

Funded by the European Union, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Finland.

Nature Centers in Finland – observations from survey

Safe Environment and Cleaner Waterways to Blue Baltic Sea LUGABALT 2 - WP 3

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Luke's objectives in LUGABALT 2 project

- Activity 3 Luga Public Environmental Center (LPEC)
- Luke's tasks in activity 3: To observe, collect and introduce information and ideas from selected Nature Centers, as examples of existing ones; organizing study trips and visits to the project group to some of these centers and nature parks connected or included with them:
 - LPEC has in Finland a well comparable example, The **Mikkeli Urpola Natural Centre**, which will be used as an example, or a model, as well as findings from some other comparable Nature Centers in different parts of Finland. Information will be changed between LPEC and Luke, materials will be translated to Russian;
 - The Finnish Nature Center HALTIA in Espoo, Southern Finland, near Helsinki is one of the flagships and largest nature Centers in Finland, connected with Nuuksio National Park;
 - The Häme Nature Center in Tammela, Southern Finland, connected with the National Parks Torronsuo and Liesjärvi;
 - The Kivach Nature Center in The Republic of Karelia, Russian Federation, connected with the Kivach Nature Park is a good example of a convincingly and professionally implemented Nature Center in North-West Russia, to be compared with the Finnish ones.
 - Some of these Centers will be visited by the Russian Lugabalt 2 -project group during the study trip of the project in 2020.



Nature center - a tourism destination and an environment for learning

- The existing Nature Centers in Finland differ in size and type quite a lot, but they have quite equal goals, tasks and business plans. The ownership of them is typically public (by State or City), but they may be operated by one or several private companies. Metsähallitus, a State Forest company is the owner of some of them in Finland. According to the https://www.metsa.fi/web/en "Metsähallitus leads the way in diverse bioeconomy. We are a state-owned enterprise, responsible for the management of one third of Finland's surface area. We use and develop these state-owned land and water areas responsibly, in a way that maximizes their benefits to society as a whole".
- Nature Centers in Finland usually have a Nature Center House, located near a regional or local nature conservation area, or even beside a National Park. Services vary in scale and diversity. There normally is a small shop where books, informative maps, souvenirs etc. are for sale. Brochures and leaflets are available free of charge. Café services are often available or even a restaurant for lunch. A lecture hall with modern equipment for presentations, and some meeting rooms are common, as well. An exhibition hall or several separate rooms are filled with permanent and/or changing nature exhibitions, where in many ways you may study and learn more about phenomenon in nature during all seasons. Different nature types like forests and swamps, marine and lake water environment, agricultural and cultural environment, and even nature in urban environment are introduced.

Nature center - a tourism destination and an environment for learning

- It's usual that there exists a more or less comprehensive, somehow taxonomic collection of filled mammals and birds, typical for the country and region. Often they are introduced also in vitrines or dioramas which present some of the typical natural environments, where many species can be placed and introduced in their ecological niche.
- Predator-prey relationships and other ecological aspects may be introduced in a quite concrete manner. There normally exist collections of invertebrate animals for example insects and arachnids, as well.
- Fish and other aquatic species are usually introduced in videos, photos, tables, but in some cases it's possible to see them in small aquariums as well.
- Forest and horticultural trees as well as other plants, mushrooms, natural berry species etc. are introduced in many different ways by pictures, tables, videos etc., but in the best way they can be seen outside, for example in arboretums or gardens around the Center.



Nature Center – a tourism destination and an environment for learning

- Environmental protection typically may be one of the focuses in exhibitions and presentations in Nature Centers. Threats of pollution, sources of environmental load in water bodies and global change are relevant, but not very often visible issues of information published by these Centers. Mostly it's described in simple manners to the visitors and audience, especially younger generation, how to keep your nearby nature clean and how to utilize it in a sustainable way and take care of it. The rules of so called "Everyman's Rights in Finland" is one remarkable focus.
- Nature Centers are providing possibilities for recreation, as well. They create and preserve a comfortable environment and infrastructure for the recreational use for the tourists and inhabitants of the region, like tracks and trails for hiking, biking, skiing and other outdoor activities. Trekking is very popular in Finland, nowadays. Resting places and places for campfire are available. When even hundreds of thousands people visit annually, also waste disposal and toilet services have to be well planned and built in the whole area. Often, these Centers are closely connected to a more or less large and diverse nature area, or even a National Park.

