

Turku & the Southwest



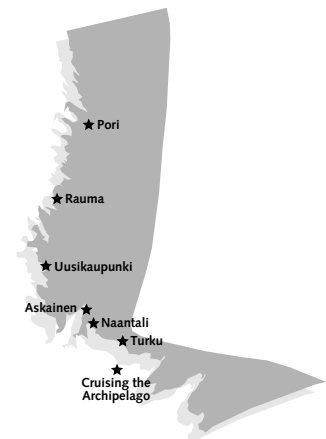
The closest mainland area to Sweden, the southwest is Finland's most historic area. It's centred around the noble port city of Turku, the seat of Finland's oldest university. Until the 19th century Turku was the nation's capital and it is a place redolent with history as well, as an important modern city and gateway to the country for ferry travellers.

It also is the jumping-off point for exploration of the myriad islands of the southwestern archipelago, which in summer shine like a galaxy of emeralds offshore. Some are accessible by road and ferries, but for others you'll need to charter or own a boat of your own. This is one of the areas of Finland where Swedish-speaking culture is strongest, reinforced by plenty of summer visitors from across the water. These visitors now come in peace, but once were fairly unwelcome arrivals, crusading inland from coastal bases and performing forcible baptisms on the Finnish tribes.

North from Turku are a series of picture-pretty coastal towns. Naantali is a popular family destination thanks to its theme park devoted to the much-loved Moomin trolls; further north, Uusikaupunki is so laid-back as to be almost horizontal. The citizens of Rauma managed to never burn the toast and send the whole town up, meaning that it boasts the best-preserved area of old wooden buildings in Finland. Beyond here, bigger Pori shakes off its workaday feel for an excellent summer jazz event, one of Finland's best festivals.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Reliving the past in medieval **Turku Castle** (p195), with its dungeons, extensive museums and magnificent banquet halls
- **Cruising the archipelago** (p199) from Turku to Naantali or Hanko
- Browsing in Naantali's quaint **Old Town** (p213), then dining on the marina or taking the kids to **Moominworld** (p212)
- Learning about productivity duels and giant Peruvian anchovies at the hilariously ironic **Bonk Dynamo Centre** (p218) in lovely Uusikaupunki
- Meeting the ghosts of the past at **Louhisaari Manor** (p216) in Askainen village – one of Finland's grandest manors
- Taking a walking tour of historic **Vanha Rauma** (p221), a Unesco World Heritage-listed living museum
- Partying at the annual week-long **Pori Jazz Festival** (p226) in July



History

Due to its proximity to southern Sweden, this region became the first foothold of Swedish settlement and missionary activity in Finland. As Sweden's hold on the country increased, the port of Turku became an important Baltic trading port and gateway to the interior. It was the capital of Finland and its first university town, but the region's importance declined when Finland came under Russian control, as the tsars wanted the Finnish capital a bit closer to home where they could keep an eye on it!

Activities

The various archipelagos are much beloved of yachting in summer; even tiny islands have guest harbours that are well-equipped; you can also arrange charters in Turku. The area is also very well-suited to exploration by bicycle, and can be combined into a circular route through Åland via the Korpo-Kökar and Kustavi-Brändö archipelago ferries.

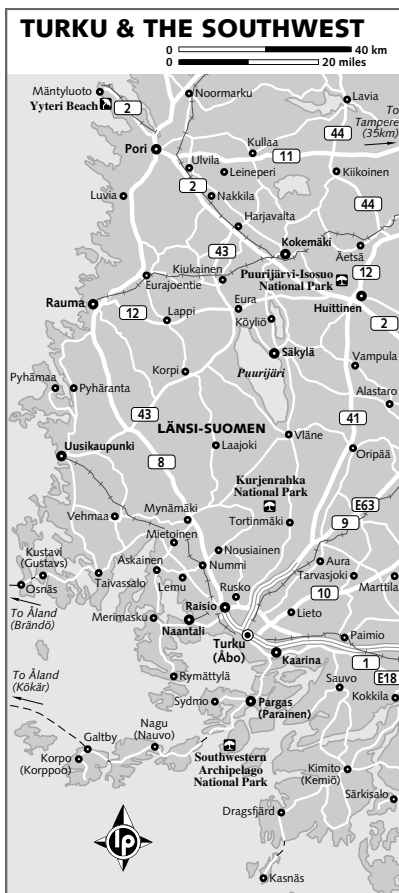
Self-Catering Accommodation

The southwest is a great place to get away from it all, and there are enough islands to go around that you may even get your own if you can arrange boat transport. The Turku tourist office (opposite) has a good selection, as does **Archipelago Booking** (☎ 465 1000; www.archipelagobooking.com).

TURKU

☎ 02 / pop 174, 824

This one-time capital of Finland has a very historic feel, being the country's oldest city. While hardly any mediaeval buildings remain, a visit to the doughy castle and superb archaeological museum will stimulate your imagination into populating the riverbanks with bustling crowds of merchants receiving and dispatching Baltic cargoes. The city really has a lot to offer, with an array of museums, and lively summers when the whole city seems to head for the small armada of boat bars moored in the heart of town. For many travellers Turku is their first taste of Finland, since frequent and inexpensive ferries ply the route between here and Stockholm via the Åland islands.



HISTORY

The region had its beginnings in 1229 when a Catholic settlement was founded at Koroinen, near the present centre of Turku. Work soon started on the new church (consecrated in 1300) and the Turku Castle. Both the early Catholic Church and the Swedish administration ran what is present-day Finland from Turku, which was at times the second-largest town in Sweden. Fire has destroyed Turku several times during the centuries.

Turku was named Åbo by Swedish settlers because it was a *bo* (settlement) on the Aura River (*å*). The Finnish name, Turku, is an archaic Russian word for 'marketplace' – the city's market has long been one of the

FINNISH OR SWEDISH?

Throughout this part of the country, places have two names, one Finnish, one Swedish. The official line states that, in places where there's a majority of Swedish-speaking Finns, the Swedish takes precedence. Hence, Pargas, where Swedish-speakers are more numerous, comes before the Finnish version Parainen, but Turku, which has more Finnish speakers, has its Swedish name, Åbo, in secondary position. However, be prepared to see and hear either one used!

largest and finest on the south coast. Turku has a thriving university – the first in Finland, founded in 1640 – a cultural spirit, and proud residents, some of whom are still irked that Helsinki took over as Finland's capital back in 1812. The longstanding joke among its loyal residents is that after Turku spread culture to the rest of Finland, it never returned. The number of art and antique shops around tend to contradict this though.

The city is also famous throughout Finland for its processed mustard; Turun Sinappi, though now controversially produced in Sweden, remains an icon of the summer barbecue.

ORIENTATION

The centre of Turku town is 3km north-east of the harbour, and is reached by bus from each arriving ferry. The city centre straddles the Aurajoki, and most things are within walking distance. The streets around the kauppatori (market square) are the heart of modern Turku and the riverbank is the scene of much of the city's lively social life.

INFORMATION

Bookshops

Akateeminen Kirjakauppa (Hansa Shopping Arcade, Yliopistonkatu) Stocks maps, English-language books and foreign newspapers.

Internet Access

Surf City (Aninkaisenkatu 3; per hr €2.40; ☎ noon-8pm Mon-Fri, 4-8pm Sat & Sun) Internet café and fax service; also sells international phone cards.

CyberCafé (Hansa Arcade; per hr €2.40; ☎ 9am-9pm Mon-Fri, 10am-9pm Sat & Sun) Automated Internet place with coin-operated computers.

Internet Resources

www.turku.fi The city website, with links to many attractions and businesses.

www.turkutouring.fi The city's tourist board website.

www.turunmuseot.fi Links to the web pages of the various museums in Turku.

