



Kuninkaantie
Kungsvägen



• **Kuninkaantie** •
The cultural route from Norway to Russia
Kungsvägen
King's Road

History of the King's Road



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- Since the middle ages, from 13th century
- Following the southern coast, once the most important road in the country
- One of the most important roads in northern Europe
- Also known as a part of the Great Mail Route, Great Coastal Road or the Army Road and also the Southern Vyborg Road
- King's Road after 1639, when the people started to talk about it more. First as a nickname, later as a more official name.
- The first roadmap from 1556 by Jaakko Teitti but the first written documents about the road are from 1385
- Connecting Turku to Vyborg and the towns and villages between
- Stretched from Bergen (or Trondheim) in today's Norway to Vyborg (or Novgorod) in today's Russia
- Later also to St. Petersburg, when the city was founded in 1703

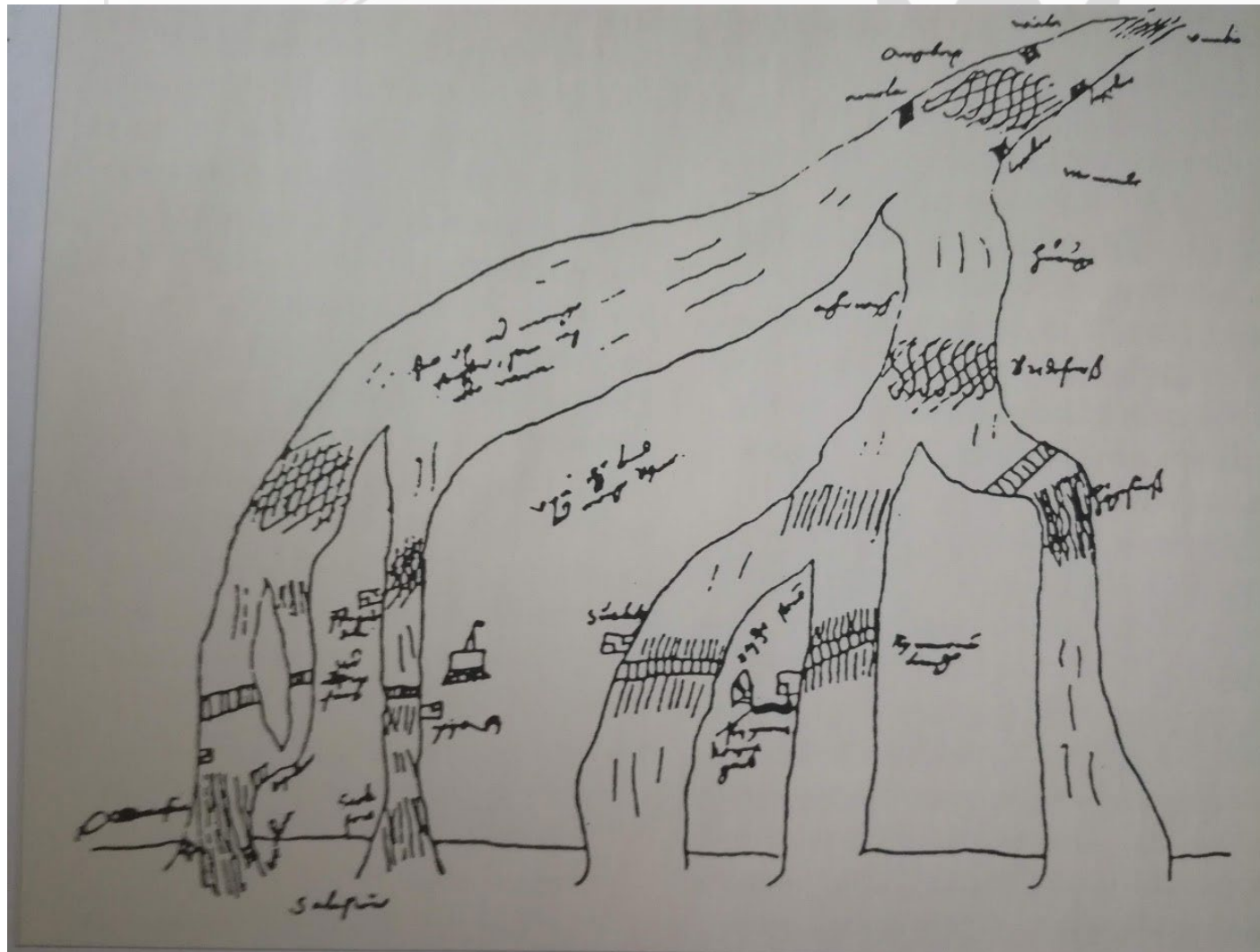
History of the King's Road



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A drawing by Jaakko Teitti in 1556 of the Kymijoki delta.

