

| JOUTSIJÄRVI | OINAS | SUVANTO | KAIRALA | KIERINKI | VUOTSO |

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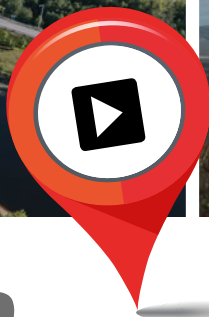
**LAPLAND**  
VILLAGE STORIES

*Stories during your journey.*

  
Pelkosenniemi

  
KEMIJÄRVI  
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MIE  SODANKYLÄ



# VUOTSO

## WELCOME TO VUOTSO!

Vuotso is a village in the northern part of the municipality of Sodankylä. Vuotso is the southernmost village in the Sami region. The village of Vuotso is the gateway to Sápmi or Lapland, the Sami homeland. Sami culture is the indigenous culture of the region. The Sami are recognised as an indigenous people in Finland. They are the EU's only indigenous people. Vuotso lies on both sides of the busy national road 4 and a canal linking two artificial lakes. The village's history brings together the old forest Sami culture, the small-scale

farmstead lifestyle of settlers, and the reindeer husbandry lifestyle imported from the west last century.

Vuotso has 350 inhabitants. The village is bounded by the Sompio Strict Nature Reserve and Urho Kekkonen National Park. The rugged, geologically unique Pyhä-Nattanen is located on the forest road of Lake Sompiojärvi. Welcome to the folk tales, landscapes and people of Vuotso!

***visitsompio.fi***

# KIERINKI

## THE HERITAGE VILLAGE OF KIERINKI

Kierinki is a beautiful, traditional northern village setting in the southwestern part of the municipality of Sodankylä. The main farm buildings are large and beautifully decorated. The village has a balanced appearance, due to the uniform construction and layout of the buildings. Most of the village's houses are located on the slopes of Kierinkivaara hill, which is skirted by a 4.5km village road. Kierinki is classified as a nationally valuable landscape area.

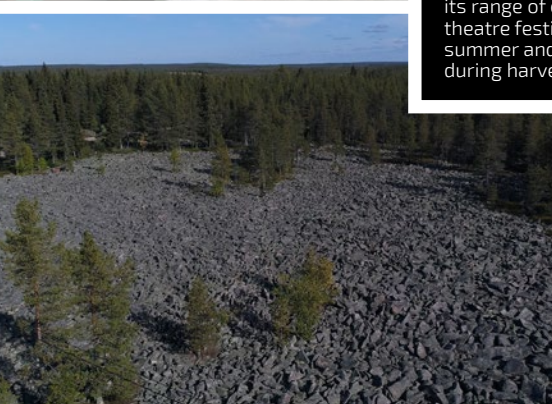
The village of Kierinki is located on a waterside. The name, Kierinki, comes from the powerful swirl of the nearby

rapids, known as 'kierikki' in local Finnish. Depending on the season, the population of Kierinki varies, due to its continuous population base of 120 and its large number of holiday residences. Despite the small size of the village, a high number of cultural and leisure events are arranged there. The village's main livelihoods are agriculture, forestry and reindeer husbandry. Traditions remain strong in the village. Handicrafts, woodcraft, traditional food and a sense of community form part of village life.

[kierinki.com](http://kierinki.com)



Kierinki is well-known for its range of events, such as theatre festivals during the summer and rural markets during harvest time.





# KAIRALA

## WELCOME TO KAIRALA, A BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE ON THE RIVER KITINEN!

Formerly known as Kairavuopio, Kairala got first residents in. Our over 300-year history and rich heritage of folktales have been compiled into a book.

Kairala is classified as nationally valuable landscapes. The village is bisected by the River Kitinen, which has two large, nearby bays. Fields and water meadows, and the waterways dividing the village, have created a lush, broad landscape over the years. The eastern side of the river is dominated by an esker landscape, meadows and houses from the post-war period of reconstruction: the Germans burned down the eastern side of the river in October 1944 when they withdrew from most of their positions in Lapland. However, the western side of Kairala was spared. Several handsome buildings over 100-years old still reflect

the village's old building heritage. Large, protected string bogs (known in Finland as aapasuot) are located close to the village. The rugged hills form a scenic backdrop to the village. Kairala-Luoro area is also a landscape conservation area.

