WELCOME

Suomenlinna was added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites as a unique example of the military architecture of its era. Suomenlinna is a bastion fortress with an irregular shape and a unique history in serving the defence of three realms: Sweden, Russia and Finland.

Start your visit from the Suomenlinna Visitor Centre and get the best tips to explore the fortress. The main attractions can be experienced on the Blue Route, which is about 1.5 kilometres. Follow the blue line on the map and the blue signs along the route. The blue dots on the map show the locations of the main attractions and information boards.

**SUOMENLINNA CHURCH**
- The church on Suomenlinna was built in 1854 to serve as a Russian Orthodox garrison church. As Finland took control of the island in the 1920s, it was converted into a Lutheran place of worship. A lighthouse, serving both air and sea traffic, still operates in the steeple.

**DRY DOCK**
- Suomenlinna’s dry dock is one of Europe’s oldest operating dry docks. In the 1760s, ships for the Swedish naval fleet were built here, under the supervision of naval architect F. H. af Chapman. Nowadays, the dry dock is used for renovating old sailing boats.

**GREAT COURTYARD**
- Designed by the fortress’s founder Augustin Ehrensvärd, the Great Courtyard was completed in the 1760s and served as the main square. It was badly damaged in the Crimean War in 1855. Points of interest in the square include Ehrensvärd’s tomb.

**KUSTAANMIEKKA**
- Kustaanmiekka is home to Suomenlinna’s original bastion and a late-19th-century Russian defence line, complete with sand embankments and artillery points. The Kustaanmiekka bastion area provides stunning seascapes all the way to the mainland.

**KING’S GATE**
- The monumental King’s Gate is the iconic symbol of Suomenlinna. King’s Gate was built in 1753–1754 on the site where a ship carrying the fortress’s founder, King Adolf Frederick of Sweden, was anchored while he inspected the construction of the fortress in 1752.

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**1748** Finland is part of the Kingdom of Sweden. Construction of the sea fortress begins, led by Augustin Ehrensvärd. In 1750, Fredrick I of Sweden gives the fortress the name of Sveaborg.

**1788** War breaks out between Russia and Sweden, and the fortress operates as a naval base.

**1809** The fortress is surrendered to the Russian army and becomes a Russian naval base for the next 110 years. In 1809, Finland is made an autonomous part of the Russian Empire.

**1855** The Crimean War. The fortress is badly damaged under Anglo-French naval bombardment.

**1858** The Finnish Civil War. A camp for prisoners of war is set up at the fortress. The fortress is annexed by Finland and named Suomenlinna.

**1918** At the start of wwi, the fortress serves as a coastal artillery, anti-aircraft and submarine base.

**1939** The Finnish garrison leaves the fortress. The management of Suomenlinna is taken over by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

**1973** Suomenlinna was inscribed to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites as a unique example of the military architecture of its era.

today Suomenlinna is one of the most popular places to visit in Finland and a vibrant district of Helsinki with a wide range of services and events all year round. In addition to hosting large numbers of visitors, Suomenlinna is also home to 800 permanent residents. The Governing Body of Suomenlinna, a government agency under the Ministry of Education and Culture, is responsible for the restoration, development and maintenance of the fortress as well as managing it as a visitor attraction.

The fortress is conserved and developed in accordance with the principles of sustainable tourism and the aim is to conserve it for future generations. Be sure to follow all instructions during your visit and help us preserve this World Heritage Site.

Services and their opening hours, ferry timetables, events and more information about Suomenlinna:

[guide.suomenlinna.fi]
THE MAIN ATTRACTIONS

1918 prisoner-of-war camp memorial
Suomenlinna Church
Dry dock observation deck
Great Courtyard
Kustaanmiekka sand banks and artillery
King’s Gate

ART AND CULTURE

HAA Gallery
HIAP Gallery Augusta
Pot Viipuri Ceramic Studio
Glass Studio Hytti
Tokuyúan Japanese Tea Room
Open air theatre
Studio Esa Toivanen
MUUTE
Textile workshop

ACCOMMODATION

Hostel Suomenlinna
Villa Silo

OTHER SERVICES

Suomenlinna Visitor Centre
Suomenlinna Library
Levyhalli hall
Guest marina
Beach
Picnic facilities
Lonna sauna
Cannon Sloop Diana quay

EVENTS AND CONFERENCE FACILITIES

Hired for groups

Pirunkirkko
Pajasali & Tynnynrintekijä meeting rooms
Upseerikerho
Ballast Room
Tenaille von Fersen
Myllysaari hall
Piirtämö
Gunpowder Magazine

RESTAURANTS, CAFÉS AND BARS

Restaurant Suomenlinnan Panimo
Viapori Deli & Café
Cafe Silo
Bastion Bistro
Café Vanille
Linna bar
Café Samovarbar at Suomenlinna Toy Museum
Suomenlinna Centre Café
Café Bar Valimo
Adlerfelt
Café Piper
Walhalla Restaurant (closed in 2023)
Pizzeria Nikolai
Lonna restaurant

SHOPPING

Supermarket
Suomenlinna Toy Museum shop
Suomenlinna Centre shop
Tykitolähti summer kiosk
Museum Shop
Arts and Crafts Summer Shop B34

TRANSPORT

Ferry (HSL), Main Jetty
Waterbus, Artillery Bay quay
Waterbus, King’s Gate quay
Waterbus, Lonna quay
Service boat (HSL), service quay

MUSEUMS

Toy Museum
Military Museum
Suomenlinna Museum
Customs Museum
Ehrensvård Museum
Vesikko Submarine

MUSEUMS

Museum Shop
Lonna restaurant
Pizzeria Nikolai
Café Bar Valimo
Suomenlinna Centre Café
Levyhalli hall
Guest marina
Beach
Picnic facilities
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Watch your step for unfenced sudden drops
Supervise children at all times
Barbecues and fire are strictly forbidden

READ MORE ABOUT SUSTAINABLE VISITING: www.suomenlinna.fi/en/visitor/instructions/regulations