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# WALKING GUIDE

Folkhälsan Wasa

Raastuvankatu 23–25

NORTH BEACH ROUT 2.5 KM





We all know how important it is to move daily, even outdoors. In this guide, you will find a walking route that goes northwards from the City Hall and back along the shore with a lot of interesting things to see and learn on the way. On the map you will find toilets and park benches where you can rest.

There are also walking guides with other routes available.

We hope that this walking guide will help you to discover the rich variety of nature, culture and history that are in our immediate environment.

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**1** item number on map

**b** park bench







1. Folkhälsan

## 1. FOLKHÄLSAN WASA

The house was built in 2013–2015 and the main planners were the architects Aitoaho & Viljanen. The house has a very central location giving Folkhälsan a visible presence in the city. The house has 55 senior apartments, both private and rented accommodation, a kitchen and dining room, rooms for health promotion activities and group activities. Folkhälsan Vålfärd Ab and Folkhälsan associations have their administrative offices in the building. There are also spaces that can be rented out to third parties. The house was built in partnership with the following associations: Folkhälsan i svenska Finland r.f., Harry Schaumans Stiftelse, Svenska litteratursällskapet i Finland r.f. / Svenska kulturfonden and Landskapsföreningen Folkhälsan i Österbotten r.f.

**Raastuvankatu 21– Sjöblom's House**

## 2. WASABORG

Hugo and Alma Sjöblom (nee Wallenius) moved from Kauhajoki to Vaasa in 1889. Hugo had an emigrant office selling tickets to ocean vessels. He bought the plot in 1902 and the house, designed by A. Gauffin, was finished in 1912. Hugo died the same year and Alma was not able to settle their debts. The house was sold at auction to Ab WasaBorg in 1915. The house is built partly in the Jugend style and has influenced the planning of the new neighbour house owned by Folkhälsan Wasa.

**Raastuvankatu 28–Merchant Sjöberg's house**

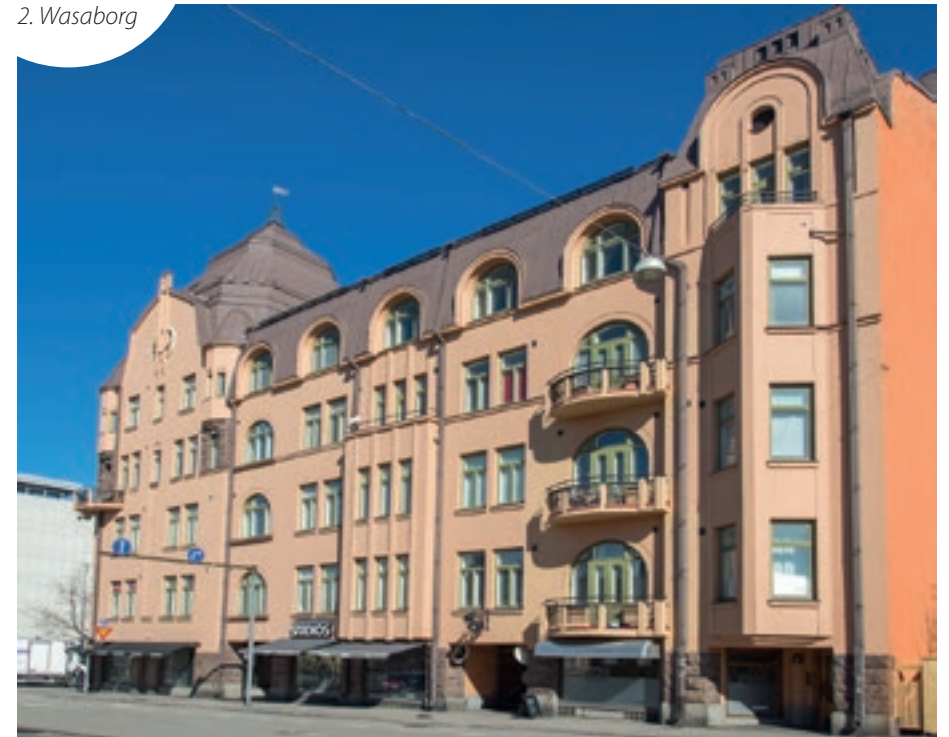
## 3. HOUSE OF CRAFTS LOFTET

In 1861, the architect Setterberg signed the drawings for a combined residential and commercial building, which the merchant H. Sjöberg then built. The building was rectangular in the late Empire style. The east end was the shop with access from the street. In 1884, the merchant and Consul J. E. Moe bought the house. His wife Tulla was a central figure in the city's high society, and artists and intellectuals gathered in their home. Consul Moe decorated the ground floor as a stately dining room in the New Renaissance style, with wood panelling, oak and wallpaper of faux-gilt leather. It serves today as the "Consul's wife's coffee room", a cosy lunch cafe. The rest of the building is used by the Finnish crafts association outlet "Loftet".



