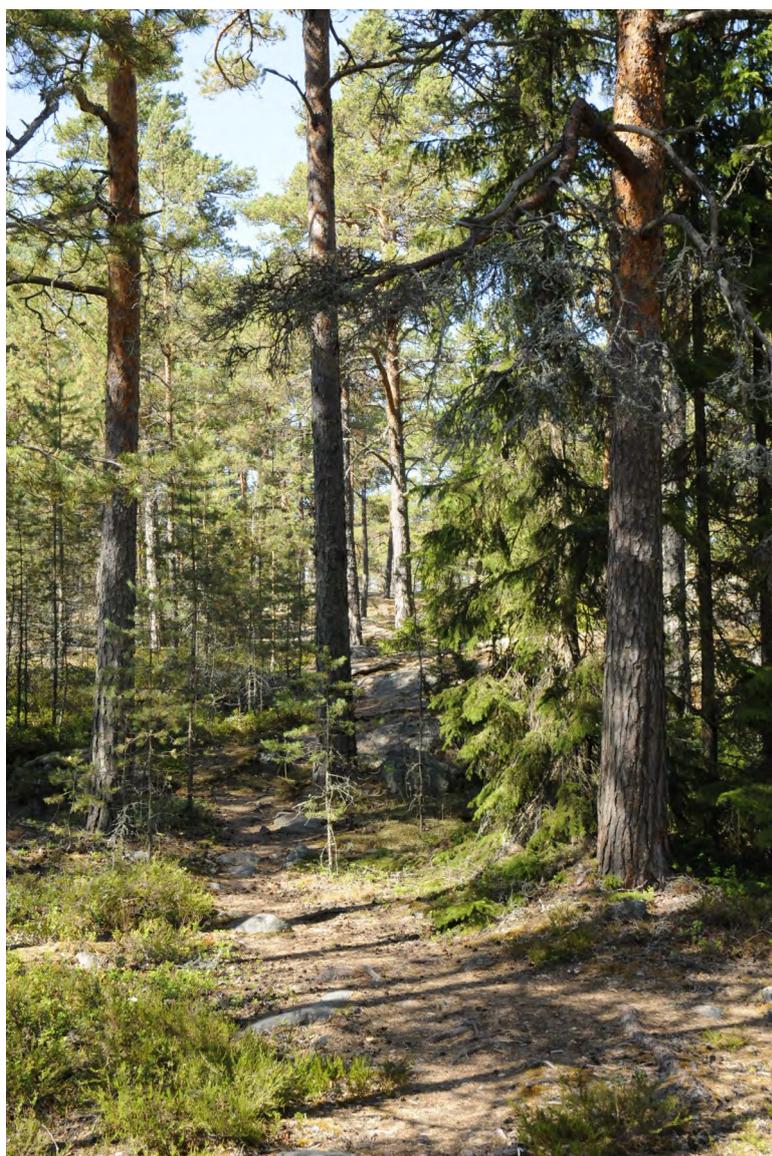


# Pocket guide to the Kustavi nature and culture trail

## INFORMATION AND STORIES ABOUT THE KUSTAVI



Selkämeren Ystävät  
Kustavin Kirjallisuusyhdistys  
Kustavin Matkailuyhdistys



"I see hundreds of reddish peninsulas and bays with white cliffs. I see grey-brown forests with their warped and windswept pines, faint paths meandering over endless rocky slopes and stony heaths. My eyes drink in views of lush valleys with undulating fields."

(Kilpi, V. 2015. Alastalon salissa (In Alastalo's Parlour); preface by Kirkkomaa, page 15.)



# CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction; the Kustavi Nature and Culture trail	3
Visitor's guide	4
Site 1. The municipal office yard	5
Site 2. Symbols of Kustavi	6
Site 3. The arboretum	7
Site 4. The Vanha Pappila grove	8
Site 5. Hummentaal field landscape	9
Site 6. Kustavi churchyard	10-11
Site 7. Volter Kilpi memorial	12
Site 8. Stone fencing	13
Site 9. Mossy rock	14
Site 10. Power line remnants	15
Site 11. Mysterious rock pile	16
Site 12. Triangular rock	17
Site 13. Rocky swamp	18
Site 14. Erratic boulder	19
Site 15. Car park	20
Site 16. Ferry shore and service pier	21
Site 17. The rocks and caves of Jeremias	22-23
Site 18. Suuri Postitie	24
Site 19. Modern building culture	25
Site 20. Old village scenery	26
Site 21. Katanpää island fortress	27
Site 22. Isonkari lighthouse island	28
Literature and references	29
Map: Kustavi Nature trail route and sites	30

# Kustavi nature and culture trail

The region of Vakka-Suomi is surrounded by the Kustavi archipelago, which comprises almost 2000 islands. It has been described as one of the world's most beautiful archipelagos. Here it's easy to see how the grooved rocks, carved out by the ice age, rose from the sea to form land. In the Kustavi archipelago, you can see how rapidly nature changes from the rugged cliffs of the outer archipelago to the verdant scenery of the inner islands.

The Kustavi nature and culture trail presents prized sites in the municipality's centre and surroundings, as though following in the footsteps of Volter Kilpi. These beautiful Kustavi treasures are mainly located along a path around 4km long. The municipality of Kustavi has marked different sites in the terrain. The pocket guide contains 20 interesting stories about the various sites. The guide also features information about the Isonkari lighthouse island and Katanpää island fortress, both located in the municipality of Kustavi. These maritime attractions are partly located in the Bothnian Sea National Park.

The Kustavi nature and culture trail passes through the Kivimaa cultural landscape as well as the groves and cliffs surrounding the suburb. The easily accessible ring route is located just outside the Kustavi municipal centre.

Selkämeren kansallispuiston ystävät ry has created the path content and a Google Maps map. This trail project is partly funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development's LEADER programme. Kustavin Kirjallisuusyhdistys ry, Kustavin Matkailuyhdistys ry and the municipality of Kustavi have acted as local partners in the project.

This guide was created by expert Kari Mäntylä, MA, and by editors Lasse Lovén and Ilmo Suikkanen. Maritta Jalonen and Jarmo Mäntynen acted as local experts.

The Kustavi nature and culture trail was created for the enjoyment of all Kustavi residents, summer visitors and travellers passing through Kustavi. There is a longer version and a shorter version of the trail. The longer route, "Kustavi Nature and Culture trail" extends all the way to the famous caves of Jeremias. The trail guide can be downloaded from the Selkämeren ystävät website ([www.selkamerenystavat.fi](http://www.selkamerenystavat.fi)).