Nature Center – a tourist destination and an environment for learning

- Another purpose of these surrounding areas is to preserve wildlife species and their habitats. In every case, one goal is to utilize the opportunities provided by the center and surrounding area as an environment and object for education and training, especially for young people, schoolchildren and even younger kids, who may not have connections enough with nature in their everyday life at home and school, and who may not very well know nature, animals and their habitats, trees, plants, etc.
- Even collecting berries and mushrooms may not be known anymore in Finland among part of the urban people. In Russia this useful habit may be still be more common also among the young people. Also the rules concerning nature protection, how to harmless move in nature without causing destruction, and how to save environment from pollution and litter are issues that easily can be told and trained in Nature Centers and in the surrounding nature itself. Identification of for example plants, mushrooms and berries which are toxic for human beings, will be in the best way introduced in practice, in the nature.

Nature Center – a tourist destination and an environment for learning

- The earlier age this kind of education for children is started, the better and sustainable will the results be. It's a proven fact that activities in nature normally provide positive effects on human health, both physically and mentally.
- Skiing, biking, hiking, rafting, jogging, Nordic walking and orientation are some good examples of these activities. And even if you're not in active age anymore, even a short staying in nature, and knowing nature will give you strong experiences, which will get your life better.



Finnish Nature Centers and LPEC – What did we learn on surveys?

- In order to find useful information and examples of good practices for the establishing process of **Luga Public Environmental Center (LPEC)**, Luke made surveys.
- It's quite evident that all the other targets of survey, except Urpola Nature Center in Mikkeli, are larger and much more expensive to establish and maintain than it probably ever will be possible in LPEC. Urpola apparently is the most comparable unit for LPEC, in terms of size and scale.
- However it was useful to see different scales and styles, i.e. modern technology combined with traditional ways to present phenomenon in nature, to provide experiences of largely varying topics, especially for young people and schoolchildren. From every site we visited something is possible to apply in LPEC.
- We emphasize that in LPEC it should not be forgotten to organize at least some possibilities for enjoying real nature by passing in nature in a way or another, nearby the Nature Center.
- Experience of nature with all your senses, during all seasons and weathers will make you a nature lover and give you strength for lifetime.





Location

- Selännekatu 30, 50100 Mikkeli
- 2 km from Mikkeli market square in a house which was built at the end of 18th century

Owner

Financed and maintained by the city of Mikkeli

Opening hours

- Open only during the summer,
 May September
 - Monday Friday 9-17, closed during weekends (27.4.-14.6., 17.8.-25.9.)
 - 15.6.-16.8. every day 11-18



Exhibitions

- Both permanent and temporary exhibitions as well as environmental education for children
- Place for learning about nature since 1991
- In the summer 2019 the temporary exhibitions were about utilizing natural and recycled materials in art
- Both learning and positive nature experiences are in the core of the operation



Visitors

- Children from local schools and nurseries. Sometimes elderly people visit the place.
 - The groups are small, 10-15 children
- Typically 1-2 hour lessons include, for instance, learning to recognize the sounds of different bird species
 - Some living fish species and stuffed mammals to utilize in the education









Visitors

- Nature experiences also for disabled children to whom trips to nature are more challenging
- Utilizing especially the interactive wall which is a new invention
 - It was painted by Terhi
 Kastehelmi and built by OiOi
 Collective Oy.
 - It is based on movement and reflection → the painting becomes "alive"
- Updating the content of lessons is important to attract more visitor





