In Turku with a camera

PRESENTING THE BEST INSTA-SPOTS P. 6

EACH BITE OF HUNGER IS AN OPPORTUNITY

The flavours of Turku’s restaurants p. 11

THE MOOMIN PHENOMENON

They come from far and wide to the home of Tove Jansson’s fairytale characters p. 24

PILGRIMAGE IN TURKU’S ARCHIPELAGO

St Olav’s Waterway is heaven for sedate explorers p. 16
KISS MY TURKU is a content marketing campaign published by Visit Turku, providing inspiration to tourists and locals online and in print, in cooperation with its partners.

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THE SIGHT OF FLY-FISHING HAS ME HOOKED! The colourful, fluttering wings of fly fish across the shimmering water is as alluring to me as it is to the fish. Fascinated onlookers like me see fly-fishing as a hypnotic art form. For fishermen, the peaceful experience of nature is often more important than the catch. A responsible fisherman appreciates our diverse and sensitive environment just as much as the responsible traveller.

Responsible and sustainable choices are the hottest trend in tourism. It is trend that I hope becomes permanent. A fly-fishing trip in the Turku Archipelago is an example of sustainable tourism, requiring both tourism entrepreneurs and their clients to be ecologically conscious. A traveller’s responsibility begins at home, when deciding a destination and modes of transport. Places to stay, activities and food are also value choices. Whilst in the archipelago, I recommend ordering a plate of ‘trash fish’ or fish sourced nearby, which are often rejected for no good reason.

So, dear traveller, you can see you have an important role to play in sustainable tourism, as your choices, demands and behaviours make local businesses accountable and create services that place the least possible strain on the environment. Willing entrepreneurs will also benefit from Visit Finland’s Sustainable Travel Finland programme, helping to realise these ideals and promote Finland as a pioneer in sustainable tourism.

The world’s most magnificent archipelago is an asset for Finnish tourism, whose beauty should be enjoyed by all but only through a respectful approach to nature and local culture. I firmly believe that the charm of the archipelago has the power to convert every tourist into a protector of the environment. Alternative tactics of blame or shame for tourist behaviour is trend that I hope becomes permanent. A fly-fishing trip in the Turku Archipelago is an example of sustainable tourism, requiring both tourism entrepreneurs and their clients to be ecologically conscious. A traveller’s responsibility begins at home, when deciding a destination and modes of transport. Places to stay, activities and food are also value choices. Whilst in the archipelago, I recommend ordering a plate of ‘trash fish’ or fish sourced nearby, which are often rejected for no good reason.

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The sounds echo through the soul

Turku Music Festival 6th-10th August

Finland’s best-known classical music festival never rests on its laurels, but attracts cultural tourists from around the world with its offering of international star performers and adventures across the boundaries of musical genres. In August 2020, about 40 different events will take place throughout historic Turku, with concert venues ranging from a private home to a castle, a church and an old boatyard. The summer programme will be published online during the spring at turunmusiikkijuhlat.fi.

Kiss kiss.

THE SMALL PRINT:

Of course, it goes without saying that things can change, but you knew that already. So don’t be surprised if that happens but embrace the natural course of life by checking updates and opening hours online. Kiss kiss.

-KISS MY TURKU
HOW IS A TRAVEL DESTINATION REALLY CHOSEN? SURPRISE SURPRISE: THE TOP CRITERION NOWADAYS IS ITS INSTAGRAMMABILITY. SO HERE’S 22 PLACES AND THINGS IN TURKU WHOSE AESTHETICS SHOW UP WELL IN PIXEL-FORM.

#kissmyturku

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Picture Perfect Ruissalo

Ruissalo is a beautiful place to visit whenever you’re in Turku. Famous for the Ruisrock music festival, other photographic attractions are hiding there, like the old villas in the Kansanpuisto Park, where the colours of the wooden architecture are straight from the menu of an old-fashioned ice cream parlor. Many of the villas have their own private bathing huts on the beach. A hundred years ago, swimmers didn’t jump straight from the pier to the sea but took a more civilized approach, from a hole in the hut floor.

Old and Older Turku x 5

TURKU’S POPULAR CASTLE AND CATHEDRAL ALWAYS TREND WELL, BUT THERE’S MANY OTHER WELL-AGED, PATINA-COATED ATTRACTIONS TO SNAP.

Medieval Main Street ⑤

Centuries-old stone walled buildings lining narrow, cobblestone medieval streets. You don’t always have to go to Tallinn or Stockholm - the same ‘old town’ feeling is also found in Turku.

Stairs to Koskenniemenkatu Street

Behind the cathedral, an enchanting set of stairs leads up to the summit of Yliopistonmäki hill. Whichever direction your camera’s pointed, you’re forced to refocus for all the cultural history and academic tradition in view.

The Luostarinmäki Handicrafts Museum ⑥

The 30 buildings of this outdoor museum offer an extremely rare and unique photographic opportunity. It’s no surprise that this distinctive 19th century neighbourhood has appeared in movies.

turku.fi/en/handicraftsmuseum

Casagrande House

Adorning the wall of the building at the edge of Vähätori square is the text ‘Omnia Vincit Amor 1588–1904’. In summer, the beautiful people of Turku flock to some of the city’s best restaurants and embrace the vibrant terrace milieu.

casagrandetalo.fi

Port Arthur aka Portsa ⑦

Is this Finland’s most beautiful neighborhood? We think so. The cobblestone streets and former homes of sailors and their wives are now a thriving urban community, with the most beautiful homes and courtyards in Finland.

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Ah, the River Aura x 5

THE RIVER AURA IS TURKU’S VITAL ARTERY CONNECTING WITH THE SEA. HERE’S A FEW TIPS ON WHERE TO FIND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SPOTS.

The Shore at Tervatori ①

Just a stone’s throw from the Cathedral Bridge is a place known as Tervatori on Google Maps. The Lännenrintie path briefly passes the water’s edge on a wooden walkway. On the opposite shore you can see the verdant banks, old houses and the serene tower of Turku Cathedral. It’s like a moment frozen in time. Indigenous people of the 19th century believed a camera captured the soul. Well, it’s quite possible the soul of Turku is exposed for all at this very spot.

