



*Lake Jyväsjärvi
Rantaraitti
recreational route*

JYVÄSKYLÄ

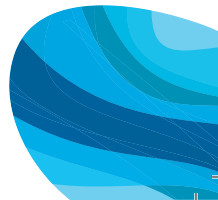


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Jyväskylä's Rantaraitti

Rantaraitti is the pedestrian and cycle route circling Lake Jyväsjärvi which encourages people to get out and get moving throughout the year – and all this right in the centre of the city! In addition to being an intrinsic and beautiful part of Jyväskylä's network of cycle/pedestrian routes, it is also highly popular with locals for recreational purposes. Where the design, construction and maintenance of Rantaraitti's green areas are concerned the guidelines set out in the City of Jyväskylä's green policy are adhered to.

All those who set out around the Rantaraitti are granted obstacle-free enjoyment of Lake Jyväsjärvi's shoreline scenery and the various locations along the way. Rantaraitti not only brings together pedestrian and cycle traffic, but also lake shore services and culture, places of work and study, nature values and urban architecture as well as an enormous number of stories. It is simple to access Rantaraitti by car and then continue on foot at various different places.

Rantaraitti in a nutshell

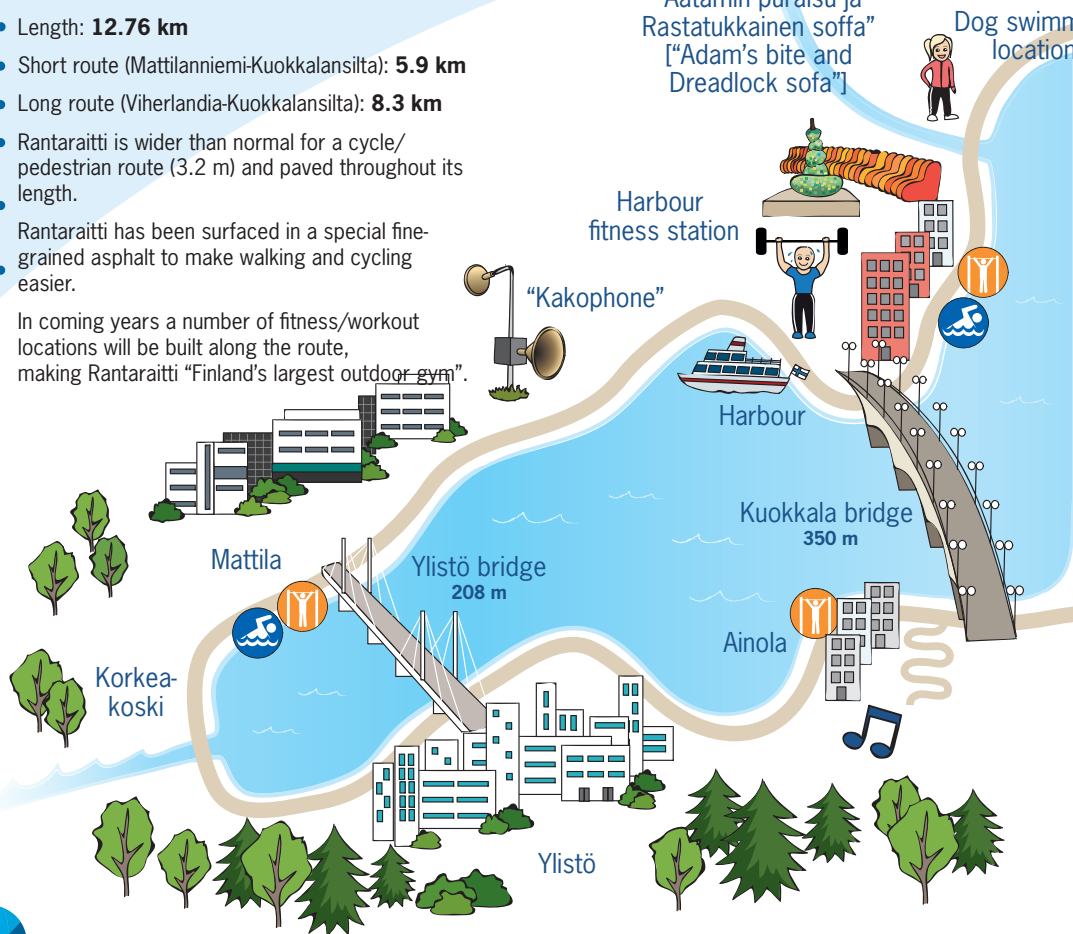
- Length: **12.76 km**
- Short route (Mattilanniemi-Kuokkalansilta): **5.9 km**
- Long route (Viherlandia-Kuokkalansilta): **8.3 km**
- Rantaraitti is wider than normal for a cycle/pedestrian route (3.2 m) and paved throughout its length.

