



ESN

Erasmus Student Network
Uni Turku

Survival Guide for **TURKU**



Survival Guide

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Welcome to Turku!

We know how challenging moving abroad can be, and we know the importance of **students helping students**. We designed this guide to provide an insight into life in Turku, taking recommendations from previous students and current locals! It's our guide to survival in Turku from the people that have experienced these things themselves and thrived!

We hope that you will find this guide useful and will have a wonderful time in Turku, the **best** city in Finland!



Places to visit

Villa Järvelä

- Sauna by the lake and hot tubs

Kakolanmäki

- Old prison area turned into a hotel. Get up on the hill with Funikulaari!

Luostarinmäki

- Open-air museum: the only wooden house area that survived the Great Fire of Turku of 1827

Turku Market Hall

- Nice to walk through, has cafes, restaurants, shops with souvenirs, tea, spices, fish, meat and more!

Old Great Square

- Pretty buildings, check Luostarin välikatu for a cute little street



Places to visit

Ruissalo

- An island with lovely nature - look out for Saaronniemi beach, Kolkannokka scenic point, Botanic Garden of UTU, Kansanpuisto beach & park, Pikku-Pukinpromenadi...

Turku Castle

- Medieval castle from 13th century

Vartiovuorenmäki

- A park on top of a hill with an observatory and a pretty view over the city

Port Arthur

- Beautiful district with colorful wooden houses, and e.g. Michael's Church (Mikaelinkirkko)



Nice places near Turku

Naantali

- Cute town near Turku, you can find Moomin's House there, we recommend visiting earlier on the semester

Rauma

- Has a beautiful old town area filled with old, traditional, colourful wooden houses

Saariston rengastie

- "The Archipelago Trail" - a route which connects the Turku Archipelago and consists of a bunch of islands and towns, such as Parainen, Nauvo, Korppoo, Houtskari and Iniö. Includes several lossi (ferry) rides, many of which are free of charge. Great for longer bike trips too! More info about exploring the Archipelago can be found [here](#).

Teijo National Park

- Beautiful routes with lake views and forest. Visit the village of Mathildedal, and their small brewery and Kyläravintola Terho!



Public transport in Turku

Föli

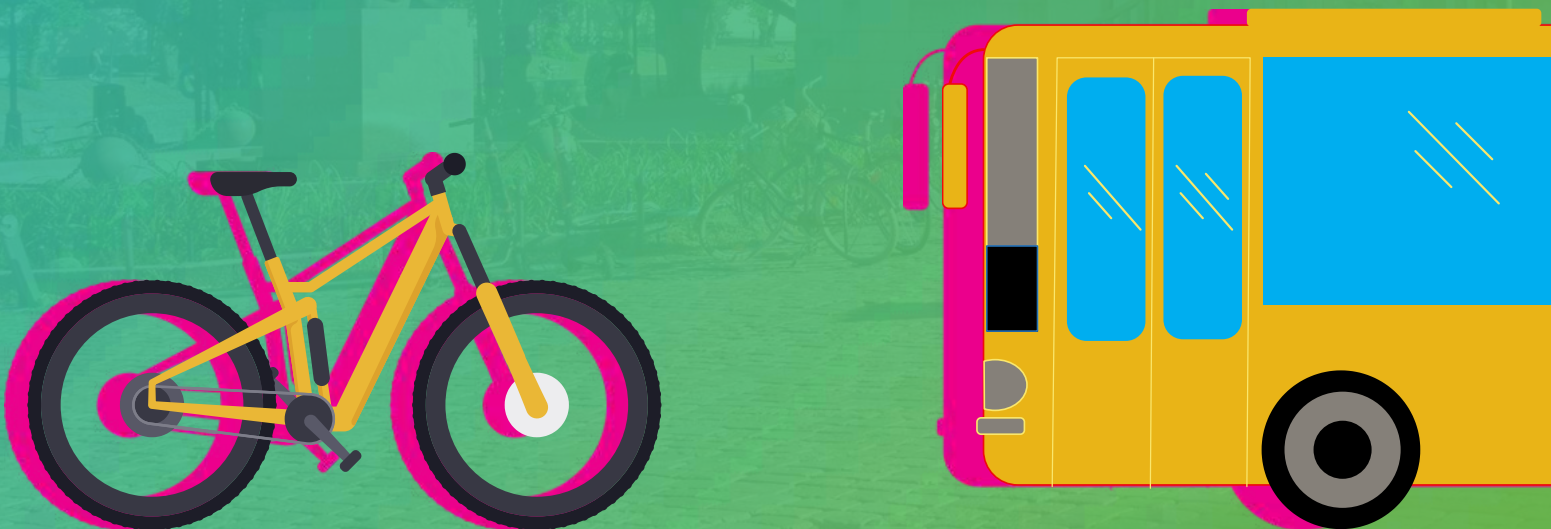
- Buses and ferries in Turku, Raisio, Kaarina, Naantali and some other places surrounding Turku.
- When navigating in the city, keep in mind that the buses tend to sometimes be a bit behind schedule and that when you see your bus coming, you need to signal (e.g. hold out your hand) for it to stop; otherwise it will just drive by.

