



Haapajärven kaupunki

Walking Tour – The Railway Station District

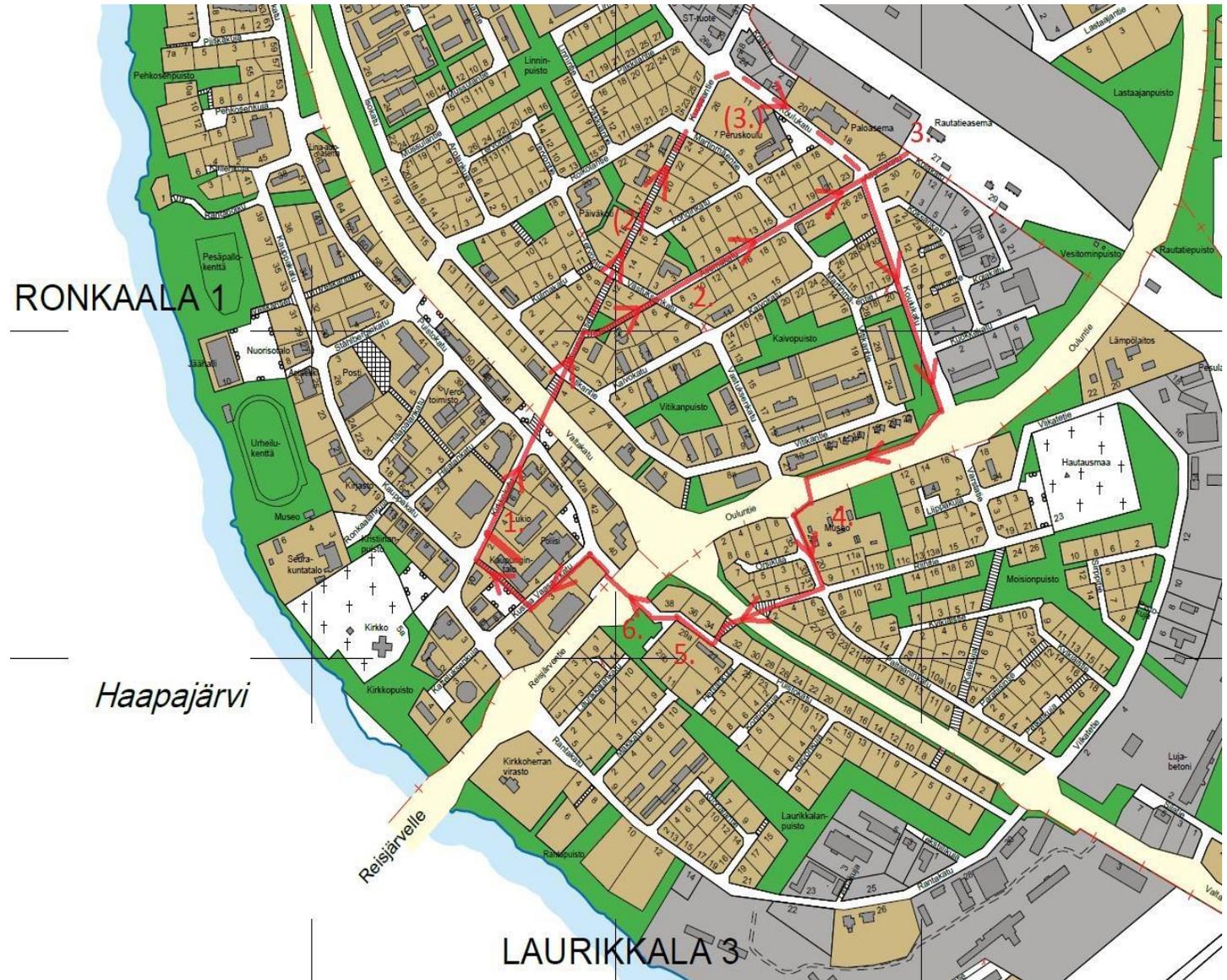
2,7 km or 3 km

The tour runs clockwise from the City hall (Kirkkokatu 2) front yard. There are two variations of the route. First option follows Asemakatu leading directly to the railroad station and the other follows Kuusaantie, which is a slightly longer option. The numbers (2.) & (3.) on the map are part of the longer route.

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 flavoured 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 Senior High School of Haapajärvi. Before the building became a high school, it served as an elementary school. The old school was built from logs, but as the number of students rose, the city had to build a new one from stone.

2. The Street Asemakatu is known as a delightful area of wooden houses. The main portion of the houses is built after World War II, but some date older than that. The street was a busy shopping street before the 1970's when most of the shops closed and the rest moved to the downtown.

(2.) The House of the Workers' Association "Sarastus". The present building – which is the second one – was built in the 1950s. The first house was built in the early 1900s. The first building was taken in to municipal ownership in the 1930s and it became the first permanent location for the high school of Haapajärvi. The present building has also had an educational past – it was used by the business college before their own facilities were finished.



3. The Railway Station of Haapajärvi. The railway reached the city in 1925. The station buildings are from the same era. In addition to the magnificent main station building there are several other buildings related to the railway along the tracks. There are barracks, granaries and even a water tower! There is a possibility to stay in the barracks and experience the life of a 20th century Finnish

railway worker, since the barracks have been restored to serve as an inn "Aseman kasarmi".



(3.) The Elementary School and pre-school of Martinmäki. The main building served as a private high school-like school before the 1970s.

4. The Local History Museum of Haapajärvi. The museum is financed and maintained by a local society. The museum consists of several different buildings that have been moved to the location from all over Haapajärvi. The museum aims to be as exact depiction of a 19th century farm house as possible. The yard is dominated by the main building known as "Ruuskan talo" (The house of Ruuska family). The log house is built in the 19th century and is painted in traditional way using red ochre paint.



The main building is decorated to simulate the atmosphere of the era as precisely as possible. The

three bed chambers of the house are filled with old furniture and textiles as they would have been 200 years ago. The "Inn chamber" has also a price list on the wall for the guests to display for example the price of horses hay or the butter consumed by the visitor. The main room has a huge oven in the corner of the room. It was used both for heating and cooking. The long table on the opposite wall has seen the whole spectrum of human life: countless births, christenings, weddings and funerals.

There are numerous outbuildings in the yard. For example granaries, cow shed, well, outhouse and the massive grain storehouse, which was built to ease the damage made by crop failure. The museum has a whole lot of different artefacts. The range varies from agricultural tools to church supplies. The main portion of the artefacts is displayed in the grain storehouse. The museum opening times can be found on the website of the society: <http://haapajarviseura.fi/welcome-to-the-haapajarvi-society-webpages-www-haapajarviseura-fi/>.

5. The Wood House Area of the Street Puistokatu. This charming neighborhood was built after the wars of 1939–1945. Most of the houses are from the late 1940s or early 1950s and are built by the veterans of WWII. Most of them have been inhabited throughout the years, and the area is known to be a good neighborhood for families with children.

6. The Cannon Park. The park has inviting plantings and is a great venue for a summer picnic! The park is named after the cannons in the center of the park.

Source: Kirjastovirma. Pohjoispohjalaista kulttuuriperintöä (www.kirjastovirma.fi/haapajarvi). In Finnish only.