

## The Saija Lodge's Environmental Policy

The Saija Lodge is a peaceful country manor located in Taivalkoski, Southern Lapland, and situated on the bank of Lake Jokijärvi which is bisected by the River Ii. The yard is surrounded by log buildings and has a memorable view to the expanse of Lake Jokijärvi. Carbon samples dating back seven thousand years have shown that people used to fish on banks of the River Ii's northern stretches. Back then, the local Lappish name for the area was 'Saija', which means a resting place, and that is what gave the Lodge its name, too. Kallioniemi, the childhood home of famed Finnish author Kalle Päätalo, is also a close neighbour to Saija.

The goal of the Saija Lodge is to be a trailblazer in sustainable travel and the first travel business in our city to combine profitability with sustainable values. This means that, for example, we favour locally grown and wild foraged foodstuffs as well as locally produced meat, game, and vegetable dishes, and that we recycle and avoid using single-use disposable items. We use renewable electricity, utilise geothermal heat for heating, and build all our cabins with wood to bind carbon and to make sure they last hundreds of years. Our "made in Saija" staff is a professional crew that is familiar with the intricacies of the local character, and consists of locals who find their well-being in nature, as well as out-of-towners of various nationalities who share our values for respecting nature and acting accordingly. We aim to try to encourage and inspire both our staff and our partners to minimise their environmental impacts through continuous development.

Our buildings, their construction, and the well-maintained outdoor areas are all typical of traditional and historic Finnish scenery. You can sense the age-old traditions of Finnish log building practises in the buildings of the Saija Lodge, and feel the clean indoor air and ambiance created by the natural and clean wood materials. We want to share our knowledge of local culture, history, and nature, as well as share stories of the indigenous people both from the past and the present, with the help of our own experience and the skill of our staff. These stories are woven into all the services and products that we offer to our guests, such as dining, fishing, rowing on the lake, roaming the wilderness, and other nature-related experiences.

Saija's ethos for food has always been to favour the locally-grown ingredients that we love. We prefer to use seasonally-appropriate and locally-grown or wild-foraged ingredients, vegetarian foodstuffs, berries, mushrooms, wild herbs and greens, fish from clean natural waters, local produce, and other bounties of nature. It is especially important to us to cook with love, to create special local delicacies, and to respect the precious, pure ingredients by serving them to our customers – not tossing them out into the bin. We can minimise food waste to the point of eliminating it almost completely by preparing food in stages, by processing it further, and by taking our customer volumes into consideration. Any excess food or left-overs are used up while serving meals to our staff.

We wish to do our part in caring for the environment of the Lake Jokijärvi region, and to do our best to inspire and support others in doing the same. We operate with energy efficiency in mind, save as much precious clean water as possible, and always take care to process waste correctly and to recycle carefully. We are committed to the principles of sustainable development even as our business grows and evolves. We encourage our partners to do the same by acting according to our shared values so that we can preserve and protect the unique natural environment of the Taivalkoski region. We also want to do our part in helping to keep the Earth clean for the generations to come. That is why we have decided that all of our decisions and the Saija Lodge's environmental work must show consideration for preserving of the natural world surrounding us.