Föli bikes

- City bikes (Download Donkey Republic App)

Electric scooters

- Scooters from Voi, Ryde and Dott are available around the city and are usable via the companies' apps.



Public transport in Finland

Inside Finland

- **VR: Trains in Finland**
- **Onnibus, Flixbus & Matkahuolto: Long-distance buses**
- **HSL: Public transport in the Helsinki metropolitan area**

You can get student tickets by showing a valid student card.

Ferries outside Finland

- **Viking Line**
 - Turku-Åland-Stockholm
 - Helsinki-Åland-Stockholm
 - Helsinki-Tallinn
- **Tallink Silja**
 - Turku-Åland-Stockholm
 - Helsinki-Åland-Stockholm
 - Helsinki-Tallinn
- **Eckerö Line**
 - Helsinki-Tallinn



Cafés

Cafe Art

- Coffee comes from an awarded roastery in Turku

Cafe Qwensel

- An old wooden house from the 18th century

Espresso House

- Famous cafe chain

Fazer Cafe

- Fazer is the most famous company in Finland for baked goods and chocolate - here you can try some out!

Gaggi Cafe

- Cakes... lots of cakes.

Fiilis Cafe & Bistro

- Nice little cafe with great options if you have dietary restrictions

Piece of Cake

- Located in the Market Hall, nice cakes and more!

Fabbes Cafe

- Located at the campus, this cafe also offers a really nice lunch!

Kirjakahvila

- Everything is vegan here!





Nightlife

Night Club Vegas + Night Club Marilyn

- Next to each other with different entrances; a lot of student events, arcade games, beer pong, karaoke...

Saaristobaari

- A cozy pub/bar; you can also get a discount on their taps & pizzas with your ESNcard!

Forte

- A nightclub with beer pong, karaoke and cheap beers; open every day of the week!

Duetto

- A pub and nightclub in the very city center

UG Klubi

- Rave music night club

The Cow

- A cozy cocktail bar in the center



Nightlife

Doris & Fredrik

- Ideal places for chatting with friends while enjoying a pint of beer

Bar Edison

- Nice place to hang out with friends, good option if you want to watch a sport match

