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# Turku

## Cruise Baltic

One sea – oceans of adventures



# Turku

Turku has great city charm, possessing the status of the oldest city of Finland and the European Capital of Culture 2011. This beautiful medieval city situated on the Aura riverbanks is the stepping stone to one of the most magnificent archipelagos in the world with over 20.000 islands and skerries.

## City culture in the Arms of the Archipelago

Experience urban city life by taking a walk along the River Aura from the cathedral to the castle, Turku's two main landmarks. For locals and visitors alike, the lively riverbanks are the places to see and be seen. Visiting one of the riverboat restaurants is also highly recommended. The historical side of the city can be experienced on Luostarinmäki Hill, in the old quarter of Turku.



The old wooden houses saved from the Great Fire in 1827 can be seen at the Handicrafts Museum on Luostarinmäki Hill. During the summer season craftsmen give work displays.

In 1827 the Great Fire destroyed most of the town; however, the wooden buildings of Luostarinmäki were saved. Today Luostarinmäki houses the Handicrafts Museum with over 30 workshops from different fields of craftsmanship. During the summer season craftsmen can be seen at work there every day. In 1984 the museum was awarded the Golden Apple prize. Turku has a versatile cultural life: several theaters, a philharmonic orchestra, chamber music, jazz & rock etc. Summer is filled with various happenings and performances all over the city.

## Kings & Tsars

In the past, for a long period of time Turku was under Swedish rule. The then king of Sweden, Gustav Vasa, spent the winter of 1555-56 in Turku Castle. He also named his son Prince Johan

Duke of Finland. Prince Johan and his wife Katarina Jagellonica held court in the castle. This period marked the start of the Renaissance in Finland. Turku Castle has been renovated and is one of the most popular sights in Turku. During the summertime there are guided tours, Little Knights tours for children, permanent and themed exhibitions, concerts and other events such as the Medieval Event & Evening.

## Modern Architecture & Design

Turku has seen many architectural styles. In the 1930s, architects Alvar Aalto and Erik Bryggman left their mark on Turku and attracted international interest by designing functionalist buildings, a new trend at the time. Examples of their architecture, such as the Chapel of the Resurrection and Turun Sanomat Newspaper House, still attract people today. Turku's latest architect-



"Föri" – a small ferry boat that crosses the River Aura – is a Turku phenomenon. The river crossing takes only 90 seconds.

tural triumph is St. Henrik's Ecumenical Art Chapel, which was consecrated in 2005. It is situated on Hirvensalo Island and integrates perfectly into the surrounding nature. The design of this building, Ikthys, resembles a fish or a boat. The chapel has gained much attention worldwide.



The yearly Medieval Market offers four days of happenings mostly at the Old Great Square.

## City Life & Outdoor Events

Turku offers both urban and rural life. In the downtown area there are good shopping possibilities, a variety of cultural happenings, restaurants, cafés and also peculiar pubs like the Old Bank, and Pharmacy, School and Toilet. Right outside the city there are excellent opportunities for fishing in the breathtakingly beautiful archipelago, golfing by the seaside, swimming, canoeing, biking, hiking etc. Ruissalo Island, only 5 kilometers from downtown Turku, offers a charming and relaxing environment for travelers and locals alike. It is famous for its unique nature, with old oak trees, versatile flora and fauna. Closer to the city is Kupittaa Park, Finland's oldest and largest urban park. It offers a range of activities and amusements for adults and children. One of Turku's two outdoor swimming pools is in Kupittaa.



A colorful market place attracts both visitors and locals.



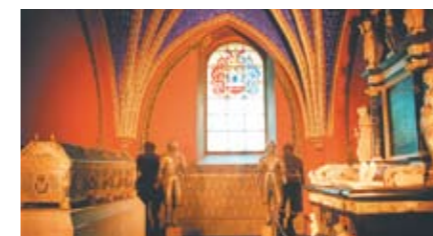
A lovely night time view over the River Aura towards the Old Great Square.

## Great Shopping & Fine Food

The heart of the city is the market square, where native Turku people speaking their distinctive dialect are to be found. Right next to the market square is the Hansa shopping mall with some 200 boutiques, cafés, restaurants and the Stockmann department store. Well-known brands such as Marimekko, Pentik and Aarikka also have stores in downtown Turku. The Old Great Square offers a range of artisan's boutiques and small galleries. Turku has a wide selection of top-quality restaurants serving excellent food, often featuring local products. Do not miss our specialties such as Dark Archipelago Bread, a slightly sweet bread, or dishes made from sea buckthorn, an extremely healthy berry with plenty of vitamin C. Given the proximity of Turku to the sea, fresh fish is served in many imaginative ways.

## Ancient & Modern

Turku is the oldest city in Finland and the former capital of the country. Today it is a fascinating combination of past and present. In medieval Finland Turku was the seat of the Christian faith and the center of civilization and administration. The Cathedral, Finland's national shrine, was inaugurated in the year 1300. The medieval spirit can be strongly sensed during the annual Medieval Market at the Old Great Square. Turku is also the only Finnish Hanseatic town of modern times and through the centuries it has been an important place of trade. Nowadays Turku is Finland's leading technology center. The Science Park area is constantly expanding



The Cathedral is the last resting place of many prominent people in Finnish history.

and has specialized technology units such as BioCity, DataCity and ElectroCity, to name just some. Shipbuilding has always been an important industry and is currently enjoying a strong boom. The world's biggest cruise vessels are built in Turku. The three universities and numerous other schools, attended by students from all over Finland and around the world, give the street scene an energetic and youthful boost.



The Medieval Cathedral of Turku - Finland's national shrine and an important landmark of Turku.

## Turku Top 10 – don't miss

- Turku Archipelago
- Aurajoki River banks
- The Medieval Cathedral of Turku
- Turku Castle
- Luostarinmäki Handicrafts Museum
- Aboa Vetus and Ars Nova
- Sibelius Museum
- Turku Art Museum
- Turku Market Hall and Market Square
- Forum Marinum



## Useful links

**Tourist information:** [www.turkutouring.fi](http://www.turkutouring.fi)  
**Turku information:** [www.turku.fi](http://www.turku.fi)  
**Port information:** [www.portofturku.fi](http://www.portofturku.fi)  
**Cruise information:** [www.turkucruiseport.fi](http://www.turkucruiseport.fi)

## Public information

**Tourist information:** Downtown, 3 km from pier  
**Taxi:** Can be called; nearest taxi stand 1 km  
**Shopping:** Downtown, 3 km from pier  
**Local currency:** Euro (€)  
**Downtown:** 3 km  
**Airport:** Turku Airport, 11 km (20 minutes by taxi)

## Port information

**Port:** Port of Turku  
**Address:** Linnankatu 90, FI-20100 Turku  
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**Web:** [www.portofturku.fi](http://www.portofturku.fi)

**Time zone:** GMT +2  
 (European Summer Time: GMT +3)  
**VTS - channel:** VHF ch 12  
**ISPS 24 h contact:** +358 (0)2 2674122 or VHF ch 12  
**Maximum ship dimensions:**  
 Length: 230 m. Draft: 9.9 m. Beam: No limits  
**Pilot:** Compulsory for vessels exceeding 60 m in length.  
 Draft: 4.5 m. Beam: 10 m  
**Waste handling:** Compulsory

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