



Haapajärven kaupunki

Walking Tour – The Ronkaala District

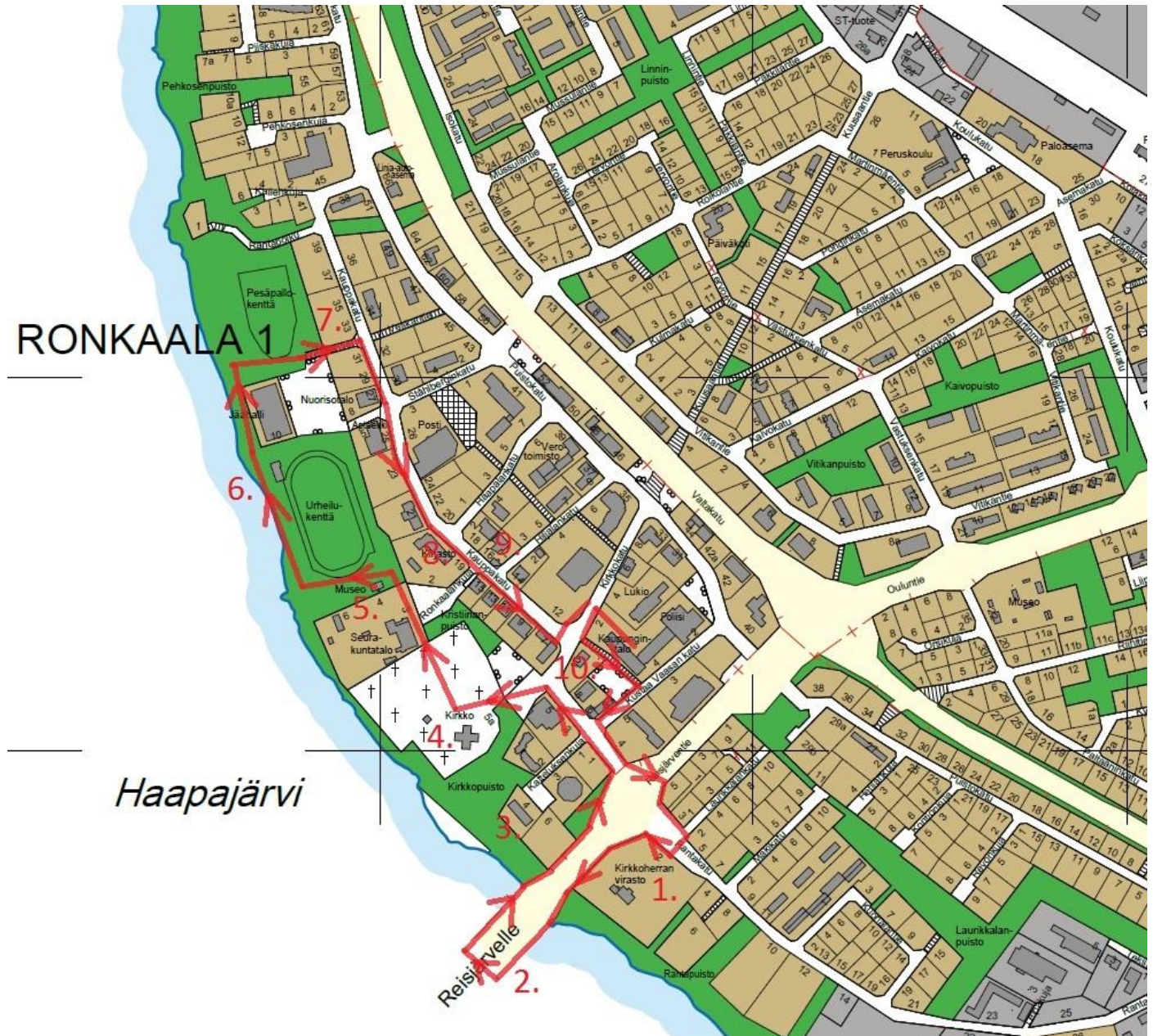
2,7 km

The route runs anti-clockwise from the City hall (Kirkkokatu 2). The tour focuses on the Ronkaala district, which is core center of Haapajärvi city.