Left Luggage

The train station offers a left-luggage counter and locker service, and there are more lockers (€2) located at the ferry terminal and Silja and Viking Line buildings.

Libraries

Public library (☎ 262 3611; Linnankatu 2; ☎ 11am-8pm Mon-Thu, 11am-6pm Fri, 11am-4pm Sat) Several free Internet terminals (maximum 15 minutes) and plenty of English books.

Money

Several banks located on the market square have 24-hour ATMs.

Forex (Eerinkinkatu 12; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm Sat) Offering better rates than banks, this is the best place to change cash and travellers cheques.

Post

Main post office (Humalistonkatu 1; ☎ 9am-8pm Mon-Fri) Situated two blocks west of the kauppatori.

Tourist Information

Turku City Tourist Office (☎ 262 7444; www.turkutouring.fi; Aurakatu 4; ☎ 8.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat & Sun, 10am-3pm winter weekends) Busy, very helpful, information on entire region. Rents bikes (per day/week €10/50); free Internet access for short periods.

Travel Agencies

Citytours (☎ 251 0370; www.citytours.fi; Eerinkinkatu 4) Finnair agent.

Kilroy Travels (☎ 273 7500; www.kilroytravels.com; Eerinkinkatu 2; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Fri) Specialists in student and budget travel.

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Turku Castle & Historical Museum

The mammoth **Turku Castle** (☎ 262 0300; admission €6.50, guided tours €1.50; ☎ 10am-6pm daily mid-Apr–mid-Sep, 10am-3pm Tue-Sun mid-Sep–mid-Apr), near the ferry terminals, is a must for everyone visiting the city and is one of the country's most popular tourist attractions. Founded in 1280 at the mouth of the Aurajoki, the

TURKU

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TURKU CARD

Like the Helsinki Card, the Turku Card gives admission to most museums and attractions in the region, public transport and various other discounts for a set period. The 24-hour card costs €21, the 48-hour card is €28, and a 24-hour family card (two adults and three kids) is €40. You can buy the card at the tourist office or from most participating attractions, and it's valid from the first time you use it.

castle has been growing ever since. Notable occupants have included Count Per Brahe, founder of many towns in Finland, who lived here in the 17th century, and Sweden's King Eric XIV, who was imprisoned in the castle's Round Tower in the late 16th century, having been declared insane.

Highlights include two dungeons and magnificent banqueting halls, as well as a fascinating historical museum of medieval Turku in a maze of restored rooms in the castle's old bailey. A series of models in the main part of the castle shows its growth from a simple island fortress to medieval castle.

Guided tours of the stronghold area are given hourly in English. They give a good account of the castle's history but do not visit the Renaissance rooms on the upper floor, or the extensive museums in the bailey section of the castle, so you should allow time to explore those yourself, before or after a tour.

Luostarinmäki Handicrafts museum

The name 'handicrafts museum' gives little indication of how fascinating this open-air museum (☎ 262 0350; admission €3.40; 🕒 10am-6pm daily mid-Apr-mid-Sep, 10am-3pm Tue-Sun mid-Sep-mid-Apr) really is. It is made up of the only surviving 18th-century area of this medieval town - Turku has been razed by fire 30 times - and all the buildings are still in their original locations, unlike most Finnish open-air museums where the buildings are moved from elsewhere, or re-created. Carpenters, stonemasons, jewellers and other workers built homes and shops in the area, beginning in 1779. When the great fire of 1827 destroyed most of Turku, Luostarinmäki neighbourhood was one of the few that survived.

Since 1940 it has served as a museum, but doesn't feel like one: it's more like stepping back in time. There are about 30 furnished workshops altogether, including a printing press, silversmith, watchmaker, bakery and cigar shop. In summer, artisans in period costume work inside the old wooden houses and musicians stroll its paths. There are guided tours in English given roughly hourly from 10.30am to 4.30pm in the height of summer. There's also a good café, and a gift shop selling products made in the village.

Turku Cathedral

Towering over the river and town, **Turku Cathedral** (cathedral & museum 🕒 9am-7pm mid-Sep-mid-Apr, 9am-8pm mid-Apr-mid-Sep) is one of Finland's most important churches. Consecrated in 1300, much of the building has been rebuilt over the centuries after frequent fire damage. The interior is immensely high, with towering wall arches and a lofty vaulted nave. The side chapels hold tombs of Finnish and Swedish war heroes; many of these are names that ring loud in the history of this region. In one chapel rests Catherine Mansdotter, Queen of Sweden, wife of the unfortunate Erik XIV. The retable and pulpit were designed by the famous German architect CL Engel (who also built the Orthodox church on the market square).

The **cathedral museum** (admission €2) displays models showing different stages of the cathedral's construction from the 14th century, as well as medieval sculptures and various valuable religious paraphernalia.

Most Tuesday evenings the cathedral offers live music, and English-language services are held at 4pm every Sunday.

Opposite the cathedral, the **Vanha Suurtori** was once the main town square. It's surrounded by elegant buildings; the old town hall and trading mansions. A cobbled courtyard holds a book café; a peaceful spot on a sunny day.

Forum Marinum

This excellent **maritime museum** (☎ 282 9511; www.forum-marinum.fi; Linnankatu 72; admission €7, with museum ships €12; 🕒 11am-7pm daily May-Sep, 10am-6pm Tue-Sun Oct-Apr) is set back from the riverfront near the castle. The permanent exhibition is housed in an old granary and has a comprehensive look at different aspects of ships and shipping, including scale models, full-size

vessels – check out the hydrocopter, WWII torpedoes and multimedia displays (including a puzzling account of a Crimean War naval engagement in which not very much happened!). The newer building opposite has regular exhibitions, as well as several vessels and a cabin from a luxury cruise-liner; Turku's shipyards produce some of the classiest of these. There's a good café and shop in the foyer.

Outside, anchored in the river, are four **museum ships** (☎ 11am-7pm Jun-Aug; per boat €5, all boats & museum €12) which you can climb aboard and poke around in, above and below deck. The WWII mine layer *Keihässalmi* and the corvette *Karjala* give an insight into wartime conditions at sea; the beautiful three-masted barque *Sigyn*, originally launched from Göteborg in 1887, has well preserved cabins; and the impressive 1902 sailing ship *Suomen Joutsen* (Swan of Finland), which was built in France, was used by the Finnish Navy during WWII as a mother ship for submarines and as a hospital.

Aboa Vetus & Ars Nova Museums

These twin **museums** (☎ 250 0552; Itäinen Rantakatu 4-6; admission €8; ☎ 11am-7pm, closed Mon mid-Sep–Mar) are under one roof. *Ars Nova* is a museum of contemporary art with temporary exhibitions, the highlight of which is the Turku Biennaali, a themed display held in summer in odd years. *Aboa Vetus* is an absolutely fascinating museum of archaeology. You descend into the excavated remains of medieval Turku; these are brought to life by lively commentary, plenty of information and activities for kids, and replica items that make sense of the fragments. It's an amazing achievement that deserves the highest praise. There are free guided tours in English at 11.30am in July and August. Outside, on the riverbank, is a memorial to Herman Spöring, a Turku man who sailed with Cook on his discovery of Australia; some islands off New Zealand are named after him.

Turun Taidemuseo

Recently re-opened, the excellent **Turku Art Museum** (☎ 262 7100; Aurakatu 26; adult/child €6/free; ☎ 11am-7pm Tue-Fri, 11am-5pm Sat & Sun; 📍) is in a striking granite building with elaborately carved pilasters, conical turrets and a polished iron hat. The majority of the art is from the last century or so; the 'Turku school' was

one of Finland's most influential art movements; look out for works by Ilmari Kajjala and Emil Rautala among others. Two famous tempera works by Akseli Gallen-Kallela, a friend of Sibelius, vividly depict scenes from the Kalevala, while pointillist landscapes by William Finch, a series of bronze Finnish animals by Jussi Mäntynen, Finnish scenes painted by Victor Westerholm and an enchanting family of pigs by Harro Koskinen are other things to look out for.

