

Description of Kiiminkijoki River canoeing route

This classification of whitewater along the Kiiminkijoki River. Canoeing route applies to a low water level. (Classes given in parentheses indicate floodwater conditions.) In addition, exclamation points (!) are used to depict individual dangerous places.

! = a dangerous place where errors and their consequences are not very probable for experienced paddlers.

!! = a dangerous place where the risk of error and resulting negative consequences are such that all paddlers should take them seriously.

!!! = a dangerous place where it is very difficult for even a very experienced paddler to avoid a dangerous situation. Only some of the rest stops along the Kiiminkijoki are mentioned in connection with these whitewater descriptions.

0,0 km Starting point

Puolanka camping.

1. (3,5 km) Virtalankoski, I

Short rapids and a small waterfall. After Virtalankoski there are two lakes: Pikku-Puutio and Iso Puutiojärvi.

2. (6,5 km) Puutiokoski, I (II)

Rocky rapids with a small volume of water; cannot be navigated during summertime volumes of water. The channel passes under the Vaala-Puolanka highway (883) bridge.

3. (8,0 km) Kärryskoski, I (II+)

The channel follows the right edge of the rapids; there is a small waterfall under the bridge. The rapids cannot be navigated during summertime volumes of water. The channel passes under the Puolanka-Utajärvi highway (837) bridge.

(9,0 km) Kivarinjärvi

The Kiiminkijoki River begins at the north end of the lake. There is a launching place and a rest stop with a lean-to, campfire site, and WC on the west side of Lake Kivarinjärvi.

4. (11,0 km) Kypäräkoski, I

About 500 m downriver from the road on the north side of Lake Kivarinjärvi. The rapids flow into Lake Vähä-Kivarinjärvi.

5. (12,0 km) Seinäskoski, I (II)

Fast-flowing, long rapids in two sections. It is possible to touch bottom or even get stuck during summertime volumes of water. The channel is wide during floods.

6. (13,5 km) Vaamaskoski, II- (II)

There is a small waterfall with a narrow channel at the upper end of the rapids. The lower end is rocky and shallow, with a possibility of touching bottom.

(16,0 km) Nivanperä

Kuorejoki River enters from the right.

7. (20,0 km) Kalliuskoski, I (III-) !!

The rapids cannot be navigated during summertime volumes of water; portaging is recommended. Scouting is necessary during floods. There is a waterfall in the upper end of the rapids which can be navigated by an experienced paddler. The middle section is flatter. During floods there are three consecutive holes at the end of the rapids. Touring canoeists should portage the rapids.

There is a lean-to, campfire site, and WC on the left bank.

(32,0 km) Tilanjoki

After a stretch of flat water, Tilanjoki River enters from the right.

8. (33,0 km) Kurimonkoski, II- (II+) !

The rapids are shallow and rocky during summertime volumes of water. The channel is wider during floods. Advance scouting is recommended. Touring canoeists should portage the rapids. There is lean-to, campfire site, and WC below the rapids on the right. There is a chain of lakes about 3 km after Kurimonkoski: Kaihlanen- Hakojärvi - Haukilampi - Vesalanlampi - Juorkuna.

(47,0 km) Juorkuna

After the Juorkuna bridge there is a shelter and WC on the right.

9. (50,0 km) Perjakankosket, I

There are easy rapids between the lakes Mätäsjärvi and Hamarijärvi. The channel in the middle is very evident. The channel passes under a highway bridge. After the Hamarijärvi Lake the route continues along the left river arm (Putaanjoki).

10. (54,5 km) Myllykoski, I (II-)

The channel is in the middle at the head of the rapids. Halfway through there is a small drop which should be navigated slightly right of center of the largest wave and after that down the middle. There is a lean-to on Myllysaari Island and a shelter and WC on the south bank of the river.

11. Saarikoski, I (II)

Follows Myllykoski. There is an island at the head of the rapids which should be bypassed on the right, along the middle of the right channel. The remainder of the rapids should be navigated along the left edge.