Låna-picnic cruise ②

Hire an idyllic electric boat from the shore of Vähätori Square and enjoy some fresh camera angles from the river perspective. Smile – there’s no more central spot in Turku.

lanaturku.fi

Föri

What’s orange, loved by the locals and rocks from shore to shore of the river? The answer: the over 100-year-old Föri ferry. If rickety authenticity is your thing, then hurry – you’ll get a free River Aura cruise into the bargain.

Riverboats ③

The River Aura’s fabled fleet of restaurant boats look simply beautiful on a summer’s night. Stay late to snap the sunrise.

Library Bridge ④

The moment there’s a whisper of beautiful light, you’ll find a passionate photographer setting their tripod at the foot of the library bridge. Come to see and you’ll understand why.

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— KISS MY TURKU 2020

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7
A Feast for The Eyes x 6
WHERE TO GO TO SPOT BEAUTIFUL COFFEES, DRINKS AND MEALS?

Café Art ①
Turku’s most Instagrammable spot is, of course, on the riverside, where Café Art, known for having the city’s best baristas, remains a prized possession of Turku’s café culture. The riverside terrace has all you need to be an Instagram-primo, with pastel-coloured stone buildings, the rays of light streaming between ancient trees and a beautiful pattern on the foam of your latte. cafeartif.

Café Qwensel ②
In the 1700’s, it was a pan of coffee rather than a luxurious latte. One of Turku’s best kept secrets is the café found at the Pharmacy Museum. cafewensel.fi

Tiirikkala Café Bar ③
Fun fact, this is Turku’s most photographed woodseshed. The beautifully popular Tiirikkala serves from the former premises of an Artek shop and nobleman’s wood store. tiirikkala.fi

Turku Market Hall ④
Come and see if you can capture with your camera a slice of Turku’s culinary soul. The hall building, dating from 1896, provides a setting for Turku’s merchants to concoct their wares within. kauppahalli.fi

Kakolanruusu ⑤
A relaxed yet refined restaurant on Kakolanmäki hill, where only at the turn of the millennium people were still serving time not food. This well-decorated restaurant is located in the majestic milieu of the old prison. Arrive up the hill in style aboard Turku’s new ‘Funi’ funicular. kakolanruusu.fi

Pinella ⑥
This might be Finland’s oldest restaurant but it’s no museum of food. The Puippinella side exudes the best of this bright and venerable building. Beautiful dishes, fabulous drinks and the most majestic columns in Turku. pinella.fi

Statues x 5

Posankka ⑦
Guarding the entrance to the student village and Carlhia Spa Hotel is a bizarre yet beautiful union of pig and duck. It is the unique creation of artist Alvar Gullichsen.

Daisy ⑧
She loves me, she loves me not? Forum Marium’s hyper-realistic giant flower by Jani Räty and Antti Stöckell, photographed superbly.

Kiss my Turku
‘Kiss my Turku’ is displayed in large letters across the city, such as at the Paaavo Nurmi Stadium, or the Walo Rooftop Bar.

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She loves me, she loves me not? Forum Marium’s hyper-realistic giant flower by Jani Räty and Antti Stöckell, photographed superbly.

Stargazing
At each corner of the Myllysilta Bridge are statues of primitive human-like figures lounging on Turku’s river benches. The works of Kari Petteri Kakko simply scream for a selfie.

Meeting in Turku 1812
Pose with the Russian Tsar and the Crown Prince of Sweden. The statue by Andrei Kovaltshuk found at the end of the Library Bridge looks very traditional but was actually made in 2012.

Stroll on screen with the Movie Walk
Dozens of movies and TV series have been filmed in Turku this millennium, which is no surprise with such a fabulous atmosphere for the story’s backdrop. Visit Turku’s guided Movie Walk tour takes you to the heart of this city’s filming locations for the reasonable price of €10. Find more info at: visitturku.fi

OJ, WONDERFUL WALO!
Turku has one rooftop bar, the Walo Rooftop Bar, located on the roof of Wiklund’s new department-store-hotel combo. On the ninth and tenth floors, the rooftop bar is a must-see for both Turku residents and visitors to the city. The locals are particularly fascinated by the bird’s-eye view of the new market square development (looking like a sink-hole). For many, it’s a fascinating surprise looking at Turku at an angle from which the city has never been seen before.

#walorooftopbar

Insta-activists are delighted by the big Kiss my Turku letters above Walo. They have featured in quite a few posts since the bar was opened.
Kaskis
Kaskis is a superstar of the restaurant scene in Turku, both high in quality and spontaneity, whilst at the same time delightfully uncomplicated. Having received multiple recommendations in the Michelin guide, it’s a very good idea to book a few months in advance. The place is small but the experience great.
Kaskenkatu 6

Ludu
Offering casual fine dining, Ludu is the right choice when you want more than a meal. The dishes are like works of art, and the atmosphere in the old paint shop is stunningly beautiful – especially by candlelight.
Linnankatu 17

Bassi
If you love seafood, you’ll also love Bassi. The restaurant specialises in fish and seafood delicacies to share with your dinner party. The bountiful seafood platter on the menu is truly an impressive sight! The menu also includes meat and vegetarian dishes.
Läntinen Rantakatu 9

Roster
In the shadow of Turku Cathedral, in the charming building of the old Governor’s Magazine, Roster serves good food with great style, free from the pretence of fine dining. The rugged interior and relaxed customer service exemplifies the mood.
Tuomiokirkonkatu 6

E. Ekblom
On the shores of the River Aura, in a light pink stone house, you’ll discover E. Ekblom. Offering international flavours and bistrot-style cuisine and where the wine list is something special.
Läntinen Rantakatu 3

Hügge
Want to try out some tasty veggie food? At Hügge, everything feels like the name suggests, from décor to dining, all is a delightful ‘hug’. Whatever you pick from the menu, it’s always a colourful sight and a party for your palate.
Linnankatu 3

In need of some restaurant tips for Turku? Here are a few, and more are found at kissmyturku.com!

