

Hello and welcome to Joutsa! I hope you are going to enjoy your time in Finland!

Here are some common facts about Finland:

-Area: 338 454,61 km²

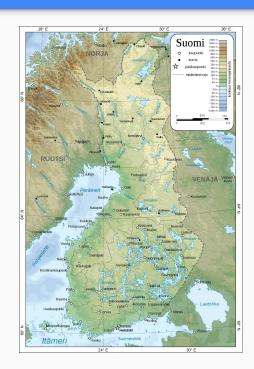
-Population: about 5,5 million

-The official name: Republic of Finland

-President: Sauli Niinistö

-The official languages: Finnish and Swedish

-There are about 187 800 lakes in Finland



Finnish seasons

There are four different seasons in Finland:

Spring:

From March to May Medium temperature during spring: $+5^{\circ}$ C Typical spring in Finland: snow is melting and the weather is getting warmer. It's raining often

Summer:

From June to August
Medium temperature during summer: +17°C
Typical summer in Finland: the summer holiday
starts, the weather is warm and sunny



Fall:

From September to November
Medium temperature during fall: +5°C
Typical fall in Finland: leaves are falling and the
trees are colorful. The weather is getting colder and
it's raining often. School starts in August

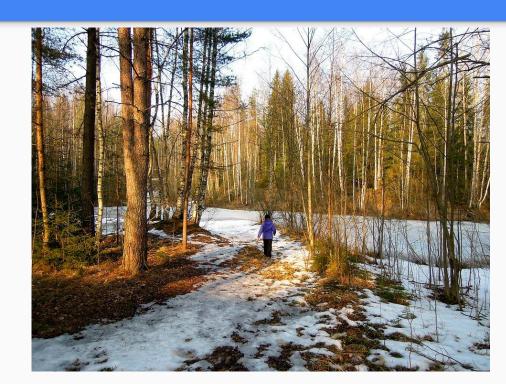
Winter:

From December to February Medium temperature during winter: -10° C Typical winter in Finland: it's snowing and the weather is cold. The sun is up for only a few hours.

Spring

What the 12-year old students like about spring:

- The sun is shining
- The weather is warm and fresh
- The snow is melting
- The summer is coming



Summer

What the 12-year old student like about summer

- Swimming in the lakes
- The sun is shining and the weather is warm
- You can play sports outdoors
- The long summer holiday
- Spending time with friends



Fall

What the 12-year old students like about fall:

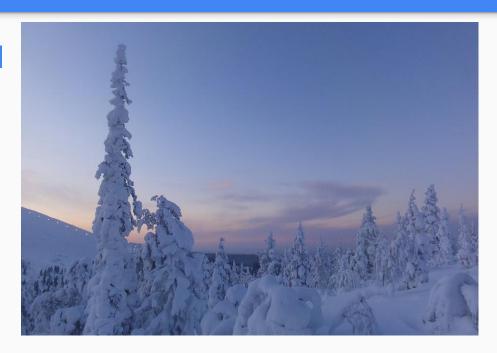
- The trees are colorful
- Leaves are falling
- Raking the leaves
- Picking berries and mushrooms
- Fall break



Winter

What the 12-year old students like about winter:

- Winter sports: ice skating, snowboarding, cross-country skiing etc.
- Christmas
- The views are beautiful
- Snowing
- Drinking hot cocoa and mulled wine



Åland (Ahvenanmaa)

Åland is an archipelago province at the entrance to the Gulf of Bothnia in the Baltic sea belonging to Finland. It is autonomous, demilitarized and it is the only monolingually Swedish-speaking region in Finland.

The only city in Åland is Mariehamn (Maarianhamina). The population of Åland is 29 700 and the area is about 1,600 km².



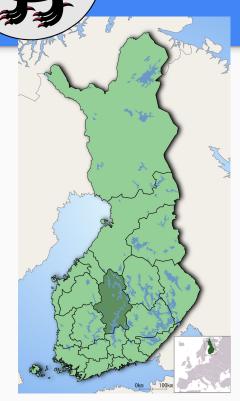
Central Finland (Keski-Suomi)

Joutsa is a part of Central Finland. Central Finland is of the 19 provinces. The biggest city in Central Finland is Jyväskylä, which is about 60 km North of Joutsa. The population of Central Finland is about 275 000 and it is the fifth largest province in Finland by population. The area of all lakes in Central Finland is over 3200 km².

