

NATURE SERVICES CULTURE EVENTS



V A A S A R E G I O N



THE SEA
PASSION
ENERGY

V A A S A . V A A S A .
VISIT VAASA
FINLAND

Contents

Spend a relaxing weekend, a long-awaited holiday or a refreshing family vacation in the Vaasa region!

We have picked out the best destinations for you. All you need to do is choose your favourites and pack your bags. Read on for a taste of what we have to offer. You can always find the hottest seasonal tips online at

vaasa.fi/en/vacation-tips



The city's classic attractions

These are the places Vaasa is best known for! If this is your first visit or you prefer to choose the most reliable options, you should start from these.

p. 4



Family favourites

Check out our list of popular Vaasa region favourites and new attractions for visitors of all ages. Choose between high-octane activities or something a little slower.

p. 10



Experiences for all of the senses

For those who are not in any rush during their holiday, preferring to spend their days enjoying culinary and cultural delights.

p. 18



For lovers of art and history

For those who draw strength from culture, the Vaasa region offers nourishment for the soul, performed in both modern and traditional styles.

s. 24



Adventurers

If you prefer to explore paths less travelled at your own pace or if you've already visited the region's traditional destinations several times, you can always find exciting new adventures in Vaasa and the surrounding region.

s. 28

More fun, less dreariness

Finland is full of modest regions, but we are not one of them. We are proud of ourselves and not afraid to let it show. Would you like a latte and pastry in a cosy café? Or a sausage cooked over a campfire out in the middle of nature? In the Vaasa region, you do not need to make that choice. Urban living and great experiences in nature are both part of daily life here for locals and visitors alike.

In Vaasa's city centre, you can enjoy vibrant urban culture. From Vaasa Market Square, it only takes a few minutes to get to the seafront. You can enjoy the fantastic views like the locals – being active and getting exercise – or by relaxing on a picnic blanket.

Outside the city, the fertile plains of Ostrobothnia and the coastal region that is rich in tradition provide exotic activities for day trips as well as longer hikes. The fascinating attractions combine rich local history with unique culture and passion for entrepreneurship.

The Kvarken Archipelago, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of a kind in Finland.

Family is important for Ostrobothnians, which is why we want to offer fun activities for children as well as adults. The city's numerous playgrounds provide a way to burn off extra energy and there are many opportunities for unforgettable experiences on land, at sea and at the tops of trees.

Choose your way of experiencing the region and pick up the rights tips for you from this brochure and online. The Vaasa region is easy to enjoy, whether you are travelling with your spouse, a group of friends or your entire family. There is something for everyone here!

We look forward to seeing you.

*Max Jansson,
Visit Vaasa*



P.S. This brochure was printed in 2022. You can always find the latest destination information and travel trips at www.visitvaasa.fi.

Experiences that make you want to return

Vaasa is a vibrant, multilingual city by the sea that is full of life in every season.

In the city centre, you can enjoy pleasant cafés, excellent restaurants, trendy specialty shops and a wide range of cultural experiences. From Vaasa Market Square, it only takes a few minutes to get to the seafront. You can enjoy the fantastic views like the locals, being active and getting exercise or relaxing on a picnic blanket.

Live like a local

- ✓ Spend time by the sea
- ✓ Go out in nature
- ✓ Enjoy terrace culture



Like in Strömsö

Strömsö in Vaasa has become a figure of speech for things going smoothly. It's no secret: it's easy to be happy in Vaasa.

The idyllic villa in Vaasa's Västervik bay that serves as the set of the TV show Strömsö is known by millions of Finns.

Strömsö is located about 10 kilometres from the centre of Vaasa. The villa, which was built in 1852, can be visited on guided tours. Reservations for group visits are also accepted. The area around the villa, including the local beach, is always open to visitors. It is a great destination for a family bicycle trip in the summer, for example.

In addition to using your own transport, you can also reach the area by local bus:

vaasa.fi/en/public-transport

Information on guided tours and group visits is available online at

vaasa.fi/stromso-group-visit

 [ylestromso](https://www.instagram.com/ylestromso)



“The secret behind Strömsö’s success is creativity, which emerges from the combination of practical skills and the joy of doing things together.”



Hanging out in parks with views of the sea

Forget about narrow patches of grass between city streets, reeking of exhaust fumes. Vaasa's parks are seafront zones that are several kilometres long, each with their own unique atmosphere. Grab a picnic lunch from the city centre, find a pleasant park and kick off your shoes!