Sibelius Museum

Near the cathedral the **Sibelius Museum** (☎ 215 4494; Piispankatu 17; admission €3; ☎ 11am-4pm Tue-Sun, 11am-3pm & 6-8pm Wed) displays some 350 musical instruments from around the world in a landmark 1960s building, and exhibits memorabilia of the famous Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. It is the most extensive musical museum in Finland. You can listen to Sibelius' music on record or, better still, attend a Wednesday evening concert (every Wednesday from September to May, less often in summer).

Qwensel apteekkimuseo

On the riverfront this, the oldest surviving **wooden house** (☎ 262 0280; Läntinen Rantakatu 13; admission €3.40; ☎ 10am-6pm daily mid-Apr–mid-Sep, 10am-3pm Tue-Sun mid-Sep–mid-Apr) in Turku, was built around 1700, and now houses the small **Pharmacy Museum**. You can see an old laboratory with aromatic herbs, fine 18th-century furnishings with hints of 'Gustavian' (Swedish) style, and an exhibition of bottles and other pharmacy items.

Other Museums

In a beautiful building, the **Turku Biological Museum** (☎ 262 0340; Neitsytpolku 1; admission €3.40; ☎ 10am-6pm mid-Apr–mid-Sep, 10am-3pm Tue-Sun mid-Sep–mid-Apr) is surprisingly interesting and superbly presented, if you don't mind staring at stuffed beasts.

Ett Hem Museum (☎ 215 4279; Piispankatu 14; admission €3; ☎ noon-3pm Tue-Sun May-Sep) preserves a wealthy turn-of-the-20th-century home, with furniture of various styles, and works by famous painters Albert Edelfelt and Helene Schjerfbeck.

The **Wäinö Aaltonen Museum** (☎ 262 0850; www.wam.fi; Itäinen Rantakatu 38; admission €4; ☎ 11am-7pm Tue-Sun) displays permanent exhibitions of this famous artist's paintings and sculptures.

Its temporary exhibitions are of contemporary art.

Cruises

Archipelago cruises are a popular activity in Turku during summer. There are day trips around the islands as well as evening dinner-and-dance cruises. Most departures are from the quay at Martinsilta bridge.

The historic steamship **SS Ukkopekka** (☎ 515 3300; www.ukkopekka.fi) cruises to Naantali (one way/return €15/20, 10am and 2pm, daily, early June to late August). The trip takes 1½ hours and you can have lunch on board (€10 to €13). If you'd rather party on board, there's an evening dinner-dance cruise, departing at 7pm Monday to Saturday from mid-May to late August (€28 to €43). The meals (starters plus buffet) are served on dry land – on the island of Loistokari.

Less atmospheric, but good value, the **M/S Rudolfina** (☎ 250 2995; www.rudolfina.fi) runs 90-minute lunch and dinner cruises from only €19, including a buffet meal. More leisurely are the evening cruises, departing at 7pm from Monday to Saturday and taking three hours to Naantali Bay and back (€26).

The **M/S Lily** (☎ 469 2500; www.rosita.fi) cruises out to Vepsa island three times daily from mid-June to mid-August (€9.50 return, one hour each way) and as far as Maisaari on Friday and Sunday evening (€14.50, four hours total). In May and September, cruises are Friday to Sunday only. Rosita also has cruises to Bengtskär island on scheduled Saturdays in May, June and August (€45, 12 hours). The full-day return cruise includes guide fees and entry to the island.

SS *Franz Hoijer* takes off north to Uusikaupunki and south to Hanko once a week – see p211 for information.

Cycling

The city tourist office can suggest cycling routes and publishes an excellent free *pyörätiekartta* (bike route map) of the city and surrounding towns. You can rent bikes from them per day/week for €10/50; Hostel Turku (see Sleeping) is another of several places to offer this.

Swimming & Sauna

At the **Sampalinnan outdoor swimming stadium** (☎ 262 3590; Sampalinnanvuori, admission €3; ☎ late May-late Aug), the entry fee includes a sauna and

use of the 50m pool with diving boards. In winter, go to the indoor **Impivaara swimming hall** (☎ 262 3588; Uimahallinpolku 4; €3.50; ☎ 10am-5pm) for swimming and sauna, north of the city centre (take bus 13 to Impivaara).

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

The **Turku Music Festival**, held during the second week of August, is a feast of classical and contemporary music and opera. Venues include the Turku Castle and the cathedral and tickets cost €10 to €30. For further information contact the **Turku Music Festival Foundation** (☎ 251 1162; www.turkumusicfestival.fi; Uudenmaankatu 1, 20500 Turku).

Quite different is **Ruisrock** (www.ruisrock.fi), Finland's oldest and largest annual rock festival, held since 1969. The festival takes place over two days in early June at the recreational park on Ruissalo island. Tickets cost from €35 to €50.

Keskiajan Turku, held over a summer week-end (variable date), is the festival of medieval Turku. It's a fantastic four days of pageantry, banqueting, fencing and outrageous costumes, with plenty of actors adding authenticity. Events take place at the market square, Turku Castle, the cathedral and Aboa Vetus museum. Inquire at the city tourist office about the festival programme and tickets.

Paavo Nurmi Marathon, named after the legendary distance runner, one of Turku's favourite sons, is a big event in late June/early July. It attracts an international field as well as hundreds of marathon-mad Finns. The course begins in the town centre and goes out to Ruissalo island. There's a statue of Nurmi on the south side of the river.

SLEEPING Budget

Bed & Breakfast Tuure (☎ 233 0230; Tuureporinkatu 17C; s/d €37/50; 📍 ☎ 📧) Very handy for the bus station and close to the market square, this tidy and friendly guesthouse makes an excellent place to stay. The rooms are bright and thoughtfully decorated, you get your own keys, and there's microwave, fridge, and free Internet use for guests. A well-fed cat shares the premises!

Hostel Turku (☎ 262 7680; www.turku.fi/hostel-turku; Linnankatu 39; dm/s/d €14/33.50/38; ☎) reception 6-10am & 3pm-midnight; 📍 ☎ 📧) This HI-affiliated place is well located on the river close to the town centre and is spacious and

friendly. Reception is friendly, there's a decent kitchen, laundry, lockers, and bike hire (per day/week €10/50). It gets very busy with school groups and backpackers in summer, so it's worth booking ahead. Linen and breakfast each cost €4.50 extra. From the train station, it's about a 10-minute walk downhill; from the bus station and harbour take bus 1.

Omenahotelli (www.omenahotelli.fi; Humalistonkatu 7; r €55; (P) (X)) Although the building is designed by Finnish architect Alvar Aalto, it's fair to say it wasn't one of his best. It's now part of this good-value Internet-booked chain. You get a keycode when you make a booking; there are no staff. Terminals in the lobby also allow you to book. The rooms are good, sleeping up to four as there's a fold-out sofa, as well as TV and bathroom.

Ruissalo Camping (☎ 262 5100; fax 262 5101; camp sites €10, plus per person €4, 2-/4-person r €30/55; (X) Jun-Aug) Situated on Ruissalo island, 10km west of the city centre, this place has a variety of rooms as well as saunas, a cafeteria and nice beaches – including a nude beach. It gets packed for the Ruisrock festival and at Midsummer. Bus 8 runs from the market square in the centre to the camping ground.

Majatalo Kultainen Turisti (☎ 250 0265; Käsitöyläiskatu 11; s/d €40/50) This comfortable guesthouse is handy for the train station. While the public areas are decorated in a slightly fussy style, the rooms are simpler and pleasant enough, although the welcome isn't exactly effusive. There are also higher standard, hotel-style rooms available (single/double €50/65). It's above a set of shops.

