OUR SHARED WORLD HERITAGE

NATIONAL BOARD OF ANTIQUITIES

SUOMEN KULTTUURIPERINTÖ-KASVATUKSEN SEURA

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

World Heritage in Finland

WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

Our shared cultural and natural heritage is protected under various laws and conventions. One of the main international conventions for protecting the world's cultural and natural heritage is the World Heritage Convention. **The purpose of the World Heritage Convention is to identify the world's key cultural and natural heritage sites and ensure their preservation.** The convention was prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The convention was adopted in 1972 and ratified in Finland in 1987.

The cooperation established as a result of the convention helps us save and restore important cultural and natural heritage across the world. **The most visible parts of the convention are the world heritage sites listed in the World Heritage List.** The World Heritage List includes cultural heritage sites, natural heritage sites and combinations of these. There are approximately one thousand sites across the world. Of these, cultural sites account for almost 80% and natural sites for approximately 20%.

Each country is responsible for their own sites, but UNESCO can provide assistance when necessary if the site is threatened. If a site is not looked after properly after it has been included in the World Heritage List, UNESCO may remove the site from the list. The removal of a site from the list is rare, but the site's status may be threatened by new buildings in a protected landscape, for example. If the characteristics for which a site was included in the list change too much, its authenticity and genuineness are threatened. It is also important that sites retain the outstanding universal value determined for them.

Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay, France

TASK

- There are over one thousand world heritage sites in total. Some are large, well-known sites, while others are small. Can you find any sites you recognise on the map?
- Do you know of other world heritage sites?
- Have you ever visited a world heritage site?
- Which site would you absolutely like to visit?
- All world heritage sites are listed at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/

Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries - Wolong, Mt Siguniang and Jiajin Mountains, China

Göreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia, Turkey

WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

Taj Mahal, India

Old City of Sana'a, Yemen

Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur, Egypt

The Forth Bridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Stone Town of Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania

OUR SHARED WORLD HERITAGE

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Cultural and natural heritage exists all around us. It can refer to items stored in a museum, the built environment, the natural environment or stories that are passed on from generation to generation, for example. Heritage ties us to a time, place and other people. **Cultural and natural heritage also helps us find out more about the life and environment of people from times past.**

We are all responsible for our cultural and natural heritage. The biggest threats to the preservation of our heritage include wars, pollution and natural disasters. However, one of the biggest threats is people's disregard of the preservation of our shared heritage.

TASK

- Think about your own everyday environment, such as your own room or favourite place. What would you like to leave as a memento for future generations?
- What do you think future generations should know about us?
- All the things you chose are part of our heritage!

Share your thoughts with a friend!

WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN FINLAND

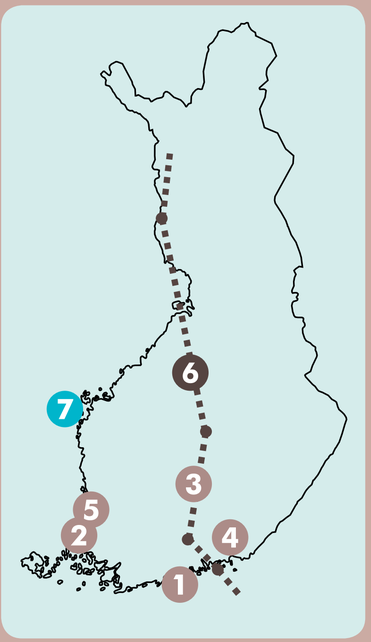
There are currently seven world heritage sites in Finland. The first Finnish sites were accepted into the World Heritage List in 1991.

The cultural heritage sites included in the list are:

1. The Fortress of Suomenlinna (1991)
2. Old Rauma (1991)
3. Petäjävesi Old Church (1994)
4. Verla Groundwood and Board Mill (1996)
5. The Bronze Age Burial Site of Sammallahdenmäki (1999)
6. The Struve Geodetic Arc (2005)

Finland currently has one **natural heritage site**:

7. The Kvarken Archipelago. (2006)



THE FORTRESS OF SUOMENLINNA

THE FORTRESS OF SUOMENLINNA

The construction of the Fortress of Suomenlinna, located off the coast of Helsinki, started in 1748. Suomenlinna was included in the World Heritage List in 1991.