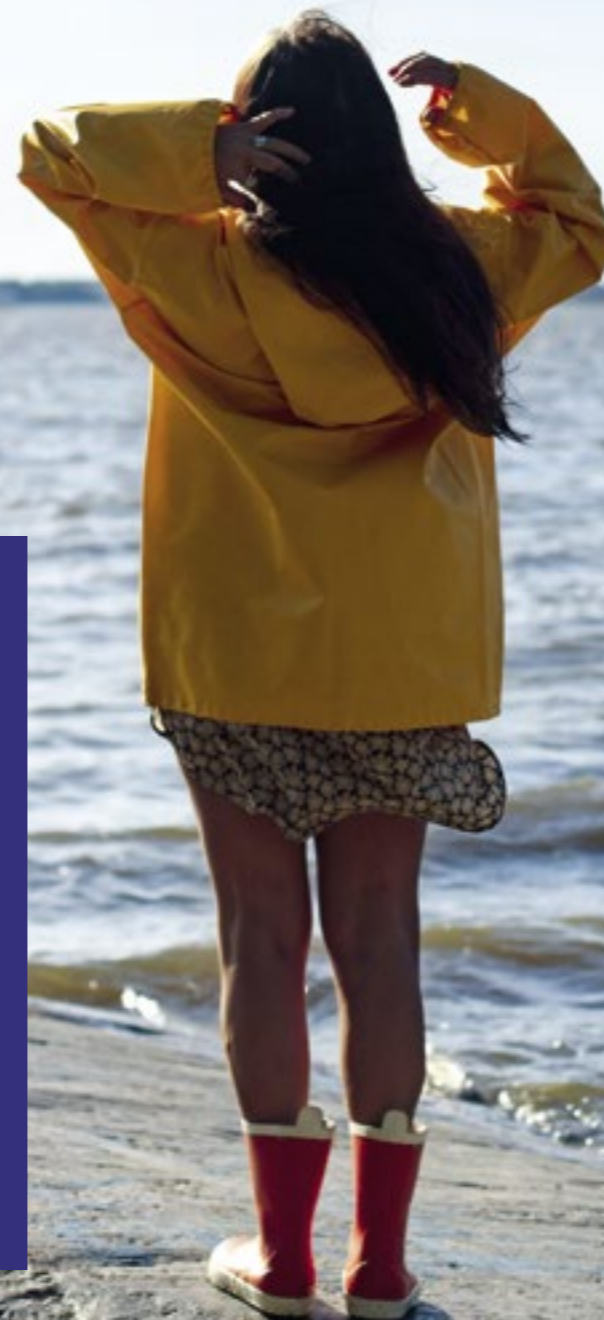
vaasa.fi/en/picnic



Dining to the sounds of the waves

If you prefer a chair in a restaurant instead of a picnic blanket but you still want to enjoy a lovely view, try one of the city's many seafront restaurants. There are many options ranging from a traditional yacht club to a modern urban living room.

vaasa.fi/en/eat-by-the-sea





A beach and water activities 1 km from the city centre

Sailboats off the city's shore

There are nearly 300 shops, restaurants and cafés in the city centre

University of Vaasa, the most attractive campus milieu in Finland

The best spots for a summer party

Great cycling and walking trails by the sea

Wasaline takes you to Finland's western neighbour, Sweden, in a matter of hours

Replot Bridge, 20 minutes from Vaasa

Laivapuisto

Hietasaari beach

Mansikkasaari beach

Hovioikeudenpuisto park

Kustaanlinna beach

A short distance from everywhere

Wherever you are going in Vaasa, you can get there in 15 minutes. Choose your preferred destinations from the map and hop on a bicycle or put on a pair of good walking shoes!



In the middle of the summer, the sun rises at 4 a.m.

A day around town on foot or by bicycle

Vaasa's sheltered inner harbour is only a few blocks from the city centre.

The 3-kilometre coastal route offers plenty to do for a day or even several days.

- ✓ **Is Vaasa at its summer-time best?**
Grab a picnic lunch from the city centre and spend time in one of the city's many great parks.
- ✓ **Is it raining?**
Visit one of the city's several art museums or enjoy the views from a seafront restaurant.
- ✓ **Do you love the sea?**
Rent a SUP board or join a cruise around the archipelago.
- ✓ **Enjoying the outdoors on a crisp winter's day?**
You may be able to ski, walk or skate on the ice. Always look up the local news on ice conditions first.

The captain who hung up his boots

Recently retired footballer Tim Sparv spends a lot of his free time in the Vaasa archipelago

Tim Sparv, the recently retired former captain of the Finnish national football team, hails from Oravais near Vaasa. Led by Sparv, the team captivated the nation by qualifying for the European Championships for the first time in the history of Finnish football.

Tim believes in the power of team spirit on and off the pitch. Supporting youth football and other children's sports is important to him. He has already donated two artificial turf pitches to the Vaasa region, which are free to use by the public.