Bar Ö

- Nice atmosphere, good for a hang-out with friends, often jazzy music

Panimoravintola Koulu

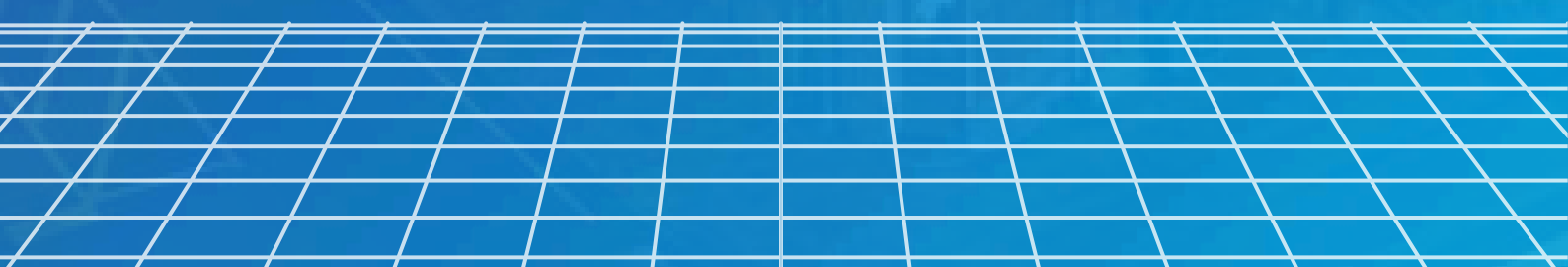
- An old school turned into a brewery+restaurant, great if you like beer!

Proffan kellari

- Bar in a basement, chill atmosphere, at the university campus next to our office!

Want to prepare for karaoke and find out what music we listen to in Finnish Parties?

We have a playlist of [Finnish party bangers!](#)





Explore Finland

There are many beautiful places in Finland outside of Turku! You can either join our excursions or do a trip by yourself.



Explore the Nordics

Whether city trips, relaxing weekends in the nature, or once in a lifetime adventures through breathtaking landscapes, the Nordics have got everything to offer!

More information on our trips will be updated [here](#):



