



Captain's **Handbook** 2027

Everything you need on board – from the day you arrive to the morning you leave.
Read it once at home, keep it by the helm.

Emergency

112

police · fire · ambulance · rescue on the water

Our harbour team

+358 40 164 6168

call or WhatsApp, every day of your trip

Harbour	Satamatie 4, 18100 Heinola, Finland
Check-in / check-out	15:00–18:00 / by 10:00
Harbour team	+358 40 164 6168 (call / WhatsApp) · info@houseboat.fi
Emergency	112 – also on the lakes. The 112 Suomi app sends your position.
Poison Information Centre	0800 147 111 (24 h, free)

This handbook follows your holiday in order: **before you arrive** → **your first hour** → **every day on the water** → **evenings and sauna** → **if something goes wrong** → **leaving the boat**. Each chapter starts with the one thing to remember. No boating licence is needed – our harbour team gives you a one-hour training and is a phone call away for the whole trip.

1 Before you arrive

In one line: Choose a skipper and a deputy skipper – both 18+, both at the handover.

- ❑ **Skipper and deputy.** Two adults learn to drive the boat, so one can always take over the helm.
- ❑ **Tell us** your arrival time, the ages and weights of children (for the right lifejackets) and whether a dog is coming (hypoallergenic cleaning 140 € per booking).
- ❑ **Tell us what you love** – nature, beaches, culture, food, fishing – and we prepare routes and send them to your boat's Navionics tablet.
- ❑ **Plan your trip from home:** install the **Navionics Boating** app on your own phone or tablet (charts need a subscription – the app usually offers a free trial; check the store for current terms) and draw your dream route on the Finnish lakes. Send it to us – a screenshot or exported route file is enough – and we check it for bridges, shallow spots and good moorings and load it onto your boat's tablet.
- ❑ **Book extras in advance:** bed linen and towels (30 € per person), extra training (75 € per hour), SUP, kayak, bikes – see the price list.
- ❑ **Pack soft bags** rather than hard suitcases – they are much easier to stow.
- ❑ **Bring:** non-slip shoes (no flip-flops on deck), a warm layer and a rain jacket even in July, sunglasses, sun cream, insect repellent, a torch, gloves for the ropes, a power bank, your medicines, swimwear and sauna towels.
- ❑ **Download** the 112 Suomi app and a weather app (see chapter 15).
- ❑ **Shopping:** K-Citymarket is on your way to the harbour – stock up before boarding. There are shops along the route too.
- ❑ **Arrive between 15:00 and 18:00.** Running late? Send us a message – we will keep your boat ready.

We reserve the right to change offers and terms.

2 Your first hour: the handover

In one line: Ask every question now – nothing is a silly question on the first day.



1. **Lifejackets first.** Every boat has lifejackets for adults and in children's sizes. Everyone tries one on and adjusts it; children before anything else.
2. **Safety walk-round:** fire extinguisher, fire blanket, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, first-aid kit, life ring, boat hook, bucket, ways out of the cabin.
3. **Living on board:** cooker and gas valve, fridge, heating, water pump, toilet, hot water, sockets and what you can plug in.
4. **The sauna:** lighting the stove, the air vent, safe distances, ash and firewood.
5. **Engine and helm:** start, neutral, forward, reverse, stop, turning on the spot.
6. **A short test drive** with a mooring, leaving a jetty and using the anchor.
7. **Navigation:** the on-board tablet with Navionics charts and your route, Finnish waterway marks, bridges and the Kalkkinen lock.
8. **Nature rules:** where you may moor, bird sanctuaries, campfires and rubbish.
9. **The boat's condition:** we check it together, and anything missing or damaged is noted now – not at check-out.

Is everything clear? Engine · helm · anchor · mooring lines · toilet · water pump · gas · heating · sauna stove · extinguisher · lifejackets · Navionics tablet · dinghy. If not – ask, or book an extra hour of training (75 €/h).

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3 Every day on the water

In one line: Check the weather every morning and know your plan B bay.

Every morning, before you leave

- ☐ Weather and wind forecast (FMI app); choose the route and a sheltered “plan B” bay.
- ☐ Fuel, fresh water and toilet tank levels.
- ☐ No smell of fuel or gas; outboard motor, fuel line and tank look normal; no water in the hulls.
- ☐ Sauna stove cold; gas closed unless you are cooking.
- ☐ Everything loose on deck stowed or tied; canopy down if it is windy.
- ☐ Lines and fenders ready; dinghy tied on a short rope.
- ☐ Everyone knows today's route and who handles the lines.

