**ARKTIKA DAYS 2016 IN VIROLAHTI**

The Arktika Days on 13–22 May 2016
Leerviik Recreational Area at Leerviikintie 120, Virolahti
www.arktikavirolahti.fi

The ARKTIKA BOAT TRIPS tailored for you by Jukka Pekkala

The ARKTIKA CRUISES into the eastern waters of the Gulf of Finland archipelago by East Island

**ARKTIKA RESTAURANT**
with Mirja Koivu at your service
13–15 May and 20–22 May
breakfast at 7–9 am
lunch at 11 am – 5 pm

**ARKTIKA CAFÉ AND INFO**
16–19 May at 9 am – 8 pm
Harju Vocational College

The MILLION BIRDHOUSES CHALLENGE at Leerviik
Fri–Sun 13–15 May and 20–22 May

OUTINGS AT LEERVIK
Hiking trips by Kikan Patikat

THE ARKTIKA EXHIBITION
Fri at 5 pm, Sat–Sun at 1 pm
Arktika – What and When?

- Arktika is another word for the migration of Arctic water and shore birds from their winter homes in western Europe into their nesting areas by the Arctic Sea and in the north European and Siberian tundra.
- Arktika concerns millions of water birds, geese, and waders, not to forget divers and skuas.
- The main route of Arktika is through the Gulf of Finland serving as the primary line all the way to the route formed by Lake Ladoga, Lake Onega, and the White Sea. The most massive flocks that appear in Finland are concentrated in Virolahti region.
- Arktika begins at the end of April and continues to June. What is most impressive is the mass migration of barnacle geese and brant geese during the second half of May. Virolahti aims at timing the Arktika Days as close as possible to the average migration date of the geese.
- The largest flocks are made up of thousands of birds. The best time to observe them is early in the morning and late in the evening. When the weather is clear, the flocks fly very high. Many species migrate also in the night, which is when they have to be recognized by their sounds.
- The peak of the migration varies between species. The first one is the common scoter beginning around May Day with the red knot being the last one during the first week of June.
- In addition to enjoying Arktika, bird-watchers tend to be on the lookout for exceptional individuals that have arrived from elsewhere through warm air currents to rest on the coast.
- These warm air currents also contain a massive number of insects: butterflies, wasps, plant lice, etc. Their migration is not, however, as predictable as the one of the birds.
- This autumn: The number of birds is normally 2–3 times larger, depending on how successful their nesting has been. Their flying routes and schedules vary a lot, however. The male common scoters start their return in July with the last long-tailed ducks leaving only when it starts snowing in November.

_By Seppo Vuolanto_
Everyman’s rights

Don’t forget the so-called everyman’s rights when following the Arktika days or walking out there. You are free to enjoy what nature has to offer as long as you remain quiet without causing any trouble to your environment or your fellow human beings. (www.ympäristö.fi/jokamiehenoikeudet)

Information about accommodation, cafés, and restaurants:
MAP

Birdwatching towers and good observation spots
1. The Klamila harbour, offering boat trips and cruises into the archipelago
2. The Klamila observation tower
3. The Island of Suur-Pisi
4. The Leerviik Recreational Area, the centre of the Arktika days and the observation spot for the Aidaslahti area
5. The tower of Arctic migration and Lauri’s Open-Air Church, the barbecue shed
6. The Kellovuori birdwatching tower
7. The Vilkkilä area and its birdwatching tower
8. The Kellovuori birdwatching tower

Good spots for the observation of field birds
9. The Nopala field
10. Kattilainen-Häppilä, the fields by the roadside
11. The fields of Haavisto, Ylä-Pihlaja, and Ala-Pihlaja
12. The eastern Kurkela field
13. The western Kurkela field
14. The Sydänkylä fields
15. The Harju-Ravijoki region
16. The Kotola-Miehikkälä region
17. The fields in the Virolahti village

The majority of the Virolahti shores are private. The map will inform you about the spots where you can follow the migration without causing unnecessary disturbance.

