

FINLINE 2008 – INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Here is some information about the schedule of the FinLine 2008. You will find more info on our web site, too. For example, there is a good list of what to take with you.

Information is subject to change. All significant changes will be announced by email and also in English on Street Gliders' message board at www.katukiitajat.fi/english/taulu. All paid participants should have received the credentials for the Street Gliders' message board. You can use the message board for asking FinLine-related questions from other participants. Although the most of the conversations are in Finnish, you are always welcome to write your messages in English.

The most up-to-date version of this instruction letter can be found on the official FinLine web site www.katukiitajat.fi/english/finline. Because email has been unreliable means of informing all participants, please re-check the above address for updated version of this letter before leaving.

Participants

1.	Bakharev Igor	RUS
2.	Chervyakova Elena	RUS
3.	Halonen Pekka	FIN
4.	Joutsenvirta Raija	FIN
5.	Kastemaa Herbie	FIN
6.	Kuosmanen Pentti	FIN
7.	Lumme Merja	FIN
8.	Mäkelä Jouni	FIN
9.	Osipov Igor	RUS
10.	Schiffer Dirk	GER
11.	Sjöholm Bo	FIN
12.	Tuominen Panu	FIN

If you must cancel your attendance at this phase, please still inform us before the starting day. This way we can know that you are not coming with us!



Service team

✉ Bus driver, Bordi Ari

Skating route and timetable

We will meet in Helsinki on Monday morning June 30th at 8.00 a.m. The meeting point is the Paavo Nurmi Statue (N 60° 11' 3.49", E 24° 55' 36.56") on street Mäntymäentie, near the Olympic Stadium. You can reach this place e.g. by any tram driving in the front of the Kiasma museum; jump off at stop "Ooppera" (The National Opera). Be on time.

If you are going to meet us later than on Monday morning, ensure that you have informed Raija about it, e.g. by SMS to +358 50 5200171.

We will arrive at Vaasa in the afternoon. You should take the things you need on the prologue skating trip (Monday) in the bus, so that we can start skating as soon as possible after arriving to the destination. We have not reserved time for example for servicing your skates before the start.

The plan is to enter the hotel not earlier than after the prologue skating.

Date	Program (subject to change)		
Mon 30.6.	Bus trip Helsinki–Vaasa		
	Prologue skating trip in Vaasa/Raippaluoto	... km	The prologue skating route will be planned later. The target is to skate across the longest bridge in Finland.
Tue 1.7.	Skating Vaasa–Ylihärmä	65 km	
Wed 2.7.	Skating Ylihärmä–Vimpeli	88 km	
Thu 3.7.	Skating Vimpeli–Alavus	89 km	+ visiting the largest village shop in Finland
Fri 4.7.	Skating Alavus–Kurikka	69 km	
Sat 5.7.	Skating Kurikka–Vaasa	92 km	+ farewell dinner in the evening
Sun 6.7.	Leaving the city of Vaasa at 13 (1 p.m.)		+ optional city skate in the morning starting at 9.00 a.m.
	<i>Total skating distance</i>	<i>403 km</i>	<i>+ prologue & extras</i>

Day-trip kilometers are indicative distances from place to place. This time the deviations because of the exact location of the accommodations have been taken into account.

We try to start skating at 9–10 a.m. so that we will arrive at the destination at 3–5 p.m. Exact day schedule varies due to the situation and weather. A typical FinLine day schedule can be seen at www.katukiitajat.fi/english/finline/pohjelma.htm.

Katukiitäjät ry

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Return trip from Vaasa to Helsinki starts on Sunday 6.7. about 1 p.m. We will be back in Helsinki in the evening.

Skating groups

The skating groups will be formed in the natural way. Group of around five skaters is ideal. Groups of more than six amateurs have usually problems to skate at constant speed. Too large groups are also dangerous in downhill.

There is a good chance to find the best groups for skating during the prologue skate on Monday.

Every day the faster groups will wait (if the weather allows) for the slower ones before reaching the destination. This ensures that all groups will find the way to the accommodation.

Service bus operation and services

The service bus will stop on route every 15 to 20 km. At service stops you can fill up your drink bottle.

Although our driver might be a true professional, it cannot be the funniest way to spend a summer week by sitting in a bus. Lets keep the driver satisfied, even if the weather is rainy or windy. A known good driver helps us the plan the future skate trips.

