



KAUHAVA

**Welcome
to Kauhava!**



www.kauhava.fi

THE WIDE OPEN PLAINS

The city of Kauhava is no one-hit wonder: it is famous for its entrepreneurs, its independent spirits, the volunteers it sent to the struggle for Finnish independence, its agriculture and industries, the sheer number of summer events, and an increasing variety of tourist attractions.



Kauhava has been home to Antti Tuuri, a writer known for his vivid interpretations of the local scenery and culture, and the actor Kalevi Haapoja, who embodies many of the qualities for which our region is famous. Kauhava has also often appeared on the big and little screens, with numerous movies, movie scenes, TV series and documentaries filmed in Kauhava and its surroundings.

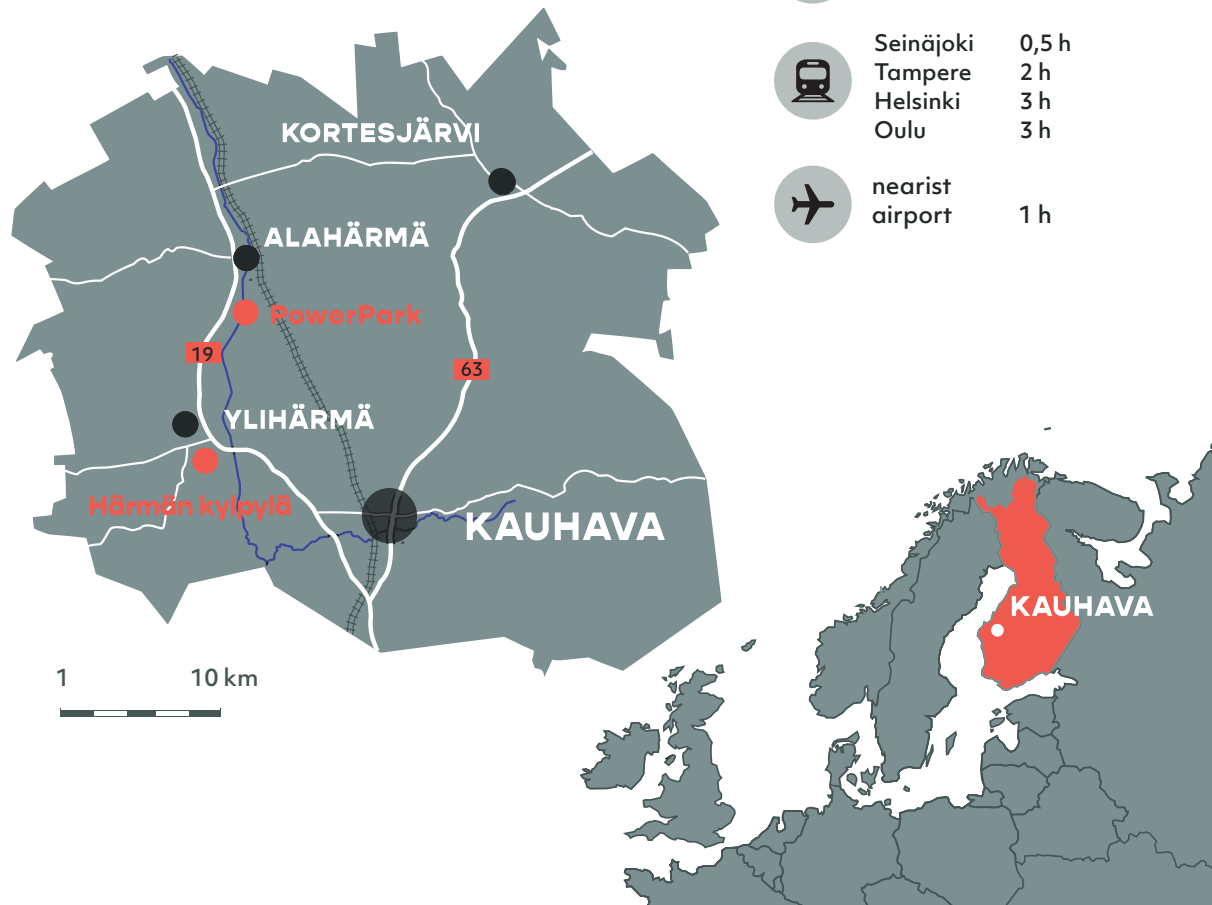
The city of Kauhava came into being on 1 January 2009 with the merger of four municipalities: Alahärmä, Kauhava, Korttesjärvi and Ylihärmä. Kauhava has traditionally had good employment prospects, and unemployment is among the lowest in the region. An amazing 1.500 businesses operate in Kauhava. When combined with the demand for workers from the public sector, the number of jobs on offer exceeds the size of the local workforce in Kauhava.