Every evening, before you sleep

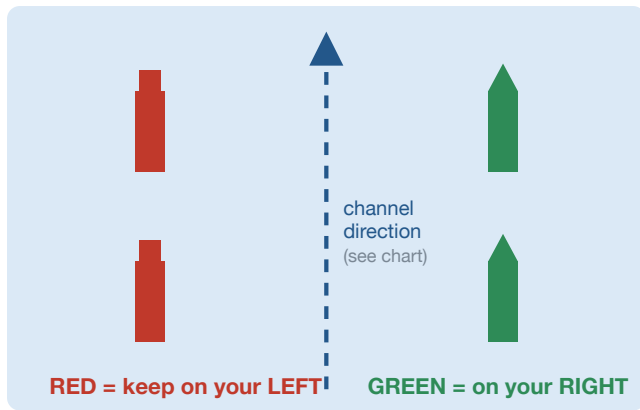
- ☐ Mooring lines or anchor checked; a little slack if the wind may turn.
- ☐ Gas bottle closed. Sauna fire out and stove door closed.
- ☐ Lights and electrics you don't need switched off – save the battery.
- ☐ Outboard key in its agreed place.

- ☐ Phone charged and your position saved.

On the move

- **Before you start the engine:** everyone aboard, lines on deck (never in the water near the propeller), gear in neutral.
- **Speed:** there is no general speed limit on Finnish lakes, but you are responsible for your wash. Slow down near other boats, jetties, swimmers and reed beds, and follow speed and “no wash” signs. In canals the limit is 9 km/h.
- **Waterway marks:** Finland uses the IALA A system. Your harbour team explains the green and red marks and the cardinal marks during the handover – when unsure, slow down and stay in the marked channel.
- **Bridges:** lower the canopy or parasol and keep everyone inside the railings.
- **Shallow or rocky?** Slow down. Finnish shores can be deep one metre and shallow the next.
- **Skipper stays sober.** In Finland driving a motorboat with 1.0 ‰ or more is a criminal offence – and so is any amount of alcohol that affects your ability to steer.

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Finnish waterway marks (IALA A system), simplified. Your harbour team explains them at the handover.

Cardinal marks – pass on the side they name

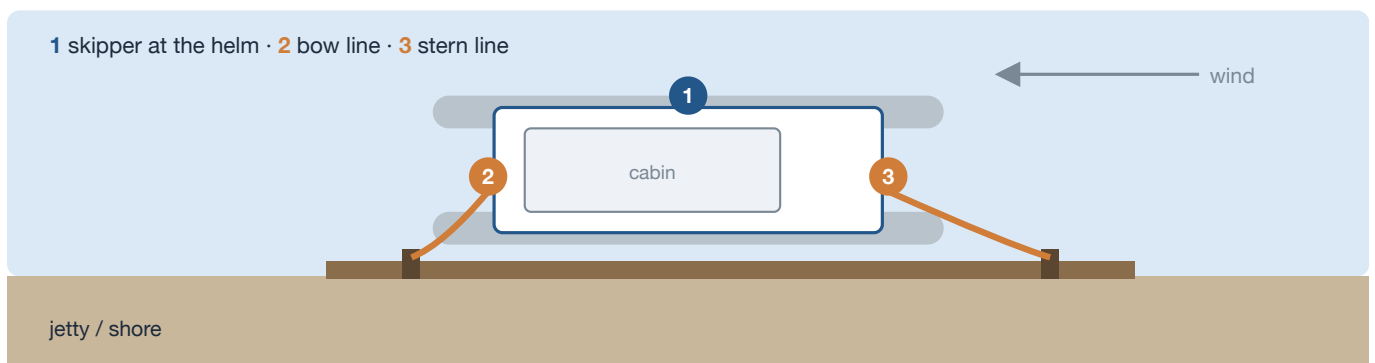


A north mark: safe water is to the north of it, and so on.
When unsure – slow down and stay in the marked channel.



