



**SALPA** *Trail*

# SALPA LINE

The Salpa Line was built after the Winter War during the Interim Peace in 1940-41, in order to secure Finland's new Eastern border. The construction works on the unfinished defence line were begun again in the summer of 1944, when the Soviet Union launched a massive offensive through the Carelian Isthmus. Even though the battlefield never reached the Salpa Line, it still had its own indirect impact on the events in the end of the Continuation War. The 1200 km long Salpa Line is one the strongest and best preserved lines of fortifications in Europe built during the Second World War. The most heavily fortified part of the Salpa Line is situated in between the Gulf of Finland and Lake Saimaa, where also the Museums of Miehikkälä and Virolahti are located.

# SALPA CENTRE

The Salpa Centre develops extensive co-operation in order to improve information exchange and tourism involving the Salpa Line. Its aim is to build an international centre for fortification historical museums, surrounding nature and tourism. Information regarding exhibitions and other museum services may be acquired from the web site [www.salpakeskus.fi](http://www.salpakeskus.fi).

The Salpa Centre consists of:

- Salpa Line Museum in Miehikkälä
- Bunker Museum in Virolahti
- Salpa Trail
- Salpa Line Tradition Association

# SALPA TRAIL

*hiking route*



The Salpa Trail is a hiking route approximately 50 km long in Virolahti and Miehikkälä. On the trail it is possible to get acquainted with the Finnish military history by visiting numerous bunkers and other fortifications and museums.

The Salpa Trail meanders in the middle of typical cultural and natural surroundings of South-Eastern Finland, roughly following the Salpa Line. Along the trail there are 13 rest areas for overnight accommodation as well as four saunas available by reservation.

Hiking maps may be bought at the Municipal Halls of Miehikkälä and Virolahti or at the Salpa Centre museums.

Come on hiking!

# SALPA LINE MUSEUM

## *in Miehikkälä*

Several hectares wide heavily fortified museum area has originally been meant to serve as a defence centre for a company. You may examine the fortification works on guided tours in magnificent landscapes of forest and rock.

Stop for a while in the museum café for a cup of coffee and delicious baked goods.





The museum boutique Rasla offers for sale a wide variety of related literature, souvenirs and local handi-works.

The exhibitions in the main building show the development of fortifying work in Finland, the everyday life of the fortification builders and the function of the fortification artillery.

An exhibition in one of the bunkers on the outdoor museum area displays the weaponry of the Finnish infantry from the Second World War.



# BUNKER MUSEUM

## *in Virolahti*



The fortification sites and guided hiking route of the outdoor museum area are located in easily accessible heath landscape.

Museum's new permanent exhibition lets the visitor experience the Salpa Line with all senses. You can walk through a shady trench and take a peek inside a wooden dugout with a whiff of tar. The pictures of the exhibition take you through the different phases of building the Salpa Line and show the builders at their work. The different types of fortifications, such as trenches, obstacles and bunkers, are extensively displayed in the exhibition.

The museum boutique offers for sale related literature and souvenirs. Café Bunkkeri serves visitors during the museum opening hours.



## SALPA LINE MUSEUM AND BUNKER MUSEUM OFFERS:

- A short movie, which presents the Salpa Line as part of the history of the Second World War in the beginning of the museum tour
- Exhibitions on the Salpa Line
- Guided tours to the fortifications of outdoor museums usually begin on the hour. There are various gun and accommodation bunkers, trenches, stone antitank obstacles, antitank cannon and barbed wire obstacles etc.

■ SALPA LINE MUSEUM IN MIEHIKKÄLÄ

+358 44 383 5091 (May 1 – Sep 30)

[www.salpakeskus.fi](http://www.salpakeskus.fi)

[www.miehikkala.fi](http://www.miehikkala.fi)

May Wed-Sun 10 am - 6 pm

June-August Mon-Sun 10 am - 6 pm

September Wed-Sun 10 am - 6 pm

Open for groups by reservation all year round.

Säästöpiirtintie 70, 49700 Miehikkälä



■ BUNKER MUSEUM IN VIROLAHTI

+358 40 710 7339 (June 1 – Aug 31)

[www.salpakeskus.fi](http://www.salpakeskus.fi)

[www.virolahti.fi](http://www.virolahti.fi)

June-August Mon-Sun 10 am - 6 pm

Open for groups by reservation all year round.

Vaalimaantie 1318, 49960 Ala-Pihlaja

■ SALPAPOLKU

+358 400 926 921 / Miehikkälä

+358 50 926 5100 / Virolahti

[www.salpakeskus.fi](http://www.salpakeskus.fi)