Suomenlinna played a key role in the defence of three countries. The fortress has been a part of the history of Sweden, Russia and independent Finland. **Suomenlinna is particularly important due its architecture and landscape, which have retained their unique characteristics.**

The construction of this sea fortress was initiated by Sweden during a time when Finland was under Swedish rule. The aim was to fortify the defences against Russia. The fortress' design was assigned to Augustin Ehrensvärd. The fortress was named Sveaborg in Swedish and Viapori in Finnish. Conquering this mighty fortress was considered to be almost impossible. **However, the fortress surrendered following a siege by Russians during the Finnish War in 1808, and Viapori became an active Russian garrison.**

Finland gained possession of the fortress in 1918 after declaring its independence. The fortress was renamed Suomenlinna (lit. the Castle of Finland). After the Finnish Civil War of 1918, the fortress was used as a prison camp to imprison members of the Red Guard. During the Second World War (1939–41), Suomenlinna served as an important air defence centre and submarine base.

In 1973, the possession of Suomenlinna was transferred from military authorities to the civilian government. However, the island continues to house the Naval Academy. Suomenlinna is a living and versatile city district of Helsinki with residences, museums, a school, a day care centre, restaurants and a shipyard.

REASON FOR INCLUSION IN THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST:

In the history of military architecture, the Fortress of Suomenlinna is an outstanding example of general fortification principles of the 17th and 18th centuries, notably the bastion system, and also showcases individual characteristics.

Bastion system = a low and wide fortress that was mainly defended with cannons.

THE FORTRESS OF SUOMENLINNA

TASK

- Examine the accompanying images of Suomenlinna.
- Can you follow the line of the fortress' defensive wall?
- How do you think the fortress was defended in the past?
- Can you identify objects in the image that are related to the fortress' defence?

DID YOU KNOW?

- Suomenlinna is spread across eight islands.
- Suomenlinna covers a total area that is approximately the size of 112 football pitches.
- The island is permanently populated by approximately 800 people, and it houses almost 200 buildings.
- Suomenlinna has over six kilometres of defensive walls in total.
- The construction process was hard work. Many of the workers died of epidemics.
- The coast of the Gulf of Finland is dangerous, maze-like and rocky. Its defence therefore required knowledge and skill.

OLD RAUMA

OLD RAUMA

The Old Town district of Rauma was included in the World Heritage List in 1991. **Old Rauma is the most extensive preserved historic district of wooden houses in the Nordic countries.**

Old Rauma has formed into a dense city centre since the 17th century. **The city centre consists of the medieval Rauma and the blocks of buildings later added to it.** The built environment did not start expanding outside of Old Rauma until towards the end of the 19th century.

Old Rauma is made unique by its wooden buildings of various ages and streets, which are in part still situated in the same locations as they were in the Middle Ages. Similarly to many other cities, Old Rauma has also suffered several fires. In spite of this, old houses, yards and wooden buildings have been preserved in the area. The oldest houses date back to the 18th century. The buildings of various styles, built over the course of centuries, now form a diverse city of wooden buildings.

Old Rauma has been preserved as an intact whole throughout the ages. It continues to serve as the important centre of Rauma, forming the heart of the entire city. The area houses shops, a market place, a church, restaurants, cafes and museums. Many of the city's residents also reside in the old wooden houses. Old Rauma is a historic and living site.

REASON FOR INCLUSION IN THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST:

The town of Old Rauma constitutes one of the best preserved and most expansive examples of northern European architecture and urbanism.

Old Rauma is an outstanding example of a Nordic city constructed in wood, and acts as a witness to the history of traditional settlements in northern Europe.

OLD RAUMA

TASK

- Examine the photos taken of Old Rauma.
- Can you discern buildings of different styles?
- Which building materials can you find?
- Identify similarities and differences between the buildings!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Old Rauma covers a total area the size of approximately 40 football pitches.
- There are over 600 buildings in the area.
- Approximately 800 people live in the area.
- In 1550, King Gustav I of Sweden ordered the bourgeois of Rauma to relocate to the newly built City of Helsinki. However, the stubborn people of Rauma came back to build their own city after no more than a few years.

PETÄJÄVESI OLD CHURCH

PETÄJÄVESI OLD CHURCH

Located in Central Finland, Petäjävesi Old Church is **one of the most significant examples of wood construction in the Nordic countries.** It provides insight into the long tradition of Finnish **church design and timber construction** and the related expertise. The church was included in the World Heritage List in 1994.

The church was built in 1763–65, led by Jaakko Klemetinpoika Leppänen. Leppänen's grandson Erik Jaakonpoika Leppänen was in charge of the construction of the bell tower that was added in 1821. The church fell into disuse when a new church was built on the other side of the strait in 1879. **Renovation of the old church commenced in the 1920s.**

Petäjävesi Old Church is a cruciform church. **The church is particularly grand inside:** the high vaults, domes and the entire interior have been preserved almost in their original form. The church is an example of the way Finnish master builders adopted **Central European architectural trends** and applied them skilfully in traditional timber construction.

