

The new guide book introduces the special features of the Rokua Geopark's landscape

Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark tells the story of the Rokua esker from the pre-glacial stages of bedrock development to the formation of the esker and the subsequent development of biota and the spread of human settlement in the area. In geological events, the time scale is challenging - it can be anything from a fraction of a second to billions of years. In particular, billions of years of time scales are difficult to comprehend. Various means of illustration are needed to support this. This work has recently been done in Rokua Geopark to make the story of the landscape easier understandable.

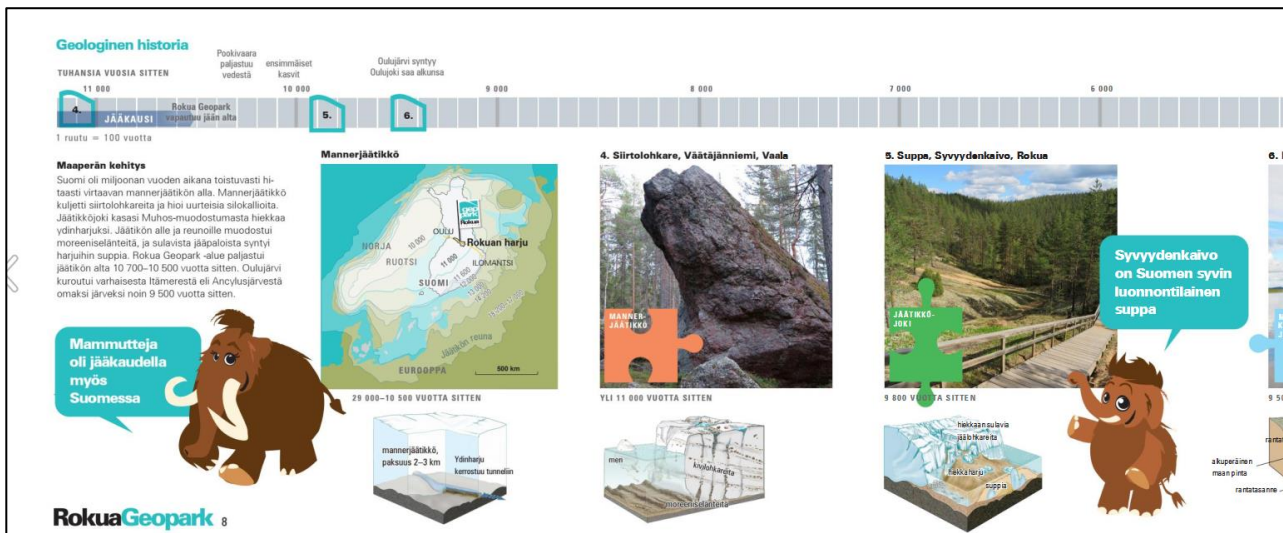
The landscape of Rokua Geopark is like a big puzzle, built from landforms created by different eras and different forces of nature. Although Rokua Geopark tells the story of an esker (soil formation), the early stages of bedrock development are also important for the present landscape. The oldest rocks in the area, with detached pieces also found in eskers, are about 2.9 billion years old! The spread of plants and animals to the area after the ice age and the history of human settlement are closely linked to geological formations and events. The landscape is ultimately the sum of the interactions of all its pieces.

We illustrate these things in a new guide booklet, published in December 2020, which we started working on as early as 2018. The aim was to create a booklet that presents the story of the landscape in an easy-to-understand way, allowing you to get to know the area before you arrive. The guide is aimed especially at school groups - both Finns and internationals, but the guide can be used also by leisure tourists.