- Rantaraitti has been surfaced in a special fine-grained asphalt to make walking and cycling easier.

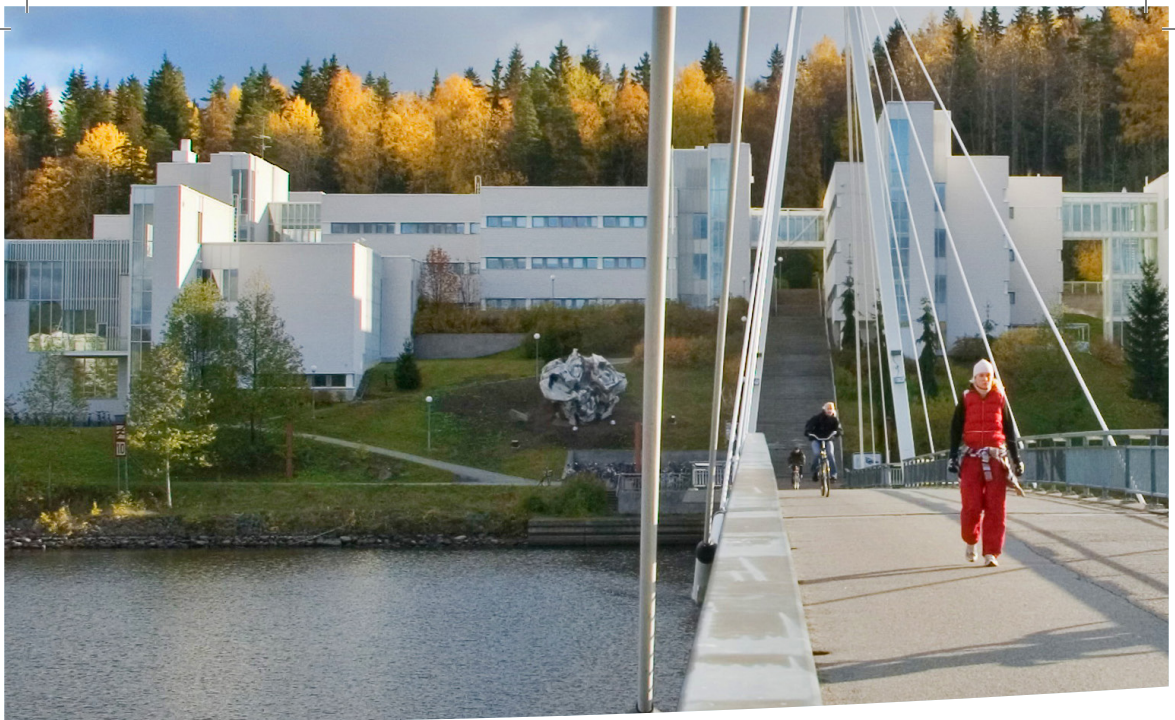
In coming years a number of fitness/workout locations will be built along the route, making Rantaraitti "Finland's largest outdoor gym".

Artwork:
"Aatamin puraisu ja
Rastatukkainen sofa"
["Adam's bite and
Dreadlock sofa"]

Dog swim
location







Rantaraitti as a student

” In my usual morning hurry, Rantaraitti is just perfect for biking it quickly to lectures. On Fridays, when lectures start a little later, it's great to stroll to the campus in the autumn sun. In summer the shore of Lake Jyväsjärvi is a fantastic place to hang out – preferably with a rug, a picnic basket and a few good mates.”



Mattilanniemi and Ylistörinne

The University of Jyväskylä's Mattilanniemi and Ylistörinne campus areas are located on opposite sides of Lake Jyväsjärvi's Korkeakoski bay. The Ylistö bridge connects the two areas into a functional, coherent whole.

Lutakko campus area

JAMK University of Applied Sciences' Lutakko campus is situated in the immediate vicinity of Rantaraitti on Piippukatu. The Lutakko campus is a fascinating combination of modern architecture and old buildings originally part of the Schauman plywood mill.



Rantaraitti as a resident

” As I packed the last moving crates in Ainola, I didn't realise how much I would miss the place. For years I had been accustomed to a morning stroll on the lake shore, light playing on the wavelets, and how the arrival or departure of the winter ice cover always made me pause in amazement.

That apartment on the edge of Lake Jyväsjärvi saw the arrival of a dog and children. That was where we celebrated two christenings and one wedding. That apartment, our home, became too small for the four of us. Nevertheless, I still miss it a lot.



