

Welcome to Ii!

Your Gateway to Authentic Northern Finland

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 with nature and outdoor activities.

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 mentioned in written sources for the first time as a chapel in 1374. Back then Ii was known as a trading centre and a harbour, that exported salmon, wood tar and furs. Nowadays Ii is known for aiming to become a zero emission and waste-free community. Energy produced locally comes from renewable sources: hydro, geothermal and wind power as well as biobased fuels.

1

Old Town of Ii (Wanha Hamina)



Visit the museum of local history and picturesque church, walk along culture heritage route.

Ii's old town is one of the oldest trading settlements in Northern Finland. The name "Hamina" has its roots in the Swedish term "hamn", which means harbour. Nowadays the Old Hamina is a tight knit residental area that has managed to keep its own unique historical spirit.

In the heart of Wanha Hamina is located **Local Museum of Ii** which is open from June to the beginning of August (free admission). Exhibitions display the Ii's traditional livelihoods, fishing, farming, and logging. Kids can try their skills in archaeology. Don't forget to stop by the picturesque museum cafe Huilinki for a coffee or lunch.

Also during summer, the neighborhood comes alive with music concerts, fairs, theatre performances and a variety of events.

Ii Church, built in the 1950s, is also well worth a visit and is open to visitors free of charge. Inside the church, a votive ship hangs from the ceiling, reflecting a maritime tradition common in Scandinavian coastal communities.

Cultural Heritage Route Ruustinna is a two-kilometre route starting from Wanha Hamina and following the riverside to the Environmental Art Park. From there, you can continue on foot or by bike all the way to **KulttuuriKauppila Art Centre**. Along the route, you can discover stories about Ii's history, nature, buildings and local way of life. The stories on the information boards are also available as audio recordings in English and can be listened to on your mobile phone. Scan the QR code at the starting point to begin your journey.

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

visitii.fi/en/Hamina

2

Environmental Art Park

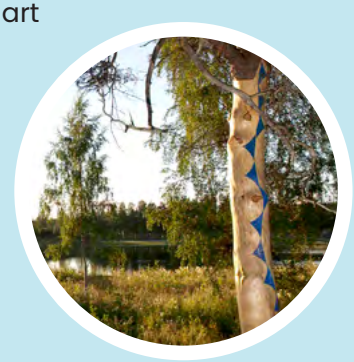


Sustainable contemporary art by the river and in the heart of Ii.

The Environmental Art Park is a popular recreational destination for locals and travellers (free admission). Artworks are made from natural and recycled materials by both local and international artists. Some artworks last only one season before gradually blending into nature.

KulttuuriKauppila Art Centre runs an international artist residency, produces various cultural events and exhibitions. Every other summer, international artists participating in the **Art Ii Biennial** create new artworks and installations for the park.

In winter and after dark, the park transforms into a unique outdoor destination with changing colorful lights. When conditions allow, an ice-skating track winds through the park, offering a memorable way to enjoy art and the snowy riverside landscape. You can explore the park on skates, on foot or with a traditional Finnish kick sled.



Address: Pappilantie 16, Ii

visitii.fi/en/art-park

3

Vihkosaari Beach and Swimming Facility



Enjoy a refreshing swim, relax on the beach and take in the beautiful river views.

One of the most popular swimming spots in the area and is suitable for both families and active swimmers. The facility features a year-round swimming pier and four swimming lanes, each 25 metres long, separated by ropes.

Visitors can also use the changing rooms, a sauna available for rent, a campfire and picnic area, a beach volleyball court, children's swings, a climbing frame and a composting toilet.

Address: Illinsaarentie 18, Ii



visitii.fi/en/swimming-spots

4

Hiastinhaara Nature Trail and Birdwatching Tower



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

Hiastinhaara is located around 4.5 km from the centre of Ii, by Hiastinlahti Bay. You can reach the location by car or by bike.

