Varjakka has a large collection of well-preserved island-based sawmills, important for both reasons of cultural history and architecture. Varjakka has a colourful history full of various stories. The area has been developed by renovating valuable buildings, expanding the small boat harbour and renovating the beach.

The Varjakka harbour is accessible via car through Varjakantie. You can reach the Varjakansaari island with your own boat, a kayak, a SUP board, or a hand-winched block ferry, operating by reservation. During winter, when the sea freezes over, the island is reachable by walking or by skiing. You can reach the Akionsaari island nature trail through land from the Varjakka harbour parking area. The area has a renovated visitor boat marina, from which the route by sea along the Oulu Market Square waterfront is only about 6 kilometres. The distance to the airport is about 10 kilometres.

The Varjakka island ferry reservations and keys are handled by Warjakan Bar&Grill during the summer months, opening hours 12 noon to 9 PM. Telephone: +358 40 1519987. Address: Muikuntie 2, 90470 Oulunsalo. A small fee is charged for the ferry keys per use.

The Akionlahti nature conservation area, consisting of about 263 hectares of land and located south from the Varjakansaari island, is a bay detached from the sea that was formed about 400 years ago. The bay is only 1.3 metres deep at its deepest spot. Akionlahti showcases meadow flora, all the way from shallow water spikerush and spikesedge plants to broad stretches of haygrass and rushes. The birds of the area are vast in both spectrum and size, and the area is an important rest stop for migrating birds.

The Varjakansaari island is home to several buildings and yards from an old colony of sawmills, and they are part of the cultural history heritage of Finland and the area. The island is forested, beautiful and full of exciting stories.
A 3 kilometre nature trail circles the Akionsaari island, with a birdwatching tower residing on the southern shore. There is a lean-to shelter with a campfire spot on the north side of the island. Firewood is not stocked on the island, so remember to bring your own. The nature hike trail continues through the duckboarded section and on the continental side, past a 400-year-old, protected sea pine and onwards to the Varjakka manor house.

There is a campfire spot in Varjakansaari island, which is popular especially during the late winter.

There is also a recently renovated beach on the east side of the Varjakka harbour.

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