The editor’s recommendations

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Linnankatu 3
A-HOY!
Local food in sight

WHY RETURN TO SHORE TO EAT? WE ASK OURSELVES THE SAME QUESTION, AS NOWADAYS ABOARD SILJA YOU CAN ENJOY EXTRAORDINARILY GOOD FOOD PREPARED FROM HIGH QUALITY LOCAL INGREDIENTS.

Charter a course to quality and taste
Did you know that at the dining tables aboard Tallink Silja’s ships, you’ll discover tomatoes from Paimio, ham from Huittinen and her-ring from Pyhämaa? The white ships steer towards favouring ingredients from local producers as well as food from responsible sources.

“We must keep to high standards every minute and every hour of every day.”
RIKU ALHO, KITCHEN MANAGER
TALLINK SILJA / BALTIC PRINCESS

Responsible fishing from the seas nearby
When casting about the fish table, hook yourself some Baltic herring. The shrimps and herring used by Tallink Silja are MSC certified, a guarantee of sustainable fishing. So you can enjoy them whilst feeling good about yourself.

Baltic herring products board Silja from the fishing village of Ihamo in Pyhämaa. Fisherman Vento has been a long-time partner, always providing seasonal products, such as various marinated herring, among other things. Last Christmas, for example, passengers got to taste Vento’s rum-raisin herring.

TIP: On Silja’s 11-hour archipelago cruise you can taste what’s on offer on two separate ships. Enjoy a long brunch aboard Galaxy on your way from Turku to Mariehamn. On the way back, head to the Baltic Princess buffet tables. It’s impressive, you’ll see.

BOOK YOUR CRUISE: tallinksilja.fi

The Turku bakery, MBakery, is well known for its colourful and individual cakes and pastries. Silja has been so delighted with the bakery’s confectionery that the on-site pastries, biscuits and cakes are now available on every ship. On the other hand, it’s little wonder considering MBakery has been the best bakery in Finland, starring in a 2015 TV programme of the same name.

If you’re not familiar with the heavenly delicacies of MBakery, pop into Piece of Cake in the Turku Market Hall or the M Kitchen at Turku’s lovely Aboa Vetus & Ars Nova Museum.

BOOK YOUR CRUISE: tallinksilja.fi

Waves of local food
Every day, fresh vegetables from the Alitalo garden in Paimio are brought aboard Silja. The vegetables vary depending on demand. The ship’s wok dishes are one delicious example of where they’re used.

The servings of pork and cold cuts are brought in from the Kiivikylä charcuterie, based in Lappi and Huittinen in the Satakunta region. You can enjoy these delicious cured meats at the breakfast table, for instance. Those with a gourmet sweet tooth will find it hard not to over-indulge in the cakes, pastries and biscuits from MBakery – chosen as Finland’s Best Bakery in 2015.

Silja is one of the boats cruising between Finland and Sweden, so of course Finland is not the only local food source, with ingredients also brought aboard in Sweden. For example, there’s plenty of Swedish cheeses in the restaurants (but also Finnish as well).
Embark on a voyage of discovery

Turku-Design

WHY GO TO PARIS WHEN WE HAVE TURKU?

EXACTLY! COME TO TURKU, STAY OVERNIGHT IN THE NEW TURUN SEURAHUONE AND DISCOVER INSPIRATION IN THE FLAGSHIP SHOPS OF THE CITY.

REVERED NORDIC DESIGN has been refined with a fresh and playful south-western twist, on the River Aura shores. A traveller can immediately experience the charms of Turku Design with a stay at the freshly renovated Solo Sokos Hotel Turun Seurahuone, a boutique hotel sparkling with an unabashed local image and nearly 100 years of history. Opened in 1928, the hotel was designed by Erik Bryggman and Einar Ahonen.

“It’s no coincidence the hotel looks the way it does today. The style reflects the liberated spirit and language of design of the 1920’s, with a modern twist,” explains hotel manager, Sanna Paloniemi.

A bounty of inspiration

The bold and resplendent milieu of Turun Seurahuone has been seasoned with Turku Design and the input of local artists. The hotel has been refined with a fresh and functional design, in addition to quality and individuality, in the form of arts, crafts and textiles.

“People are more aware and are definitely more curious than before because they want to know what the product is made from,” says PUF founders Hanna Pennanen and Matti Järvinen.

One of the most popular Turku products at PUF (found on Linnankatu, next to the Turku City Library) is the “Vanitor Paris, vi har ju Åbo” fabric bags. The PUF + TOMI collection also draws on themes from Turku.

The table at Restaurant Gunnar was carved from a 150-year-old Turku wych elm. Tables are delightfully set with Terraviva’s pearl decorated ceramic plates.

“Pearls are a theme that reinforces the spirit of the 1920s, reflected through personnel as well as details in the décor. Turku Pearl Jeweller Blingi has created custom-made necklaces, while Biledesign has gorgeous mirrors hanging on the walls and adorned with pearls,” says Paloniemi.

Curious and responsible

An inspired traveller staying at Seurahuone will find reward when venturing away from the chain stores because there’s a strong love for Turku and local design.

“Absolutely! There’s lots of cool stuff being done in Turku,” says designer Anna Hormio of KUI Design.

“Turku is a strong theme in our collection. People increasingly appreciate original design shops and product individuality, in addition to quality and functionality of course. For our part, we want to invest in our cultural foundations and to continually strive for its development.”

It is easy for a shopper in Turku to be responsible – and also extremely proud of his Åbo-tennis socks at home.

The décor of Turun Seurahuone reflects the 1920’s language of design, with a modern twist.

The dresses and tunics of hotel staff are designed by local designer MyOlsson.

> The table at Restaurant Gunnar was carved from a 150-year-old Turku wych elm.

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JUST FOLLOW YOUR FEET. Initially, our plans were flexible, like on holiday. We were to begin by following the newly opened St Olav Waterway as long as it suited us, deviating only when hunger or tiredness necessitated.