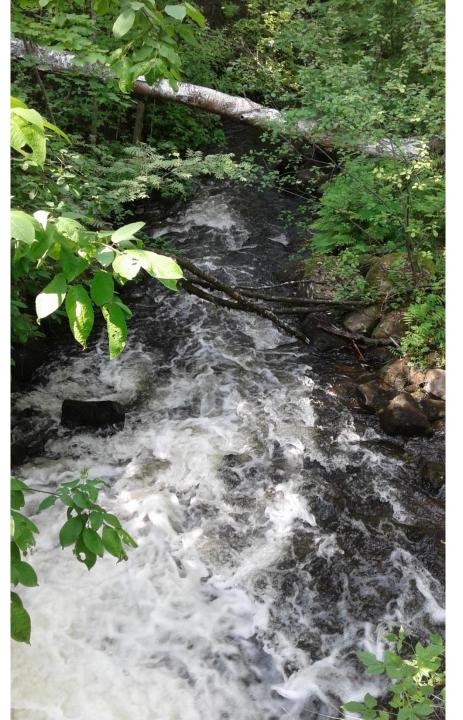


Services

- 2 km nature trail with campfire
- No café or restaurant









Website

https://www.mikkeli.fi/sisalto/palvelut/asuminen/puistot/urpolan-luontokeskus

Urpola Nature Center acts as a center of Saimaa Geopark Finland



Location

- Nuuksiontie 84, Espoo
- Situated next to Nuuksio National Park
- 30 km from Helsinki city center, reachable also by public transport

Owner

Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland

Opening hours

- Winter: 1.10. 30.4.
 - Tue-Sun 10 am 5 pm, closed on Mondays
- Summer: 1.5. 30.9.
 - Every day 10 am 6 pm







- Haltia was opened in May 2013, about 340 000 visitors per year
- "a modern exhibition and event centre bringing all Finland's nature jewels under one roof"
- The wooden building was designed by the architect Rainer Mahlamäki



The main exhibition

- About Finnish nature, introducing different nature types in all seasons
- Emphasis on 40 national parks of Finland
- Special features of winter as well as urban nature are presented
- Very interactive, video presentations and sounds



Temporary exhibitions in spring 2020

- Best of "Nature picture of the year 2016-2018"
- Come to Finland -posters from the 1900s
- A textile work of Forest nature diversity, made by students at Omnia
- Maritta Meckelborg: Forest lights and shadows
- The years in Perukka by Katja Ronkainen





Services

 Small shop especially with souvenirs, maps and books related to nature and hiking

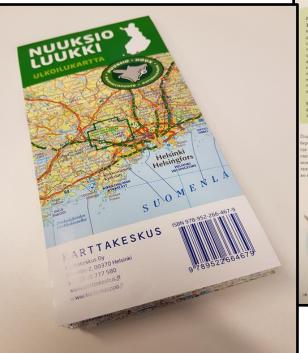






Services

 Small shop especially with souvenirs, maps and books related to nature and hiking









Services

- Restaurant Haltia offers lunch made from local ingredients and it has also café services
 - scenic windows offer a view over Lake Pitkäjärvi
- Suitable venue for organizing meetings and events
 - Meeting rooms for small groups
 - Auditorium for up to 200 people



Guided tours for tourists

- Tours at Haltia (e.g. about Finnish nature and architecture of the building) and in the surrounding national park
- Available in Finnish, Swedish and English but also other languages when booked in advance

Guided tours for children / school groups (Haltia's Nature School)

- Nature school days, nature trail excursions, exhibition tours and summer camps
- The youngest participants are 4-6 yearold children





Nuuksio National Park

• In the neighbohood of The Nature Center gives good opportunity to outdoor activities and enjoying nature during all seasons.



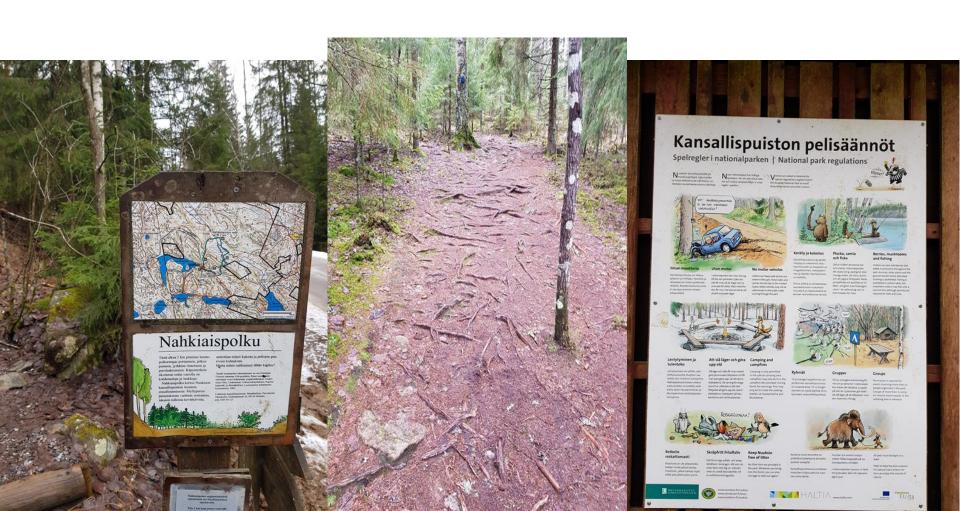






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Location

- Härkätie 818, 31380 Letku TAMMELA
- Situated next to Liesjärvi and Torronsuo National Parks
 - 106 km from Helsinki city center, reachable also by public transport (bus connections)
 - Operated by Eerikkilä Sports&Outdoor resort