Please, be discreet to the people using the roads when parking your car by the roadside. Parking on the same side will allow the rest of the traffic to flow smoothly. During the Arktika Days, there are people driving into the fields, and these junctions should always be kept open.
PROGRAMME FOR THE ARKIKA DAYS 13–22 May 2016
Address: The Leerviik Recreational Area at Leerviiikintie 120, Virolahti

THURSDAY 12 MAY
8 am – 8 pm Foto Fennica demonstrating optics on the shore

13–15 MAY, BIRD MIGRATION

FRIDAY 13 MAY
7–9 am Breakfast, Arktika Restaurant (dance floor)
7–11 am An Arktika morning cruise, the Klamila harbour*
8 am – 8 pm The Info Spot open
8 am – 8 pm Foto Fennica demonstrating optics on the shore
• 3–8 pm A Word from Meopta
11 am – 5 pm Lunch, Arktika Restaurant (dance floor)
5 pm The Arktika exhibition & A bird lesson (dance floor)

SATURDAY 14 MAY
2 am – 2 pm The Arktika rally*
7–9 am Breakfast, Arktika Restaurant (dance floor)
7–11 am An Arktika morning cruise, the Klamila harbour*
8 am – 8 pm The Info Spot open
8 am – 2 pm Bird paintings by Pekka Saikko for sale
8 am – 8 pm Foto Fennica demonstrating optics on the shore
• 9 am – 4 pm A Word from Meopta
• 9 am – 4 pm A Word from Swarovski
• 9 am – 4 pm Maintenance of binoculars by Optifocus (cleaning your binoculars and telescopes on the spot)
11 am – 5 pm Lunch, Arktika Restaurant (dance floor)
1 pm The Arktika exhibition & A bird lesson (dance floor)
4 pm The closing of the Arktika rally (dance floor)
6–7 pm An evening walk for women (starting at the dance floor) with barbecuing of sausage
SUNDAY 15 MAY
7–9 am Breakfast, Arktika Restaurant (dance floor)
8 am – 8 pm The Info Spot open
8 am – 1 pm Bird paintings by Pekka Saikko for sale
8 am – 1 pm Foto Fennica demonstrating optics on the shore
11 am – 5 pm Lunch, Arktika Restaurant (dance floor)
12 pm Lecture: “Running Across Rare Birds” by Jukka Hintikka
1 pm The Arktika exhibition & A bird lesson (dance floor)
2–5 pm A hiking trip by Kikan Patikat
3–9 pm An Arktika cruise to Ulko-Tammio, the Klamila harbour*

MONDAY 16 MAY
9 am – 8 pm Café and Info open

TUESDAY 17 MAY
Day for Schoolchildren, Virolahti
9 am – 8 pm Café and Info open

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY
9 am – 8 pm Café and Info open

THURSDAY 19 MAY
Day for Schoolchildren, Miehikkälä
8 am – 8 pm Foto Fennica demonstrating optics on the shore
9 am – 8 pm Café and Info open

20–22 MAY BIRDS IN ILLUSTRATIONS

FRIDAY 20 MAY
7–9 am Breakfast, Arktika Restaurant (dance floor)
8 am – 8 pm The Info Spot open
8 am – 8 pm Foto Fennica demonstrating optics on the shore
10 am – 3 pm Mika Honkalinna selling books
ARHTIKA-PÄIVÄT
VIROLAHDDELLA 13.-22.5.2016

11 am – 5 pm Lunch, Arktika Restaurant (dance floor)
5 pm The Arktika exhibition & A bird lesson (dance floor)
6 pm Nature photographs by Arto Juvonen
6.30–9.30 pm An Arktika evening cruise, the Klamila harbour*

