



The EuroVelo 13 Iron Curtain Trail runs in Finland from South to North between Vaalimaa in southeastern Finland and Näätämö in northeastern Lapland. This 1687 km long trail is divided into two sections, Northern (developed) and Southern (under development). The trail takes you along the border between Finland and Russia in the vast and isolated parts of Finland where you get the true feel of the Finnish nature's green forests, open marshlands, hills and fells, rivers and streams, ponds and lakes in every size as well the interesting cultural or historical heritage including e.g. the history of defending Finland's borders and the history and culture of the Sámi people. The summer months between May and August at these geographical levels are full of light, on the Northern section of the route the Midnight sun enables you to cycle around the clock if you so desire!



IRON CURTAIN CYCLE TRAIL

NORTHERN SECTION



BIKE TOURING
ROUTE

8-11

DAYS DEPENDING
ON YOUR SPEED

TARMAC
99%



ARRIVAL BY

DISTANCE:

545

KILOMETERS



**EUROVELO 13
CYCLE TRAIL**

LEG 1: 80 KM SALLA-SAVUKOSKI

Salla is the starting point of the developed Northern Section of the EuroVelo13-route. On the first leg, the route is closest to the Russian border and the huge boulders of rocks in a line formation on the side of the road are remnants of a bunker line reminding about the war history in the area.

LEG 2: 67 KM SAVUKOSKI-PYHÄ

The landscape on the second leg is a typical one to this area, dense forest with spots of open marshland on both sides, crowned by the fell views of Pyhä-Luosto National Park at the end of the day. We recommend taking a day off for trekking there.

LEG 3: 62 KM PYHÄ-SODANKYLÄ

The Pyhä-Luosto area is known for its majestic old-growth pine forests, some as old as 400 years, and for its geology and Forest Sámi history. The route passes the beautiful old forests and narrow fir trees that can carry a huge snow load during the winter time.

LEG 4: 52 KM SODANKYLÄ-PEURASUVANTO

Along leg four, the large areas of marshland and meadows allow the gaze to wander far. Viiankiaapa is a fascinating destination to admire diverse mire nature and a wide range of bird species. Following the river banks the route leads to Peurasuvanto.

LEG 5: 36 KM PEURASUVANTO-VUOTSO

The settlement along leg five goes back 7000 years. Varying scenery of forest, rivers and lakes includes two artificial lakes, Porttipahta and Lokka, that were created in the 1960's. The crossing of the Porttipahta water offers grand views!

LEG 6: 41 KM VUOTSO-SAARISELKÄ

The highlight of leg six is the Gold Museum in Tankavaara, presenting stories of the famous gold rivers and the legendary gold diggers of the North. The leg ends by the fells of Saariselkä, a popular nordic skiing destination during the winter and a great place to take a day off for trekking or mountain biking during summer.

LEG 7: 31 KM SAARISELKÄ-IVALO

Leg seven takes you through the open fells as far as the eye can see. Infinite chain of fells rolling in the horizon guides you towards Ivalo where the fells slowly simmer down into forests.

LEG 8: 40 KM IVALO-INARI

Today the route follows beautiful rivers and lakes leading you to the shores of lake Inari. This pearl of the North is the largest municipality in Finland. A great place to take a few days of and experience the fascinating nature and culture in the area.