Äijälänranta housing fair area

Split by the Rantaraitti path, Äijälänranta was the location for the 2014 Housing Fair.

During construction of the Äijälänranta housing fair area particular attention was paid to nature values and the creation of a pleasant green environment. With the completion of the housing fair area the last section of Rantaraitti was finished and now the path circles Lake Jyväsjärvi in its entirety.





Rantaraitti and nature

“ I had an overwhelming desire to get outside. The sun was shining and, a country girl at heart, I just wanted to breathe the fresh air, see the rippling water, and be at one with nature. I jumped onto the saddle of my bike, pedalled down through the town and what do you know – I discovered peace and quiet, right in the middle of the city.”



At Äijälänranta there are natural lake shore areas which are considered locations of regional importance. These provide a home for a multitude of water birds. In contrast, on the other side of Lake Jyväsjärvi the wooded Ylistönrinne area with its shady, damp slopes constitutes Finland's only known habitat for the seriously endangered *Clausilia dubia* snail.

A number of streams varying in size flow into Lake Jyväsjärvi, of which one is Korkeakoski. Korkeakoski is Jyväskylä's best known illuminated location.

Korkeakoski should be experienced in spring as the meltwater tumbles down off the cliffs. Similarly, the water from the melting snow burbles gaily down a narrow channel sandwiched between the Kylmänoro rocks.

Breathing traditional agriculture, the cultural landscape of the Kuokkala area is made up of old fields now dotted with stray saplings and shoreline woods, where in summer you may well encounter sheep grazing.



Cultural attractions along Rantaraitti

” We sat silently in the audience. I looped the string sealing the bouquet around my fingers so tightly that it unravelled before the interval. During the second half I was at least able to sit more calmly. I reckon we were more nervous than our daughter.

Quiet, lights, the actors came on stage. The first-night nerves turned to relaxation, the lines flowed, their timing precise and assured. Applause, bravo!”



Ainola

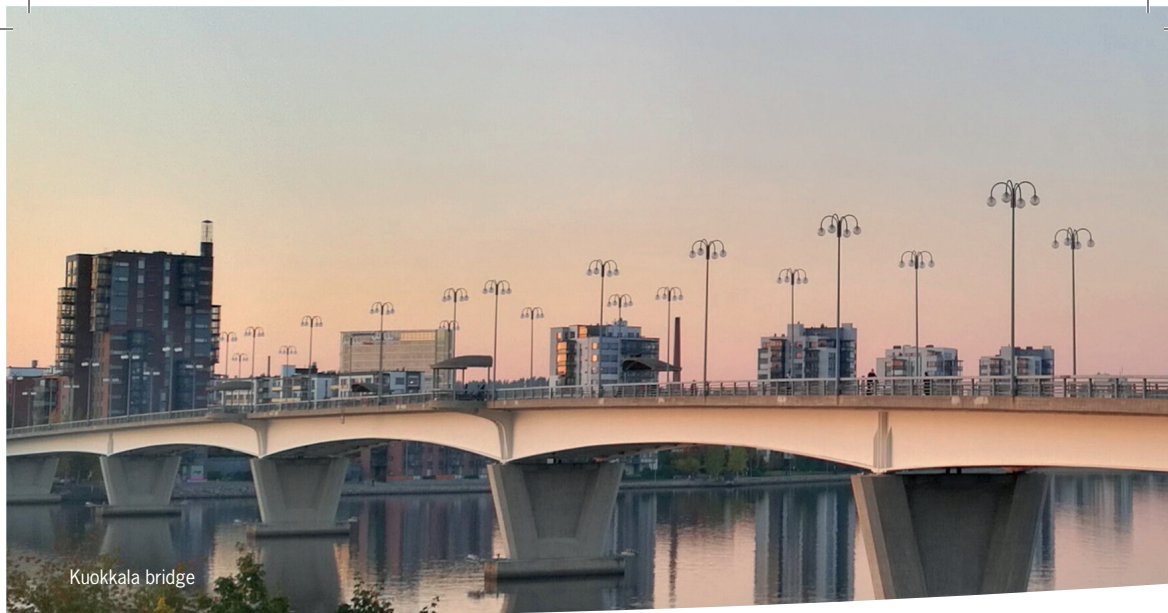
Ainola is home to Jyväskylä's oldest functioning dance pavilion, which was built in the 1920s. Events have been held at Ainola from the pavilion's completion right up until the present day. In addition to dances, Ainola has seen concerts and theatre. The area is of considerable value in terms of setting, cultural history and architecture. Ainolanranta – Ainola's lake shore – is also one of the most popular places to live along Rantaraitti.

