



FinLine 2021

Prepare yourself (again) for a week of skating in the wilderness!

Last summer we were forced to cancel our annual skating holiday first time in its history after 28 consecutive years. Although the current pandemic situation [December 2020] is not great, we hope it will ease before summer 2021.

In other words, we have decided to try again next summer! In addition to a better global situation, we also hope that clearer travelling rules are finally in place allowing our international participants to join.

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 cross the huge Lake Pielinen with a hydrofoil.¹

¹ Route details are subject to change.

Event Schedule

The bus will start from Helsinki on early Sunday morning July 4 and skating will finish in Joensuu on Friday July 9. The return to Helsinki will be on Saturday July 10 with an estimated arrival time **in Helsinki around 7 p.m.**

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

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

What does it cost? What is included?

The participation fee will *most likely* be 200 €, including the services of the bus, snacks, transportation of your equipment during skating, a technical shirt with pockets and zipper, hydrofoil ride across Lake Pielinen (changes possible) and bus transportation from Helsinki to Savonlinna and back from Joensuu to Helsinki. In addition, because FinLine is organized only for members of the club, you have to pay the annual membership fee 25 € of Street Gliders.

Furthermore, there are the costs of the dinners and accommodations (including breakfasts), about 40 – 70 € per day, and your own lunch and personal snack costs during skating.

Registration and Additional Information

Because we want to maintain the cozy small event feeling of FinLine and in order to find suitable accommodations for the group, the number of participants is limited to 30. With this letter we give you a chance to express your interest and make a preliminary **reservation** for a place on the tour.

We will monitor the overall pandemic situation to see when it is the time to start collecting binding registrations for the event. The key thing needed is get some level of understanding how travelling would be possible in July 2021, especially in Europe. On the other hand, therefore we cannot confirm the event as early as previously.

We will contact you again when it is last chance to register yourself but in order not to miss the change, please stay tuned by yourself, too.

If you are interested to join or have any open questions, please contact us through info@katukiitajat.fi

We are pleased to tell you more!

The FinLine organizing team:

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