Midrange

Centro Hotel (☎ 469 0469; www.centrohotel.com; Yliopistonkatu 12; s/d €86/96, Sat, Sun, & summer €61/72; (P) (X) (Q)) Right in the heart of town but quiet, this is a very likeable place with top-class friendly service and attention to detail. The rooms are gleaming, with polished parquet floors and large windows. For an extra €10, you can get a 'superior' room with a few extra touches like wood paneling and extravagant bedside lamps. Best of all is the breakfast spread, which has been heartily endorsed by readers.

Bridgettine Convent Guesthouse (☎ 250 1910; birgitta.turku@kolumbus.fi; Ursininkatu 15A; s/d €42/61; (P) (X)) Catholics are thin on the ground in Finland, but this small community of

SOMETHING SPECIAL

Park Hotel (☎ 273 2555; www.parkhotelturku.fi; Rauhankatu 1; s/d €110/130, Sat, Sun & summer €85/110; (P) (X)) One of Finland's most characterful and stylish hotels, this intimate, romantic spot is set in a lovely Art Nouveau building dating from 1902. The rooms are all beautiful and different (book the delectable top room, 401, if you can), and decorated with exemplary taste. There's also a sauna, fireplace and pool table; it feels like a peaceful and luxurious rural retreat but it's in the heart of the city.

nuns is well worth seeking out, for their guesthouse offers substantial comfort. The rate includes breakfast, and the rooms are spacious, with pine floorboards, phone and bedside lamps. Silence is expected around the corridors and reception areas after 10pm. It's wise to book ahead.

Sokos Hamburger Börs (☎ 337 381; www.sokosho.tels.fi; Kauppiaskatu 6; economy/r/r €106/146, Sat, Sun & summer €71/94; (P) (X) (Q) (S) (T)) Overlooking the market square is the town's largest hotel. The rooms are spacious, with standard business facilities (including wireless Internet); ask for one close to the lifts if you have mobility difficulties – it's a big building! The annexe across the road offers the same standard of comfort at a significant saving. There are suites with their own sauna (around €300) and a huge array of restaurants and bars attached. After 6pm they offer an excellent 'last minute' rate (saving more than 50%) if there is availability; during the week there's quite a good chance of this.

Hotel Julia (☎ 336 000; www.scandic-hotels.fi; Eerikinkatu 4; s/d €93/117, Sat, Sun & summer €69/79; (P) (X) (Q) (S)) Just off the market square, this is one of the better hotels in Turku. As it's situated in a modern block, the wood-beamed reception is surprising, but the rooms are light, with bright bedspreads and big windows. The bathrooms are a touch small, but there's wireless Internet access and a free sauna included with the weekday rate.

Sokos Hotel Seurahuone (☎ 337 301; www.soko.shotels.fi; Eerikinkatu 23; s/d €95/116, d Sat, Sun & summer €77-78, ste €220; (P) (X) (Q) (S)) The sister Sokos hotel is more peaceful though the rooms

(Continued on page 209)

(Continued from page 200)

have similar facilities, including digital films, mini-bar, and wireless Internet; the twins are much roomier than the doubles. There's a business centre, free sauna and helpful service. Disabled access areas are limited.

Seaport Hotel (☎ 283 3000; www.hotelseaport.fi; Matkustajasatama; s/d €76/86, Sat, Sun & summer €59/69; (P) (X)) This is an attractive hotel in a low restored harbour warehouse, right next to the Viking Line and Silja Line terminals, perfect for early-morning departures or late arrivals. Rooms are welcoming, with pine floors and homely wooden furniture. There's also a restaurant and friendly service. Bus 1 will take you into the centre.

EATING

Restaurants

FINNISH

Enkeliravintola (☎ 231 8088; Kauppiaskatu 16; mains €13-20; (X) dinner Tue-Fri, lunch & dinner Sat & Sun) This delightful spot is tucked away in a corner near the art museum. The name means 'angel restaurant', and you can't get away from the theme; the ethereal beings are everywhere you look, and the dishes are named for them too. The food includes steaks, duck and an excellent mutton with garlic. Child-friendly.

Vaakahuoneen Paviljonki (☎ 515 3324; Linnankatu 38; mains €7-18, fish buffet €9; (X) food served 11am-10pm May-Aug) While the floating bars may be good for drink and socializing, this is the place to go for great value food and entertainment. As well as an à la carte menu of snacks, pasta, pizzas and steak, there's are daily buffets in summer, one with 'archipelago fish', and another varying Asian cuisines. On top of this it's on the riverfront and there's live music, usually traditional jazz, most days in spring and summer.

Teini (☎ 223 0203; Uudenmaankatu 1; mains €13-24; (X) lunch & dinner) A city institution for traditional Finnish food. It has a mind-boggling array of dining halls and smaller rooms. Grilling things, be it fish or steaks, is what they do best, and it's pretty good value for the quality on offer: a fine chateaubriand, for example, comes in at €19.90.

Foija (☎ 251 8665; Aurakatu 10; mains €12-22; (X) 11am-11pm) It's quite a surprise to descend under the Hansa shopping centre and discover this gently-lit, brick-vaulted space. It's been a restaurant for over 150 years,

and these days is a favourite for tasty steaks, but also has several vegetarian options.

Svarte Rudolf (☎ 250 4567; Leirikatu 7; mains €10-18; (X) lunch & dinner) This is the fanciest of the floating restaurants moored on the south side of the Aurajoki. The speciality is seafood, which goes well with the nautical theme, and the below deck dining room is elegant. There's a daily lunch buffet which is great value at €8.90 during the week and on Saturday/Sunday €12/16.

Viikinkiravintola Harald (☎ 276 5050; Aurakatu 3; mains €16-22; (X) lunch & dinner) A theme restaurant where you get to mix it with Norse warriors and eat with your hands. There's a variety of set meals (from €24) and all sorts of period paraphernalia on the walls. Plenty of fun; after all, in Valhalla there are no hangovers.

Panimoravintola Koulu (☎ 274 5757; Eerikinkatu 18; mains €12-20; (X) 11am-midnight Mon-Sat) This is in an enormous former schoolhouse built in 1889, complete with desks and inkwells. Upstairs is an upmarket restaurant, downstairs a brewery pub and a large beer garden, complete with minigolf course. There are good-value lunches served here.

INTERNATIONAL

Sergio's (☎ 233 0068; Läntinen Rantakatu 27; pizzas €8-12, mains €13-20; (X) 11am-11pm Mon-Fri, 1-11pm Sat, 1-9pm Sun; (X)) This stylish Italian restaurant and café is a cut above most of its kind. The outside tables are well poised to have a drink and do some Turku-watching. The mains are classy, the pizzas good value and there's a good selection of Italian wines.

Pizzeria Dennis (☎ 469 1191; Linnankatu 17; pizza/pasta €8-11; (X) lunch & dinner) This place doesn't look much from the outside, but within is a warren of cosy rooms adorned with Chianti bottles and strings of garlic. There's a long and innovative range of pizzas and pasta, but you're better sticking to the tried and tested combinations: there's a good reason you don't see parmesan cheese and curry sauce together more often! Enthusiastic service.

Bossa (☎ 251 5880; Kauppiaskatu 12; mains €16-19; (X) 4-11pm Mon-Fri, noon-11pm Sat, 2-9pm Sun) This is probably the only Brazilian restaurant in Finland. While the sleek, intimate contemporary styling doesn't exactly evoke Rio, the food is authentic. The hearty *caldo de feijão* is the broth of a black-bean stew, while

main dishes are large, colourful and tasty. There's live music most Tuesdays.

