



Turku & the South Coast

Includes ➔

Turku	76
Naantali	83
Pargas	87
Nagu	87
Korpo	88
Houtskär & Iniö	88
Kustavi	89
West of Helsinki	90
East of Helsinki	98

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Smor (p82)
- ➔ På Kroken (p93)
- ➔ Vausti (p105)
- ➔ Uusi Kiilta (p85)
- ➔ Restaurant Kuparipaja (p97)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Sea Hotel Mäntyniemi (p103)
- ➔ Hotel Bridget Inn (p85)
- ➔ Hotelli Onni (p99)
- ➔ Villa Maija (p92)
- ➔ Ruissalo Camping (p80)

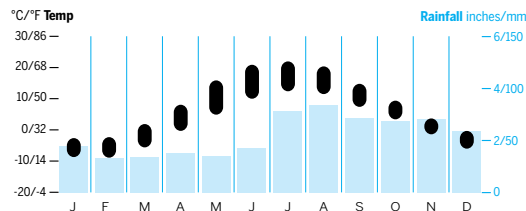
Why Go?

Anchoring the country's southwest is Finland's former capital, Turku. This striking seafaring city stretches along a broad river from the Gothic cathedral to a medieval castle and vibrant harbour; and challenges Helsinki's cultural cred with excellent galleries, museums, restaurants and rocking music festivals that electrify the summer air. Just northwest, charming Naantali makes an easy side trip or atmospheric alternative base.

Throughout the south, the coastline is strung with characterful little towns. The Swedish and Russian empires fought for centuries over the area's ports and today they're commandeered by castles and fortresses that seem at odds with the sunshine and sailing boats. Inland, charming *bruk* (ironworks precinct) villages offer an insight into the area's industrial past. Scattered offshore, islands provide yachting opportunities, sea-salt retreats and a sea full of stepping stones across to Åland and Sweden.

When to Go

Turku



Jun Turku turns back to the Middle Ages during its lively Medieval Market.

Jul Boats race in the Hanko Regatta, famous for its carnival atmosphere.

Aug Marching and military music take place at the week-long Hamina Tattoo.



Turku & the South Coast Highlights

- 1** Unearthing Turku's medieval history along the crooked underground streets of **Aboa Vetus** (p77) and inside its mighty 13th-century **castle** (p76)
- 2** Cruising from Russian villa-crowned **Hanko** (p90) to see seals, rock carvings or visit a lighthouse island
- 3** Strolling cobbled lanes lined with colourful wooden warehouses in the picturesque Old Town of **Porvoo** (p98)
- 4** Meeting Finland's famous cartoon characters at Naantali's **Muumimaailma** (Moominworld; p84)
- 5** Picking wild strawberries, watching Arctic terns and swimming in an inlet on the **Turku Archipelago Trail**
- 6** Pelting downhill on a mountain bike, skis or a snowboard at **Upperinintee** (p106), near Hamina
- 7** Browsing Finnish **designs** (p97) in the pretty former ironworks village of Fiskars