Suomenlinna is accessible by water

The journey to Suomenlinna takes some 15 to 20 minutes. The ferry operates all year round, while waterbus services are available from May to September.

**HSL FERRY**

1. The ferry departs from the Market Square, opposite the Presidential Palace. At Suomenlinna, the ferry departs from the main quay on Iso Mustasaari island. The ferry service is part of the city transport network and all Helsinki Region Transport Authority (HSL) tickets are accepted. Please purchase tickets prior to boarding the ferry from the ticket machine on the quayside. In summer, tickets are also available from the ticket booth at the Market Square.

**JT-LINE WATERBUS**

19 - 43 - 46 The waterbuses to Suomenlinna depart from the Market Square sightseeing cruise departures area. In Suomenlinna, the waterbus departs from the Artillery Bay (Tykistölahti) quay and makes an additional stop at the King’s Gate. Some of the services also make a stop at the islands of Lonna and Vallisaari. Purchase tickets at the Market Square ticket kiosk, on board the waterbus or from the webshop of JT-Line. Please note that Helsinki Region Transport Authority (HSL) tickets are not valid on the waterbus service.

**MARKET SQUARE**

Katajanokka

Kaivopuisto

Ferry (HSL)

Sarkkä

Main quay

46 Lonna quay

**SEA FORTRESS Suomenlinna**

**Key Sights**

The sights are located along the blue route.

**SUOMENLINNA CHURCH**

The Suomenlinna Church was built as a Russian Orthodox garrison church in 1854. 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.

**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. The square contains an impressive memorial tomb to Augustin Ehrensvärd, the architect of the Suomenlinna fortress.

**DRY DOCK**

Suomenlinna’s dry dock is one of Europe’s oldest operational 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.

**KUSTAANMIKKKA**

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. It was built between 1753 and 1754 as a ceremonial gateway to the fortress. The gate was built 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.
FOLLOW THE BLUE ROUTE

The key sights are along a 1.5-kilometre blue route running through the fortress. The route is waymarked with blue signs and marked on the map in blue. Maps for a more accessible route are available at the tourist information and on our website www.suomenlinna.fi/accessibility.

BE CAREFUL

Many of the structures in the fortress are unfenced. Please note that all visitors accessing the fortress do so at their own risk. Exercise great caution at all times. Children must not be left unattended or allowed to climb the walls. Please note that even areas that seem safe may feature unexpected precipices. These may be disguised by vegetation in summer and snow in winter. When visiting the shoreline, please note that seafaring vessels may cause strong currents. In winter, the conditions may be slippery, so please take care.
Welcome to Suomenlinna!

Situated on the islands off the coast of Helsinki, Suomenlinna is a cultural treasure. Its construction began in the mid-18th century, when Finland was still part of Sweden. Today, the fortress and its museums, restaurants and events are a memorable experience for visitors of all ages.

THE SEA FORTRESS TODAY

The fortress is one of the most popular visitor attractions in Finland with about one million visitors every year. Suomenlinna hosts various services and events all year round. The fortress is also a neighbourhood with about 800 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.

History

1748  Finland is part of the Kingdom of Sweden. Construction of the sea fortress begins, led by Augustin Ehrensvärd.
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.
1808  The Finnish War. The fortress is surrendered to the Russian army, and remains a Russian naval base for the next 110 years.
1809  Finland is made an autonomous part of the Russian Empire.
1855  The Crimean War. The Anglo-French fleet bombards the fortress, badly damaging it.
1918  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.
1939  The Second World War begins. The fortress serves as a coastal artillery, anti-aircraft and submarine base.
1973  The Finnish garrison leaves the island. The Ministry of Education and Culture assumes responsibility for the island.
1991  Suomenlinna is added to UNESCO’s list of World Heritage Sites as an outstanding monument to military architecture.
Dive headfirst into history

MUSEUMS
Suomenlinna hosts six museums. For specific opening hours, please contact the tourist information or visit www.suomenlinna.fi.