Baan Thai (☎ 233 8290; Kauppiaskatu 15; dishes €6-12; ☎ 11am-9pm Mon-Thu, 11am-10pm Fri & Sat, noon-9pm Sun) This is an authentic and intimate little Thai restaurant a short walk north of the kauppatori. With a fairly down-to-earth interior (the trellised grapevine is a little out of place) and no-nonsense service, the dishes are tasty, if a little mild by Southeast Asian standards. The lunch buffet for €5.50 during the week is a bargain.

Tomate (☎ 4885 5511; Brahenkatu 20; mains €12-18; ☎ 11am-11pm Mon-Fri, noon-midnight Sat, 1-9pm Sun) This cheerful pseudo-Spanish restaurant is decorated with colourful tablecloths and cases of Iberian wine, of which there's a good selection. It's run with enthusiasm – there are regular Spanish events and wine tastings as well. The food is good, with decent steaks and tasty tapas (a selection of three €6.50). There's an outdoor summer terrace.

Cafés

Cafe Fontana (cnr Aurakatu & Linnankatu; ☎ 9am-8pm Mon-Sat, noon-6pm Sun) This place, in the heart of the city, is an Art Nouveau café with delicious pastries and pies. Inside there are large, elegant wooden tables and comfortable chairs, while outside is a terrace in the heart of things.

Sininen Juna Aschan Café (kauppahalli) This is a neat little café where you sit in a converted train carriage. The name translates as 'blue train'. It's run by a famous Turku bakery, which supplies the delicious bread, buns, and cakes

Cafe Noir (Eerikinkatu 8; meals €5-10; ☎ Tue-Sat 11am-7pm) While it's far from fancy, the Noir is a Turku institution and one of the cheapest sit-down places to eat. It's very cheap, with simple but filling plates such as meatballs or spaghetti with salad going for as little as €5.90; the eclectic menu also includes pizza, schnitzel, chicken curry and omelettes.

At the entrance to the Luostarinmäki Handicrafts Museum, Kahvila Kisälli is a large, cheery café in a historic 1851 building. It's a good spot to stop for coffee after visiting the museum; they also do tasty slices of pancake with strawberry jam.

Quick Eats

Cheap eats abound in the city centre, in the **kauppahalli** (covered market; Eerikinkatu; ☎ 7am-5.30pm

Mon-Fri, 7am-3pm Sat) and around the **kauppatori** (market square; ☎ 8am-4pm May-Sep). In particular, the outdoor market (held Monday to Saturday in summer) is superb for fresh fruit and vegetables and smoked fish. Look for kebab stands and grills around the market square, on Aurakatu and Yliopistonkatu. Hesburger restaurants – Finland's answer to McDonald's – are everywhere in Turku, which is hardly surprising since the chain was born here.

DRINKING

In summer the heart of Turku's nightlife is along the river. The evening usually begins on many of the boats lining the south bank of the river. Although some of these also serve food, they are primarily floating beer terraces with music and lots of shipboard socializing. Hard-up young locals drink on the grassy riverbank nearby. Popular boats on the south side of the river include the upmarket *Donna*, and the down-to-earth *Papa Joe* and *Cindy*.

Uusi Apteekki (☎ 250 2595; Kaskenkatu 1; ☎ 10am-3am) South of the river is a wonderful bar in a converted old pharmacy; the antique shelving and desks have been retained, but they are filled with hundreds of old beer bottles. Bags of character.

CaféArt (Läntinen Rantakatu 5; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon-Sat, noon-7pm Sun) In a noble old waterfront building on one of Turku's most pleasant stretches, this hospitable café has tables out along the river, as well as two elegant interior salons. There's good espresso, as well as art exhibitions on the walls.

Blanko (☎ 233 3966; Aurakatu 1; ☎ bar until 1am weeknights, 3am weekends) Next to the bridge and opposite the tourist office is the ultra-chic Blanko, where Turku's gorgeous young things shake their booty to DJs on Friday and Saturday night; it's also a decent if overpriced lunch or dinner spot, with tables outside by the river, and dishes like Caesar salad (€11) and a range of pastas (€12 to €18).

Old Bank (Aurakatu 3, cnr Linnankatu; ☎ until 1am, later at weekends) This was once a bank but is now a boisterous Irish pub that attracts a slightly older drinking crowd, and has a huge range of beers to satisfy connoisseurs.

Panimoravintola Koulu (☎ 274 5757; Eerikinkatu 18) This is a great brewery pub in the town centre (see p209). There are three home-grown brews on tap including a fine stout.

Panimoravintola Herman (☎ 230 3333; Läntinen Rantakatu 37) This is another brewery pub–restaurant fronting the river near Hostel Turku. It's a lot smaller than Koulu but is part of a busy little waterfront area. As well as tasty beer, it does very posh pub grub.

Puutorin Vessa (☎ 233 8123; Puutori; ☎ noon-midnight) Near the bus terminal, this bar is unusually set in what was formerly a public loo! There's toilet humour and paraphernalia on the walls and a sunny terrace.

ENTERTAINMENT

Nightclubs

Galax (☎ 284 3300; Aurakatu 6; ☎ 9pm-3 or 4am). This giant venue is also a café and restaurant, but is of most interest for its nightclub, which covers several levels and has live music and DJs most weekends.

Sokeri Klubi (☎ 276 5700; www.sokeriklubi.com; Aurakatu 3; ☎ 10pm-4am Thu-Sat) Across the road from the Galax, this has a more cutting-edge DJ scene and fills to the brim with Turku's young, bright, and restless at weekends.

Cinema

Julia (☎ 0600 007 007; Eerikinkatu 4) Central cinema in the same building as the hotel of the same name.

Kino Thalia (☎ 237 9400, Hansa Centre) Shows more off-beat films and arthouse releases.

Music & Theatre

Concert Hall (☎ 262 0800; Aninkaistenkatu 9; tickets usually €7-16) The Turku Philharmonic Orchestra is one of the oldest in Europe – it was founded in the 1790s. The orchestra performs here.

Vaakahuoneen Paviljonki (☎ 515 3324; Linnankatu 38) There's live jazz most days at this place at the passenger quay.

Downtown (Linnankatu 17) For live rock music, this slightly down-at-heel place on the corner by Pizzeria Dennis, is an excellent choice, and open until 4am at weekends.

Svenska Teater (☎ 277 7377; Eerikinkatu 13) Next to the Hansa Shopping Arcade, this is one of the oldest theatres in Finland and it hosts well known musicals with performances in Swedish.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Air
Finnair flies to Turku from a number of Finnish cities and some European capitals, including Stockholm. Domestic flights are

generally at least once a day but more often to Helsinki, Mariehamn, Tampere, Rovaniemi and Oulu. The **Finnair office** (☎ 415 4909) is at the airport (see also Travel Agencies, p195)

Boat

Turku is a major gateway to Finland from Sweden and Åland and smaller boats ply the waters up and down the coast. The *MS Franz Höjjer* (☎ 241 1850; www.surfnet.fi/saaristoristeilyt) travels from Turku to Hanko (10am, Wednesday) and to Uusikaupunki (10am, Friday) from mid-May to mid-August. Both trips take eight hours one way and cost only €12.

SWEDEN & ÅLAND

The harbour, southwest of the centre, has terminals for **Silja Line** (☎ 335 255; www.silja.com), **Viking Line** (☎ 333 1331; www.vikingline.fi) and **Seawind** (☎ 210 2800). Ferries sail to Turku from Stockholm (11 hours) and Mariehamn (six hours). Prices vary widely according to season and class of service, with deck class one-way tickets ranging from €14 to €35. Finnlink (see p215) offers a faster but pricier service from nearby Naantali.

Purchase tickets from one of the offices at the harbour, from the Viking Line office in the Hansa Shopping Arcade, or from Silja Lines on Käsitöyläiskatu; you should book ahead during the high season if you plan to take a car or if you're travelling on a weekend (or Friday night). Bus 1 travels between the market square and the harbour. There are also connecting trains and buses from other cities that stop at the harbour itself.

