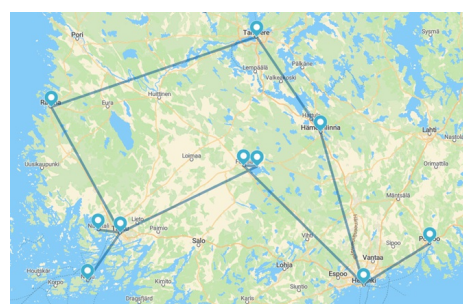




Finland, 8 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route through Southwest Finland

Tour the southwest of Finland and get to know Helsinki, Turku and Tampere, the three largest cities in the country. You'll also stop at pocket-sized towns such as Porvoo, Naantali or Rauma to see the typical Nordic wooden houses. And you'll also discover the nature found in this area of Finland. Not only will you be able to admire its lakes and forests, but also some wonderful small islands. What's more, you can let your hair down at the Moomins theme park, peer into medieval castles and - of course - enjoy wonderful saunas. Your trip begins in Helsinki, the capital of the country, where you'll spend two nights. Then you'll head to Turku from where you'll set out on a few day trips. After a brief stop in Tampere, you'll head back to Helsinki to round off this circular itinerary.



NATURE

Departure date: Departures from July 2026 till June 2027

From: Dublin, Shannon, Cork

Travel details

DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - HELSINKI

Flight departure from the city of origin to Helsinki. Arrival and rental car pick-up at the airport. Drive to the capital to spend your first night in Finland. Take the opportunity to explore Helsinki, especially the area of Kajsaniemi with its white cathedral, the small island of Suomenlinna or the famous Temppeliaukio Church (Temppeliaukion Kirkko), a building that will amaze you as it's carved into the rock! As for museums, the Ateneum and the Kiasma are well worth a visit. Located on the southern coast lapped by the Baltic Sea, Helsinki is part of the region of Uusimaa with a coastline stretching 100 kilometres dotted with some 300 islands. The Finnish capital is renowned globally for being a great advocate for design, which is clearly seen in its streets, shops and buildings, all of which makes Helsinki a unique experience. For starters, we recommend a visit to the beautiful Orthodox Uspenski Cathedral (Uspenskin katedraali, in Finnish), which stands majestically atop a hill in the Katajanokka district, in the city centre. The Red Uspenski, as it is known due to its distinctive colour and to distinguish it from the city's Lutheran cathedral, seems to have been taken from a Russian fairy tale since its design is clearly influenced by 16th-century Muscovite art. Built between 1862 and 1868 in red brick and topped by thirteen domes, it is considered the largest Orthodox church in Western Europe. From there you can go to The Senate Square (Senaatintori), which is home to some of the most important architectural treasures of the city, all built in neoclassical style in the mid-nineteenth century by the famous German architect Carl Ludvig Engel. His vision was for the main square to be the hub of political, religious, scientific and commercial power; as a result, you will find the Palace of the Council of State, the Lutheran Cathedral of Helsinki (Helsingin tuomiokirkko), the main building of the University of Helsinki and the Library, which together form the most visited architectural complex of the Finnish capital. In the Market Square, in the area of Kaartinkaupunki, you can see another symbol of this beautiful Finnish city... and one of the most famous women in the city: the "Havis Amanda", a female statue by the artist Ville Vallgren symbolising the rebirth of Helsinki. And do not worry if at some point you want to take a moment to recharge your batteries, because Helsinki has an interesting array of cafés and restaurants. Helsinki is at the forefront of contemporary Finnish cuisine that offers a sensational variety: from Nordic tapas to delicious, simple to prepare dishes such as fried Baltic herring with mashed potatoes, the famous Karelian roast, smoked reindeer and salmon soups, or delicious berry desserts. Hyvää ruokahalua!(Bon Appétit!). One of the best restaurants to sample these typical dishes is "Konstan Möljähan" (Hietalahdenkatu, 14), very popular with locals and visitors alike. Another of the capital's star attractions is its lively nightlife; it boasts numerous bars, clubs, live music venues, pubs and karaoke venues to entertain those who want to enjoy the night just as much as the day. During weekend nights, you will discover a different side of Helsinki and its inhabitants thanks to its range of options spread throughout the city center, the Design District, the Punavuori area, the Hietalahti riverfront and the bohemian Kallio neighbourhood . It should be noted that the minimum age to enter nightclubs is 18 years, although some set the limit at 20, 22 or even 24. It is very important that young people carry ID with them, since age restrictions are strictly enforced. Generally, access to bars and pubs is free and they close at 2:00 a. m. , but clubs usually charge an entry fee and they stay open until 4:00 a.m. (Note: Please check prices and times of the proposed activities. Not included). Overnight stay in Helsinki.

