



WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN FINLAND



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World
Heritage
in Finland



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There are currently seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Finland. Six of them are cultural heritage sites and one is a natural heritage site. Each of the sites represents outstanding, universally valuable cultural or natural heritage.

www.maailmanperinto.fi/en

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SUOMENLINNA
IMAGE: ARTTU KOKKONEN



MUSTAVIIRI, STRUVE GEODETIC ARC
IMAGE: SIRKKA IMAGE

WORLD HERITAGE – OUR COMMON TREASURE

WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

The World Heritage Convention is an international convention on the protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage sites adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1972.

The purpose of the World Heritage Convention is to indicate and ensure the value and conservation of the world's most essential cultural and natural heritage sites. World Heritage is considered to be the property of all of humankind, and everyone is responsible for conserving it for future generations.

States that have ratified the convention can nominate sites to be added to the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee, which consists of 21 member states, makes decisions regarding which sites are added to the list. Finland ratified the World Heritage Convention in 1987.



SUOMENLINNA
IMAGE: AINO HEININEN

OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

All World Heritage Sites are of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), either cultural or natural, which is the basic requirement for becoming a World Heritage Site.

The Outstanding Universal Value represents the unique significance of UNESCO World Heritage Sites that surpasses established international borders. Sites must contain all the elements that display their Outstanding Universal Value in as intact and unaltered form as possible within their individual context.

WORLD HERITAGE LIST

The World Heritage List consists of various cultural and natural sites and their combinations. In total, there are more than a thousand sites all over the world. Some sites are located in an area that crosses one or more borders. The list is balanced by focusing on underrepresented geographic areas and themes, such as 20th century architecture, cultural landscapes and industrial sites.

In order to become listed, the site must fulfil certain criteria. Cultural heritage sites can represent

a masterpiece of human creative genius, bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilisation which is living or which has disappeared, be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape. Cultural heritage sites may also be an example of a traditional human settlement, land-use or sea-use which is representative of a culture or human interaction with the environment.

Natural heritage sites must contain areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance, be an outstanding example representing major stages of the Earth's history, be an outstanding example representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes and contain natural habitats of threatened species.

If the site is under threat, for example, due to an armed conflict, a natural disaster, uncontrolled tourism or construction work performed on the site or in its immediate vicinity, it can be added to the List of World Heritage in danger. If the site loses a key characteristic which was considered to be a precondition for being designated as a World Heritage Site, it can be removed from the list.

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted in

2003 and ratified by Finland in 2013. Intangible living cultural heritage may include oral tradition, performing arts, ceremonies, crafts, culinary heritage and information and skills related to the local environment. The convention highlights the importance of traditions, cultural diversity and the significance of people in the context of cultural heritage. Communities have an irreplaceable role in identifying and defining intangible cultural heritage.



OLD RAUMA
IMAGE: CITY OF RAUMA

IMAGE: ARTTIS KOKKONEN



FORTRESS OF SUOMENLINNA

The **Fortress of Suomenlinna** was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1991 as a unique monument of the European fortress architecture of the 18th century. The special feature of the unconventional bastion fort is that, in the course of its history, it has served in the defence of three realms: Sweden, Russia and Finland.

FROM VIAPORI TO SUOMENLINNA

The construction of the fortress began in 1748, under Swedish rule and the supervision of August Ehrensvärd. The purpose of the fortress was to act as a naval base and defend the mainland. The fortress was named Sveaborg, which was translated into Finnish as Viapori. In 1808, Sveaborg surrendered to Russian troops, and it became a Russian military base and garrison town. In 1855, the fortress was badly damaged in the Crimean war.

The fortress received its current name, Suomenlinna, in 1918. Finland had become independent a year before. The fortress was placed under civilian administration in 1973. Suomenlinna is now a living district of Helsinki with about 800 inhabitants.



IMAGE: SUPER OTUS

IMAGE: ANO HEININEN



ONE OF FINLAND'S MOST POPULAR SITES

The ferry trip to the fortress of Suomenlinna from Helsinki Market Square takes about 15 minutes. There are approximately 200 buildings in an area of 80 hectares on the eight islands of the Suomenlinna district. The fortress boasts about 6 kilometres of walls and 105 cannons.

The fortress is one of Finland's most popular tourist sites with approximately one million visitors every year. Suomenlinna's services are available throughout the year. Events and guided tours are arranged all year round.

www.suomenlinna.fi/en



IMAGE: CITY OF RAUMA



OLD RAUMA

Old Rauma was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1991 as the largest contiguous wooden town area in the Nordics. Its authenticity is based on its well-preserved historic building stock, including the medieval street networks and a vibrant community.

HEART OF THE TOWN

Old Rauma is a historical area of architecture, and its narrow streets are lined with buildings constructed as early as in the 18th century. The area currently known as Old Rauma was established slowly after the fire in 1682.

The town of Rauma did not expand outside the Old Rauma area before the beginning of the 20th century. The World Heritage Site at the centre of the town remains the beating heart of the town.