To the left Ahvenkoski, the Pyhtää bridge and church, and to the right the bridge over Korkeakoski in Kotka. Not so very detailed from our point of view but in 1556 there was only one road that you could follow. King Gustav I of Sweden (Kustaa Vaasa) ordered Teitti to document the road.



King's Road today



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- The King's Road binds together notable buildings (and sites of notable buildings that don't exist anymore), towns and cities from the 19th century and earlier.
- Following the southern coast, once the most important road in the country and still in many ways
- The highways nr. 1 and nr. 7 stretch along the same route today
- Biggest cities along the road: Turku, Espoo, (Helsinki), Vantaa and Kotka
- The road is in good condition, which means that you can drive a tourist bus on the route (one of the terms to become an official tourist route)
- The road follows the countryside, where it is possible
- 480 kilometers in Finland from Turku to the Russian border in Vaalimaa (Торфяновка)
- King's Road is an unofficial part of the Route of Saint Olav Ways, a network of pilgrim paths from east to Trondheim
- Finland joined the Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) on Cultural Routes in 2018
- King's Road could apply for certification as a "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" if Sweden and Norway activate the development of the road

King's Road – one of the ten official tourist routes in Finland

- The official tourist route system is ruled by an official definition
- https://julkaisut.vayla.fi/pdf/1000080-v-04matkteiden_mperiaat.pdf
- It has not been renewed since 2004
- The organization Routes in Finland was established in 2019 to provide the government with accurate information about the tourism of today and the tourist routes and to enhance the cooperation between the roads

Matkailutiet (11/2011)

- matkailutie
- valta- ja kantatie



King's Road today



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Administration

- The King's Road in Finland is administrated by a bilingual non-commercial association called Kuninkaantie ry (Kungsvägen rf)
- 60 Members: Municipalities, cities, enterprises, companies, NGOs, private persons
- Financed by project financing mainly.
- Help the shareholders to create responsible tourism business
- Board members e.g. www.finlandnaturally.com , cities of Hamina & Paimio, tourism developers etc.
- Chairman of the board: Jaakko Mikkola, the executive dir. of the regional council of Kymenlaakso

King's Road today



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- Two logos, one official ® and one inofficial for members



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King's Road today



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Tasks

- To enhance the tourism along the route
- Provide information to different interest groups (maps, documents, history information, videos)
- To maintain a reference library with a few hundred volumes
- To participate in different events, fairs and touristic projects
- Develop the attractions together with the tourism operators
- Projects with other operators along the road (universities, NGOs, companies)
- Keep contact with the authorities (Ministries, town planners, transport infrastructure Väylä etc.)
- Help the shareholders to create responsible tourism business

King's Road tomorrow



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- A member of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (2025 -)
- A member of The St. Olav Ways in Finland (Trondheim – Novgorod) (2019-)
- Part of the international Route of St. Olav Ways
- A (founding) member of The Routes in Finland (2019-)
- Good contacts both east and west, along the King's Road from Norway to Russia
- A touristic route with good service, beautiful scenery and modern information
- Financed by the members and the Finnish government
- All the municipalities, cities (22) and regions (3) are members of the NGO (today 11 and 1))
- Good partners e.g. Regional Museums, The Häme Oxen Road, other touristic routes, ministries, touristic organisations
- Provides information to the shareholders

King's Road bibliography and sources



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In Finnish:

- ❖ C. J. Gardberg - Kaj Dahl, Kuninkaantie Turusta Viipuriin publ. Otava 1991 ISBN 951-1-11400-X
- ❖ Salminen Tapio, Suuri rantatie Stora strandvägen publ. Tielaitos ja Painatuskeskus 1993 ISBN 952-443-031-2
- ❖ P. Kilpinen, Kuninkaantieltä kerrottua, Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura, 2005

Wikivoyage:

[https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/King%27s_Road_\(Finland\)](https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/King%27s_Road_(Finland))

Outdooractive (for bicycles):

<https://www.outdooractive.com/fi/route/pitkaet-pyoeraeilyreitit/itainen-kuninkaantie-330-km-helsinki-lappeenranta/19296608/>

<https://www.outdooractive.com/fi/route/pitkaet-pyoeraeilyreitit/uusimaa/laentinen-kuninkaantie-252-350-km-helsinki-turku/19318607/>

King's Road contacts



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Websites:

www.kuninkaantie.info (fi)

www.kungsvagen.info (swe) (New sites opening later!)

www.kingsroadfinland.info (en)

Online map:

www.retkipaikka.fi/kuninkaantie

Map:

<https://issuu.com/entraky/docs/kuninkaantien-matkailukartta2019>

Blog (in Finnish):

<https://kuninkaantie-kungsvagen.blogspot.com/>