

Shrubs of Mustavuori

Hazel

The hazel bush thrives in light groves on hillsides. Its hazelnuts are quick to disappear. Squirrels, wood mice and humans are all fond of them.



Mountain currant

The mountain currant is not fussy about where it grows, but it is particularly fond of the rocks left behind from the fortress works. Its berries are flavourless and non-poisonous.

February daphne

The beautiful February daphne blooms at the same time as the wood anemone, before leaves make their appearance. Its deadly poisonous berries have been used as fox poison.

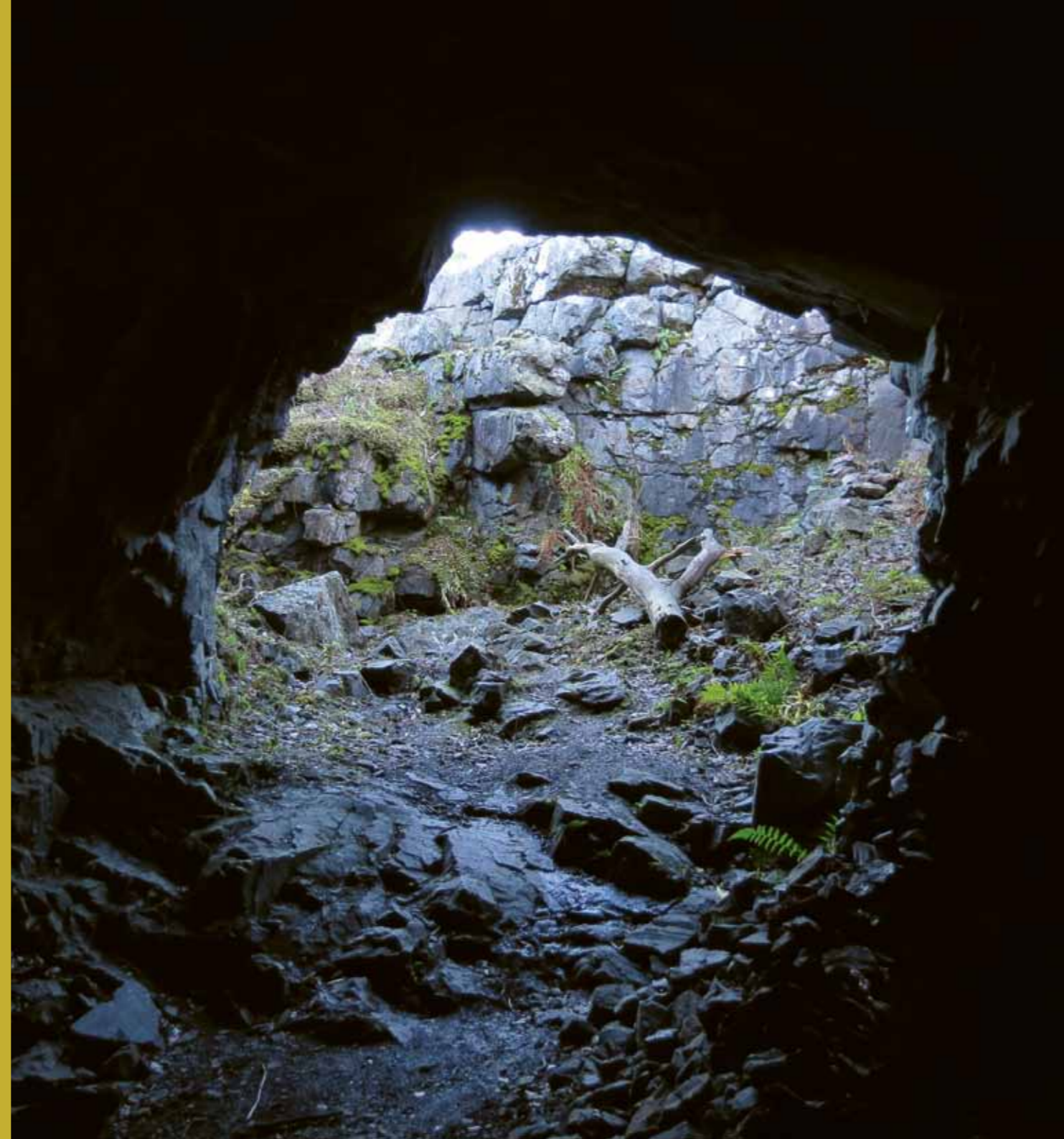


Fly honeysuckle

Honeysuckle likes limestone locations. Due to this, it is particularly abundant in Mustavuori. Its berries are poisonous.

