

Environmental program

SaimaaHoliday is committed to the principles of sustainable nature tourism.

Our activities aim to be sustainable ecologically, financially, socially and culturally. The development of our business is based on co-operation of several companies and our common values. All members of SaimaaHoliday are personally responsible for continuous improvement of our environmental program. The main principles of our environmental program are related to the environmental load, respecting nature and the local community. We evaluate yearly the business strategy, values and environmental principles of SaimaaHoliday.

Saimaaholiday has been granted the Nordic Swan License in the criteria 4.5 of the product group Hotels, Restaurant and Conference Facilities. There are different criteria for different aspects of our facility. The criteria focus on the whole life cycle of our services, starting from the supply chain and ending in waste disposal. The Nordic Swan license is a license granted by a third-party organization and inspections are made yearly regarding the requirements of the Nordic Swan license. Saimaaholiday is responsible for keeping the application up to date during the validity period of the Nordic Swan license.

**1. Environmental load****1.1. Energy and water**

The use of energy is one of the main environmental loads in our operations. We are devoted to reduce the use of energy and to use renewable sources of energy.

Most of the buildings in SaimaaHoliday are heated with geothermal heating. In buildings that do not have geothermal heating we investigate the possibilities to use other renewable sources of energy. All villas also have heat-storing fireplaces. All companies in SaimaaHoliday use ecolabeled green electricity. We continuously seek for new ways to save energy and water. The Nordic Swan has inspected our premises to approve of our energy production and usage.

1.2. Waste and detergents

In all our operations we make sure that the waste is of no harm to people or the environment. We try to reduce the amount of waste. When possible we avoid individually wrapped or disposable products. We sort all waste and recycle as much as possible. All waste is managed according to local guidelines and regulations. We use Eco labelled washing detergents.

1.3. Transportation

When possible we use public transport and we favor carpooling.

How can our guests contribute

- Avoid unnecessary use of electricity! For example turn off the lights when you leave the room, avoid unnecessary heating of the sauna. Turn down the heat in the house, a suitable room temperature is + 18 °C in bed rooms and + 20-22 °C in the living room.
- Do not use more water than needed, wash full loads of dishes and laundry
- Sorting of waste: follow the guidelines in your accommodation
- You can return deposit bottles and cans to the village shop

2. Getting around in nature and the Saimaa Ringed Seal

Our lake activities take place on the home waters of the endangered Saimaa ringed seal, therefore it is important that our activities are absolutely seal friendly. We encourage people to get around in nature without engines: paddling, rowing, walking, biking, skating, skiing, snowshoeing etc. In some activities and in maintenance work we use engines. All our boats and snow mobiles have four stroke engines (less noise and less exhaust fumes)



In summer

We fish only with active fishing methods (trolling, spinning, angling). On our seal safaris we watch the seals with binoculars without disturbing the seals lolling on the rocks. We drive slowly and we do not make any unnecessary noise. We do not go ashore in places where we know seals loll.

In winter

We use only marked routes on the ice (skating trail, ski tracks and snow mobile tracks) in order to safeguard the breeding grounds of the seals. All snow mobile trips are guided and we do not rent snow mobiles in the seal district- We prefer sleigh rides (one snow mobile and sleigh for 8 persons) rather than snow mobile safaris.

3. Cooperation, community and local culture

We want to promote co-operation, wellbeing and a positive spirit in the local community. We preserve local cultural heritage and we favor locally produced food.

How can our guests contribute

Respect the rights and responsibilities within the everyman's right. Feel free to enjoy the natural gifts but when you are picking berries or mushrooms make sure that you stay at least 200-300 meters away from private properties. The same rule applies on water: do not canoe or fish to close to private jetties.

4. Activities in the national parks

We have a co-operation agreement with Metsähallitus and we follow their principles for sustainable nature tourism in protected areas:

1. Natural values are preserved and all activities promote nature conservation.
2. The environment is subjected to as little pressure as possible.
3. Local traditions and cultures are respected.
4. Visitors increase their understanding and appreciation of nature and cultures.
5. Improved recreational facilities are provided for visitors.
6. Visitors are encouraged to enjoy both mental and physical recreation.
7. Local economies and employment are promoted.
8. Publicity materials are produced responsibly and carefully.
9. Activities are planned and organised co-operatively.