25.9.-1.10.
LOFOTEN



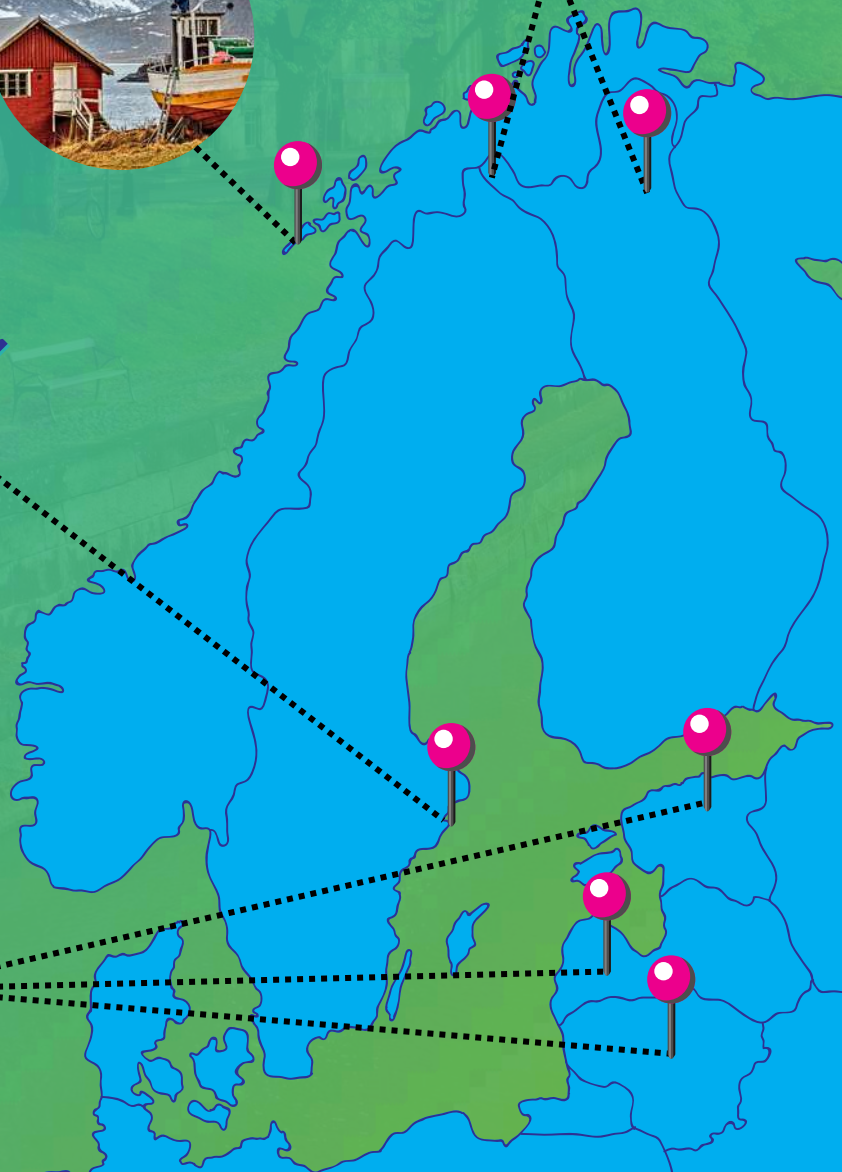
27.11.-3.12.
LAPLAND



7.11.-9.11.
STOCKHOLM



6.10.-11.10.
BALTIC STATES



Finnish food?

Desserts to try:

- *Korvapuusti* - cinnamon roll
- *Piispanmunkki* - a donut with jam inside and pink frosting on top
- *Mustikkapiirakka* - blueberry pie
- *Pannukakku* - oven pancake
- *Mokkapalat* - kind of like a mocha brownie
- *Glögi* - a mulled wine, with or without alcohol (usually during Christmas season)
- *Mämmi* (during Easter if you dare)
- *Runebergs Pastry*
- *Tippaleipä* (Vappu pastry)



Where do I find...

Basic things for home (kitchen equipment, textiles, etc.)

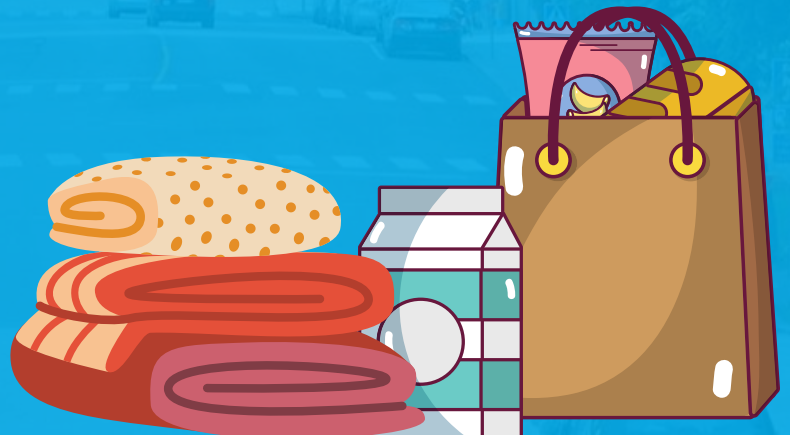
- IKEA
- Tokmanni
- Clas Ohlson
- K-Citymarket, Prisma

Cheapest groceries

- Lidl
- Bigger grocery stores rather than the small ones: K-Citymarket, Prisma

Heaters for the winter

- Tokmanni
- Power



Where do I find...

Souvenirs

- Wanha Turku Kauppa (in Market Hall)
- Föri puoti
- KUI design
- Rusetti
- Posankka store
- Aboa Vetus museum shop

Patch sewing equipment for your overalls

- Tokmanni
- Normal
- Citymarket, Prisma
- Flying Tiger

Stamps

- In most grocery stores; K-stores (*K-market, K-supermarket, K-citymarket*) and S-stores (*R-Kioski, Sale, S-market, Prisma*)
- Posti
- Book stores (*Akateeminen Kirjakauppa & Suomalainen Kirjakauppa*; also good for postcards!)

Delivery services

- You can send packages using Posti, Matkahuolto and DHL

Useful apps



Digital Student Cards

TUUDO

- An app for schedules, courses, navigating the campus, student lunch options and more

FrankApp

- An app with student discounts in trains, some buses, stores, services...