Keski-Suomen kotiseutulaulu:

https://youtu.be/QS5I3X3 3-g



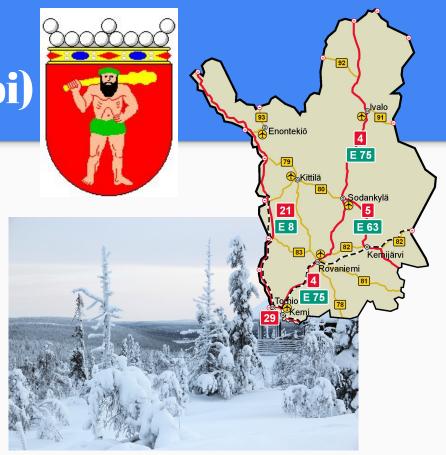


Finnish Lapland (Lappi)

Lappi is one of the 19 provinces in Finland. The area of Lappi is about 99 000 km². The population of Lappi is about 177 000.

The Sámi languages are a group of Uralic languages spoken by the Sámi people in Northern Finland. The amount of Native Sámi speakers is about 30 000. (in all Nordic countries)

Reindeer herding is when reindeer are herder by people in a limited area. Reindeer herding is a popular industry in Finnish Lapland.









The most popular sports in Finland is: Ice hockey, skiing and floorball.

Nearly everyone can play floorball in Finland.

Skiing and ice hockey are very popular in Finland because of the Finnish snowy and icy winter.

Cross-country skiing:

First Finnish guy who won cross-country skiing World Champion was Matti Raivio 1926, in Lahti.

After that, Finland has won the World Champions 45 times. Last time was 2017 when Iivo Niskanen won the gold metal.

Ice hockey





Ice hockey is a big thing in Finland.

Finland has won ice hockey world championship three times (last one was on 2019 spring). First time was in 1995. We say "95 never forget".

Finland has an own ice hockey league called "Liiga". There are 15 teams from different cities playing in Liiga. (Tampere has 2 teams). A Liiga team called JYP comes from Jyväskylä.

Marko Anttila was the captain of Finnish ice hockey team on last world championships which Finland won.

His nickname Mörkö (The Groke) comes from his size. He is 203 cm tall and weighs 104 kg!

https://youtu.be/4PwIcXDnK8c









The music of Finland can be roughly divided into categories of folk music, classical and contemporary art music, and contemporary popular music.

Iskelmä (coined directly from the German word Schlager, meaning hit) is a traditional Finnish word for a light popular song. Popular Finnish iskelmä singers: Jari Sillanpää, Katri Helena, Lauri Tähkä and Kaija Koo.

Popular Finnish contemporary popular music artists: Sanni, Robin Packalen, Anna Puu, Ellinoora

Popular Finnish rappers: Cheek, JVG, Elastinen, Pyhimys,

Lordi is a Finnish hard rock/heavy metal band. Lordi won the Eurovision song contest in 2006 with its hit song Hard Rock Hallelujah.

Hard Rock Hallelujah:

https://youtu.be/gAh9NRGNhUU







Finnish food

Finnish foods often use wholemeal products (rye, barley, oats) and berries (such as bilberries, lingonberries, cloudberries, and sea buckthorn). Milk and its derivatives like buttermilk or yoghurt are commonly used as food, drink or in various recipes.

Typical finnish foods are: Rye bread, Karelian pie, Karelian stew, macaron casserole, Mämmi (baked rye porridge) sautéed reindeer, and pea soup.

The most popular meats in Finland are pork (33.5 kg/year/person in 2005), beef (18.6 kg) & chicken and duck (13.3 kg). Approximately one third of this is eaten as sausage (makkara), which is mostly made from pork but often mixed in other meats as well.

There are long traditions of hunting and fishing in Finland. The hunters focus on deer, moose and bear.

