

Trekking on the bear trail – Karhunkierros – a hut and tent trekking tour

The perhaps best known long-distance-hiking trail in Scandinavia is situated in the south-eastern corner of Finnish Lapland, in the Oulanka national park. The special beauty of this area was remarked by the Finns already in 1897, but it was not before 1956 until the actual borders of the Oulanka national park were fixed by law. Together with the Russian Paanajärvi nationalpark which starts right after the border, Oulanka forms a huge wilderness area which is a refuge for many rare animal and plant species.

Remarkable for this national park is the wild river Oulankajoki, which we often follow during our tour. We see unique rock formations, canyons, roaring rapids, water falls but also parts where the river flows silent and peacefully. We walk through deep, silent forests, pass bogs, live in basic but romantic wilderness huts or in tents. Silence, cracking camp fires, magnificent nature – a great experience!

Price

€ 1020 per person from/to Kuusamo airport, Finland

Departures (Sunday – Saturday)

18.-24.6.2011 (midsummer trip – experience the white nights of Lapland!)

20.-26.8.2011 (beginning of autumn, first autumn colours)

Included services

- transfers from/to Kuusamo airport
- 4 nights in wilderness cabins or 2 - 3 person-tents
- 2 nights in the Hotel Kuusanka (double rooms)
- full board during the tour
- experienced English speaking wilderness guide
- tents, cooking-equipment

Requirements

- Good physical condition
- used to carrying backpack (max. 15 kg)
- Team spirit, cooperation
- Endurance, will to live in simple conditions

Not included Services

- Alcoholic drinks

Program

1st day: Transfer from the airport Kuusamo to the cosy Hotel Kuusanka. Meeting the guide. During the get together dinner information on the coming week. Overnight in double rooms.

2nd day: Start to the trek. Road Kuusamo-Salla - Taivalköngäs; The trail leads through dry forests and to Ristikallio, a steep rock with a stunning view down to a lake. Further on to the beautiful falls of Taivalköngäs, where we stay overnight in the cabin or tents. Distance about 9 km, duration about 3 hours.

3rd day: Taivalköngäs - Kiutaköngäs; Possibility for a worthwhile extra trip to the Oulanka-Canyon (8 km return) without luggage. After picking up our luggage again we hike further along the Oulanka river to the impressive wild water of Kiutaköngäs. We stay the night in tents with view onto the rapids (possibility for food-shopping); Distance about 9 km, duration about 3 hours.

4th day: Kiutaköngäs - Jussinkämpä; Hiking along the beautiful Oulanka river. We enjoy the botanical variety and great landscapes. In the evening we reach Jussinkämpä: A cabin on the shore of a large lake, which invites for an evening bath or just sitting there and enjoying the sunset. Overnight in the cabin or in tents. Distance about 15 km, duration about 5 hours.

5th day: Jussinkämpä - Jyrävä; The trail leads us to the shore another river: Kitkajoki, famous for its trout and wild rapids (river rafting). We continue along the Small Bear trail (pieni karhunkierros), walk over extension bridge and follow the canyon of the Kitka joki with many spectacular sights. We stay overnight in a wilderness cabin (or in tents) close to the water falls of Jyrävä. Distance about 16 km, duration about 5 hours

6th day: Jyrävä - Juuma; on a very short hike we pass the Myllykoski-falls, which are not big but very idyllic. After a short visit of the old mill we head out to Juuma, our trail end. Distance about 5 km, duration 2 - 3 hours. Transfer back to Kuusamo Hotel Kuusanka. Sauna. Last dinner together with the guide.

7th day: After breakfast transfer to the airport.

Overnights/catering

The common material (incl. food) will be split within the participants. The food must be carried for 3 days maximum. Shopping-possibilities during the trek. The overnights are partly in cabins, partly in tents.

Group size

min. 5 max. 10 persons