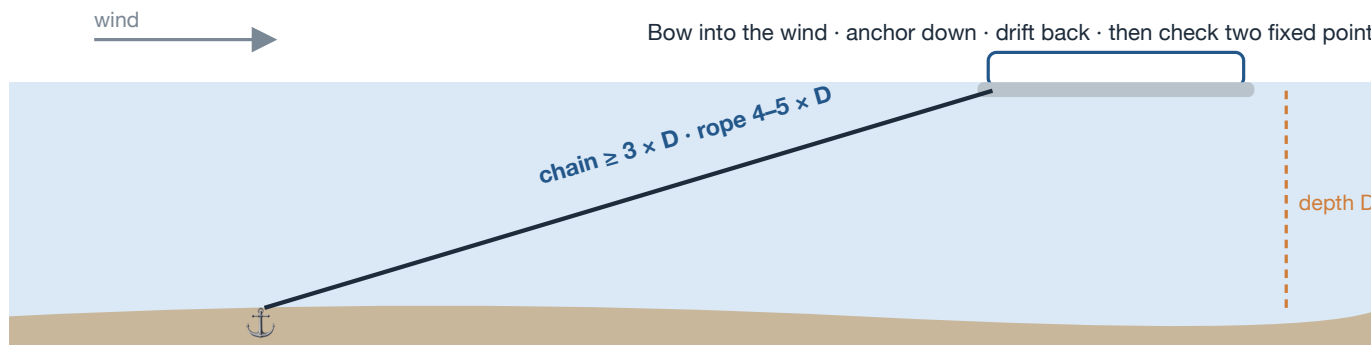
4 Mooring and anchoring in 5 steps

In one line: Come in slower than you think – and step ashore, never jump.



Everyone has a job. Come in slowly, step (don't jump) ashore, tie bow and stern.

- Pick your spot:** sheltered from tonight's wind, away from homes, reed beds and swimming beaches, and not in a bird sanctuary. Guest harbours and public rest-area jetties are ideal.
- Give everyone a job:** skipper at the helm, one person at the bow line, one at the stern line. Agree on hand signals – engines are noisy.
- Approach slowly**, at a gentle angle and into the wind if you can. A houseboat has no brakes: short bursts of reverse stop it.
- Step, don't jump.** The line handler steps ashore only when the boat is touching or a short step away. Never put a hand or foot between the boat and the jetty or rock, and never wrap a rope around your hand.
- Tie up and check:** bow and stern lines to rings or posts. If you tie to a tree, protect the bark. Check the depth around the boat and leave a little slack.



Anchoring: at least three times the depth in chain, four to five times in rope. Don't anchor overnight if more than 6 m/s is forecast.

Anchoring overnight: choose a sheltered bay, well away from homes. Turn the bow into the wind, lower the anchor until it touches the bottom, let the boat drift back and give out at least three times the depth in chain – four to five times if it is rope. After 15 minutes, check two fixed points on shore to make sure you are not moving. Don't anchor for the night if more than 6 m/s of wind is forecast – find a jetty instead.

We reserve the right to change offers and terms.

5 Wind and weather

In one line: A houseboat catches the wind like a sail – our limits are stricter than the official warnings.

0–6 m/s normal cruising	6–8 m/s sheltered water only	over 8 m/s / FMI warning stay moored
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Mean wind in the FMI forecast (m/s). Houseboats catch the wind like a sail – our limits are stricter than official warnings.

Our wind limits.

- **Check the forecast** every morning and before any crossing of open water – FMI (Ilmatieteen laitos) app or ilmatieteenlaitos.fi. Finnish forecasts give wind in metres per second (m/s). FMI's wind warnings only start at gusts of 15 m/s, so use our limits:

Up to 6 m/s – normal cruising.

6–8 m/s – stay in sheltered water; no crossings of the big open stretches of Päijänne.

Over 8 m/s, or any FMI warning – stay moored. When in doubt, call us: we watch the weather too and will message you if it turns.

- **In gusts** manoeuvre earlier and slower. Moor on the side the wind blows *from* – otherwise it pins you to the shore and leaving becomes hard.
- **Thunderstorms** usually build on hot afternoons and pass within an hour. If one is coming, head for the nearest sheltered mooring, tie up, lower the canopy and stay inside.
- **Light nights:** in June and July it hardly gets dark – around midsummer the sun sets just before 23:00 and rises before 4:00 – but you still need to see rocks and buoys. Plan to be moored by 21:00; never cruise in fog or darkness.
- **Cold water:** in May and from late September the lake can be below 10 °C. Wear your lifejacket on deck.

We reserve the right to change offers and terms.