Public transport

Föli app

- For public transportation in Turku; you can also buy tickets in the app (tho it's cheaper to get a bus card as a student)

Donkey Republic

- Rental bike system of Turku; search for "Föllärit" and Föli website for more information

Note that some discounts may have changed since this guide was published, and that an ESNcard is not the same as a student card.

Useful apps

Food and drinks

ResQ

- To reduce food waste, restaurants & cafes sell things for reduced prices

NyxApp & Cluby

- Discounts for bars; you can sign up as some places' regular customer on these apps

Espresso House

- Get discounted products from their cafes, first drink -50% off!

Hesburger

- Finland's most popular and beloved fast-food chain (which originates from Turku!) - the app offers discount coupons that change from time to time

Wolt

- Food deliveries

Note that some discounts may have changed since this guide was published.

...and some other apps & websites

Kideapp

- Here you can buy tickets and sign up to some student events that require it! You can presave our Kideapp page [here](#).

kuhankuono.fi

- Most hiking trails around Turku can be found here

sanakirja.fi

- Translator - get the premium version for free by logging in with your UTU account



Student culture

Student organisations

Student organisations are **associations** run by students through **voluntary work**. They bring together students, organise various events, and strive to promote the interests of students at their educational institution. At UTU, all study programs in all faculties have their own student organisation.

ESN is a non-profit international student organization. Our mission is to represent international and exchange students, thus providing opportunities for cultural understanding and self-development under the principle of *Students Helping Students*.

We encourage to find the student organization of your study program, they also might have activities of your interest and they're also a good way to meet more Finnish people!



Student culture

Overalls

Overalls are a unique and perhaps the most central part of the Finnish student culture. Get yourself a pair and you'll never have to worry about choosing an outfit for a party; you wear the overalls to *all* student events and happenings to show others what you study and how active you've been in the student life!

What's with all the colors?

- The color of your overalls depends on what you study and in which university. Usually there are differences between universities and cities, but for some study programs the color is the same all over the country. In most universities, each study program has its unique color, so it's easy to tell even from afar what someone studies!

Where can I get mine?

- You can come get your blue ESN overalls from our office!
- If you're interested in getting the overalls of your study program's student organisation, you can contact them and ask if they have any left in stock

What to put on the overalls?

- Patches, patches, patcheeees!
- Other fun things to hang from them; be as creative as you want! Some people hang e.g. bottle openers, shot glasses, sunglasses, or other party attire



Student culture

Overalls

What are patches and how can I get them?

Generally speaking, you will get a patch from almost every student event and party you attend. Each event has its unique patch, so by attending an event you'll also get a special physical memory from it. It's also easy for others to recognise which events you have attended; perhaps even the same ones!

You can also get patches from fairs, student organisations, companies, online shops (for meme patches), and e.g. local museums.

Gluing or ironing the patches to your overalls is generally frowned upon; sewing them by yourself adds personality to the overalls and the canvas looking like its artist makes them even more special. One of the first skills you'll learn after getting into the Finnish student life is how to sew!

If you don't feel like getting an overall, it's totally fine! It's just a fun addition to exploring the Finnish student culture, but no one will look down on you if you don't have a pair.



Student culture

Approt

- Big interdisciplinary student events; one takes place in the city roughly every 1-2 months
- Basically a pub crawl
- You get a map with different locations, and you collect stamps from different bars by getting drinks from them - when you get enough stamps, you earn a patch! Usually the evening after the crawl continues in multiple different afterparties in clubs and bars.
- There are usually different "degrees" you can get based on the number of the stamps you collect, and each degree has a specific patch.
- Look out for **Aurasoudut** (in September) and **Pikkulaskiainen** (in February), two of the most famous in Turku and Finland!
- There are also many different editions of approt, such as **Herkuapprot** (cafés and restaurants), **Kirppisapprot** (second-hand stores), and **SportAppro** (sports)



Student culture

Sports



Bouldering & Climbing

In Turku we have two locations where you can practice. **K2** and **Bouldertehdas**; you also get a discount with your ESNcard there :)

Hiking

We have a lot of national parks to go to and hike, such as **Ruissalo & Kurjenrahka**. The public bus can take you there! We recommend you download the app “All trails” where you can find all kinds of hikes.