Buckthorn

Alder buckthorn is an unobtrusive shrub which lives in moist depressions. It blooms throughout the summer and is mildly poisonous.



Fortress treasures

Mustavuori is Helsinki's best preserved First World War fortification entity. At the top of the rock are paved canon roads and trenches which are now home to trees. The fortification works were left incomplete and there are mounds of stone shards dotted around the area. At the top of the rock is the largest, 30-metre long cave, which in actual fact is a tunnel, with two mouths. On the western slope are two more caves hollowed out of the bedrock. Above these caves, on top of the mountain, a breathtakingly narrow gorge seven metres deep has been dug into the bedrock, with a width of only a little over a metre in places. The structures are protected under the Antiquities Act, and Mustavuori is a nationally valuable built environment site.

There have never been any permanent settlements on Mustavuori, but in the trenches there was a hut village built for the forest men until the start of the 21st century.

On the eastern side of Mustavuori there was a limestone quarry as early as in the 18th century. The quarry pit in the south-east corner has been filled with water and turned into a pond.

Make sure to take care when moving about close to the gorge-like fortifications. A torch will come in handy when looking around the caves. On the cave floors there can sometimes be puddles of water.

Text: Eero Haapanen

Photographs: Teemu Saloriutta & Eero Haapanen

Illustrations: Laila Nevakivi

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Mustavuori

**Musta-
vuori**

Deciduous woodland
and caves



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Dark caves and displays of colour from anemones

Mustavuori is the most prized lush grove in the Helsinki Metropolitan Region. Wood anemone, common hepatica and yellow anemone flower around mothers' day, all putting on their best show. The bedrock in the centre of Mustavuori features First World War era trenches and three large excavated caves.

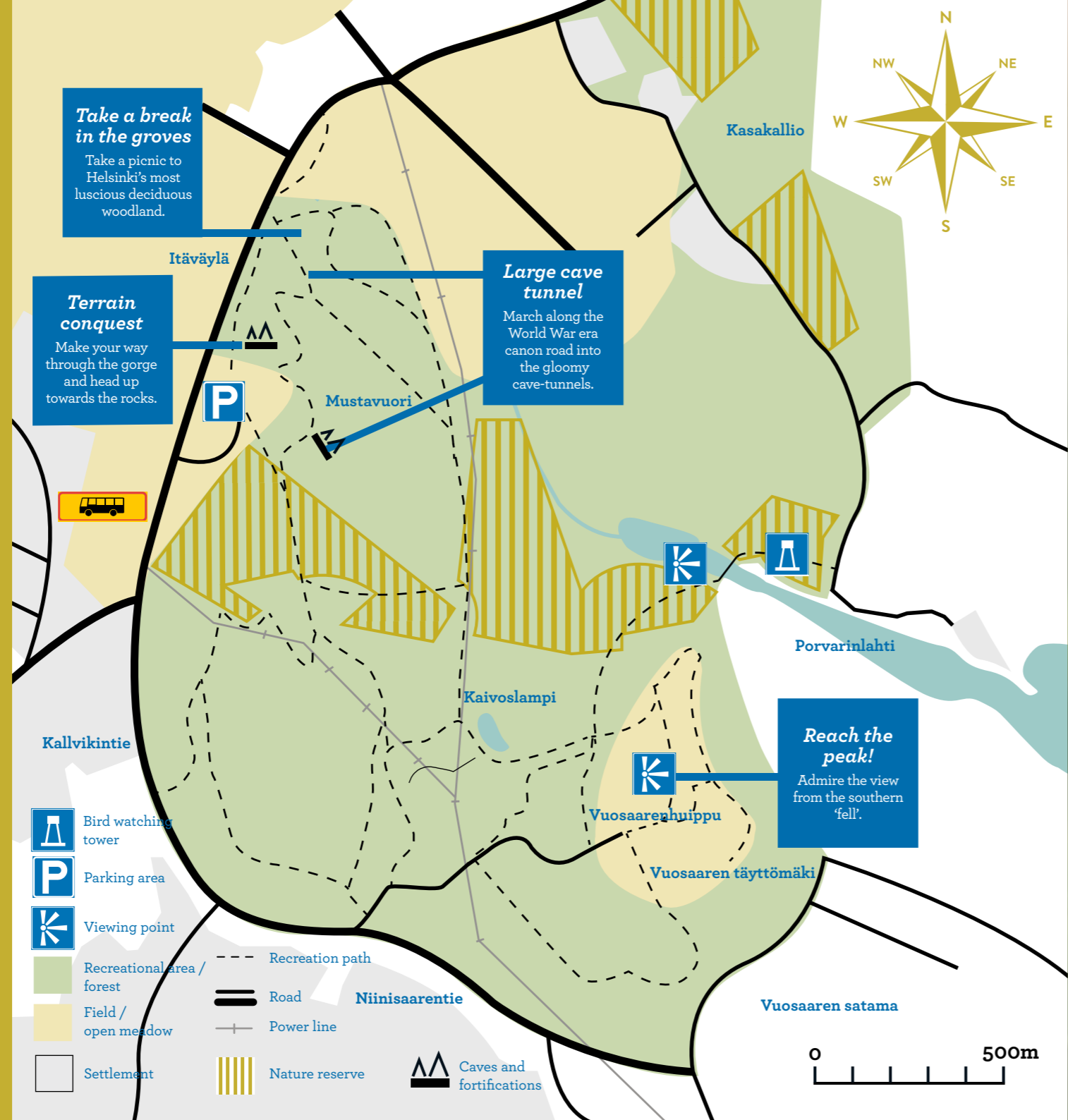
Mustavuori is connected in the east to the rural Porvarinlahti natural area. In the south-east a dumping ground for excavation and building material has been transformed into the grand Vuosaarenhuippu, a high, landscaped, fell-like recreational area.