Tim's Vaasa tips:



The archipelago

"I have a summer cottage on Kuusisaari island. It's where I go to relax. Unfortunately, I haven't had the chance to spend as much time there lately as I'd like to. The archipelago is something everyone should experience!"



Nightlife

"When I have the chance to go out with my friends, the bars and restaurants in Vaasa are always a good time. I have spent a lot of fun nights at Office Sports Bar with like-minded people. It has an excellent vibe. You can't beat the combination of sports, bad jokes and sea buckthorn shots."



Ice swimming

"The ice swimming club Vaasan Pingviinit has a sauna and ice swimming dock in Hietasaari. It's an opportunity to go ice swimming in a fantastic environment and meet many different kinds of people. It's just great!"



Wasaline takes you to Vaasa's twin city

Vaasa's Swedish counterpart Umeå is a lively city of culture. It offers interesting museums, restaurants and various family attractions that make you want to return for repeat visits.

Making a quick trip abroad does not get much easier than this: the world's most eco-friendly passenger ship, M/S Aurora Botnia, takes you comfortably across the Kvarken strait in about four hours.



Umeå-Vaasa
approx. 4 h

wasaline

Wasaline terminal
Laivanvarustajankatu 6, 65170 Vaasa
Distance from Vaasa city centre: 3.2 km

www.wasaline.com

Spend time together as a family

The Vaasa region is a great place to spend time together as a family.

The region's beaches and the slides at the water park are great choices for children who love water and swimming. Adventure parks challenge children to test their limits and the nature trails that are suitable for the whole family inspire people to learn more about life in the archipelago. Children and their families can feed their imagination by visiting the region's many cultural attractions where stories of the past come to life.

The best restaurants and the softest pillows

The comprehensive range of services in the Vaasa region includes restaurants that delight the entire family as well as accommodation options known for their child-friendly service.

vaasa.fi/en/stay | vaasa.fi/en/restaurants



See the complete list: vaasa.fi/en/museums-and-galleries

Museums for visitors of all ages

For families whose children are still too young to fully enjoy art, there are museums that make history tangible.

Vaasa Maritime Museum and Kvarken Boat Museum

These sea-themed museums shed light on local seafaring traditions and how people used to live in the archipelago in years gone by.

Vaasa Automobile and Motor Museum

Finland's largest private automobile museum has exhibits on three floors, including cars, motorcycles and model aircraft.

Stundars and Brage open-air museums

These popular open-air museums offer an interesting and engaging take on life in Ostrobothnia in the past.

Korsnäs Mine Centre

The decommissioned mine in Korsnäs features interesting stories related to mining. The services and attractions in the area also include an escape room, a café and a nature trail.

The best spots for a selfie

Check out these trendy, fun and quirky spots and you're guaranteed to get likes on your Instagram feed.

vaasa.fi/en/selfie



Follow the path of the Ice Age

Nature trails by the sea, duckboards across a nature reserve or an art trail in an urban setting? Choose your route from the options below or look for information on other options online:

vaasa.fi/en/naturetrails

Edvin's trail

Easy

1.3 km, Vaasa

- easy
- there are approximately 150 works of art by Edvin Hevonkoski along this trail
- playground and barbecue area

Bodvattnet trail

Easy

4 km, Korsholm/Svedjehamn

- De Geer moraines and the old Bodback fishing port
- 20-metre Saltkaret observation tower, composting toilet and a campfire spot with firewood

Västerö hiking trail

Medium difficulty

3–12 km, Vörå/Maxmo

- challenging in places
- relics from the Finnish Civil War era, land uplift forest and seashores
- two wilderness huts for overnight use as well as toilets, barbecue areas and a beach

Bergö nature trail

Medium difficulty

7 km, Malax/Bergö

- varying terrain
- two break spots: one at Kalvträsket (no fire pit) and another one at the barbecue hut close to the halfway point of the trail

Family time outdoors

In good weather, you should take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the Vaasa region's diverse nature and outdoor recreation facilities.

Adventures for daredevils

Thrill-seeking family members may find themselves at the top of a pine tree, on the waves of the sea or in a locked room.

vaasa.fi/en/adventures

Forgot to bring your swimsuit?

Shopping is easy in a compact city. You can park your car close to the shopping centres and their wide corridors make it easy to get around with a pram.

vaasa.fi/en/shoppingcenter

The parks are always open

Games, art, history, beautiful flowers and domestic animals – the Vaasa region's diverse parks offer a wide range of experiences.

vaasa.fi/en/parks



Above and below the surface

There are nice beaches in and around the city. In cooler weather, you can enjoy the sea on a cruise or in a kayak – or go swim at an indoor pool instead of the sea.

vaasa.fi/en/water-activities



Take a moment to enjoy the open space

The plains of Ostrobothnia simply do not get any more open than this. This large meteorite impact crater in Sundom, just outside Vaasa, is flat terrain that is used for grain cultivation in the summer and is covered by snow in the winter. At Meteoria, you can learn about the history of the crater and use a telescope to observe celestial bodies.