REASON FOR INCLUSION IN THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST:

Petäjävesi Old Church is an outstanding example of the architectural tradition of wooden churches in northern Europe.

PETÄJÄVESI OLD CHURCH

DID YOU KNOW?

- The church was built in just 35 days.
- After the church fell into disuse, it fell into decay. The roof rotted, the windows broke, the old wooden stairs caved in and the walls protruded out in places. Efforts to repair the church commenced gradually in the 1920s and continued for decades.
- People often arrived at the church via the nearby lake: by a boat when the lake was unfrozen and over the ice during winter.

TASK

- Examine these images of the church.
- What kinds of decorations can you find?
- How does the church differ from other churches you have seen?

VERLA GROUNDWOOD AND BOARD MILL

REASON FOR INCLUSION IN THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST:

The Verla Groundwood and Board Mill and its associated habitation are an outstanding and remarkably well preserved example of the small-scale rural industrial settlement associated with pulp, paper, and board production that flourished in northern Europe and North America in the 19th and early 20th centuries, of which only a handful survives to the present day.

VERLA GROUNDWOOD AND BOARD MILL

Located in Kouvola in the northern part of the Kymenlaakso region, Verla provides an insight into the early stages of the Finnish forest industry. It is an outstanding example of **a rural industry and housing in a factory setting.** The Verla Groundwood and Board Mill was included in the World Heritage List in 1996.

The history of the Verla Groundwood Mill dates back to 1872. **The groundwood mill produced mechanical pulp, i.e. groundwood, which was used in paper-making.** Verla's first groundwood mill was destroyed in a fire after a few years in operation. A new mill was built to replace it, and operations were restarted in 1882. **A board mill and a facility for drying cardboard sheets** were built in connection with the mill. The drying facility was also destroyed in a fire. It was replaced with a red brick building, and later the other buildings in the area were also walled with brick. The area also includes a residential and office building formerly used by the factory's property manager as well as workers' residential buildings. The scope of protection has recently been expanded to include a club house as well as buildings related to log floating and processing.

The Verla Mill Museum was opened in 1972. Visitors to the museum can find out more about **the various stages involved in the making of cardboard in an authentic mill setting.**

VERLA GROUNDWOOD AND BOARD MILL

DID YOU KNOW?

- Verla's white mechanical pulp board was manufactured in varying thicknesses until 1964.
- The cardboard was used in book covers and packaging cartons in particular.
- Verla's cardboard was exported to Russia and Central Europe, among other places.
- The largest prehistoric rock painting in the northern part of Kymenlaakso is located in the immediate vicinity of the Verla Mill.

TASK

- CONSIDER what types of workers the mill employed a hundred years ago.
- How does the factory work performed at Verla differ from modern mills?

SAMMALLAHDENMÄKI

REASON FOR INCLUSION IN THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST:

The Sammallahdenmäki cairn cemetery bears exceptional witness to the society of the Bronze Age of Scandinavia. The Sammallahdenmäki cemetery is an outstanding example of Bronze Age funerary practices in Scandinavia.

SAMMALLAHDEN-MÄKI

The Bronze Age Burial Site of Sammallahdenmäki is located in Rauma, in the former municipality of Lappi, and it was included in the World Heritage List in 1999. It is the first Finnish **archaeological site** to be chosen as a world heritage site. The burial site features signs and remnants of prehistoric life and housing. In this context, the prehistoric era refers to the era before the invention of writing systems. We obtain information on this era through archaeological excavations and studies.

The Bronze Age saw the establishment of the first villages and the beginning of permanent settlement in Finland. Sammallahdenmäki provides insight into the life of the community that lived in Western Finland in the Bronze Age and early Iron Age (1500 BC–50 AD). **The area provides insight into the beliefs and burial customs of people of the past.**

In the Bronze Age, Finns adopted a burial custom which entailed piling circles around the deceased person, who had been laid on the ground. **Large stones** were then piled on top of these circles to form **impressive mounds, i.e. cairns.** There are 36 burial cairns in Sammallahdenmäki. The area is the most extensive and diverse burial ground of a Bronze Age culture in the Gulf of Bothnia region.

What is unique about Sammallahdenmäki is the fact that its **landscape and environment have been preserved as authentic and undisturbed.** There are no roads, houses or power lines in the area. The burial cairns built with piles of rocks stand out against the backdrop of the rugged rocky landscape: low, round and small mounds, large heap-like cairns and rocks piled up in circles.

SAMMALLAHDENMÄKI

TASK

- Examine these photos of Sammallahdenmäki.
- Consider which elements in the photos were formed naturally.
- Which elements are man-made?
- What types of buildings do you think existed in the area over 2,000 years ago?

