

PÄIJÄTSALO TRAILS, SYSMÄ

PÄIJÄNNE NATIONAL PARK



TRAIL DIFFICULTY:

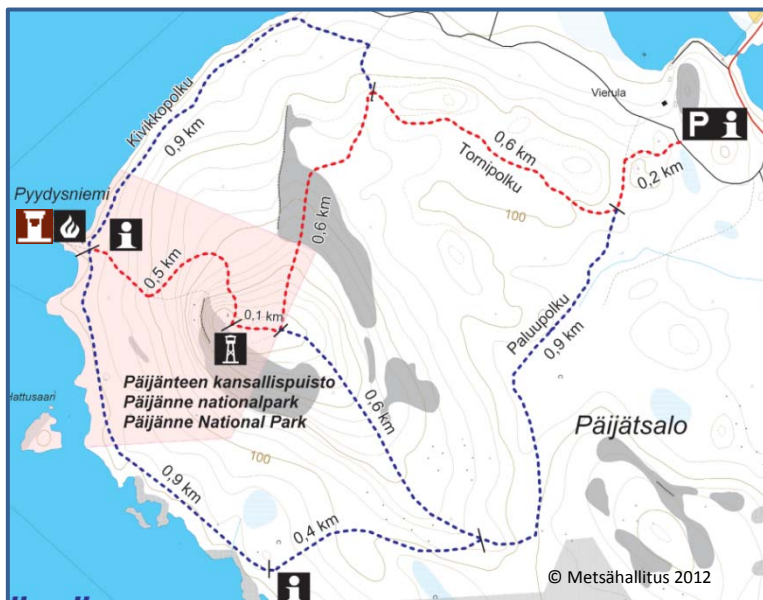
Medium

DISTANCE:

4.1 km (circular route), connecting trails to Päijätsalo lookout tower

DURATION:

about 2- 3 hours



ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

Päijätsalo Island (300 ha), which is situated in the municipality of Sysmä **has several trail options suitable for a day trip**. The longest one is the circular route which is about 4 km long. The trail can be reached by car (Päijätsalo Island car park) or by boat or taxi boat (Pyydysniemi harbour).

How to get there: Drive from Sysmä along road 4131 (Suopellontie) for about 5 km, then turn left onto Päijätsalontie. Drive along this road for 2 km, and then turn right on the road where you see the signpost "Päijätsalon näkötorni" (= Päijätsalo lookout tower). The total driving distance is approximately 7 km from the village of Sysmä.

The trail starts and ends at Päijätsalo car park and is suitable for hiking and Nordic walking from May until September. The trail is marked **with blue painted marks on the trees** (please note that 0.6 km of the trail is marked only with red paint marks).

The trail passes through varied forest and lake scenery. The hiker is mostly surrounded by pine forest but some birch trees can also be found by the lake shore. **Päijätsalo lookout tower is situated in the middle of the island and it offers breathtaking views over the glittering blue waters of Lake Päijänne**. The tower can be reached either from the car park, Pyydysniemi harbour or the main trail **via paths which are marked with red painted marks**. The forest and lake scenery and the height differences of the island add variety to the trail. The island is peaceful in the early summer, but later in the summer there may be more hikers. The height differences and rocky parts may slow your progress a little.

The service facilities along the trail are limited. There is a **campfire site with a toilet and firewood at Pyydysniemi**. The nearest shops and restaurant services can be found in the village of Sysmä, www.sysma.fi. The trail can be walked in trainers,

although in some rocky places hiking boots can be a better alternative. **Things to remember to take with you:** toilet paper and if you are planning to have a fire at one of the campfire sites, a knife and matches.

