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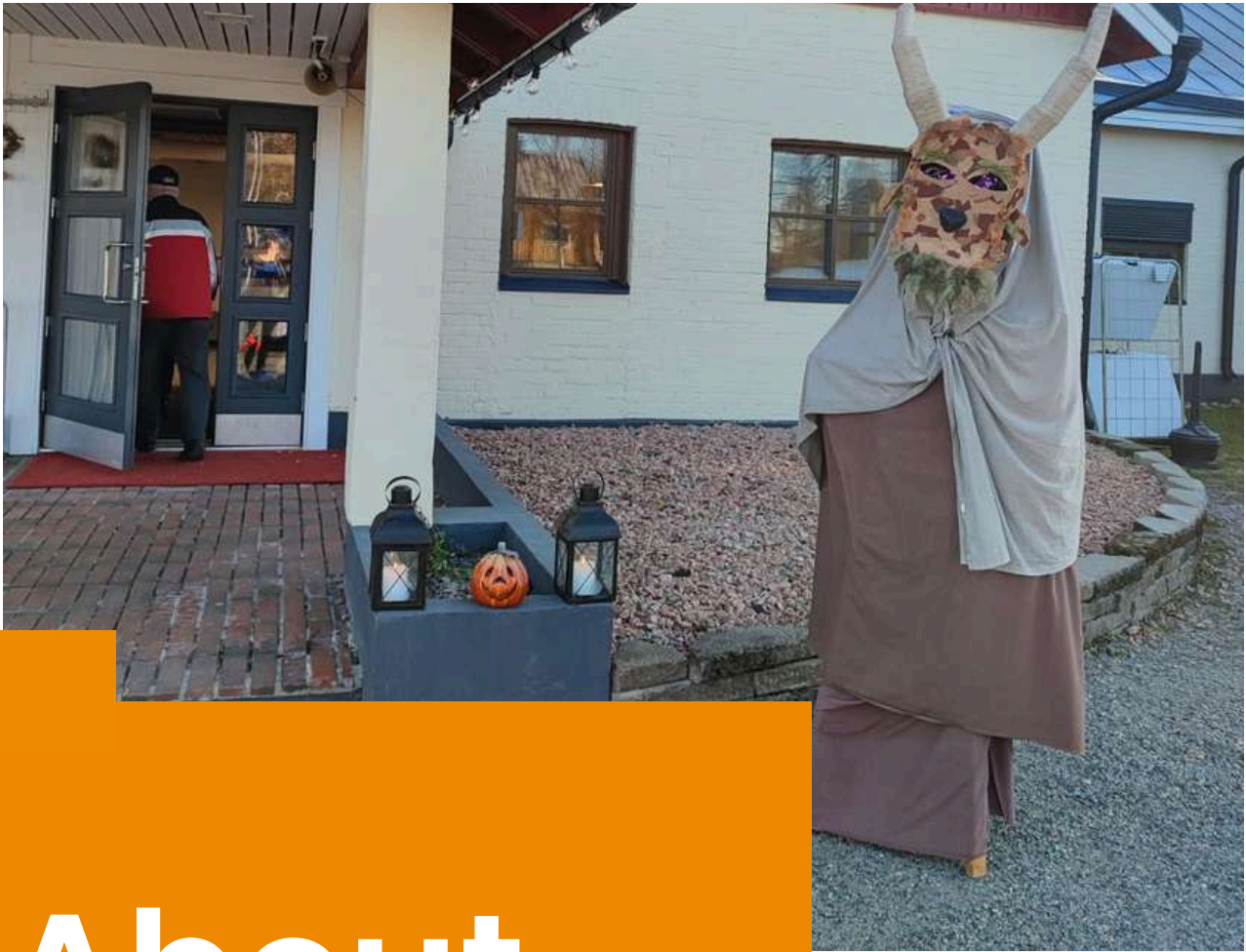
INFOPACK FOR PARTICIPANTS

Celebrating Kekri VOLUNTEERING

2-22 October 2025
travel days 1 and 23 October

Hyvärilä youth and holiday centre.
Nurmes, Finland





About

Welcome to Hyvärilä youth centre! We are happy to host you during the time of Kekri celebration in North Karelia!

Kekri is an autumn festival of harvest, that means transition from summer and light to winter and darkness. This is a time for cooking traditional and local food, bringing community and generations together, remembering ancestors and celebrating light.