6 Rules on the water

In one line: On the water nobody simply has right of way – everyone must keep clear. You are slow, so decide early and make it obvious.

- **Keep right** in marked channels and narrow passages.
- **Head-on:** both boats turn to their right.
- **Crossing:** a boat coming from your right goes first – slow down or pass behind it.
- **Overtaking:** the faster boat keeps clear. You will usually be the one overtaken: hold a steady course and meet big waves bow-first.
- **Sailing boats** under sail have priority; a yacht motoring counts as a motorboat.
- **Ships and lake steamers** can't stop or swerve. Leave the fairway early and never cross close ahead of them.
- **Your wash is your responsibility.** Slow right down near jetties, moored boats, paddlers, swimmers and reeds. Obey speed signs (km/h) and "no wash" signs.
- **Canals and locks:** slow speed in canals; follow the signals and the board at the lock. Flashing red = strong current, wait.
- **Swimmers, anglers and nets:** keep well away. Small floats or flag poles, often in pairs, mark nets and fish traps – go around them, never between.
- **Darkness and fog:** we don't cruise then – be moored by 21:00.
- **Refuelling:** engine off, cooker off, no smoking. Fill slowly and never to the brim. A spill on the water? Tell the staff – never cover it with washing-up liquid, that makes it worse.
- **You are the skipper:** you answer for the boat and the crew, lifejackets when needed, and for causing no harm to people or nature.

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7 Routes, canals and the Kalkkinen lock

In one line: Plan 3–4 hours of cruising a day and keep half a day spare for the weather.

At 6–7 km/h, one hour on the water is roughly 6 km. Leave time for swimming, sauna and walks ashore. Our team plans the route with you at the handover and marks good mooring places on your Navionics tablet.

Your navigation tablet: every boat has a tablet with **Navionics** charts – it shows your position, the marked channels, depths and your route. **Routes on request:** tell us what you'd like – quiet bays, beaches and swimming, nature trails, farm shops and cafés, fishing spots, the national park or the canals – and we send a ready-made route straight to your boat's tablet, before you arrive or during the trip (WhatsApp +358 40 164 6168). With the Navionics app on your own phone or tablet you can also plan routes at home and send them to us.

Kalkkinen canal – your first (easy) lock

- The Kalkkinen canal links Lake Ruotsalainen with Lake Päijänne. The lift is only about 1 metre.
- **Opening hours** (2026 – check before you go): May 7–21 · June–August 7–24 · September 7–18 · October Wed–Sun 7–17 (closed Mon–Tue).
- **Self-service:** tie up at the waiting jetty and follow the instructions on the board to start the lock. The lock is supervised remotely from Vääksy canal, tel. 0295 34 4152.
- **Inside the lock:** engine running in neutral, one line at the bow and one at the stern held round a bollard – never tied fast and never round your hand. Children inside or seated with lifejackets. Allow 15–30 minutes.
- **A flashing red light** means water is being released and the current is strong – wait.
- The fixed bridge over the canal has 11 m clearance.

1

Tie up at the waiting jetty

2

Start the lock as the board says

3

Enter slowly, engine in neutral

4

Lines round bollards – hold, never tie

5

Wait for the gate – leave slowly

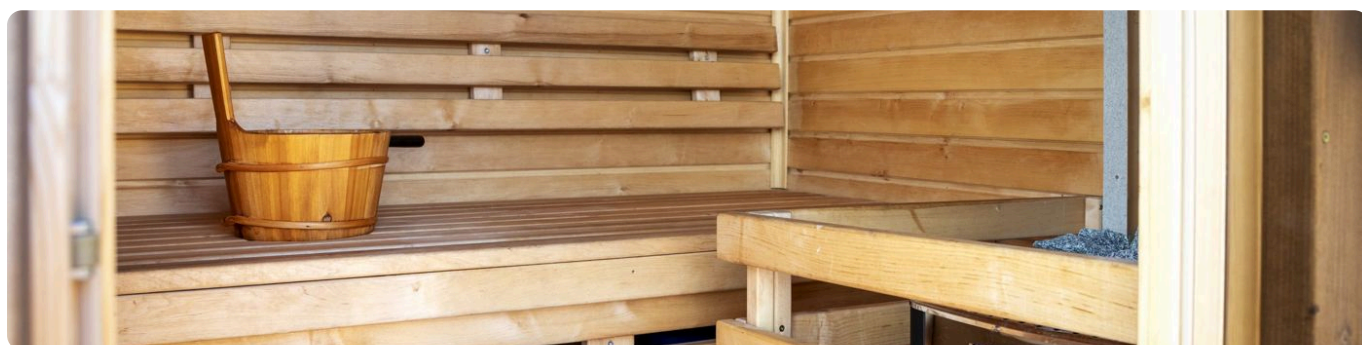
Kalkkinen: lift about 1 m · allow 15–30 min · flashing red light = strong current, wait

Through the Kalkkinen lock in five steps.