The nature trail guide is supplemented by the Google Maps app, which shows the sites on the trail on the map with additional photos and short texts. The map can be opened with the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=15QlsSebOrvCSvGA0PfiRdHEE7nWii67G&usp=sharing>

The shorter route, "Kivimaa school local nature trail" circles the municipal office building and the Kivimaa school centre. It is primarily intended for use by the school for educational purposes. The school local nature trail guide can be downloaded from the Selkämeren ystävät website ([www.selkamerenystavat.fi](http://www.selkamerenystavat.fi)).

The school's local nature trail guide is supplemented by the Google Maps app, which shows the sites on the trail on the map with additional photos and short texts. The map can be opened with the following link: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1C4xYWYTQOZHsrB2AMI3rPXsHBsenKwKG&usp=sharing>

In Kustavi, 30.8.2019

Lasse Lovén, Kari Mäntylä and Ilmo Suikkanen

Selkämeren kansallispuiston ystävät ry

Email: [info@selkamerenystavat.fi](mailto:info@selkamerenystavat.fi), [www.selkamerenystavat.fi](http://www.selkamerenystavat.fi)



# Visitor's guide

**Trail length:** Approximately 4 kilometres. The trail takes approximately 2.5 hours. The trail can be walked in either direction. This guide follows the trail clockwise.

**Route markings and map:** The route is marked in the terrain using red route markers (red square, 10x10 cm). The signs that explain the sites are numbered. The trail map is available online on the Google Maps application. The map shows the trail route and the sites, with short text and photographs. The map can be opened with the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=15QIsSebOrvCSvGAOPfRdHEE7nWil67G&usp=sharing>

**Suitability: The trail is intended to be hiked on foot. The route is also suitable for novice hikers. Site 17, the caves and rocks of Jeremias, is rather steep and requires hikers to follow instructions. Every hiker hikes at their own risk.**

**Starting point:** Most of the Kustavi nature and culture trail is close to the municipality's central suburbs. You can use the municipal office yard as a starting point, as it also has a car park. Another suitable starting point and car park is the wide rocky plateau (Site 15) along Kivimaantie road, to the south before the Vartsala ferry.

**Route description:** The trail showcases the cultural history of Kustavi and its varied landscapes. The route includes sections of rocky terrain, forest and road. Leaving the municipal office, the trail passes through flat residential areas and fields until the culturally and historically valuable church, where a forest path begins. The trail crosses to the Kivimaa ferry shore and from there to the steep caves of Jeremias. On the way back, the route follows the old Suuri Postitie road and along a light traffic path back to the parish suburb, ending at the starting point.

There are duckboards along the trail; please use them. There is a toilet at Suvitori and a dry toilet on the eastern side of the sports field.

**Route difficulty:** The route is moderately difficult. The trail can be considered challenging at the caves of Jeremias. In wet or snowy weather, this steep section may be slippery. As long as sufficient caution is exercised, children are also able to visit the exciting rocks and ridges if they are accompanied by adults and stay on the path.

The rocks and duckboards may be slippery during and after rain. The route is suitable for normal walking and jogging shoes.

**Special Instructions: Do not smoke in forest areas due to the risk of forest fires. It is absolutely forbidden to make open fires along the trail. The forest and rocky sections of the route are not suitable for cycling. Motor vehicles are forbidden on the trail.**

**More information:** Kustavi municipality, tel. +358 (0)2 842 6600, Email:

The Kustavi municipality is responsible for the structures and information signs along the trail. Sturdy duckboards are made for wet areas along the trail. The municipality has agreed on the location and use of the trail with private land owners.

kustavi@kustavi.fi



# Site 1

## MUNICIPAL OFFICE YARD



### Old rocks — new land

There are a lot of bedrock outcrops in the centre of the municipality. They are flat rocks planed by glaciers, with grooves indicating the direction in which the ice travelled. The rocks here are reddish pyterlite, which is one form of Rapakivi granite. The cliff at the edge of the car park formed around 1570 million years ago from magma that churned deep in the earth's crust. The dip in the earth's crust caused by the weight of the heavy continental ice sheet during the ice age is still rising today by around 60cm every 100 years.

### Old pine

An old pine grows next to the information sign. (*Pinus sylvestris*). Its top reaches to just under 12 meters in height. The tree was calculated to be 186 years old using a sample of its rings. The drilling sample also showed the time of the Finnish famine (1866-1868) as thin dark rings.

The old age of the pine is indicated by the flakes that have begun to form on the bark. In times past, this flaky bark was used as floats for fishing nets.

Most of the pine trees in the municipality's nearby rocky area have developed flaky bark, and are therefore very old. In the harsh conditions of the cliffs and archipelago, the pines usually stay short and stunted.

As a result, the sea is receding and new, dry land is constantly emerging, which becomes covered in dry-land vegetation.



### Curly birch

A birch growing in the middle of the car park has burrs in its trunk. The birch has inherited curly birch genes. Curly birch is Finland's most valuable type of wood sold by the kilogram.

# Site 2

## SYMBOLS OF KUSTAVI



Kustavi residents are proud of their maritime history. They wish to remember the influence of the Swedish king Gustav III on the municipality's parish life and the early stages of municipal government.

### Scopolia - the regional plant of Kustavi

Kustavi's regional plant, *Scopolia* (*Scopolia carniolica*), grows on the wall to the left of the main door to the municipal office. It is a perennial, poisonous type of nightshade plant and is used ornamentally. The same nightshade family of plants (*Solanaceae*) also includes, among others, the more familiar potato and tomato.

*Scopolia* has a thick, woody root. The plant sprouts from the soil early in the spring, quickly grows an abundance of foliage and then begins to flower. The species is considered to be completely winter-hardy in Finland. It can be grown from seeds or pieces of the root.

European scopolia grows as a rare remnant of cultivation or as a fugitive species near settlements and gardens in Southern Finland. The earliest observations of scopolia in the country are from Kustavi in Southwest Finland.



### Scale model of the Isonkari lighthouse

Isonkari lighthouse island and Katanpää fortress have always been important places for residents of Kustavi to visit by sailing up the **Strööm**i waterway. Both maritime sites are located in the municipality of Kustavi. At sea, the Isonkari lighthouse guides seafarers to the right fairways, and here a scale model guides visitors to the municipal office.

# Site 3



## ARBORETUM

The forest adjacent to the municipal office can be considered an **arboretum, or botanical collection comprised entirely of trees**. It is home to dozens of different types of tree, including spruce, blue spruce, pine, Macedonian pine, silver birch, ash, large willow, aspen, maple, rowan and Tartar maple. The trees are marked with name signs.

Only two decaying snags are left of one double-trunked birch. Hoof fungus grows on them. Prior to the invention of matches, hoof fungus was used as a source of ignition: the fungus was cooked, dried and powdered. Powdered hoof fungus is extremely flammable. It can be ignited from a mere spark from flint (quartzite) hitting a steel firestriker.

