



FinLine 2022

***Skating across the waist of the Finnish Maiden —
full 7 days of celebration for the first tricennial of FinLine!***

In August 2021 we were finally able to organize the 29th FinLine in North Karelia despite the pandemic. So, now it is the time to prepare yourself for celebrating the 30th FinLine. Register now and take your share of this exceptional piece in the global history of inline skating!

Route Overview

The 10th FinLine was skated across Finland from north (Gillbesjávri) to south (Hanko) in 13 days and the 20th FinLine in 2011 was skated in 8 days from east (Niirala) to west (Vaasa). This time we planned to have a little bit more time for celebrating, so we chose to skate across the country at the narrowest position, the “waist” of the Finnish Maiden — 7 days from the Vartius border crossing station (close to Russian city Kostomuksha) to Oulu, “the capital of North”.



Skaters in Vuokatti on FinLine 2004. Photo: Panu Tuominen

Geographically this route collects all the most important Finnish landscape types: the wilderness of Kainuu province beside high **hills**, the **lake** area of Oulujärvi, the **esker** area in Rokua, cultural landscapes of Oulujoki **river**, **agricultural** areas of North Ostrobothnia, the **archipelago**-like fishing island Hailuoto and the modern high-tech **city** of Oulu. From these, Oulujärvi, Rokua and Oulujoki area, where we spend two skating days in total, is declared as a Global Geopark by UNESCO.

<https://en.unesco.org/global-geoparks/rokua>



Kalevala roller skiing track. Photo: Panu Tuominen

In other words, 30th FinLine summarizes almost everything we have seen on skates during these 30 years!

Accommodations will also vary from small beachside cottages on an island in the middle of the huge Oulujärvi lake to a few spa hotels and a premium hotel by the Oulu market square.

“Extras” are also planned: For example, Kainuu area is famous for cross-country skiing and there are a few nice and curvy roller-skiing tracks. Vuokatti tracks are actually part of the Vuokatti Sport Olympic Training Center, so they should be tough enough for anyone. ☺

Event Schedule

There are two main options for joining FinLine 2022: the bus starts from Helsinki early Friday morning on July 8; **however, it is also possible to avoid the long bus trip and meet us on Friday evening in Kajaani.** Commuter airline <https://dat.dk/> operates afternoon and evening flights from Helsinki (HEL) to Kajaani (KAJ) and you *may* get reasonably priced one-way tickets e.g. from their webshop. On the other hand, if you choose to join the bus trip instead, you have to arrive already on Thursday July 7 **and spend one extra night in Helsinki.**

On Saturday morning July 9, we travel by bus from Kajaani hotel to Vartius border crossing station on the Russian border from where we start skating! After the week, our bus takes us back to Helsinki in the **late evening** on Saturday July 16. **Alternatively, you may choose to take return flight directly from Oulu airport (OUL) on Saturday afternoon.**

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

Saturday	Vartius – Kuhmo	63 km
Sunday	Kuhmo – Vuokatti	77 km
Monday	Vuokatti – Manamansalo	90 km
Tuesday	Manamansalo – Rokua	75 km (+1 km ferry)
Wednesday	Rokua – Tyrnävä	86 km
Thursday	Tyrnävä – Hailuoto (Marjaniemi)	75 km (+7 km ferry)
Friday	Hailuoto (Marjaniemi) – Oulu	55 km (+7 km ferry)
Total		521+15 km

For a detailed up-to-date version of the draft route map, visit: <https://j.mp/3lim9UA>

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 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 250 € including the services of the bus, basic snacks, high-end technical shirt with unique “FinLine 30 years” motif, transportation of your luggage during skating and bus transportation from Helsinki to Kajaani, further to Vartius and back from Oulu to Helsinki.

In addition, because FinLine is formally organized only for members of our club, you also have to pay the annual membership fee of 25 € of Street Gliders. Furthermore, there are costs of the dinners and accommodations, about 60 – 100 € per day and lunch & snack costs according to your personal preferences.

We are heading to a little bit farther away in the north than usual, the event lasts a few extra days because of the anniversary and travelling in general is a little bit more expensive as a result of the pandemic and rising energy price. Fortunately there are still businesses also in the rural areas of the country making this event possible.

Registration Instructions

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 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.

In order 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 January 31, 2022. **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 participants per country. We will start confirming newcomers' registrations no earlier than in early February.

We will collect the Street Gliders' membership fee 25 € and the registration fee 250 € 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

December 2021	FinLine 2022 registration period starts.
January 31, 2022	Last day for prioritized registrations by former FinLine participants.
February 1 (earliest)	We start confirming registrations already received from newcomers.
Friday, July 8	FinLine 2022 bus starts from Helsinki in the early morning.
Saturday, July 9	Skating starts from Vartius.
Friday, July 15	Skaters arrive to Oulu.
Saturday, July 16	FinLine 2022 bus returns to Helsinki in the late evening.

Please understand that no one can predict for sure what the COVID-19 situation will be next summer. 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 travel bookings, please check the cancellation policy of the tickets. In case of event cancellation Street Gliders may refund the event 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 celebrating with us next summer!

The FinLine 2022 organizing team:

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