



VISIT FINLAND HIGHLIGHTS 2026: CULTURAL MILESTONES, NATURE CELEBRATIONS & ARCTIC LUXURY

[Visit Finland](#) is excited to unveil a curated list of new openings, major events, and immersive travel experiences for the upcoming year. Recognized by Lonely Planet as one of the [Best in Travel](#) destinations for 2026, Finland offers a unique combination of cultural milestones, nature celebrations, and luxury retreats. From the opening of Turku's Music Hall Fuuga to Arctic wellness escapes and heritage anniversaries, Finland invites travelers to experience design, wellbeing, and the great outdoors in an unforgettable setting.

Turku's Fuuga: A New Cultural Landmark

In Turku, [Music Hall Fuuga](#) will open in autumn 2026, set to become the crown jewel of the city's Aura River cultural district. This state-of-the-art venue will feature a large main concert hall and a flexible multi-purpose hall, designed to host orchestral music, contemporary events, and community gatherings. Complemented by a restaurant, rooftop terrace, and inviting public spaces, Fuuga will merge seamlessly with the existing theatre scene to create a vibrant Cultural Waterfront, blending music, performance, and city life in one dynamic hub. The building embraces sustainable design principles, aligning with Finland's commitment to environmentally responsible infrastructure.

Oulu: European Capital of Culture 2026

In 2026, [Oulu](#) will step into the spotlight as the European Capital of Culture, offering a year-long program of artistic expression and northern creativity. The city will feature a rich tapestry of Sámi-inspired exhibitions, climate-conscious public installations, electronic music festivals, and immersive cultural events spanning the city. Oulu's transformation invites visitors to explore Arctic art, innovation, and community spirit, highlighting the North's vibrant and evolving cultural identity.

Tampere: European Capital of Smart Tourism 2026

Next year, Tampere will be recognized as the European Capital of Smart Tourism, an award granted by the European Commission for excellence in sustainable and innovative tourism development. Tampere was acknowledged for its climate-focused initiatives, smart mobility solutions, digital services, and commitment to ensuring tourism benefits local wellbeing. The title will be marked by a year-long program of activities and international visibility, highlighting Tampere's blend of innovation, accessible nature, cultural attractions, and its distinctive identity as the Sauna Capital of the World.

Kvarken Archipelago: 20 Years of UNESCO Heritage

Meanwhile, on Finland's west coast, the [Kvarken Archipelago](#) marks the 20th anniversary of its UNESCO World Heritage status in 2026. This milestone will be celebrated with curated guided tours and special programs that highlight Kvarken's unique geology, dynamic post-glacial land uplift, and rich biodiversity. Visitors will have the chance to witness landscapes that continue to change over time, offering a powerful connection with nature's long-term processes and Finland's geological heritage.

Hotel Kämp: Helsinki's Historic Icon Reimagined

[Hotel Kämp](#), a distinguished Helsinki landmark since 1887, completes its extensive refurbishment project in August 2026. The hotel will feature 22 new rooms and suites, a full-service spa and wellness center, and refreshed dining at À La Kämp and the iconic Kämp Bar. Hotel Kämp combines historic elegance with modern Nordic design, reinforcing its status as the city's premier luxury destination.

Arctic Luxury Retreats: Octola II, Arcora, Gáldu & Skýra

Finnish Lapland will introduce a new caliber of luxury in 2026 through a collection of intimate Arctic retreats designed for tranquility, privacy, and immersion in nature.

- [Octola II](#) elevates Lapland's most exclusive wilderness offering with a private lodge and villas set deep within untouched forest, combining bespoke service, wellness facilities, and complete seclusion.
- In Muonio, [Arcora Boutique Hotel & Villas](#) opens its doors for the winter season 2026, blending panoramic design, refined dining, and a Nordic spa concept with direct access to national park wilderness for restorative, nature-led experiences.
- In Saariselkä, [Gáldu Hotel & Spa](#) offers Nordic calm with sustainably built suites, treetop views, and the northernmost outdoor spa of its kind.
- Completing the quartet, [Skýra Retreat](#) introduces contemporary Arctic serenity through minimalist design, expansive fell landscapes, and holistic wellbeing programming, and stands out as the first Finnish property to join the prestigious Small Luxury Hotels of the World collection.

Together, these retreats redefine high-end hospitality in Lapland, where design, wellbeing, and deep connection to nature shape a new era of Arctic luxury.

PHOTOS

Images [HERE](#).

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ABOUT VISIT FINLAND

*Visit Finland, a unit of Business Finland, is a national authority on tourism and an active force in promoting international travel to Finland. Its main goal is to develop Finland's international image as a destination. Visit Finland supports the travel industry through research and helps businesses and groups develop products and services for the international market. For more information, please visit www.visitfinland.com. **This material is distributed by Business Finland USA, Inc. on behalf of Business Finland Oy.***

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