Owner

Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland

Opening hours

- Weekdays 11 am 6 pm
 Weekends 12 am 16 pm
- Winter 1.11.-31.3.
 Weekdays 11 am 6 pm
- Weekends 10 am 4 pm
- For private events according to agreement





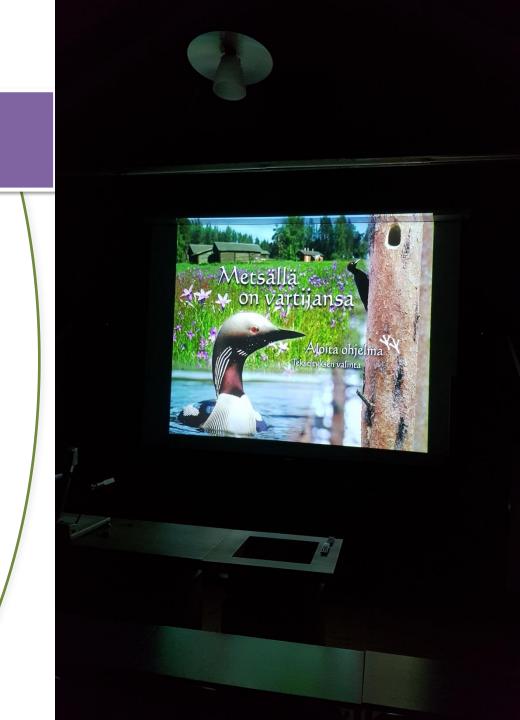
- Was opened 29.2.2000; renovated and reopened in 2/2018
- The nature center is located in Tammela on the shore of Lake Ruostejärvi along the old Härkätie road in Häme.
- The Nature Center serves as a guide for Liesjärvi and Torronsuo National Parks
- The building has an exhibition space, an auditorium, office space, a café as well as a workshop and storage space.
- The new West Finnish building tradition building has been designed by Sigge Ltd.



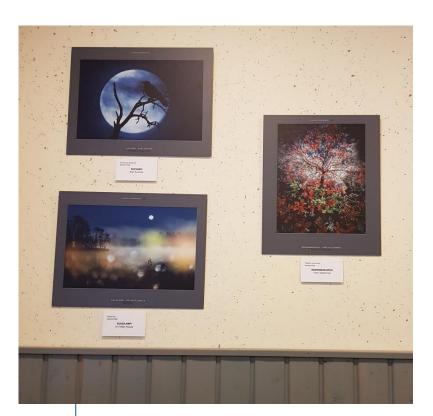
- The total area of the building is over 700 m², of which 200 m² is an exhibition space.
- The Visitor Center has included a permanent exhibition "The Cry of the Cuckoo", which presents the rich life of the oars, ravens and small bogs in Southern Finland with pictures, text, objects, toys, games and moods.
- The main pictures of the oasis section are taken from Torronsuo National Park in different seasons. The exhibition was designed by exhibition designer Eira Ormio.

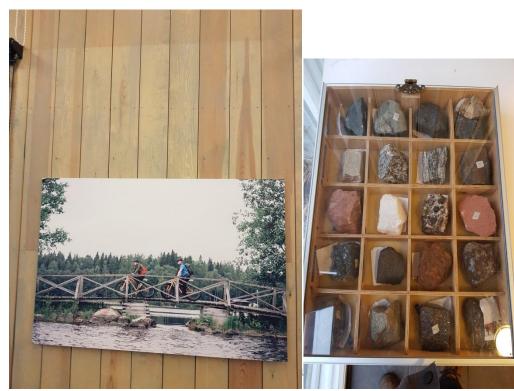
The main exhibition

- In a lecture hall a very attractive ands fascinating video presentation about Local nature, introducing different nature types in all seasons;
- Some collections and dioramas of animals