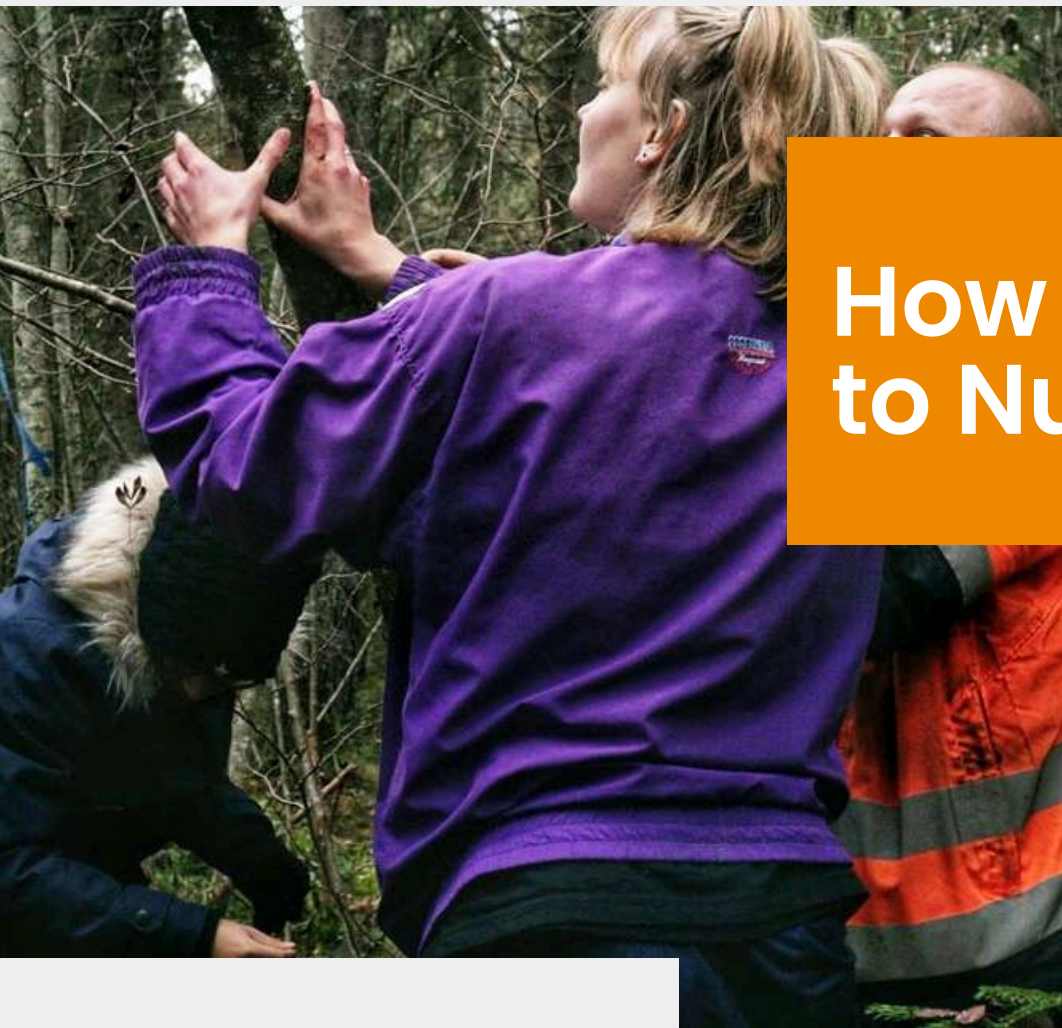
Work tasks: volunteers work 30-35 hours per week with two days off. Tasks involve multiple activities and places so you can see a comprehensive image of the rural North Karelian community. Get ready to learn about traditional harvest season foods and cook; build a traditional fence (physical work); explore your creativity and film videos, upcycle and do crafts; meet local community members of all ages and organize activities with and for them.

Where we stay and what we eat



Volunteers stay in a youth hostel. Rooms for 2-3 persons with a toilet. Toilets and showers are shared. Bed linens and towels are provided. Volunteers will have a chance to use saunas on designated days. Wi-Fi in all areas of the youth centre for free. See photos of accommodation [on our website](#).

Meals are served at the restaurant of Hyvärilä youth centre (buffet style). Vegan and vegetarian options are always available. Inform us in advance about your diet and allergies.



How to get to Nurmes?

Pro Tip: avoid upstairs seats in car #4 on Helsinki-Joensuu train, it is a children car with play area and it gets LOUD.

Decide if you want to opt for Green Travel, which is using environmentally friendly transport (bus, train, shared car ride).

If it is not possible, you can fly through Helsinki Airport (HEL) or Lappeenranta airport (LPP). From there take a train to Nurmes. There are only two trains a day to Nurmes, check the timetables. You may have to arrive a day early and spend the night to catch the right train.

If you come to the Helsinki airport and go straight to Nurmes, buy tickets from Helsinki airport train station (located right underneath the airport). If you arrive to Helsinki earlier and spend some time in the centre, take tickets from Helsinki Central Station (located in the centre of the city).

If you come to Lappeenranta airport, check [this page](#) for transfer options.

Buy train tickets from VR.FI as soon as you buy plane tickets. They get more expensive by the hour.

