

Monday 20.10.

Helsinki City Tour

Duration: 2 hours

Leaving the at the Marina Congress Center 14:00 we take in Helsinki's elegant neo-Classical centre, much of it based on the former Russian capital, St Petersburg. We stop at the monumental Senate Square, the heart of the city, designed by Carl Engels and overlooked by the blue-domed Lutheran Cathedral. Leaving this area, we drive to the colourful Market Square with its stalls of fruit, vegetables, flowers, fish and handicrafts, we pass the Presidential Palace and the Russian Orthodox Uspenski Cathedral.



We then drive along the fashionable Esplanadi, past the Parliament building and Finlandia Hall, designed by the famous architect Alvar Aalto, and on to the Opera House. Opened in spring 1993, this building shows modern Finnish architecture at its best, followed by the Olympic Stadium.

After that we visit Sibelius Park, home to the famous unique steel sculpture that was erected to commemorate the life of renowned Finnish composer, Jean Sibelius. We stop en route at the Temppeliaukio Church, the Church in the Rock. Carved into solid rock and capped with a copper dome, this unique building is one of the highlights of the city. We hope to enter the church if it is not in use. Then, on our return to your hotel we also see the green Kaivopuisto Park set by the sea.

Price: 32 EUR /person, minimum 30 persons per departure, if less price will be higher.

Price includes:

- High quality private bus
- Professional guide, English and French
- Collection from and return to Marina Congress Center
- Hostess at the point of departure coordinating and making sure everyone goes in the correct bus

Monday 20.10.

Architectural Tour combined with Helsinki sightseeing tour

Duration: 3 hours 09.00- 12.00

During this tour you will hear about some of the Alvar Aalto buildings, such as Finlandia Concert Hall, Enso-Gutzeit, Nordic Union Headquarters, Academic bookstore, Rauta talo building, Pensions institute building.

Architect Alvar Aalto (1898-1976) was born at the right time: a boy who built elaborate snow castles in the Grand Duchy under imperial Russian rule became the head designer for the republic to the fate of which his life was deeply intertwined. It is essential to note the connection between Aalto's architecture and the resulting socioeconomic and political state of Finland in the twentieth century. Aalto demonstrated how Finland was striving for a unique blend of cooperative individuality. The overall message of Aalto's ideas for housing planning was that he dreaded the waste of badly planned communities and the consequences of housing booms. His response was to create a "growing house" capable of adapting and enlarging much like a biological cell, while utilizing the prefabrication technology of advanced construction techniques and standardization. Towards the end of Aalto's career, his role as the designated national architect of Finland led him to design culturally and historically significant projects, such as Finlandia Hall (1967-1971). This cultural center, a worthy and appropriately monumental climax to a long career, was constructed in a park in Helsinki overlooking lake Toolo. The classic repose of the overall forms is emphasized by the geometric exterior being covered entirely in white marble.

We take in Helsinki's elegant neo-Classical centre, much of it based on the then Russian capital, St Petersburg. We pass the Senate Square, the heart of the city, designed by Carl Engels and overlooked by the blue-domed Lutheran Cathedral. We then drive along the fashionable Esplanadi, past the Alvar Aalto designed Academic bookstore, the Parliament building and stop at the Finlandia Hall, which is an example of Aalto's monumental side, while the National Pensions Building and the House of Culture reveal his liberal, socially broad-minded attitude. After that we pass the Sibelius Park, home to the famous unique steel sculpture that was erected to commemorate the life of renowned Finnish composer, Jean Sibelius. We stop en route at the Temppeliaukio Church, the Church in the Rock. Carved into solid rock and capped with a copper dome, this unique building is one of the highlights of the city. We hope to enter the church if it is not in use. We also see the following Alvar Aalto buildings such as Enso-Gutzeit, Nordic Union Headquarters The House of Culture, Rauta talo building, Pensions institute building.

(Finlandia Hall exterior visit of building only)

Price: 42 EUR / person, minimum 30 persons per departure, if less price will be higher.

Price includes:

- High quality private bus
- Professional guide, English and French
- Collection from and return to Marina Congress Centre
- hostess at the point of departure coordinating and making sure everyone goes in the correct bu

Monday 20.10.

Helsinki and the Old wooden City of Porvoo tour

Duration:4 hours 09.00- 13.00

We begin our excursion with a drive to the Senate Square and continue along Esplanadi, taking in Market Square - a must for every visitor - and past the Parliament building and Finlandia Hall designed by Alvar Aalto. Next we see Sibelius Park, home to a unique sculpture commemorating the Finnish national composer, Jean Sibelius. We then visit one of Europe's most unusual churches, Temppeliaukio Church, carved into solid rock and topped with a copper dome. We hope to briefly enter the church if it is not in use.

After an enjoyable scenic drive through the countryside we arrive at the idyllic town of Porvoo, Finland's second oldest town. We take a short stroll in the Old Town, visiting the Mediaeval Church and Town Hall Square. We will enjoy a cup of coffee and there will be a short time left for shopping before we rejoin the coach for our transfer back to Helsinki.

Please note Although only some walking is involved in this tour, you are recommended to wear comfortable walking shoes because of the cobbled streets in Porvoo.

Price: 65 EUR / person, minimum 30 persons per departure, if less price will be higher.

Price includes:

- High quality private bus
- Professional guide English speaking
- Cup of coffee in Porvoo
- hostess at the point of departure coordinating, making sure everyone goes in the correct bus

Price only includes cup of coffee or tea in Porvoo, no extras or other non or alcoholic beverages



Monday 20.10.

Finnish design and lunch at berry vineyard

Duration: 6 hours 09.00 – 15.00

We leave Helsinki towards the Iittala Glass Centre. The museum, exhibitions, small boutiques and shops of the Iittala glass factory will be visited. In the Factory Museum we can see some of the masterpieces of Finnish glass design and learn about the designers. The glass industry has traditionally been a strong sector of Finnish expertise. A small handicrafts village has grown up beside Iittala Glass Factory, so we can spend a short time in specialist boutiques selling honey, chocolates, Aarikka wooden jewellery and a lot of other goodies.

Another half hour's drive before we are arriving at our next destination. This gives us enough time to digest the experiences of a perfect day. Our journey continues to the Vineyard, where we have a light lunch. We will also hear on a brief guided tour of the vineyard how here in the north excellent wine is made from local berries and fruits. Everyone can enjoy a glass of this berry wine during the tour.

Price: 120 EUR / person minimum 30 persons per departure if less price will be higher.

Price includes:

- Bus transportations to the Iittala factory, the vineyard and back to Helsinki
- Professional guide English speaking
- Guided tour to the Glass Museum
- Entrance fees to Iittala Glass Centre and museum
- Light lunch at vineyard
- Glass of berry wine during tour at the vineyard
- Hostess at the point of departure making sure everyone goes in the correct bus
- Extra-charge for Sunday

The price does not include: non-alcoholic or alcoholic beverages during lunch.

