

DESCRIPTION OF THE PANKASAARI CANOEING ROUTE

NURMIJÄRVI, start. Boat ramp, privy, waste container, information board, firewood shed. Erästely Canoeing & Outdoors on the opposite of the river. Distance to the café about 400 m. Two taxis in the village. [Maps: www.infokartta.fi/lieksa/?id=1088](http://www.infokartta.fi/lieksa/?id=1088)

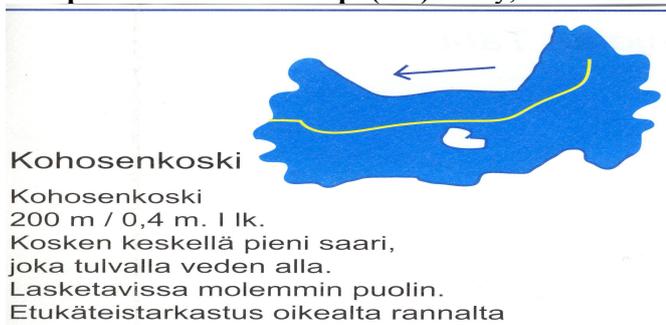
2,0 km Paddle to the left to **Lake Nurmijärvi** and then along the left bank of the lake about 800 m. There is a small stream, paddle about 5 m along it and you will come to Akanlampi pond. Paddle over the pond (about 300 m) and you will come to an old crossing point of boats (about 50 m), from there you can go to lake Puuruunjärvi. Paddle a little bit right and you'll arrive to Jongunjoen Lomapirtti. Accommodation, sauna and restaurant, tel. +358 (0)13 546 531.

6.0 km **Campfire site at Ritosärkkä (left).** Privy, firewood shed, waste container.

9.0 km **Campfire site at Muuraisniemi (left).** Privy, firewood shed, waste container.

10.0 km **Hämeenjärvi. Confluence of the rivers Jongunjoki and Lieksanjoki.**

14.5 km **Campfire site at Hattulampi (left).** Privy, firewood shed, waste container.



16.0 km **Kohosenkoski rapid 200 m/0.4 m (grade I).** Easy rapid with a small central ledge, which may be submerged in spate conditions. The ledge can be passed on either side, but in a low water just from the right side. Inspection from the right bank.

16.5 km **Lake Pankajärvi.** Length about 12 km, no official camping sites. The course is best kept by following the right-hand shore.

17 km On the right hand a small harbour of the village.

17.5 km **Taxi (right),** tel. +358 (0)13 545 502, (0)400 199 920.

24.0 km **Lieteniemi (left).** Unofficial campfire site. Camping permitted on the basis of public right of access.

28.5 km **Putansalmi road bridge.** Road between Lieksa and Ruunaa.

32.5 km **River Pudasjoki.** Length 6.5 km, can be paddled upstream; short, easy rapids but in spate they seem to be quite big. Rapids together about 1,5 km.

34.5 km **Rapid (grade I)**

35.5 km **Pudaskoski rapid 400 m (grade I).** Some fairly big boulders. In normal water the rapid is shallow. The biggest rapid on the River Pudasjoki.

36.0 km **Hiiskorva (grade I).** Short, easy rapid.

36.6 km **Rapid (grade I)**

39.0 km **Höpöttäjänvirta.** Confluence of the rivers Pudasjoki and Lieksanjoki.

40.0 km **Ruunaan Matkailu (right).** Accommodation, restaurant, sauna, tel. +358 (0)13 533 130.

44.0 km **Bridge over the river Naarajoki.** Road between Lieksa and Ruunaa.

44.0 km **Ruunaan Tupa restaurant (right).** Café-restaurant, WC, tel. +358 (0)13 533 166.

Ruunaa Visitor Centre (right). Information, fishing permits, maps, tel. +358 (0)205 64 5757.

Lomapirtti Sillankorva (left). Accommodation, sauna, tel. +358 (0)13 533 121.

