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TAILOR MADE RAIL

Finnish Explorer

From £1,049 per person // 12 days



Combine the welcoming southern cities of Helsinki and Turku with the wilderness in the capital of Finnish Lapland and home of Santa, Rovaniemi

The Essentials

- Finnish capital Helsinki, one of the world's most liveable cities
- Turku in Southwest Finland with its lively vibe and exciting calendar of events
- Rovaniemi, home of Santa Claus and the gateway to Finnish Lapland

What's included

- Standard class rail travel in Finland
- 10 nights' handpicked hotel accommodation with breakfast
- Private compartment on the sleeper Turku to Rovaniemi
- Clearly-presented wallets for your rail tickets, flight documentation and hotel vouchers
- All credit card surcharges and prompt delivery of your travel documents to your home

Tailor make your holiday

- Decide when you would like to travel
- Adapt the route to suit your plans
- Upgrade hotels and rail journeys
- Add extra nights, destinations and/or tours

- Suggested Itinerary -



Day 1 - Arrive In Helsinki

Arrive in Helsinki and head into the city centre to check in at the Katajanokka Hotel (or similar), where you will have a 3-night stay. With a history dating back to the mid-16th century, Helsinki has a stunning setting on the Gulf of Finland and has regularly been voted one of the world's most liveable cities.



Days 2 & 3 - Helsinki

Enjoy two full days to explore Helsinki. Recommended attractions here include the 19th century landmark cathedral, Market Square with its colourful stalls, the National Museum of Finland, and imposing Suomenlinna Sea Fortress out in Helsinki's archipelago. If you grow weary of sightseeing, head for the leafy Esplanade Park or the distinctive Chapel of Silence at the corner of Narinkkatori Square, where you are always welcome to join locals for a moment of calm.



Day 4 - Helsinki To Turku

After a leisurely breakfast at your hotel, make your way to Helsinki's main station for a journey of just under two hours westwards. Disembark at Turku and check in at the Scandic Julia Hotel (or similar) for a 2-night stay. Once you have had a chance to settle in at your hotel, spend your first afternoon in Turku, Finland's oldest city and former capital, located on the southwest coast of Finland at the mouth of the Aura River.



Day 5 - Turku

Turku has been on the map since 1229, but it's also a very modern, cultural city with plenty going on all year round. In the summer the city overflows with events and festivals: tango, music, theatre, art, design and more. The River Aura (Plough in English) is the heart of Turku, with the medieval cobblestone streets of the centre branching off its banks. There are old sailing ships moored here, and you can take cruises out into the archipelago or to nearby Naantali.



Day 6 - Turku And Night Train To Lapland

Spend another day in Turku. Across on the west bank of the river, attractions include the Turku Castle, Forum Marinum maritime centre and its museum ship fleet (including the full-rigger Suomen Joutsen), as well as the Pharmacy Museum and Qwensel House. After dinner in the evening, it's time to make your way back to the station for an overnight sleeper service bound for Finnish Lapland.



Days 7, 8 & 9 - Lapland

Arrive in Rovaniemi and check in at the Rantasipi Pohjanhovi Hotel (or similar), for your 3-night stay. Rovaniemi is capital of Lapland and the gateway to explore this stunning sub-Arctic region. It's also believed to be the home of Father Christmas, who you can meet in the Santa Village. Why not head out and visit a reindeer farm or take a Lapland safari by snowmobile or husky? Give us a call to add Lapland tours and experiences to your booking.



Day 10 - Rovaniemi To Oulu

Spend another morning exploring Rovaniemi. The famous midnight sun is seen between June early June and early July when the sun doesn't set at all. Until mid August, the night sky remains luminous. During winter, the northern lights are visible on most nights if the sky is clear. In the afternoon, leave Rovaniemi for your journey back down to Helsinki, stopping off for the night in Oulu, one of the largest and most important cities in Northern Finland. Spend the night in the Radisson Blu Oulu (or similar).



Days 11 - 12 - Oulu To Helsinki

Leave Oulu and take the train for a 6 hour journey to Helsinki. Check in for an overnight stay at the Seurahuone Hotel (or similar). The following morning, it's time to check out of your hotel and head to the airport for your return flight to the UK (not included). ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: If you have the time, you can return to London by rail, travelling via Stockholm and Copenhagen.

Pricing

From £1,049 per person

Low season (November-March) **from £1,049pp**

High season (April-October) **from £1,149pp**

These prices are based on two people sharing a twin or double room. Single supplements will apply for sole occupancy. It is based on Standard Class rail travel and includes seat reservations as necessary. It is based on the best fares on the trains. If you travel during a peak period, particularly at short notice, then supplements may apply.