Further afield: Vääksy canal (staffed, about 3 m lift) leads to Lake Vesijärvi; the Kimola canal (12 m lift, rock tunnel) leads east via Konnivesi. **Ask us before you take the Kimola route** – a bridge on the way has only about 4 m clearance, and not every boat fits under it.

We reserve the right to change offers and terms.

8 Sauna safety on board



In one line: The sauna stove burns only when the boat is moored – and never without someone watching it.

- **Only when moored or anchored.** Never cruise with the stove burning or still hot.
- **Never leave the fire alone**, and never go to sleep while it burns.
- **Use only the dry firewood from the boat** – one 5 kg bag is included, enough for about one sauna evening; extra bags 15 € each. Never burn rubbish, plastic or wet wood, and never take wood from public campfire sites.
- **Keep it clear:** no towels, clothes or swimwear on or near the stove or chimney.
- **Fresh air:** keep the sauna's air vent open (the fire's draught is set with the ash drawer, not the vent). Every boat has a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm – if it sounds, or you feel a headache, dizziness or nausea, put the fire out if you safely can, get everyone outside and call us.
- **Ash only when stone cold**, into the metal bucket – never overboard, never into a plastic bin.
- **Drink water.** Alcohol and sauna don't mix – nor do alcohol and night swimming.
- **Children only with an adult**, on the lower bench, for short rounds.
- **Cooling off in the lake:** lower the swimming ladder *before* you jump, check the depth, go in feet first, and always keep someone on deck.
- **Wildfire warning (maastopalovaroitus):** while it is in force, open fires outdoors are forbidden in Finland. Ask us before lighting the sauna stove during a warning.

How to heat your sauna – step by step

Your sauna is heated the Finnish way, with wood, in a Harvia wood-burning stove. We show you how at the handover.

1. **Get ready.** Boat moored or anchored; during a wildfire warning, ask us first. Nothing on or near the stove or chimney; the sauna's air vent open. If your stove has a water tank, fill it.
2. **Empty the ash drawer** – only when the stove is cold – into the metal bucket. Old ash starves the fire of air.

3. **Load loosely:** only the dry wood from the boat, thicker logs below, thinner ones on top, with gaps for air. Four or five logs are enough – never fill the firebox to the top.
4. **Light it from the top:** birch bark or a sheet of newspaper and a few thin sticks go on top of the logs. A fire that burns downwards makes less smoke.
5. **Door shut, ash drawer open about a finger's width.** Use the tool or a glove – the handles get hot. Never let the stove burn with the door open.
6. **Burning well? Turn the air down:** push the drawer almost shut. A stove glowing red is getting too much air.
7. **Add wood little and often** – two or three logs when the flames have sunk to embers. Full loads one after another overheat the stove. The sauna is usually ready in about an hour.
8. **Stay with the fire.** An adult stays aboard and awake until it has burnt out behind a closed door.

Löyly – bathing like a Finn

Shower first and sit on a towel. After a few minutes make **löyly**: ladle a little clean lake water from the boat's tap onto the stones – never onto the metal, and not during a blue-green algae bloom. Ask the others first, and don't lean over the stove – the steam rises fast. Stay as long as it feels good, usually 5–15 minutes, then cool off on deck or in the lake and drink water. Warm up, cool down, rest, repeat – there are no records to beat. Sauna scents only if they are made for saunas, mixed into the bucket as the label says.

Never cast off, go to sleep or leave the boat while the stove is burning or still hot · burn rubbish, cardboard, plastic, painted or treated wood · pour sea or pool water or pure oils onto the stones · empty ash while it is warm, overboard or into a plastic bin · sauna or swim after alcohol · ignore the CO alarm.

We reserve the right to change offers and terms.

9 Fire on board

In one line: People first, boat second: get everyone out, call 112 – and only then fight the fire.