Some temporary photograph exhibitions and geological collections in 2019

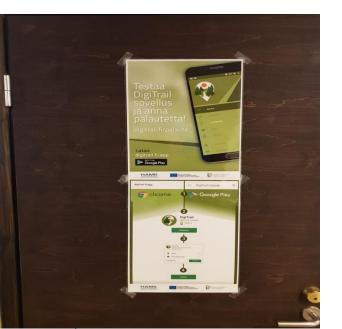




Services and trainings

- Tiny shop especially with small souvenirs, maps and books related to nature and outdoor activities like hiking
- The DigiTrail Mobile Application helps you to orientate in the nature (in test use)





Guided tours for children / school groups

- Nature school days, nature trail excursions, exhibition tours and summer camps
- The rules of sustainable moving in nature and The Finnish Everyman's Rights and responsibilities are clearly instructed
- Targeted professional vocational education and training on nature issues organized by some voc. shools



Services

- The Café offers refreshments and small snacks
- Good restaurant services as well as accommodation are available at Eerikkilä Sports Center, some 3 km from the Nature Center
- Suitable venue for organizing meetings and events
 - Meeting room for small groups
 - Auditorium for up to 60 people









The surrounding nature in both the National parks is diverse and peaceful

• 50 km of coastline beside lakes, more then 100 km tracks, paths and routes;

Good maps and guiding tables available everywhere

Good prequisites for outdoor activities:
 hiking, biking, tracking, rafting, bathing, fishing

Häme Nature Center



Korteniemen perinnetila

Liesiärven kansallispuistossa

on vanha metsänvartijatila, jota viljellään 1910-luvun malliin. Luonnonkauniilla tilalla laiduntaa maatiaiskarja ja siellä voi poiketa kylässä muistelemassa talon väen kanssa entisajan elämänmenoa, osallistua tilan töihin tai rauhoittua omatoimisesti aukioloaikojen ulkopuolellakin.

Opastukset

Korteniemen perinnetilaan tutustuminen on

maksutonta. Teemaopastukset ryhmille ovat

maksullisia. Opastukset tilataan

Opastushinnat

maksimissaan 50 €/ryhmä. Leiväntie-opastus 100 €/ryhmä/4h.

Metsähallituksen asiakaspalvelusta

sisasuomi@metsa.fi, puh 0206 39 5270.

Tilaopastukset ja työnäytökset 50 €/h

Koululaisopastukset 1,50 €/oppilas,

kuitenkin minimissään 20 €/ryhmä,

Avoinna 2019

6.5.-31.5. ti-pe klo 9-15 1.6.- 30.6. to-la klo 11-17 1.7.-31.7. ke-su klo 11-17 1.8.-31.8. to-la klo 11-17 1.-30.9. la-su klo 11-17 poikkeuksia: la 18.5 Leivontapäivä juhannusaatto pe 21.6. suljettu, juhannuspäivä su 23.6. avoinna 11-17 ke 18.12. klo 18-20 Joulurauha

Tapahtumat

18.5. klo 11-17 Leivontapäivä 8.6. klo 11-17 Perinnepäivä 23.6.klo 13 Juhannusiumalanpalvelus 10.7. klo 11-17 Suomen kuvataiteen päivä 17.7. klo 11-17 Lasten perinnepäivä 8.9. klo 11-17 Kulttuuriympäristöpäivä

18.12. klo 18-20 Joulurauha Tilalla on myös sadonkorjuutalkoita, joiden ajankohta varmistuu myöhemmin. Seuraa meitä: www.facebook.com/liesjarvenkansallispuisto

TERVETULOA!

Korteniementie 270, 31350 Liesjärvi, puh. 0206 39 5270 Lisätietoja ja opastusvaraukset: Lisätietoja ja opastusvaraunast.

