STUDENT LIFE 2.0 SUMMER EVENTS AND TRADITIONS IN FINLAND
PROGRAMME

- Summer in Finland
- Events in May
- Juhannus/Midsummer
- Other summer events
- Fun summer activities
- Cool destinations outside Helsinki
POLL QUESTIONS

• Are you an exchange or an international degree student?
• Are you planning on spending time in Finland during the summer?
• Which of the following would you like to experience during the summer?
  • If you have other ideas, feel free to share in the chat!
ELEMENTS OF FINNISH SUMMER

• Midnight sun: sun does not set under the horizon (opposite of polar night). Only happens in Artic/Antarctic Circles.

• ¼ of Finland’s territory is located north of the Arctic Circle. So it’s fair to refer to Finland as the Land of the Midnight Sun!

• In the most northernmost point, the sun doesn’t set in 60 days

• Helsinki experiences its warmest days late July and in the beginning of August (+18 °C). Warmer weather is often accompanied by summer rainstorms

• The heat record in Finland is +37,2°C (2010).
EVENTS IN MAY

• Hope you had a good Vappu (May Day)!
  • You can still get some munkki and sima (doughnuts and mead) from the stores ;)
• Flora Day (12.5.)
  • Join HYY’s festivities from home (or have a picnic!)
• Ascension Day (Helatorstai) Thursday 13.5.
  • Bank holiday; NB. Exceptional service hours
• Eurovision song contest 2021
  • Semi-finals 18.5. & 20.5., final 22.5.
MIDSUMMER / JUHANNUS

• Originally a celebration of Summer Solstice
  • Summer Solstice (21.6.), Midsummer (26.6.)
  • Helsinki: sunrise at around 4 am, sunset at around 11 pm
  • Rovaniemi: sun doesn’t set between 6 June – 7 July
• Traditions: Starting the summer holidays, going to the countryside, bonfires, swimming + sauna, barbecues, also some Midsummer related events e.g. open air dances
• Midsummer magic and old beliefs, e.g. related to finding a spouse (collecting flowers), and securing a good crop and driving away bad spirits (bonfires)
OTHER SUMMER EVENTS

• Helsinki biennial (art) 12.6.-26.9.2021
  • Vallisaari Island; free to attend but have to pay a fee for the ferry
• Mänttä Art festival 13.6.–31.8.
  • Finnish contemporary art
• Haapavesi Folk Music Festival 1.–3.7.
• Pori Jazz 9.–17.7.
• Bättre Folk 16.–17.7. (website only in Finnish)
  • contemporary music and literature
• You can spot more events from this Helsingin Sanomat article (in Finnish, but event names are googlable)
• Please note that changes are possible!
FUN SUMMER ACTIVITIES 1/2

- Swimming and spending time at the beach
  - Aurinkolahti, Mustikkamaa, Hietaniemi, Pihlajasaari
  - City of Helsinki’s page on Outdoor swimming pools and a list of beaches in Helsinki and Outdoor Exercise Map (the map will have the quality of water later as well!)
- Parks in Helsinki (picnic, strolling around, reading...)
  - Kaisaniemi Botanic Garden, Töölönlahdi Bay, Esplanadi Park, Kaivopuisto
  - Green Hearts: database on Helsinki parks and some suggested walks
- Helsinki islands
  - Tervasaari, Suomenlinna, Lonna, Vallisaari, Mustikkamaa, Seurasaari
  - MyHelsinki article on visiting islands
- Biking -> suggestions for cycling routes around Helsinki; also e.g. Espoo coastline
FUN SUMMER ACTIVITIES 2/2

• Why not go for a hike?
  • Everyman’s right/ freedom to roam (*jokamiehenoikeus*)
  • Beginners – stay on clearly marked paths; (e.g. day trips at southern national parks)
  • More experienced hikers may enjoy e.g. the Urho Kekkonen National Park or Karhunkierros

• Other nature activities: wild food
  • Picking berries (blueberry > July; lingonberry - August-September)
  • Wild herbs (starting from May, e.g. nettles) and mushrooms
  • Always make sure you know what you’re picking (and eating)!
COOL DESTINATIONS OUTSIDE OF HELSINKI

• Cities to visit:
  • **Porvoo**: Old town, riverside, cafés
  • **Turku** (old capital of Finland): riverbanks, archipelago cruises, old castle nearby
  • Naantali, Rauma, Savonlinna, Hanko...

• **National parks**
  • e.g. Nuuksio, Sipoonkorpi, Repovesi, Koli

• **Countryside and cottage life**
  • Essential element in Finnish traditions; "getaway" from everyday life
  • Enjoying nature, swimming + sauna, reading, sleeping, barbeque + eating outdoors, upkeep work
THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?