Open all year

Open during the summer, opening hours vary other times of the year

Guided tours
Learn about the colourful history of the fortress on a guided tour, organised every day in the summer and every weekend in the winter. Private tours are available throughout the year in a variety of languages. All tours start at the Suomenlinna Museum. Tickets can be bought at the Suomenlinna Museum or the Ehrensvärd Society online store. A special adventure tour is available for children in the summer in Finnish and Swedish.

The tours are run by the Ehrensvärd Society. Tour guiding services on Suomenlinna are subject to licensing. Only Ehrensvärd Society guides are authorised to run tours in the fortress.


Suomenlinna Museum
The main museum of the fortress tells the fascinating story of Suomenlinna. The museum features a short film (25 min), charting the history of the fortress, which runs every half an hour in several languages.

Submarine Vesikko
Visit a restored Finnish submarine that served in the Second World War and learn about the working environment of the crew and the technology used in submarines.

Manège of the Military Museum
The exhibition features intriguing stories about the wars of Finland and the Finnish Defence Forces.

Suomenlinna Toy Museum
Take a nostalgic trip to the Toy Museum and learn about old toys from the early 19th century to the 1970s.

Ehrensvärd Museum
The first resident of the home museum was Field Marshal Augustin Ehrensvärd. The museum, originally the official residence of the fortress’s commandants, showcases an officers’ home from the Swedish period.

Customs Museum
The Customs Museum, housed in a former prison, showcases the history of customs and smuggling in Finland.
Food and drink in Suomenlinna

Restaurant
Suomenlinna Brewery
2 The selection of the first-rate restaurant is based on seasonal produce in Finland and Scandinavia. You can also pop by to taste some of the products of the fortress’s own brewery.

Viaporin Deli & Café
2 Located in the Jetty Barracks, the café sells salads, sandwiches, pastries as well as freshly brewed coffee.

Café Silo
49 Cosy café in the Russian merchants’ quarter offers homemade pastries and high-quality coffee as well as a soup lunch in the winter and salads during the summer months.

Bastion Bistro
6 Located within a short walk from the main quay, this elegant restaurant serves straightforward bistro food, pizza and burgers.

Café Vanille
7 The menu of this café, situated in a historic wooden house, includes pastries, soup du jour, specialty coffee and soft drinks.

Linna Bar
14 This cosy place in the heart of the fortress is the perfect place to study the inner workings of the site while enjoying locally produced beers and a small snack.

Café Samovarbar at Toy Museum
15 The atmospheric café serves homemade goodies with freshly brewed tea. Specialty coffee is also on the menu.

Suomenlinna Centre Café
18 Delicious refreshments and a wide selection of specialty coffee available.

Café Bar Valimo
20 The relaxed restaurant at the docks features pasta dishes, salads and the day’s specials on its varying menu, accompanied by quality beverages.

Adlerfelt
27 Enjoy delicious food and refreshing drinks in the happy atmosphere of Adlerfelt. The colourful Adlerfelt is just perfect for a lovely day in Suomenlinna.

Café Piper
38 The idyllic summertime café serves soups, pastries and refreshments. The terrace offers a stunning view of the sea.

Restaurant Walhalla
45 The first-rate gourmet restaurant serves exquisite à la carte dishes with quality wines.

Pizzeria Nikolai
45 Nikolai serves crisp pizza made from fresh ingredients and baked in a stone oven, to be enjoyed on a sun-drenched terrace or inside the fortress ramparts.

For specific opening hours, please contact the tourist information or visit www.suomenlinna.fi.
Shopping and art

Traditional craftsmanship is upheld by the many artisans working in the fortress. In Suomenlinna, you can find products and souvenirs made by local artisans. The fortress also hosts art exhibitions. Check the locations on the map and opening hours of the services at www.suomenlinna.fi.