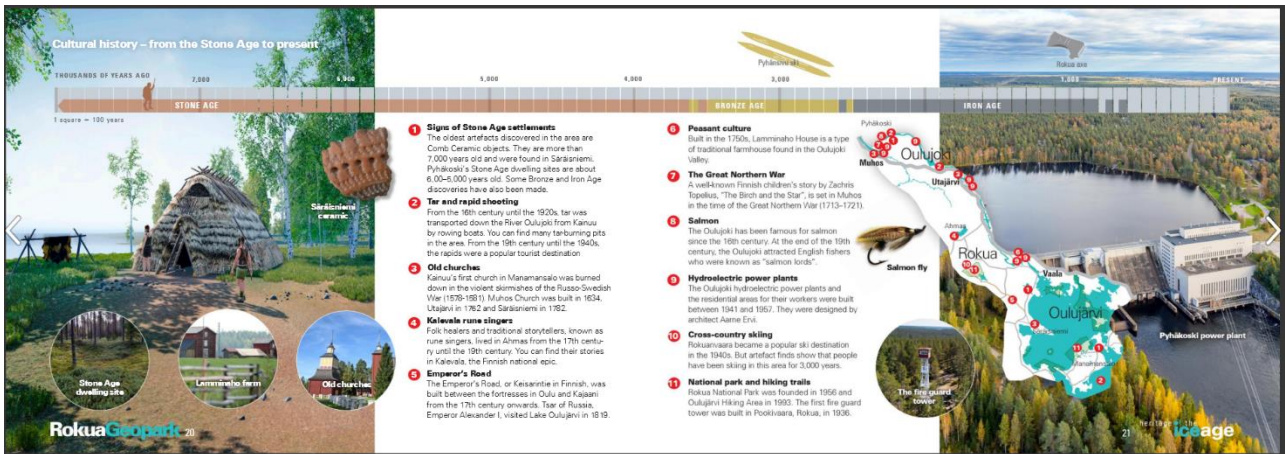
In the guide, we decided to compile the story into a form of a timeline that runs through the guide. Other alternatives would have been the division according to landscape areas (Lake Oulujärvi, Rokua, River Oulujoki) or attraction types (bedrock, soil, etc.). However, for a visitor, the chronological order is the easiest to understand, so that's why we ended up with it. In the division of different eras, we utilized the puzzle model developed by the geologist Tapani Tervo of the Geological Survey of Finland about the creation of landscape forms in Rokua Geopark.

For storytelling and visualization, we sought a model from teaching materials made in other Geoparks as well as consulted experts in the international camp school market. Many materials have utilized a narrator that is easy for children to identify with. That's why we included in the guide a mammoth strongly associated with the ice age. A Child mammoth wonders phenomena and a mother mammoth answers. The Mammoths are also adventuring in the Ice Age animation previously made by Muhos' upper secondary school students, and the mammoths were actually one source of inspiration for the narrator. The Mammoth were drawn by our graphic designer, and a name contest on Facebook gave them their own names. To visualize the phenomena, we utilized drawings and map materials of Geological Survey of Finland, our own graphic production and virtual models of Rokua Geopark's past landscapes created at Kajaani University of Applied Sciences.



The intention is that the amount of text in the guide is short, and the pictures and drawings speak for themselves. There is a photograph, an illustrative drawing and a short text description of each key stage of development. The photograph shows the presence of the developmental stage or formation in the current landscape. The drawing shows a geological event or environment that has contributed to the formation of the landform. With the help of maps, landforms and events are located in the current landscape. Towards the end of the guide, there are more extensive landscape photographs showing the present landscape with landforms and, on the other hand, habitats that have evolved into different geological environments. In connection with landscape photographs, individual formations and species have been presented in smaller photographs. At the end of the guide, the history of human settlement is described in more detail. The English version also includes a glossary with explanations that utilizes terms compiled in Rokua Geopark's international school projects.

The guide will also serve as a handbook for the new Rokua Geopark exhibitions opening in spring 2021. The guide and the exhibitions are in the same style in terms of visibility and content structure. The guide does not actually become a distribution version, but is best available as an electronic issue of Issuu. Browsing pieces are on display at exhibition points in 'Koivu ja Tähti' cultural centre in Muhos, in Torimakasiini exhibition building in Utajärvi and in Vaala Library (from May 2021). In addition, browsing copies of the guide are available at tourist companies in the area and at the information points of municipal agencies.



The design and printing of the guide has been implemented with the AOR 2020 project, which is an ERDF-funded tourism development project coordinated by Humanpolis Ltd, the managing body of Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark. The project is funded by the Council of Oulu region (70%), the self-financing of Humanpolis being 30% of the total costs. More information about the project can be found on our website.

Links:

Guide booklet: https://issuu.com/rokuageopark/docs/rgb_opas_230x160mm_32sivua_131120_issuu_eng

Project: <https://www.rokuageopark.fi/index.php?cID=233#attractive-oulu-region-2020>

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