Kuokkala Manor

Kuokkala Manor is situated just a short walk from Äijälänsalmi bridge. Nowadays the manor house is used for concerts and seminars, but it also features a culture café with a distinctly early 20th century feel.

Survo-Korpela

Survo-Korpela's traditional yard and banqueting venue are located next to the Suuruspää apple orchard. This old farmstead milieu right in the middle of the city is a small reminder of a world gone by – but equipped with modern services. In summer the yard is used by Survo-Korpela's Latoteatteri, or Barn Theatre.



Kuokkala bridge

On Rantaraitti's bridges

The bridges crossing Lake Jyväsjärvi link the lake's south and north sides to each other in arcs of light that shine brightly at night.

Kuokkala bridge

The cutting headwind of winter, the spring mornings that shroud the entire city in mist, the warm and calm summer nights and the autumn storms that turn an umbrella inside out. Opened in 1989, the 480 metre long bridge carries joggers, cyclists as well as thousands of vehicles each of day. What's more, Kuokkala bridge is Jyväskylän's best known illuminated location.

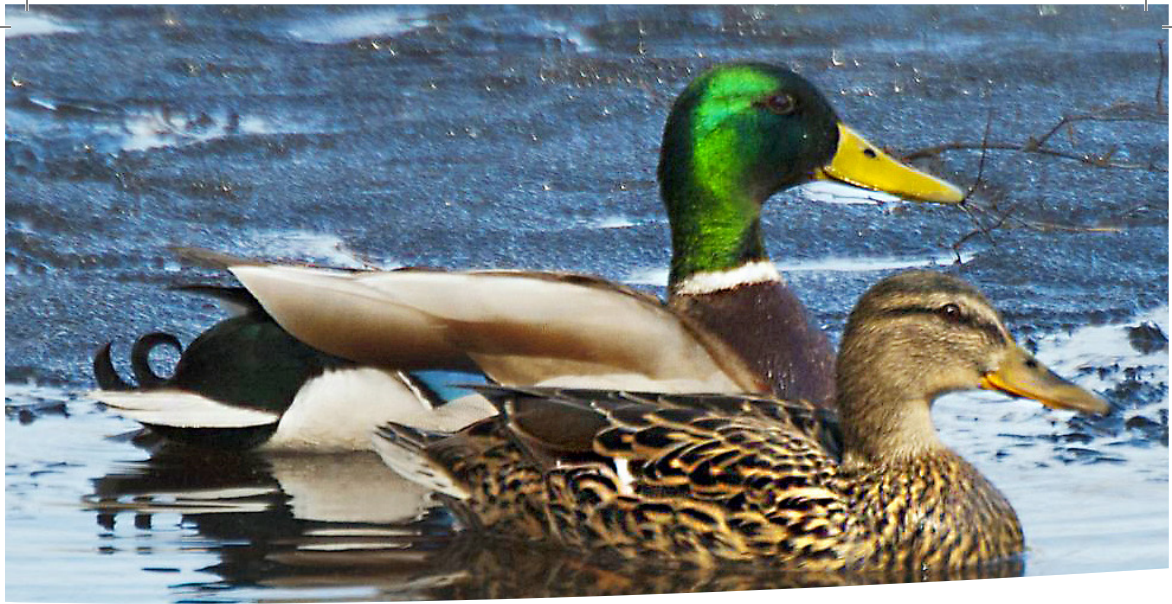


Ylistö bridge

Light traffic, heavy steps – opened in 1991 and designed for pedestrians and cyclists, Ylistö bridge links two of the university's campus areas, Mattilanniemi and Ylistönmäki. In the autumn of 2017 the bridge's superb, dynamic special illumination was brought to completion, providing a great experience for all using it.