3. House of Crafts Loftet

2. Wasaborg





Senaatinkatu 1

#### 4. CITY HALL

The City Hall, designed by Swedish architect, M. Isaeus (1841–1890), was built between 1879–1883. The house was built of bricks manufactured in Gerby and Tölby. The ceiling and floors are made of wood, with beams that are up to 60 cm thick. On the facade are reliefs of Swedish King Karl IX (Charles IX) and national rulers Svinhufvud and Mannerheim, all of which were sculpted by J. Munsterhjelm. At the main entrance are two flagpoles adorned with the Vaasa sheaf. Initially the building contained city departments and school facilities in addition to the banquet hall. The fire station was located on the first floor.

Opposite the City Hall main entrance

#### 5. SEA PILOT MONUMENT

The sculptors were W. Aaltonen and his son Matti. The statue was unveiled in 1959. It was established in accordance with the 1912 legacy of alderman Husberg and his wife. They wanted a fountain and its theme would be the old generation Ostrobothnian sea pilots.



5. Sea Pilot Monument



4. City Hall



6. Trinity Church

Church Park

#### 6. TRINITY CHURCH (Vaasa Church)

The church was designed by C.A. Setterberg in the English Gothic style and built in 1862. The main altarpiece, Adoration of the Shepherds, was painted by A. Edelfelt in 1894. The other two altarpieces were painted by R. W. Ekman in 1861 and by L. Sparre in 1897. A total renovation was made in 2000. The church nave and galleries can hold 900 people. In the tower you can see traces of Russian bombardment during the Winter War. Trinity Church is today the city's main church and is used by the city's Swedish and Finnish Evangelical Lutheran congregations.

Hovioikeudenpuistikko 9

#### 7. CHURCH PHARMACY

The building, which has a pentagonal tower, was originally known as Sundén's House. The house was designed by A. T. Gellerstedt. He was Setterberg's student and the building was one of the first private stone houses in the new Vaasa.



7. Church Pharmacy



Between the Pharmacy  
and the Bank of Finland house

## 8. TOPELIUS STATUE

The sculptor was E. Wikström and the statue was unveiled in 1915. We know Topelius as a fairytale uncle. Our generation's first contact with him was through fairy tales and nursery rhymes such as Sov du lilla videung (Sleep, you little willow young) and Lasse, Lasse liten (Lasse, Little Lasse). Our next contact perhaps came through Sylvias julvisa (Sylvia's Christmas song) and the hymn Giv mig ej glans, ej guld, ej prakt (We ask for nothing rich or rare), set to music by Sibelius. At least in the old days Fältskärns berättelser (The Surgeon's stories) were read. The Vaasa March, however, is a familiar song for many to this day. On the evening before every 1 May, Vaasa students crown Topelius with a white graduation cap.



8. Topelius  
Statue

Kirkkopuistikko 22

## 9. BANK OF FINLAND HOUSE

The building was designed by J. S. Siren, whose most famous work is the Parliament House, Helsinki. The 6-storey Bank of Finland house was built in 1952 and still remains unchanged. The building once housed the Ritz cinema, where the non-profit association, Skafferiet, is engaged in cultural activities today.



9. Bank of Finland



10. FAB Egen härd

Kirkkopuistikko 19-21

## 10. FAB (Real Estate Company) EGEN HÄRD

This residential building, built in the early 1960's, is generally called Kinamuren (the Great Wall of China), because of its length. The building consists of an office space, 4 business premises and 144 residential units.

Kirkkopuistikko 15 – Vasa Svenska Samskola

## 11. VASA ARBIS

The building was designed by A. Lassel and built by Vasa Aktie Bank CEO, J. Kurtén, in the year 1877. The Bank's activities started there in 1879. The Vasa Telefon (Vaasa Telephone) office was in the building from 1899 to 1919. Then the Vasa svenska samskola (Swedish co-educational school in Vaasa) moved there. The school was a private grammar school with 8 grades. In 1976 the Vasa Svenska Samskola moved to Smedsby (Sepankylä) and became Korsholms Gymnasium. Now the Swedish Adult Education Centre, Vasa Arbis, is in the house.



