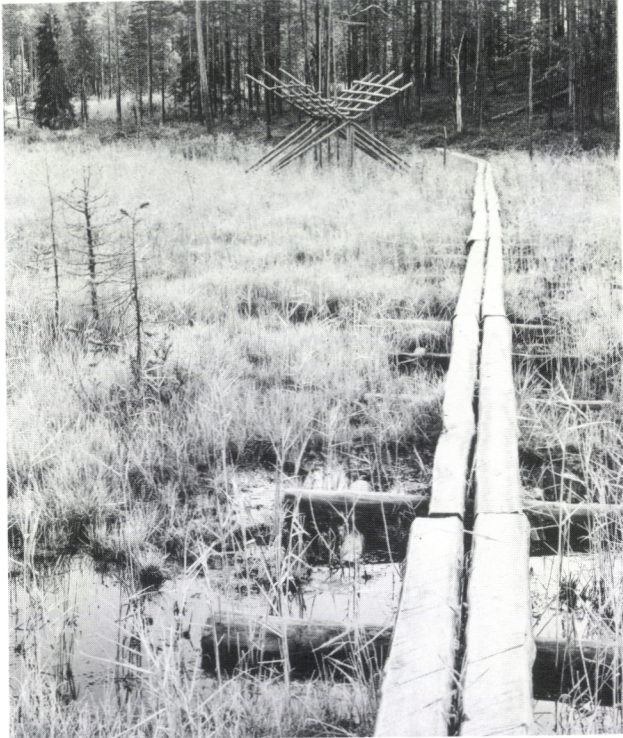


## ACCESS, SERVICES AND SIGHTS

The hiking route "Karhunkierros" connects the best-known sights of the park. The northern branch begins by Lake Hautajärvi and follows River Savinajoki up to the gloomy canyons of River Oulankajoki and runs still further onwards to the three-branched Taivalköngäs Falls. The southern branch starting by the road to Salla leads following River Aventojoiki to Ristikallio Cliffs whose sheer rock walls cram the serenely flowing River Aventojoiki. The routes meet at Taivalköngäs Falls and then run towards the best-known sight within the park, Kiutaköngäs Falls.



Moving in the national park is free. For the benefit of the hiker duckboards, suspension bridges and eight wilderness huts for overnighting within the park have been built. Camping and making of a fire is permitted only where marked. On the Haaralampi Heath, close to the road to Liikasenvaara there is a camping site with kiosks and saunas. In the vicinity there are also two nature trails, each five kilometres in length, equipped with information boards.

By the road bridge lie the Visitor Center of the National Board of Forestry and the Biological Station of Oulanka of the University of Oulu.

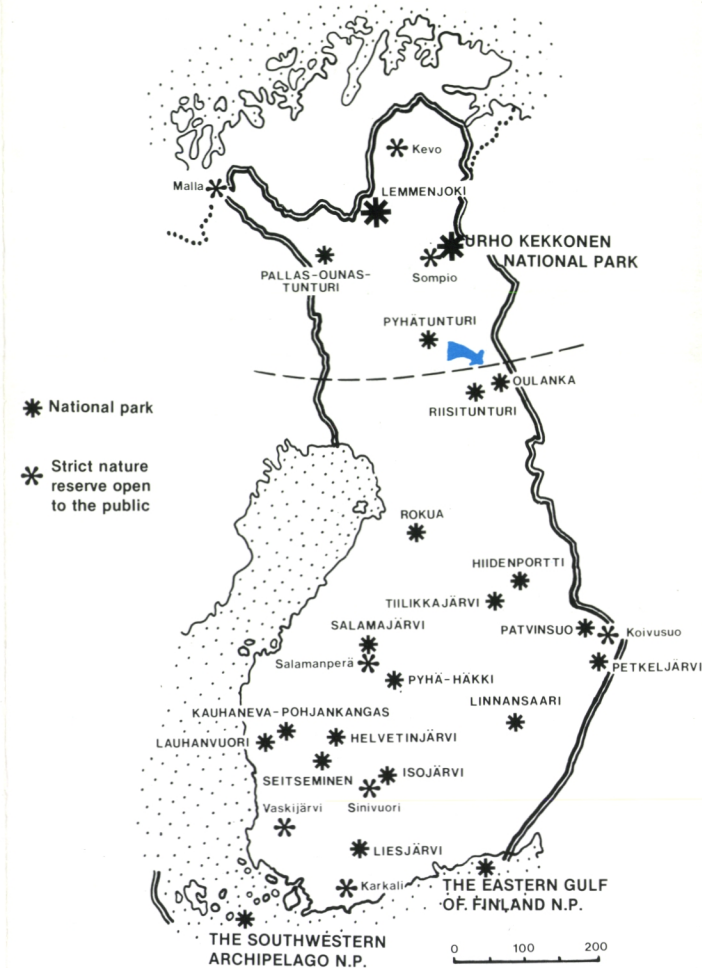
The Kiutaköngäs Falls which lie less than a kilometre from the road pour down between the brownish red dolomite walls and the hard quartzite rock with a total fall of almost 14 metres over a distance of a few hundred metres. Here the Karhunkierros route follows the southern bank of the river, crosses the forest, via the two huts Ansakämpä and Jussinkämpä to the River Kitkajoki, then follows its northern bank to Jyrävä Falls and runs further outside the park all the way to the Rukatunturi Fjeld.