Safety first

- ✂ According to the Finnish law skater is a pedestrian. Where no pedestrian zone is available, use the left side of road, bicycles coming towards us will be passed from left and other pedestrians will be overtaken from right. On pedestrian routes use either side.
- ✂ Skating alone is not allowed!
- ✂ First in group warns others when skating on side of car lane from tractors (traktori), bicycles (polkupyörä), crossroads (risteys), bypassing heavy trucks (rekka), holes (kuoppa, reikä), rocks (kiviä), sand, (hiekkaa), cracks in asphalt (railo), manholes (viemärinkansi). Everyone in the group shall repeat the warning so that it is ensured that everyone hears the message.
- ✂ Unnecessary overtakes and moves in sideways are prohibited.
- ✂ In downhill the group will "blindly" follow the group leader by grabbing lightly the skater in front from his/her hips.



- ☞ If you do not have experience in skating downhill in a "train", or if you do not want to join the train, hang back in the group and leave **plenty** (hundreds of meters) of gap before following the others. You cannot quit the "train" during the downhill!

Accommodations

Please do not book in to the hotel before the receptionist has received the official room list. If you really need to change your room for any reason, please discuss first with the organizers before contacting the hotel reception.

Everybody pays their share on the spot by the following morning, but preferably in the evening to avoid long queues in the morning.

Note! The sheets and pillowcase are not included in the basic price of some accommodations. There is also one place where they are not available at all. Prepare yourself by your own taking sheets and pillowcase (or sleeping bag) with you. Alternatively, you can buy e.g. single-use sheets and pillowcase in Vaasa on Monday evening. Do not forget to take care of this on Monday.

The dinner will be paid separately or together with the accommodation, depending on the place.

30.6.–1.7. VAASA

Sokos Hotel Vaakuna
www.sokoshotels.fi

Dinner from the restaurant's menu.

1.–2.7. YLIHÄRMÄ

Loma-Kesra
www.netikka.net/loma-kesra

2.–3.7. VIMPELI

Lakeaharju, Räsäsen lomamökit
lomapaikka.lakeaharju.com

3.–4.7. ALAVUS

Ouran loma
www.ouranloma.fi

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4.–5.7. KURIKKA

Pitkä-Jussin majatalo
www.hotellipitkajussi.fi

Dinner from the restaurant's menu.

5.–6.7. VAASA

Sokos Hotel Vaakuna
www.sokoshotels.fi

Dinner from the restaurant's menu.

Prices are indicative. Inform Raija for any special diets as soon as possible, e.g. by SMS to +358 50 5200171.

Gear

Official FinLine 2008 skating shirt will be handed out in the bus to Vaasa. Some useful things to take with you:

- ✍ inline skates
- ✍ **helmet (compulsory)**
- ✍ other protective gear
- ✍ bottle belt + drink bottle ½ liters etc.
- ✍ socks
- ✍ underwear
- ✍ a pair of shorts for skating and another pair for free-time
- ✍ pajamas
- ✍ a few extra T-shirts
- ✍ sportswear for skating in cold/rainy weather
- ✍ free-time footwear
- ✍ simple social evening dress (jeans etc. or something like that)
- ✍ skate service tools as one thinks necessary (cleaning liquids, lubricants, brush, rags...)
- ✍ a set of spare bearings (and wheels)
- ✍ sports tape + artificial skin

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- ✂ sun lotion
- ✂ personal toilet bag + medicines
- ✂ swimsuit + towel (keep these in the bus during skating for quick access!)
- ✂ money (Euros, see note below) or credit card (VISA, MasterCard...) + pocket money
- ✂ GSM phone? + camera?
- ✂ + other personal items

If you have any suitable games or sporting equipment, take them with you! Depending on the weather we may need something to do together, especially when the accommodation is far away from the village center.

More tips for FinLine packing may be found from Panu's baggage checklist at www.katukiitajat.fi/english/finline/tavarat.htm.

Guidebooks

If you are interested, you can read and print out the tourist material provided by the cities and places we are going to visit. The web addresses are easy: www.vaasa.fi, www.yliharna.fi, www.vimpeli.fi, www.alavus.fi, and www.kurikka.fi.

Finally, check that your insurance protection is extensive, helmet has been packed, and you are in a good mood for your FinLine experience.

See you in Helsinki on Monday morning!

With best wishes,
The FinLine team