In the autumn, this area is Finland's most important resting spot for migrating cranes. At night, being away from the lights of the city means you can occasionally see the northern lights in the sky. Open daily during the summer season. At other times by advance reservation.

Meteorita
Marenintie 292, 65410 Vaasa
Distance from Vaasa city centre: 12 km

Pet the animals at the idyllic Aava Kerttu domestic animal farm in the village of Södra Vallgrund

Life at the Aava Kerttu domestic animal farm follows the seasons and the animals' needs. Aava Kerttu is located in the World Heritage Site area.





Step inside the World Heritage Gateway

Start your visit to the archipelago from the World Heritage Gateway visitor centre, which is next to Replot Bridge. At the visitor centre, you can find tips on local attractions, hiking trails and events.

www.kvarkenworldheritage.fi

The children of the archi- pelago

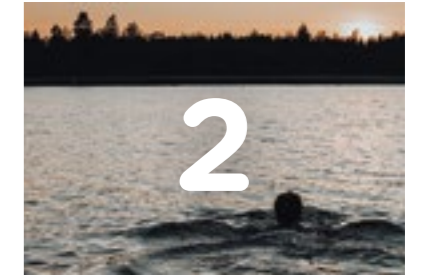
For the locals, the sea is an important part of daily life and a way to recharge their batteries.

The sea that surrounds the city is present every day. However, if you are looking for a genuine experience of life in the archipelago, you should go further out into the Kvarken area. The shallow inlets, rocky shores and verdant forests provide a great living environment for the region's birds and other animals. The services provided by the local residents of the archipelago create unforgettable experiences for visitors.

Four tips for an adventure in the archipelago



Go on a cruise in the archipelago to take a look behind the scenes and find out what the locals do to relax. You will get a different perspective on the region. Taking in the diverse natural scenery and breathing in the fresh sea air are mindfulness at its best.



The calm waters just off the shore by the city are great for SUP boarding. Spot the city's most gorgeous buildings that are rich in history and check out the most popular beaches and seafront terraces!



Svedjehamn on Björkö has something for everyone: climb up the Saltkaret observation tower for a great view of the unique moraine landscape, hike on the nature trails and take a break on the shore to eat a packed lunch. Rent a bicycle and reward yourself with a meal at the seaside restaurant.



In Molpe, you can rent a kayak or join a guided trip. Kayaking is a lovely way to experience the World Heritage Site up close, right on the sea. Molpe is a paradise for active people who love the sea and nature.

See also:
vaasa.fi/en/paddling

Bergö - an island that feels like a different country

The island of Bergö is only a 10-minute ferry ride from the mainland but it has an otherworldly atmosphere. In the churchyard, the monument dedicated to people lost at sea is an interesting example of what the culture of Bergö is about.

Discover this popular destination:
vaasa.fi/en/tour-to-bergo-island





Big enough, but nice and compact

When you exit the railway station, you see a city by the sea that is full of history, feels international and is rich in culture.

From the station, you can walk to the Market Square along a pedestrian street lined with restaurants. The soundscape consists of a lively mix of languages and the rustling of the linden trees, reflecting the changing seasons.

Vaasa is just the right size for shopping. It is big enough to have a wide range of specialty shops, flea markets, chain stores and shopping centres. At the same time, it is small enough that you can explore all of the vibrant city centre by foot. The city's idyllic cafés and over 100 restaurants ensure that your breaks between shopping will delight all of your senses.



Cafés rich in atmosphere

There are many lovely cafés for you to choose from. How about raw cake, a chocolate cookie or a freshly baked bun?

vaasa.fi/en/cafes



Let others look after you

A holiday should not feel like you need to perform all the time. Pampering yourself with luxurious treatments will recharge your batteries before you return to the daily grind.

vaasa.fi/en/wellness



The best souvenirs

Visit unique boutiques or find nice souvenirs in the city's shopping centres. Consumers who value sustainability should choose locally made products or imported products manufactured in an eco-friendly manner.

vaasa.fi/en/shoppingvaasa



A pioneer in fashion

The latest fashion trends quickly make their way to Vaasa from Sweden just across the gulf. This is reflected on Vaasa's streets and in the merchandise sold in Vaasa's clothing stores.