Fishing in the water areas of the national park is allowed only with a license from the National Board of Forestry and local Kitkanniemi Fishing Corporation. The licenses are sold in the information centre and the camping site. The most desirable catch is the salmon of Lake Pääjärvi, which is a lake trout, but the waters also support grayling, brook trout, pike, perch and whitefish.

According to the regulations of the national park all such activities are forbidden that change the condition of the special landscapes of the area or have harmful effect on the preservation of the original flora and fauna. Access to the frontier zone without an authorizing permit is also forbidden.

Further information on National Park of Oulanka is obtainable from: National Board of Forestry, District of Taivalkoski, Kuusamo Office, SF-93600 KUUSAMO, tel. 989-22422, and the Visitor Center, tel. guidance 989-46153, office 989-46152, café 989-46151, camping site 989-46129, 25 Kiutaköngäs, SF-93999 KUUSAMO.



The national parks are State-owned protected areas, which shall be preserved in their natural condition as sights, as education, research and recreation areas. Apart from the original nature, also traditional environments and buildings as result of human dwelling and culture are protected.

There are twenty-three national parks in Finland; the National Parks of Pallas-Ounastunturi and Pyhä-Tunturi are under the administration of the Finnish Forest Research Institute, the other under the National Board of Forestry.

### FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE NATIONAL PARKS:

Finnish National Board of Forestry, Office for National Parks, tel. 90-61631, and Finnish Forest Research Institute, Experimental Forest Office, tel. 90-661401.