Our actual hike started on the ferry between Par­gas and Nagu. The connecting ferry, known as Ele­ktra, is powered by electricity, so the ride is silent and emission-free, just as a nature trip should be. As soon as we stepped off the bus, the calm sea breeze immediately took hold. We grabbed coffee and sandwiches from the harbour kiosk. As we sat down at the outdoor table, we met our first fellow hiker. Maria was from Stockholm and an enthusiastic walker. While planning her summer vacation, she had come across the St Olav Waterway online and decided this time to walk from Turku via Åland to Stockholm.

“Next year, Trondheim,” Maria called out as she waved and lifted her backpack.

We wished her a good trip and admired a moment as our new acquaintance stode off into the distance.

WE WERENT IN A HURRY, so we let the day warm up and breakfast settle before we set off. For the first few kilometres we had to walk at the side of the main road. The traffic was busy but with a lot of teamwork we just about survived. Mo­torists generously gave a wide berth and where it was not possible because of oncoming traffic, we kindly ducked onto the verge. The convivial atmosphere was epitomised by the fact that we were twice asked if we wanted a lift. We politely refused and received a happy wave in response. ‘Thanks and see you round’.

After an hour of dodging other road users, we headed off onto smaller roads. As the sounds of traffic disappeared, we once again noticed how navigating through nature arooved all sense.

NATURALLY, THE LANDSCAPE PROVIDED ITS OWN STORY. Open fields surrounded by logged fences, wind-blown archi­pelago pines, the sun glittering off the bays and the clouds gently floating in blue skies were like something straight from the lyrics of Our Land.

The surrounding sounds were also inspiring. Birds were singing, the cows were mooing, a dog was barking and some­where an axe fell, splitting logs for firewood. Most surprising was the intoxicating smell of wild strawberries. It came sub­tly, with neither of us realising what it was at first, then we laughed at our shared ignorance. Hmm, it smells like straw­berries here? Of course, the entire roadside is red. Oh how good they tasted. As did the blueberries and raspberries we found later. The importance of our sense of touch— the most important you might say because perhaps without it humanity wouldn’t have existed — became appar­ent after walking ten kilometres. As the soles of our feet began heating up, it was a gentle reminder that our undermand­ing feet needed some attention. A good way to avoid blisters and abrasions is to change your shoes from time to time. So we took off our hiking sandals, slipped on our sneakers and continued on.

The well-marked St Olav’s Waterway was easy to navi­gate. At crossings there are small but clear signs telling you which direction to take. However, with fewer signs on the
The countryside holds much diversity - patchwork forests, rolling hills, arching bridges, delicate inlets, broken beaches, tracks and trails in the right doses – something interesting all the time.

After four hours of hiking we arrive at a parish village. After the quiet of the forest landscapes, the bustle of Nagu is quite the happening metropolis. There seemed more people, cafés, market stalls, laughter and life than the market square in Helsinki. We certainly had a good time. We craved a cup of coffee, so we sat down at a suitable terrace for a moment to watch the energy of the marina. When our strength had returned, we made the spontaneous decision to rent canoes for a couple of hours. The rental period of five hours was enough for a small sea adventure. We weren't kayaking for long but a scan of the nearby shores gave us a good feel for what the archipelago looked like from the waves.

For the first night we'd booked into Hotel Stallbacken. After a shower and rest, we marched to the restaurant hungry like a wolf. After breakfast, we threw on our backpacks and headed for Korpo. After leaving Nagu, we took a detour from St Olav’s Waterway and continued our own path. We strolled along the side roads, ate berries from the verge, admired Olav’s Waterway and continued our own path. We strolled.

Walking is a wonderful time to chat. Silent moments never seem uncomfortable, so conversations are relaxed and unforced. Thoughts can mature into full sentences unhindered and answers can be just as thoughtfully composed. Time is a gift. Conversations given only five minutes at home, on a hike are granted a five-hour exchange.

After breakfast, we threw on our backpacks and headed for Korpo. After leaving Nagu, we took a detour from St Olav’s Waterway and continued our own path. We strolled along the side roads, ate berries from the verge, admired lungfuls of scenery, and spoke of the world drifting by.

The coastal route is a beautiful bicycle route that runs through the National Parks of the Archipelago Sea, Taip and Skerries. Along the route you will find a number of must-see places such as Bengtskär lighthouse and the islands of Hirvensalo, Rosala and Orh, as well as the idyllic ironworks villages of Taalintehdas, Mustola and Kyrkoslät. If you do not own a bike, you can rent one along the way. The bike can be picked up from one location and returned to another. So you can come by car and then bike where you like. The route is approximately 200 kilometres long, with 35 kilometres of the route carried out aboard ferries. Get to know better the route at: rr.myviisi.fi

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Rediscover your roots – in the trees!

A few million years ago, people slept in the trees. It provided all kinds of little benefits. It’s now a habit that’s making a comeback. We decided to find out why?

A TENT FLOATING IN THE AIR already sounds pretty good. There’s something exciting, new and distantly familiar about it. These tentsile tents are found along the rocky shores near Ruissalo Spa, where you can book your stay just like a hotel.

The Tentsile is stretched out between three sturdy trees. They offer many advantages but the main one is that hanging in the air allows you to sleep where normal tents are impractical. Just like on Ruissalo’s rocky coasts. Above all, hanging from the trees is a fun way to sleep. Hovering above ground like a spacecraft, you enter the tent via the zipped front door or from below via the “secret hatch”. The rain cover is removable, allowing you to instead soak up some rays under open skies. When your sleeping buddy rolls over, so will you, so expect plenty of hilarity.

A TENTSILE IS A NEW METHOD OF SLEEPING OUTSIDE and a fresh way to enjoy those summer nights. This primitive experience feels altogether quite natural. It’s reminiscent of a hammock, a symbol of tropical relaxation that echoes the freer and more harmonious existence of our forebears. So raise yourself and your spirits, and do what comes naturally – sleep in a tree.

Tents are isolated from the hustle and bustle of the hotel. Sunbathe on smooth rocks from daybreak to dusk.

Every reservation includes all the spa hotel’s amenities, so there’s no need to go all in on your nature experience.

Other types of places to stay are close by, including a barbecue cabin with lovely sea views.