The municipal office was built in 1970. For a long time, the site was home to a school. Some of the oldest trees were already growing when the site was a school.



A fence with stone posts was built around the former school. The posts are still upright at the edges of the arboretum, along the gravel road that leads to the parsonage, for example.



## Kustavi wins the 2017 Million Birdhouses competition

The 2017 celebrations of Finnish independence came to an end with a national Million Birdhouses competition. The aim was to give birds a total of one million new birdhouses. The target was achieved.

A comparison of municipalities revealed that the municipality of Kustavi has the highest proportion of birdhouses to residents.

The municipality was awarded a birdhouse with a metal plaque reading "One million birdhouses. The most birdhouses per resident." Kustavi's high ranking was boosted by many summer residents who volunteered to help make birdhouses.

# Site 4

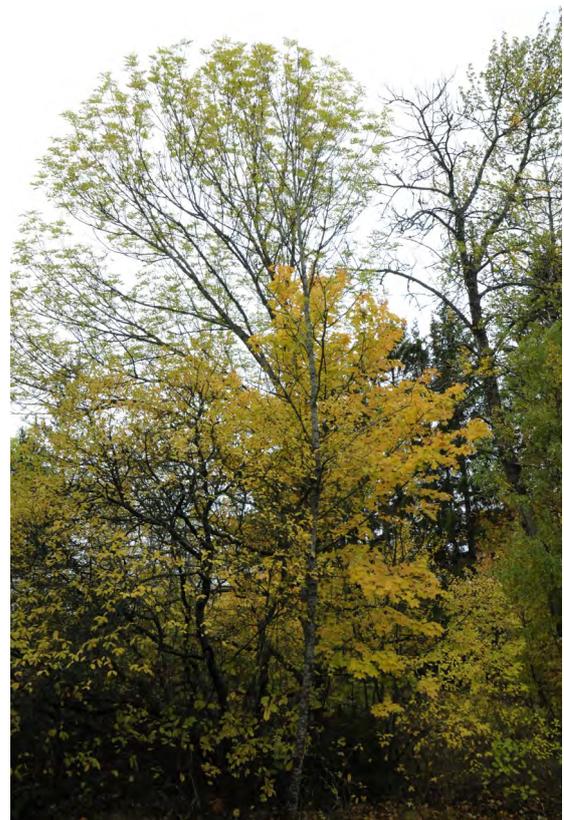
## VANHA PAPPILA GROVE



The **Vanha Pappila** parsonage was built in the 1880s. Nowadays it is a protected site of great cultural and historical value. The parsonage has since served as a parish centre and as a clergy office.

There is a real cluster of diverse tree species, an arboretum, in the old parsonage area. Some of the species of tree probably originate from planting that took place while the parsonage was in operation. The deans that lived at the parsonage tended to the trees and other vegetation. At least 11 different species of tree grow in the area; maple, willow, bird cherry, rowan, linden, ash, oak, birch, larch, spruce and pine. Garden shrubs growing in the area include lilacs, burnet rose, and scopolia, the symbol of Kustavi.

Useful food plants brought by old seafarers also grow in the parsonage grove, such as sand leek (*Allium scorodoprasum*), which was used to ward off scurvy. PRIVAT AREA.



# Site 5

## HUMMENTAAL FIELD LANDSCAPE

**Hummentaalinpelto** field is located to the south of Kirkkotie, or the old post road (Vanha Postitie), which runs from the municipal centre to the church. The field's soil is a layer of mud and sludge, practically clay, which accumulated on the seabed. The ditch in the centre of the field discharges into the Flara cove to the east of the municipal centre. Flara derives its name from the Swedish word *flada*, which means a cove or inlet covered in rushes. As a result of land uplift, Flara has transformed from a sea bay to a freshwater basin connected to the sea via one or more waterways or straits.

The centre of the field is only about 3 metres above sea level. In Kustavi, the land rises around 60cm every one hundred years, meaning that the area was underwater around 500 years ago. The Kustavi church belfry was brought to the church hill over the field's ice road during the winter in the late 18th century.



Hummentaaali comes from the Swedish word “humledal” and means hop valley. Common hops (*Humulus lupulus*) are a vine plant in the hemp family with cone-shaped flowers that are used as a flavouring in beer to improve preservation. This was considered to be so important, that during the 18th century, when the country was Sweden-Finland, a law was issued decreeing that households must have a certain number of hop poles (“hummelstör” in Swedish).



Tall junipers growing along Kirkkotie road adorn the field landscape.

Cattails grow in the ditches in the field, as a reminder of the area's watery past. A European crab apple tree seedling has also grown at the edge of the road. It is threatened by insatiably hungry hares.



# Site 6

## KUSTAVI

## CHURCHYARD



Kustavi is an authentic archipelago community on the coast of the Bothnian Sea. There is also a maritime spirit at Kustavi church cemetery. It can be sensed in the names of the deceased, the images of ships and memories of long-distance trips (corals, mussels). The sea and seafaring are also depicted in various forms in the church, belfry and in the war graves'

### Kustavi church — Gustavs kyrka

Kustavi already had two chapels in the 17th century. As was the norm in the archipelago, people either rowed to church or rode horses. Kustavi's wooden cruciform church was completed in 1783, when the chapel of St. John on Vartsala island and the chapel of St. Jacob in Kunnarainen were joined together as a single parish and the chapel of St. Jacob was moved to Kivimaa. The chapels' equipment was also moved to the new church.

During the construction stage, the church was extended and raised. It was built by Johan Höckert. The new church was named **Gustavs kyrka**. Its name was a tribute to King Gustav III of Sweden, who had given permission for the church to be built in Kivimaa. The municipality's modern name, Kustavi, is also derived from the name of the church.

