

# RELOCATION TO NORTH SAVO

Welcome to North Savo! We want you to have a smooth start in Finland and in the North Savo region. Use this road map and the added information for your settlement and that of your family members.





## FINDING OF AN APARTMENT OR HOUSE IN NORTH SAVO

General boards to find apartments are (rental or for purchase):

- **VUOKRAOVI**, in English: [www.vuokraovi.com](http://www.vuokraovi.com)
- **OIKOTIE**, in Finnish: [www.oikotie.fi](http://www.oikotie.fi) » vuokrattavat asunnot
- **ETUOVI**, in Finnish and for purchase: [www.etuovi.com](http://www.etuovi.com)
- **TORI.FI**, in Finnish: [www.tori.fi](http://www.tori.fi) » asunnot, apartments and houses from private owners and companies
- Add the following criteria to the search fields:
  - city or the region you want to live in (sijainti)
  - housing type (talon tyyppi or asuntotyyppi)

There is also Municipal rental housing:

- **IISALMI**, in English: [www.infofinland.fi/iisalmi](http://www.infofinland.fi/iisalmi)
- **VIEREMÄ**, in Finnish: [www.vierema.fi](http://www.vierema.fi)
- **KIURUVESI**, in Finnish: [www.kiuruvesi.fi](http://www.kiuruvesi.fi)
- **KUOPIO**, in Finnish: [www.kuopio.fi](http://www.kuopio.fi)
- **VARKAUS**, in Finnish: [www.varkaus.fi](http://www.varkaus.fi)

Furnished apartments, some examples::

- **AIRBNB**: [www.airbnb.fi](http://www.airbnb.fi)
- **FORENOM**: [www.forenom.com](http://www.forenom.com)
- **HUONEISTOHOTELLI VILLA WIIK**, Kuopio, in Finnish: [www.huoneistohotellit.fi](http://www.huoneistohotellit.fi)

Scan QR-code and find all the direct links in this roadmap »



## HOUSING RULES IN FINLAND AND MAIN CONTRACTS

Tenancy agreement, electricity contract and home insurance

The housing company rules and regulations are a set of common rules that each tenant should comply with. They aim at increasing the comfort of living and at promoting good relationships between tenants. Kindly observe these rules in your daily living.

- **HOUSING COMPANY RULES AND REGULATIONS:** [www.pakolaisapu.fi](http://www.pakolaisapu.fi)
- **THE HOUSING RESPONSIBILITIES:** [www.pakolaisapu.fi](http://www.pakolaisapu.fi)
- **TENANCY AGREEMENT (VUOKRASOPIMUS):** When renting a home in Finland, always conclude the lease in writing. The lease agreement contains information on, for example, the monthly rent, the rent security deposit and how to terminate the agreement. [www.infofinland.fi](http://www.infofinland.fi)
- **HOME INSURANCE (KOTIVAKUUTUS):** In Finland, most landlords require you take out home insurance when you rent a home. Home insurance covers, for example, damage to your furniture and other articles. You should ask for a quote from several insurance companies. Keep your insurance policy active for the entire duration of your stay in the home. [www.infofinland.fi](http://www.infofinland.fi)
- **ELECTRICITY CONTRACT (SÄHKÖSOPIMUS):** When moving to an apartment you have to have valid electricity contract the latest starting from the day you want to move in. You can compare electricity providers and their prices here when adding your postal code: [www.sahkonhinta.fi](http://www.sahkonhinta.fi).  
**Energy transfer cost:** keep in mind that in almost every case, there is also an energy transfer cost that you might have to pay. This will come automatically from the local energy provider (which is not always the same as the electricity provider you make a contract with).



## TELEPHONE AND INTERNET SUBSCRIPTION

When you buy a telephone subscription in Finland, you get a Finnish phone number. Many companies sell telephone subscriptions. When you take out a telephone subscription, you must have a Finnish personal identity code and an address in Finland.

Normally, you must also provide information on your payment behaviour, in other words, that you have paid your bills and that you don't have a payment default entry recorded in your credit history. Otherwise, you need to make an advance payment for the subscription.

You can also buy a Pre-paid subscription. A Pre-paid card has a certain sum charged into it beforehand which you use to make phone calls. Pre-paid subscriptions are sold, for example, at R-kiosks, some supermarkets or over the internet. (See also InfoFinland website: [www.infofinland.fi](http://www.infofinland.fi))

- List of operators, most operators have online services and some also shops. [www.puhelinliittymat.fi](http://www.puhelinliittymat.fi)
- Information about Broadband and telephone use in Finland: [www.traficom.fi](http://www.traficom.fi).



## FURNITURE AND EVERYDAY NEEDS

Stores to buy furniture and other every day needs.

- **BIGGEST STORE** is Ikea Kuopio ([www.ikea.com](http://www.ikea.com)) in the Matkus Shopping center ([www.matkushoppingcenter.fi](http://www.matkushoppingcenter.fi)).
- **SECOND HAND SHOPS:** there are a lot of different kind of second-hand shops in North Savo. Almost every city has its own second-hand shop. And you can ask for local flea markets (kirpputori).
- **BIGGER SECOND HAND SHOPS**, also with furniture are:
  - Red Cross Kuopio "Kontti" ([www.sprkontti.fi](http://www.sprkontti.fi)) and Tukeya Elävä kauppa (Kuopio, Leppävirta, Siilinjärvi, Varkaus. [www.elava.fi](http://www.elava.fi)).