DAY 2 · HELSINKI - PORVOO - HELSINKI

Today, you'll head over to Porvoo. This small coastal town cherishes many traditional Finnish houses. It lies about 60 kilometres from Helsinki and it'll take you about an hour to get there. Founded 800 years ago, Porvoo is the second oldest city in the country and where the heritage of its long history and Russian influence is seen and felt on its breathtaking streets. Home and source of inspiration for Finnish artists, Porvoo is linked to the gulf by the Porvoonjoki River, which flows through the city and passes through the most well-known attraction and symbol of Porvoo: its red houses along the coast. Originally, these buildings were painted in that colour in honour of the arrival of Gustav III, King of Sweden, and were used to store exotic products and delicacies from distant lands. In the heart of the old town is Porvoo Cathedral, which has the dubious honour of having been destroyed by fire five times throughout its exceptional history, most recently in 2006. The cathedral's most outstanding feature is its impressive bell tower. The city is also where you will find "Runebergin koti", the house in which Finland's national poet Johan Ludvig Runeberg lived from 1852 until his death in 1877. (Note: It has been a museum dedicated to the author since 1882. Not included). Return and overnight stay in Helsinki.

● DAY 3 · HELSINKI - FORSSA - TAMMELA - TURKU

Today's destination is a beautiful lake area in southwest Finland, near the town of Forssa. Drive for about 118 kilometres until you reach your first stop. Forssa is famed for its industrial past. It was founded around a textile factory that still retains some of its buildings, such as the tower that dominates the whole town. The surroundings of Forssa are spectacular. Head to Tammela, where there are public beaches for a swim in Lake Pyhäjärvi. This is one of the largest lakes in southwestern Finland and its waters are incredibly clean. Venture into Liesjärvi National Park to see deer and other animals. Climb the Kaukola tower and marvel at the spectacular views of the lakes and forests. Nearby is Porras, a beautiful riverside town full of traditional houses. Then head for Turku, the former capital of the country, which is approximately 100 kilometres from Tammela. The riverfront area near Turku Cathedral is famous for its restaurants. You can dine, for example, at "Mami" or "Tintö", but any restaurant in the area is worth a try. Overnight stay in Turku.

● DAY 4 · TURKU - NAANTALI - TURKU

Start the day by exploring the city of Turku. Admire its thirteenth-century Gothic cathedral (open every day from 9. 00 am to 8. 00 pm., not included) and stroll along the Aura River up to the port to catch a glimpse of the old buildings and the castle (open from 10. 00 am to 6. 00 pm, except on Mondays, not included). Turku is the oldest city in the country. In the past, it was a cultural, religious and academic hub. Nowadays, its commercial port and naval industry are the principal source of income. A number of traditional wooden houses can still be seen in Turku, but most of the city is dominated by tall buildings. It underwent some strict urban redevelopment in the 1960s that consisted of the demolition of many of these houses for the benefit of more modern and practical buildings that could accommodate more people. It's what is nicknamed the 'Disease of Turku' (Turun tauti). If you have time, take a look around Luostarinmäki, an open-air museum with seventeenth-century houses that survived the Great Fire of Turku in 1827. The pocket-sized town of Naantali is located some thirty kilometres from Turku. It's a popular local destination thanks to its well-preserved traditional Finnish houses, its sea views and the famous Moomin theme park. The Moomins are fictional characters from the books by Finnish writer Tove Jansson. (Note: this small theme park is only open during the summer months between 10. 00 am and 6. 00 pm. Tickets are around 30 euros). Don't expect roller coasters or anything like that, just simple attractions in the midst of nature that will delight the little ones. In the port area of Naantali there are many restaurants where you can have a bite to eat and glimpse the president's summer residence in the distance. Return and overnight stay in Turku.