Preventing fire

- No smoking inside – only on terraces and open decks, never while refuelling.
- Sauna stove only when moored, never left alone; nothing on or near the stove or chimney; ash only when cold, into the metal bucket.
- Gas bottle closed when you are not cooking; never leave the cooker on; towels and curtains away from the flame.
- No charging of phones or power banks on beds or under pillows; don't overload sockets.
- Know where the fire extinguisher and fire blanket are – we show you at the handover. Smoke and CO alarms are fitted on every boat: never cover or disconnect them.

1 Warn & rescue everyone out on deck, lifejackets	2 Call 112 where you are, how many aboard	3 Fight it – if small extinguisher at the base, blanket	4 Stop the spread gas off, engine off, close doors	5 Not out? Leave ashore or dinghy, upwind	6 Guide & report meet rescuers, call us
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People first, boat second. Never water on burning fat or on a red-hot stove.

Fire on board – in this order.

If there is a fire – in this order

1. **Warn and rescue.** Shout “Fire!” and get everyone out onto the open deck, upwind of the smoke. Lifejackets on. Check that no one is left in a cabin, the toilet or the sauna.
2. **Call 112** (on the lakes too) – say “houseboat on fire”, where you are and how many people are aboard. The 112 Suomi app sends your position.
3. **Fight a small fire – only if it is safe.** Aim the extinguisher at the base of the flames, not at the smoke, in short bursts. Smother a pan or cooker fire with the fire blanket and turn off the gas – **never water on burning fat**. Switch

off the main power for an electrical fire and don't use water on it.

4. **Stop it spreading.** Close the gas bottle and stop the engine. Close the door of the burning room. If the sauna chimney or stove is overheating, close the stove door and the ash drawer to cut the air – never throw water onto a red-hot stove.
5. **If it isn't out within seconds – leave.** Go ashore, or into the dinghy or the water with lifejackets on, upwind and well away from the boat – fuel and gas can burn violently. Never go back for belongings.
6. **Guide the rescuers** and then call us: +358 40 164 6168. Even a small fire that you put out yourself – tell us the same day.

Smoke or fuel smell at the outboard motor: stop the engine and take the key out. If you can do it safely, disconnect the fuel line from the tank. Use the extinguisher at the base of the flames; keep everyone at the other end of the boat or ashore, and call 112. Fuel smell without fire: no smoking, no flames, engine off – call us.

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10 Living on board: water, toilet, power and gas

In one line: Nothing but toilet paper goes into the toilet – and nothing at all goes into the lake.

- **Fuel:** even the smallest houseboat carries 144 litres – enough for about 250 km; the larger boats have 350-litre tanks. The boat leaves full and comes back full; we show you where to refuel, or refuel for you for a fee. **Never mix up the filler caps** – fuel, water and waste each have their own, and we point them out at the handover.
- **Water:** the taps have hot and cold water, taken from the lake through a filter – fine for washing and, boiled, for tea, coffee and cooking. For drinking, buy bottled water. **During a blue-green algae bloom** (green, paint-like streaks or flakes on the water) don't use the tap water for cooking – boiling does not make it safe – and call us. Switch the water pump off at night and when you leave the boat.
- **Toilet:** only toilet paper, and not much of it. A blocked toilet costs time and money. In Finland emptying toilet waste into the lake is prohibited – the holding tank is emptied at pump-out stations – we show you the nearest ones at the handover, and you find more on roopekartta.fi. Check the tank gauge every morning.
- **Electricity:** the boats have 230 V sockets and heating – you may need a plug adapter. Use high-power devices (hair dryer, kettle) sparingly; we show you at the handover what your boat's system handles. Switch lights off when not needed – a flat battery can stop you starting the engine.
- **Gas (cooking):** open the bottle only to cook and close it afterwards and at night. Never leave the cooker on unattended, never cook while cruising, and keep curtains and towels away from the flame.
- **No smoking inside the boat.** Smoking is allowed only on the terraces and open decks – never while refuelling and never near the gas bottle, fuel filler or sauna chimney. Use an ashtray with water; no cigarette ends in the lake or on the shore.
- **Wi-Fi** is free on every boat; mobile coverage is good on almost the whole lake.

We reserve the right to change offers and terms.

