



## **Visit Finland Announces 10 New Train Routes for Mindful Travelers**

*From lighthouse islands to the Northern Lights, discover three unforgettable nature escapes accessible along the new routes*

With growing interest in train travel across Europe, [Visit Finland](#) is introducing 10 curated travel routes designed for responsible exploration of the country. Nature lovers can enjoy peaceful national parks, Finland's largest lake, and even spend the night in a lighthouse on a protected nature conservation island — all accessible by train from the capital, Helsinki. Towards the end of the year, travelers will also be able to admire the Northern Lights from the comfort of new hotel-style sleeping cars — a true bucket-list experience.

Visit Finland's new curated routes offer a more sustainable way to explore. From cultural gems and vibrant cities to breathtaking nature and outdoor adventures, these itineraries emphasize responsible choices in food, accommodation, attractions, activities, and transportation. Many of Finland's national parks and beautiful outdoor destinations — ideal for hiking, biking, swimming, or simply immersing in nature — are easily accessible by train or by a smooth train-and-bus combination starting from Helsinki.

"Rail travel is not only an environmentally friendly mode of transportation, but also a way to slow down and truly experience Finland," says Liisa Kokkarinen, Head of Sustainable Development at Visit Finland. "Travelers are encouraged to embrace the rhythm of the rails, allowing time for reflection and connection with nature and local people."

Finland's national railway company, VR, is also [launching](#) new hotel-style sleeper cars at the end of the year.

"Overnight train travel will become even more comfortable for those traveling north to see the Northern Lights," says Antti Karjalainen, Director of Revenue & Growth at VR.

Visit Finland has compiled a list of three natural gems in Finland that are easy to reach by train from Helsinki — the capital of the world's happiest country — which are part of its new curated routes.

### **1. Visit a Historic Seal Hunters' Island and Sleep in a Lighthouse**

[Tankar](#), located off Finland's west coast, is a postcard-perfect island with nature trails and a historic lighthouse. A cozy family-run café welcomes visitors to a 19th-century log building at the harbor. For centuries, this remote island served as a base for seal hunters and fishermen. Today, it's a protected nature conservation area, just nine miles from the city of Kokkola. Tankar is home to over 180 plant species, nearly 26 bird species, and mammals such as rabbits, moles, and seals. A one-mile nature trail circles the island, and guests can stay overnight at the lighthouse keeper's house or in traditional cottages.

**How to get there:** Take a train to Kokkola (about four hours from Helsinki), walk just under two miles to the harbor, and take a ferry to the island.

## **2. Hop on a Bicycle Ferry and Ride Through the Saimaa Lake Archipelago**

Cycling through the stunning [Saimaa Lake Archipelago](#) is a delight. The approximately 130-mile route offers a wide variety of experiences, including historic sights in Lappeenranta and Imatra, and the charm of traditional Finnish villages. The route passes through peaceful countryside, offering breathtaking lake views and public saunas. Along the way, you'll also encounter several [Saimaa UNESCO Global Geopark](#) sites and [Huuhanranta Beach](#) — recently featured in *TIME* magazine as one of the “coolcation” destinations to visit. The journey is an adventure, with bike ferries and free cable ferries (operating 24/7) transporting travelers across waterways. Bike ferries run according to a set schedule during summer. Wild bilberries and mushrooms can also be foraged along the route.

**How to get there:** Take a train to Imatra or Lappeenranta (two to three hours from Helsinki).

## **3. Watch the Northern Lights from the Train and Hike “Grandma’s Trail” in Lapland**

An autumn hike through the foliage of [Salla National Park](#), Lapland, is a bucket-list experience. The journey begins aboard the night train, where travelers may already catch their first glimpse of the Northern Lights – visible as early as late August, when the nights grow darker after the midnight sun period ends.

The landscapes in Salla offer a diverse mix of fells, lush river valleys, and expansive forests. The area has over 186-miles of hiking trails, each with its own story. For example, Ämmin polku (“Grandma’s Trail”), is one of the easier routes and is gentle enough to bring your grandmother along. Travelers can also give back to nature by joining [a restoration event on](#) September 10, 2025, where volunteers help restore local swamps.

**How to get there:** Take a night train from Helsinki to Kemijärvi, then a one and a half hour bus ride to Salla.

**Read more about train travel routes in Finland:**

[Explore Finland responsibly with selected travel routes | Visit Finland](#)

**Pictures:**

[Business Finland Media Bank - PR press release pictures for new routes](#)

### **ABOUT VISIT FINLAND**

*Visit Finland, a unit of Business Finland, is a national authority on tourism and an active force in promoting international travel to Finland. Its main goal is to develop Finland’s international image as a destination. Visit Finland supports the travel industry through research and helps businesses and groups develop products and services for the international market. For more information, please visit. This material is distributed by Business Finland USA, Inc. on behalf of Business Finland Oy.*

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