**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 |
| **Sights:** | * Linnanmäki amusement park |
| **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   Culture  Unesco:   * [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*. | |
| **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 |