Kauhava is a developing commercial and administrative centre in the northern part of Southern Ostrobothnia. The city is known for its powerful metal and wood products industry, primary production that belongs to the top guard in the country, and the high technology of its international companies. The companies in the region have a lot of co-operation, especially in subcontracting sector. The service industry has also grown significantly in recent years, particularly in the tourism industry thanks to PowerPark, Finland's fastest growing amusement park.

15.000	1.313 km ²	6.700	1.500	800
INHABITANTS	AREA	JOBS	COMPANIES	FARMS

WELCOME

Getting to Kauhava is easy: both highway 19 and main road 63 go right through the city. Kauhava is a city of two stations as the second station in Alahärmä opens in summer to serve tourists. The nearest harbor is in Vaasa. The nearest airports are located in Vaasa and Kruunupyä. The Vaasa airport has direct flights to Stockholm.



	Ähtäri Alavus	1,5 h 1 h
	Seinäjoki Tampere Helsinki Oulu	0,5 h 2 h 3 h 3 h
	nearest airport	1 h

HISTORY

The best-known groups in Kauhava's history are the knife-wielding "häjy" men and the Jaegers, the volunteers sent to the struggle for Finnish independence. You can explore their history by visiting the town's museums or by picking up a copy of one of the numerous movies filmed in Kauhava, such as Ilmari Unho's Ten Boys from Härmä or JP Siili's Once Upon a Time in the North.

In 1881, Kauhava became the home of the first youth organization in Finland. The spirit of the youth movement is still tangible at the original site at Kalan Torppa.

The industrialization of Kauhava stretches back to the mid-1800s with the textile and knife manufacturing industries. In history, Kauhava is especially known for its skilled knife makers and fabric weavers. You can get to know these samples of old-time skills in Kauhava's knife- and textile museum.

The 1950s saw the rise of a farm machinery manufacturing and a wood-working industry. The tourism and wellness industries expanded to their current scales in the 2000s. Today's Kauhava is the commercial and administrative center of the northern part of South Ostrobothnia.



An amazing 1.500 businesses operate in Kauhava. When combined with the demand for workers from the public sector, there are more jobs on offer than local workforce in Kauhava.

A TOWN OF ENTREPRENEURS

Kauhava is one of the most industrialized areas of South Ostrobothnia. The city is well-known for its strong metal and wood products industry. It is also home to primary production that are industry leaders in

Finland and to world-renowned high technology companies. The region has a history of collaboration among companies, particularly in the subcontracting sector.

Kauhava has about 800 active farms. The farms typically specialize in dairy-based activities, the cultivation of potatoes and grains, and pork/beef production. The food processing industry is also a significant employer. In addition, the service sector is also taking a more prominent role in the local economy, with visible growth particularly in the tourism and wellness industries.

Kauhava has traditionally had good employment prospects, and unemployment is among the lowest in the region. Kauhava continues to focus on developing and diversifying the local economy. The Development Center handles the town's economic issues by coordinating economic development projects and providing business advice in conjunction with different partners.



The wide-open plains provide room to breathe – in a safe environment, where everything is close by.