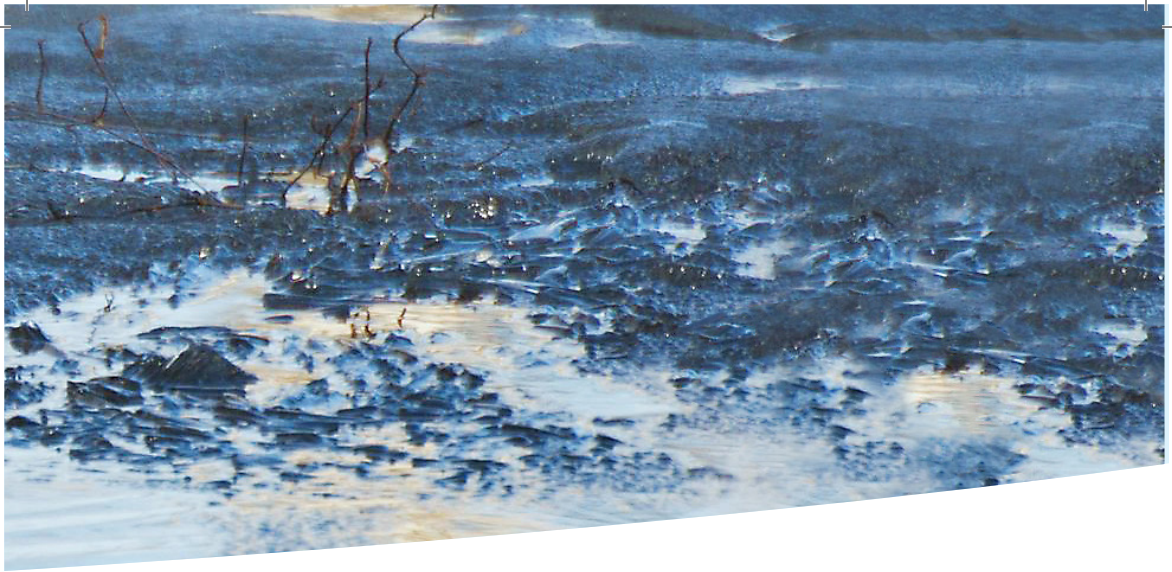
Äijälänsalmi bridge

A wave of the hand while out walking – a greeting returned by a passenger on the deck of a lake steamer. Built as far back as in 1932 and completely overhauled in 2017, Äijälänsalmi bridge is one of Finland's oldest reinforced concrete bridges cast on the spot. The bridge's illumination, playing with warm and cold shades of light, welcomes Päijänne cruise vessels to Lake Jyväsjärvi.



Birdwatching in the heart of the city

” Of an afternoon we’d jump on our bikes and the whole class would ride in a line from Tikka to Kuokkalanpelto. I was clueless about birds, but I remember when Jari hung from the birdwatching tower and did 20 chin-ups. And the grub we took with us – a juice box and some cheese on rye.”



Tourujoki valley and river mouth

The Tourujoki river is home to Jyväskylä's ducks. In spring the mouth of the river at Lutakko is one of the first stretches of open water and attracts an enormous number of birds. In summer the nature trail in the Tourujoki valley tempts Rantaraitti users to deviate from their normal route.

Rauhalahti bay

The condensing water from the Rauhalahti power plant keeps the bay and the stream running into it ice-free even in midwinter. The Tourujoki ducks move to Rauhalahti for the winter...

Pitkärüoho and Äijälänranta birdwatching towers

Lake Jyväsjärvi is an important resting place for migratory birds. Migrating birds can be observed from the Pitkärüoho and Äijälänranta birdwatching towers, for instance. Pitkärüoho birdwatching tower is located in the conservation area on the north shore of Kuokkala, close to the allotments while the Äijälänranta tower is situated almost exactly on the opposite shore, near the housing fair area.



In the garden with grandma

” My sister and I went by bike to my grandma’s place. During the day we planted flowers at the side of grandma’s cottage. In the evening grandma made pancakes topped off with strawberry jam and whipped cream.”



Rantaraitti in all its diversity

On Rantaraitti efforts to promote nature's diversity are everywhere to be seen. Clumps of willows in Halssila, the rowan trees in Sulkuranta and alders in Mattilanniemi each tell their own tale of life along the circuit. Rantaraitti also has many good places to take a break, of which those with green fingers will undoubtedly opt for Viherlandia. Viherlandia's enormous beds of flowers and shrubs together with the rose greenhouse, where each flower seems more beautiful than the next, make an impression not just restricted to keen gardeners.

Sulkuranta allotments

The Sulkuranta allotments in Kuokkala are like a tiny garden city on the shore of Lake Jyväsjärvi. The small cottages with their attractive beds of flowers and vegetables create a personal and much-loved environment for the local residents. As long as you respect the area's peace and quiet, you're welcome to visit!



Gateway to lake Päijänne

” On that side the city looms, but over there the waters of Lake Päijänne unfold. There is something amazing about this place. I always come back here to find calm whenever my thoughts have put my head in a wild spin.”



Smugglers' favourite

Way back when, Päijänne was a principal thoroughfare for smugglers. Bootleg alcohol was brought by boat to Jyväskylä from Lahti and landed at the jetty of Jokivarsi school, from where the cargo was taken by smaller vessels to Kivistö. Small boys were paid to keep a lookout, so that the police could not make a surprise swoop during unloading.

Water quality

In the course of history Lake Jyväsjärvi has experienced a considerable load of waste water. Since the 1970s, however, the quality of the lake's water has been systematically improved and is nowadays of a very high standard.