12. Vääräkoski, I (II)

U-shaped rapids which turn to the right. The head is low and the channel is in the middle. The last section should be navigated along the right side.

13. (56,0 km) Paanakkakoski, I

Straight rapids with a large volume of water. There is an abandoned Nivala farm on the left bank; the river branches immediately after the farm.

14. Laukkukoski, I

Shallow, stony rapids.

15. Peurakoski, I

Short, strong-flowing rapids.

16. Lohikoski, I

17. (62,0 km) Jousikoski, I

Rocky rapids with a small volume of water. The channel follows the middle of the rapids. There is a probability of touching bottom.

18. (63,5 km) Nivankoski, I

The channel bypasses the islands ahead on the right side. Shallow. About 800 m below Nivankoski, islands split Someronkoski, after which a rest stop is visible on the sharp left: a shelter, lean-to, campfire site, and WC.

19. (70,5 km) Isohuoseus, I (II)

The channel is in the middle at the head of the rapids, after which the rapids turn left. There are several drops in the rapids. There is so little water in the summer that canoes must be floated over the driest sections. During floods the channel is in the middle, along the main stream. The river empties into steep banked Huoseuslampi Pond.

20. (72,5 km) Koirakoski, I (II-)

A long, winding stretch of rapids. The channel is clearly evident. Near the end the channel is shallow and meanders from side to side. No touching bottom during floods. There is a slightly hidden lean-to on the right bank almost at the end of the rapids.

21. (75,0 km) Palokoski, I

Straight rapids, shallow at the end, care should be taken to avoid rocks near the surface. The channel is in the middle.

22. (76,5 km) Inninkoski, I (II)

The rapids have three sections. The upper section has a steeper head and turns sharply to the left. The channel is narrow and rocky. The middle section has a low head and the channel curves sharply to the bank on the right. Lower there is large rock in the middle of the stream which should be bypassed on the right. The rest is shallow; the channel is on the left edge and shifts to the middle at the end. Shallow, with a probability of touching bottom.

On the left side of the upper section there is a rest stop: a lean-to, campfire site, and WC.

23. (78,5 km) Lamminkoski, I (II-)

The end consists of an S-curve with the route following the outer edges of the curves. Shallow in places. The culturally significant village of Ylivuotto lies on the west side 1 km from the river.

24. (80,5 km) Kultakoski, I (II-)

Easy rapids with three sections.

25. (83,5 km) Jauhokoski, I

26. (87,5 km) Leppikoski, I

There are several islands in the channel which should be bypassed on the right when the volume of water is small. There is a small drop at the end.

27. (88,0 km) Ämmäkoski, I

28. (89,0 km) Myllykoski, I

29. Merilän Alakoski, I

The route follows the left side. After the rapids there is a lean-to, campfire site and WC on the right.

30. Inkakoski, I

The rapids pass under a highway bridge. The route follows the head of the rapids along the right edge, shifting to the middle after the bridge. There is a probability of touching bottom.

31. (90,0 km) Alavuotonkoski, I

There is a water mill just in the beginning of the rapids on the right. In the end of the rapids it is better to bypass the islands on the left.

32. (97,5 km) Vehkakoski, I

33. (98,5 km) Uumakoski, I

34. (104,5 km) Jokikokkonkoski, I

In the upper section of the rapids there is an old dam positioned diagonally upriver from the left bank. The route follows the head along the right edge. The channel turns sharply left, circling rocks, and finally shifts to the middle. The culturally significant village of Joki-Kokko is located on the south bank of the river at the rapids. There is a shelter and WC on the left bank.

(106,0 km)

The channel passes under the Ylikiiminki-Hetekylä highway (8361) bridge.

35. (109,5 km) Saarikoski, I

The route follows the left side.

(114,5 km) Nuorittajoki

A long, peaceful stretch of river. Nuorittajoki River enters from the right and the river curves sharply to the left.