Hiastinhaara is a perfect place for hiking and birdwatching with hundreds of migratory birds visiting the area each spring and autumn. The record is nearly 90 different species. Easy access nature trails are (2–2.7 km) suitable for families with children. The trails partly follow duckboards.

Area is protected by Natura 2000 network. In summertime, sheep graze in the area, helping to preserve the traditional landscape. Free admission, no winter maintenance. Please remember to keep the gates closed.

Services

Campfire, lean-to shelter, small swimming spot, outhouse toilet, birdwatching tower, information boards about nature, plants and wildlife along the trail can be read or listened to with headphones (also in English). Overnight stays are permitted only at or near the lean-to shelter.

Address: Hiastinkuja, Ii

visitii.fi/en/hiastinhaara


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Gulf of Bothnia
Kemi, Rovaniemi
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Iijoki River
Oulu
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How about...





… fishing, paddling and discovering Ii from the water?

The Iijoki River and the Bothnian Bay offer plenty of ways to experience Ii from the water or in winter on the ice.

The Iijoki River is a popular fishing destination in Northern Finland and an important habitat for lamprey. Guided fishing trips are available for individual visitors and groups. Typical catches include pike and perch, while lucky anglers may also catch pikeperch or sea trout.

At Rantakestilä, you can try angling with a simple rod and line without a fishing permit. The riverside area also has a jetty, boat launch and campfire site (bring your own wood), as well as the preserved chimney of a steam-powered sawmill from the 1860s a distinctive reminder of the area's industrial past.

For a different perspective, hire a kayak or stand-up paddleboard (SUP) and ask a local guide or rental provider to recommend a route suited to your experience and the day's conditions. You can also book a boat trip to Röyttä Island for your group and experience the peaceful scenery of the northern archipelago.

In winter, when conditions allow, the river and sea turn into vast frozen landscapes. Join a local guide for ice fishing or take a snowmobile-pulled sleigh ride across the ice. Always seek local advice on ice conditions before heading out on your own.

And on clear, dark winter nights, remember to look up, you might catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights.





Photo: Visit Northern Finland

... exploring nature and enjoying the outdoors?

Ii offers plenty of places to enjoy the outdoors, whether you are looking for a morning run, a family adventure, a refreshing swim or simply a quiet moment in nature.

Hire a fatbike and explore forest trails and quiet village roads at your own pace. Ask the rental provider to recommend a route suited to your experience, the season and current conditions.

Along the way, traditional Finnish huts and lean-to shelters offer peaceful places for a picnic and a break in nature. Use designated campfire sites, check current fire restrictions and remember that most sites require you to bring your own firewood.

Close to the centre of Ii, **Illinsaari Outdoor Area** is an easy year-round choice. Explore the trails on foot, go for a run, play the 18-hole disc golf course or visit the playground with the children. There is also a fenced dog park. In winter, cross-country skiing routes range from 1 to 5.5 kilometres.

For more active outdoor fun, visit **Valtari Arena** for skateboarding, scooting, games and exercise, or head to **Tikkamäki** for the fitness stairs and surrounding trails. In winter, Tikkamäki is popular for sledding when snow conditions allow.

By the sea, **Praava Harbour** offers a sandy beach and wide views across the Bothnian Bay, with Röyttä Island visible on the horizon on a clear day. In winter, the frozen seascape is an attraction in itself, and when conditions allow, you may even find a traditional Finnish ice carousel. **Vatunki** on the Kuivaniemi coast is another swimming beach, while nearby **Pankinnokka** is a scenic spot where the Kuivajoki River meets the sea.

Along the rivers, stop at the **Kattilankoski** shelter beside the Kuivajoki River or visit **Vuornosletto** in Olhava for a picnic and a summer swim. In **Jakkukylä,** cross the Iijoki River via suspension bridge to enjoy the views of a surrounding countryside or take the self-operated rope ferry across the river channel to Purusaari Island and follow the two-kilometre nature trail around the island.

For a peaceful inland excursion, head to **Oijärvi,** where you can enjoy a swim in the lake and visit the birdwatching tower.