Äijälänsalmi

Lake Jyväsjärvi has defined Jyväskylä for as long as the city has been in existence. Waterways were used to get around and to transport goods. The Äijälänjoki river and the Äijälänsalmi channel created by dredging have always functioned as the city's gateway to Lake Päijänne. Although goods are now transported overland, the Äijälänsalmi channel is still used frequently by cruise vessels and pleasure craft.



Relaxing in the harbour

” I’ve eaten ice cream on Rantaraitti at least a hundred times. By the scoop in the harbour, a shared litre packet on the shore of Lutakko, dessert ice cream on board a passenger vessel. The path to ice cream has always passed through the harbour and some day I’m going to enjoy my ice cream on the deck of my own boat.”



Harbour services and events

Restaurant ships, cruise vessels heading off for Päijänne as well as the harbour café all tempt people to pause for a moment and take it easy. Or then, the fascination of soaring and twirling on a flyboard, devouring the waves on a wakeboard or cool, laid-back stand-up paddleboarding – another perfectly good way of spending a summer's afternoon!

Connected to the harbour, Lutakonaukio square has developed into the main stage for a number of popular events, affording the chance to live in the moment. Each year the square is filled to overflowing by the Suomipop festival and razzmatazz of Neste Rally Finland among others.



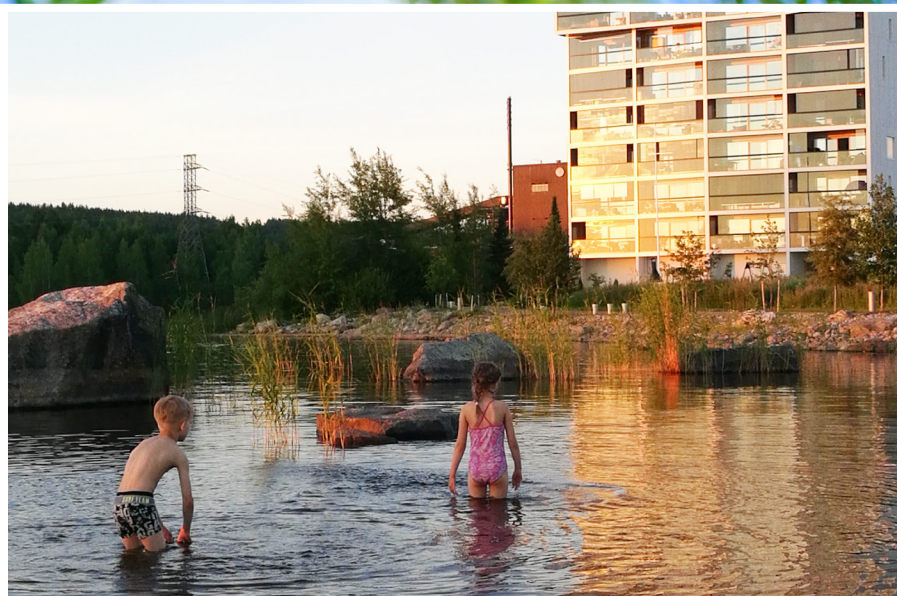
Rantaraitti with kids

”

Mum, I want to go on that slider!”

”

Go right ahead, although I think you’ll find it’s a spider.”



Play areas

Rantaraitti's most popular play areas are the parks at Äijälänsalmi (Riemuranta or 'Joy Shore' as the kids call it) and Suuruspää. Nature-themed Riemuranta and all its equipment – including the spider – were designed by students at Lahti University of Applied Sciences on the basis of drawing and plans made by children.

Beaches for swimming

Along Rantaraitti there is always a public swimming beach close by. The swimming beaches at Äijälänranta, Halssila, Lutakko Kumpupuisto and Mattilaniemi all provide a unique and different swimming experience. When a suitable summer's day comes around, then all of these can be sampled as part of the same loop even.



Journey to work on Rantaraitti

” I'm rushing to work. The shoreline is full of people walking or cycling towards their daily toil. The first already manage to return before the last have even risen from their beds. On Rantaraitti someone is always on his or her way to work.



Work and commuting have always been part of the Rantaraitti scene. Traditional agriculture has been swapped for the cultivation of roses, the plywood mill has become a congress centre and venue for exhibitions, and the bakery turned into a rock club. Though the forms of work have changed markedly, work and the people who do it have always travelled the shores of Lake Jyväsjärvi and felt at home.

Following Rantaraitti in the morning sunshine it is easy to focus one's thoughts on the day's tasks – and on the return journey the calming sound of lapping water ensures that thoughts are left right there to await the next day of work.





