WELCOME TO THE PLACE WHERE FINLAND WAS BORN

WHAT HAPPENED?

1229
Bishop's seat moved to Turku

1280-
Construction of Turku Castle begun

1300
Inauguration of Turku Cathedral

1517
Finnish reformation begun from Turku

1640
The first university of Finland started in Turku

1809*
Turku was the capital city of the Grand Duchy

1827
The Great Fire of Turku destroyed it all

1827
Rebuilt Turku the European Capital of Culture

2011
Finland 100 – Turku celebrates!
EASY TO GET THERE

LET'S FLY!

TO TURKU FROM:

STOCKHOLM
SAS, www.flysas.com

HELSPINKI
Finnair, www.finnair.com

MARIEHAMN
AirAland, www.airaland.com

GDANSK
WizzAir, www.wizzair.com

RIGA
Air Baltic, www.airbaltic.com

Turku–Helsinki 166 km.
Bus connection from the Helsinki–Vantaa International Airport operates on an hourly basis.

JUMP ABOARD!

FROM TURKU TO:

STOCKHOLM
Tallink Silja, www.tallinksilja.com
Viking Line, www.vikingline.fi

FROM NAANTALI TO
KAPELLESKÄR
Finnlines, www.finnlines.com

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Check the updated connections from the websites.
THE RIVER AURA IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF TURKU, AT THE ESTUARY OF WHICH FINLAND’S OLDEST CITY BEGAN TO GROW IN THE EARLY 13TH CENTURY. OVER 800 YEARS OF URBAN HISTORY HAS NOT REDUCED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RIVER TO THE IMAGE OF TURKU – QUITE THE OPPOSITE.

TAKE A STROLL DOWN THE RIVER AND SPOT THE CITY’S MOST BEAUTIFUL LOCATIONS, FAMOUS SIGHTS AND THE BEST RESTAURANTS ALONG THE WAY. ALTERNATIVELY YOU CAN SEEK A BIRD’S EYE VIEW FROM ON THE RIVER ITSELF. IT IS ACCESSIBLE IN SUMMER BY BOAT HIRE, ON A SUP PADDLE BOARD, ABOARD A RESTAURANT SHIP OR – AND THIS IS NO JOKE – ON A FLOATING HOT TUB.
Anniversary Year 2017 in Turku

TREASURES OF FINNISH INDEPENDENCE

Multicoloured events, raptuous ceremony, flourishing city culture and scores of jubilant people. As the oldest city and first capital of Finland, Turku has functioned as a springboard for many cultural phenomena. Due to its location and traditions Turku is once again a melting-pot for culture, that’s easy to reach from both near and far.
Turku will be the scene for an extremely exciting evening as a premiere from 127 ago is heard in Logomo.

- HELSINGIN SANOMAT

In 2017 Turku celebrates two important causes: the Finland 100 anniversary, and the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Museums, galleries, theatres and stages all provide a packed programme – something for everyone guaranteed.

For example, Touko Laaksonen aka Tom of Finland is back in town big time. Once an expatriot for his forbidden sexuality, now a celebrated pioneer of Gay culture, Tom of Finland has inspired a musical and two exhibitions in his former hometown Turku.

Prefer opera? The first ever through-composed, Kalevala-inspired “Die Kalewainen in Pochjola” receives its premiere as part of the Finland 100 anniversary.

The 500th anniversary year of the Reformation also shows this year. Both Turku Castle and Turku Cathedral host exhibitions and other events linked with the theme of reformation.
THE MAJESTIC BEAUTIES OF THE SEA SAIL INTO TURKU IN JULY – AND THIS IS THE 5TH TIME!

THE VIBRANT ATMOSPHERE OF THE INTERNATIONAL EVENT WILL CAPTIVATE VISITORS OVER THE FOUR-DAY PERIOD. THE QUAYSIDE WILL BE FULL OF MUSIC AND OTHER PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES.