Train ride from Helsinki takes 7 hours, from Lappeenranta 5 hours. Take snacks for the road. There is wi-fi and electric outlets on the train.

- Arrival to Nurmes: October 1st, 20:06
- Departure from Nurmes: October 23th, 06:35

We will pick you up in Nurmes train station with a transfer bus if you arrive according to the timetable above. In other cases, book your taxi ride at your own expense from meneva.fi/fi



What is Hyvärilä?



Hyvärilä Youth Centre is operating within network of 8 Finnish youth Centres under the auspices of the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture.

The Centre operates year-round in Hyvärilä camp base and in social youth work centre in Nurmes. Regular activities include school camps, international camps, outreach youth work, social youth work, Nurmes youth services and youth workshop activities. Annually Hyvärilä provides services for over 9000 young people and youth leaders.

Most of our programs include environmental education and activities in the nature. We share our knowledge with other youth workers, spreading the values of learning outdoors. We work with young people (age 13-30) and youth workers.

Hyvärilä is located in a REMOTE RURAL area so prepare to spend your free time outdoors hiking or doing sports rather than going to bars and coffee shops, movies and shopping. Connect with nature and explore the North Karelian way of living.

Good to know

WHAT TO PACK?

- Comfortable clothes for being outside (check weather forecast!): water-resistant boots, sports pants, rain and wind-proof jacket. Hiking clothes and clothes for working in a field.
- Swimsuit (we are going to sauna and there's a lake).
- Pajamas (you are sharing a room with others).
- Earplugs for extra comfort.
- Hygiene products and medications if you need it.
- Reusable water bottle - tap water is good and delicious!
- Bed linens and towels will be provided for you.

USEFUL WEBSITES

- Our Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hyvarilanuorisokeskus>
- Town of Nurmes: http://www.nurmes.fi/en/web/nurmes_en
- The official guide of Finland <https://www.visitfinland.com>
- Border crossing rules: <https://raja.fi/>
- Our Instagram @hyvarilainernational and @volunteers_eastfinland

SAFETY AND RULES

- The Youth Centre area is substance free (no alcohol, drugs, mushrooms or other intoxicating substances for anyone, Adults or Minors) and for the minors the camp is a smoke free.
- We do not give the participants' privacy information to third parties.
- Participants are strongly advised to have a travel insurance, and a European Health Insurance card
- Quiet time from 22:00 till 07:00



Free time



Hyvärilä is located in a REMOTE RURAL area, so prepare to spend your free time outdoors hiking or doing sports rather than going to bars and coffee shops, movies and shopping. Connect with nature and explore the North Karelian way of living.

What you can do free of charge:

- Saunas are available at least once a week in the main building of the youth centre.
- Participants can book Pielis Areena sports hall for playing volleyball, football, badminton, basketball etc. from reception.
- Bicycles can be booked from the reception, when available.
- Freesbie golf, ball games, board games, hiking equipment can be borrowed from the reception, when available.

Other services:

- Laundry time should be booked from the reception, 3 EUR.
- Other equipment can be borrowed from the reception according to the price list.

Some places to visit in Nurmes:

- Bomba Talo
- Library (art expositions and museum)
- Old town (keskusta)
- Porokylä (small commercial area)
- Joukonpolku (bird tower)
- Ellunkallio and Kotilanvaara (hiking path)

Travel reimbursement

Travel reimbursement amounts are done in accordance with ESC 2025 Guide. Reimbursement forms will be distributed to all participants via email. Reimbursements are processed after the mobility, and done within 21 working days since receiving all the required tickets and receipts.

Travel distance	Green Travel	Non-green travel
10 – 99 km	56 EUR	28 EUR
100 – 499 km	285 EUR	211 EUR
500 – 1999 km	417 EUR	309 EUR
2000 – 2999 km	535 EUR	395 EUR
3000 – 3999 km	785 EUR	580 EUR

WHAT TO PACK TO SURVIVE AUTUMN IN FINLAND



Headlamp (it gets
dark very early)

Hat, gloves and scarf



Check weather forecast
always, weather can be
unpredictable. Expect
rainy, windy weather with
frosty nights (and possible
days)