Rantaraitti and career

“ I remember that first day at work. I was so nervous, I could hardly remember the name of my future boss. Everything seemed new, even though not long ago I had visited the building next door for several years while studying. From the window of my office I could even see that familiar beach where as a child I had spent so many summer days. Yep, it looks like I won't be able to stay away from these surroundings when I'm retired either.”



Many residents of Jyväskylä have found employment in the vicinity of Rantaraitti. The companies, educational institutions and other actors situated close to Rantaraitti employ tens of thousands of people.

The changes in working life and especially the growth of the ICT branch are also to be seen along the route: the impressive Agora building in Mattilanniemi and the wedge-shaped Innova in Lutakko stand out as distinctive landmarks and reference points for those travelling the path.



Romance on Rantaraitti

” On a warm, dark August evening we were strolling along Rantaraitti. It was our first date. We’d gone for coffee in the city centre and then decided to go for a short walk. We were both a bit nervous but luckily the sculptures on the shore meant there was plenty to talk about. The short walk changed to hours and those hours to happy years. Now we’re married.”

A couple from Laukaa



Rantaraitti artworks

1. Keinuja "Swings"
2. Auringonpalvojat "Sun worshippers"
3. Suuri Kompassi "Big compass"
4. Kunnianosoitus kivenveistäjälle
"A salute to the stonemason"
5. Kakophone
6. Tähistäjät "Lookouts"
7. Exit
8. Weimar-Chicago
9. Hyöky "Surge"
10. Kiveen kirjoitetut "Written in stone"
11. Halla "Frost"
12. Aurinkoportti "Sungate"
13. Puutarhurin taivas
"Gardener's heaven"
14. Alku "Beginning"
15. Wilhelm Schaumanin rintakuva
"Bust of Wilhelm Schauman"
16. Lintutuoli "Bird chair"
17. Aatamin puraisu ja Rastatukkainen soffa
"Adam's bite and Dreadlocks sofa"
18. Kajo "Shimmer"



Rantaraitti and running

A few kilometres behind us, less than ten still to go. This time we're running, but we've been around this circuit so many times walking, cycling and rollerblading, too.

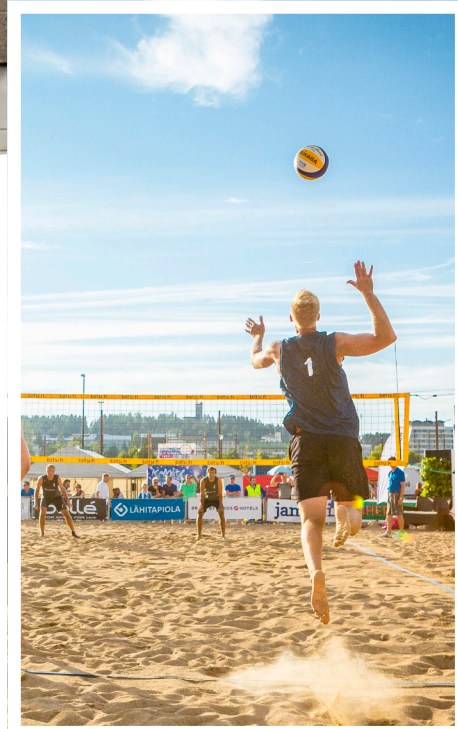
I still remember the first time I managed to cover the whole route in one go, without pausing to walk occasionally. It's easy to remember the familiar curves in the shoreline and the trusty old trees that have witnessed all my previous performances.

Even though I've put in several marathons' worth of metres around here, I still keep coming back. For me Rantaraitti feels like home."



Sporting events on Rantaraitti

Rantaraitti is full of people in motion. In addition to everyday use Rantaraitti serves as the venue each year for numerous fun runs and fitness events with national appeal such as the Finlandia Marathon and Naisten Kymppi [Women's 10K]. In these, countless pairs of running shoes sketch the silhouette of Lake Jyväsjärvi over and over again.





Snow, ice and fun

” On the first sunny day of spring the ice was covered in people. It was then that I realised how nice it is to live on the lake shore. Just a few steps from one's front door the city's biggest skating rink beckons. And a few months later a chance to go swimming in the same spot as well.”



In winter, too, Rantaraitti is a popular place for fitness enthusiasts. The ski tracks, skating circuit and dozens of paths zigzagging the lake ice encourage people to get out and start moving. Skaters, skiers and ice windsurfers, as well as people out walking their dogs, enjoy harmonious co-existence.