SATURDAY 21 MAY
7–9 am Breakfast, Arktika Restaurant (dance floor)
8 am – 8 pm The Info Spot open
8 am – 8 pm Foto Fennica demonstrating optics on the shore
• 9 am – 6 pm Importers: Canon, Nikon, Focus Nordic
8 am – 2 pm Bird paintings by Pekka Saikko for sale
10 am – 6 pm Mika Honkalinma selling books
11 am – 5 pm Lunch, Arktika Restaurant (dance floor)
12 pm Nature photographs by Arto Juvonen
1 pm The Arktika exhibition & A bird lesson (dance floor)
2–4 pm A family hike with a spring flower theme (starting at the dance floor) by Kikan Patikat
3–9 pm An Arktika cruise to Ulko-Tammio, the Klamila harbour*

SUNDAY 22 MAY
7–9 am Breakfast, Arktika Restaurant (dance floor)
7–11 am An Arktika morning cruise, the Klamila harbour*
8 am – 5 pm The Info Spot open
8 am – 1 pm Foto Fennica demonstrating optics on the shore
8 am – 1 pm Bird paintings by Pekka Saikko for sale
10–11 am A family hike with a bug theme (starting at the dance floor) by Kikan Patikat
10 am – 1 pm Mika Honkalinma selling books
11 am – 5 pm Lunch, Arktika Restaurant (dance floor)
12 pm Lauri’s Open-Air Church
CRUISES

Please, go on a cruise to enjoy the magnificent Arctic migration above the Gulf of Finland on Arktika, the pleasure organized by the Kelkkaniemi association. The basic charge (30 €) includes a boat trip with guidance. There are binoculars and bird books available in the boat.

An additional charge will give you a morning cruise with a breakfast (8 €) or an evening cruise with a dinner (12 €). Please, make an order when signing in! Almost every cruise will include a bird expert giving information about the Arctic migration and the migrating birds.

Signing in: fill out a form at www.arktikavirolahti.fi/risteilyt, send email at info@arktikavirolahti.fi, or call 040 710 7339. Cancellations by 8 pm the night before the cruise.

Schedule
Fri 13 May 7–11 am An Arktika morning cruise, the Klamila harbour, 30/38 €
Sat 14 May 7–11 am An Arktika morning cruise, the Klamila harbour, 30/38 €
Sun 15 May 3–9 pm A cruise to Ulko-Tammio, the Klamila harbour, 30/42 €
Fri 20 May 6.30–9.30 pm An Arktika evening cruise, the Klamila harbour 30/42 €
Sat 21 May 3–9 pm A cruise to Ulko-Tammio, the Klamila harbour, 30/42 €
Sun 22 May 7–11 am An Arktika morning cruise, the Klamila harbour, 30/38 €

BOAT TRIPS

Spring 2016: Boat trips tailored for you with the goal of taking you to the best observation spots in the Hamina and Virolahti archipelago!

A unique and outstanding chance of seeing the Arktika migration in the eastern waters of the Gulf of Finland archipelago together with an experienced organizer. Jukka Pekkala, the guide driving the boat, has an experience of over 400 Arktika days with the migration and the archipelago.
We offer four options, each lasting a different time, including a trip with guidance and coffee for groups of six or less. The length of the trip varies between 7 and 18 hours! If you do not find a suitable option, we can always offer a trip tailored according to your needs alone!

jukka.pekkala@corridor.fi
+358 40 562 1989
www.corridor.fi
www.arktikavirolahti.fi/veneretket

**Boat trips** to the islands of the eastern Gulf of Finland from the Virolahti village
Jukka Niemelä, 040 553 8545
Teuvo Niemelä, 050 372 9379