COMMISSIONED AS PART OF FINLAND 100, TALL SHIPS RACES IS A HIGHLIGHT OF THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.
SENSE & SHARE
THE SPORTING SPIRIT

BORN IN TURKU IN 1897 WAS ONE OF BRIGHTEST ATHLETE STARS OF ALL TIME. PAAVO NURMI – “THE FLYING FINN” – DOMINATED IN THE LONG AND MIDDLE DISTANCE EVENTS, BROKE WORLD RECORDS, AND WON A TOTAL OF NINE OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALS.

Paavo Nurmi Games 13 June 2017 & Paavo Nurmi Marathon 1 July 2017
TURKU HONOURS THE RUNNER WITH A PAAVO NURMI STATUE, THE PAAVO NURMI STADIUM AND THE PAAVO NURMI FESTIVAL COMPRISING A VARIETY OF SPORTS EVENTS.

Challenge Turku 12–13 August 2017
MEMBERS OF THE TRIATHLON TRIBE! CHALLENGE TURKU GIVES YOU THE CHANCE TO RACE IN THE CITY CENTRE AND EVEN TAKE A DIP IN THE RIVER Aura. (YES, IT’S NORMALLY TOTALLY FORBIDDEN.)
There’s 40,000 islands and skerries between Turku and Åland. Pick your favorites and see the beauty of this natural wonder.
TURKU ARCHIPELAGO IS THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF ISLANDS. ABOUT 40,000 ISLANDS AND ISLETS FORM THIS NATURAL WONDER STARTING AT THE EDGE OF TURKU AND CONTINUING ALL THE WAY OUT TO ÅLAND.

THE TURKU ARCHIPELAGO IS POPULAR AMONGST THOSE WITH COTTAGES AND BOATS, BUT HOW CAN THE REST OF US GET THERE?

Here's a few tips:

RUISSALO

THE MOST FAMOUS ISLAND OF THE TURKU ARCHIPELAGO IS KNOWN FOR ITS BEAUTIFUL OAK FORESTS AND CHARMING 19TH CENTURY VILLAS. ONCE HUNTING GROUNDS FOR THE COURT, THE ISLAND IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE FROM TURKU BY LAND OR BY SEA.

THE ARCHIPELAGO TRAIL

THE ARCHIPELAGO TRAIL TAKES YOU THROUGH MAGNIFICENT NATURE AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES. ON THE 250 KM ROUTE YOU’LL ENCOUNTER 12 BRIDGES, 9 FERRIES AND MANY IDYLLIC ARCHIPELAGO PARISHES. DRIVE, BIKE OR HIKE AND STAY ALONG THE WAY.

ÖRÖ ISLAND

ÖRÖ ISLAND IN THE SOUTH OF THE ARCHIPELAGO SEA WAS OPENED FOR TOURISM IN THE SUMMER OF 2015. BEFORE THAT IT WAS A MILITARY BASE FOR OVER 100 YEARS. THE POPULAR NEW ÖRÖ IS A DIVERSE COMBINATION OF HISTORY AND NATURE. TAKE A BOAT FROM KASNÄS AND GO, EXPLORE!
Turku is gaining reputation for its nice restaurant scene – to the point of referring to the city as “the food capital of Finland”.

Turku offers great delicacies from brunches to fast food to comprehensive evening dining. Most restaurants are located in the downtown area – within walking distance from each other.

Pick up a food walk card and take a gourmet stroll along the river. Or come in October and take part to the food & fun restaurant festival. Or be there in June, when the first locally grown potatoes arrive straight from the archipelago. The event is named Virgin Potato Festival – welcome & bon appetit!

#eatmyturku
AS THE OLDEST CITY OF THE COUNTRY TURKU IS PACKED WITH GREAT MUSEUMS. WHY NOT BUY YOURSELF A MUSEUM WALK CARD AND SEE THEM ALL?