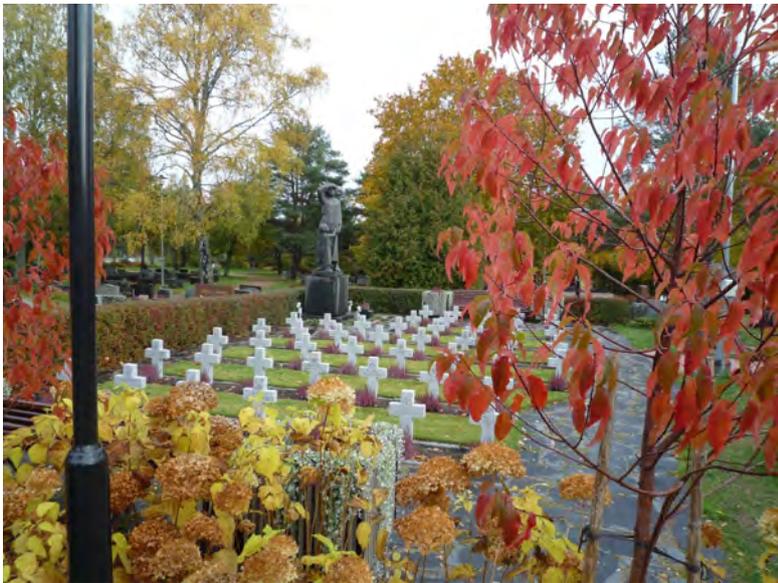
The presence of the sea can also be felt in the church. Beautiful votive ships bear witness to the gratitude of past seafarers to their home parish. The oldest date back to the mid-18th century. The church's roof and belfry are topped with a sun cross, which is originally an ancient Celtic symbol for a sacred place. It has also become an unofficial symbol of Kustavi.



### Belfry

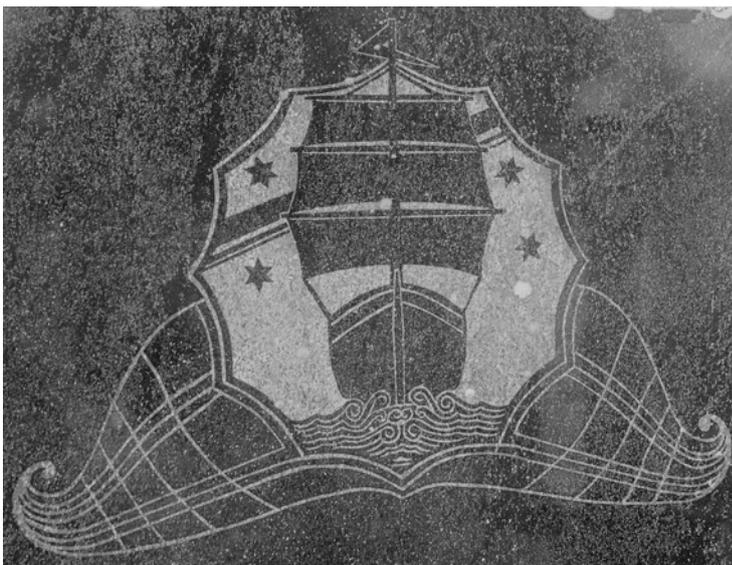
The churchyard contains a belfry moved here from the chapel of St. Jacob in Kunnarainen. The year on the weathervane, 1793, is probably the year when the bell tower was inaugurated on this site.

The bell tower, which stands on smooth Rapakivi granite rock, has a shingle roof and walls. At the top of the belfry and all on the same pole are a Celtic sun cross, a symbolic globe formed from eight meridians, a weathervane and north-south arrows, all strongly associated with seafaring. The belfry has three bells: "isokello" (big bell), "keskivälinen" (middle bell) and "vähäkello" (lesser bell).



### War graves and the statue

At the corner of the war graves is a statue called “Rannalla odottajat” (“Waiting at the shore” - also known as “Merelle tähystäjät”, or “Looking out to sea”), carved by Professor Johan “Jussi” Vikainen (1954) from grey granite. The war grave area is exceedingly beautiful with its plants and benches, a small and peaceful oasis.



### The seafarer's tomb

Near the church is a tomb featuring an engraving of a sailing ship. The engraving is a wonderful display of the sculptor’s concept and skills. The engraving depicts two sailing ships. The larger of the two is reminiscent of an approaching viking ship, which has a typical negative keel. The smaller ship is a sailing ship with three yardarms on the front mast. The image has a special perspective so that the ships always appear to be approaching the viewer.

### Memories for the last sea voyage

Sailors have brought souvenirs back from their travels, including large shells and corals. We can now admire these at the gravestones of those lost sailors.



# Site 7

## VOLTER KILPI — MEMORIAL

Volter Adalbert Kilpi, who bore the surname Ericsson until 1886, was a Finnish novelist. His main work, "In Alastalo's Parlour" has been regarded as the best Finnish novel of all time. Volter was born in Kustavi on 12 December 1874. He died on 13 June 1939 in Turku. Volter Kilpi's grave is opposite the grave of his parents, Anna Lucina and David Ericsson.



### Kilpi's main work, the Saaristosarja archipelago series

Between 1921 and 1939, Kilpi worked as the first chief librarian of the University of Turku. During this time Kilpi wrote his main literary work, known as "Saaristosarja" (the archipelago series), which included the two-part novel "Alastalon salissa" (1933), a collection of short stories, "Pitäjän pienempiä" (1934), and a novel "Kirkolle" (1937). Kilpi returned to the Kustavi of his childhood and its residents, with seafarers and sea captain hosts playing key roles.



At 12 years old, Volter attended school at Turun suomalainen yhteislyseo. Without his parents' knowledge, he enrolled at the Turku school using the surname Kilpi. Why did Volter take the name Kilpi? Perhaps because above all else, he admired and respected Aleksis Kivi, and both surnames are conjugated in the same way. Later on, two of Volter's three brothers also changed their name to Kilpi.

*"For that is why we have smelt the salt of the sea; for us to remember its bitterness and vigour when action must be taken"* (Kilpi: In Alastalo's Parlour I, p. 79.)

Each July in Kustavi, the *Kustavi Literature Association* organises a literary week dedicated to Volter Kilpi.



# Site 8

## Stone fencing

Stone fencing has long been a traditional skill in Kustavi.



### Sexton and stone fence-builder Johan Dahlroth

The hand-crafted stone fencing along Kirkkotie road was built by Johan Robert Dahlroth, who worked as the sexton in Kustavi for 65 years. He was born in Kustavi in 1826 and inherited the job from his father. Johan Dahlroth performed his duties as sexton for 65 years until his death in 1903. As the sexton was a master mason, he was also tasked with building a stone fence around the cemetery. No mortar was needed. The cemetery's stone fence was made from stone slabs and boulders taken from the neighbouring Rapakivi granite cliffs.



The churchyard's current stone fence (around the border of the cemetery) was built in several stages. Part of it consists of sturdy stones shaped at a stoneworks and part is made up of slab-like natural stone. To support the soil, the wall is wide and tilts slightly inwards. The wall is partly built like a chest, with sturdy stones circling the edges of the wall. The interior of the wall is filled with rounder stones. No mortar was used in the boundary wall. The stones are piled up, supporting one another. The slab stone section has a strong hand-crafted feel.

In 1864, the church sexton Johan Dahlroth built a house, sauna and other out-buildings on a rocky hill near the church on the land next to Kummala House, along the current Telkäntie road. The well dug deep into the rock by Dahlroth and this stretch of sturdy hand-crafted stone fencing along Kirkkotie road still remain as evidence of the sexton's hard work.



