

Capitals of Culture 2011: Tallinn and Turku, Themed Itinerary Series

2011 sees Tallinn & Turku share the title of European Capital of Culture. This series of themed cultural itineraries presents new ideas to combine these two dynamic destinations from both sides of the Baltic Sea.



CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2011 HIGHLIGHTS

- Opera d'Alvilda in Abo by Turku Castle August
- Lights Concert series, Turku Archipelago
- Culture 2011 Tall Ships Regatta Turku 26-28.8
- Nargen Festival, Tallinn June-September
- Tallinn Maritime Days, 15-17.7
- Birgitta Festival, Tallinn 13-21.8

FACING THE SEA

Both Tallinn and Turku are bound by the ocean and greatly influenced by their seaside location. Turku has its fabulous archipelago and the River Aura, and in Tallinn, one of the main initiatives of the Cultural Capital year is to open up the city to the sea again.

DAY 01

Turku

Arrival at Turku and transfer to the hotel.
“From the River Aura to the Sea by Bike & Bus”. The programme begins with a bicycle tour along the extensive river paths, before crossing the river via the traditional *Föri* ferry, passing the former 60's cruise ship *Bore* on the way. Visit the maritime museum, Forum Marinum, and learn about Turku's naval history from historic harbour town to home of luxury modern cruise liner construction. Continue by coach to enjoy a picnic lunch in Ruissalo Park, a popular local beauty spot. Duration: 5-6 hours.

Evening suggestion: attend an event from the 2011 Cultural Capital programme.

Overnight in Sokos Hotel Hamburger Börs

DAY 02

Turku

“A Day in the Archipelago”. The 20 000 islands which make up Turku's archipelago are one of Finland's most stunning natural phenomena. Depart the city on-board the traditional old steamer *Ukkopekka*, to the old village of Naantali. Enjoy a walking tour through the old cobbled streets and the beautiful wooden harbour area. From Naantali continue to the island of Rymättylä, then on by ferry to Nauvo island. Explore the enchanting harbour area and visit a local glass artist.

Overnight in the stylish local bed & breakfast, Västergård. (Note : due to limited room number, groups may be split to 2 hotels).

For the Archipelago region, we also suggest:
• Traditional Finnish sauna experience • Dinner at the boat restaurant, *L'Escale* • Self-guided archipelago bike tours

DAY 03

Tallinn

Transfer by coach to Helsinki and across the Baltic Sea to Tallinn.
“Seaside Stories of Tallinn”. Discover Tallinn from a different perspective with this special seaside city tour, appreciating the modern sights against the historical backdrop of the Old Town, getting a taste of Estonia at the harbour market, and experiencing fresh urban development and art projects. Duration: 3 hours
Evening suggestion: attend an event from the 2011 Cultural Capital programme.

Overnight at Sokos Hotel Viru

For Tallinn, we also suggest:
Maritime Museum in Seaplane Harbour (from July) • Saturday Fish market • Picnic on-board a sailing ship tour of Tallinn Bay

DAY 04

Tallinn

“Views from the top - under KGB watch”. In 1972, the Hotel Viru became Tallinn's first “skyscraper”. The very last floor, the 23rd, with its large balconies offering fantastic views of the city, the sea, and the Old Town, was for 20 years a KGB command post. The viewing platforms have now for the first time been opened to the public, along with the KGB room, preserved as a museum, as it was when they finally left in 1991.

“Bike your way around Tallinn”. This 2 hour tour takes in the medieval Old Town, local life on the coast, and other Tallinn highlights such as Kadriorg Park (where we recommend a break for coffee) and Palace, KUMU art museum, the Song Festival grounds and the contemporary Rotermann quarter.

The afternoon is free for exploring the city before transfers to the airport.



PRICE GUIDELINE BOOKINGS & REQUESTS

560 EUR per person sharing twin/double
135 EUR single supplement

The above is a guideline commissionable price based on 20 paying pax, inclusive of 3 nights accommodation with breakfast, half board, all necessary ferry crossings, airport transfers, and additional services as per the itinerary. Final prices are subject to travel date, group size, availability, and any programme changes.

Bookings and tailor-made proposals are available on request from any of the tour operators listed below :

Estravel
www.estravel.ee



The Travel Experience
www.travel-experience.net



Turku Touring
www.turkutouring.fi



Via Hansa
www.viahansa.com