Haapajärvi is a living town in the Northern Ostrobothnia where the expanse of the coastal Finland meets the hilly central Finland. The history of Haapajärvi reaches back all the way to the 16th century, when the first reported settlers came to the area with their families and established their settlements to the banks of river Kalajoki. Even the famous Swedish 16th century king Gustav Vasa acknowledged the first settler's right to live in peace in Haapajärvi area.

The land area of Haapajärvi is around 790km² and 24km² of the area is water. Population is around 8000 people.

Haapajärvi is a tea town. The city has its own tea label, which combines Indian Ceylon tea with petals of cornflower and marigold. The tea is further flavored by lemon-, apricot-, strawberry and peach oils. The tea can be bought from the local shops and markets. Haapajärvi celebrates its status as a tea town by displaying a vast collection of tea cups in the City hall. The tea theme can be seen throughout the city – even the lamp posts are shaped as upturned tea cups!



1. The Vicarage of Laurikkala. The Vicarage was in the culmination point of Haapajärvi's high society in the past centuries. The houses around the Vicarage were wealthy and inhabited by bourgeois and public servants. Still the vicarage did not lose in splendor compared to its wealthy neighbors. The smaller, red log house is known as "Pikkupappila" meaning "small rectory". Nowadays the Vicarage is the office of local parish and the "Pikkupappila" functions as a café in the summertime.



2. The Church Bridge. The bridge was and still is an important connection point between the villages on the other side of the river and the center of Haapajärvi.

3. The Mansion of Kattelus. Left from the Church Bridge, in the shades of greenery, overlooks the Mansion of Kattelus. The mansion was established by the first known settlers of Haapajärvi in the 16th century. It has been a thriving farm, a residence of high army officers and rich merchants. Nowadays it is a home for troubled children. The magnificent colonnade facing the river was built by the request of a strong-willed pharmacist's wife in the beginning of 20th century.

4. The Church of Haapajärvi. The Church was completed in 1802 Anno Domini. The Church was originally built to reflect the Gustavian trend, but after just a few decades the church was renovated to match the prevailing neo-gothic trend. The church's present condition was reached via

renovation completed in 2002. During the renovation the old, cold blue interior was renewed to match the original colors of the church. Also the towers roof was copper plated.



The bell tower was built in 1813. The two bells it contains were cast in Stockholm in the 18th and 19th centuries.

5. The Museum of President K.J. Ståhlberg, Finland's first president. The Museum displays the life of a 19th century priest's family. The building was a rectory in the 19th century and its interior illustrates the style of the era as precisely as possible. President Ståhlberg's father was a priest, and therefore he had the chance to study and become a great politician of his era.



There are not a whole lot left of the belongings of the president Ståhlberg. The only thing directly used by him is a wooden butter punnet, in which he used

to take butter to Oulu where he studied. The museum is open at summertime.

6. The Shore path. The shore path follows river Kalajoki and displays its beautiful scenery. The path was opened in summer 2015.

7. The Wood House Area of Kauppakatu. This neighborhood was built mainly after the World War II. The street Kauppakatu was the main road of Haapajärvi and lead to the neighboring city Nivala.

8. The Culture House. The Culture House contains a library and a theatre. The building was built in 1939 after the preceding building was destroyed in a fire. The building was originally used by civil guard as a club house. After the civil guard became banned after the World War II, the building served couple decades as a City hall and became then a library and a theatre.

9. The Café Häggman. This cozy and welcoming favorite café of every Haapajärvi-resident moved in to the house Häggman after a fire destroyed the previous facilities in 1985. The story goes that the very first thing that was salvaged from the raging fire was the recipe book and the old and irreplaceable sourdough. Luckily no lives were lost. The café is an excellent pit stop just before the end of the tour. You might want to sip a cup of Haapajärvi-tea and have a vast sugar coated doughnut with a raspberry jam filling! The doughnut almost brings tears to every Haapajärvi-residents eyes – it's THAT good!

10. The Bank House. This stone house has been a lot of things: a grocery store, a bank, a clothing store... And it's charming too!

Sources: Kirjastovirma.
(www.kirjastovirma.fi/haapajarvi) In Finnish.

Haapajärven seurakunta
(www.haapajarvenseurakunta.fi) In Finnish.