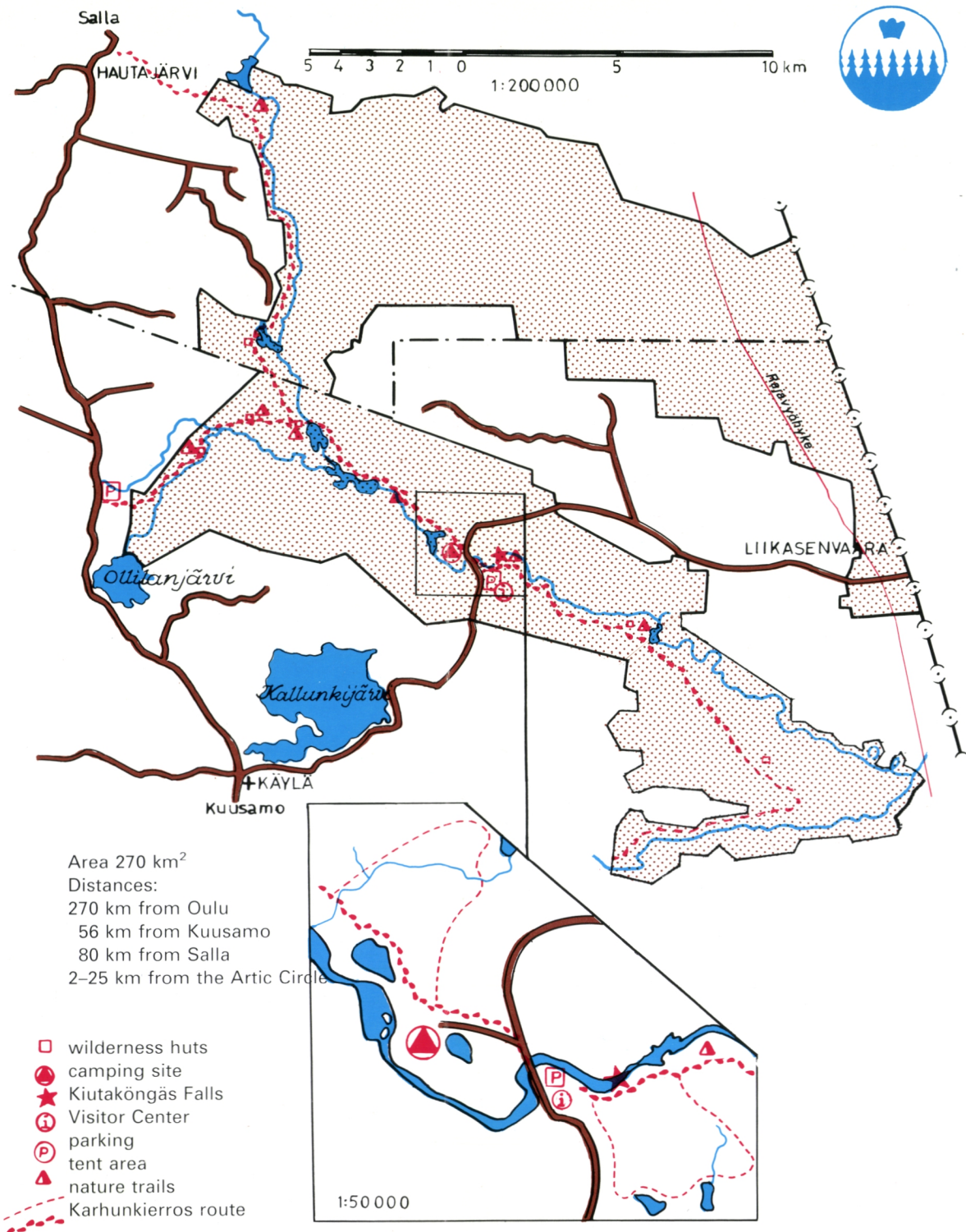
## NATIONAL PARKS OF FINLAND

# OULANKA



"Of all the tracts have been considered as protected areas in the northern part of our country the region around River Oulankajoki in certain respects occupies the prime position. For here and there in this magnificent area exceptionally rugged nature and an almost southern soft beauty harmoniously combine to form a scenery that sets you dreaming. Steep, forest-covered heights, rocky shores, roaring waterfalls, bare sand hillocks shining in the sun, charming waterfront meadows rich in flowers, and mouths of rivers luxuriant with grass and shrubs pass before the eyes of the traveller, while his boat glides forward along the deep river valley."





## HISTORY

The area of Oulanka was officially suggested as protection area as early as in 1910, but the national park was not established until 1956. The area of the park was doubled in 1982, when forest and peatlands were attached to the old park on the northern side. The national park was enlarged again in 1989, when the so called Kitkanniemi area was attached to it. The National Board of Forestry has, however, managed the park as protection area and no forest has been cut since WW I. Signs of forestry, such as decaying trunks, rotten stumps or tumbled-log cabins, can still be seen at many locations.



## TOPOGRAPHY

The northern part of the national park, east of River Savinjoki, comprises flat-lying forest and peatland. The southern part of the park along Rivers Aventojoiki and Oulankajoki is sharply-outlined forest land characterized by great differences in altitude. East of Kiutaköngäs Falls the river is lined in places by enormous sandy river banks, where reindeer seek their way during summer.



## FLORA AND FAUNA

The flora and fauna of the national park are rich in species. Here the species of south and north as well as of east and west have found a common ground.

The park lies in the forest vegetation zone of Northern Finland. As a result of the snow cover and the summer-time humidity the Hylocomium-Myrtillus type spruce forests and hanging bogs are common, especially on the slightly slanting slopes of the hills and on the groves of the mires.



The bottom of the river valley and the stony hill slopes are, on the other hand, clean pine mineral soils or pine-dominant mixed stands. A thick pine seedling stand is in places reminding of natural regeneration which has taken place after forest fires. This is also shown in the black butts of the thickest stems. As a complete contrast come the grove-like lush mouths of brooks in the river valley or the wet hollows between rocks, where the lime of the soil enriches the flora. The north-facing, oozing slopes and the precipices carry even fjeld-like flora.

The mammal species in the park are, considering the northern location, plentiful; almost thirty mammal species have been found here, just to mention such wild beasts as wolf, bear and wolverine.

The bird species are also varied and plentiful; there are over 120 nesting species. The willow warbler has the largest occurrence, and nearly as common is the brambling, which represents the Siberian fauna type.

Other typical forest birds are the chaffinch, redstart, Siberian jay and redwing.