LEG 9: 80 KM INARI-NITSIJÄRVI

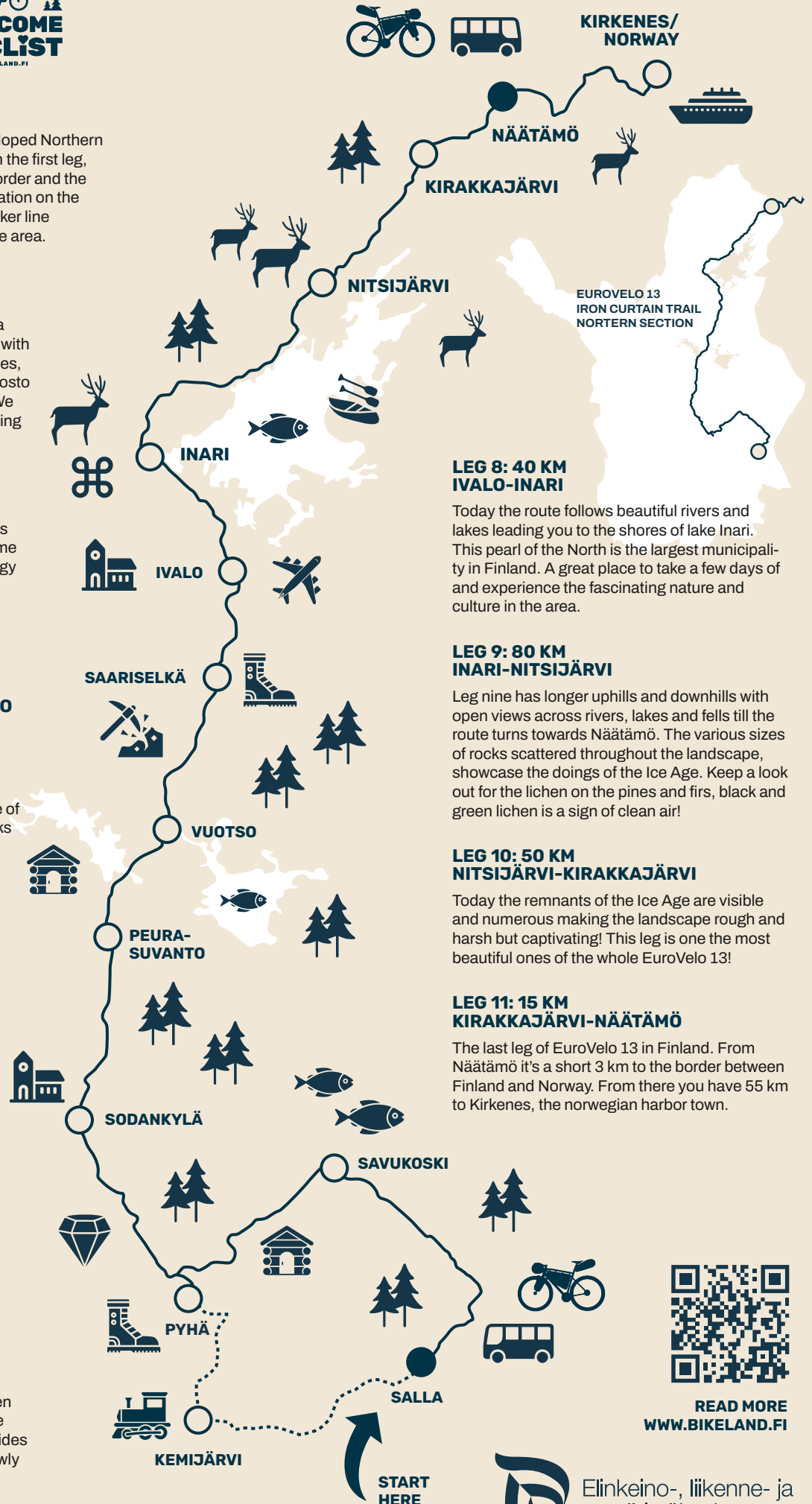
Leg nine has longer uphill and downhill with open views across rivers, lakes and fells till the route turns towards Näättämö. The various sizes of rocks scattered throughout the landscape, showcase the doings of the Ice Age. Keep a look out for the lichen on the pines and firs, black and green lichen is a sign of clean air!

LEG 10: 50 KM NITSIJÄRVI-KIRAKKAJÄRVI

Today the remnants of the Ice Age are visible and numerous making the landscape rough and harsh but captivating! This leg is one of the most beautiful ones of the whole EuroVelo 13!

LEG 11: 15 KM KIRAKKAJÄRVI-NÄÄTÄMÖ

The last leg of EuroVelo 13 in Finland. From Näättämö it's a short 3 km to the border between Finland and Norway. From there you have 55 km to Kirkenes, the norwegian harbor town.



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