on their location and availability but also based on their services: we want that skaters are able to relax both physically and mentally throughout the week. In some locations, there are not so many options to choose from and the wind farm construction boom in the area affects the prices. Anyway, various accommodations, saunas, evening programs and light summer nights are waiting for you!

We have learnt that there are two types of participants: ones who want to have a FinLine skating shirt and ones that do not want to have (even more) plastic waste. Therefore the participation fee itself does not include a skating shirt. The participants are encouraged to use their own skating shirts (e.g. the ones received on FinLine 2019 or FinLine 2022).

However, we are also planning to design an official FinLine collectible shirt that the participants can purchase separately. More information on the shirt option will be communicated to the registered participants in the spring.

Registration Instructions

Because we want to maintain the cozy small event feeling of FinLine and in order to find accommodations for the whole group, the number of participants is limited to **35**.

The official registration is now open! You will find the registration form on our web pages at <https://katukiitajat.fi/english/finline-in-english/>. To avoid ambiguity, we kindly ask everyone, including former FinLine participants, to fill in the registration form.

To avoid the event to be fully stuffed by a big group coming from a single country, former FinLine participants (any year) have priority in registrations until February 15, 2024. **Newcomers are still very welcome and also they shall register themselves as soon as possible** — however, we may have to set a maximum number of new participants per country. Therefore we will start confirming newcomers' registrations no earlier than in mid-February.

We will collect the Street Gliders' membership fee and the registration fee later in the winter. This may of course free some seats, which will be filled with registrations on the waiting list (if any). So, in short: act quickly to secure your place!

Important Dates

January 2024	FinLine 2024 registration period starts.
February 15, 2024	Last day for prioritized registrations by former FinLine participants.
February 16 (earliest)	We start confirming registrations received from newcomers.
Sunday, July 7	FinLine 2024 bus starts from Helsinki in the morning .
Friday, July 12	Skaters arrive to Kokkola.
Saturday, July 13	FinLine 2024 bus returns to Helsinki in the (late) evening .

When making your travel bookings, please check the cancellation policy of your tickets. In case of event cancellation (force majeure, impracticability) Street Gliders may refund the registration and the membership fees only. All indirect costs (e.g. airline tickets) are on your own risk.

If you have any questions, please contact us as soon as possible through info@katukiitajat.fi — We are happy to help you if you are in doubt.

Hoping to see you with us next summer!

The FinLine 2024 organizing team:

Vidhuran, Leea, Kaisa, Anne, Panu, Nina, Bosse, Ilpo & Ari