READ MORE AND BOOK A NIGHT in Ruissalo Spa’s hanging tents. If you prefer to be independent, the spa also offers comfortable hotel rooms. ruissalospa.fi

— KISS MY TURKU 2020

TURKU INSPIRES

Thousands of Island stories

LOCATIONS FOR THAT FAMOUS MARITIME FEELING IN TURKU’S ARCHIPELAGO.

Bengtskär
At the Bengtskär lighthouse to the far south of the Turku Archipelago, you really feel insignificant, with open sea all around and the wild and untrammelled rocky skerries the only land. The national romantic style of the early 20th century inspired the lighthouse architecture. The tower has six former lighthouse rooms that now accommodate visitors. Stories of shipwrecks, battles and warfare all add drama to the experience of Bengtskär.

bengtskar.fi

Sulli
The long history of the Island of Sulli is one of the most remarkable in the Turku Archipelago. For centuries, the island served as an island to where 17th century leprosy sufferers were deported, and then later on the mentally ill. Today, Sulli is home to researchers from the University of Turku and tourism personnel. The latter provide a lovely restaurant and accommodation on Sulli. Arrive by ferry fromTurku, Tagu or Rymättylä.

visitseili.fi

Högsåra
Just a short ferry ride from the island of Kimito, Högsåra has magical stories to tell, with Russian tsars and their entourage spending summers here a hundred years ago. Nowadays, the “remote island” theme of Högsåra has barely left the lips before the delightful Farmor’s Café is mentioned. The archipelago’s gourmet is known for lovely food and especially good cakes, where, best of all, you’re allowed to cut your own slice.

farmorscafe.fi

Utö
The former island of the Finnish Defence Forces is now a vacation spot. The journey to the outskirts of the archipelago takes about 4 to 5 hours from Turku. Whilst on the ferry, you can observe the changing landscape, from lush green archipelago to the rugged outer islands. At Utö, inhale deep and breathe in the infinite sea, the heavenly sky and the majesty of nature. The hotel and restaurant in the former barracks also mean you eat well and rest in comfort.

visituto.fi

Örö
Awaiting travellers to Örö in the outer archipelago is an impressive package of natural beauty and history of military defence. In addition to the historic guns and barracks, the fortified island, formerly of the armed forces, enjoys abundant heather meadows and rare plants, from the Western Pasque-flower to Sea Kale. Furthermore, Örö has a couple of nice restaurants and various accommodation options in the renovated old barracks.

visitkemiönsaari.fi

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Head to the national landscape of the River Aura or admire the famous Turku Archipelago.

From Turku to the water

S/S Ukkopekka
The most nostalgic way to sail to the Aristo from Turku is aboard the 80-year-old steamboat Ukkopekka. In summer, Ukkopekka’s morning shift steams between Turku and Naantali, and in the evenings it cruises from Turku to the island of Loistokari. The evening sone is crowned with dancing on the pier and an archipelago dinner. ukkopekka.fi

Föli Waterbuses
Turku is an archipelago city, which means our public transport also operates on the water. With a Föli bus ticket you can take a waterbus for an adventure to Ruissalo and Pikisaaari. There are two vessels on the route, M/S Ruissalo and M/S Jaarli. fol.fi

River Aura Guide Centre
Located next to Halistenkoski, there is the adorable summer café Pa- dolla, offering much more than freshly made buns. Here, you can rent a SUP-board or even a canoe and a kayak for a paddling trip along the River Aura. aurajoki.net

M/S Lily
The red and white of M/S Lily is a familiar sight on the River Aura in summer, transporting passengers from Turku to the recreational island of Vepsä. The voyage to Vepsä is so stunning, be sure to head out on deck to enjoy the sun and admire the summer villas on the islands as you glide by. rosita.fi

Buster Rent
Are you in search of a bit more speed? The motorboat ride allows you to see Turku’s archipelago in a whole new way, whether as a day trip or for an entire weekend of boating. With Buster Rent, you can order a boat directly on the water. vuokraa.buster.fi/en

M/S Rudolfina
Cruise aboard M/S Rudolfina and float past Ruissalo’s lace villas and Naantali’s Old Town. In addition to delicious archipelago landscapes, the diverse archipelago buffet is just as delightful. rudolfina.fi

From side to side across the sea

TURKU
MOOMINWORLD: On Kalo Island in Naantali, meet all of Tove Jansson’s beloved Moomin characters. Plenty of hugs all round as well as a host of other entertaining activities. moominworld.fi
LUOSTARINMAIKA HANDICRAFTS MUSEUM: Time-travel into the 1800’s at Luostarinmäki, which escaped the ravages of Turku’s great fire, and explore the crafts of artisans from the past. turku.fi/en/handicraftsmuseum
TURKU CASTLE: During Turku Castle’s Little Knights tours, search for treasures and listen to exciting tales from centuries ago. Best of all, at the end of the tour you will receive your own knighthood! turku.fi/en/turkucastle

STOCKHOLM
JUNIBACKEN: Located on Djurgården Island, Junibacken is a cultural experience dedicated to Astrid Lindgren’s fairy-tale characters. Take the fairytale train and dive into a world of imagination. junibacken.se
SKansen: At the world’s oldest outdoor museum, explore the history of Sweden through houses and farmsteads. You can have fun trying old fashioned games as well as say hi to the animals. skansen.se
THE ROYAL PALACE: The Royal Palace in Sweden is a fun way to see and experience history. It even includes a fun animal safari. kungliga-slotten.se

STEER TOWARD THE HORIZON AND BOOK YOUR ENTERTAINING ADVENTURE HERE: vikingline.fi
watch Moomin animations and read Moomin books just like in Finland.

“It’s easy to fall in love and identify with the characters and their stories,” Eri says. But there isn’t just one reason explaining this Moomin phenomenon because everyone experiences the Moomins in their own way and identifies with them differently.

Why the Moomins, specifically?

