



FINLAND FOR MEETINGS, EVENTS AND INCENTIVES 2/2008

This newsletter, produced by Finland Convention Bureau (FCB), presents you with ideas and event organisers, and brings you the latest news from Finland. We hope you will find it helpful and informative!

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please contact info@fcb.fi.

Endless opportunities for enjoying the water

Finland is a paradise for water lovers. With 188,000 lakes, 1,100 kilometres of coastline along the sea, and unique archipelagos in the heart of the Baltic Sea, Finland offers excellent opportunities for enjoying all sorts of water activities.

A sail through the Archipelago Sea is an unforgettable experience, or you can paddle a canoe across lakes, along rivers or out at sea to get even closer to nature. Feel the rush of adrenaline in your veins as you raft down rapids, or enjoy the thrill of speed on a jet ski or RIB boat. You also derive as much pleasure from a relaxing cruise and dinner onboard, for example on a historic schooner or riverboat.

Travelling by water lets you get to places that would be hard or even impossible to discover otherwise, such as remote islands that you and your group can enjoy all to yourselves. There is also plenty of fish in the sea, so you can combine your voyage with some great fishing.

Have fun, relax and enjoy in Finland's pure and fresh waters!

Read more from the links below:

Helsinki: Tours and cruises at sea
<http://www.hel2.fi/trade/en/matkailutuotteet.asp#palvelut6>

Jyväskylä Region: Cruising & boating
<http://www3.jkl.fi/info/matkailu/eng?target=kohteet&theme=26:53:92:58>

Kuopio-Tahko: Shooting rapids, canoeing, rowing, jet-ski safaris etc.
<http://www.kuopioinfo.fi/english/perussivut/aktiviteetit/kesa/kesa.php>

Lappeenranta: Cruises
<http://www.gosaimaa.fi/en/index.php?m=13&sm=331&id=3321>

Levi: River rafting, diving, boat trips, canoeing
http://www.levi.fi/pages/index.php?id=1085&language=eng_sum

Pyhä-Luosto: Canoeing
<http://www.laplandpyha.fi/winter/summeractivities/canoeing/>

Rovaniemi: River rafting, fishing, river cruises etc.
<http://tourism.rovaniemi.fi/?deptid=6394>

Ruka-Kuusamo: River rafting, fishing, canoeing
http://www.ruka.fi/summer_eng/activities/

Saariselkä: Canoeing, fishing
http://www.saariselka.fi/index.php?id=6_45_69&la=en

Sea Lapland: River rafting, riverboat and sea cruises etc.
www.sea-lapland.com

CONTACT

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Finland Convention Bureau is a non-profit organisation offering free assistance and consultation to all meeting planners.

Together with its 14 member destinations, 11 partner destinations and around 80 related organisations FCB is your guide when planning a meeting, incentive, conference or other event in Finland.

MEMBER DESTINATIONS

Espoo
www.visitespoo.fi

Helsinki
www.meethelsinki.fi

Hämeenlinna
www.hcb.fi

Joensuu
www.kareliaexpert.fi

Jyväskylä
www.jyvaskylanseutu.fi/travel

Kokkola
www.visitkokkola.fi

Kuopio
www.kuopioinfo.fi

Lappeenranta
www.lappeenranta.fi

Levi
www.levi.fi

Mariehamn

Ylläs: Canoeing
<http://www.yllas.fi/?deptid=9063>

NEWS

The Finland Showcase corporate sales event will take place from 26-27 June in Helsinki. Around 40 guests from Europe and India will get acquainted with Finnish event services at a workshop held at the Hilton Helsinki-Vantaa Airport Hotel. The programme also includes dinner at the historic Suomenlinna Maritime Fortress and a midnight sun cruise. Post tours will take the guests to Kuusamo, Sea Lapland, Rovaniemi and Tallinn. The event is being organised by FCB. Travel arrangements are by Finnair, and the get-together evening is being offered by the Helsinki City Tourist & Convention Bureau.