# Site 9

## MOSSY ROCK



A rather extensive rocky platform covered in moss and lichen. Identifiable lichen species include at least white reindeer lichen, cetraria, stereocaulaceae and cladonia. The small patches that look like pieces of leather are **peltigera**. Half a dozen species of **rhizocarpaceae** grow densely right on the surface of the cliff. *Growing alongside the lichen on the cliff are hair moss and fork moss.* Birds (jays, nutcrackers and thrushes) have turned over the lichens and mosses in their search for insects and other food.



**Red sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) perseveres on the rugged habitat of Rapakivi granite rocks. The species' leaves resemble an arrowhead tip. In the autumn, the beautiful red leaves stand out from the surrounding grey lichen.**



A tuft of **stereocaulaceae** on the edge of a dense carpet of fork moss. The stereocaulaceae resembles the clustered shapes formed by melting tin in traditional New Year celebrations.

In dry conditions, lichen crumbles easily underfoot. Treading on lichen will quickly destroy a lichen field on a rock. It is therefore best for walkers to keep to the trail and leave the lichen field alone to delight other visitors, too.

# Site 10

## POWER LINE REMNANTS



A peculiar imprint of human activity in the middle of the rocky area: a long, straight, neat concrete bump, through which runs a robust copper wire (visible from one broken point). Some moss species grows on the surface of the bump, its brown colour differing completely from the rest of the black moss and lichen on the rock surface. The reason for the colour is thought to be the alkaline lime contained in the concrete, making the species of moss to be a calciphilous or lime-loving lichen.



A 20kV overhead power line that transmitted electricity from Kivimaa to Vuosnainen and Lanskeri used to be located here. The line still stood here in 1992, when Kustavi's zoning map was updated. The overhead line was removed at the turn of the millennium. The line's tower was attached to the rock using bolted stays. Four stay attachment loops can still be found in the terrain.

The line that runs from the direction of the concrete bump turns here towards the Lossiranta ferry shore. A tall mast was built at the turning point of the line in the upper area of the rock to act as a lightning conductor. A thick copper cable encased in concrete can be seen on the ground and was required for earthing the lightning conductor. Lightning struck the mast rather than the power line or ferry shore transformer.

Nowadays the power line that used to run through here is an underground cable. The old transformer is no longer in use, either.

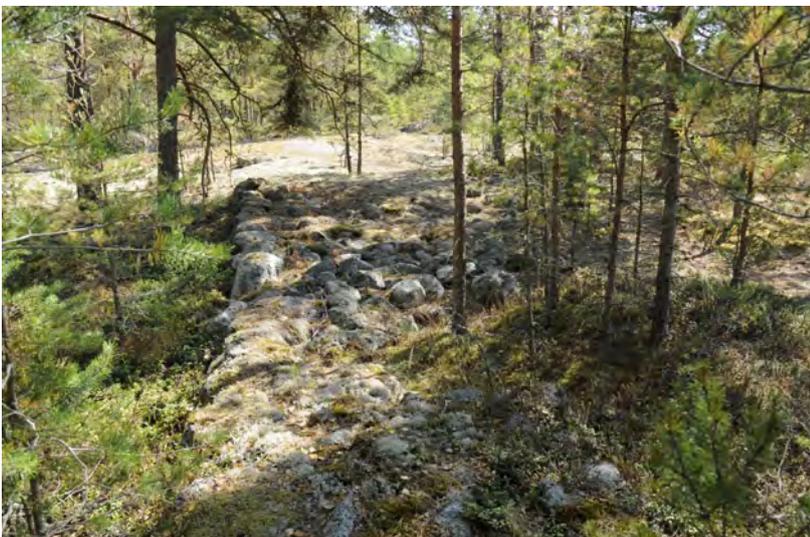
# Site 11

## MYSTERIOUS ROCK PILE



The rock pile is located on the edge of an open rock face where the slope begins to descend towards the north and the terrain is shallow moraine over the rock. The rocks are so large that moving and placing them would have required a considerable amount of force. The northern edge of the rock pile is straight. The pile is clearly man-made, but it is not known whether it is an ancient grave, the stone part of a jetty, the foundation of a building, or something else. We also don't know when exactly it was made.

According to a local memory recorded by Pertti Lehto, the mysterious rock pile was meant as the base for a road, as the master of the Nissilä household wished to move the road away from the Tiuttaali field in order to give him more arable land in the 19th century.



The mysterious rock pile is approximately 12.5 metres above sea level. It has been just at the edge of the seashore since our records began. In places, 10cm-tall lichen grows on top of the rocks. As lichen grows 1mm per year, the pile must be at least 100 years old. Stone ruins that are older than 100 years old are protected by the Antiquities Act.

# Site 12

## TRIANGULAR ROCK

A peculiar, triangular “rocky slice of cake”. A hammer with 30cm handle is shown for scale. This kind of rock can be shaped by one of two things; freezing water or humans.

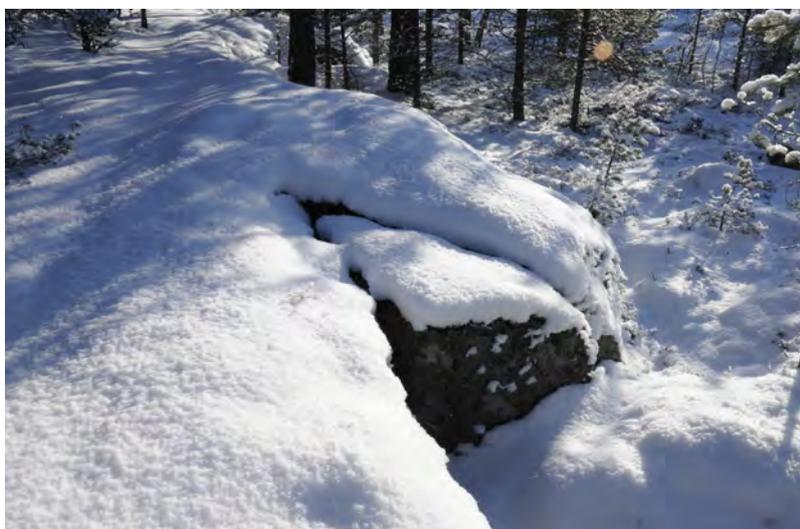
When water trapped inside a crack in a rock freezes, its volume expands by 9%. This is a molecular power that nothing can resist. The gap in the stone widens and before long causes the stone to crack naturally.

Another possibility is that a skilled stonemason cut out the wedge, but for some reason left it in the terrain. Rocks are sliced with a chisel and wedge. The freezing of any cuts in the rock can also lead to the rock detaching.



