



VATTAJA • OHTAKARI

KARIPOLKU TRAIL • OHTAKARI NATURE TRAIL
VATTAJA BEACH



MAPS 1-2

KARIPOLKU TRAIL (7.3 KM/DIRECTION)

Medium difficulty trail – Trail sections with tree roots. There is a steep climb on the trail in the section between Vätunginjärventie road and Jussinpauha. The trail goes through a sheep paddock. Part of the trail runs along duckboards.

Karipolku hiking trail starts in Kilpipakka and ends at Vattajanniemi bathing area in Lohtaja. While there is no winter maintenance on the trail, hikers are welcome to use it. This trail runs through pine heaths and along forest roads. Nature is constantly changing in this area. On the shallow coast, the impacts of land uplift following the most recent glacial period can be seen clearly. Evidence of land uplift includes fladas and gloses, or former bays which have lost their connection to the sea as the land rises. The land uplift forests in the dune area are diverse and rich in species. Many rare butterfly, plant and bird species thrive in this area.

Along the trail, hikers will find Maijanaro lean-to shelter and campfire site, Jussinpauha lean-to shelter and campfire site, and Karipolku birdwatching tower, which offers views across a nearby flada. Jussinpauha lean-to shelter is supplied with firewood which hikers must cut to suitable lengths. An axe and saw are provided for this purpose.

OHTAKARI NATURE TRAIL (1.5 KM)

Difficult trail – The nature trail is narrow and rocky.

The nature trail leads through the historic island of Ohtakari with an old fishing village. Along the trail, hikers will find an ancient stone labyrinth, a lean-to shelter and a campfire site. There is an observation tower and a fishing museum on the island.

VATTAJA BIRDWATCHING TOWER

The birdwatching tower is located on the tip of Vattajanniemi headland near a sandy beach and the open sea, at the start of Ohtakari causeway. The 14-metre tower is ideal for watching migratory birds.

VATTAJA BEACH

Medium difficulty - The sand makes for strenuous walking. Difficult accessible duckboards can be found on the side of the parking area.

Trail runs along sandy dunes on the shores of Vattajanniemi headland, offering views of the open sea. There is an campfire site near Vattajanniemi parking area. The dunes of Vattajanniemi make up the largest dune beach in the northern boreal zone. The pristine dune shores offer something to see and experience to everyone from surfers to birdwatchers.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRACKS

In snowy winters, several ski tracks are kept open in Vattaja and Ohtakari areas. In summer, the ski tracks can be used by hikers where applicable.



- *You can move freely in Vattaja area under the Finnish everyone's rights, but you should pay attention to the Finnish Defence Forces' shooting practices, warnings issued about them, and hazardous zones. To check for possible access restrictions in the area, see the information boards along the roads or the website of the Finnish Defence Forces.*
- *When hiking, take note of the bird nesting season (from 15 April to 31 July) and the grazing areas on the island.*
- *Please follow marked trails to avoid damaging the sensitive dune nature.*
- *We follow the principles of litter-free hiking.*

Access

Karipolku trail

Kilpipakantie road

The parking area is on the left-hand side of the road when you turn from Ohtakarintie road to Kilpipakantie. There is a signpost next to the parking area. To access the trail, continue along Kilpipakantie road and follow the paint marks. You can also reach the trail from the Dune trail parking area, where the trailhead is on the right side of the shore when approached from the parking area.

Vattaja beach

Ohtakarintie 719

After Lake Vätunginjärvi, take the road that turns to the right from Ohtakarintie. You can park at the widened end of the trail. There are no signposts in the parking area.

Ohtakari nature trail

Ohtakarintie 999

The trailhead is at the end of Ohtakarintie road. There is no official parking area here for visitors to the nature trail.