METSÄHALLITUS www.luontoon.fi/korteniemi, sisasuomi@metsa.fi Pidätämme oikeuden muutoksiin

Nearby the Nature Center:

- The Korteniemi Traditional Small Farm
- A small early 20th century farm for visitors to learn and even participate working with the ancient working practices and agriculture
- Guided tours, different events during summer





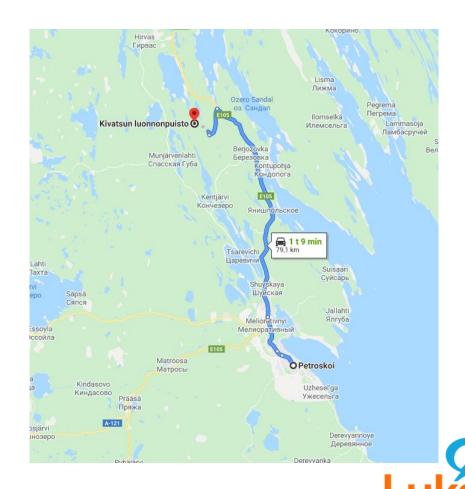
• Beautiful and rugged nature surrounding a huge biological information pack in exhibitions and collections

Great place for a nature lover



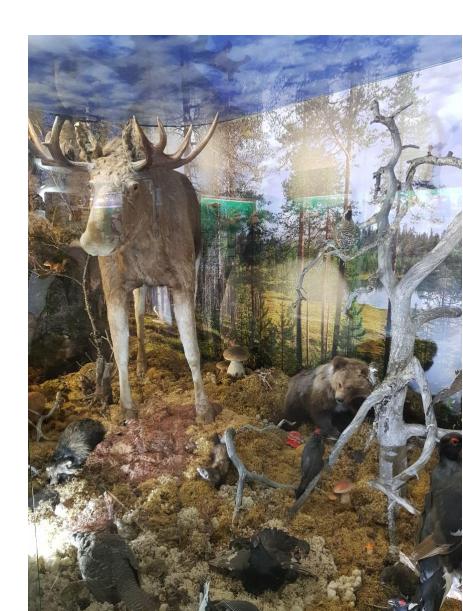


- Located in the Northern part of Republic of Karelia, beside the <u>Suna River</u> in the <u>Kondopoga</u> District, and gives its' name to the <u>Kivach Natural Reserve</u>, founded in 1931
- Established 1931
- A quite small exhibition house, with an incredible and very informative, comprehensive collection of animals, plants, bird nests, geological and soil samples, presentations and posters, dioramas
- In the nearby forest area a basic arboretum with clear guidance
- Located beside the rapids and waterfall of Kivach, which attracts thousands of visitors and tousrists to meet the amazing nature of Taiga forest and water bodies
- Not any services, like Cafe or restaurant provided.
- Distance from Petrozavodsk is 79 km only, roads are moderate and the place its easy to find



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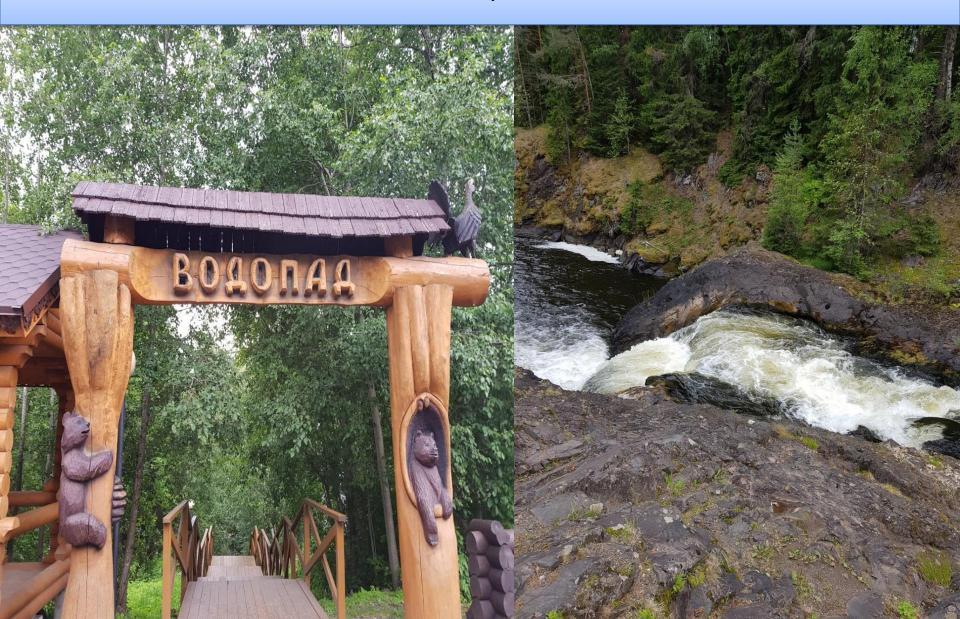














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