



TRAVEL KIT

CEMR LEADERS' SUMMIT

4-5.6.2026

ROVANIEMI

The City of Rovaniemi warmly welcomes you to the **CEMR Leaders' Summit** taking place on **June 4-5 2026**.

This document provides practical information to help you prepare for your visit, including travel options, local transport, and services in Rovaniemi. We have also included tips for those who wish to explore Northern Finland more broadly or extend their stay beyond the conference days. We look forward to hosting you and hope your time in Rovaniemi will be both productive and enjoyable.

Introduction to Rovaniemi – The Official Hometown of Santa Claus

Welcome to Rovaniemi, the vibrant capital of Finnish Lapland and the official hometown of Santa Claus. Situated right on the Arctic Circle, Rovaniemi is a unique blend of northern serenity, modern innovation, and rich cultural heritage.



Rovaniemi is known for its breathtaking natural landscapes, world-class Arctic expertise, and warm hospitality that welcomes visitors from all around the world.

With a population of approximately 65,000, it is the largest urban centre in the region and serves as an important hub for education, research, and culture. The University of Lapland and Lapland University of Applied Sciences bring an active academic community to the city, supporting innovation and international collaboration.

The city lies at the junction of the Kemijoki and Ounasjoki rivers, with nature and outdoor paths located close to the urban area. The city centre is compact and easy to navigate on foot, and visitors will find essential services, restaurants, and accommodation within short distances. Rovaniemi has a variety of cultural attractions, including museums, galleries, and architectural landmarks such as the Arktikum science centre and several buildings designed by Alvar Aalto. Despite

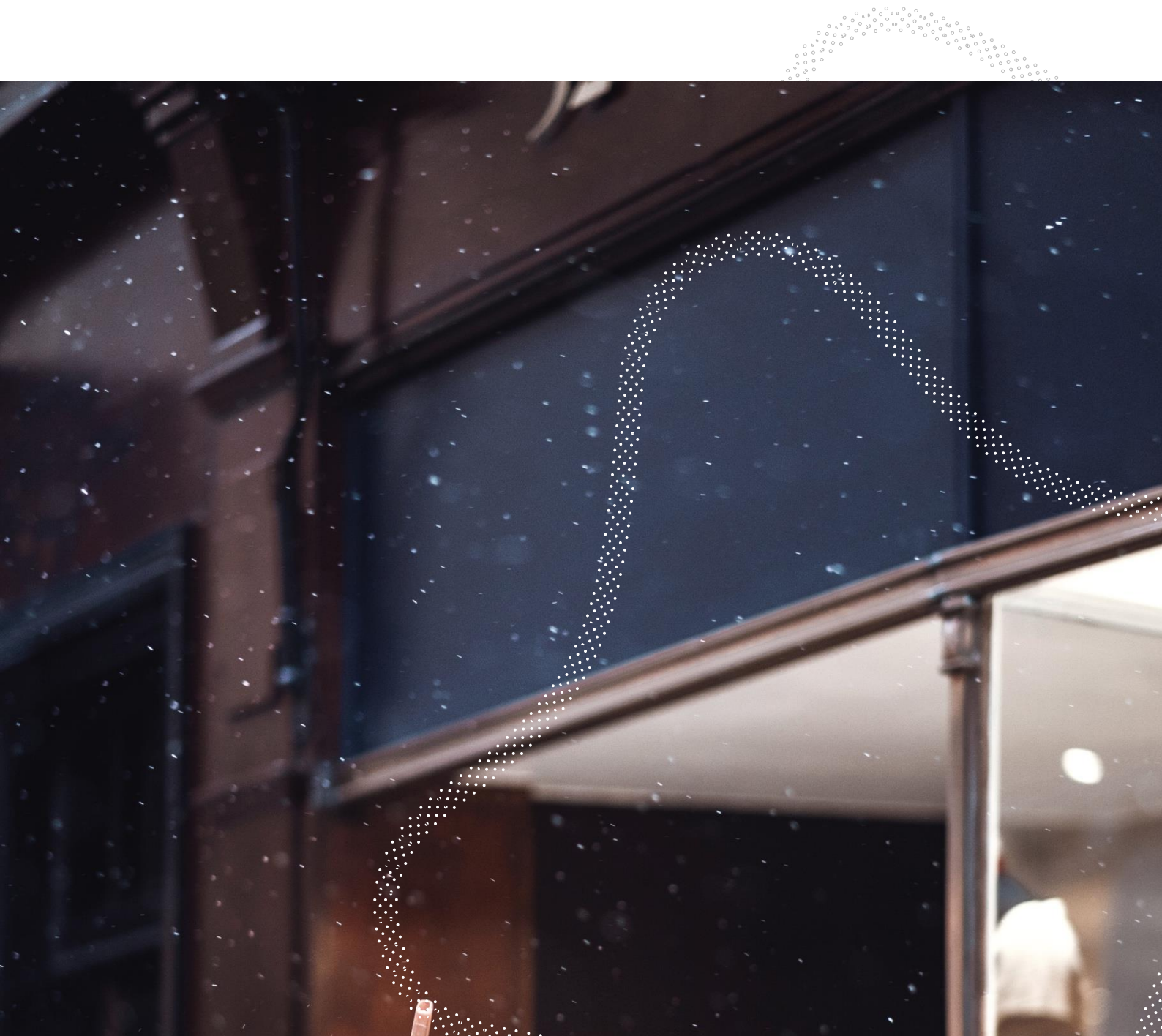
its northern location, Rovaniemi is well connected, with regular flights and smooth connections from all over the world.