11 Kids and dogs on board



Rules for young crew – read them together

- On deck I always wear my lifejacket (there is one in my size) – even if I can swim.
- I walk, I don't run. One hand for me, one for the boat.
- I stay where a grown-up can see me.
- I never get on or off while the engine is running.
- I go to the sauna only with a grown-up.
- I jump into the lake only when a grown-up says so – feet first.
- I am the lookout: I tell the captain about buoys, rocks and birds!

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Dogs

Dogs are welcome on request – tell us when you book (hypoallergenic cleaning 140 € per booking). Plan shorter cruising days with walks ashore; the dinghy helps. Bring the dog's bowl, bed, towel, food and, ideally, a dog lifejacket. Keep your dog on a lead in harbours, at the lock and **everywhere ashore from 1 March to 19 August** (Finnish law) – and **all year in Päijänne National Park**. Check for ticks every evening, and keep dogs out of the sauna and away from the hot stove.

12 Respecting nature – everyman's right on the water

In one line: Everything you bring leaves with you – and nothing goes into the lake.



- **Everyman's right:** you may moor or anchor overnight, walk ashore, swim and pick berries and mushrooms – as long as you disturb no one. Keep well away from homes and private jetties. No fires on someone else's land, and don't collect wood.
- **Päijänne National Park** has stricter rules:
 - No landing on Sammalsaari and the park's small islands and islets from 15 April to 31 July.
 - No landing on Kahvisaari, Selkäsaaret, Huhtsaari, Papinsaari, Keulainsaaret, Hakohuittu, or Korkeasaari and the islets south of it, from 1 April to 15 September.
 - At most two nights in the park's harbours. No drones over the protected islands.
 - Dogs on a lead all year. Berries and edible mushrooms only – leave flowers and plants.
 - No bins, shops or tap water in the park – take everything back with you.
- **Campfires** only at marked fireplaces, with the wood provided there. During a wildfire warning, no fires at all. Put the fire out with water before you leave.
- **Rubbish:** keep a bag on board. Island waste points usually take only mixed waste, glass, metal and paper – bring the rest back to our harbour. Never burn plastic or foil. Deposit bottles and cans ("pantti", 0.10–0.40 €) go back to any shop.
- **Toilet:** toilet waste must never go into Finnish waters. At a pump-out station: cap off, nozzle pressed in firmly, pump, then rinse the hose. Toilet waste only.
- **Washing:** no soap or shampoo in the lake. Use a little phosphate-free detergent.
- **Birds and quiet:** in spring and early summer keep clear of nesting islets and loons, and slow down near reeds. Sound carries far over still water – keep evenings quiet.
- **Blue-green algae:** in hot late summer, if the water looks like green paint or porridge, don't swim there and keep children and dogs out.
- **Fishing:** hook-and-line fishing is free; for a spinning rod, adults 18–69 need the national fishing fee (eraluvat.fi).

- **Alcohol shopping:** shops sell drinks up to 8 % from 9:00 to 21:00; stronger drinks only at Alko (18+ up to 22 %, 20+ above).

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13 If something goes wrong

In one line: Make the boat safe first – then call. Life in danger: 112.

Life in danger, fire, serious injury or someone missing in the water: call 112 – on the lakes too. The 112 Suomi app sends your position. Then call us: +358 40 164 6168.

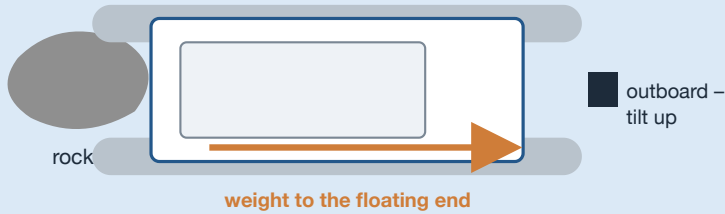
- **Person overboard:** shout and point – one person keeps pointing the whole time. Throw the life ring. Neutral, and swing the stern away from the person. Come back slowly against the wind and stop the propeller before they reach the boat. Use the swimming ladder.
- **Aground on a rock or shallow:** see the box below.
- **Rope, net or weed round the propeller:** engine off, key out, tilt the outboard up and call us before doing anything.
- **Water coming in:** head for the nearest shore, block the leak with towels or cushions, bail with the bucket, call us.
- **Gas smell:** no flames, no smoking, close the bottle, open everything, everyone ashore, call us.
- **CO alarm sounds:** fire out if safe, everyone outside into fresh air, call us; if anyone feels unwell – 112.
- **Fire or smoke alarm:** everyone out on deck, call 112, fight it only if small and safe – see “Fire on board”. Not out within seconds – leave the boat.
- **Breakdown:** anchor or moor safely first, then call us with the boat name and your position (WhatsApp location is easiest).
- **Any accident** with another boat or property: take photos, exchange names and numbers, and call us the same day.
- **Poisoning** (mushrooms, berries, chemicals): Poison Information Centre 0800 147 111.

