



INFO

Municipality of Ii with around 10,000 residents is surrounded by the beautiful seaside, Gulf of Bothnia and three rivers. Only a 25 min drive from the City of Oulu, Ii offers relaxing vacation opportunities and has over 1,500 leisure apartments. Ii entertains visitors with summer fairs, art exhibitions and outdoor activities like trekking on nature trails, fishing, berry picking and kayaking.

Many people wonder about Ii's unusual short name. The origin of the name is said to be based on the Sami word *iddja* or *ijje* which means night. Ii was formed as administrative borough in 1445. Back then, Ii was known as a trading centre and a harbour, that exported salmon, peat and furs.

Awarded climate work

Nowadays Ii is known as one of the best Bioeconomy cases in the Nordic region and thrives to become a zero emission and waste-free community. The municipality has set an ambitious goal to reduce 80 percent of carbon emissions by the year 2020, which is over 30 years faster than the EU climate target. All produced energy is renewable: hydro, geothermal and wind power as well as bio-based fuels. One of Finland's largest wind farms is also in Ii.

Getting here

Ii is located 35 km north from the city of Oulu, along on the highway E75. The nearest airport and train station are in Oulu. Public bus (number 23) runs to Ii from Oulu city center once an hour and takes about 50 minutes. See timetables: oulunjoukkoliikenne.fi/english

Looking for accommodation, shops, restaurants and activities?

See: visitii.fi/en

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IIN KUNTA

Municipality of Ii

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EXPLORE NATURE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES





CULTURE AND MUSEUMS

1 OLD TOWN OF II

Enjoy the lively events, visit the museum of local history, walk along culture heritage route.

Ii Wanha Hamina (Old Hamina) is among the Northern Finland's oldest trading posts and dates to the 14th century. The name "Hamina" has its roots in the Swedish term "hamn", which means harbour. It used to be a home to yearly markets with as much as 2 000 visitors from all over the northern Finland. Nowadays the Old Hamina is a tight-knit neighbourhood that has managed to keep its own unique historical spirit.

Most of the houses along two narrow streets, Alakatu "lower street" and Yläkatu "upper street," are built side by side having the corners almost touching each other. The oldest buildings – or at least the vintage of the timber used to build them – are from the early 19th century. The heart of Wanha Hamina is the Huilinki stage where plenty of concerts, theatre plays and events take place.

Ii church

The church was built in 1949-50, designed by Finnish architects Strandberg and Hytönen. The sharp profile of the church was modelled after the old church dear to the villagers was burned down due to a lightning strike in the beginning of the 40's. On the ceiling, there is a votive ship, which are relatively common in Scandinavian coastal towns. Ii's unique ship depicts a local ship type called Jähti. Finnish artist Eero Nelimarkka painted the beautiful fresco wall at the altar.

See historical buildings and monuments:

visitii.fi/buildings-monuments

Address: Puistotie 2, Ii

Arrival instructions: Road signs to Wanha Hamina on highway E75. Turn from the roundabout towards the town center and drive Kirkkotie about 500 m down.

More information: visitii.fi/old-town

2 LOCAL MUSEUM OF II

Familiarise with the local culture, traditions and folklore.

The museum tells the story of life in Ii from the pre-historical times until present day with modern, recently renewed exhibitions. The museum area consists of four buildings: the old parish granary, the museum hall, old storage and the loggers building museum cafe Huilinki.

In the museum, you can learn about the life in the local iron age village or the early industrial history with a peculiar glass factory owner, Hourrooti. Exhibitions display the local traditional livelihoods, fishing, farming and logging. Kids can try their skills in archaeology. Don't forget to stop by in the picturesque museum cafe Huilinki for a coffee or a local delicacy, salmon soup. The museum cafe Huilinki is serving coffee, snacks and lunch all year around.

Local museum is open from June to the beginning of August, Tuesday to Sunday from 11.30 to 18.00, free admission.

Address: Puistotie 4, Ii

More information: visitii.fi/museum

3 CULTURE HERITAGE ROUTE RUUSTINNA

Learn li's way of life.

Route Ruustinna is about 2 km long suitable by walking or cycling. Route starts from the centre of li (Old li Hamina) and goes along the riverside passing the Environmental Art Park and and finally taking you to the KulttuuriKauppila Art Center, or the other way round. Along the way, there are information boards about the li's history, nature and life.

Address: Starting point Puistotie 4, li or Kauppilantie 15, li

More information: visitii.fi/ruustinna

4 KULTTUURIKAUPPILA ART CENTRE AND

5 ENVIRONMENTAL ART PARK

Sustainable contemporary art by the river and in the heart of li.

KulttuuriKauppila Art Centre runs an international artist residency, produces events and provides studios for local artists. KulttuuriKauppila is an active organiser of exhibitions, workshops and events such as Art li Biennial (AIB) and Valto Pernu Photo Marathon, organised on alternate years.

KulttuuriKauppila is located by the river li in an idyllic area. The residence house was built in the 1800's and the atelier built in 2006. The atelier has studio facilities used by the in-house artists and exhibition spaces. Exhibitions are held in every summer.

Art li Biennial produces works of art for the Environmental Art Park located near the centre. The Art Park first opened in June 2012 and has now become a popular recreational destination for locals and travelers. Artworks are made from natural and recycle materials by both local and international artists. Some artworks can last only one season until it merges with the nature, some change their appearance year by year. Free admission to the park, no winter maintenance.

Arrival instructions to Kulttuurikauppila: On highway E75 from the south there are road signs guiding to KulttuuriKauppila Art Centre.

Address: Kauppilantie 15, li

Arrival instruction to Environmental Art Park: In the centre of li, near the highway E75, right by the river. Picnic table at the park, maps of the area available near the entrance.