Connections and services

Next to Mustavuori, beside Itäväylä, are bus stops from where you can take buses 93, 841 and 870 from Itäkeskus. Northern Helsinki's crosstown route 78 links Malmi and Vuosaari, passing by the south of Mustavuori on Niinisaarentie.

The best groves and caves can be found easily by starting from the parking area on the western side of Mustavuori and continuing along next to Itäväylä. There are no signposts in Mustavuori.

Literature: John Lagerstedt, *Viaporin maarintama. Retkiopas ensimmäisen maailmansodan linnoitteille. [Viapori's land front. A Route Guide to First World War Fortifications]* Helsinki City Museum 2014.



Take a break in the groves

Take a picnic to Helsinki's most luscious deciduous woodland.

Terrain conquest

Make your way through the gorge and head up towards the rocks.

Large cave tunnel

March along the World War era canon road into the gloomy cave-tunnels.

Reach the peak!

Admire the view from the southern 'fell'.

Anemones' springtime splendour

The groves of Mustavuori are varied. The demanding species growing in the lush deciduous groves include dog's mercury, yellow anemone, and Solomon's seal.

A naturally rich range of species

Fern forest mire can be found in low-lying, damp locations, whilst on the higher slopes are fir-dominated groves and difficult-to-navigate, thicket-covered inclines. February daphne, guelder-rose and honeysuckle are small bushes within the shrub layer, where large hazel bushes also grow abundantly. The park features small-leaved lime trees.

The area's bedrock is also distinctive in its flora. The bedrock is quartz-feldspar gneiss, along with nutritious limestone and amphibolite. The fortification works freed up more lime for the plants that favour it when the rock was smashed. Wall lettuce and herb-Robert can be found in the shadow of the excavations. Sticky catchfly and tower mustard grow on the exposed rock.

In the early summer the grove's foliage sings with a sounds of wood warblers, icterine warblers, and Eurasian blackcaps. The forests have been allowed to develop in their natural states. In these virgin forests the rare red-breasted flycatcher warbles its simple tune and in the thickets the hazel grouse whistles. Deadwood plays host to rare pycnoporellus fulgens, antrodia pulvinascens and antrodiella americana.

On top of Mustavuori is a rugged, bright pine forest and several swampy depressions.

The following activities are permitted in the area

- Picking berries and mushrooms
- Moving about in the fortification area in the northern part of Mustavuori, and looking at the caves and fortifications
- Walking a dog on a lead

The following activities are prohibited in the area

- Making fires
- Moving about in the nature reserves marked on the map, other than by the path routes between 1 April and 15 July
- Altering the fortifications by, for example, digging or moving stones. The fortifications are protected by law as ancient monuments.

Enchanted grove

Mustavuori is part of the national Herb-Rich Forest Conservation Programme and is a Natura 2000 area. Visitors can move about freely in the fortification area at the northern end of Mustavuori. During the period 1 April - 15 July the recreation paths in the nature reserve founded in 1987 in the centre of the area must be used. During snowy winters a 2.4 km trail is maintained in the southern part of Mustavuori.