PERFECT PLACE FOR A FAMILY

Kauhava is an attractive and affordable alternative to living in the big city. Choose from a number of diverse boroughs with services nearby, or relax in the Ostrobothnian countryside among the plains, rivers and forests in a single-family home or a brand-new apartment or rowhouse.

General social and health care services are all in place. South Ostrobothnia's welfare area, a joint venture of several municipalities, provides Kauhava's high quality health care, social services, and services for the elderly.

Services run smoothly, and cooperation between providers is a well-known feature of the area. And when you throw in Kauhava's wide range of recreational activities and the short travel times, you have the perfect place for a family.



LEISURE TIME

Whether you're a culture buff, a sports enthusiast or prefer something completely different, Kauhava has an event for you.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Kauhava has a vibrant cultural life, including numerous annual events, an increasing amount of recreational activities, comprehensive library services and a variety of distinctive museums.

Lively club activities and sports halls in each district offer versatile hobby activities. Options include track and field, gymnastics, team sports, cross-country skiing, ice skating, golf, orienteering and

ice hockey, as well as a sampling of more exotic activities, such as ice swimming, geocaching, beach volleyball and frisbee golf.

Kauhava hosts a variety of cultural events all year long, but summer is the high season for events. Kauhava's event summer has something for everyone. Typically, during the summer there are even more than 40 different summer events!

THE WIDE OPEN PLAINS

The Kauhava region has four Natura protected wilderness areas: the forests around Hirvijoki River, the Lummukkakangas heath, Viitaneva-Storholmanneva wetlands and Paljakanneva-Åkantmossen wetlands, which provide a home for exotic northern species such as Ural owls, Siberian jays, European otters, and flying-squirrels.





Kauhava is easy to get to and has something for everyone.

EXPERIENCES AND ENTERTAINMENT

Kauhava's number one travel hotspot is the ever-growing PowerPark entertainment park. The park spans more than 160 hectares and includes an amusement park, indoor and outdoor go-kart tracks, a horse center, a 5D movie theatre, first-class restaurants, accommodation and shops.

Or relax and enjoy the moment at the Spa Hotel Härmä while you breathe in the scenery. For a more active holiday, the Anssin-Jussin Areena sports arena adjacent to the spa is a haven for the indoor sports enthusiast, and also has excellent outdoor trails for running and skiing. And a visit wouldn't be complete without a round of golf at the neighboring golf course.

Over the years, the city has grown into a lively venue for events. You will find a wide range of public events in Kauhava, including the Knife and Craft festivals, Power Truck Show and Nordic King -mid-summer event.

Parties big and small will enjoy feasting on all the local delicacies and international gourmet treats available, and whether

you fancy spending your nights at a hotel, holiday village, cottage or caravan area, the town has an option for you. The next time you are planning a family gathering, a reunion of distant relations, a company meeting, training session or celebration, your best possible choice is Kauhava – it is easy to get to and has something for everyone.





A city full of treasures for craft enthusiasts



CRAFTSMANSHIP

Kauhava has a strong craft tradition that still lives on. Busloads of craft enthusiasts visit our destinations every year to get ideas, inspiration and, of course, the tools to implement them.

Companies in Kauhava that are familiar to handcrafters are e.g. Lankava Yarnhouse, Tuulia Design and Iisakki Järvenpää whose world-renowned knives have been made in Kauhava since 1879. The city has many shops and other inspiring destinations for craft enthusiasts.

MOVIE TOWN

Numerous films, shorts and TV series have been filmed in various parts of Kauhava:

- Faster – vain yksi kierros (2024)
- Muistoseurat 1, 2, 3 and 3,5 (2017-2021)
- Rölli ja kaikkien aikojen salaisuus (2016)
- Hukkakaurat (2015)
- Rölli ja kultainen avain (2013)
- Härmä (2012)
- Kotiinpaluu (2010)
- Lakeuden kutsu (2000)
- Häjyt (1999)
- Hyvien ihmisten kylä (1993)
- Pohjanmaa (1988)
- Härmästä poikia kymmenen (1950)



Hope to see you soon!

www.kauhava.fi | www.visitkauhava.fi

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