To discover more about Rovaniemi and its experiences, head to [Visit Rovaniemi](#).

Conference Date & Practical Information

The conference will take place on 4-5 June. We recommend that participants arrive on the day before, as the programme will begin in the morning of the 4th.

The Conference venue is [Santas Hotel Santa Claus](#), located in the city centre.



Traveling to Rovaniemi

Rovaniemi can be reached through several travel options. The city is well connected to Finland's rail network, offering both day and overnight trains from Helsinki, Tampere, and other major cities. The train station is located within walking distance of the city centre. Many travellers choose to fly to Helsinki and continue their journey by overnight train with Finnish rail company [VR](#) to Rovaniemi, combining comfort with a scenic experience of Finland's landscapes.



Resources to help
plan your travel:

[Traveling To
Rovaniemi -
Connections](#)

Rovaniemi is also accessible by long-distance bus routes from various parts of Finland with operators such as [Matkahuolto](#) and [Onnibus](#), and even Europe through [FlixBus](#).

In addition to overland options, Rovaniemi is well connected by air. There are direct flights from many European cities year-round. Many international visitors also travel via Helsinki Airport, which provides frequent domestic connections to Rovaniemi. Rovaniemi Airport is located approximately 10 km from the city centre.

Local Transportation

The city centre is compact and easy to navigate on foot, making walking the most convenient way to reach most hotels, restaurants, and attractions.



Rovaniemi has several bus routes ([Linkkari](#)) connecting the city centre with neighbourhoods, Santa Claus Village, and the airport. Tickets can be purchased via the [Waltti mobile app](#), or directly from the driver. Local buses accommodate strollers and wheelchairs, and services operate year-round with more frequent schedules on weekdays.

Taxis are readily available throughout the city and provide a flexible option for shorter trips or travel outside the main bus routes. Recommended taxi companies include [Lähitaksi](#), [Menevä](#), [Santa Line](#) and [Taksi Rovaniemi](#).

Weather

June in Rovaniemi is typically mild and bright. The conference takes place just as the city is stepping into the Midnight Sun period, which begins on 6 June, meaning the sun will set at 00.45 and rise again at 01.45 during your stay. Daytime temperatures usually range from 15 to 22°C, though evenings can be cooler, especially early in the month. Rain showers are possible but generally light.

Dining & Local Cuisine

During the conference, all participants will be offered lunches, coffee breaks, and dinners. If you wish to explore Rovaniemi's food scene outside the programme, the city centre has a wide range of options within easy walking distance. Many restaurants highlight northern Finnish ingredients such as fish, mushrooms, berries, and reindeer, which is one of the region's best-known traditional ingredients. Another local favourite is salmon soup; a classic Finnish dish served in many cafés and restaurants. The city also offers several relaxed lunch spots for lighter meals, as well as international cuisine ranging from Asian to European. Most venues cater well to dietary needs, including vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options.



Arctic Experiences & Activities

If you wish to spend a little more time in Rovaniemi and explore Lapland after the conference, here are a few suggestions to help you make the most of your stay. Whether you prefer cultural experiences, relaxing nature activities, or something more adventurous, the city and its surroundings offer plenty of options.

Santa Claus Village

One of Rovaniemi's most well-known attractions is [Santa Claus Village](#), located a short drive from the city centre. It is open year-round and offers shops, cafés, and the opportunity to cross the Arctic Circle. A short visit to the Santa Claus Village is also part of the conference program on June 4th.

Cultural activities in Rovaniemi

Rovaniemi has several cultural attractions, including the [Arktikum museum and science centre](#), [the Korundi House of Culture](#), and various galleries and design shops. Both Korundi and Arktikum can be visited with a joint ticket called [culture pass](#). The city also has a significant architectural heritage: several key public buildings, such as Lappia Hall, the city library, and parts of the administrative centre, were designed by the renowned Finnish architect [Alvar Aalto](#). In addition, Rovaniemi has been selected as one of the first cities to join the [UNESCO Creative Cities Network](#) in the field of architecture, highlighting its commitment to cultural development, design, and urban planning.

The city also hosts a wide range of cultural events throughout the year, such as concerts, exhibitions, festivals, and performances. You can see an updated list of events in the [Visit Rovaniemi event calendar](#).

Outdoor Activities in Rovaniemi

During summer, visitors can enjoy Rovaniemi's long, bright days and an easy connection to nature. Walking and cycling routes run along the Kemijoki and Ounasjoki riverbanks and Ounasvaara fell, offering



peaceful scenery and several viewpoints accessible directly from the city centre. For those who enjoy an early morning walk, the hike up to [Ounasvaara observation tower](#) is a rewarding option, with views over the city and its river landscapes, roughly 2 km from the city centre.

Local companies offer a variety of guided activities, including boat tours, river cruises, visits to reindeer farms, and gentle nature excursions suitable for all levels of fitness.

READ MORE: [Rovaniemi - The Official Hometown Of Santa Claus® | Lapland](#)

