

Hämeenlinnan Retkeilijät (Hämeenlinna Hikers, shortly HäRet)

Hämeenlinnan Retkeilijät, also known as HäRet, is an outdoor recreation club founded in 1979. We bring together nature enthusiasts from the Hämeenlinna region and are open to everyone.

Activities and Community

HäRet organizes day and weekend trips, various kinds of events and volunteer work parties on our cabins. Our activities include fishing, sauna evenings, foraging, and participating in national federation events. Our goal is to provide activities for the whole family.

We own two cabins located by lakes, which are freely available for members to use as leisure spots or bases for day trips and fishing excursions.

As a member organization of Suomen Retkeilyliitto (The Trekking Association of Finland), our members also have access to the national federation's services and cabins. Through our club, it is easy to explore wonderful hiking destinations in the Häme region as well as in Lapland and North Karelia.

Our Mission

HäRet's mission is to offer members activities that are close to nature and promote physical well-being. Our annual calendar typically includes:

Winter ski trips and summer day hikes. Ice fishing and angling competitions.

Summer sauna days, Midsummer and Christmas celebrations. Visits to Lapland and Lieksa.

Events organized by our national umbrella organization.

We strive to accommodate people of all ages and fitness levels. For a beginner, membership is a great way to meet like-minded people, learn new skills, and discover worth-visiting outdoor destinations. We communicate with our members via newsletters, our website, Facebook, and a WhatsApp group.

Our cabins: Off-the-Grid Relaxation

1. Vanajaniemi (Hattula): Located on the shores of Lake Vanajavesi, surrounded by forested recreation areas.

2. Hakostenjärvi (Padasjoki): Located in the Tarus area, near the extensive hiking trails of Tarus and Evo.

The cabins are available for members for a small daily fee. They are "off-the-grid" (no electricity or running water) but feature: Kitchenettes with gas stoves. Wells and traditional saunas. A kota (traditional hut) or a cooking/grill shelter at both sites.

How to join:

Membership: Annual fees: Adults €32, children (5–15 years) €5.

Contact us via email at hameenlinnanretkeilijat@gmail.com or visit our cabins to meet our members in person.

About the Trekking Association of Finland

The Trekking Association of Finland (Suomen Retkeilyliitto) is a traditional national organization with approximately 20 member clubs across Finland.

The association maintains its own network of cabins and organizes trips and events open to all members, such as National Hiking Days. It also publishes the *Retkeilijä* magazine. Through your membership, you gain access to association cabins in places like:

Lapland: Varkhanmukka (Yli-Kyrö), Rihmakuru (Kittilä), and Käkkälö (Enontekiö).

North Karelia: Ukonjoki (Lieksa).

More information can be found at: www.suomenretkeilyliitto.fi.

As a Finnish member of Naturefriends International (NFI), the association is also a specialist in sustainable tourism and nature-oriented hiking.