

Hiking trail

GPS coordinates (WGS84):  
Starting point  
N62 56.097 E24 10.015

Kuninkaanpolku Trail

Soini

SOUTH OSTROBOTHNIA



October 2014

## Kuninkaanpolku Trail 10 km

*A combination of wilderness, peace, challenges and even some thrills, this trail first leads to the top of Vuorenmaa Hill, offering a grand view of the surrounding landscape. It then descends into a river valley, where it follows the winding river, ascending every now and then to the surrounding heaths. The trail also passes through beavers' work sites, so hikers may occasionally need to find their way across or under some fallen trees. There are four rest spots along the trail.*

**Trail rating:** Medium

**Suitability:** The trail is suitable for hikers looking for challenges, as it includes variation in altitude and also some difficult parts.

**Duration:** 3–5 hours one way (10 km), 10 hours there and back (20 km)

**Trail markings:** There are excellent information boards at the trail's starting point and along the trail. The trail is clearly marked with red markers. Along the trail, there are signposts at trail crossroads.

### 3 Facts

- Wilderness-type trail from the Vuorenmaa Ski Resort to the riverside
- Beavers at work by the river
- River canyons with ascents and descents

### Getting to the trail

Vuorenmaa Ski Resort, upper parking area (Vuorela)  
Koskitie 25  
63800 Soini

Drive from Möksyntie to Koskitie and continue roughly 100 m until you see the black-and-white 'Hiihtokeskus' sign showing to the right. Turn here and continue up the gravel road for about 400 m until you arrive at the parking area. The starting point (gate) will be on your left, as seen from the direction of your arrival.

## Trail description

The trail starts along a forest path that goes to the top of Vuorenmaa Hill. There is a lean-to shelter at the top that offers a grand view of the landscape. Descending the slope, the trail continues for about half a kilometre along a road (Koskitie), with some houses scattered here and there. From the road the trail diverts onto the banks of the Kuninkaanjoki. Occasionally the trail ascends from the riverbank to the heaths surrounding the slopes, only to return to the riverside again. On its way the trail crosses Möksyntie.

The riverside is mostly dominated by birches and aspens, whereas the heaths are the realm of the pines. The nature along the Kuninkaanpolku Trail is most beautiful in the spring when the rapids roar and marsh marigolds colour the riverside yellow. In early summer, the riverside is filled with blooming lilies of the valley. A variety of water birds also thrive by the river because of the abundance of insects. The teeth marks of the beaver living by the river can be seen on the trunks of both fallen and standing trees.

The latter part of the trail passes a wastewater treatment plant and continues along a road on the edge of a residential area, finishing at the crossroads of Murtokankaantie and Karstulantie, near the Soini town centre.

## Level of difficulty

Visitors should be sufficiently fit as there are some steep (> 35%) and difficult parts along the trail. These sections can be safely negotiated, however, by walking slowly.

The Kuninkaanpolku Trail runs in varied terrain along forest paths, exercise tracks, roads, riverside paths, small bridges and forest roads. The riverbanks are quite steep both up and down. The trail includes some uneven or rocky sections, and by the riverside there are fallen trees that you must cross, go under or around wherever possible. The trail is also very slanted and slippery in places close to the water's edge. There are some deep, narrow ditches in the riverside section; some of them are difficult to spot amongst the undergrowth. The trail passes through some wet sections too. The undergrowth along the trail is rather tall in places, but there are trail markings at quite frequent intervals.

Clear signposts and markings make it easy to follow the trail.

The most difficult section is the wet terrain that is also very uneven due to the forestry machines working in the area just before you cross Möksyntie – also, there are no trail markings visible in that section.

The stretch between Möksyntie and the Jokiranta rest spot includes most of the uphill and downhill sections.

## Good to know

In the spring, when the water level is high, the trail may be under water in places for the first few kilometres of the riverside section. Otherwise the trail is available when the ground is unfrozen.

You should wear full-length trousers and long-sleeved outdoor clothing as well as waterproof hiking boots. In summer, you should also have some mosquito repellent with you. You will also need a packed lunch – and enough to drink – on this reasonably long trail.

**Please note!** The trail runs 10 km in one direction. To get back to your car, you need to hike the trail there and back, and you should reserve at least 10 hours for hiking the full 20 km. You can also shorten your trip and turn back to your direction at the Jokiranta rest spot (total 16,4 km).

Another option is to book a taxi to take you from the finishing point back to the parking area.

