



Turku – European Capital of Culture 2011

Turku in Finland is the European Capital of Culture 2011 together with Tallinn in Estonia.

The Capital of Culture year is a unique opportunity for both cities to present their culture, history and future with great international awareness.

The main goals for Turku 2011 are well-being, internationalism, and the commercial export of creative enterprise and culture. The activities will be based on a wide definition of culture with the emphasis on the culinary arts, exercise and well-being, science and multicultural encounters and, of course, the creative arts.

[Read about the spectacular opening of Capital of Culture year 2011 on page 2»](#)



Expatriate Finns getting together in Turku 1 - 4 July 2011

Year 2011 is full of cultural happenings in Turku. A special Finland in Our Hearts event will gather expatriate Finns, their descendants and friends from all over the world to Turku next summer.

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Bore has permanently moored at the Aura River in Turku

The legendary passenger ship Bore made her last voyage on 3rd October arriving in Turku. She will now be converted into a floating hotel, hostel, restaurant and museum moored at the Aura River near the Port of Turku.

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Season's greetings from Turku – the Christmas City in Finland

The heart of the Christmas City is Christmas Peace which Turku has declared almost every single year since the Middle Ages.

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The spectacular opening

Turku will open the Capital of Culture year 2011 with a three-day weekend full of events and activities on 14–16 January 2011. The opening performance “This Side, The Other Side” on the evening of Saturday 15 January is the single largest event of the year. Concerts and events for the entire family will draw the audience to the city centre.

On Sunday, the festivities will continue in the city districts and also elsewhere in the Finland Proper region. The audience is expected to include tens of thousands of visitors from across Finland and abroad.

The opening weekend of the Turku Capital of Culture year offers both city residents and visitors lots of interesting programme. Finnish and international guests will already arrive in Turku on Friday.

Public events will begin on Saturday at noon and climax with the evening’s opening act and the Logomo evening party.

On Sunday, the exhibition and event centre for the entire Capital of Culture year, Logomo, will be opened. Events and happenings will take place throughout the city and its region on Sunday.

“The Capital of Culture year puts Turku on the European map in a whole new way and shows the rest of the world what good culture is able to do. Right from the opening ceremony, the strong history of Turku as the oldest city in Finland will intertwine with an open-minded outlook on the future. In Turku, culture will do good for residents, visiting guests, companies and the surrounding region as a whole,” says Aleksi Randell, Mayor of the City of Turku.

Thousands of Turku residents will be part of the opening spectacle

The Walk the Plank group from the UK in cooperation with local artists and city volunteers will put up an unprecedented show to mark the main event of the opening weekend. The performance is written and directed by Mark Murphy. For the text parts in Finnish, Murphy has worked in cooperation with writer and theatre director Emma Puikkonen.

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About 2,000 Turku residents will be part of the spectacle and the audience is expected to be in excess of tens of thousands.

The opening act “This Side, The Other Side” is one of the biggest shows ever seen in Finland. The theme for the performance will be Communication. The performance will draw inspiration from the entire history of Turku, from messaging fires to today’s telecommunication.

“The opening act is much more than a spectacle with fireworks and tricks – its contents address love, time and Turku, and how a River Aura of sorts flows through all of us,” writer Emma Puikkonen says.

Arrive well in advance on foot or by public transport

The performance will be carried out by international aerial acrobats, actors and dancers working together with Finnish performers and hundreds of Turku residents. A large choir has been gathered for the opening ceremonies which will perform Song for the Year, a song especially composed for the occasion, together with the audience.

The practical arrangements for the weekend require wide-scale traffic and safety measures. For example, the area surrounding Forum Marinum will be closed to traffic altogether, and the aerial space of River Aura will be closed for the duration of the opening show. The audience is requested to arrive at the event venue well in advance on foot or by public transport.

“The opening weekend has been heavily prepared all over the city throughout the autumn and great emotions and anticipation have been invested in the event. The weekend is becoming one of the highlights of the year. The opening ceremonies of the European Capital of Culture year 2011 will be attended by a great number of Finnish and foreign opinion leaders in culture, science, administration and politics,” says Cay Sevón, CEO of the Turku 2011 Foundation, which is responsible for preparing the Capital of Culture year.

See the programme for the opening ceremonies

www.turku2011.fi/en/opening-ceremonies»

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Expatriate Finns gathering

Year 2011 is full of cultural happenings in Turku. A special Finland in Our Hearts event will gather expatriate Finns, their descendants and friends from all over the world to Turku next summer.

The Institute of Migration together with the City of Turku, Turku European Capital of Culture 2011 foundation and many other partners organise a four-day-festival with lectures, seminars, music, dancing, sports, excursions - something for everyone.

Over 1000 guests are estimated to attend in addition to local citizens. The event will take place at different locations indoors and outdoors in Turku.

Turku is the first capital and oldest city in Finland. Located on the south-western coast of Finland where the river Aura meets the sea, it is the gateway to the west. A unique and beautiful archipelago lies just outside Turku, where history meets modernity, nature meets urban culture.
www.turku.fi

Read more
www.migrationinstitute.fi/index_e.php»

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Bore at the Aura River in Turku



The legendary passenger ship Bore made her last voyage on 3rd October arriving in Turku. She will now be converted into a floating hotel, hostel, restaurant and museum moored at the Aura River near the Port of Turku. Hundreds of Turku citizens greeted the ship with enthusiasm as she returned to her home port after fifty years at sea.

The steamship sailed between Turku and Stockholm in 1960-1976. She returned to the route in 1984. Bore was converted into a motorship in 1987 and renamed Kristina Regina. The vessel made regular cruises at European seas and the Red Sea with a Finnish crew and passengers from mainly Finland but also for example the UK, Germany and America.

The era of cruising came to an end due to the SOLAS 2010 regulations. Kristina Regina was withdrawn

from service, renamed s/s Bore and is now getting ready to serve guests as a hotel at the turn of the year.

More information from Kari Riutta, harbour master, Port of Turku, tel. +358 50 5533 123, kari.riutta@port.turku.fi

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Season's greetings

The heart of the Christmas City is Christmas Peace which Turku has declared almost every single year since the Middle Ages.

Thousands of people gather at the Great Old Square, and the declaration is also broadcast on television, radio and the internet.

Yuletide Turku offers its citizens and visitors a myriad of events from merry activities for both old and young to solemn Christmas celebration.

**[Visit the homepages of Christmas City
www.christmascity.com](http://www.christmascity.com)**

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