



VILLA LEHTONIEMI



THE FASCINATING STORY OF VILLA LEHTONIEMI

OVER 150 YEARS OF
LIFE BY THE SHORES OF
SONKAJÄRVI



A marking on a log wall reads: 29.7.73
(1873)

Welcome to Villa Lehtoniemi, where history comes alive! This unique place near the Ounasjoki River in Rovaniemi offers visitors a chance to look back over 150 years and experience a piece of Lapland's history. The roots of Villa Lehtoniemi trace back to 1894, when the estate was officially established during a land division meeting. However, the story goes even further back—through records from 1820 and a log inscribed in 1873.

THE STORIES TOLD BY THE LOGS

The history of Villa Lehtoniemi is literally etched into its logs. A date discovered on a log from a dismantled timber house in 2021 —“27.7.73”— shows life on the estate as early as 1873. Even earlier, census records reveal that the Sonkajärvi family lived on the estate in the 1820s. The matron of the estate, Susanna Sofia Sonkajärvi, was present in 1894 when the land was officially divided, leading to the establishment of Lehtoniemi Estate No. 62.

THE HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

Villa Lehtoniemi's buildings reflect a time when life revolved around the farm:

Main Building

The original timber-built main house, completed in the 19th century, featured a high hall, kitchen, and bedrooms. In the new building, many rooms, such as the hall and kitchen, have been placed in the same locations as before.



The accompanying photo of the main building is likely from the 1970s. The old timber house (1873) was clad with boards after the war and dismantled in 2021.

Granary (1899)

Restored in 2022, the granary was the farm's hub. The stable on the left could house two horses, and hay was lifted into the loft through a hatch. On the right side, farm tools were stored.



Chaff Room (1895)

This building represents old ways of making use of every by-product of farming. Chaff, a by-product of threshing, was used as winter feed for cows and for making clay bricks.



Summer Barn (1931)

This light and practical barn enabled the care of cows grazing on summer pastures. It remains a reminder of traditional cattle farming in Lapland's natural surroundings.



Hay Barn (Late 1800s)

Preserved in its original condition, the hay barn was an essential part of the farm's daily life. Hay was transported through the barn's opening into the old cowshed, which was later replaced with modern buildings. The barn has been kept in its original interior state. Hay was lifted into the barn through the pictured hatch.



A NEW BEGINNING FOR A HISTORIC PLACE

Villa Lehtoniemi is not just a piece of history—it is a gateway to the tranquility of Lapland’s nature. The proximity to the Ounasjoki River, the beauty of Sonkajärvi, the traditional buildings, and the unique atmosphere make this place perfect for travelers who value history and closeness to nature.

In 2022, Lehtoniemi began a new chapter with the construction of an ecological timber villa on the site of the old main building. Aaro and Aila Lehtoniemi and their family continue the legacy of the estate, honoring its traditions with the creation of Villa Lehtoniemi, which has welcomed travelers since 2023.

Villa Lehtoniemi – A Villa by the Shores of Sonkajärvi

Villa Lehtoniemi is a magnificent large villa on the beautiful shores of Sonkajärvi, just a 30-minute drive from Rovaniemi. Its large windows offer stunning views of scenic waters and hills. Northern lights can be admired both indoors and outdoors.

The timber villa, completed in 2022, features a spacious kitchen-living room, a bedroom, a sauna, a bathroom, a dressing room, a utility room, and a toilet on the ground floor. Upstairs, there are three bedrooms and an additional toilet.

The villa is built sustainably and energy-efficiently, with heating energy drawn from Sonkajärvi. A heat pump and a wood-burning fireplace provide additional warmth and a cozy atmosphere.

Surrounding the villa are rural landscapes with fields where hay is harvested in summer. Efforts have been made to preserve the outbuildings of the old Lehtoniemi farm, which visitors can explore to gain insights into the work of traditional farms.

The estate is also surrounded by forest and features a small pond with a shelter for campfires. Guests can light a fire, grill sausages, or toast marshmallows. Trails through the forest are perfect for walking or mountain biking, while winter activities include skiing on the frozen lake or through the nearby woods.

As you step inside, you’ll feel part of a story that has unfolded through generations. Here, you can leave the hustle and bustle of everyday life behind, breathe clean air, and immerse yourself in Lapland’s unique atmosphere.



WHY NOT PAUSE FOR A MOMENT AND STEP INTO THE STORY OF LEHTONIEMI?
EVERY LOG AND BUILDING TELLS A TALE OF LIFE BEFORE US—COME AND
EXPERIENCE IT FOR YOURSELF.

WRITE YOUR OWN CHAPTER IN THE LONG HISTORY OF VILLA LEHTONIEMI!