"KYL RAUM O AIN RAUM" (‘RAUMA WILL ALWAYS BE RAUMA’)

The Old Rauma area currently provides homes for 800 people in a historical setting. There are

more than 600 buildings in an area of 29 hectares in Old Rauma, most of which are owned by private persons.

The Old Rauma wooden town area offers a variety of services for locals and tourists alike. Commerce and services are concentrated around the market square and the two main streets. A variety of stores, cafés and restaurants and ateliers can be found there.

The Old Rauma area has a variety of attractions, such as museums and the medieval stone church, Church of the Holy Cross. Approximately half a million tourists visit the site every year.

www.vanharauma.fi/en



IMAGE: CITY OF RAUMA



IMAGE: ANNE KALLIOLA



PETÄJÄVESI OLD CHURCH

Petäjävesi Old Church was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1994. Petäjävesi Old Church exemplifies how local master builders skillfully adapted the styles of European ecclesiastical architecture to the vernacular technique of log jointing at the far reaches of the influence of Lutheranism and Western culture.

FOUR CENTURIES OF FINNISH FOLKLORE

The Petäjävesi Old Church, built by the peasants of Central Finland in 1763–1765, is a masterpiece of woodcarving, and the greatest emotions one can experience are concealed within it. The old church is dear to the residents of Petäjävesi, and it is an enchanting attraction for thousands of visitors every year. The outstanding architectural and engineering value of the church are apparent inside the church, as the interior decoration of the church is almost completely original.

The story of the cross-shaped church is representative of Finnish obstinance and the architectural tradition of wooden churches in the Nordics and a unique example of traditional log construction techniques. Although Finland was under Swedish rule at the time, the construction work was carried out according to the plans of the master church builder Jaakko Klemetinpoika Leppänen instead of waiting for a building permit or a floor plan from Sweden. The belfry was built in 1821. In 1879, a new church was built on the other side of a nearby strait and the Old Church went out of use. The Old Church has been preserved as a monument since the 1920s.



ANNE KALLIOLA



IMAGE: ANNE KALLIOLA

MASTERPIECE OF PEASANTS

Petäjävesi Old Church is located in the municipality of Petäjävesi, approximately 30 kilometres from Jyväskylä. The church is used to hold services and concerts in summer, when it is open every day. In winter, people may visit the church by booking their visit in advance. Approximately 14,000 people visit the church every year.

www.petajavesioldchurch.fi/?lang=en



IMAGE: LASSI KUJALA



VERLA GROUNDWOOD AND BOARD MILL

The Verla Groundwood and Board Mill was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1996 as a well-preserved example of the small-scale rural industrial settlement that flourished in Northern Europe and North America in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

EARLY PHASES OF FINNISH FORESTRY

The Verla groundwood mill was first used in 1872. The current building stock was constructed at the turn of the 20th century. The Verla landscape is still dominated by the manor-like residence of the mill manager and its beautiful gardens. The mills remained operational with conventional methods until 1964, and the mill museum, opened in 1972, was the first of its kind in Finland.

Within its rural setting, the industrial village of Verla area includes a groundwood and a board mill, a hydroelectric power plant on the Verlankoski river and apartments occupied by workers. Only a handful of similar settlements survive to the present day. Even the installations and machinery of the mills have retained their original locations.



IMAGE: KRISTA KETANEN



IMAGE: KRISTA KETANEN

TIME STANDS STILL IN THE MILL MUSEUM

The Verla Groundwood and Board Mill is located in Northern Kymenlaakso, approximately 30 kilometres from the city centre of Kouvola. The cultural heritage site of Verla has about 50 buildings in an area of more than 10 hectares. Prehistoric rock paintings can be seen in the rocks above the Verlankoski rapids.

Approximately 40,000 people visit the Verla World Heritage Site every year. In summer, visitors can learn more about the process of manufacturing board and the stories of the Verla mill museum in guided tours. Verla is owned by UPM-Kymmene Oyj. Only a handful of World Heritage Sites are owned by companies.

www.verla.fi/en



SAMMALLAHDEN- MÄKI BRONZE AGE BURIAL SITE

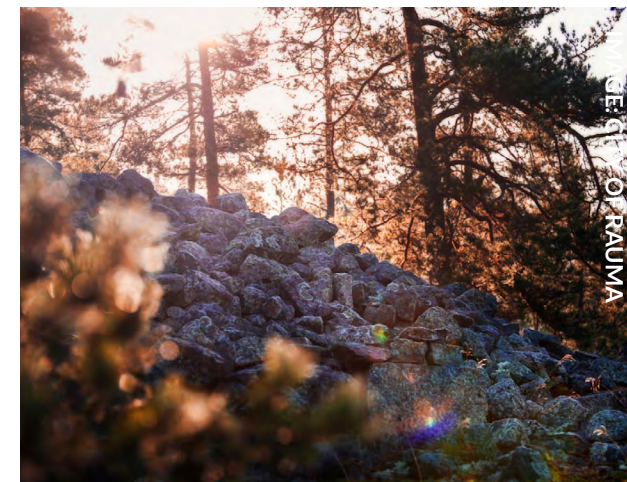
The **Sammallahdenmäki Bronze Age Burial Site** was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1999. The cemetery exemplifies the religion and burial rites of the community that occupied Scandinavia in the Bronze Age and early Iron Age. The burial cairns in the rugged, rocky landscape provide an excellent example of the monumental architecture of the Bronze Age.