In the city centre, you can find clothes from Nordic designer brands as well as popular chain stores. The locals value quality and timelessness in their clothing and spice things up by following seasonal trends.

vaasa.fi/en/vaasacitylife

The most popular shopping destinations

- ✓ **Rewell shopping centre**
The largest shopping centre in Ostrobothnia
- ✓ **Market Hall**
Local delicacies in a striking environment
- ✓ **Walking street**
Restaurants and cafés to suit every taste

The picturesque Loftet combines local quality with local history

The wooden Loftet is one of the oldest buildings in Vaasa's city centre: it was completed in the heart of the city in the 1860s

Today, the building is home to Taito Shop, which sells products made by local artisans, and a lovely lunch restaurant. In the summer season, people eat lunch outdoors in the building's courtyard and there is also an ice cream van in the yard.



Eat like a local

In the Vaasa region, enjoying good food is part of the local culture. Traditional salmon soup, thick-crust pizza and beautifully presented gourmet food all go hand in hand here.



Lively terraces by the sea

In the summer, the locals flock to the city's best spot to meet friends and enjoy the sunsets.



Romantic candle-lit dinners

A meal that is prepared with love from local ingredients can be an emotional experience. Seasonal dinner menus will have you coming back for more.

vaasa.fi/en/fine-dining



Eat lunch like a royal

Lunch on a weekday can be a special occasion when you eat within walls that are over a century old. Strampen, Bacchus, Loftet and Bank are examples of restaurants that embody the city's glorious history.

vaasa.fi/en/lunch

A city of pizzas

Did you know that Kotipizza, the largest chain of pizza restaurants in the Nordic region, was founded in Vaasa over 30 years ago? In Vaasa's many pizzerias, you can find a different kind of pizza for every day of your visit.



Where it all began

O Sole Mio, the first pizzeria opened by Kotipizza founder Rabbe Grönblom, is making a comeback in the city's pedestrian centre.

Return to the roots of pizza

Experience Southern Europe: the thick-crust pizzas at pizza bistro **Marco Polo** are made according to an authentic Italian recipe.

Adaptations in local colours

Niska, a restaurant named after a famous smuggler, serves thin Åland-style pizza.

A Sunday favourite

Illyrian's is a popular pizza restaurant among locals. It offers a combination of delicious flavours, changing menus and a good sense of humour.

And there's more:
vaasa.fi/en/pizzerias



Diverse local production

Local production is highly valued in Vaasa and the surrounding region, so it is easy to find a wide range of locally produced food. Local fishermen and small farms ensure that high-quality ingredients are always available.

Market Hall

When it is time to prepare a festive meal, the locals buy their fish and meat from the Market Hall. Known for its impressive Gothic architecture, Vaasa Market Hall has been a meeting place and a shopping venue for locals for nearly 120 years.



Recipe: Simple fish dip à la Isabella

Choose one or more from each group and combine to your liking.

- Smoked or cured fish (warm or cold-smoked)
- Leek, shallots or spring onions
- Fromage frais, mayonnaise, creme fraiche, sour cream or curd
- Parsley, dill or other fresh herbs
- Lemon, lime or sea buckthorn juice

Instructions:

Mix the ingredients, let chill for a moment and serve with crispbread or rye bread from Maalahden Limppu.



Information on the region's food markets and events for gourmands:

vaasa.fi/en/events



Fresh food directly from producers

- **Aroma bakery** | Vaasa and Koivulahti
- **Fiskdisken fish counter** | Vaasa
- **Ruotsala fish shop** | Vaasa and Fjärdskär
- **FinneFarm** | Sulva
- **Berry and vegetable farm Jarmo Valtari** | Vähäkyrö Vaasa
- **Granholms jam and delicacies** | Maksamaa
- **Köttdisken meat counter** | Malax
- **Oravaisten savustamo smokery** | Oravais
- **Fiini Lifestyle** | Isokyrö
- **Bärkiosken** | Malax
- **Hemmanet turkey farm** | Ylimarkku
- **Sjögårds lamm** | Pjelax

Where to quench your thirst

- **Bock's Corner Brewery**
- **Kyrö Distillery**
- **Kvarken Brewery**
- **Öfvermark läskedrycker soft drinks**
- **NP Brewery**

For a comprehensive list of local producers, please visit vaasa.fi/en/locally-produced





Art, culture and events all year round

If you prefer to spend your free time away from home, the Vaasa region offers such a wide range of activities and food for the soul that you will spend very little time in your hotel room.

Big emotions on stage

Two languages means twice as much culture! The performances at Vaasa City Theatre consist of a familiar combination of classics, musicals and children's theatre. Wasa Teater was recently renovated, giving the theatre an even more impressive setting.