(119,0 km) Kirkkosaari

Bypassed along the left channel of the Vasikkasaari Island. 500 m after the Isosaari Island there is a small beach and WC on the left. Koossaari Island should be bypassed on the left.

(121,5 km) Jämsänkосki, I

36. (123,0 km) Juopulinkoski, I (II-)

There are islands and cane-grass at the head of the rapids, the main channel is clearly evident in the middle of the cane-grass. The channel meanders between the right edge and the middle of the stream.

37. (124,5 km) Ylikiiminki village

Kalliokoski, I

After Juopulinkoski. First the channel is on the right edge; at the rock formation it shifts to the middle to a clearly evident tongue. There is a shop and pharmacy in the center of the village.

38. Palokoski, I (II-)

At the beginning of the rapids the channel is near the left bank. The river widens and there are several rock formations in the rapids and two small islands on the left. The deepest channel bypasses the islands on the left. At the end of the rapids is a rock formation that nearly spans the entire river. There are channels on both sides.

39. (128,5 km) Ruuttikoski, I

There is an island at the head of the rapids which should be bypassed on the right. After that there is still water followed by the remainder of the rapids. The channel passes through the middle of a drop at the end of the rapids and turns left toward still water.

40. (129,5 km) Aittokoski, I (II) !

The rapids have two sections. There is an island in the upper section; the channel on the left side is dammed. The channel on the right side is safe to navigate. There is a submerged dam across the entire river at the head of the rapids; equipment must be carried over it. This is followed by a bend to the left behind an island, where the channel is on the left edge. The channel passes under a highway bridge; under the bridge the channel turns sharply to the right edge and continues downriver. The channel follows the right edge in the lower section of the rapids. At the end the river widens into still water and the channel becomes shallow and rocky. Touching bottom cannot be avoided. During floods the channel spans the entire river.

41. (132,5 km) Seluskankoski, I (II)

The channel follows the left side of the island ahead. There are rocks at the head, which can be bypassed on either side. At the end the channel is in the middle; there is a small drop with a narrow tongue between the rocks. During floods there are a few large waves in the rapids.

42. (138,0 km) Mieskoski, I (II-)

There is a small drop at the head of the rapids, where the channel is on the left edge. The route continues to the left. There are sizeable waves during floods.

43. Holapankoski, I

The channel bypasses the island ahead on the left. The channel follows the left edge of the rapids. The right side cannot be navigated in the summer.

44. Särkikoski, I

Easy rapids with a small volume of water; the channel is in the middle. There is a probability of touching bottom.

45. Iisakankoski, I (II-)

At the head of the rapids the channel bypasses rocks in the middle on both sides. Thereafter the channel is in the middle. There is a probability of touching bottom.

46. (142,0 km) Pyyköseniva, I (II-)

After the highway bridge the channel shifts to the right, bypassing the island on the right. Thereafter it is shallow. There is a lean-to, campfire site and a school on the left bank. The rest of the rapids are shallow. The channel is on the right behind small islands. During floods the channel spans the entire river.

47. (144,0 km) Koitelinkoski, I (III-) !!

The rapids area consists of several islands between which the river flows. The river branches into three channels; the middle channel, Tulikurkku (!), is the safest. The canoe route uses the center channel. Immediately after Tulikurkku is still water, after which the route continues along the unclearly discernible right channel, Lussinhaara. There are waterfalls at the ends of the middle and left channels which are hard to navigate with a canoe without capsizing. There is a small drop midway along Lussinhaara, with a hole on the left side during floods. At the end of the rapids there is a small, sharp drop which should be navigated along the rightmost edge. During floods there are strong holes and the channel can only be recommended for experienced paddlers with suitable equipment (opening covers are necessary). In the summer the front channels are dry. Advance scouting of the rapids is recommended. After Tulikurkku is long, narrow Sahasaari Island. Koitelinkoski's other channels contain rock ledges across their entire width. Suspension bridges span the channels. There is a landing place on the west edge of Sahasaari Island opposite the Tunnelmatupa cafe before the bridge and rapids; another alternative is in Lussinhaara on the east bank of Sahasaari Island opposite the cabin. There are several campfire sites in the area.