See p346 for more details about international ferry travel.

Bus

From the bus terminal at Aninkaistentulli there are hourly express buses to Helsinki (€28.10, 2½ hours), and frequent services to Tampere (€25.60, three hours), Rauma (€13.70, 1½ hours) and other points in southern Finland. Regional buses depart from the kauppatori.

Train

Turku is the terminus for the southeastern railway line. The train station is a short walk northwest of the centre; trains also stop at the ferry harbour and at Kupittaa train station east of the centre. Bus 32 shuttles between the centre and the main train station. Express trains run frequently to and

from Helsinki (€24.90, two hours), Tampere (€22.70, 1 ¼ hours), Oulu (€62.50, six to nine hours), Rovaniemi (€71.40, 10 to 14 hours). For Oulu and Rovaniemi there's usually a change in Tampere.

GETTING AROUND To/From the Airport

Bus 1 runs between the kauppatori and the airport, about 8km north of the city, every 15 minutes from 5am to midnight Monday to Friday, from 5.30am to 9.30pm Saturday and from 7am to midnight Sunday (€2, 25 minutes). This same bus also goes from the kauppatori to the harbour.

Bus

City and regional buses are frequent and you pay €2 for a two-hour ticket or €4.50 for a 24-hour ticket. Important city bus routes include bus 1 (harbour-kauppatori-bus station-airport) and buses 32 and 42 (train station-kauppatori).

Car Hire

There are several car rental offices, among them **Avis** (☎ 231 1333; Käsitöyläiskatu 7B) and **Budget** (☎ 233 4040; Sirkkalankatu 15).

Ferry

There's a small passenger and bike ferry that crosses the river a few blocks downstream from the last bridge. It's the last crossing point, and runs from May to September (free).

AROUND TURKU

NAANTALI

☎ 02 / pop 13, 818

With water lapping at its wooden mooring-posts in front of picturesque timber houses, Naantali (Swedish: Nådendal) is one of Finland's most idyllic port towns and makes a great, and popular, day-trip destination from Turku – it's only 18km away.

Once you get over the shock of the summertime crowds – and the fact that the majority of them are making a beeline for a children's theme park – it's difficult not to like Naantali. The compact boat-filled harbour is ringed with pleasant cafés and restaurants, the cobbled Old Town has a quaint (if slightly dressed up) old-world feel,

and there's plenty of sights and shopping to occupy an afternoon. The main attraction for all those Finnish families is Moominworld, a theme park celebrating characters from the storybooks by Tove Jansson. Out of season, Naantali is pretty quiet, and feels a little like a filmset after the actors have gone home.

History

Naantali grew around the Catholic Convent of the Order of Saint Birgitta, which was founded in 1443. After Finland became Protestant in 1527, the convent was dissolved and Naantali had to struggle for its existence; the convent had been important not only spiritually but also economically. When the pilgrims no longer came to town, people had to find other means of making a living, notably by knitting socks, which became Naantali's main export.

Orientation

Naantali sprawls on both sides of the channel Naantalsalmi. The island of Luonnonmaa is on the southwest side of the channel, accessible by bridge, and the mainland, with the town centre, is on the northeast side. The old part of Naantali surrounds the harbour, 1km west of the bus terminal.

Information

Library Free Internet access on the 2nd floor of the post office building.

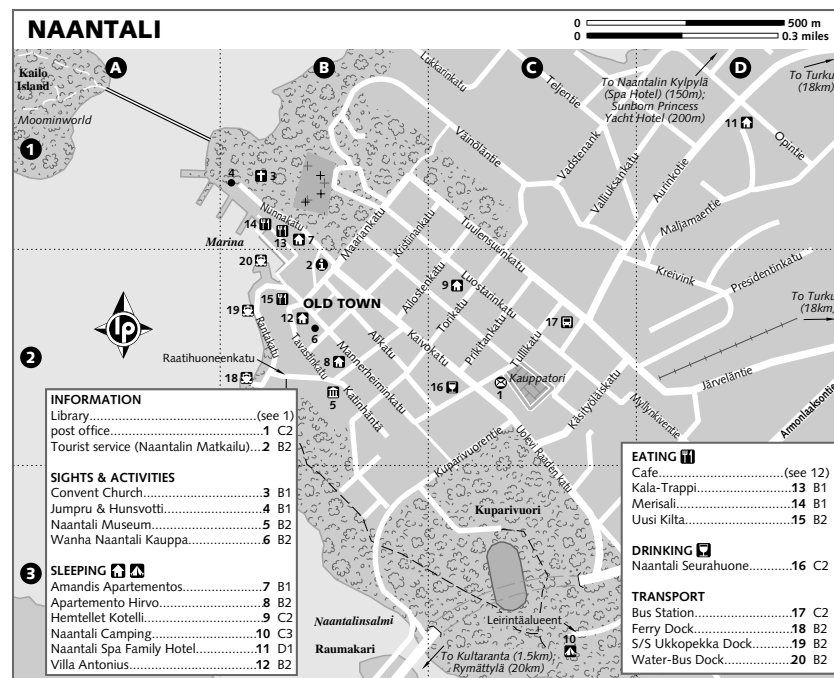
Tourist service (Naantalin Matkailu; ☎ 435 9800; info@naantalinmatkailu.fi; Kaivotori 2; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat & Sun mid-Jun–mid-Aug, 9am-4.30pm Mon-Fri mid-Aug–mid-Jun) By the harbour. Internet access for 30 minutes €1.

Sights

MUUMIMAAILMA (MOOMINWORLD)

One of Finland's most popular family attractions, this island-based Disney-like theme park brings to life the characters and stories of children's writer Tove Jansson. Even kids who haven't grown up with the books (or seen the Moomin film or TV series) will warm to the whimsies of the **Muumimaaailma** (☎ 511 1111; www.muumimaaailma.fi; 1/2-day pass 3yr & above €16/25; ☎ 10am-6pm early Jun-late Aug).

The main attraction is on Kailo island, accessible by bridge from the mainland at the end of the harbour. Costumed characters inhabit its Moominhouse, Pirate Fort, Snork's Pancake Factory, Whispering



Woods and more. There is a theatre, a safe swimming beach and a minigolf course.

Next door, there's also **Väski Adventure Island** (☎ 511 1111; www.vaski.fi; above/under 6yr €13/7, with Moominworld entry discount €1; ☎ 11am-7pm early Jun–mid-Aug) with pirate adventures that will suit older children.

OLD TOWN

The Old Town of Naantali is like a big open-air museum. The town grew around the convent, without any regular town plan, and new buildings were always built on the sites of older ones. The result is a delightfully photogenic district of old narrow cobbled streets and low wooden houses – many of which now house handicraft shops, art galleries and cafés. Only the old windmills and storehouses along the shore have disappeared. The main thoroughfare is Mannerheiminkatu and at number 13, **Wanha Naantali Kauppa** is a much-visited shop selling old-fashioned Finnish sweets, bottled soft drinks, stamps, postcards and souvenirs – it's a nostalgia trip, although not a cheap one.

Housed in three old wooden buildings dating from the 18th century, **Naantali Museum** (☎ 434 5321; Katinhäntä 1; admission €2; ☎ noon-7pm Tue-Sun mid-May–Aug) displays include old furniture and exhibitions on the history of Naantali as a convent settlement and as a ritzy spa town.

