



Learning Scoop

TOURISTIC TIPS

LANGUAGE

Finland is officially bilingual: Finnish is the first language of 92% and Swedish of 5.5% of the population. About 1,700 people in Lapland speak Sami (Lapp) language.

Swedish-speaking Finns, of whom there are about 300,000, are mainly along the coast of the south and the south-west archipelago and along the shore of the Gulf of Bothnia to the west. Swedish is the official language on the Åland Islands.

Finnish is the mother tongue of only about five million people in the world, so being able to speak foreign languages is essential for Finns. This is an advantage for foreign visitors, because many Finns speak English, German or some other European language.

Finnish has a reputation for being a difficult language, with many declensions and long words. You don't have to learn how to pronounce these words, but to help you get started, here's the word for hello: "Hei". If you want to be cool, you can say "Moi." After a delicious dinner, it's always polite to say "kiitos", pronounced "keetos".

CITY OF TAMPERE

When in Tampere, get the best of your experiences with the help of the [Visit Tampere](#) website, where you find a comprehensive overview of the City's life. Look for "What's on?" ideas not to miss any single opportunity to discover, enjoy and fall in love with Tampere.

Tampere is the third largest city in Finland and the largest inland center in the Nordic countries. Currently there are 231,853 inhabitants in Tampere, and close to half a million inhabitants in Tampere Region, which comprises Tampere and its neighboring municipalities. The City is located between two big lakes Pyhäjärvi and Näsijärvi. The Tammerkoski rapids run through the city. There are 200 lakes and ponds in Tampere, and a total of 450 in the entire region.

The City of Tampere was established by King of Sweden Gustav III in 1779, on the bank of The Tammerkoski rapids.

Tampere has been an industrial pioneer in Finland since the very beginning. Tampere is home to Finland's first paper mill started operation in 1783, and the first paper machine was engaged at the J.C. Frenckell & Son's factory in 1842. The cotton factory established in 1820 by James Finlayson grew to become the country's first large-scale industrial establishment. The first electric light in the Nordic countries was also lit in Finlayson's modern production facilities in 1882. By the beginning of the 20th century, Tampere was the largest industrial city in Finland.

Tampere is still the centre of Finnish industry today. Versatile research and education and cooperation between companies and universities ([Tampere University](#), [Tampere University of Applied Sciences](#)) have maintained and further developed the competitiveness of the region's industry.

MAP AND TAMPERE CITY GUIDE

Find the Visit Tampere maps that you can download on your mobile phone as a pdf, or print out [here](#).

You may also find useful free of charge mobile application CITY-OPAS Tampere & Region tourist map & services to guide you anywhere, anytime, whenever you need. CITY-OPAS can be downloaded from [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#). Once the app is downloaded, it requires no internet connection; the user therefore doesn't have to worry about roaming charges. The user can go online, if they so wish, to browse companies' homepages, or to see where they are located on the map. The app warns users in advance about situations like these, where internet is required.

Get to know Tampere history with a mobile application of Tampere's Central Square, which explains it's journey and development from 1600's to this day. You can find the app [here!](#)

ATTRACTION PLACES

Urban nature

Tampere is an ideal destination for anyone who appreciates the nature and the outdoors. One fifth of our city consists of green areas, such as [parks](#), [park areas](#), [gardens and camping areas](#), and forests.

Walking tours are always a win-win, you'll see interesting sights, get to enjoy the nature and get some exercise on the side. Visit Tampere webpage serves the best details for this. You could also rent a bicycle and explore the city, or pack your rucksack and set off to the magical forests of [Helvetinjärvi](#) and [Seitsemien](#) national parks in the Tampere region.

Museums

Tampere has a good selection of interesting museums – everyone can find their favourite [here!](#)

There are a few “musts” on the list for any visitor in the city of Tampere and Tampere region. 1) [Museum Centre Vapriikki](#) is a home to the Natural History Museum of Tampere, the Media Museum Rupriikki, the Mineral Museum, the Finnish Hockey Hall of Fame, the Doll Museum, Postal Museum and The Finnish Museum of Games. 2) The world's only [Moomin Museum](#) is located just nearby the Tampere university campus area. The Moomin's stories and characters are created by the world-famous Finnish children's writer Tove Jansson. The museum hosts the rich exhibition presented in several languages. Moomin souvenirs and books can be found in [Tampere Hall Shop](#). 3) [Sara Hildén Art Museum](#) is a permanent home of modern art, Finnish and foreign. In addition to the museum's own collection, it presents changing exhibitions by renowned international visitors like Ron Mueck and Robert Longo. The museum is located in Särkänniemi amusement park.

Amusement and adventure

[Särkänniemi amusement park](#) hosts Näsinneula Observation Tower that provides you with a magnificent view over the city of Tampere and its neighbourhoods on a clear day, Planetarium, various Rides, Restaurants, Cafeteria and Shops.

Varala [Flow Park](#) is an ecological adventure park where you can push the limits and test your courage.

Sauna

In Tampere, the only problem for sauna enthusiasts is picking your favourite public sauna. Choose the soft heat of the oldest public sauna in Finland, or the atmospheric warmth of the country's newest public sauna – or anything from between. With 35 public saunas, Tampere is undoubtedly the Sauna Capital of the World! Find a guide to Finnish sauna on [youtube](#).

Here are a few sauna options to consider:

- [Rajaportin sauna](#), ◦ [Rauhaniemen sauna](#), ◦ [Kaupinojan sauna](#), ◦ [Kaukajärven sauna](#), ◦ [Suomensaaren sauna](#), ◦ [Sauna Restaurant Kuuma](#), ◦ [Tullin sauna](#).

EAT & DRINK

Food culture

Hungry? Not for long! The food culture of Tampere is versatile and highly valued. One can enjoy a meal to any taste found in a fast food restaurant and salad bar, in a high-class restaurant, or anything in between.

Eat local

Eating local foods is a climate friendly way of familiarizing yourself with new cities and cultures. Enjoy foods you won't find anywhere else or take one step further towards green living and give a try to one of Tampere's vegetarian restaurants.

Local delicacies are a few. The blood sausage, "mustamakkara" as we call it, is a definite must when you're in Tampere! It tastes the best when enjoyed at [Laukontori](#) or [Tammelantori](#) market squares, fresh out of the kiosk with lingonberry jam on the side and some cold milk. You can also find mustamakkara at [the Market Hall](#) (Kauppahalli) on the main street, along with many other local delicacies such as local barley bread "riävä", and fresh fish from local lakes. Hot wings at the restaurant [SiipiWeikot](#) and the doughnuts at the Pyynikki Observation Tower [Cafeteria](#).

Tipping

Tipping culture is almost non-existent in Finland, although it has become more common recently. Service charges are included in hotel room rates, restaurant and taxi prices, so tips are not expected, but can be given if you think the service has been especially good.