● DAY 5 · TURKU - NAGU - TURKU

Today, we suggest visiting the huge archipelago off southwestern Finland and exploring some of its tiny islands. This circular route is known as the short archipelago trail. The journey is by both road and sea. If you wish (and the car rental company allows it), you can embark your car on the ferries. Nagu is only 50 kilometres from Turku, but it will take you about an hour and a half to get there. To start, drive to Kaarina and cross the bridge to reach the island of Kuusisto, where you can visit the ruins of the castle. Take the ferry in Lillmälö (these boats are free and set sail very frequently, approximately every 15 minutes). After a brief ten-minute crossing, continue by car to the main town of Nagu. This is a natural paradise with breathtaking views. You can explore the island by car or take a ferry over to Seili. The island of Seili is known for its old hospital that once treated leprosy patients and for having been an attractive spot for seal hunters. Then it's time to catch the ferry from Nagu to Rymättylä and to the port of Hanka. This ferry is called Östern and costs 12 euros for the car, 7 euros for an adult and 3 euros for a child. It only sails three times a day. The last departure is at 3. 25 pm (Sundays at 4. 20 pm). From there, drive to Naantali and then to Turku to round off your day of travelling. Overnight stay in Turku.

● DAY 6 · TURKU - RAUMA - TAMPERE

Rauma is about 100 kilometres from Turku in a northerly direction. It's the town with the highest concentration of traditional Finnish wood houses, built as they were in ancient Nordic cities. Despite the damage caused by fires in the seventeenth century, Rauma has managed to retain its architectural heritage. The old town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is well worth seeing and you'll get some fantastic photos. After a brief stopover in Rauma, head for Tampere, approximately 150 kilometres away. Tampere is the second largest city in the country and is famous for its industrial past. One of the must-visits in Tampere are the Tammerkoski rapids that cross the city and divide it into two parts, as it is built on a neck of land between two lakes, those of Näsijärvi and Pyhäjärvi. Its banks form the backdrop of the industrial buildings and ancient promontories, with fantastic views of the lakes, which has allowed Tampere to keep its small-town charm despite having a quarter of a million inhabitants. Among its many attractions, the capital of the Pirkanmaa region is home to the second most popular amusement park in Finland with more than one million visitors each year, the Särkänniemi, which, in addition to its 33 rides, boasts an aquarium, a planetarium, a petting zoo, a dolphinarium and an art museum. The park is also home to "Näsinneula", Scandinavia's highest observation tower at 168 metres, which, besides offering an incredible view of the area, also has a revolving restaurant and a cafeteria called "Pilvilinna", famous for its delicious doughnuts. (Note: Check the websites for prices and schedules. Not included). In Tampere you can also visit one of last museums in the world, and the only one outside Russia, devoted to Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, who gave a speech there in August 1905 before meeting for the first time his successor, Joseph Stalin (Hämeenpuisto, 28). The city has also always offered a wide cultural offering, as seen with the Vapriikki Museum Centre, the Shoe Museum, the Art Museum, Tampere Cathedral, the "Metso" (Capercaillie) Library, Kaleva Church and the City Hall. (Note: Not included). Finns are so fond of sausages that they have even come to be called "the national vegetable of Finland" and even use it as a garnish. Tampere is the capital of this culinary delight thanks to its famous "mustamakkara" or black sausage, whose ingredients are pork, pork blood, powdered rye and flour. It can be found at any of the city's street markets; it is usually fried or grilled, served with lingonberry jam and washed down with milk. You can not leave Tampere without trying it! Overnight stay in Tampere.

● DAY 7 · TAMPERE - HäMEENLINNA - HELSINKI

From Tampere, drive the eighty kilometres or so to Hämeenlinna. Visit its famous castle, saunter around its streets and admire the laid-back beauty of this town. Hämeenlinna is also the birthplace of the composer and violinist from the late Romantic period, Jean Sibelius. Another attraction here is the stunning medieval fortress, one of Finland's top tourist attractions. The Häme Castle (Hämeen linna, in Finnish) stands on the shores of Lake Vanajavesi and has been one of the most iconic images of Southern Finland since the 13th century. In actual fact, the castle and its surroundings are considered one of the most beautiful views in Finland. Then drive for 100 kilometres to Helsinki, where you'll spend the night before your trip home. There are certain things you should do before leaving Finland. For example, you simply have to go to a sauna. If you can combine a visit to a sauna with a swim in a lake, then you're guaranteed a unique experience. You should also buy some local designer goods. Finland is home to highly reputed brands such as Iittala or Marimekko. The latter was one of Jackie Kennedy's favourites. Also, make sure you try some traditional Finnish food such as reindeer meat, pea soup or herring with potatoes. Overnight stay in Helsinki.