CONVENT CHURCH

The only building remaining from the Convent of the Order of Saint Birgitta is the massive **Convent Church** (☎ 10am-6pm May, 10am-8pm daily Jun-Aug, 11am-3pm Sun, noon-2pm Wed Sep-Apr), which towers above the harbour. The church was completed in 1462 and its fine baroque stone tower dates from 1797. The interior is surprisingly wide, with elegant vaulting and a very handsome 17th-century pulpit depicting the apostles and evangelists in a blaze of colour. Also noteworthy is the carved 15th-century polychrome wood triptych behind the altar and an evocative wooden head of Christ below it.

During summer the church offers a programme of organ music; the tourist

MS MOOMIN

The late Tove Jansson, creator of the much-loved Moomin children's books, was born on 9 August 1914 in Helsinki to Swedish-speaking parents. The talented young Tove was an artist from a young age, and she published her first drawings in a magazine at 14. The first book featuring Moomin trolls came out in 1945, and a new Moomin adventure followed every two years or so.

Despite almost immediate Moomin fever in Finland, it was more than 40 years before the lovable Moomin family attracted worldwide attention. The big break was a Japanese-made cartoon which has been shown on TV in several countries.

Today, the Moomin world comprises four picture books, eight novels and one short-story collection, which have been translated into many languages – including English. Apart from Naantali's Moominworld theme park, you can get acquainted with the characters at the Moomin Valley Museum in Tampere (p171) and at galleries and bookshops around Finland.

Tove lived most of her life on various islands off the Finnish south coast. Whenever she tired of the journalists who frequently visited her studio, she moved to a more isolated island. She passed away in June 2001 in Helsinki, aged 86.

offer can provide a schedule. At 8pm on summer evenings you'll hear the 'vespers' (evensong) played by a trumpeter from the belfry of the church.

KULTARANTA

The summer residence of the president of Finland is a fanciful stone castle on Luonnonmaa island; the tower is visible from Naantali harbour across the bay. The castle, designed by Lars Sonck, was built in 1916 and is surrounded by a 56-hectare estate with beautiful, extensive rose gardens.

The **Kultaranta grounds** (🗓 Tue-Sun late Jun-mid-Aug) are visited by guided tour only. The hour-long tour costs €5 if you start from Kultaranta gate (3pm), or €8 for the bus tour from Naantali (1.55pm). Book through the tourist office.

Activities

Naantali's **spa** (☎ 445 5100; www.naantalispaspa.fi; 2hr €10) traditions date from 1723, when people took health-giving waters from a spring in Viluluoto. Naantalin Kylpylä (see Sleeping), the town's top-class spa hotel allows non-guests to use its fantastic facilities – including several pools and a Turkish bath – during daytime hours. There's a huge range of spa, massage and beauty treatments, including 'Cleopatra's Bath', with milk and honey (€32) or a luxury treatment package for €140. It's best to book ahead in summer.

You can rent bicycles at **Jumpru & Hunsvotti** (☎ 533 2242; per day €10), a small marine shop at the harbour near the bridge to Moominworld.

Festivals & Events

The **Naantali Music Festival** (☎ 434 5363; www.naantalimusic.com), held over two weeks from early June, features a huge variety of classical music. Most events are held in the Convent Church; performers come from all over the globe and range from string quartets to choral groups. Tickets (generally €10 to €30) are available through the tourist office, or by phone.

One of the more unusual Finnish festivals is **Sleepyhead Day** (27 July), a Naantali tradition that goes back more than 100 years. Townspeople elect a 'Sleepyhead of the Year' who is woken early in the morning by being tossed into the sea! A carnival with music, dancing and games follows.

Sleeping

Villa Antonius (☎ 435 1938; fax 435 1333; Mannerheiminkatu 9; d €85-120, ste €170) In the heart of the old town, this has a variety of rooms priced according to the size and level of decoration, which is lavish, romantic and wholly in keeping with the slightly unreal historical atmosphere of this street. Run with plenty of verve and character.

Naantali Camping (☎ 435 0855; Kuparivuori; tent sites €9.50-18, cabins €32-45, cottages €79-109) About 400m south of the town centre is this exceptional camping ground. It's open all year and has great management and good facilities, including a beachside sauna. There's a variety of cabins and cottages sleeping two to six people; some of these have heating; the best even have their own bathroom and sauna.

Naantalin Kylpylä (Spa Hotel; ☎ 44550; www.naantalispaspa.fi; Matkailijantie 2; s/d €127/150; 📍 🚻 🚿) For the ultimate in indulgence, look no further than this massive, upmarket spa hotel. It trades partly on Naantali's history as a spa town but does it in style. Guests have use of the spa, sauna and gym. The service is excellent, and the rooms are very spacious, almost suites, with a lounge area and balcony or veranda; the sofa folds out to make a family room.

Although the owners possess half of Naantali, they were denied permission to build any more extensions. Their solution: to park a massive cruise-ship outside! The **Sunborn Princess Yacht Hotel** (s/d €147/170) is stationary, but at least there's no risk of seasickness. Although the comfortable rooms are called mini-suites, you're paying for the thrill of being on the boat, as they are no bigger than the main complex's doubles. Rooms with balcony cost €20 extra, but are smaller. Luxurious, honeymoon-style suites with their own sauna and Jacuzzi cost €520 per night.

Naantali Spa Family Hotel (☎ 445 5660; Opintie 3; r €50, 2 connecting r €90; 📍 🚻) This modern hostel-type place is across the road from and run by the spa hotel. The functional but comfortable rooms share kitchen and bathroom facilities between two; families and groups can take two adjacent rooms and make a sort of apartment out of them.

Amandis Apartementos (☎ 430 8774; www.hotelamandis.com; Nunnakatu 5; d €80; 📍 🚻) The closest accommodation to the harbour, this friendly spot has gleaming apartments with a shared veranda for lolling about on summer evenings. The rooms (single/double €35/60) are equipped with simple kitchen facilities; there's also a pretty café. Single rates are only available from September to May.

Other recommendations:

Apartemento Hirvo (☎ 435 1619; Mannerheiminkatu 19; d €60; 🚻) Well-placed in the Old Town, friendly staff, quiet garden; guests can use the kitchen.

Hemtellet Kotelli (☎ 435 1419; Luostarinkatu 13; s/d €60/65; 🚻) A fine early 19th-century villa that's well-kept and furnished. The dining room has heaps of style and the garden is pleasant.

Eating

Merisali (☎ 435 2451; Nunnakatu 1; buffet lunch/dinner €9.70/11.50, Sun lunch €13.50; 🗓 lunch & dinner) If you

have an appetite, this place is without question the best on the Naantali dining scene; indeed, many come here from Turku just for the lunch. Once a spa pavillion, it has a shaded terrace and a mind-blowing smorgasbord for lunch and dinner, including staggering quantities of salads and fish. If you value your waistline, beware the Sunday spread.

Kala-Trappi (☎ 435 2477; Nunnakatu 3; pizzas €9.70-10.50, mains €11-17; 🗓 lunch & dinner) This child-friendly place at the harbour has a large patio, good-value wafer-thin pizzas and a few off-beat dishes such as chicken with fruit salsa and pan-fried snails. They have a daily lunch special.

Cafe Antonius (Mannerheiminkatu 9; cakes and pastries €3-6; 🗓 10am-6pm Mon-Sat, 11am-5pm Sun) An unbeatable café in Villa Antonius, with gingerbread and other mouth-watering sweets. The cosy interior is an endearing combination of heavy style, kitsch and very tasty pastries; cheap it isn't, but it's like Grandma's house from a fairy tale.

Uusi Kilta (☎ 435 1066; Mannerheiminkatu 1) On the other side of the harbour from Kala-Trappi, Uusi Kilta has an international menu, great outdoor seating and cold beer.

Naantalin Seurahuone (☎ 432 2165; Kaivokatu 21; 🗓 10am-1am Mon-Sat, noon-11pm Sun) Near the kauppatori, this is a no-frills cheap bar and restaurant with a beer garden, and a grilli.