Address: Main entrance and parking: Pappilantie 16, li.

Opening times and exhibitions: kulttuurikauppila.fi/en

More information: visitii.fi/environment-art



NATURE ACTIVITIES AND TRAILS



6 HIASTINHAARA NATURE TRAIL AND BIRDWATCHING TOWER

Hike along the duckboards, observe birds and count sheep on the field.

Hiastinhaara is perfect place for hike and bird watching while there are hundreds of migrating birds in the area every spring and autumn. The record is nearly 90 different species. Place is located around 4,5km from the town center on the Hiastinlahti Bay, where tributary stream of Ii river also flows. Easy access nature trails are 2 km and 0,7 km, suitable for families with children.

Area is protected by Natura 2000 network. In summertime there are sheep in the area, and it's important to keep the gates closed. Stay also on the marked trails, so you do not disturb the wildlife.

Services: Campfire, lean-to shelter, outhouse toilet, birdwatching tower, info boards about nature, plants and animals in the area, small swimming spot. Free admission, no winter maintenance.

Address: Hiastinkuja, Ii

Arrival instructions: You can reach the location by car or by bike. Road signs guide you from highway E75 to take a turn to Kantolantie from the southern exit, after about 1,5 km there will be a left turn to Hiastinkuja (gravel road). In the end of the road there is a parking space.

More information: visitii.fi/trail-hiastinhaara

7 MERIHELMI SEA SIDE AND SAILOR'S TRAIL

Walk along the Sailor's trail and have a picnic at the gorgeous lappish hut.

Stunning sea views, birdwatching tower and a place of silence marked with a wooden anchor will guarantee successful pictures of your holiday. In the winter time, the Merihelmi is a popular spot for ice fishing or riding a snowmobile.

Services: Seaview restaurant and small boutiques, camping area and caravan parking, gas station, children's playground, birdwatching tower, Sailor's trail (300 m duckboards) with information boards about history, outdoor seating area.

Address: Rynkyntie 21, Kuivaniemi

Arrival instructions: Merihelmi is located on the coast of the Bothnian Bay along the highway E75 in between the cities of Kemi and Oulu. Distance from the Ii town centre is about 25 km.

More information: visitii.fi/sailors-trail

8 VATUNKI POINT AND OOLANTI TRAIL

Sense the power of the sea, go hiking along the Oolanti nature trail, stand at the feet of wind mills.

At the harbour of Vatunki you can see a wide range of fishing boats and working fishermen. Oolanti nature trail is a place to get to know the nature and history of the area.

Services: Swimming spot, childrens playground, nature trail (450 m), lean-to and campfire, outhouse toilet, caravan parking, berths for visitor boats.

Address: Pohjoisrannatie 759, Kuivaniemi

Arrival instructions: Vatunki is located about 40 km from the Ii town center towards Kuivaniemi, north on highway E4. Road signs will guide you to take a turn to Pohjoisrannantie and drive about 7 km until the end of the point.

More information: visitii.fi/vatunki-point

HOW ABOUT . . .

ENJOYING A PICNIC BY A CAMPFIRE ?



Lappish huts and lean-tos are great spots for a break and observing nature. Destinations are located at the ends of the forest trails with short walking distance from parking lot.

Praava Harbour

Swim in the clear water, have a cup of coffee at the campfire, enjoy the colors of the sunset.

At the point of Praava you can find a popular sanded bottom swimming beach. On clear sky, you can see Röyttä island in the horizon. During winter, locals enjoy outdoor activities like ice fishing, grill sausages at campfire (BYO firewood) and have fun with traditional Finnish ice sleigh carousel.

Address: Praavantie 347, Ii

Arrival instructions: On highway E4 take a turn to Praavantie towards Ojakylä and drive until the end of the road (about 4 km).

See more information on different campfire spots: visitii.fi/campfire

EXERCISING OUTDOORS ?



Ii has good opportunities for outdoor sports, like skiing, swimming, running and biking. There's several launching spots to get your canoe or boat in the water.

Illinsaari Outdoor Area

Located in centre, excellent place for skiing (1 - 5,5 km), running and playing frisbee golf (18-hole track) and enjoying snack at campfire. Illinsaari has also swimming beach, an outdoor dog park and a new children's playground. Fishing on the area requires a permit. 18-hole frisbee golf forest track goes around the area, free admission.

Address: Illinsaarentie 68, Ii

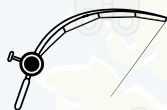
Pankinnokka beach

Gorgeous and recently renewed swimming beach by the sea and river in Kuivaniemi (about 35 km from Ii centre). Two spots for swimming, a shallow one by the sea and a deeper one on the river side. The area has a toilet, changing rooms, hut with a fireplace, beach volleyball field and a picnic spot. Area is maintained by the local community.

Address: Pankinnokantie 45, Kuivaniemi

More information: visitii.fi/exercise

CATCHING A FISH ?



Ii river is one of the most popular fishing destinations in Northern Finland and home to the most important lamprey areas.

Rantakestilä

Fishing with a rod in this area does not require a permit. There is a campfire (BYO firewood), dock and boat launching area. As a landmark stands a original steam sawmill's pipe from the 1860. Area also has a Fishers' incubator that produce and grow European whitefish and lamprey for stocking.

Address: Rantakestiläntie 14, Ii

More information on different fishing spots: visitii.fi/fishing

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN II ?



Bursting with ideas, Ii has annual extravaganzas for the entertainment of all. These include for example Kuningasjätkä - lumberjack event (June), the Kuivaniemi Heritage Market (July), the Horror Film Festival Iik! (= "yikes") (November) and many other.

More information: visitii.fi/events