The owner of the event service company Villi Pohjola (Wild North), Finnish state enterprise Metsähallitus, has acquired Rovaniemi-based company Eräsetti Oy. According to Metsähallitus, the acquisition allows it to make Finland more attractive to international tour operators and to strengthen Finland's nature tourism offering and its competitive edge in international markets. www.villipohjola.fi

Meetings industry CSR

The Scandic hotel chain's new sustainable meeting product took first prize in the Green Meetings Award at the IMEX travel and conference fair in Frankfurt in April 2008. With its "green" meeting product Scandic wants to take the initiative in promoting a clear Nordic certification system for meetings and conferences.

Already eight Scandic hotels in Finland have the Nordic Swan Eco Label. The Scandic Patria in Lappeenranta and Scandic Plaza in Turku received theirs in May. The Restaurant NJK, operated by Royal Restaurants on Valkosaari Island in Helsinki, also received the Nordic Swan Eco Label in May, as did the same chain's Savoy Restaurant earlier in the spring. www.scandichotels.fi
www.royalravintolat.com

Scandinavian Airlines, in partnership with The Carbon Neutral Company (TCNC), has launched a carbon offset programme for international congresses and events in Scandinavia. Event organisers can now offer delegates the option to pay carbon offset for air travel when registering online for the conference. www.blue1.fi
www.flysas.com

Hotels and venues

The iconic Finlandia Hall in Helsinki will receive over 4,100 square metres of new conference and exhibition facilities. The new facilities will be able to host events for 100 to 500 people. Finlandia Hall's parking facilities will also be moved entirely underground. The project will cost an estimated 13.9 million euros and will be completed in 2011. www.finlandiatalo.fi

Royal Restaurants' Hotel Haven, which will open by Helsinki's South Harbour in early 2009, will become the first member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World chain in Finland. The new hotel's services will be enhanced by three restaurants operated by Royal Restaurants on the same property, as well as by conference facilities and a new Day Spa. www.royalravintolat.com

The Media Centre Lume at the University of Art and Design Helsinki will invest over 500,000 euros this year in further improving its facilities and AV technology. The media centre is a unique meetings venue that offers full-size film and TV studios. www.lume.fi

Transport

Blue1 will promote flights to Lapland next winter. The airline is doubling the number of flights to Kittilä and will open a new route between Helsinki and Kuusamo. Ten weekly flights between Helsinki and Kittilä will be offered beginning 13 February until the end of April. The airline's parent company SAS will also begin flying twice a week between Stockholm and Kittilä as of 19 December. Blue1 flights to Kuusamo begin on 11 February with two weekly services. www.blue1.fi
www.flysas.com

www.mariehamn.aland.fi

Mikkeli
www.travel.mikkeli.fi

Oulu
www.congressoulu.fi

Turku
www.turkuconventionbureau.fi

Vaasa
www.vaasa.fi/congress

PARTNER DESTINATIONS

Helsinki
www.meethelsinki.fi

Jyväskylä
www.jyvaskylanseutu.fi/travel

Kuopio-Tahko
www.kuopioinfo.fi

Lappeenranta
www.gosaimaa.fi

Levi
www.levi.fi

Pyhä-Luosto
www.pyha.fi
www.luosto.fi

Rovaniemi
www.visitrovaniemi.fi

Ruka-Kuusamo
www.ruka.fi/incentive

Saariselkä / Northern Lapland
www.saariselka.fi

Sea Lapland
www.sea-lapland.com

Ylläs
www.yllas.fi

OFFICIAL CARRIERS

Blue1
www.blue1.fi

Finnair
www.finnair.com

Finnair has introduced direct flights from Helsinki to Seoul, the capital of South Korea, as of the beginning of June. Seoul is the airline's 11th Asian destination. Finnair will also begin flying to Yekaterinburg, Russia, three times a week starting in September. www.finnair.com

Vote for Helsinki's best incentive product!

Voting has already begun for this year's Best of Helsinki Awards organised by the Helsinki City Tourist & Convention Bureau. Vote for your favourite incentive product in Helsinki at the following address:

www.bestofhelsinki.fi/2008/index2.php?page=category&subpage=incentive&language=EN

