

# **Threatening** sails

With the wind in their sails, the boats are moving nimbly across Lake Vanajavesi. The newcomers have already been spotted and the fires have already been lit at other hill forts as a sign of danger. Who are the new arrivals?

The Sääksmäki area is a fertile region that has been settled since the Stone Age. During the Iron Age, Sääksmäki was the metropolitan centre of its time, as around 500 people of the entire 50,000-strong population of the peninsula of Finland lived there.

The 200-hectare historical area of Tarttila-Sääksmäki has around 40 stationary relics, and the largest of them is the ancient Rapola Hill Fort. The Iron Age stronghold of Rapola is a part of the chain of forts found in the area. When the signal fires on top of the other fortified hills were lit as a warning of hostile armies or pillagers approaching on Lake Vanajavesi, the Rapola Hill Fort provided the locals with refuge and shelter.

### Once again, Rapola is under attack.

The fires of Tenhola Hill Fort are already lit, and the guards in the watchtower have spotted strange sails on the waves of Lake Vanajavesi. The fires of Rapola must be lit quickly, and the local residents called to the fort.

Who are coming, who are onboard those threatening boats? What are their intentions; are they here to steal pelts and furs or to capture slaves? Who are they and what do they want?

## A group day in Rapola includes

- a guided historical tour of the Iron Age fortress
- a playful competition with a final result, aimed at promoting group building
- a snack as a peace offering from the water spirit of Lake Vanajavesi.

And who will defend the fortress and the locals seeking shelter within its walls? Who will lead the guards to the walls, and what are their tasks when defending Rapola?

What will become of the locals this time, will Rapola stand undefeated? Join us for a visit in the year 1087, and feel the historical magic of Rapola.

Bring with you: • clothing and equipment suitable for the weather appropriate shoes for the terrain • a water bottle.

#### **Please note!**

Rapola is a stationary relic protected by the Antiquities Act. We comply with the legislation and the cooperation agreement between Univeräjä and Metsähallitus in all activities that take place in the Rapola area.

Univeräjä has a business liability insurance, but all visitors move on the ridge at their own risk.

The closest toilet is found at the café at Voipaala Manor. Once the event starts, the toilet will not be available.

#### Time and place

The event starts at the parking area of the Voipaala Art Centre, address: Sääksmäentie 772, Sääksmäki 25 August 2020 at 10:00–14:00