Aground on a rock or a shallow – your houseboat is a catamaran

Your boat floats on two pontoons, and each pontoon is built from independent sealed sections. Even if several sections are damaged, the houseboat stays afloat. *It does happen: in August 2026 guests ran aground and called us. Our harbour team came out by RIB; when that wasn't strong enough, we called 112 and the rescue boat arrived within about 30 minutes and pulled the boat free. It was undamaged and the holiday went on. That is exactly the way to do it: make the boat safe, call us, wait – don't force it.* So stay calm and work step by step:

1. **Stop at once:** gear to neutral. Never push on with more throttle – that drags the hull over the rock.
2. **People first:** check that nobody is hurt or has fallen; lifejackets on.
3. **Check both hulls for water:** look and listen at both pontoons – water coming in, new noises, the boat leaning to one side or sinking lower at one corner. If you see water coming in: call 112 and us, head slowly for the nearest shore or shallow sandy bottom, and block the leak with towels or cushions.
4. **Protect the outboard:** if the propeller or the motor's leg is touching the bottom, switch the engine off and tilt the outboard up (we show you how at the handover) – never run it against stones.
5. **Find out what you hit:** probe around both hulls with the boat hook. **Rock: engine off and call us** – don't try to force the boat off; a rock can tear a pontoon. **Sand or mud:** move people and heavy things to the side or end that is still floating, then try very slowly in reverse, the way you came in. Push off with the boat hook from the deck – never put a foot or hand between the hull and the rock, and don't jump into the water to push.
6. **Wind pushing you further on?** Drop the anchor on the deep-water side to hold the boat, then call us.
7. **Free again?** Lower the outboard, go slowly, check again both hulls, the steering and the propeller for vibration, and call us before you continue – even if everything seems fine. Don't accept a tow from strangers without talking to us.

damaged pontoon? water? list?



- 1 Neutral at once
- 2 People & lifejackets
- 3 Check both pontoons
- 4 Tilt the outboard up
- 5 **Rock: engine off, call us**
- Sand: slowly in reverse
- 6 Free? Check, then call us

Aground – your catamaran floats on two pontoons made of independent sealed sections: even with several damaged sections it stays afloat.

We reserve the right to change offers and terms.

14 Leaving the boat – check-out by 10:00

In one line: Spend your last night at our harbour or within 30 minutes of it.



- ☐ All food out – fridge, freezer compartment and cupboards.
- ☐ Dishes washed and put away.
- ☐ Rubbish sorted into the bins; deposit bottles and cans back to a shop.
- ☐ Sauna stove cold, ash in the metal bucket.
- ☐ Rented bed linen stripped and left in a pile.
- ☐ Look everywhere: shelves, under the beds, bathroom, deck boxes, the dinghy.
- ☐ Fuel tank full – or tell us and we refuel for a fee.
- ☐ Tell us about anything that broke or didn't work – it helps the next crew, and honesty is always cheaper than a surprise.
- ☐ Key handed back.

Final cleaning is included. A late return delays the next guests' handover and may be charged (see the price list).

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15 Useful apps and numbers

112 Suomi	Emergency calls that share your position
FMI weather (Ilmatieteen laitos)	Wind in m/s, thunderstorms, warnings
Navionics (on-board tablet)	Charts, depths and your route; we can send new routes to the tablet on request
Nautical charts on your phone	Optional: apps based on Traficom's free official charts, e.g. Nautics Sailmate (free basic version)
retkikartta.fi	Public rest areas, campfire sites and dry toilets
roopekartta.fi	Pump-out stations and other boating services
jarviwiki.fi	Lake information and algae observations
Kalkkinen / Vääksy canal	0295 34 4152
Poison Information Centre	0800 147 111
Houseboat.fi harbour team	+358 40 164 6168 (call / WhatsApp) · info@houseboat.fi



Have a wonderful trip, captain!

Liked it? A short Google review helps us a lot: g.page/r/CdkFpPiB-lrcEAE/review

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