Food and sleep prepare you for the next day's activities

The region's wide range of food options includes restaurants whose dishes are practically art. The hotels in the city centre are within walking distance of the city's museums, theatres, galleries and other cultural attractions.

vaasa.fi/en/stay | vaasa.fi/en/restaurant

Events full of heart

The Vaasa region is full of events of all sizes to suit all preferences. Many events have resulted from the passion and enterprise of their organisers. There is a strong spirit of volunteering in the region.

Large events attract both local residents as well as visitors from other parts of Finland. In the late summer, Vaasa Festival makes the inner harbour very lively. Around November-December, the

atmospheric start to the Christmas season fills up the Market Square. The Isokyrö 18th century fair features local history as well as handmade crafts by artisans, while the Vaasa Choir Festival is an international event that celebrates choral music.

Up-to-date information can be found in our event calendar:

vaasa.fi/en/events

Fiery emotions

Passionate performances by the region's amateur theatres are available all year round.

Find information on upcoming shows at:
vaasa.fi/en/amateur-theatre



Experience a wide range of music

Live music in the Vaasa region is just as diverse and full of personality as the region itself. How about a concert in a building that is over a century old? Or a shop that transforms into a concert venue in the evenings?

Ritz

This cinema from the 1950s is full of nostalgia. It serves as a cultural stage for concerts, theatre performance and other events. In the seated auditorium, you can enjoy the show without bumping into anyone's elbows.

Vaasa City Hall

Vaasa City Orchestra is based in, and mostly performs in, the yellow City Hall building next to the church.

Nightclubs and pubs

The city's nightlife features performers ranging from local troubadours and DJs to leading Finnish artists.

WSArena

This space in the Klemetilä industrial district is used as a shop for occupational safety and fire safety supplies by day, but at night it turns into a large event arena!

Doo-Bop Club

This dusky club below street level is the place to go for people who enjoy jazz and blues. This gig venue that opened in the 1990s is run by a non-profit organisation founded by musicians.

Dance pavilions

You can still see dancers in bell-shaped skirts at the Molpe dance pavilion, the Kalliojärvi and Pukkilaansaari dance pavilions and the Fagerö and Äminne folk parks.

Find information on upcoming gigs at vaasa.fi/en/events



Jazz, metal and everything in between

Monica Johnson, Director of Korsholm Music Festival, enjoys the thriving cultural scene in Vaasa.

Professional challenges in the travel industry have taken Monica Johnson to many places around the world, but she has always returned to Vaasa. As the Director of Korsholm Music Festival, she gets to combine her international expertise with her lifelong love of music.

Held at the turn of July and August, the festival brings an impressive line-up of Finnish and international musicians to the Vaasa region. During the festival, concerts are organised in various venues, some of which are quite exotic; for example, in the Stundars open-air museum, on the islands in the World Heritage Site area and in some of the region's small wooden churches.

"They have really unique acoustics," Monica Johnson says.

While Johnson's job mostly involves classical and chamber music, her personal taste in music spans many different genres.

"I started listening to metal thanks to my son, who is now an adult. I especially enjoyed the Raskasta joulua Christmas metal music concert at Botnia Hall a couple of years ago."

For music lovers like Johnson, the Vaasa region has developed into a cornucopia of possibilities.

"The cultural scene in the Vaasa region has really flourished over the past few years. There is so much to see and do!"

Monica's tips for enjoying live music:



Summer rock festivals out in the country

"During the nightless nights of summer, you may find world-class rock concerts in small Ostrobothnian towns such as Äminne in Malax and Norrvalla in Vörå."



Jazz at dusk

In the spring and autumn, you may find Johnson at Ritz, the Doo-Bop Club or gigs organised by the Vaasa Jazz Club.

"Vaasa often hosts concerts by fantastic jazz performers from Ostrobothnia and other parts of Finland and the world."



Christmas choir music

The region's diverse cultural scene is especially rich in opportunities in the run-up to Christmas, when there are music events and concerts practically every evening.

"Every choir wants to perform for an audience during the holiday season. The end of the year is when they really want to spread the joy of singing."

Experience history

There are fantastic cultural attractions in the Vaasa region, full of exciting stories of the past. The region's museums and monuments recall both daily life and major turning points in history.

vaasa.fi/kavellen

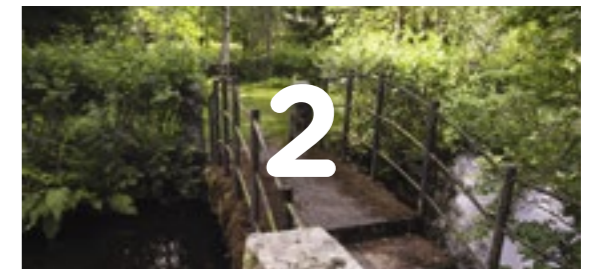
The region's specialities



Museum of Stinginess

Laihia

Learn about the penny-pinching ways of the people of Laihia.



