



TURKU CRUISE PORT, FINLAND

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Photo: C. Gorschnik

Almost in the heart of Turku – a new cruise pier

The first pier for cruise vessels only has been introduced in Turku this summer. Spirit of Adventure was the first vessel to use the pier on 22nd July (see picture above). The pier has an excellent location – right by the medieval Turku Castle within walking distance from the city centre. The pier is suitable for smaller vessels and meets all the requirements of the ISPS code. Larger vessels are directed to the western harbour, also close to the centre. A free shuttle bus operates between the pier and the city centre throughout the cruise vessels' calls in Turku.

Turku – ideal as a home port

- Turku qualifies ideally as a home port. It is a small but spacious cruise port located just 3 km from the city centre. The airport is only 11 km from the port, offering regular flight connections to Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki and Gdansk. Its compact size guarantees smooth procedure without long queues. For more information please contact Harbour Master Kari Riutta on kari.riutta@turku.fi or +358505533123.

Popular excursions

- The world's biggest cruise vessel Oasis of the Seas is under construction at Aker Yards in Turku. The vessel will be 47 m wide and 360 m long (40 m longer than the height of the Eiffel tower!), ready for delivery in autumn 2009. Aker Yards and Forum Marinum maritime centre together with Turku tourist organisation will organise guided tours by boat and bus for citizens as well as tourists to the construction site. These tours proved immensely popular already in 2008 when Independence of the Seas was being built.
- Another extremely popular place to visit this season was the previous prison of Kakola. Located high on a hill in central Turku this complex of brick buildings became empty in 2007, when a new and larger prison opened in the outskirts of Turku. Kakola has always had a mysterious and magic feel to the locals. Not only local citizens but also tourists have enjoyed the guided tours to find out more about the prisoners and their stories inside the walls.

European Capital of Culture 2011

- Turku has been elected the European Capital of Culture in 2011 together with Tallinn. This is a great honour received with enthusiasm in Turku. Throughout the year a myriad of cultural events and happenings for any age and any taste will be organised. The Capital of Culture slogan is "Turku on fire". Turku has been on fire dozens of times over centuries, but this time of excitement and desire to make an unforgettable experience for everyone from far and near. www.turku2011.fi/public/?lang=en