



Photo: Martin Sopinec

Camp at the Archipelago Sea National Park, Finland

April 2024 / Restoration Academy





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Nature Restoration in Finland

- Restoration activities can take place in nearly all Finnish habitats.
- Youth-friendly manual projects most often include:
 - Restoring traditional biotopes and sun-lit habitats
 - Damming drainage ditches in sensitive marsh areas and wetlands
 - Restoring stream waters by removing barriers
 - Restoring rapids by restoring the structure of stream beds and, where necessary, translocation of species.
- State-owned land restoration is managed by Metsähallitus, with plans made together with Economic Development Centres.
- Restoration work is carried out by Metsähallitus, environmental NGOs, municipalities, and associations.
- Key funding sources: Helmi habitats programme (Ministry of Environment), Just Transition Funds (Economic Development Centres).





About the Camp

- Held 18–21 April 2024 in Archipelago National Park (Norstö and Örö islands) and Taalintehdas village
- 40 participants – larger than typical local camps
- Hands-on restoration: working in diverse habitats, guided by experts
- Organized on public land managed by Metsähallitus (Finnish Forest and Park Services)
- Linked to CoastNet LIFE Project (improves the conservation status of Natura 2000 sites along the Baltic coastal zone of Finland and Estonia)
- Focus: sun-lit habitats and semi-natural grasslands (to-be) at different stages of their restoration
- Accommodation: hostel on Örö island; meals by camp cook and local restaurant
- Key partners: Metsähallitus, logistics companies (charter bus and ferry)



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Camp Program Summary (4 Days)

Thursday

Departure from Helsinki to Taalintehdas by bus
Group introductions and shopping
Ferry to Norstö with lunch onboard
Restoration work begins: sun-lit habitats
Ferry to Örö, accommodation, dinner, and evening walk

Friday

Optional birdwatching, breakfast
Ferry to Norstö for restoration info and fieldwork, outdoor lunch and coffee breaks
Return to Örö, dinner
Evening workshops and sauna

Saturday

Optional birdwatching, breakfast
Continued restoration work at Norstö, outdoor lunch and coffee break
Return to Örö, dinner
Evening workshops and sauna

Sunday

Packing and breakfast
Ferry to Kasnäs, bus to Taalintehdas
Lunch at restaurant
Excursions to restored dry meadows and restored peatland site (charter bus)
Return to Helsinki by charter bus





Key Resources for the Camp

Organizing Team

2 camp coordinators

Cook and assistant cook

3 restoration specialists

Photographer

Physical Resources

Meals: groceries, kitchen facilities for breakfast/lunch, restaurant bookings for dinner

Accommodation: hostel

Personal clothing and items

Hand tools for restoration work (loaned from Metsähallitus)

Intellectual and Other Resources

Nature restoration plan (expert-created)

Expert guidance for restoration work

Camp coordinators' worktime

Network for participant recruitment



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Camp Preparation Timeline

Month	Key Tasks
November	Budgeting, setting camp dates, organizing team, contacting key partners
December	-
January	Camp program planning starts, recruiting camp staff, communications planning
February	Communications starts, pre-info for foreign participants, contacting logistics and accommodation partners
March	Coordinating registrations starts, informing participants, planning meals and shopping, safety preparations
April	Coordinating the participants travels
May (Camp)	Camp
June	Feedback collection and analysis



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Camp Budget Summary

CATEGORY	AMOUNT (€)	DETAILS
Travel	5,145	Ferry (3,950), domestic travel (800), allowances (395). Special Note: Included island-to-island travel.
Food	5,150	Cooked meals (1,100), restaurant dinners (2,450), restaurant lunches (600), cook salary (1,000)
Accommodation	4,400	Hostel
Expert Fees	750	Restoration guidance
Other Costs	700	Tools and miscellaneous
Total	16,145	



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