I want to know more, so Eri helps introduce me to a young couple. Nanase and Ryoma are both in Moominworld for the first time—and on their honeymoon would you believe! Nanase is a fan of both the Moomins and Tove Jansson but Ryoma, on the other hand, doesn’t share the same fondness. However, the adoring husband wanted to please his new wife, so Ryoma agreed to Finland as their honeymoon destination. Now that’s true love!

Nanase says she read the Moomin books and really liked them. In addition to the characters, she delighted in Tove Jansson’s illustrations of the nature, the sky and the forest. So the inspiration for this trip originated with the Moomin books. I was learning more all the time.

“IT’S EASY TO FORGET THAT MOOMINWORLD ATTRACTS VISITORS FROM TOKYO AS WELL AS TAMPERE.”

My next interviewees are two lovely sisters, Kimiko and Akiko. They are also visiting Moominworld for the first time. Do they like it?

“Yes, very much,” both reply, nodding enthusiastically. Akiko has been reading the Moomin books to her own children and she has many friends who also like the Moomins. They excitedly list their favourite characters, such as Snufkin and Moominmamma.

Kimiko and Akiko, however, find much more in the books. They admire the characters and their wisdom but also the deeper message between the lines, Tove Jansson’s own perspective and way of looking at the world.

Superwoman Tove

You can’t talk about the Moomins without Tove Jansson or Tove Jansson without the Moomins. Every Japanese person I talked to during the day brought up Tove. She seems to be a source of inspiration and admiration for all ages. Many state how Tove is a big deal in Japan.

“Many people know her and her work and associate her with the Moomins,” says Eri. I thought Moomin fanatics in Japan were more attracted by the cute appearance of the Moomins but I was wrong. I wonder if, somehow, Moominworld is seen as a way to immerse themselves in Tove’s world, reflecting the values that are important to the Japanese.

Family, tolerance and equality are things that unite the Finns, the Japanese and the Moomins. And these are certainly values you’ll find in Moominworld.

MOOMINWORLD IS A PILGRIMAGE DESTINATION FOR FANS OF TOVE JANSSON, DRAWING ADMIRATION FROM AROUND THE WORLD. BUT WHAT BREEDS THIS WORLDWIDE POPULARITY AND WHAT DO THE MOOMINS MEAN FOR FANS OF VARIOUS AGES? I DECIDED TO FIND OUT.

This July morning in Naantali is stiflingly hot. However, the hot temperatures don’t seem to dissuade people from going, as guests swarm around the gates of Moominworld. As I wait, I scan the throngs of families around and spot a small group of Japanese tourists. It’s easy to forget that Moominworld attracts visitors from Tokyo as well as Tampere. The Moomins aren’t just bedtime stories for Finnish children but rather a global phenomenon that reaches across generations.

Genuine fans

I follow curiously this Japanese group towards the Moomin House and spot their many Moomin-themed items: backpacks, T-shirts, key rings. It’s as if everyone was dressed for a special fan convention. Well, they were.

I want to find out what the Moomins mean to the Japanese. I approach the group’s interpreter, Eri Sanoa, who kindly promises to help.

Eri enlightens me, explaining how the Japanese know the Moomins well. In Japan, they...
Families love being in Turku because Turku is made for kids! Whether investigating the world outdoors, getting wet or working up a sweat, the city is full of exciting activities for the little treasures.

10 Places to go with kids

**Forum Marinum Maritime Museum**

At Forum Marinum, kids have a dedicated area to explore the mysteries of seafaring through play. The centrepiece of the exhibition is a gallant adventure ship, where you can investigate constellations and nautical charts, and peek inside the captain’s quarters. [forum-marinum.fi](http://forum-marinum.fi)

**Botanical Garden**

At the centre of this tropical oasis, you almost forget you’re in Finland. The Botanical Gardens of the University of Turku offer a diversity of wonders and plenty to explore, from the carp pond to the winter garden. [sites.utu.fi/kasvitieteellinen-puutarha](http://sites.utu.fi/kasvitieteellinen-puutarha)

**Kaarina**

With its beaches, nature and array of activities, Kaarina is hugely attractive to families. Tapping the recommendations are Kaarina’s hiking trails as well as the medieval ruins of Kuusisto’s Bishop’s Castle - both are fascinating destinations for summer excursions. [visitkaarina.fi](http://visitkaarina.fi)

**Holiday Club Caribia**

At Caribia spa hotel, priorities are clear: adults relax while children splash around to their heart’s content. Caribia’s pool complex, with its slides and pirate ship, is every kid’s dream, so there’s no chance of being bored. [holidayclubresorts.com](http://holidayclubresorts.com)

**Funicular**

The freshest newcomer to Turku’s transport system is the Funicular, transporting groups up Kakolanmäki hill and back. In addition to the scenery, you can also experience Finland’s most notorious former prison, as well as other amusements. The ride is free! [turku.fi/en/funicular](http://turku.fi/en/funicular)

**SuperPark**

SuperPark is Caribia’s super indoor activity park. Under the same roof, you can jump, play, climb and run around as much as you like. Energy burns fast scampering around the park! [superpark.fi](http://superpark.fi)

**Flowpark**

Looking for new heights and fun challenges? At the Flowpark adventure park you can balance on a tightrope, clamber over obstacles and swing like Tarzan on a zip line. The adventure trails are built in the trees (don’t worry, you won’t get hurt) and are colour coded according to difficulty. [flowpark.fi](http://flowpark.fi)

**JukuPark**

The JukuPark water park’s pirate pool paradise is a must for all the little water monsters in summer. Going between the pool, the slides and the bouncy castle is a route they won’t stop running until it gets dark. [jukupark.fi](http://jukupark.fi)

**Adventure Park**

Commonly known as ‘Seikkis’, it’s a place familiar to every Turku local. In the middle of the verdant Kupittaa Park, Seikkis is a perfect paradise to romp and play all year round. The entry fee is a staggering €0, so there’s room for an ice cream whilst you’re there! [turku.fi/seikkailupuisto](http://turku.fi/seikkailupuisto)

**Samppalinna Outdoor Swimming Stadium**

The Samppalinna Outdoor Swimming Stadium provides a cheap and cheerful place to chill out during summer. There’s plenty of room to splash around in the large pool and the diving tower rises invitingly towards the sky. There’s also a pool for tots and toddlers. [turku.fi/kulttuuri-ja-liikunta](http://turku.fi/kulttuuri-ja-liikunta)
“THE UNDERGROUND IS DEAD – I WILL NOT WEEP.” This is how the late writer and poet Jarkko Laine proclaimed the fate of the underground in 1970.