Rapakivi granite is a good material for sculptors. It has been used as a paving stone in countless countryside homes and in the foundations of jetties. Such triangular stones were used as the uppermost keystone (wedge stone) in arch bridges and as voussoirs.

The time when the rock detached can be estimated based on lichen growth. The grey colour of the cut surface of the rock is due to lichen covering the surface. Lichen covers the cut surface entirely within about 100 years. On this basis, it can be estimated that the rock detached from its base in the early 20th century.



The Grand Duchy of Finland was fortified on a grand scale in the early 20th century. The **Katanpää fortress** on the island of **Lypertö** on the northern edge of the Kustavi municipality was built in 1915-17 during the First World War and was the result of huge stoneworking. It is possible that this stone was, at the time, destined for the walls of a fortress structure.

# Site 13

## Rocky swamp



**Peat moss** and **hair moss** compete for the prime spot for peatland plants in this little shrub swamp. At its deepest, almost a metre of peat has accumulated in the swamp. As the peat layer thickens about 3mm each year, this swamp has developed in this hollow over around 300 years.

A damp swamp in such a dry rocky area is a refreshing sight. Rock swamps form in depressions in rocks where rainwater gathers. The most visible plants in the swamp are stunted pines. Ordinary plants are **peat moss**, **sedges**, which thrive in swamps, and **marsh tea**. Upon closer inspection, you might also find **cranberries**, **bog bilberries** and, on the edges of the swamp **blueberries**, all of which are in the heather family.

The formation of a swamp requires rather still water and hair moss. Various types of hair moss are excellent at absorbing water, but much more reluctant to release it. Once hair moss has reached a place, it will over time invade the entire area and cause the water to become more acidic.

Only certain plants that can withstand the acidity of the swamp are able to survive in such an environment, such as **marsh tea**, some **sedges**, **sundews** and **cloudberries**. Swamps provide scarce nutrition and stunted pines are often much older than may be inferred from the thickness of the trunk.



# Site 14

## ERRATIC BOULDER

During the last ice age, a slow-moving sheet of ice up to 2-3km thick detached and transported huge quantities of rocks and earth. Kustavi's sea area, beaches and rocks all received their fair share. As the erratics are from elsewhere, they are often a different rock type from that of the surrounding bedrock. Some erratics are immensely large. Finland's largest, clearly visible erratic, "Kukkarokivi", is located to the north of Ruissalo in Turku.



The rocks are often mentioned in stories. In the past, it was thought that no ordinary natural power could have moved such a rock. Their presence was therefore explained by the work of demons, devils or giants. In earlier times, seal-hunters and fisherman used the rocks as sacrificial locations and as stone idols. In particular, stories mention giants who may have thrown the rocks at churches in different parishes.

The location, shape and orientation of the rock were relevant. Erratic boulders, which are clearly visible in the terrain, were often chosen as the boundary stones for houses, villages and parishes.

The stone in the image is Rapakivi granite. Its straight side may have once been cut as part of a construction stone.



#

# Site 15

## CAR PARK

To the south of Kivimaantie, before the Vartsa-la ferry, is an expanse of Rapakivi granite rock worn smooth by ancient ice. It is nowadays used as a car park. Underneath the parking sign is a text which reads: "Only for visitors to the cave of Jeremias and sports field users". It has been agreed with the landowner that the car park can also be used for visiting the nature trail.

On the edge of the car park, there is an information sign showing the route of the Kustavi nature and culture trail and the location of its special sites. The sign also includes clear instructions for trail users.

Do not park your vehicle in the car park for longer than necessary when visiting the sites. Hikers and visitors must take all of their rubbish away with them.

### Car park plants

Some types of plant persevere in the loose soil in the car park. In the spring, a few stunted dandelion can be seen, but small **thale cress** (*Arabidopsis thaliana*) requires a keen eye. Part of the Brassicaceae family, thale cress is a delicate plant that grows to just 10cm tall and has white flowers. The species appears to completely disappear: it flowers early in the spring, quickly produces its pollen and then withers away before the summer. In practice, the only change to spot thale cress is in spring, in May.

The delicate little thale cress is also popular among botanists. Thale cress has played a vital role in helping researchers to understand other plants. The species' number of genes was the first to be ascertained in plants back in 2000. Information obtained by studying thale cress has been beneficial in crop processing, on the space station, and in beer brewing.



Thale cress and dandelion

# Site 16

## FERRY SHORE AND SERVICE PIER

Together, the Kustavi municipal service pier and the ferry port, or **ferry shore** form the Kivimaa harbour. Located along the **Ströömi** waterway, this harbour is the most maritime of all of the sites along the Kustavi nature and culture trail. Ströömi is a sheltered and important waterway for smaller ships and boats.



Ströömi is so significant that it is depicted in Kustavi's coat of arms: it is the northwest-southeast waterway between the two anchors.



A cable ferry runs between the islands of Kivimaa and Vartsala. The **ferry** makes it possible for motor vehicles to access the island of Vartsala and onward to the Åland islands, all the way to Mariehamn.

Equipment belonging to the rescue department is attached to the **ferry shore's service pier**, so it is not possible to use it as a guest harbour. Cars may not be parked at the pier. Boats may only be moored at the pier temporarily for boarding and landing.





# Site 17

## THE CAVES OF JEREMIAS



The path to **the caves of Jeremias** starts to the north of Kivimaantie road. It runs through wooded and rocky terrain for about 300m to the north across Pännäistenmaa to a nature conservation area located on the north shore of the peninsula. An **observation point** lies immediately above the caves of Jeremias on Pännäinen hill. Here, the Rapakivi granite rises around 25m above the current sea level. Around 4000 years ago, the top of the rock was a small islet worn by the salty waves of the Littorina Sea.

An exciting story surrounds the origin of the place name, dating back to the War of Åland (1853-1856). At that time, Finland was the Grand Duchy of Finland, part of Russia. During the Crimean War, an English naval fleet arrived in Kustavi. The British wanted to find the Russians staying at Tuulvesi and stopped pilot Jeremias, who had been rowing in Ströömi, to ask the sea lane to Tuulvesi.