Windproof and
waterproof jacket
and pants,
underlayer



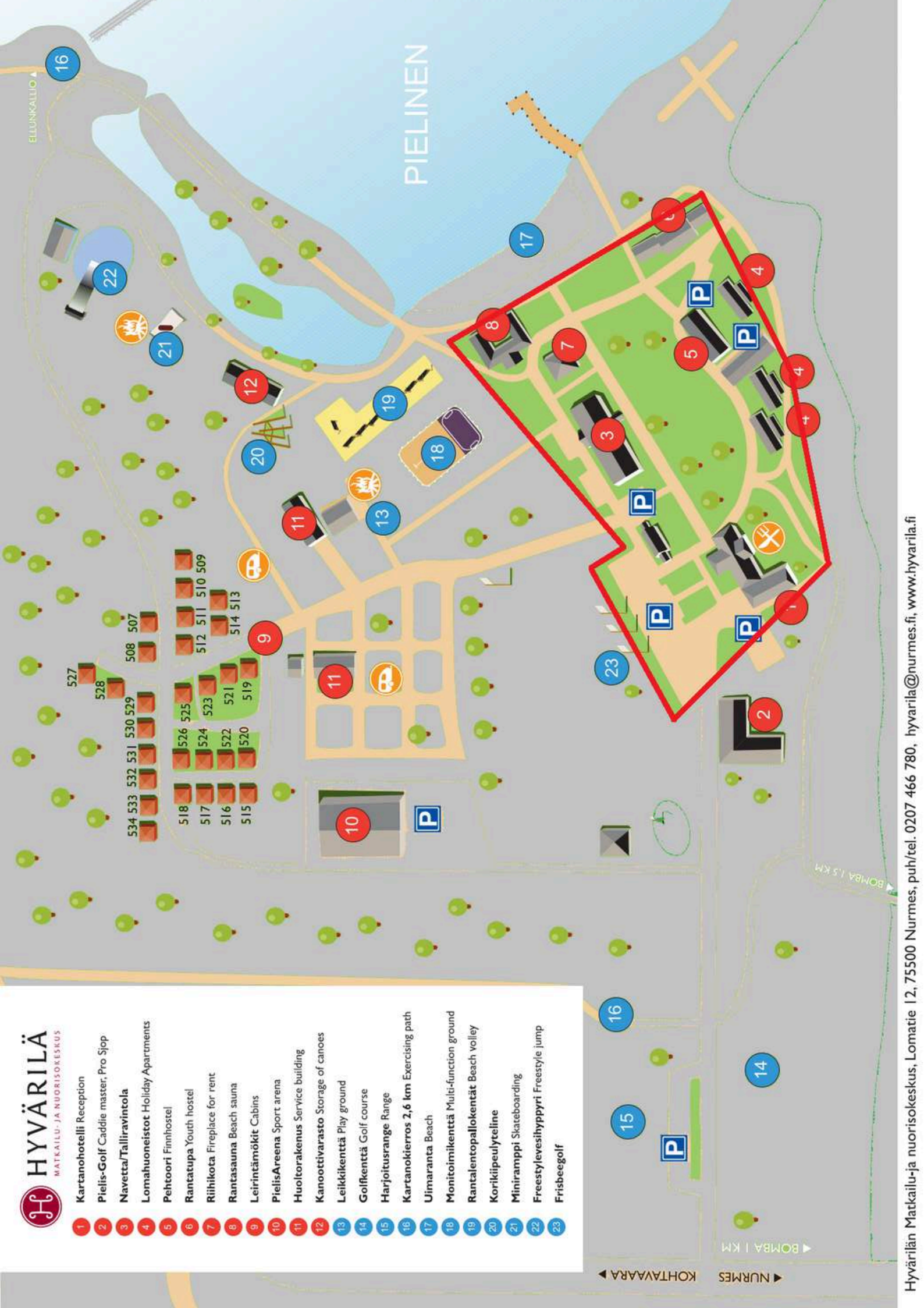
Swimsuit for when
we go to sauna

Hiking boots or
similar, and warm
socks



If you do not have warm
clothes, please contact us
before buying them. We
have some in Hyvärilä you
can borrow

- 1 Kartanohotelli Reception
- 2 Pielis-Golf Caddie master, Pro Shop
- 3 Navetta/Talliravintola
- 4 Lomahuoneistot Holiday Apartments
- 5 Pehtoori Finnhostel
- 6 Rantatupa Youth hostel
- 7 Riikikotä Fireplace for rent
- 8 Rantasauna Beach sauna
- 9 Leirintämökkit Cabins
- 10 PielisAreena Sport arena
- 11 Huoltorakenus Service building
- 12 Kanoottivarasto Storage of canoes
- 13 Leikkikenttä Play ground
- 14 Golfkenttä Golf course
- 15 Harjoitusrange Range
- 16 Kartanokierros 2,6 km Exercising path
- 17 Uimaranta Beach
- 18 Monitoimikenttä Multi-function ground
- 19 Rantalentopallokentät Beach volley
- 20 Korikiipeilyteline
- 21 Miniramppi Skateboarding
- 22 Freestylelevisuihyppyri Freestyle jump
- 23 Frisbeegolf





ALLERGY
SKIN
ASTHMA

Too strong a scent?

Fragrances cause headache and nausea to many people.
Please, use fragrances moderately. One in three Finns is sensitive to scents.

www.allergia.fi