Running

Turku is relatively flat and the **Aura** river make its perfect for running. We suggest you to take a look at “**TuRun**”, a running group made by international students organising weekly running sessions around Turku and the Student Village; **@tr.turun** (on instagram)





Student culture

Sports

Gyms and sports

CampusSport is a university managed organisation providing students with many sport related activities. You can explore and attend their weekly activities like volleyball, basketball, and badminton, or you can get a gym badge to use their gyms thorough Turku during their opening hours.

Swimming

Impivaara swimming hall offers students discount on their entrance. They also have swimming lessons for every levels.

Ice skating

During winter, they freeze a route in Kupittaa park to allow people to practice ice skating; you may also rent skates there! The ring is also available during spring & summer, allowing roller skaters to practice.



More information

Alarm testing

- Every first Monday of the month at 12:00 they test the whole Turku's alarm system to make sure it works. No need to panic!

Second-hand items

- Clothes: *UFF, Puutorin kirppis*
- Furniture & household items: *Ekotori*
- Bikes: *Pyöräkirppis Maailmanpyörä*
- All kinds of stuff:
 - *Tori.fi website / Tori app*
 - *Facebook marketplace*

Discount stickers in grocery stores

- You can spot products with a **red** or **yellow** sticker saying -30% or -60% - these products have their expiration date near, and they are sold for cheaper prices
- Many stores double the discount in the evenings (usually after 21) - if an item had a -30% sticker, you can now get it for -60% off. This depends on the store; they normally have a sign about it

More information

Student discounts

- Many stores, cafés, hairdressers, museums, etc. have student discounts; usually it is 10% off
- Sometimes there is a sign about it, sometimes not - try asking just in case! Sometimes you get it in surprising places too

Bottle recycling (pantti)

- When you buy bottles and cans, you pay a little extra on top of the price of the actual product
- When you return the bottle to a bottle recycling machine in a grocery store, you get the money back



More information

Alcohol and partying

- You can buy alcohol that is max 8% from grocery stores. Anything stronger than 8% can be bought only from Alko, which is a government-owned company.
- Anything stronger than 2,8% (so most alcohol) is only sold between 9:00-21:00.
- Some of the cheapest pints of beer are in Forte and Bar Toimisto
- Driving under influence is a crime; **it also applies to bicycles and electric scooters.**
- When buying alcohol or going to a bar, **a picture of your ID is not enough.** You need to have the physical ID with you.
- Generally, **student events and parties take place from Monday to Thursday**, with Thursday being the main day and the weekends being reserved for resting.
- Finnish student culture is very open-minded towards those who don't drink, and you can always attend all events and parties sober if you choose to; **there are always non-alcoholic options!**

Please be responsible and take care of each other.

Shoes on trees in the Student Village?

- Exchange students have a tradition of throwing a pair of shoes into trees in the Student Village at the end of their exchange

Vaski Libraries

- The public libraries offer a free library card that is also useful if you want to print things (especially if you're staying at Iltakajo/Varissuo). Bring your official photo ID and visit one of the libraries to get one!

Housing help

Websites for finding accommodation in Turku:

- asunnot.oikotie.fi
- vuokraovi.com
- airbnb.com
- flatta.fi
- forenom.com
- lumo.fi

When looking for an apartment, remember to be careful and keep an eye out for scams, especially with offers on Facebook and similars, and keep in mind that you should never pay anything in advance.



Stay in touch!

Don't hesitate to reach out if
you have any questions!

Check out our social medias
for more:



[@esn_uniturku](#)



board@esnuniturku.fi



[Telegram Community](#)



[Our website](#)



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We cannot wait to welcome you to
the most beautiful city in Finland!