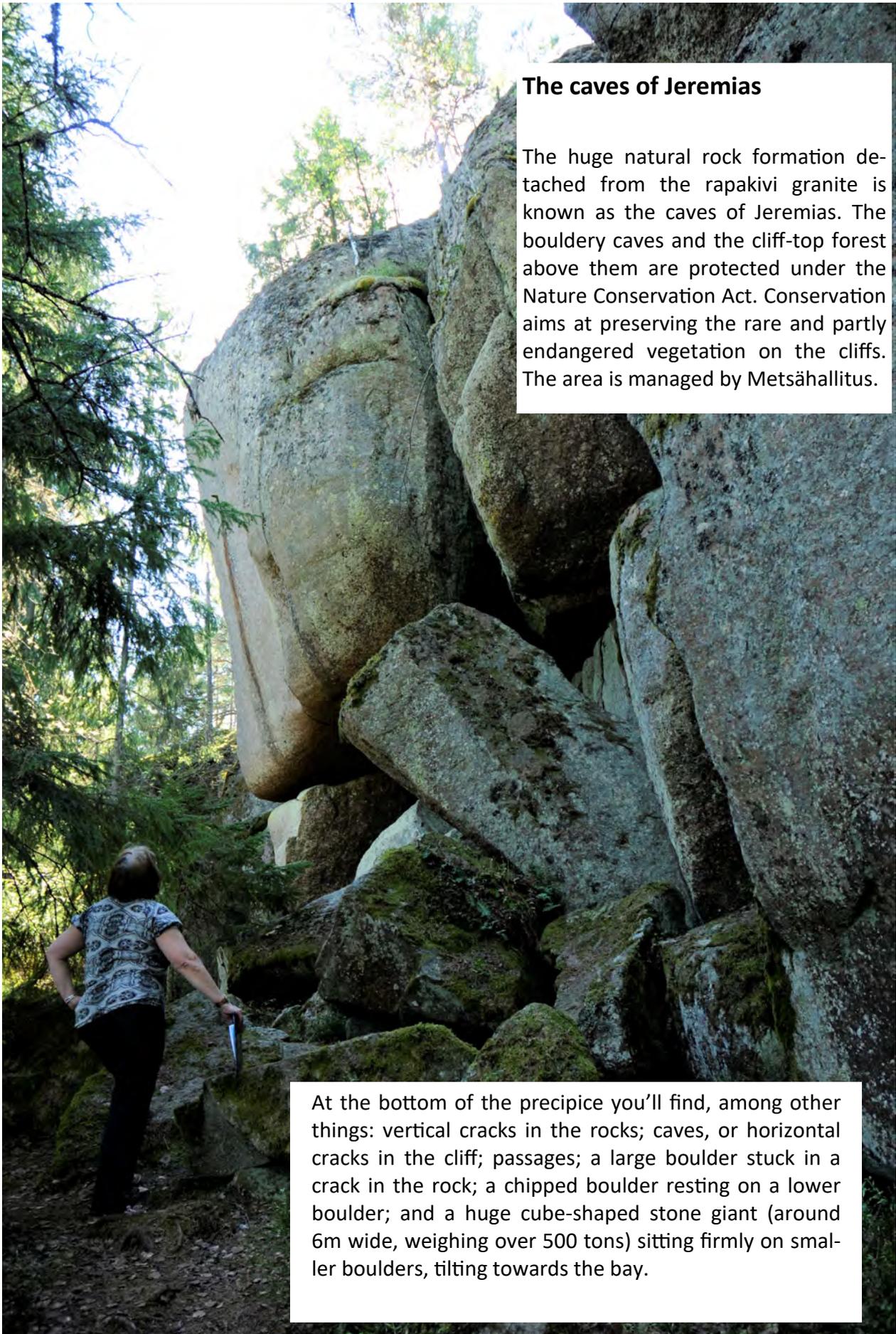
Jeremias deliberately gave the wrong directions and the Brits soon found themselves in trouble. The angry Britons returned to look for Jeremias, but he had escaped to the Pännäinen hill and was able to hide in the caves. It was easy to move around and keep a lookout on the hill without being noticed. Finally, the Brits were forced to leave without finding Jeremias. Later on, the caves began to be known as the caves of Jeremias.

We know from history that the English terrorised the coasts of the Bothnian Sea and the Gulf of Finland during the Crimean War (1853-1856). The British navy's attacks on the Gulf of Bothnia extended to Uusikaupunki in June 1855, when the British corvette *Harrier* arrived in its waters.

On the beach opposite the lookout, at Jataniemi, there was a strong fishing base with fishing huts and net drying racks. Around 100 years ago, Jataniemi was still a rocky island in the bay of Tönviikki. Nowadays, the buildings on the peninsula are largely summer homes.

A fantastic view of Tönviikki bay, adjacent to Ströömi, opens out from the cliff at Pännäinen hill. Ströömi's fjord-like waters flow from the northwest behind Klupinniemi.





### The caves of Jeremias

The huge natural rock formation detached from the rapakivi granite is known as the caves of Jeremias. The bouldery caves and the cliff-top forest above them are protected under the Nature Conservation Act. Conservation aims at preserving the rare and partly endangered vegetation on the cliffs. The area is managed by Metsähallitus.

At the bottom of the precipice you'll find, among other things: vertical cracks in the rocks; caves, or horizontal cracks in the cliff; passages; a large boulder stuck in a crack in the rock; a chipped boulder resting on a lower boulder; and a huge cube-shaped stone giant (around 6m wide, weighing over 500 tons) sitting firmly on smaller boulders, tilting towards the bay.

The saying "a picture says more than a thousand words" is certainly true in the caves of Jeremias. The rocks and caves must be seen with your own eyes to fully comprehend their might.

# Site 18

## SUURI POSTITIE

**Suuri Postitie road** (Stora Postvägen) is a historic route between Turku and Stockholm. The Suuri Postitie road ran from Turku via Mynämäki to Kustavi, from where it continued to the Åland Islands and further on via Grisslehamn and Norrtälje in Sweden to Stockholm. The vast majority of post and passenger transport between Finland and Sweden followed the Suuri Postitie route. Due to the route's long stretches of sea, it was considered one of Europe's most dangerous postal routes.

A Suuri Postitie milestone has been set up at the municipal centre at the intersection between Kivi-  
maantie and Pleikiläntie.



Sweden's first royal order decreeing the movement of post was issued during the reign of Queen Christina in 1636. In Finland, post was organised a little later during the time of Per Brahe, Governor General of Finland. The first postal line in Finland was opened at the end of the Thirty Years' War in 1638.

The task of transporting post was transferred to inns in 1845. Post offices were retained in maritime postal transport until 1910, when regular sea traffic began between Finland and Sweden. The post was transported by farm workers, who would each transport the post 10 or 15 miles to the next post worker. In the archipelago, post was mainly transported by sailboats, rowed in calm weather. Post was brought from the Åland Islands to the Rantapuoti jetty in South Vartsala.

The Suuri Postitie road is best conserved in the area of Kustavi in South Vartsala, whose post office operated from the time the road was built until the 1840s. The old road base that rises from the shore of Ströömi and continues as Telkäntie and, after the church, as Kirkkotie, is part of the old post road.