11. Vasa Arbis



12. Wasa Theatre and Vasallen



#### Hietasaarenkatu 7

### 12. WASA THEATRE, THE WORKSHOP AND VASALLEN

Although the theatre was founded in 1919, the current theatre building, designed by architects B. Liljeqvist and S. Salvesen, was completed in 1955. The old yellow wooden building, built in the Empire style, houses the workshop. The old theatre building, which was erected in 1868 and designed by Setterberg, was completely destroyed during a fire in 1953. In the newer building (1955), the theatre was renovated in 1997–1998. The three different size stages – the Main Stage, Studio Stage and Vasallen – accommodates a total of about 450 seats. Vasallen is in the pink house on Kirkkopuistikko. The theatre has about 45 000 visitors and 6–7 premieres annually. Wasa Theatre offers a wide ranging repertoire for all ages and is known as a regional theatre of high standard.

#### Between Koulukatu 10 and 12

### 13. SETTERBERG PARK, SETTERBERG'S HOUSE

In Setterberg's city plan from 1855, the area was reserved for a society house. The plans never materialized, however, and at the turn of the century a park was built there instead. Originally, it was known as "Barnparken" (Children's Park), until it got its present name in 1966. The park is built on two levels, the upper one is intended as a playground. The lower level has a fountain that was purchased after a donation was received in 1924. The sculptures date from 1929, and were donated by Vasa Ångbageri Ab (Vaasa Steam Bakery). The sculptures are copies of Hellenistic sculptures; The Borghesian Swordsman, Mercury Resting, Boy and Goose, Venus with sword and Apollo. Old lime trees frame the park and Japanese flowering crabapple and American bird cherry are planted around the fountain.

On the plot adjacent to the park, Setterberg built a residential building for himself in a neo-Gothic style similar to the nearby Court of Appeal house. After Setterberg, the house was owned, among others, by Governor and Baron C. G. Wrede, whose youngest daughter, Mathilda (1864-1928) became known as the "prisoner's friend" and benefactor. In 1883 she began a 30-year operation aimed at a spiritual revival among the prisoners. She also appeared in international peace efforts. The house is now owned by the city and used as a kindergarten.

*The Court of Appeal Park or Residence Park stretches from Hietasaarenkatu to Vaasanpuistikko. Here you will find Strampen, the Vaasa Court of Appeal, the Leinonen Statue and Jaeger statue.*

### 14. RESTAURANT STRAMPEN



14. Restaurant Strampen

1868 S. Coray was granted permission to build a pavilion near the Court of Appeal. The pavilion was planned by Setterberg and was designed to be a summer restaurant. Restaurateur H. Ernst bought the pavilion in 1876 and continued to carry on its business as before. The beach pavilion, nowadays Strampen, was originally designed as an equilateral octagonal building. In the 1930's, the restaurant got the style that it has to this day. The terrace was added in 1980 and in the winter of 1998, the house had another facelift when the whole interior was renovated and a new kitchen was installed.

13. Setterberg Park







15. Vaasa Court of Appeal



16. Artturi Leinonen

#### Court of Appeal Park

### 15. VAASA COURT OF APPEAL

The Court of Appeal is one of the most monumental creations that Architect Setterberg drew. The house is built in an English brick Gothic style. The former Court of Appeal house was located in Old Vaasa. This new house was finished in 1862, which was when the city privileges were transferred from old Vaasa to the new city, Nikolaistad. The Court of Appeal building underwent a thorough restoration in the 1970s and 1980s and is well preserved. The building contains valuable art collections and antique furniture as well as objects bearing the court's insignia.

### 16. ARTTURI LEINONEN

The statue is located above the Jaegar Statue. Made by sculptor T. Sakki (1930–1997) it was unveiled in 1981. Leinonen was an author, journalist and youth leader. He became a professor in 1958. He was exiled to Siberia from 1916 to 1917 due to Jaegar recruitment. From 1930–1957 he was editor-in-chief of the newspaper Ilkka. He was also a member of parliament.