● DAY 8 · HELSINKI - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ✓ Return flight. | ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Helsinki. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Helsinki. |
| ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Turku. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Turku. | ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Tampere. |
| ✓ Selected meal plan in Tampere. | ✓ Rent-a-car. | |

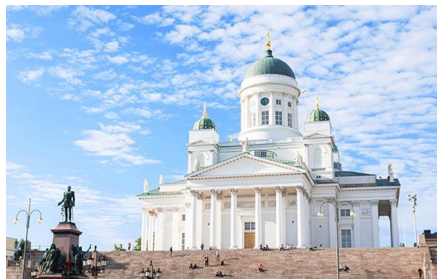
Your trip doesn't include

✕ Possible toll charges.

✕ Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Helsinki



Porvoo



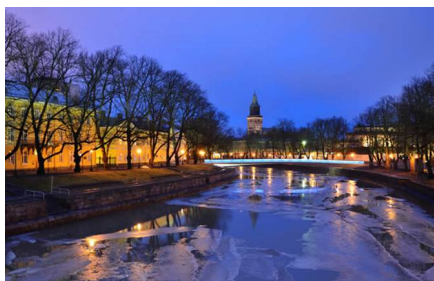
Forssa



Tammela



Turku



Naantali



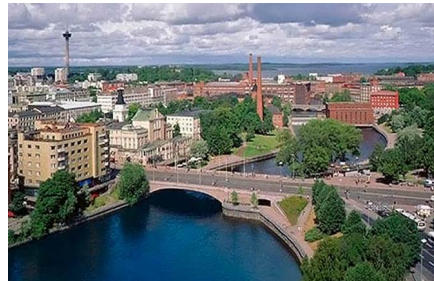
Nagu



Rauma



Tampere



Hameenlinna



Important remarks

- Take advantage at the first hour of the day to get the 'Helsinki Card' from one of the following sales points: Strömman Finland, at Pohjoisesplanadi street 19, near Esplanadi Park (from 9:00 a. m. to 4:00 p. m.), or at 24-hour collection points, such as Helsinki-Vantaa Airport Airpro Travel Service (T2 ground floor) or at the Hotel Seurahuone Helsinki (Kaivokatu, 12). This will give you free access to 28 museums, tours and tourist attractions in the city. We recommend purchasing the 24-hour option in order to get the most out of the time set aside for discovering the charms of the Finnish capital. This tourist card costs 48 euro for adults and 24 euro for children

from 7 to 16 years old. It can also be purchased on the Internet.

- Driving in Finland: 1. It is compulsory to drive vehicles with headlights on at all times, even on the brightest summer's day. 2. Road speed limits. 2. 1 Residential areas up to 30 km/h. 2. 2 Urban areas up to 50 km/h. 2. 3 Single carriageways up to 80 km/h. 2. 4 Dual carriageways (highways) and motorways up to 120 km/h. 2. 5 In winter, the general speed limit is reduced to 80 km/h. 3. In the winter months, winter tyres with or without spikes, chains or similar should be used. 4. A red warning triangle and a reflective yellow vest must always be carried in the car in the event of breakdown or accident. 5. Alcohol consumption. The legal limit is 20 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood. There are severe penalties for drivers that exceed the allowed limit. 6. There are few toll booths in Finland, almost all are automatic. All drivers, regardless of nationality, have to pay at Finnish toll booths. 7. After filling up with fuel, Finns move their cars to the side before going into the petrol station to pay.

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far the possible.

- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.

- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.

- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.

- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.

- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.

- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.

- Suggested round-trip ferry rides are optional and not included in the final price. If you intend to take the car on a ferry, please let the rental company know at the time of pick-up to receive authorisation. Depending on the conditions agreed to in the rental contract and the company you choose, you might be charged a fee payable at the destination.