**The Info Spot**
Open Fri–Sun 13–15 May and 20–22 May 8 am – 8 pm
Café and Info open Mon–Thu 16–19 May 9 am – 8 pm

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**The Arktika Rally** on 14 May at 2 am – 2 pm
The Arktika Rally is a game for groups of 2–5 people with the goal of observing as many bird species as possible during the course of 12 hours within the borders of Virolahti. Each of the species observed must be recognized by at least 2/3 of the team members. You may also participate as a family. Please, sign up for the rally in advance! www.arktikavirolahti.fi/arktika-ralli
Sign up:
info@arktikavirolahti.fi, 040 710 7339, www.arktikavirolahti.fi
Hiking trips by Kikan Patikat
Sat 14 May 6–7 pm An evening walk for women with barbecuing of sausage at the barbecue shed, 5 € each
Sun 15 May 2–5 pm A hike at Leerviik, 5 € each
Sat 21 May 2–4 pm A family hike with a spring flower theme, 5 € each
Sun 22 May 10–11 am A family hike with a bug theme, 5 € each
Children may join for free. Your dog is also welcome as long as you keep your friend on a lead. No advance booking.
Please, feel free to inquire of other alternatives, too! Kikan Patikat / Kirsi Asikainen, 050 3033168, kirsi.asikainen@welho.com

There is an unguided nature trail designed for children with exercises included, it is available at all times.

The presentation of the Arktika exhibition and the guides
Both weekends of the Arktika Days will include a tour of the Arktika exhibition guided by a bird expert. The guides will be at your service at Leerviik every day during the Arktika Days.
Information and schedules: www.arktikavirolahti.fi/lintuopastukset

Mika Honkalinna selling books, 20–22 May, Fri 10 am – 3 pm, Sat 10 am – 6 pm, Sun 10 am – 1 pm
Painter Pekka Saikko, 14–15 May and 21–22 May, Sat 8 am – 2 pm, Sun 8 am – 1 pm
A photographic exhibition called “Ringing Birds in Virolahti 1984–1993” with Lauri Leikkonen, 16 May 12–5 pm, Roope Elfving 3 pm, 17–22 May at 3–5 pm
Pitäjänkammari (Kirkontie 480)
Lectures by Jukka Hintikka, 15 May 12 pm
Nature photographs by Arto Juvonen, 20 May 6 pm, 21 May 12 pm
The Birdhouse Challenge
The Million Birdhouses Campaign, which was launched in March, will make sure that a million new birdhouses will be placed in trees throughout Finland by the end of May 2017. They will serve as first aid for the housing shortage of birds nesting in tree holes. We will join the campaign by having a challenge of making new birdhouses included in the programme of the Arktika Days.


A bird week for children by BirdLife Suomi and Luonto-Liitto, 16–22 May 2016, Information and material: www.birdlife.fi/lintuviikko

Foto Fennica, demonstrating and selling optical equipment
12–15 May and 19–22 May at 8 am – 8 pm, Sun at 8 am – 1 pm
Theme Days
Fri 13 May at 3–8 pm A Representative from Meopta
Sat 14 May at 9 am – 4 pm A Representative from Meopta and Swarowski
Maintenance of binoculars by Optifocus (cleaning your binoculars and telescopes on the spot)
Sat 21 May at 9 am – 6 pm Importers: Canon, Nikon, Focus Nordic

The Arktika Days are organized in co-operation with
the municipality of Virolahti, Leerviikin Valkama ja Virkistysalue, BirdLife Suomi, Kellevuoren lintuseura, Virolahden riistahoihoitoyhdistys, the congregations of Hamina and Virolahti, Kaakon Luonto ja Kulttuuri, Kirkonseun kyläyhdistys, Rajan Reippaat, the volunteer fire brigade of Virolahti, the Finnish Border Guard, Harju Vocational College, East Island, Suomen Lintuvaruste, Foto Fennica, Kaakko 135, RiimuRaami, RosePrint, Tmi Siru Ahopelto, Esko and Leena Niskanen, Heikki Lommi, Jukka Niemelä, Kikan Patikat / Kirsi Asikainen, Corridor Nature / Jukka Pekkala, Juhlatarjoilut Mirja Koivu, KuvaKai, Kai Hypén, Pekka Saikko, Arto Juvonen, Jukka Hintikka, Swarowski, Meopta, Canon, Nikon, Focus Nordic, Optifocus, and Mika Honkalinna.