EMERGENCY NUMBER 112

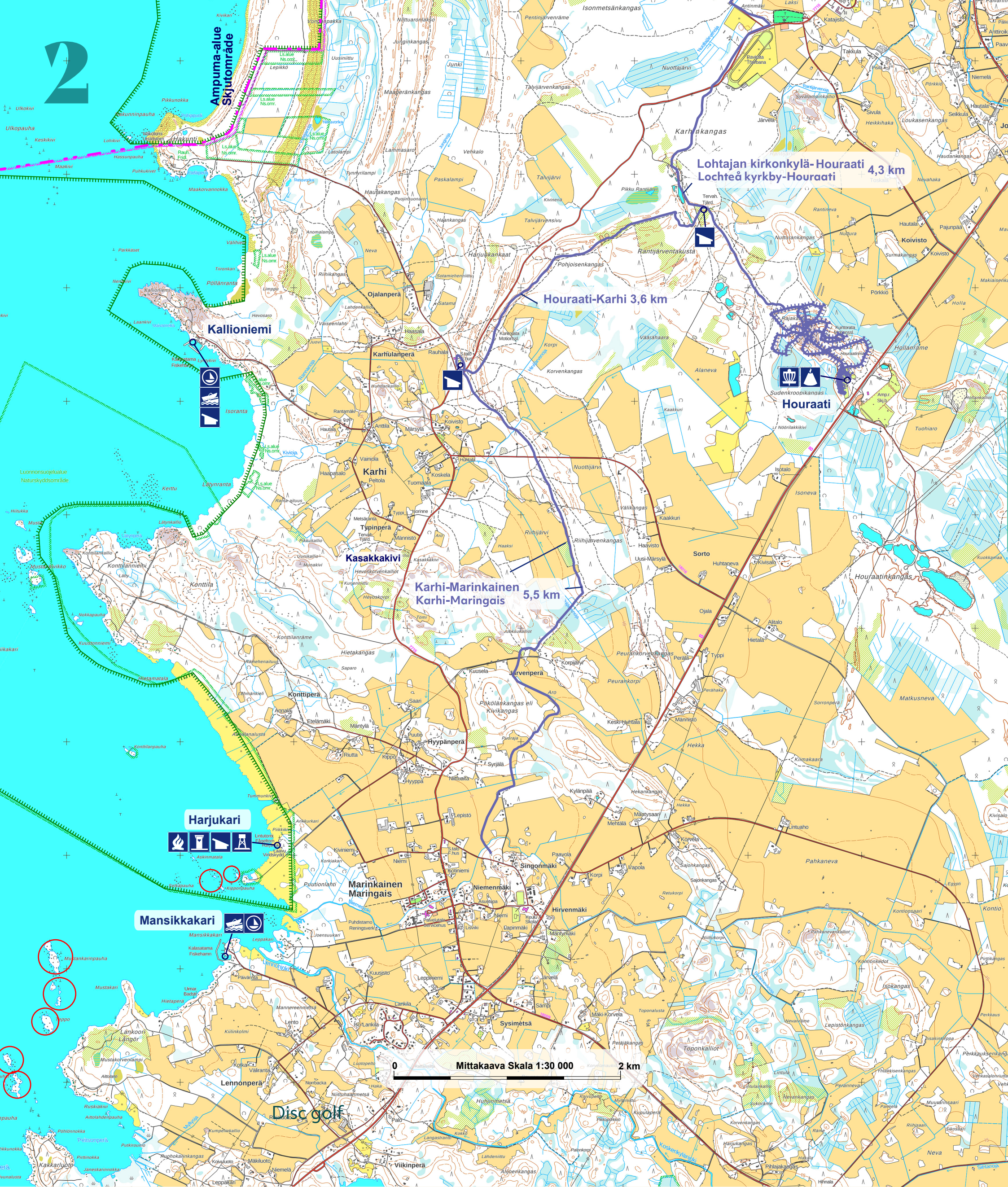
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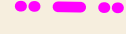
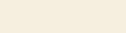
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|--|----------------------------|--|-------------------|--|----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| | Ski track | | Lighted ski track | | Bathing area | | Fishing dock |
| | Nature trail | | Information board | | Guest marina | | Boat launching ramp |
| | Hiking trail | | Parking | | Lean-to shelter | | |
| | Shooting range boundary | | Campfire site | | Birdwatching tower | | |
| | Natura 2000 site | | Outdoor toilet | | Demanding accessible trail | | |
| | Valuable bird nesting area | | | | | | |



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|--|----------------------------|---|-----------------|---|---------------------|
|  | Lighted ski track |  | Lean-to shelter |  | Guest marina |
|  | Ski track |  | Hut |  | Boat launching ramp |
|  | Shooting range boundary |  | Outdoor toilet |  | Birdwatching tower |
|  | Natura 2000 site |  | Campfire site |  | Disc golf |
|  | Valuable bird nesting area | | | | |