This is it:
TURKU CATHEDRAL MUSEUM, THE SIBELIUS MUSEUM, ETT HEM HOME MUSEUM, ABOA VETUS & ARS NOVA, LUOSTARIMÄKI HANDICRAFTS MUSEUM, QWENSEL HOUSE & PHARMACY MUSEUM, TURKU ART MUSEUM, WÄINÖ AALTONEN MUSEUM, BIOLOGICAL MUSEUM, FORUM MARINUM, TURKU CASTLE AND KAKOLANMÄKI HILL MUSEUM.
THE TURKU REGION OFFERS A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN.

HUG THE MOOMINS, EXPLORE THE KUPITTAA ADVENTURE PARK OR CLIMB TREES IN FLOWPARK – THERE’S ALWAYS PLENTY TO SEE AND DO!

WHEN IT’S TIME FOR A RAINY DAY, DO WHAT THE LOCALS DO: HEAD TO SUPERPARK FOR FUN AND GAMES. IN CASE GETTING SOAKED IS JUST WHAT YOU’RE AFTER, CHOOSE JUKUPARK WATERPARK TO SPLASH THE DAY AWAY!
SOME PRODUCT EXAMPLE

PICK ONE OR SEE THEM ALL:

FOOD WALK
• Tasting tour along the shores of the River Aura. Select your favourite 5 from the choice of 10 restaurants.
• Card price €44

MUSEUM WALK
• Museum tour in Turku including free entrance to 12 museums
• 1 June – 26 August. (excl. Midsummer)
• Card price €38

TURKU SIGHTSEEING
• About 2 hours by bus around the finest sights of Turku
• Guidance in Finnish, Swedish and English
• Price €22/adults, €5/children (7–17yrs)

A DAY TRIP TO THE ISLAND OF ÖRÖ
• Scenic archipelago vantage point
• Rosita tour departs from the River Aura
• Price €79/adults, €25/children (0–14yrs)

ARCHIPELAGO CIRCUS FESTIVAL
• A month-long cultural festival in Kustavi 6 July–5 Aug 2017
• Includes, among others, former stars of Cirque du Soleil Pauliina Räsänen and Slava Volkov
• Price €75/person

HERRANKUKARO DAY TRIP
• A day trip to an old fishing village in the archipelago (including outdoor life, sauna and a self-prepared meal)
• Every Monday, all year round from Turku
• Price €117,50/person

AAVAMERI KAYAK TOURS
• Guided kayak trips in the beautiful archipelago. For beginners, too!
• From Ruissalo island, Turku
• Thursdays 5pm to 8:30pm, Jun–Aug (other times through booking for private groups)
• Price €55/person
Top happenings in 2017

January–May

13.1.–19.3.
TOUKO LAAKSONEN – TOM OF FINLAND.
OF MUSIC AND MEN, EXHIBITION
Wäinö Aaltonen Museum

27.1. / Premiere
TOM OF FINLAND THE MUSICAL
Turku City Theatre

23.2.–13.8.
BEHIND THE SCENES:
TOM OF FINLAND MOVIE EXHIBITION
Logomo

28.2. / Premiere
DIE KALEWAINEN IN POCHJOLA
Logomo

In May
TURKU DESIGN FESTIVAL

10.–14.5.
EUROPEAN HERITAGE CONGRESS 2017

June–August

13.6.
PAAVO NURMI GAMES IAAF WORLD
CHALLENGE 2017
Paavo Nurmi Stadion

15.–18.6.
FINNISH SAUNA FESTIVAL
Turku Castle’s Park

September–December

27.9.–1.10.
FOOD & FUN FESTIVAL
Restaurants & Bars

25.11.–17.12.
THE OLD GREAT SQUARE CHRISTMAS
MARKET
The Old Great Square

6.12.
FINLAND’S 100TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

29.6.–27.
MEDIEVAL MARKET
The Old Great Square

7.–9.7.
RUISROCK MUSIC FESTIVAL
Ruissalo

20.–24.7.
THE BASEBALL WORLD CUP – TOUR

20.–23.7.
THE TALL SHIPS RACES
By the River Aura

26.–30.7.
EUROPEADE TURKU
National Dance and Music Festival around
Turku