



e-Car Adventures: Roadtrip on route 66 – in Finland

One of the legendary roadtrips in the world is route 66. Whereas the original route 66 reaches from Chicago to Santa Monica, stretching out to almost 4,000 km long, you can easily experience its smaller cousin in the heart of Finland. Some of its sights might even remind you of the US version – start your electric car and try the Finnish route 66 yourself!

Start your e-car nature adventure environmentally by renting a modern vehicle at downtown Tampere. Avis delivers the car straight to you, so you can start your trip at the doorstep of your hotel, if you like.

The Finnish route 66 existed already in 1930's and starts in the idyllic town of Orivesi but we recommend that you start your roadtrip by exploring historical vehicles first. There are not one but two car or motor museums in Kangasala. Pick one or both to see historic automobiles, motor bikes and rally cars and to learn how Finns drove in the previous century. **Vehoniemen automuseo** <https://automuseo.com/> (*Vehoniemenharjuntie 92*) and **Mobilia** <https://mobilia.fi/en/> (*Kustaa Kolmannen tie 75, Kangasala*) bring famous, funny and beautiful vehicles in front of your eyes. With a bit of luck, you might even end up there at the same time with a car brand meet which are rather popular in summertime. During a car meet, gorgeous automobiles are almost as plenty outside as they are in the museum.

From Mobilia, drive up north on route 58 and enjoy its rolling hills, small villages, and genuine Finnish countryside. At some point you might even wonder if you've arrived in Texas, if you are lucky enough to see some long-horn cattle on their pasture. For those looking for authentic souvenirs, we recommend a stop at **Aholaita ecological lamb farm** and their farmer's market (*Ponsantie 1627, Kangasala*) <https://aholaidantila.fi/>

The town of Orivesi has declared itself the wool sock capital of Finland. Eventually, you must drop in at **Taito Orivesi handicraft shop** located in an old wood house called Auvinen's House right in the city centre. They sell both ready-made Finnish handicrafts and materials for e.g. macramé, punch needle or – naturally – wool socks. <https://orivesi.fi/matkailijalle/matkailukohteet/taitokeskus-orivesi-auvisen-talo/>

In the early days, the Crown (Crown of Sweden, that is, since Finland was a part of Sweden until 1808= had ordered that there must be taverns and other hostelry on the roads at regular intervals to host and feed travellers. When you take the route 66 at Orivesi (finally!), you end up at **Kallenaution Kievari** or Kallenautio Tavern in Juupajoki (*Kallenautiontie 327*). Even though you don't have to feed your noble horse and your e-car probably has plenty of charge left, take a pause here. There's been a hostelry here since 1778, but nowadays it offers a museum, café, handicraft shop and a petting zoo. <https://juupajoki.fi/en/visit-juupajoki/museums/>

Continue almost 10 km towards Ruovesi, and you will see **Ryövärinkuoppa Nature Reserve** by the route 66. The name refers to bandits and brigands who would lurk behind rocks and stones, waiting for a rich traveller to pass by. Nowadays, you don't have to fear for your treasure – encourage your mind and hike a short trail admiring the huge trees and bright springs. <https://www.outinthenature.com/ryovarinkuoppa-nature-reserve-along-route-66/>

At downtown Ruovesi, a charming small town by an astonishing lakeview, you must be getting hungry. Stop at the harbour for lunch at Rantaravintola (*Laivarannantie 5, Ruovesi*) and admire boats and even a steamship that sails regularly between Tampere and Ruovesi. <https://ruovedenrantaravintola.fi/> And if your e-car is hungry, too, you can charge it at the parking lot of Osuuspankki (bank).

Stick your nose to the window 20 km from Ruovesi to the north when route 66 approaches the village of **Visuvesi**. The route crosses the canal of Visuvesi on a swing bridge that was built in 1980 and is still the longest single-arm swing bridge in the Nordics. Its predecessor worked here since 1878.

<https://paikkatieto.vaylapilvi.fi/arcgis/apps/storymaps/stories/7811bf8e3b5f43b897c108aee6429853>

We cannot provide you Grand Canyon, but yet an astonishing view at **Toriseva ravine lakes** approximately 5 km before the town of Virrat. The wild lakes are famous for their depth – the steep rocks by them reach the skies as well as the depths. Stop here for a cup of coffee, or get some exercise by hiking all or part of the 6.5 km long nature trail. <https://www.virrat.fi/english/sights/toriseva-ravine-lakes/>

With the ravine lakes, you have reached the end point of this route 66 tour. If you wish to continue on the route, head forward to Kuortane and Lapua towns, or close your circle and take route 65 from Virrat to Tampere.

- **Total length of the route:** approximately 140 km (plus the road back to Tampere)
- **Time needed:** You can drive through the route in a couple of hours but we recommend you to spare well time to explore the stops. If you want to spend plenty of time at the stops or drive all the way to Lapua where route 66 ends, consider booking an accommodation. There are b&b's available in Ruovesi and Virrat, for example.
- **Charging stations:** At Mobilia motor museum(from July 2023), Orivesi S-Market shop's parking lot, Ruovesi Osuuspankki bank's parking lot.
- **Who the route is for:** Friends of legendary road trips, or everyone who longs to explore the hidden gems of Finnish summer. The route offers something for everyone: from technology and handicrafts and from history to nature. That's why it is an excellent choice for a summer trip of a family or a group of friends. Many stops suit for bigger children, too, and enchant their imagination.
- **The route in Google Maps:** <https://goo.gl/maps/Kdbc4WMmuDDkuHd7>

