



KARJALAISEN KULTTUURIN EDISTÄMISSÄÄTIÖ

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MURTOVAARA

A crown tenant farm & museum in Valtimo





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The Murtovaara Farm Museum is an authentic farm dating back to a time when plots in state-owned forests were rented out for living and farming “crown tenant farms”. Even today, it is still a house in the wilderness and can only be accessed by forest paths. The nearest village lies five kilometres away and the nearest parish, Valtimo, is about 20 kilometres away. Murtovaara is the only museum to document the history of the settlements on wooded hills in East Finland and is classified as a national cultural environment.

Murtovaara was first settled by landless tenants “mäkitupalainens”, many of whom worked as farmhands, as early as in the 1840s. More detailed information about the buildings and residents is available from 1868 onwards, when the family Lipponen signed a crown tenant farm contract with Metsähallitus, the National Forest and Park Service. Murtovaara became an independent farm in 1931. During the time of extensive logging when the Finnish forest industry started growing, Murtovaara was home to many lumberjacks. The last resident, Hilja Lipponen, left the farm in 1985, but Murtovaara had already been functioning as a museum since 1972.

Karjalaisen Kulttuurin Edistämissäätiö has owned Murtovaara since 1967.



MURTOVAARA AS A TRADITIONAL BUILDING SITE



Over the last decade, Murtovaara has developed from a local history museum into a laboratory of traditional building. Several international traditional building camps have been organised at Murtovaara, thus giving architecture students an opportunity to learn about traditional tools and building methods by repairing and restoring the authentic buildings and other structures on the site.





The buildings at Murtovaara are well-preserved and representative of typical 19th century farms in North Karelia. The residential buildings, a row of granaries and sheds for farm animals are arranged in a sheltered square which is open at the corners. The buildings have been erected over a period of a hundred years between the 1840s and 1940s. Therefore, they also illustrate how house design changed between the time when the oldest buildings, two little chimneyless “smoke cabins”, were built and when the construction of the new main building, with a chimney, began in the late 19th century.



Murtovaara is open to the public during the summer.
There is a guide who works at the museum in July.
At other times, you can visit Murtovaara through an
advance reservation.

Guided tours and group bookings: Heikki Ovaskainen, Guesthouse Puukarin Pysäkki
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