… discovering local flavours and traditions?

Discover the flavours of Ii's rivers, sea, forests and local farms.

One of Ii's distinctive specialities is lamprey, a traditional delicacy available only during a short season each year.

Farm visits offer another way to discover rural life in Northern Finland. Visit a local reindeer farm to meet the animals and learn about their care and daily life on the farm. Check visiting arrangements and book ahead.

In **Iiinsaari**, book a wild food experience and discover the flavours of local herbs and berries. Learn how these natural ingredients are used in Finnish cooking and enjoy a taste of the surrounding nature.

Make time for a Finnish sauna after a day outdoors. Many accommodation providers in Ii offer access to a private or shared sauna. Check availability, booking arrangements and any additional charges with your host, then settle into the warmth and unwind.



Photo: Visit Northern Finland

... accommodation?

Stay close to nature in Ii, with options ranging from campsites and cosy cottages to bed and breakfasts, a small manor hotel and seaside resort accommodation in modern villas.

Choose a peaceful retreat by the river or sea, a countryside stay or a convenient base near local services.

Whether you are planning a short break or a longer holiday, explore the accommodation options on website: **visitii.fi/en**



Need more tips and recommendations? Ask our digital tourist guide!

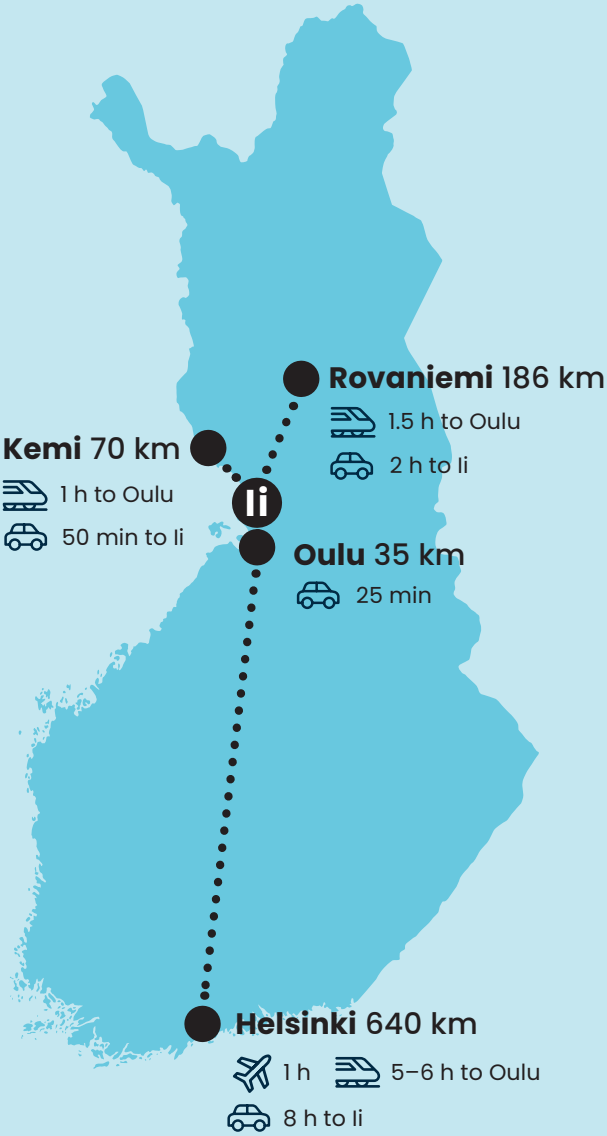
Our chatbot can help you explore Ii and plan your stay. Ask a question for ideas and practical information, or browse the website for accommodation, restaurants, summer cafés, rental services and guided activities.

Start exploring Ii!

visitii.fi/en

Getting here

Ii is located 35 km north of Oulu, along the E75 highway. The nearest airport and train station are in Oulu. Public bus runs from Oulu city center once an hour and takes about 50 minutes.



For more information

visitii.fi/en

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