Another hiking trail, the Arpainen Trail – which is part of E6, one of the European long-distance paths – starts near the centre of Soini, heading towards the cabin at Arpainen (Arpaisten kämppä, 27 km). From the cabin, the Arpainen Trail continues to the Ähtäri Zoo area. From the Kuninkaanpolku Trail's finishing point, it is only 3 km to the northernmost starting point of the Arpainen Trail at the Lauttonen recreational area.

## Trail facilities

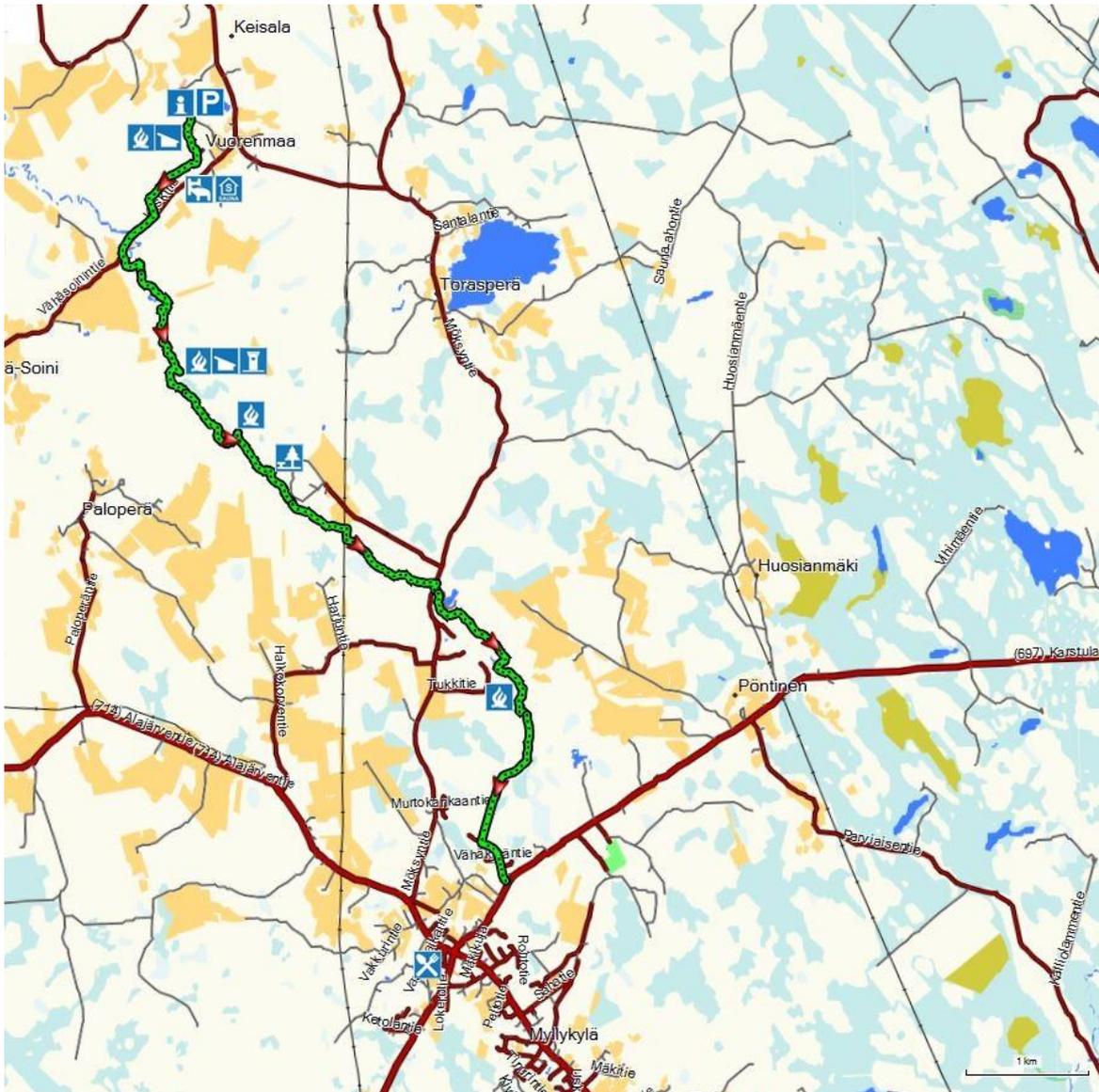
Parking area and information board at the starting point; information boards, one dry toilet, four rest spots with firewood sheds and campfire sites along the trail.

## Tourist information

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## Trail map:

### Kuninkaanpolku Trail 10 km, Soini, Finland



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