



The icebreaker Sampo served in active icebreaking duty from 1961-1987, before its reassignment to its current task in the Port of Ajos in Kemi. Its good quarter of a century of service saw some colorful moments not totally lacking with drama. The decades of the Sampo, all in all, are an important part of the Finnish winter maritime shipping history.

The Sampo Icebreaker as a tourist attraction is a story of its own. The late City Manager of Kemi, Juhani Leino, was a man rich with ideas, and it was his idea to purchase the retired icebreaker from the Finnish government to the city of Kemi. Leino's idea raised some eyebrows and also some fierce resistance, in those times, but since 1988 the Sampo has been one of the main tourist attractions in Kemi. Eventually, Leino's initial idea bore another, now famous and ever more important tourist attraction in Kemi, namely, the SnowCastle.

The icebreaker's season begins a little before Christmas, and lasts for about four months. Every year about 7 500 – 12 000 tourists take a cruise on the Sampo, and over the years people from more than 50 countries have visited the Sampo.

More: <http://www.visitkemi.fi/en/sampo-icebreaker>