



Tampere & Häme

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Stay

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Why Go?

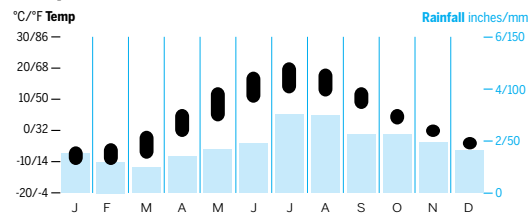
Modern cities and traditional settlements exist side by side in this historic region, where you can explore Finland's rural past at ancient wooden churches, its unsettled history at Hämeenlinna's castle, and its industrial heritage at Tampere's textile factories. Lahti excels in two major 21st-century Finnish exports: technology and classical music.

A gateway to Finland for many travellers thanks to its budget flight connections, Tampere is Finland's second city. Its imposing red-brick factories, left derelict in the hangover of industrial decline, now hold a spicy mixture of restaurants and museums, and the infectious energy of the people makes this a favourite Suomi stop.

Every town in the region sits on a magical stretch of water. Boats were once the main form of transport; one of Finland's essential summer experiences is bringing those slower-paced days back with a day-long lake cruise between towns.

When to Go

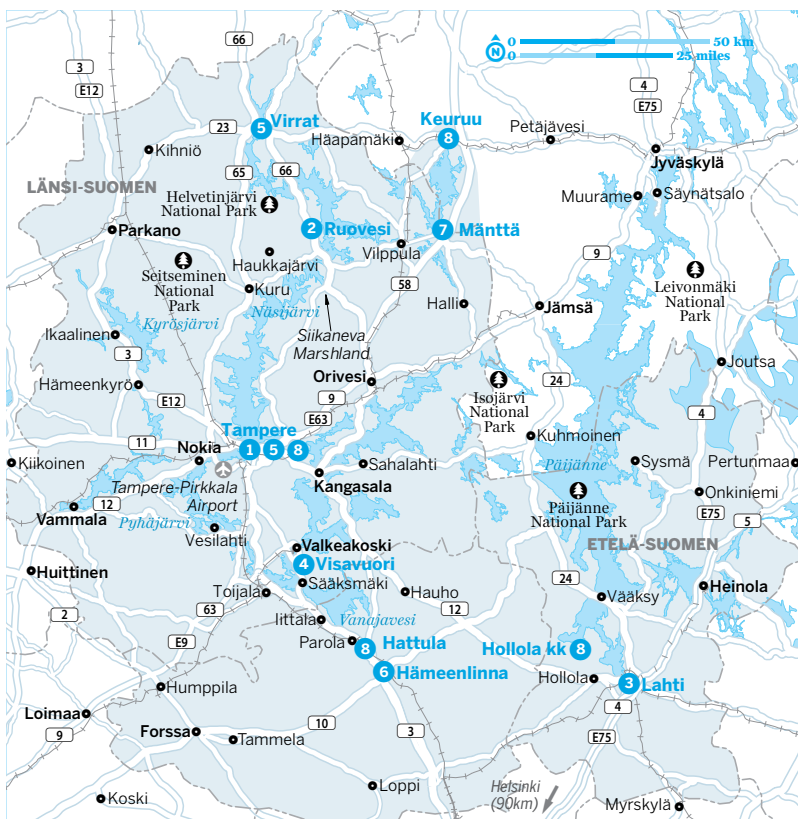
Tampere



Jul Lake cruises and long evenings on summer terraces.

Sep Great hiking in national parks, and the Sibelius festival in Lahti.

Dec Christmas atmosphere and spectacular lights in Tampere.



Tampere & Häme Highlights

1 Absorbing the laid-back but culturally engaged vibe in picturesque **Tampere**

2 Getting your kicks on Finland's Route 66, staying in peaceful **Ruovesi** (p134)

3 Luxuriating in the acoustics of a Sibelius performance at Lahti's **Sibeliustalo** (p141)

4 Admiring the work of Finland's greatest sculptor, Emil Wickström, at peaceful **Visavuori** (p136)

5 Cruising the **Poet's Way** (p130) from Tampere to Virrat, a relaxing visual feast of Finnish lakescapes

6 Snooping from room to room in Hämeenlinna's **Palanderin Talo** (p138),

one of Finland's most interesting house-museums

7 Browsing top-quality Finnish art in Mänttä's **Gösta** (p136) gallery

8 Contrast the venerable ancient artwork in the churches at **Hattula** (p137), **Keuruu** (p135) and **Hollola** (p143), with Tampere's memorable 20th-century **cathedral** (p126)

TAMPERE

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Scenic Tampere, set between two vast lakes, has a down-to-earth vitality that makes it a favourite for many visitors. Through its centre churns the Tammerkoski rapids,

whose grassy banks contrast with the red brick of the imposing fabric mills that once drove the city's economy. Regenerated industrial buildings now house quirky museums, enticing shops, pubs, cinemas and cafes.