**My country’s profile**

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| **Name:** | Finland |
| **Capital:** |  |
| **Population:** |  |
| **Flag:** | Flag of Finland |
| **Government:** | Unitary parlamentary republic |
| **Current Head of State:** |  |
| **Neighbouring countries:** |  |
| **Currency:** |  |
| **Time zone:** | [UTC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coordinated_Universal_Time)+2 ([EET](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_European_Time)) |
| **Name of the national anthem** |  |

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| **National historical landmarks:** | * Turku Castle and Cathedral
* Suomenlinna Fortress
* Helsinki Senate Square
* Finlandia Hall
* Olavinlinna Castle
* Porvoo Cathedral
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| **Sights:** | * Linnanmäki amusement park
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| **Points of interest:** | Cities* Helsinki
* Espoo
* Tampere
* Vantaa
* Oulu
* Turku

Nature* 168 000 Lakes
* Finland is shared between the Arctic, Circumboreal and central European region

CultureUnesco:* [Bronze Age Burial Site of Sammallahdenmäki](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/579)
* [Fortress of Suomenlinna](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/583)
* [Old Rauma](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/582)
* [Petäjävesi Old Church](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/584)
* [Struve Geodetic Arc](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1187)
* [Verla Groundwood and Board Mill](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/751)
* [High Coast / Kvarken Archipelago](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/898)
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| **Common history:** | * The history of Finland begins around 9,000 BC during *the end of the glacial period.*
* *The Sami people* are indigenous people of northern Europe and Finland.
* *Viking settlement*, commerce and pludering in the Iron Age period in Finland.
* Finland became part of *the Kingdom of Sweden and the Catholic Church* from the 13th century onwards.
* Officially Finland was part of Sweden from 1323 to 1809.
* The First cities were build in the 13th and the 14th century (*Turku, Porvoo, Ulvila, Rauma, Viipuri*).
* Finland was part of the *Scandinavian Kalmar Union* (common union with the kingdoms of Norway, Denmark and Sweden) from 1389 to 1521.
* *Finnish written standard language* was born when *Mikael Agricola*, bishop of Turku, published his translation of the New Testament in 1551.
* Swedish king Gustav Vasa reformed the Swedish and Finnish church in 1527. Even today most Finns are member of *The Lutheran Church*.
* Finland's first university, *academy of Åbo* (currently *University of Helsinki*), was founded in 1640.
* Sweden and Russia fought three wars in the 18th century. Russia was the winner, annexing south-east Finland and the Baltic.
* After T*he Finnish War* (1808-1809) between The Kingdom of Sweden and The Russian Empire, Finland became an *autonomous Grand Dutchy* in the Russian Empire.
	+ *Finland retained its Lutheran religion, Swedish as the official language and system of government. Finland also acquired her own central government and a four-state House of Representatives.*
	+ *Nowadays Finland has two national languages, Finnish and Swedish.*
* Finland was an autonomous part of Russian Empire from 1809 to 1917.
* In 1906 old four-chamber Diet was replaced by a unicameral *parliament of Finland*. *Finnish women* were the first in the world to gain full eligibility to vote and have membership in an estate.
* *Finnish nationalist movement* started to grow in the 19th century and finally after *the Russian revolutions* in 1917 *Finnish Declaration of Independence* was approved on 6th of December 1917.
* In 1918 Finns fought brief but bitter *civil war* between The Whites and The Reds. Tens of thousands were executed or died and interned in camps. The Whites, who were supported by Imperial Germany, won the war.
* In the Second World War 1939-1945 Finland fought two wars against The Soviet Union: *The Winter War 1939-40 and The Continuation War 1941-44.* Finland lost the wars but was never occupied by Soviet troops. In the Continuation war Finland aligned with the Nazi-Germany. After the war Finland lost an eighth of its territory, including the area of *Karelia.*
* The post-war period was a time of rapid economic growth for Finland. Finland built one of the most extensive welfare states (*Nordic welfare state mode*l) in the world.
* Finland joined the *European Union*in 1995, and the *Eurozone* in 1999.
* Finland is a top performer in numerous metrics of national performance, including *education, economic competitiveness, civil liberties, quality of life and human development*. Finland is for example ranked first in every annual *World Happiness Report*.
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| **Relations with other countries participating in the project:** | **Germany*** Close historical relations from the middle ages
* Trade
* Cultural relations: education, art, science
* Respected german goods (cars, home appliance etc.)

**Italy*** Trade
* Close cultural relations: art, education, science
* Tourism: popular destinations for example Rome, Florence, Venice
* Italian fashion

**Spain*** Trade
* Tourism: a. 35 000 finns live in Spanish sun beaches.
* Spanish language is popular at school in Finland
* LaLiga football league has large number of viewers in Finland.

**Turkey*** Trade
* Tourism: Lots of finnish tourists in Turkey (Alanya, Istanbul..)
* Cultural relations: education, science
* Turkish kebab

**Belgium*** Trade
* Brussels: Finnish Guardianship offices in the EU
* Cultural relations: art, education, science
* Belgian chocolate and beer
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