Rubbish! Nowhere has it died or come to an end! It continues to thrive in clubs, at poetry and literature events, through experimental art happenings, performances and circus, as well as in small festivals. And, of course, in the bowls of the earth where no one has thought to look. So, where did the underground idea come from?

Turku’s underground, also known as ‘U’, was the subject for Matti Komulainen and Petri Leppänen’s investigative book ‘U Rises from the West’ (Sammakko 2009), which deals specifically with the history of the underground from a Turku perspective.

It was quite the phenomenon in Turku. Leading figures of U’s early incarnations include familiar names, such as Jarkko Laine, the poet Markku Into and the still active cultural personality, M.A. Numminen. Also, artist Harro Koskinen is rightly included in this group.

For Leppänen, U exposed the core of local classics. “There’s Markku Into’s novels U and Musta Rock, Jarkko Laine’s early novels Haamumaiti and Kaun Ruumissatto, from Turku Book Café you’ll find a reproduction of Aamurusko Magazine as well as the album Underground Rock from the band Suomen Talvisota 1939-1940,” lists Leppänen.

“For me, these were some of the cornerstones, which inspired the recent multi-artistic burgeoning of our band the Turku Romantic Movement.”

Leppänen explains that he also experienced being a small part of the U continuum, when

Underground Turku

PUPPET THEATRE, GRAFFITI, PERFORMANCES AND MODERN, EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC. THESE ARE ALL PART OF TURKU’S MODERN UNDERGROUND SCENE. THE LEGENDARY PHENOMENON TOOK ROOT IN TURKU IN THE 1960S AND LOOKS FAR FROM REACHING ITS PEAK, WITH NEW FORMS FILLING THE CITY.

THE ESSENCE OF THE UNDERGROUND HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO CHALLENGE, TO DO THINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND TO CREATE SOMETHING NEW.

"Nowadays, for example in punk circles, there’s a strong underground feel. No rules, everyone can participate," Leppänen remarks.

The essence of the underground has always been to challenge, to do things of significance and to create something new. For this, Turku still provides the best platform.

1. Jarkko Laine
2. Markku Into’s U-Novel
3. M.A. Numminen

Underground means new
U today:

TAFF - FESTIVAL | TAFF is the youngest and most charming animated film festival in Finland. Its international offering includes both short and long animated films, hosted at the Manila Cultural Factory in August.
taff.fi

VIDEOART-FESTIVAL | The Videoart Festival, or VAF, is an international video art festival held in May every year, which can be seen in different places across the city. videoartfestivalturku.com

NEW PHENOMENONS AND INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS

POETRY WEEK FESTIVAL | Poetry Week provides an opportunity for budding poets to perform. Engage with the phenomena through poetry hosted in pubs and cafés. vrrunonikki.net

NEW PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL | New Performance Turku Festival is an international performance and performing arts festival that takes place every October in different parts of Turku.

THE HEIRS OF TURKU’S UNDERGROUND

The casually-formed crack counter-culture team brought multidimensional culture, particular in Turku and Helsinki in the mid-1960s. Characteristics of Turku’s scene were western influences, especially American, such as beat and hippy movements, rock music, comics, performances and experimental poetry. The best known representation of Turku U was the rock and performance group Suomen Talvisota 1939-1940, with its album Underground-Rev, as well as the Asmuskrus magazine. Also, the radio programme Going Underground, broadcast nationally via YLE, was actually produced by the group.

The Underground Anthology (1970) edited by Jarkko Laine explored the background and concepts of the movement. Numerous other similar publications provided provocative content in the spirit of beat and hippy culture.

Turku’s underground did start to fade but it left behind an impressive and influential impact, as well as a new kind of independent attitude.

The famous happenings, bands and festivals, formed from the U-spirit, are now household concepts:

• Raukasen
• Rap group Piikkisäät
• Konosti Festival
• Tuuriki Sirkka
• Tuuriki Poetry Movement
• Down By The Laituri/DDBTL

Movement were accompanied by M.A. Numminen and Markku Into at the recent Down By The Laituri.

Since Into’s death, there has been a severe melancholy. But underground has far from disappeared.

“It’s unlikely to blossom as a multi-disciplinary movement like in the 1960s. Music, theatre, literature always produce a counter culture to the mainstream, and that’s what U was and still is,” Leppänen states.

Explore Turku

Today there is plenty to find in Turku. Still yet to become mainstream, organised art is available, from short animations to puppetry, performances to poetry and modern, experimental music.

You can also discover underground-inspired unorganised art in cafés and clubs, so it’s always worth exploring what’s going on in the city.

Usually, there are all kinds of impromptu happenings and events connected with topical festivals: poetry recitals on top of a club table, or an energetic performance in the middle of town.

ALSO, DON’T FORGET THESE!

Events in Turku:

KESÄRAUKSA | This trendy indie and alternative music festival made a huge hit in the summer of 2019 – and is sure to do so again in this summer.
kesarauka.fi

JAZZ CITY TURKU | Jazz City Turku offers a sinlful array of captivating jazz concerts throughout the year, all over Turku.
jazzcityturku.fi

FOOD & ART FESTIVAL | Indulgent taste sensations from the hands of top chefs and bartenders, alongside an enthralling programme of art. foodandart.fi

VEGANIA | This vegan street food festival gathers together stalls of vendors offering attractive vegan delicacies.
vegania.fi

NEW POTATO FESTIVAL | At this merry festival, Turku locals and visitors will be enjoying Turku’s early potatoes by tucking into potato dishes with the help of a fun programme of entertainment. noltypyrinenfestivali.fi

TURKU FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL | That’s right, this is a festival where you’ll eat and drink very well, just as the name suggests.
turkufoodandwinefestival.com