## COMING TO NORTH SAVO AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- **KUOPIO AIRPORT:** Visiting address: Lentokentäntie 275A, 70900 Toivala, ([www.finavia.fi](http://www.finavia.fi))  
Terminal is open according to flight schedules. Bus line 40 operates between the airport and Kuopio city center. And there is taxi service as well. Read more here on how to get to the airport: [customerservice.finavia.fi](http://customerservice.finavia.fi).
- **IISALMI:** how to get to Iisalmi and Upper Savo region: [www.iisalmi.fi](http://www.iisalmi.fi)
- **RAILWAY STATION:** There are railway stations for example in bigger cities like Kuopio, Iisalmi and Varkaus and also in Suonenjoki, Siilinjärvi and Lapinlahti. See train schedules, ticket prices and railway station addresses on the Finnish Railways: [www.vr.fi](http://www.vr.fi).
- **LONG DISTANCE BUSES:** If you want to travel from one city to another, you can check the bus timetables and prices on Matkahuolto's website: [www.matkahuolto.fi](http://www.matkahuolto.fi).
- **PUBLIC TRANSPORT INSIDE THE CITIES:** Bigger cities have their own public transport buses that you can use to move from one place to another within the city. Check the public transport services on the website of your own city. Be aware: although you can pay nearly everything with credit card in Finland, single tickets in busses have to be paid often only with cash! However, you can buy a single ticket without cash using mobile application.
  - Kuopio Vilkku public transport: [vilkku.kuopio.fi](http://vilkku.kuopio.fi)
  - Iisalmi (in Finnish): [www.iisalmi.fi](http://www.iisalmi.fi)
  - Varkaus: [www.varkaus.fi](http://www.varkaus.fi)
- **E-SCOOTER & E-BIKE:** In larger cities, there are electric scooters and bikes available for rent for short trips. They are rented using an app that can be downloaded to the phone. For example Kuopio has Vilkku bikes: [kaupunkipyorat.kuopio.fi](http://kaupunkipyorat.kuopio.fi).



## IS YOUR SPOUSE COMING TOO?

Guidance and counselling services

Advice for settling in and the next career steps is often provided by the municipalities and is usually free of cost.

### GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING SERVICES IN KUOPIO

- Navigator ([www.kuopio.fi/navigaattori](http://www.kuopio.fi/navigaattori)) is a place where you can find professional help for finding a job or education options in Kuopio. Navigator also helps with everyday issues. You don't need an appointment.
- Traveling Navigaattori provides services in rural areas: [www.kuopio.fi/kiertava-navigaattori](http://www.kuopio.fi/kiertava-navigaattori)
- The employment service of Kuopio offers you professional service on improving your employment situation: [www.kuopio.fi/tyonhakijat](http://www.kuopio.fi/tyonhakijat)

### GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING SERVICES IN IISALMI

- Information for immigrants: [www.iisalmi.fi/in-english/city-info](http://www.iisalmi.fi/in-english/city-info)
- Find more information about jobs and education here (in English): [www.iisalmi.fi/in-english](http://www.iisalmi.fi/in-english)

### GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING SERVICES IN VARKAUS

- Immigrant services: [www.varkaus.fi](http://www.varkaus.fi)

### NORTH SAVON TALENT HUB

- The NorthSavoTalentHub.fi web site offers an easy access to information both for international students looking for jobs and local employers. The information to students focuses on issues related to studying and living in the North Savo, enhancing career prospects and about the working conditions in Finland ([nordsavotalenthub.fi/en](http://nordsavotalenthub.fi/en)).

### SIMHE – GUIDANCE, COUNSELLING AND SKILLS IDENTIFICATION FOR IMMIGRANTS

- SIMHE at Savonia offers guidance for highly educated immigrants. We can help you to recognize your competences and to find suitable educational and career paths: [www.savonia.fi](http://www.savonia.fi).



## DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN?

How to register them to the kindergarten or school

- **DAY-CARE ("PÄIVÄHOITO"):** Early childhood education ("varhaiskasvatus") is intended for children under school age. Municipalities offer early childhood education at day-care centres ("päiväkoti"). There are also private day-care centres.
- **PRESCHOOL EDUCATION ("ESIOPETUS", "ESIKOULU"):** According to the law, all children must attend preschool education for one year before compulsory education begins. Preschool education is free-of-charge. During the day, the child will receive a free meal.
- **COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION:** All children go to school, because according to the law, all children must receive comprehensive education ("peruskoulu"). A child usually starts school in the year when he/she turns 7.
- **CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUPS:** Parishes, municipalities and organisations hold playgroups for children and families. Playgroups usually last a couple of hours/day. Playgroups provide organised play, singing, crafts and other activities.

Read more about the Finnish education system on InfoFinland-website: [www.infofinland.fi/education](http://www.infofinland.fi/education)

Please find more information and contact details on the regional websites of the municipalities:

**IISALMI:** [www.iisalmi.fi/in-english/Services/Day-Care](http://www.iisalmi.fi/in-english/Services/Day-Care)

**KUOPIO:** [www.kuopio.fi/ca/paivahoito-ja-opetus](http://www.kuopio.fi/ca/paivahoito-ja-opetus)

**VARKAUS:** [www.varkaus.fi](http://www.varkaus.fi)

**KIURUVESI:** [www.kiuruvesi.fi/Suomeksi/Palvelut/Opiskelu](http://www.kiuruvesi.fi/Suomeksi/Palvelut/Opiskelu)

**VIEREMÄ:** [www.vierema.fi/fi/Kuntainfo/Tietoa-maahanmuuttajille](http://www.vierema.fi/fi/Kuntainfo/Tietoa-maahanmuuttajille)



## MOVING YOUR PETS, GOODS AND A CAR TO FINLAND?

Please check the Talent Spring online community for more detailed information: [www.talentspring.fi](http://www.talentspring.fi).

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