MONUMENTS OF THE BRONZE AGE

Sammallahdenmäki is the first archaeological site in Finland to be included in the World Heritage List. A total of 36 cairns are located in the area.

The first archaeological studies in Sammallahdenmäki were conducted in 1891, in which four cairns were discovered, including the quadrangular, low cairn known as the “Church Floor” and the wall-like formation known as the “Long Ruin of Huilu”. In 2002, eight of the cairns in Sammallahdenmäki were studied, and six of them were found to contain burnt human bones. This indicates that the cairns were used for cremation.

The site was located on the coast in the prehistoric era. Due to post-glacial rebound, the coastline has receded further away from the site. Today, the oldest cairns in the north are located on a rock that is almost 40 metres high. An approximately 1.5 kilometre path equipped with signs goes around the area down to lake Saarnijärvi.



THE HISTORY OF THE BRONZE AGE AND THE NATURAL ENVI- RONMENT FORM A VALUABLE WHOLE

The Sammallahdenmäki World Heritage Site is located approximately 20 kilometres from the city centre of Rauma. Approximately 10,000 tourists visit Sammallahdenmäki every year. The burial cairn site can be accessed for free throughout the year, and guided tours in the area are arranged in the summer.

www.sammallahdenmaki.fi/en



STRUVE GEODETIC ARC

The Struve Geodetic Arc was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2005 as an example of the scientific, technological and cultural heritage of its era.



THE EARTH'S MEASURING TAPE

The Struve Geodetic Arc is named after the German astronomer Friedrich George Wilhelm Struve, who created the chain in the early 19th century. He attempted to determine the shape and size of the Earth with the method of triangulation. Triangulation is based on the observations made of the angles of the network of triangles, which is helpful in surveying areas. GPS devices have since replaced the traditional method of triangulation.

The Struve Geodetic Arc is 2,820 kilometres long, and it reaches from the coast of the Arctic Ocean to the Black Sea. The arc consists of 34 original station points, 258 main triangles and 265 main station points from Norway to Ukraine through ten countries (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine). The cross-border Struve Geodetic Arc is the first World Heritage Site to span this many countries.



ALATORNIO CHURCH
IMAGE: SIRKKA IMAGE

Six of the station points on the World Heritage List are located in Finland. These include the Stuurrahanoaivi point in Enontekiö (completed in 1850), Aavasaksa point in Ylitornio (1845), Alatornio Church (1842), Oravivuori point in Jyväskylä (1834), Porlammi point in Myrskylä (1833) and the Mustaviiri point in Pyhtää (1833).

www.maanmittauslaitos.fi/en/struvegeodeticarc



ORAVIVUORI
IMAGE: SIRKKA IMAGE



IMAGE: CHRISTOFFER BJÖRKLUND



KVARKEN ARCHIPELAGO

The **Kvarken Archipelago** was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2006 as the first, and, so far the only, natural heritage site in Finland. As a result of post-glacial rebound, the site provides a unique example of constantly changing natural environment to which biotopes, flora and fauna have adapted.

CONSTANTLY CHANGING LANDSCAPE

The Kvarken Archipelago and the High Coast in Sweden, which was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2000, form a World Heritage Site shared by two countries. The rare de Geer moraines of the shallow water off the coast of Finland and the steep rocky shores in Sweden represent the geological process of post-glacial rebound caused by the Last Glacial Period, which ended approximately 10,500 years ago.

The continental ice sheet was as thick as three kilometres, and it pushed the Earth's crust down by approximately one kilometre. Its impact created rocky moraine ridges and massive boulder fields in the Kvarken Archipelago. As the sheet melted, the Earth's surface began to rise from the sea, which is an ongoing process. The current rate of post-glacial rebound in the Kvarken Archipelago is approximately 8 mm per year.



HIGH COAST IN SWEDEN
IMAGE: FABIOLA DE GRAAF

IDYLIC LIFE IN THE ARCHIPELAGO

Approximately 350,000 people visit the Kvarken Archipelago World Heritage Site every year. The World Heritage Site and its attractions are open to tourists throughout the year. The area has a variety of tourist services, such as restaurants, cafés as well as event and accommodation services. Some of these services are available all year round.

www.kvarken.fi/en



SVEDJEHAMN
IMAGE: KENTH NEDERGÅRD



WWW.MAILMANPERINTO.FI/EN

Front cover images

Petäjävesi Old Church, image: Anne Kalliola
Old Rauma, image: City of Rauma
Kvarken Archipelago, image: Tuija Waren
Verla Groundwood and Board Mill,
image: Lassi Kujala

Back cover image

Suomenlinna, image: Super Otus

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