



Helsinki

📍09 / POP 1.04 MILLION (GREATER METROPOLITAN AREA)

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Best Places to Eat

- » Savoy (p62)
- » Olo (p62)
- » Demo (p62)
- » Chez Dominique (p62)
- » Zucchini (p62)

Best Places to Stay

- » Hotelli Helka (p58)
- » Hotelli Onni (p79)
- » Hotel GLO (p58)
- » Hotel Finn (p58)
- » Hotel Fabian (p58)

Why Go?

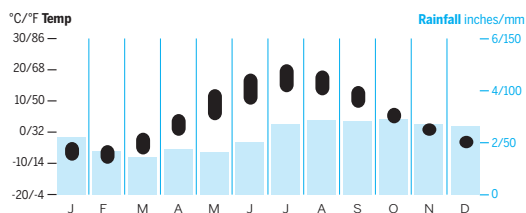
It's fitting that harbourside Helsinki, capital of a country with such a watery geography, melds so graciously into the Baltic Sea. Half the city seems to be liquid, and the tortuous writhings of the complex coastline include any number of bays, inlets and a speckling of islands.

Though Helsinki can seem like a younger sibling to other Scandinavian capitals, it's the one that went to art school, scorns pop music, is working in a cutting-edge design studio and hangs out with friends who like black and plenty of piercings.

On the other hand, much of what is lovable in Helsinki is older. Its understated yet glorious art-nouveau buildings, the spacious elegance of its centenarian cafes, the careful preservation of Finnish heritage in its dozens of museums, restaurants that have changed neither menu nor furnishings since the 1930s – they are all part of the city's quirky charm.

When to Go

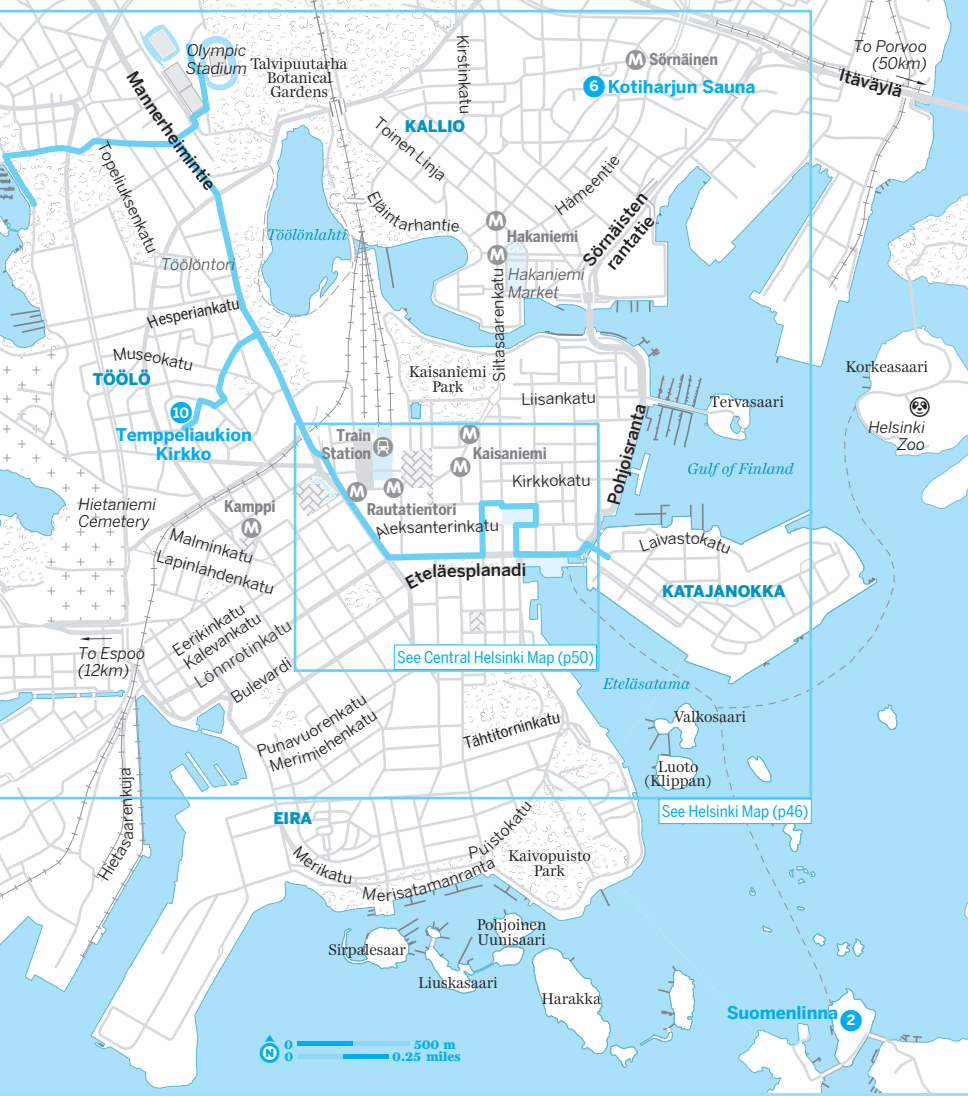
HELSINKI



Jun Terraces are sprouting outside every cafe and the nights never seem to end.

Aug The city's functioning again after the July lull, but all the summer activities are still on.

Dec Skate on ice and absorb the Christmassy atmosphere before temperatures get too extreme.



Helsinki Highlights

- 1 Descending into the weekend maelstrom in the roar of Helsinki's excellent variety of **pubs and clubs** (p66)
- 2 Grabbing a picnic and exploring the fortress island of **Suomenlinna** (p44) that guarded Helsinki harbour
- 3 Browsing exciting **design shops** (p69)
- 4 Selecting from the city's huge range of **museums and galleries** (p44)
- 5 Taking advantage of the great network of **bicycle paths** (p74) to explore on two wheels
- 6 Sweating out your cares in the traditional, atmospheric **Kotiharjun Sauna** (p55)
- 7 Taking a trip across to **Tallinn** (p59) to admire its unforgettable Old Town
- 8 Admiring wooden warehouses of **Porvoo** (p77)
- 9 **Dining** on traditional food like meatballs or liver, or avant-garde New Suomi cuisine (p62)
- 10 Nodding with respect to the **Temppeliaukion Kirkko** (p53)