DID YOU KNOW?

- The most well-known parts of Sammallahdenmäki are the oval and elongated structure known as Huilun pitkä raunio (the long cairn of Huilu) and the quadrangular cairn formed of unusually shaped rocks that is known as Kirkonlaattia (the Church Floor).
- In the prehistoric era, the area's landscape was different to how it looks like today: due to post-glacial rebound, the coastline has moved further away.
- The oldest burial cairns in Sammallahdenmäki are located on an out crop that is over 40 metres high.
- Many prehistoric cairns are known as hiidenkiuas (lit. goblin's stove) in Finland. There are many stories attached to them. In times past, people were not always aware that the cairns were ancient graves, instead thinking that they were churches built by giants or goblins.

STRUVE GEODETIC ARC

STRUVE GEODETIC ARC

The Struve Geodetic Arc is a world heritage site that **stretches through 10 countries.** The Struve Geodetic Arc is a chain of survey triangulation points that were built in the 19th century under the supervision of the German Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Struve. **It was used to determine the exact size and shape of Earth.** In the World Heritage List, the arc is represented by a total of 34 survey points. **Six of these are located in Finland.** The Struve Geodetic Arc was included in the World Heritage List in 2005.

The working group led by Struve was the first to be able to calculate the exact measurements of Earth's size and shape. The surveying was performed at high locations: natural sites, outcrops and tall buildings. The surveying was based on determining the angles of triangles formed by these locations. **The arc extends from the Arctic Ocean to the shores of the Black Sea.**

The Struve Geodetic Arc is considered to be **one of the most important scientific and technological achievements of its time.** It was a major step forward in the development of the world view and science. The results of the survey of the Struve Geodetic Arc were very accurate. Today, surveying is performed using GPS equipment that utilises satellite tracking.

REASON FOR INCLUSION IN THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST:

The first accurate measuring of a long segment of a meridian, helping in the establishment of the exact size and shape of the world exhibits an important step in the development of Earth sciences. It is also an extraordinary example of the interchange of human values in the form of scientific collaboration among scientists from different countries. It is at the same time an example of collaboration between monarchs of different powers, for a scientific cause. The Struve Geodetic Arc is undoubtedly an outstanding example of a technological ensemble. The measuring of the arc and its results are directly associated with humans wondering about their world, its shape and size.

STRUVE GEODETIC ARC

DID YOU KNOW?

- The total length of the Struve Geodetic Arc is approximately 2,800 kilometres.
- The survey points in Finland are Mustaviiri in Pyhtää, Porlammi in Lapinjärvi, Oravivuori in Jyväskylä, Alatornio Church in Tornio, Aavasaksa in Ylitornio and Stuorrahanoaivi in Enontekiö.
- The world heritage site is maintained by the 10 states whose area the arc travels through today. Each country takes care of the survey points within their own borders, but common rules and objectives are established through cooperation.

TASK

- When the Struve Geodetic Arc was surveyed towards the beginning of the 19th century, it travelled through two countries: Sweden and Russia. The same area now spans ten countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.
- Do you know which of these countries belonged to Sweden and which to Russia 200 years ago?

KVARKEN ARCHIPELAGO

KVARKEN ARCHIPELAGO

The Kvarken Archipelago is **Finland's only natural heritage site in the World Heritage List.** The Kvarken Archipelago was accepted into the World Heritage List in 2006. **Together with the High Coast of Sweden, it forms Finland and Sweden's shared world heritage site, called** High Coast/Kvarken Archipelago.

More than ten thousand years ago, Northern Europe was covered by an ice sheet that could be up to three kilometres thick. The centre of the ice sheet was located in the area of Kvarken and the Bothnian Bay. The heavy mass of ice pressed the Earth's crust down by up to a kilometre. When the Earth's climate began to warm up, the ice started to melt. Peculiar moraine formations and boulder fields formed at the edge of the retreating ice as a result of the movement of ice and water.

As the ice sheet melted and the weight of the ice was removed, the sunken ground began to rise from the sea. The elevation of the ground to the level it was at before the Ice Age will continue for thousands of years. At present, the land in the Kvarken area rises by approximately 9 millimetres per year. Approximately 100 hectares of new land appears from the sea in the Kvarken area every year due to post-glacial rebound.

The Kvarken Archipelago and the High Coast of Sweden are a unique example of the impacts of the Ice Age. The areas provide insight into how the Ice Age continues to impact the bedrock, vegetation, fauna and the life of the people living in the area.

