

# MIKKELI



Vipuvoimaa  
EU:lta  
2014–2020



MIKSEI MIKKELI

## International Rock Art Seminar in Mikkeli 9.6.2022

An international rock art seminar will take place in Mikkeli on June 9, 2022. *Rock Art on the Water – rock art sites by the seas, lakes and rivers* assembles experts to discuss rock art sites in general and their future prospects from the point of view of tourism, providing examples from Spain, Portugal and France. In addition to this, researchers based in the Finnish universities of Helsinki, Turku and Lapland will highlight some of their research into various aspects of rock art.

The rock art seminar is organized by the GeoNaCu Saimaa -project of Mikkeli Development Miksei Ltd. together with the international Prehistoric Rock Art trails (PRAT-CARP) organization. The international participants of the seminar will arrive in Finland on Monday June 6. They will visit the Saraakallio rock art site in Laukaa, and arrive in Mikkeli on June 7, then visiting Astuvansalmi rock art site in Ristiina the following day. On June 9 a day long seminar will take place at the auditorium of Muusti, Centre of War and Peace, from 9.30am until 4.15pm.

The seminar is free and open to everyone with interest in rock art, but registration in advance is required. The presentations will be given in English and Spanish. Translation services into Finnish are available on site over Zoom, but require a smartphone and compatible headphones.

The seminar will also be accessible online. A link will be sent one day prior to the event to everyone who has registered for the online event.

Registration takes place online latest by May 30 over [Visit Mikkeli website](#). The event can also be found on [Facebook](#).

### The largest rock art site in the Nordic countries

The prehistoric Astuvansalmi rock paintings in Ristiina consist of over 80 images featuring elk, human and boat motifs, as well as handprints. According to research the paintings date back to 6000-4200 BCE and have been made with falu red, a paint made from soil high in residual copper. Looking at the Astuvansalmi rock from the lake, a large side profile of a human face, formed by the elements, can be seen. The same profile is featured in amber pendants found in diving excavations below the rock face.

*Ihmiset sen tekevät.*

The Astuvansalmi rock art site was accepted as part of the European Council's Prehistoric Rock Art Trails cultural routes in 2019 as the first rock art site in Finland. The Saraakallio rock art site joined the network of cultural routes in 2020.

The GeoNaCu Saimaa -project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund. The project is supervised by the Southern Savonia Regional Council, and is implemented in cooperation with Saimaa Unesco Global Geopark. The project finishes in the end of 2022.

For more information about the seminar please contact

Tarja Pönniö-Kanerva, project manager, GeoNaCu Saimaa project, phone 0400 809 107, tarja.ponnio-kanerva@mikseimikkeli.fi