# Site 19

## MODERN BUILDING CULTURE



The rented terraced house comprising 13 apartments built by the municipality of Kustavi was completed in 2014 in an area known as the Kirkonmäki residential area on the Kivimaa zoning map. The project arose from the need for more modern rented apartments in the municipality. The population of the municipality has been increasing for several years. The area is located along the road to the Vartsala ferry shore. Kustavi municipality carried out civil engineering (water and drainage) in the area in 2011. A fiberoptic network has also been built into the plot area.

In 2011, a light traffic route was completed that runs for around a kilometre alongside the residential area, which blends in well with the Kustavi cultural landscape. The route connects the municipal centre and the Vartsala ferry shore. The residential area is also home to comfortable and affordable single-family homes, which are ideal for young couples and families with children, for example.

The location of the rented terraced houses with both the municipal centre and the sea shore (Ströömi) close by provides a pleasant and functional setting for living.



## Site 20

### Old village scenery

Kunnan keskustassa Kivimaantien pohjoispuolella sijaitsee kaksi vanhaa näyttävää maataloa,



The old building stock and yards in the village of Kivimaa in central Kustavi demonstrates a significant respect and value for its cultural heritage. Maritime livelihoods have created a foundation for development and stable life in the spirit of Alastalo's Parlour as described by Volter Kilpi.



**Hellevaara House** is named after the warm southern slope on which the house was built at the end of the 1800s. Originally, the house belonged to the Holmroos family. Many of the men in the family had been sea captains. Kustavi parish bought the house as an office for cantors. It was also home to a school. Nowadays the house is privately owned. The stone in the yard dates to the 18th century. It is one of the oldest structures in Kustavi.

Much of the land in the Kustavi municipal centre once belonged to **Nissilä House**. Nissilä House first appeared on the land register in the 16th century. At its largest, it owned around 500 hectares of land.

The current house was built in the 1860s. In the early 1900s, the house served as an inn and as a stop on the post road.

In summer, the yard of Nissilä House held a summer theatre and contained a local museum.



# Site 21

## KATANPÄÄ ISLAND FORTRESS



More information: [www.luontoon.fi/](http://www.luontoon.fi/)

Ilmo Suikkanaen

The **Katanpää sea fortress** is located on the **Katanpää peninsula** on the island of **Lyptö** in **Kustavi's outer archipelago**. Nowadays, part of the island is part of the **Bothnian Sea National Park**. The fortress was built from 1915–1917 during the First World War.. On the north side of Katanpää on the shores and islands in the Bothnian Sea, there are smaller fortresses and fortifications built during Russian rule. A huge number of boulders hacked away from stone were used in the chain of fortifications.

For a long time, the location of Katanpää was strategically significant, as it allowed for all three coastal lanes crossing the Archipelago Sea to be monitored. Katanpää was used as a naval port as early as the 19th century. The fortress was built later on in the 1910s by Tsar Nicholas II of Russia as part of the largest fortification line built in the Gulf of Finland, known as Peter the Great's naval fortress. Later on, the fortress was used as a prison and after independence as a base for the Finnish Defence Forces. Nowadays it is a sheltered guest harbour serving boaters and an increasing number of marine tourists.

Although Katanpää no longer has any military significance, it is a culturally and historically valuable attraction. The island's excursion harbour is a popular rest spot for seafarers. Katanpää is the southernmost destination in the Bothnian Sea National Park, established in 2011.

Extensive excavations have been carried out on the Katanpää island fortress. The stone has been used not only in the foundations of the fortress, but also to build jetties and the base of the island's road network.

In the mid-1980s, the Finnish Defence Forces carried out extensive renovation work on old buildings in Katanpää. The fortifications are protected under the Antiquities Act.



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# Site 22

## Isokari lighthouse island



Ilmo Suikkanen

The **Isokari** lighthouse was completed in 1833. For just under two hundred years, it has been an important site, helping seafarers to navigate.

The lighthouse was supplied with electricity in 1952. At that time, a lens built in 1872 in Paris was brought to the lantern room. It had previously been in the Marjaniemi lighthouse.

The lighthouse keepers' house has been restored to provide accommodation for tourists on the island.

The southwest corner of Isokari is part of the **Bothnian Sea National Park area**. In 2009, the Finnish Heritage Agency defined the Isokari lighthouse and pilot community as a nationally significant built cultural environment.



Isokari is a popular destination among boaters. In the summer, the guest harbour fills with boaters from near and far.

Isokari also offers great summer jobs. Sheep graze on the island and volunteers are sought each year to help tend to them.

More information: [www.luontoon.fi/selkameri](http://www.luontoon.fi/selkameri), [www.selkameri.fi](http://www.selkameri.fi)



Kari Haapanen

The view of the island is dominated by the red-and-white striped lighthouse, which is 49.4 metres tall and 17 metres in diameter at its base. The Isokari lighthouse is the tallest in the Gulf of Bothnia.

The lighthouse tower was designed by the pilot major Gustaf Brodd. The lighthouse was designed based on the Tolbuhin lighthouse built in Kronstadt, Russia. The drawings were reviewed by Carl Ludvig Engel. The construction work for the lighthouse was put out to tender in 1830 and won by church builder Pychlau. The original colour of the lighthouse was yellow, and in addition its current red-and-white colour, it has also been black and white.

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## Notes:

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## Photos:

Haapanen Kari: Photo on page 28c.

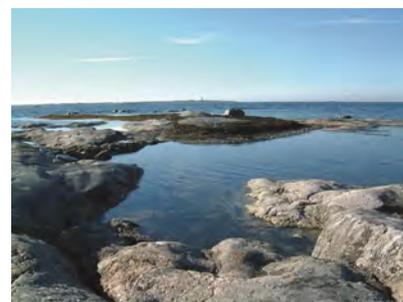
Leino Harri: Photo on page 27b.

Lovén Lasse: Photos on pages 5a and b, 6b, 11a and b, 13b, 15b, 16a, 19b.

Malmelin Markus: Photos on pages 4 and 25.

Mäntylä Kari: Photos on pages 1, 5c and d, 6a, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11c and d, 12a, 13a and c, 14, 15a, 16b, 17, 18, 19a, 20, 21a and c, 22b and c, 23, 24, 26.

Suikkanen Ilmo: Photos on pages 21b, 22a, 27a, 28a and b, 29.



# Kustavi Nature and culture trail

## Route and sites



QR code that opens the trail on a Google Maps

More information about the trail and sites is available from: Kustavi municipality, tel. +358 (0)2 842 6600, email: [kustavi@kustavi.fi](mailto:kustavi@kustavi.fi)