17. Jaegar Statue

### 17. JAEGAR STATUE

The statue was made by sculptor, professor and Jaegar Captain L. Leppänen. A bronze Jaegar soldier in full uniform with weapon in hand, gazing towards Vasklot. The monument is 5.1 m high. On February 27, 1958, President Kekkonen participated in the unveiling ceremony that took place on the 40th anniversary of the Jaegars' return. The Jaegars, who belonged to Jaeger Battalion 27, had received their military training in Germany.

#### On Vaskiluoto Bridge – Eagle

### 18. MEMORIAL TO THE FINNISH AIRFORCE

The sculptor was President Kallio's son Kalervo (1909–1969) and the stone work around the statue was made by Finska Stenindustri Ab (Finnish Stone Industry Ltd). Flying from Umeå, Lieutenant N. Kindberg landed on the ice here in 1918. Swedish Count E. von Rosen was among the passengers. He donated the plane to the Finnish army, making it the nation's first Air Force aircraft. The statue's pedestal is made of red granite from Vemo and is 7 metres high and weighs over 63 tons. On the pedestal is an eagle that is landing with its wings spread. The bird's wingspan is 5.6 metres and weighs 3 tons. The statue was unveiled in 1969.



18. Airforce Memorial





19. Rantalinna

#### The Regional Land Survey Office

### 19. RANTALINNA

The Regional Land Survey Office, designed by Architect J. Ahrenberg, was completed in 1913. The office moved to government buildings in Brändö in 1984. The Water Court of Appeal was subsequently located in the house until 1999. The house passed into private ownership in 2005.

#### The County Prison

### 20. VAASA PRISON

The prison was opened in 1863 and rebuilt and enlarged in the 1880s. In 1901, a wall of red bricks was erected around the prison. During the first decades, the infamous criminals Isotalon Antti and Rannanjärvi as well as Matti Haapoja served their sentences here. Mathilda Wrede began her voluntary work among prisoners in Vaasa prison. The most recent renovation and an extension of the prison was completed in 2001.



20. Vaasa prison



21. Birch Park

#### Rantakatu 15

### 21. BIRCH PARK

The park is located on a beautiful west facing slope to the sea. According to Setterberg's city plan, the area was planned as a square. Gradually he formed it into a park instead that gently slopes down to the beach. In 1987 the American landscape architect K. Meyers, drew up a new plan for the park, with a fountain and a brook made of natural stone, which today gives the park its character. By the brook stands a granite bear sculpture designed by the architect and sculptor M. Visanti. The birches, which gave the park its name, still play the main role in the park. In spring, many blossoms of bulbous plants are found in the park, including crocuses, scillas and daffodils.

#### Rantakatu 12-16

*The Old Fishing Harbour Park begins at Vaasanpuistikko and continues to the prison. The area is crisscrossed by gravel paths with benches and flowerbeds. The park flora includes silver birch, lime, forest maple and larch.*





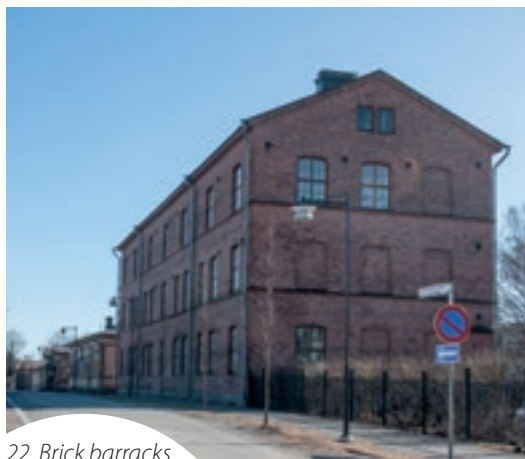
22. Orthodox church

#### Kasarminkatu 6 - Kasarmintori (Garrison Square)

### 22. BRICK BARRACKS AND ORTHODOX CHURCH

During the time of the Russian Empire, a contingent of Russian Cossacks was stationed in Vaasa to maintain public order. For them, the first building (1860) in the existing garrison area was erected. This was the brick barracks designed by Setterberg. The building is also known as the Kosackkasernen (Cossack Garrison).

An Orthodox church had already been planned for Old Vaasa, and for this purpose funding had already been well received. However, construction work on the church only began after Vaasa burnt down in 1852. The church was built according to C.A. Setterberg's drawings and was completed in 1862. It is still used by the Orthodox congregation today.