- 48.0 km** **Campfire site at Niskalahti (right).** Lean-to, privy, ground hole for waste, firewood shed.
Naarakoski rapid 300 m/1 m (grade I-II). The river bends right. Four islets divide the rapid into two channels. The main channel flows to the right. In spite, both channels are runnable. On the right-hand side of the first islet, there is a small, easily avoidable stopper. The lower section of the rapid is rocky in low water. The easiest route is to paddle along the main channel close to the right bank. Inspection and portage are easiest along the right bank.

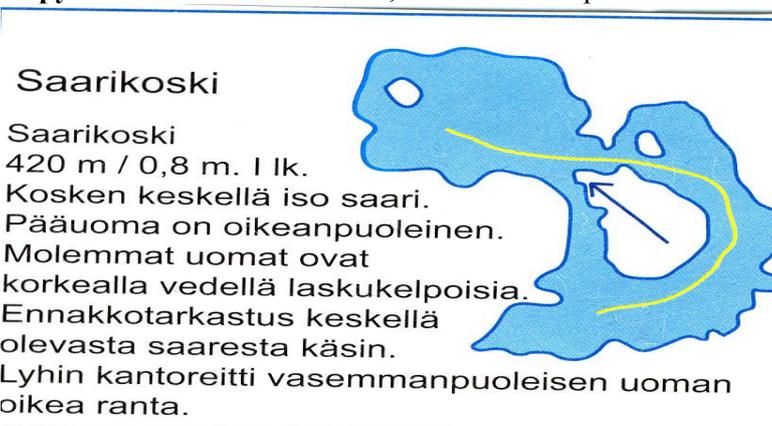


- 49.0 km** **Camping site at Naarakoski (right).** Lean-to, campfire site, wooden benches and table, privy, firewood shed, waste container. Forest road. Situated right below the rapid.



- 49.5 km** **Käpykoski rapid 300 m/1 m (grade I-II).** Several routes to paddle, easy to find from the bank of the river.

- 50.0 km** **Käpyvirta stream.** In low water, boulders are exposed near both banks.



- 53.5 km** **Saarikoski rapid 420 m/0.8 m (grade I).** A big central island divides the rapid into two channels. The main channel is on the right. In spite, both channels are runnable, but in low water, only the right one. The left channel is short, narrow and more boulder-strewn. The right channel is longer and broader. The rapid is fairly easy to run. The largest waves are in the

lower section of the right channel near an islet, which can be skirted from either side. The river is best inspected from the central island. For the shortest portage route, choose the right bank of the left-hand channel.

- 54.0 km** **Camping site at Kallioniemi (left).** Lean-to, campfire site, wooden benches and table, privy, firewood shed, waste container. Situated right below the rapid.
- 57.0 km** **Riikosenvirta stream.**
- 58.0 km** **Kivikoronvirta/camping site (right).** Lean-to, campfire site, wooden benches and table, privy, firewood shed, waste container.
- 63.0 km** **Hämeenjärvi. Confluence of the rivers Jongunjoki and Lieksanjoki.** The river becomes muddled with lots of small, grassy islets. Follow the right-hand shoreline to reach lake Hämeenjärvi.
- 63.6 km** **Campfire site at Muuraisniemi (right).** Campfire site, privy, firewood shed, waste container.
- 69.0 km** **Campfire site at Ritosärkkä (right).** Campfire site, privy, firewood shed, waste container.
- 75.0 km** **Finish (starting place) at village Nurmijärvi and Erästely Canoe & Outdoors**

PUBLIC RIGHT OF ACCESS IN FINLAND

* The public right of access requires compliance with certain rules.