REASON FOR INCLUSION IN THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST:

The High Coast and Kvarken Archipelago have some of the highest rates of isostatic uplift in the world, meaning that the land still continues to rise in elevation following the retreat of the last inland ice sheet. The Kvarken Archipelago possesses a distinctive array of glacial depositional formations, such as the De Geer moraines.

The High Coast and the Kvarken Archipelago represent complementary examples of landscapes created by post-glacial rebound.

KVARKEN ARCHIPELAGO

TASK

- Close your eyes and imagine what kinds of sounds you could hear if you were currently in the Kvarken Archipelago.
- How would the soundscape differ from that of a hundred years past?
- What other elements have changed in the landscape?
- What do you think the area will look like in another thousand years?

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 5,600 islands in the world heritage area. The area covers a total of 194,000 hectares, most of which is covered by water. Land covers 29,000 hectares of the area.
- Post-glacial rebound is anticipated to join Finland and Sweden in 2,000 years.
- Kvarken is one of the most important nesting and migration areas of birds native to archipelagos in the Baltic Sea.
- Moraine is the most common soil type found in Finland. The De Geer moraines in Kvarken are long and narrow moraine ridges that can form vast fields. Viewed from above, they resemble an old-fashioned washboard.

Selecting a world heritage site

1. The State Party prepares a list, i.e. a Tentative List, of possible sites within its borders together with expert organisations (IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, or ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites). The Nordic countries also consider sites amongst themselves to create a harmonious whole.
2. The State Party prepares a proposal on new world heritage sites.
3. The proposal is submitted to UNESCO's World Heritage Centre.
4. After review, the proposal is sent to an expert organisation for evaluation.
5. The site is evaluated on location by experts.
6. The experts prepare an evaluation report.
7. The expert organisations then submit a recommendation to the World Heritage Committee.
8. The World Heritage Committee decides whether the site will be included in the World Heritage List.

Only countries that have signed the World Heritage Convention may nominate sites to be included in the World Heritage List. The sites included in the list are selected by the World Heritage Committee, which consists of representatives from 21 member countries. The Committee also monitors the state of the world heritage sites and makes sure that they are protected effectively and maintained well.

In 2013, Finland was chosen as a member of the World Heritage Committee for a period of four years, until 2017. This membership provides Finland with the opportunity to influence the development of the World Heritage Convention.

The selection of a world heritage site is an international multistage process. In order for a site to be nominated as a world heritage site, it must first be included in the country's own inventory of sites to be nominated. This **inventory is known as the Tentative List.** The Tentative List of Finnish cultural sites is compiled by the National Board of Antiquities and the Tentative List of natural sites by the Ministry of the Environment.

The sites in the Tentative List must meet the selection criteria established for world heritage sites. The Tentative List only includes 2–4 sites which Finland intends to nominate for inclusion in the World Heritage List within the next 10 years. **The aim is to list sites that create a balanced whole with the current world heritage sites.** Inclusion in the World Heritage List requires sites to be of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Sites must also constitute an authentic and genuine entity.

A NEW WORLD HERITAGE SITE?

See if your suggestion meets the requirements set for World Heritage Sites!

What would you nominate as a World Heritage Site? Which site would you choose within your own immediate environment?

Is your nominated site... **A** **B**

Natural heritage site?

A cultural site, a building, group of buildings, place?

Could it be inscribed on the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage?
www.aineeton kulttuuriperinto.fi/en/index

Is it something else? Intangible heritage? An item?

Is it significant locally, regionally, nationally, internationally?

I need assistance!
Ask an expert • see further information

Has the site retained its authenticity and integrity?

Does it meet any of the following criteria?

- Does it represent a masterpiece of human creative genius?
- Does it bear an exceptional testimony to a culture which is living or which has disappeared?
- Is it an example of a historically important era?
- Is it an example of a traditional human settlement, type of building or land use which is representative of a specific culture?
- Is it directly associated with living traditions?

Does it meet any of the following criteria?

- Is it an outstanding example of the Earth's history?
- Does it provide insight into a major stage of evolution in the Earth's history?
- Is it an example of an on-going ecological or biological change?
- Does it represent a superlative natural phenomenon or an area of exceptional natural beauty?
- Is it the natural habitat of an endangered species?

- **Does your site come up to par when compared with the sites on the list other sites?**
- **Does your site bring added value to the list?**

Return to the beginning


KVARKEN ARCHIPELAGO


THE FORTRESS OF SUOMENLINNA


PETÄJÄVESI OLD CHURCH


SAMMALLAHDENMÄKI


OLD RAUMA


VERLA GROUNDWOOD AND BOARD MILL


STRUVE GEODETIC ARC

OUR SHARED WORLD HERITAGE

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