48. Laurinkoski, I (II)

Before Laurinkoski there are two shorter rapids where the route follows the left edge. At the head of Laurinkoski the channel passes between rocks in the middle of the stream. There is a mill on the right bank. Thereafter the rapids are very rocky and there is no clearly evident channel. There are drops in the middle and end sections of the rapids over which equipment must be carried.

49. Koskelankoski, I

(150,0 km) Kiiminki town

There are several shops, pharmacy and other services in the center of the town.

50. (152,0 km) Vääräkoski, I (II)

The head of the rapids first turns to the right; the route is right of center. There is a dam on the left side which extends diagonally toward a sawmill on the bank. The route is right of center, shifting to the middle in the lower section. At the end the river curves to the left.

51. (154,5 km) Mannilankoski, I (II-)

The channel is in the middle during high water; in the summer the channel is on the right side behind the island.

52. Viittanen, I

53. (155,5 km) Myllykoski, I

54. Lehtolankoski, I (II-)

There is an island in the rapids, it should be bypassed on the right, using the middle of the channel.

55. Hettikoski, I

The rapids are shallow and rocky. There is a probability of touching bottom and getting caught in the rocks.

56. Tolpankoski, I (II-)

The route at the head is on the left next to rocks by the bank. The route shifts to the center, then to the right.

57. Kanniaisenkoski, I (II-)

The route winds through the rapids, but is clearly evident. The channel follows the right edge of the rapids.

58. Venekoski, I

The route is on the left edge.

59. Kontiokoski, I

The head of the rapids should be navigated in the middle, after which the channel is left of center. The end is shallow with a probability of touching bottom.

60. (160,5 km) Ylikoski, Puitin niva, I

61. (164,0 km) Piimäkoski, I

There are two islands below Jouttenniva, Hanhisaari and Käpysaari, which can be bypassed anywhere during high water. During the summer the paddling channel goes via Tamppikoski.

62. Tamppikoski, I (II)

The rapids make an S-curve to the right. In the first bend the route is right of center. In the second bend the route is in the middle between surface rocks. The rapids have a large volume of water even in the summer.

63. Majavakoski, I (II)

The route at the head is in the middle. The end is shallow; the channel is in the middle.

64. Peurakoski, I

The island in the rapids can be bypassed on both sides during floods, but during the summer only the left channel is open!!

65. (169,0 km) Jalonkoski, I (II)

The route in Jalonkoski is in the middle. A narrow channel, Venäläisen väylä, exits to the right; it can be navigated during high water levels.

66. Rättykoski, I (II-)

Straight rapids with a low head. In the middle section the channel follows the left edge, shifting to the center between large surface rocks at the end.

67. Jäniskoski, I (II)

The channel bypasses Kurkelansaari Island on the left, passing under a wooden bridge to the island. The route is in the middle. There is a hole at the left edge at the end of the rapids. The route passes under a highway bridge (Route 4), staying close to the right bridge pillar. At the end the rapids become shallow and touching bottom cannot be avoided. At the end the route is on the right.

68. Sämpplikoski, I (II)

The route is in the middle under the railway bridge. The channel meanders along the middle of the river and is very evident. There are some larger waves. There is a landing place on the right bank before the Myllysaari Island, where a small separate creek begins. Following rapids, Alakoski, cannot be navigated during summertime volumes of water.

There is a lean-to, campfire site and WC on the Myllysaari Island.

69. Alakoski, I

The route spans the entire width of the river during floods, but the channel cannot be navigated during summertime volumes of water.

(180,0 km) Oulu-Kemi highway (847) bridge

Haukipudas town; before the bridge there is a landing place on the right bank, where is a small beach, and after the bridge on the left bank near the church.

There is a lean-to, campfire site and WC on the Iso-Miehikkä Island on the right at the river mouth.

70. (184,0 km) Perämeri - Gulf of Bothnia