

RUKA & KUUSAMO - HEIKKALA COTTAGES



WHY?

You love exploring wild nature and having options for activities. You are an enthusiastic wintersporter – or wish to do some serious hiking, paddling or fishing in the summertime. You value the peacefulness of your own cabin with a private sauna, fireplace and fully equipped kitchen with all mod cons. You prefer a self-catered option with great value and independence from schedules, including free parking and wifi. Still, you don't mind having juicy options for restaurants or bars at an easy reach.

WHERE?

At the Southern edge of Finnish Lapland, 800km north of Helsinki and 40km from the Russian border. Heikkala cottages are beautifully situated close to Talvijärvi Lake, which is easily crossed in the winter on skies or by foot. The cottages have views over the nearby Ruka skiing resort (www.ruka.fi/en/), but are a nice little distance away from all the hustle and bustle. Ruka village with shops, restaurants and nightlife is a stone's throw away – and Kuusamo, the nearest city, is 25km from your cottage. Nearest supermarket is an 800m walk.

WHEN?

November to April for all kinds of snowy fun and Northern Lights; May to August for hiking, fishing and cycling; July-August for bear-watching safaris; September to October for wild berry picking and thousands of shades of "ruska" colours.

WHAT'S THE CATCH?

By booking with A Piece Of Finland's special code, you'll be entitled to a surprise gift bag full of Finnish treats upon your return to the Netherlands. Just let us know how many people are

travelling and when, and we'll make sure your surprise is ready for pick-up when you want it.

HOW DO I BOOK?

Go to www.heikkala.com/en/ and click 'Book online'. Select the British flag in the right top corner for English. Enter your chosen dates and click 'search'. Choose your favourite accommodation option. Check your preferred additional services and continue to 'book'. Before paying, fill in your details and write 'A Piece Of Finland' in the additional info-box. This will entitle you to your special deal. You can now continue to payment and confirmation of your booking.

HOW DO I GET THERE?

Finnair flies from Helsinki to Kuusamo airport all-year-round, daily in the winter season. The flight takes about 1h and travellers are met at the airport in Kuusamo by an Airport Bus which drops them off at Ruka's central square. From here it's a quick taxi ride to your Heikkala cottage. Taxis are also available for the whole journey from the airport, if preferred.

You can also choose for a train+bus combo from Helsinki or other cities in Finland. On top of regular daytime rides, there are night trains with cabins and a car train, if you wish to transport your car. For more info, see: <https://www.vr.fi/cs/vr/en/frontpage>

Rental cars are widely available throughout Finland – or enjoy the drive on your own vehicle from The Netherlands to Finland (see Silja Line ferry ride, other sheet).*

For public transport info, see: <https://www.vr.fi/cs/vr/en/frontpage> for trains, <http://www.finnair.com/nl/gb> for flights and <https://matkahuolto.fi/en/> for buses.

*Note: for driving, you will need winter tires from October till April!