KONSTRUNDAN | An art event where artists open their studios and work premises for the public to admire.
konstrundan.fi

MEDIEVAL MARKETS | Amidst the hustle and bustle of the medieval market, you’re sure to feel as though you’ve travelled in time to the heart of medieval Turku.
keskisatumarkkinat.markkinat.fi

TURKU CASTLE TOURNAMENT | In summer, the park of Turku Castle transforms into an historic battlefield, where armoured knights joust and compete in martial combat.
tournament.fi

PAAVO RUNRI FESTIVAL & MARATHON | A festival dedicated to just running and a running event that brings the joy of exercise to all.
paavorunrimaraton.fi
Aside from those presented here, *you’ll find other museums and galleries in Turku.*

* Check out everything and more at: kissmyturku.com

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**12 galleries & museums**

**TANTALISING GALLERIES:**

**Kunsthalle Turku**
Managed cooperatively by the Turku Artists’ Association and the Photography Centre Päri, the art centre offers total visual grandeur. In the lobby, you’ll also find the Turku Art Loan Centre, where you can buy and rent the artists’ works.
Vanta Vuori 5

**Titanik**
Step into the city’s oldest contemporary art space, Titanik! There always seems to be some stunning and boldly original exhibitions. Events complementing the exhibitions are held all the time - free ones, of course.
Itäinen Rantakatu 8

**Gallery Joella**
Whenever passing Gallery Joella, the window display of graphic art is just something you have to stop to admire. This is what art is all about, with hundreds of pieces for sale from dozens of different artists.
Läntinen Rantakatu 21

**Makasiini Contemporary**
The historic Governor’s Magazine by the cathedral hides one of Turku’s most interesting art galleries. Inspirational exhibitions showcase the works of impressive domestic and international artists.
Tuomiokirkonkatu 6

**Aboa Vetus & Ars Nova**
Aboa Vetus & Ars Nova is an experiential museum of archeology and contemporary art. Under the same roof you can explore the ruins of medieval Turku as well as take a tour of the impressive art exhibitions.
Itäinen Rantakatu 4–6

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**MAGNIFICENT MUSEUMS:**

**Sibelius Museum**
The Sibelius Museum is a fascinating peek into the life and work of the Finnish composer and Finnish musical culture. The collection of instruments on display includes thousands of examples from Finland and around the world.
Pispankatu 17

**Turku Biological Museum**
The Biological Museum exudes a spirit of exploration. There are 13 different dioramas, or built natural landscapes, that introduce you to the fauna and flora of Finland.
Näthypolku 1

**Turku Art Museum**
The Turku Art Museum, proudly rising from the top of Puotilaanmäki hill, already makes a lasting impression with its appearance. Inside you will find Finnish national treasures alongside high-quality temporary exhibitions.
Aurakatu 26

**Luostarinmäki Handicrafts Museum**
The Luostarinmäki area of wooden houses that survived Turku’s great fire of 1827 is a small piece of history in central Turku. The original houses showcase the life of artisans from the 18th and 19th centuries.
Vartiovuorenkatu 2

**Turku Castle**
Turku Castle is perhaps the most iconic of Turku’s attractions. The 700-year-old stone castle conceals engrossing stories about the history of Turku and Finland as whole.
Linnankatu 80

**Ett Hem**
Former bourgeois home of Alfred Jacobson, a businessman from Turku, and his wife Hélène. The splendid cultural home museum is adorned with décor and art from the late 19th and 20th centuries.
Pispankatu 14

**Wäinö Aaltonen Museum**
The Wäinö Aaltonen Museum houses temporary exhibitions of contemporary art, workshops as well as events. Also on display are Aaltonen’s own works such as drawings, graphic art and sketches.
Itäinen Rantakatu 38

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Walking Tours at visitturku.fi

Are your feet starting to twitch with curiosity? Explore all the themed walking tours. Buy tickets in advance from Visit Turku.

NB! There are a limited number of places for tours. Buy tickets in advance from Visit Turku’s online shop or at the Turku Tourist Information Centre to be sure of a seat.

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Turku – A compact yet versatile city

Turku is a compact city that is easy to manage. Everything you need is conveniently close by and distances are best covered either on foot or by bicycle. Delightfully simple and yet also great for the environment.

FOOD WALK
Calling all gastronomists – grab yourself a Food Walk card and venture forth on Turku’s most delicious walking trail!

WANT TO EXPLORE TURKU ON FOOT? Ooo – yes please! The Visit Turku family of Walking Tour products offer the opportunity to experience Turku from many different angles. Choose a theme that interests you, get your walking shoes on and broaden your knowledge of Turku. A charmingly engaging idea for both visitors and locals.

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WANT TO EXPLORE TURKU ON FOOT? Ooo – yes please! The Visit Turku family of Walking Tour products offer the opportunity to experience Turku from many different angles. Choose a theme that interests you, get your walking shoes on and broaden your knowledge of Turku. A charmingly engaging idea for both visitors and locals.

Are you feet starting to twitch with curiosity? Explore all the themed walking tours. Buy tickets in advance from Visit Turku.

NB! There are a limited number of places for tours. Buy tickets in advance from Visit Turku’s online shop or at the Tourist Information Centre to be sure of a seat.

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Turku – A compact yet versatile city

Turku is a compact city that is easy to manage. Everything you need is conveniently close by and distances are best covered either on foot or by bicycle. Delightfully simple and yet also great for the environment.

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TURKU ARCHIPELAGO

40,000 islands and islets – you can’t go wrong.

The Turku Archipelago is bordered to the east by Turku, to the west by the Åland Islands, in the south by the Bengtskär lighthouse and in the north by the Bothnian Sea. In its entirety, it includes about 40,000 islands and islets, making it the most numerous in the world. It is also a world-class wildlife destination, where the majestic Sea Eagle is just one example of the fauna on display. The bird of prey was endangered more than a decade ago but now the archipelago’s Sea Eagle population numbers in the hundreds.

In this brochure you’ll find many ways to reach the Turku Archipelago. More destinations, connections, tips and ideas at: kissmyturku.com