

ROVANIEMI

Nestled on the Arctic Circle, Rovaniemi serves as the official hometown of Santa Claus and the capital of Finnish Lapland. While it's a functional commercial and municipal centre where locals live and work, it lacks the romanticised charm of more remote Lapland destinations. However, Rovaniemi is a convenient gateway to the region, blending modern amenities with access to Lapland's wilderness and cultural experiences.

GETTING TO ROVANIEMI

By Air: Rovaniemi Airport is located 10 km from the city centre. Taxis are readily available during flight arrivals. Alternatively, Santa's Express (run by Pikakuljetus Rovaniemi Oy travels to the city centre, train station, Santa Claus Village, and Santa Park for €3.50 while the Airportbus connects the airport to the city's bus terminal and several hotels for €7-12 per person.

By Train or Bus: Both stations are about 1 km from the city centre, with taxi services available nearby. Rovaniemi's well-connected rail and bus links make it an ideal starting point for exploring Lapland.



Ranua Wildlife Park



CULTURE FASCINATIONS

Santa Claus Village & Santa Park

Meet Santa every day of the year at the Santa Claus Village or visit Santa Park, a whimsical underground cavern offering activities for all ages. The Santa Claus Main Post Office, part of Finland's official postal network, allows visitors to send holiday greetings stamped with Santa's unique Arctic Circle postmark.

Santa Claus Secret Forest – Joulukka – Alternatively you could step straight into a fairytale at Joulukka, which is situated only 16 kilometres from Rovaniemi, deep in the Finnish forest. In Joulukka you can explore Santa's command centre with the help from the elves and meet Santa himself in enchanting surroundings.

Winter Activities - During the winter months, embrace the Arctic winter with activities like snowmobiling, husky sledging, and reindeer safaris. For a more tranquil experience, try cross-country skiing or snowshoeing in the snow-covered landscapes.

Ranua Wildlife Park - About an hour's drive from Rovaniemi, this is the northernmost zoo in the world, home to polar bears, lynxes, elk, and over 50 other species of Arctic animals.

Arktikum Science Centre & Museum - Explore the history, culture, and nature of the Arctic region through interactive exhibits and displays. This striking building also provides an ideal vantage point for viewing the northern lights during winter.



This company meets high standards of social and environmental impact.



Santa Claus Village



Arktikum Rovaniemi

SHOPPING

If you need to do any shopping, the city centre is the right place to go. There you'll also find shopping centres, such as [Sampokeskus](#) and [Rinteenkulma](#). If you're souvenir hunting, Santa Claus Village has a good selection of souvenirs available.

For design souvenirs and gifts, head to the [Arctic Design Shop](#) in city centre. This boutique shop has a selection of jewellery, home decor, textiles, books, food and clothing from upcoming Finnish designers.

GETTING AROUND

Rovaniemi city centre is relatively small and you can walk to most places in the city. The bus is also an easy way to get around if you need to get outside the city centre. The bus to Santa Claus Village and Santa Park is line number 8, and the same bus also goes to the Railway station (check the direction).



RESTAURANTS

Restaurant Nili

Restaurant Nili offers traditional Lappish dishes, such as reindeer, salmon and bear dishes.

Address: [Valtakatu 20](#), 96200 Rovaniemi

Phone: +358 400 369 669

[Website](#)

Arctic Restaurant

Arctic Restaurant combines a cosy atmosphere with attentive service and exceptional local cuisine. Known for its expertly prepared reindeer and moose dishes, it offers high-quality dining at great value.

Address: [Valtakatu 18](#), Rovaniemi

Phone: +358 201 710 130

[Website](#)



Photos: Restaurant Nili

Nova Skyland Restaurant

Locals and visitors alike enjoy eating out at this restaurant because of the high quality meals. The restaurant serves Lappish and Asian meals prepared with local ingredients. They aim to surprise you with flavour combinations you cannot taste anywhere else. The skillful chefs can transform the dishes into tasty combinations to make them suitable for special diets or enjoyable for children. The recipes are planned by Jari Ruonakoski – Maître Rôtisseur Confrérie de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs.

Address: [Tahtikuja 6](#), Rovaniemi 96930

tel. +358 405 603 809

If you visit Lapland in the winter, remember to dress warmly and in several layers! The outer layer should consist of a quality outdoor garment designed to repel wind and frost. However, there is no need to worry if you do not own proper Arctic gear, as you can also rent clothing from many of the safari companies located in the centre of Rovaniemi.