Kimo Ironworks

Oravais

Events and local history in a 300-year-old ironworks



Edvin's trail

Vaasa

Outsider art along a nature trail.



Vähäkyrö Museum

Vähäkyrö

The plater tradition in Vähäkyrö can be traced back to the 18th century.

The buildings in Vaasa radiate the dignity of having been the capital of Finland

The vibrant history of architecture emanates from the buildings in Vaasa's city centre. No matter where you walk in the city centre, you will see fascinating buildings all around you. Many of them are home to museums, galleries, shops or restaurants, which means they are open to visitors. Vaasa was the capital of Finland for only three months in the early spring of 1918, but that does not lessen the radiance of the city's impressive buildings.

Read more:
vaasa.fi/en/stories-from-the-vaasa-region

A piece of old Vaasa

The old Vaasa, which dated back to the 17th century, was almost entirely destroyed by a fire in 1852. The decision was subsequently made to rebuild the city in its current location, about seven kilometres from Old Vaasa.

The buildings that were spared from the fire include the Wasastjerna building, which is now home to the Museum of Old Vaasa, and the Court of Appeal, which was turned into Korsholm Church.

Read more:
vaasa.fi/en/old-vaasas-history



City of Vaasa museums

- ✓ **Ostrobothnian Museum**
Museokatu 3, Vaasa
- ✓ **Kuntsi Museum of Modern Art**
Sisäsatama, Vaasa
- ✓ **Tikanoja Art Museum**
Hovioikeudenpuistikko 4, Vaasa
- ✓ **Vaasa City Art Gallery**
Vaasa City Hall,
Senaatinkatu 1 D, Vaasa
- ✓ **Museum of Old Vaasa**
Kauppiaankatu 10, Vanha Vaasa
(open during the summer season)
Senaatinkatu 1 D, Vaasa

A rural landscape shaped by the sea and ice

It may be surprising, but the sea is related to the grain fields of Ostrobothnia. The flat plains you see in this rural landscape rose from the sea over time. In fact, Finland is growing all the time: the land area in the Kvarken Archipelago increases at a rate of one square kilometre per year, which corresponds to more than 150 football fields.



The Kvarken Archipelago - constantly changing and unique

The Kvarken Archipelago is Finland's only Natural Heritage Site on the UNESCO World Heritage List. In the archipelago, the freshness of nature, the atmosphere of idyllic villages and the rising rocky landscape are present everywhere. You cannot find anything like it anywhere else!

There is a lot to see and do in the area. You can explore on your own or join a guided tour. The easiest way to explore the World Heritage Site is to head over to Replot, which is located in Korsholm, 25 km from the centre of Vaasa. Cross Finland's longest bridge and you will be at the World Heritage Site.

Start your visit to the archipelago from the World Heritage Gateway visitor centre, which is next to Replot Bridge. At the visitor centre, you can find tips on local attractions, hiking trails and events.

***Did you know?** According to some studies, in about 3,000 years, the shallow Kvarken threshold will create a land connection between Finland and Sweden. That is how long it will take for the land depressed by the most recent Ice Age to rise to its former level.*

Read more: www.kvarkenworldheritage.fi



World Heritage Site

Kokkola approx. 1 h

Powerpark 75 km

Umeå - Vaasa approx. 4 h

Oravais battleground
Did you know that Oravais in Vörså was the site of a decisive battle in the Finnish War? Come hear fascinating historical stories, enjoy some Soldier's Soup for lunch and eat Adlercreutz's Chocolate Balls for dessert.

Stundars open-air museum
A perennial favourite among families with children! In this large open-air museum, you can find out how Ostrobothnians lived in the 19th century.

Kyrö Distillery Company
Have you tried Kyrö's award-winning gin and rye whisky? This distillery grew from a crazy idea among a group of friends into a success story.

Bergö
In Kvarken. Navigate your boat to the island's guest harbour located at 62°58'30"N, 021°10'21"E or get there by taking the traditional ferry.

Korsnäs Vicarage Museum
Travel back in time to the late 1800s! This house is full of stories of life in a vicarage and the historical styles and trends of years gone by. Also check out the school museum in the attic!

Linds Kök
Did you know that 60% of Finland's tomatoes are grown in Närpes? If you are feeling adventurous, why not try some tomatoes in the greenhouse restaurant Linds Kök.

Ähtäri Zoo 165 km

Stinginess Week
Laihia's famous frugality is now more topical than ever. We look forward to seeing you!