* There are many public rights of access that allow people to enjoy the countryside as well as to cross privately owned land and waterways. These rights and obligations are part of the Scandinavian way of life. * River boating is permitted, provided that it does not cause any unnecessary disturbance. Swimming, bathing and other use of water as well as temporary anchorage are also permitted. * River banks may be used for short-term disembarking and camping. However, private gardens and the banks of summer cottages should not be used. * Pitching a tent or a camp for a couple of days is permitted provided that it does not cause any damage, inconvenience or disturbance to the landowner or tenant.* Lighting an open fire without the permission of the landowner is always prohibited, except at official campfire sites. When forest fire warnings are in force, no fires may be lit at all. The considerate hiker uses a camp cooker, which is safer than an open fire. Before leaving, always check that the fire has been completely extinguished and that the site is otherwise left tidy.* Picking wild berries, mushrooms and unprotected flowers is usually permitted. Fishing and hunting are prohibited without the appropriate permits.* It is an offence to leave litter lying around. Combustible waste may be burned in an open fire, but non-combustible waste should be taken to waste containers situated at official campfire sites. Besides taking care of your own waste, it is a good idea to keep an eye on tidiness in general.* Please do not leave any plastic waste lying around!

WHITE WATER SAFETY

Canoeists should always wear a personal flotation device. Without one, even an experienced swimmer may drown in the event of an accident. Some accidents have already happened. Personal equipment should include a helmet. A proper spray deck should be used to keep the water out of the canoe. Although the lengths and fall heights of the rapids on the River Lieksanjoki are fairly modest, it should be borne in mind that large masses of water make the rapids more powerful and demanding than the figures may suggest.

Rapids should never be run alone. The current usually takes a capsized canoeist below the rapid and his/her equipment even further away. In such a case, the help of another canoeist is vital.

Boat traffic along the River Lieksanjoki is at times busy because of organized rapids shooting trips. There can be boats on the river from dawn to dusk. The biggest rapids shooting boats can seat 18 persons and are made of wood. Their manoeuvrability in white water is limited. Such a boat cannot be

brought to a stop in a rapid, nor are sudden evasive movements possible. Before you run a rapid or start playing in it, make sure there are no risks. Especially playing in the stopper wave of Neitikoski rapid causes a situation where the boatman and the canoeist cannot see each other in time without the help of a bank team. Cold fast flowing water stiffens a swimmer quickly (risk of hypothermia). When paddling in cold waters, it is recommended to use a wet or dry suit in addition to a personal flotation device. The River Lieksanjoki flows mainly through sparsely populated areas. Unnecessary risks should be avoided, as getting help may take too long.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF RAPIDS

- Grade I:** Very easy. Small, regular waves. Course is clearly recognizable. Man-made obstructions, e.g. abutments, log floating channels. Helmet and personal flotation device necessary.
- Grade II:** Easy. Rapids moderately difficult to run. Clear, broad course recognizable, small drops. Spray deck, helmet and personal flotation device necessary.
- Grade III:** Moderate. Numerous high, irregular waves, boulders, eddies. Course clear, although narrow. White water experience necessary. Inspection necessary. Spray deck, helmet and personal flotation device necessary.
- Grade IV:** Difficult. Long, unbroken stretches of rapids with powerful, irregular waves, dangerous boulders and boiling whirlpools. Course often difficult to recognize. Inspection essential. Powerful rapids that require careful manoeuvring. Spray deck, personal flotation device and helmet essential.
- Grade V:** Extremely difficult. Long and extremely rough surging rapid. Large drops follow one after another, almost without interruption. Channel is almost blocked. Height difference enormous. Inspection essential, although difficult to perform. Spray deck, personal flotation device and helmet essential.
- Grade VI:** Represents the absolute limit. All the difficulties of Grade V rapids, but much more severe. The rapid is almost impassable. However, an extremely experienced and skilful canoeist may be able to run it. Spray deck, personal flotation device and helmet essential. Cannot be attempted without risk to life.

Discharge figures for Ruunaa are as follows:

Mean peak discharge	209 m ³ /s
Mean discharge of river	71 m ³ /s
Mean low discharge	25 m ³ /s
Mean discharge in summer about	100 m ³ /s