22. Brick barracks

#### Kirkkopuistikko and Kasarminkatu intersection

### 23. CARL-AXEL SETTERBERG'S MEMORIAL

In 1606 Charles IX founded the town of Vaasa next to Korsholm Castle. Almost 250 years later, in 1852, the town burnt to the ground. After the fire it was decided that the city would be built on Klemetsö promontory, which was closer to the sea at the outer harbour, Brändö Sound. The Swedish architect Carl Axel Setterberg drew up a plan for the new town, which would be named Nikolaistad after Tsar Nicholas I. Setterberg planned the city's main public buildings and many private houses. New Vaasa, with its low buildings and wide avenues, represents the typical building ideals around the mid-1800s. A Setterberg memorial, planned by the artist Tea Helenelund, was erected in 1996.



23. Setterberg's Memorial

#### Raastuvankatu 32

### 24. KÄVELYKIOSKI

The wooden building was originally designed by Setterberg and was moved from Vaasanpuistikko 22. Now renovated, the Kävelykioski offers gym sessions.



24. Kävelykioski



## Raastuvankatu 23 – Carl and Carolina

### 25. BUILDING Nr 23

The oldest building in the neighbourhood that Setterberg planned was constructed in the Empire style. The house was built in 1869. The bakery cottage in the back yard and part of the outbuildings were demolished in 1999. The remaining buildings were moved to the Stundars open-air museum in 2009. The Carl and Carolina nursing home was in the house from 1925 to 1999. Since the beginning of 2015, the premises have been used by Swedish language organisations.



25. Nr 23

## Raastuvankatu 25

### 1. FOLKHÄLSAN

The wooden building that was previously on Raastuvankatu 25 was built in 1862 as a one-story house (the planner unknown). The second floor was built in 1911 and designed by A. W. Stenfors. The stone house, designed by C. Schoultz, was built in 1916 as a meeting hall for the Salvation Army.

In the late 1980's, the building was renovated and turned into a rock club. In 1990 the inauguration of Club 25 was held. The hall became famous for its fine acoustics and over the years many famous artists performed there.

Folkhälsan bought the house in 2007. A short time before the building could be renovated, it was completely destroyed by fire in 2013. A new house was built on the site where the old house burnt down. It is now the headquarters of Folkhälsan's civic activity in Ostrobothnia and serves as a meeting place for various activities to promote health.



**PREPARATORY WORK** for this guide has mainly been done as a voluntary project by a working group from Folkhälsans Resurspool in Ostrobothnia consisting of the following persons:



*From the left: John Nordblad (project manager), Benita Nygård, Gunn-Britt Sahlsten, Kerstin Finnberg, Peter Sahlsten, Elisabeth Weijola. Missing in the picture Ann-Lis and Nils-Erik Nykvist.*

The pictures are taken by Inger Nykvist and Håkan Wikström.

# WALKING GUIDE

**DID YOU KNOW,** that there are also three other routes that you can walk to learn about our beautiful city? They are:

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Market Round</b> | <b>1.3 km</b>                             |
| <b>South Route</b>  | <b>4 km (only in Finnish and Swedish)</b> |
| <b>North Route</b>  | <b>5km (only in Finnish and Swedish)</b>  |

Brochures of the routes are available from:

**Visit Vaasa – Tourist Information, Rewell Center**

**Tourist Information on the Market Square (summer time only)**

The routes are also available as a mobile version made in collaboration with the City of Vaasa CIS Services.

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Market Round</b>             | <a href="http://arcg.is/1M2ZnkK">http://arcg.is/1M2ZnkK</a> |
| <b>North Beach route</b>        | <a href="http://arcg.is/1M2ZKMc">http://arcg.is/1M2ZKMc</a> |
| <b>South route</b> (in Finnish) | <a href="http://arcg.is/1M2ZgFL">http://arcg.is/1M2ZgFL</a> |
| <b>South route</b> (in Swedish) | <a href="http://bit.ly/1QaOH1s">http://bit.ly/1QaOH1s</a>   |
| <b>North route</b> (in Finnish) | <a href="http://arcg.is/1M2YYyH">http://arcg.is/1M2YYyH</a> |
| <b>North route</b> (in Swedish) | <a href="http://bit.ly/23bO9PQ">http://bit.ly/23bO9PQ</a>   |

A pdf version is also available online at the following links  
[www.folkhalsan.fi/promenadguide](http://www.folkhalsan.fi/promenadguide)

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