Tampere approx. 3 h

Turku approx. 4 h

Can you hear the call of the plains?

Life is good on the plains of Ostrobothnia. The region's vibrant municipalities welcome visitors with open arms. There are many things to experience along the way. Choose your preferred mode of transport and start your adventure!

Explore the River Kyrö by bicycle

To take what is impossible and make it normal, you need plenty of courage, determination and passion. This is a well-known fact in the enterprising rural municipalities along the River Kyrö. They are places that are rich in tradition, where people live life on their own terms and with a good sense of humour.

Start your bicycle ride from **Isokyrö**. There, you can find not only many interesting attractions that are rich in history - such as the old stone church with its murals and the historic battleground of Napue - but also award-winning next-generation entrepreneurship. With Kyrö Distillery's gin and whisky and Fiini Naturally's cosmetics products, you can sort out your souvenirs conveniently in one location.

Laihia is not exactly along the route, but you should remember that it is not just the stuff of legends, it is an actual place! The village likes to poke fun at itself for its reputation of stinginess. There is even a whole week dedicated to the theme of frugality in the late summer. Maybe less would have been enough?



Vähäkyrö is home to artisans who make everything from ceramics to bread, sausage and traditional plater products. The area around the river is an attractive and well-preserved rural landscape with traditional houses.

The River Kyrö meets the sea in Vassor Bay in **Korsholm**. After a long bicycle ride, you can rest at Tesses Café before your return journey.

Experience the pearls of the coast by road

The municipalities along the coast incorporate centuries-old traditions into the daily life of people today. The enjoyment and energy derived from exercise, nature and crafts is the secret behind the happiness of the people who live in this region.

Vörå offers various sporting events and trails. The outdoor exercise area has opportunities for hiking, roller skiing and golf. There is even a ski jumping hill! You can learn more about the region's history at the municipality's numerous museums. Did you know that Oravais in Vörå was the site of a decisive battle in the Finnish War in 1808?

In **Målabax**, you can find bread that is famous across Finland as well locally produced meat and fish items. Experience life in an authentic island village on Bergö. In the summer season, Åminne Folkpark offers open-air dancing, while Åminne Stugby provides accommodation in cottages.

Small but spirited, **Korsnäs** is the westernmost municipality on mainland Finland. It was still entirely underwater just 2,000 years ago. Visit the Korsnäs Vicarage Museum to travel two centuries back in time. Do you have a Korsnäs sweater in your wardrobe yet?

Närpes offers not only tomatoes and other types of local food but also other interesting experiences, such as the unique row of falun red church stables and the park of the Öjskog local history museum.

For people who tread their own path

The Vaasa region has a lot to offer to people who prefer to tread their own path. You can sleep in a different environment every night.

Cottages and camping sites

Would you rather sleep in a small falun red cottage or a modern villa? There are many atmospheric camping sites in the Vaasa region.

vaasa.fi/en/stay

Hiking trails

The beautiful and varied nature along the coast offers excellent trails for hikers. Some of the trails have rest areas with firewood, outhouses and lean-tos.

Recommended by locals!

Levaneva nature reserve trail, Laihia

- **length** approx. 13 km
- **easy**, features one of the longest sets of duckboards in Finland
- **a dream destination for birdspotters**, full of the tranquillity of nature
- **birdwatching tower**, dry toilets and several lean-tos along the trail

Learn more about the trails and start planning your trip:

vaasa.fi/en/naturetrails

Take a day trip a little further out

PowerPark - a thrilling amusement park!

At PowerPark Funland, your mission is simple: have fun! This is easy, as PowerPark is only one hour's drive from Vaasa and there is plenty of parking available. The largest amusement park in the Nordic region has more than 40 rides, indoor karting, Imagine Nation and much more. Distance from Vaasa: approx. 80 km.

Ähtäri Zoo — meet the pandas!

The animals at the oldest natural environment zoo in Finland enjoy spacious and natural living conditions. The crown jewels of the zoo are Lumi and Pyry, two giant pandas that are celebrities in Finland. Distance from Vaasa: approx. 160 km.



A central point on the map

We look forward to seeing you! The Vaasa region is easy to reach.

Vaasa is a well-connected city that is easy to reach from near and far. The airport is only 10 minutes away from central Vaasa, and the railway station is located right in the city centre. A daily ferry between the Swedish city of Umeå and Vaasa gives you the opportunity to experience two countries and two cities in one day!



Further information and enquiries:

Visit Vaasa
tourist information
Rewell shopping centre,
2nd floor, Vaasa
Summer office at
Vaasa Market Square

www.visitvaasa.fi
+358 (0)6 325 1145
visit.vaasa@visitvaasa.fi

 
#visitvaasa