### PLACES TO VISIT

- Stop by at the Jaakkolan Pirttikahvila, enjoy a cup of homemade swede soup, mouth watering crêpes or other delicacies
- Admire the old log cottages and an ancient shed
- Experience the traditional live dances at Kairalan Kajastus pavilion
- Refresh yourself by the water, go fishing or paddle to Manolaisaari Island
- Pyhä-Luosto fell resort and their services are nearby.

[visitkairala.fi](http://visitkairala.fi)

# SUVANTO

## AN IDYLIC VILLAGE ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER KITINEN

The village of Suvanto is located on the shore of the River Kitinen, 20km from the Pelkosenniemi church village and 27km from Pyhä. Suvanto is a village of over 20 inhabitants, which is revitalized in the summer when summer residents return. It is famous for its beautiful surroundings. It is a peaceful residential town and a popular tourist destination. The village has an active village association and hunting club. Most of Suvanto's buildings are from the late 19th century and early 20th century. Suvanto was spared the destruction of the Lapland War: post-war reconstruction primarily occurred in neighbouring villages. Later, when the value of village buildings spared from devastation began to be appreciated,

its buildings were renovated with the support of society. The village of Suvanto was chosen as Lapland's most beautiful village in 1987. It also received the Europa Nostra Award in 1991, in recognition of the preservation of its unique cultural and built environment. Its red-ochre houses, barns and storage buildings, as well as silver-grey fences, pens, sheds and barns tell stories about how previous generations lived.

I hope that you find our village and its stories entertaining.

[suvannonkyla.fi](http://suvannonkyla.fi)



# OINAS

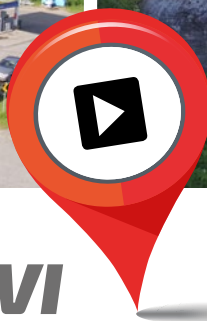
## WELCOME TO THE VILLAGE OF OINAS!

The village of Oinas is located around 25 kilometres north of the city of Kemijärvi, to the east of Kemijoki near the Pelkosenniemi and Kemijärvi boundary line. Local livelihoods have included agriculture and livestock, log driving, and forestry. The village has also been cherishing its cultural traditions for many years. It was one of the few villages which escaped burning by the Germans at the

end of the Second World War. For this reason, old log houses and courtyards, each one more impressive than the next, can be found in the village. Around 20–30 people now live in the village. At its height, it had over 300 residents. The village is a cluster of residences lining both sides of the road that bisects it, with many closely built houses displaying large, impressive yards.

[visitkemijarvi.fi](http://visitkemijarvi.fi)





# JOUTSIJÄRVI

## WELCOME TO JOUTSIJÄRVI!

Joutsijärvi has old settlement. Already in the 1400s the Laplanders had their summer grazing and fishing places in the shores of beautiful river Käsmänjoki and Joutsijärvi. The village was established in the early 1800s when frontiersmen arrived and established crown crofts.

Industrious frontiersman 'Ukko' alias Erkki Kivilahti took a house place in a beautiful Hunajamäki with its ponds and cleared wide swamps near by for fields. He built dams and drains to be able to grow gras for his cattle. His 30 cows' stone barn got direct hit in the Winter War and was destroyed.

The beautiful pond right below Hunajanmäki serves as a recreational fishing place. On the same hill there's a Salpalinja command bunker almost completely built inside the ground. The bunker museum is open throughout the year and is owned by the village association exhibiting war time items

collected from the surroundings. The museum has yearly over 4 500 visitors.

During the war they had severe battles in Joutsijärvi to stop the red army. You can still see the marks. The battle memorial in Mäntyvaara says 'Here the Lord helped' and raises many kind of stories and images to residents who live in a village with five concrete bunkers and with history of being a war time German base. In addition the village has a historically valuable in 1905 built community home where children's movie Herra Huu, acted by the famous M.A. Numminen, was filmed. The village is worth seeing. There are 132 inhabitants and in the cross roads of Salla and Kuusamo roads there is a lively village store, lunch cafe and a self-service gas station.

***[visitkemijarvi.fi](http://visitkemijarvi.fi)***

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Sodankylä  
Pelkosenniemi  
Kemijärvi

## VILLAGE STORIES – A JOURNEY INTO THE VILLAGE CULTURE OF LAPLAND

Lapland Village Stories will take you on a fascinating journey into the local history and culture of six villages in Lapland. Experience colourful village life through stories told by a local storyteller, on-site or digitally. Explore the villages and download the application!

**Read more: [visitsodankyla.fi/laplandvillagestories](https://visitsodankyla.fi/laplandvillagestories)**



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