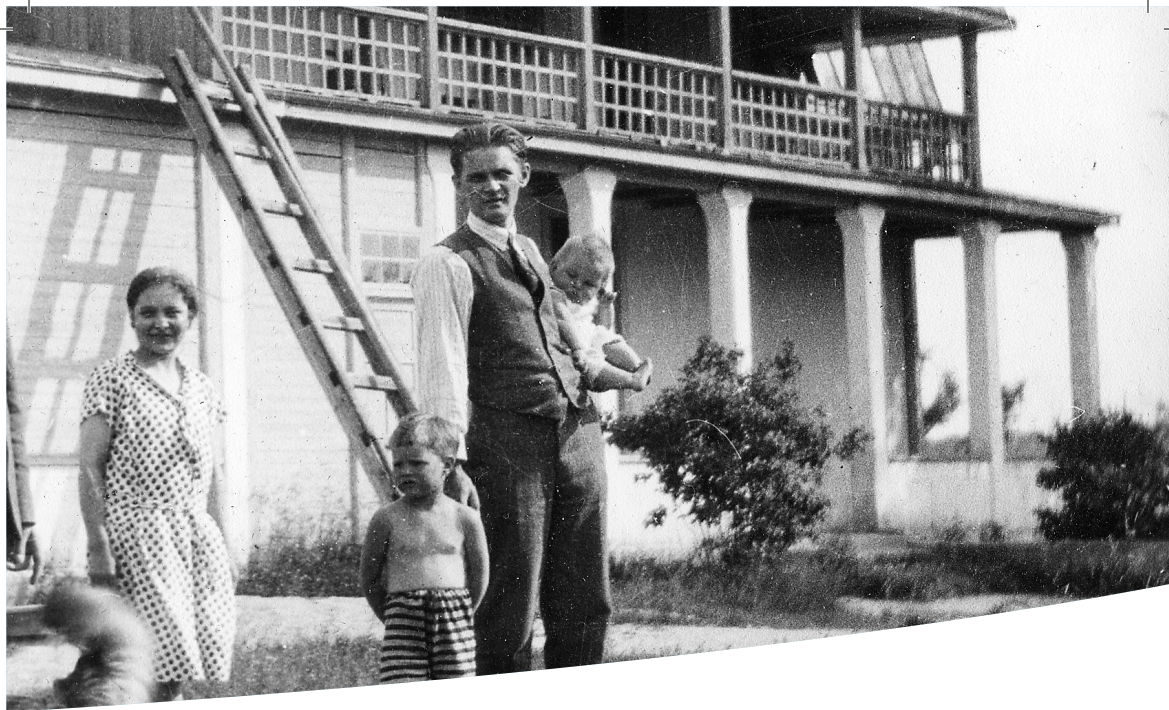


Between 1927 and 1934 Kumpula was home to the artist Carl Bengts and his family. Pictured here are Erika (left), Liisa and Carl Bengts and in front of them their dogs Murre and Viira. In the centre stands the Bengts' housemaid Bertta Lintulahti, on the right Rafael Jurvelius with his children Erkki and Leena. The house in the background is artist Bengts' home, which was demolished at the end of the 1960s.

The city that strayed onto Rantaraitti



Ok guys, where shall we put the city?"



Agriculture has been conducted on the shores of Lake Jyväsjärvi for at least 500 years. Äijälä, which formed part of the village of Jyväskylä, was already an actively used transit route at that time because of the Äijälänjoki river. Äijälä was also a candidate when the location of the city of Jyväskylä was debated. It is indeed fascinating to imagine what Jyväskylä would look like if the city centre had taken shape around the Äijälänsalmi channel.

The other phases of Rantaraitti's development can be explored while enjoying the circuit. On the section stretching from Korkeakoski bay to Rauhalahdi the wooden lampposts are equipped with illuminated info boards recounting the path's history and present-day. The stories describe, for instance, dances at Ainola, artists who have painted Lake Jyväsjärvi and the unusual flora encountered in the area.

Finland's largest outdoor gym

The opportunities for sport and fitness along Rantaraitti continue to grow. In stages, over the next few years, a comprehensive network of different fitness venues and equipment will be built. The complete package will consist of seven fitness stations, eight fitness stops and five other fitness areas.

In the development of these fitness venues the underlying thought is boosting well-being, spotlighting the beneficial effects of physical exercise, forging the identity of the Rantaraitti route and improving fitness facilities and recreational areas at the neighbourhood level.

Fitness stations, fitness stops and other fitness areas will be added to Rantaraitti in phases in coming years.

Construction of Finland's largest outdoor gym can be followed at this address
www.jyvaskyla.fi/puistot/rantaraitti



*Rantaraitti - outdoor recreation and
experiences all year around*