Getting There & Away

Buses to Naantali (routes 11 and 110) run every 15 minutes from the market square (opposite Hansa shopping arcade) in Turku (€3.70, 20 minutes).

SS *Ukkopekka* sails between Turku and Naantali in summer, arriving at the passenger quay on the south side of the harbour. For more information see p199.

Finnlink (☎ 010 436 7676; www.finnlink.fi) is a low-key ferry service that runs three times daily between Naantali and Kapellskär, near Stockholm in Sweden. It takes 7½ hours and is designed for faster transit rather than a duty-free bonanza. One-way fares are €30 for day departures, and €40 for evenings, plus €30 to €45 for a car. Two meals are included as well as a berth.

RYMÄTTYLÄ

Rymättylä, a sleepy island village 20km southwest of Naantali, is an ideal and tranquil escape; the perfect place for some

Finnish contemplation. Worth a look is the large stone **church** which dominates the village centre and has one of the most colourful of all Finnish medieval church interiors.

Päiväkulman Kartano (☎ 252 1894; www.paivakulma.com; Kuristentie 225; bed per person €27-30; ☞ mid-May-Aug; ☐ ☒) is in a big, old former schoolhouse on the seafront in farming country. There are rooms in the main house and two cottages, as well as a kitchen, laundry facilities and a seaside sauna. The house is on an unpaved road about 3km from the village – take the turn-off to Heinäinen then follow the signs. There are good discounts if you stay more than one night.

Buses run roughly hourly from Naantali to Rymättylä.

LOUHISAARI MANOR

The village of Askainen, 30km northwest of Turku, is the setting for stunning **Louhisaari Manor** (☎ 431 2515; admission €4; ☞ 11am-5pm mid-May-Aug). Its lavishly decorated rooms include a 'ghost room', and there's an extensive museum and gardens. The manor was built in 1655 in the Dutch Renaissance style. The five-storey pile was purchased by the Mannerheim family in 1795, and Finland's greatest military leader and president, Marshal CGE Mannerheim, was born here in 1867. It's now an attraction rivalling the castles at Turku and Savonlinna. Tours are in Finnish only unless you make a group booking.

The village and manor are located just off road No 193. There are three to four buses daily from Turku to Askainen.

NOUSIAINEN

Nousiainen, 25km north of Turku, is worth a visit for the **Nousiainen church** (☞ noon-6pm Tue-Sun). In a country with seemingly limitless medieval churches, this one is notable as the first resting place of St Henry, an Englishman and Swedish-consecrated bishop who was the first to bring Christianity to the Finns (with a bit of light war to accompany it) in the mid 12th century. His bones were taken to Turku cathedral in the 13th century. The current church post-dates this, having been largely built in the 14th century and restored in the 1960s. Hourly buses from Turku to Mynämäki stop at Nousiainen.

KUSTAVI

The island village of Kustavi (Swedish: Gustavs) offers scenic seascapes, a peaceful rural setting and a jumping-off point for the Åland islands. Its wooden **church** (☞ May-mid-Aug), built in 1783, features the votive miniature ships common in coastal churches – sailors offered these in exchange for divine blessings.

There are several places to stay and eat, as well as a summer-only **tourist service** (☎ 842 6620; www.kustavi.fi).

Kustavin Lomakeskus ja Camping (☎ 848 1200; myyntipalvelu@lomaliitto.fi; tent sites €13-14, r €43-46; ☞ early May-mid-Aug) is a large holiday village 2km south of Kustavi. It has a café-restaurant, many cottages and a host of activities.

A great place to eat is **Laura Peterzéns Studio** (☎ 877 696; ☞ noon-10pm Jun-Aug), with outdoor tables on a picturesque wooden deck.

Kustavi is on road 192, about 70km from Turku, and there are many buses. To reach Åland, continue 8.5km west to the passenger pier of Osnäs (Finnish: Vuosnainen) on Vartsala island. From there ferries depart regularly for the island of Brändö.

Most buses from Turku travel direct to Osnäs. See p246 for ferry details; bicycles and passengers travel free, but if travelling by car you'll need to book, and spend a night in the archipelago.

SOUTH OF TURKU

TURUNMAA ARCHIPELAGO

☎ 02

The Turunmaa archipelago is a tightly clustered chain of low islands that begins south of Turku at Pargas, then stretches southwest to Korpo. It's great ground to explore, and popular boating territory in summer. Free local ferries – especially for those travelling by bicycle or bus – can be taken all the way out to Galtby harbour on Korppoo island. From there, you can catch one of the frequent ferries plying the southern archipelago route to Mariehamn, Åland; see p232 for more details. Local ferries on the route between Pargas, Nagu and Korpo offer a continuous service. There's plenty of accommodation on the islands, mostly cottages for weekly rental. Contact **Archipelago Booking** (☎ 465 1000; www.archipelagobooking.com) or the tourist office in Turku for further details.

Pargas

The de facto 'capital' of the archipelago is Swedish-majority Pargas (Finnish: Parainen), about 25km south of Turku. With a population of 12,000, it's the largest town, and has all facilities. There's a **tourist office** (☎ 458 5942; Runeberinkatu 6). The **old town**, with wooden houses, is behind the church. Lenin stayed near Pargas in December 1907, fleeing Russia en route to Stockholm.

Solliden Camping (☎ 485 5955; www.solliden.fi; Norrby; tent sites €14, 4-8-person cottages €40-120; ☞ May-Sep) is the seaside camping ground of Pargas, 1.5km north of the centre. It has camp sites, cottages, saunas and a hostel **Nordral** (dm €10) in a rustic old building with a kitchen and a TV room.

Sattmark, halfway between Parainen and the island of Nagu, is worth a stop for the Sattmark Coffee Shop, a charming 18th-century red wooden crofter's cottage serving home-made wheat buns and cakes.

Pargas is on road 180 from Turku. There are one to three buses an hour from Turku to Pargas, and five or six buses a day from Helsinki.

Nagu

Nagu (Finnish: Nauvo) is an idyllic island community between Pargas to the east and Korpo to the west. It is connected to both by free ferries. **Nagu church** (☞ Jun-late Aug) dates from the 14th century and contains the oldest Bible in Finland.

From Nagu harbour it's possible to island-hop around the Turunmaa archipelago on free local ferries.

Korpo

Korpo (Finnish: Korppoo) is the most distant island in the Turunmaa archipelago, and the final stop before entering the Åland archipelago. A highlight is the medieval **Korpo church** (☞ summer) built in the late 13th century. Treasures in this church include naïve paintings on the ceiling and a statue of St George fighting a dragon.

Korpo has plenty of B&Bs and cottages. **Faffas B&B** (☎ 464 6106; s/d €40/60; ☐ ☒) is a comfortable and welcoming year-round guesthouse about 4km east of the Galtby harbour in Österretais. There are four very attractive rooms, some cheaper, and a discount for longer stays. The main hotel in the village centre is **Forellen** (☎ 463 1202; Kyrkbyn).

Korpo is 75km southwest of Turku on road 180 and is connected to Nagu by continuous ferry. Galtby is the passenger harbour, 4km northeast of Korpo centre. A number of free ferries depart from Galtby for Åland (cars must reserve accommodation; see p232); there are also regular ferries to smaller, nearby islands of the Turunmaa archipelago, such as Houtskär.

KIMITO/KEMIÖ ISLAND

☎ 02 / pop 3301

Kimito Island (Finnish: Kemiö) offers excellent possibilities for bicycle tours. The access point is the village of Kimito, which has a **tourist office** (☎ 423 572; Arkadiantie 13). Swedish is the predominant language here.

The village has a 14th-century **church** (☞ mid-May-mid-Aug) with a grand interior. **Sagalund Museum** (☎ 421 738; adult/child €4/free; ☞ 11am-6pm Tue-Sun), 2km west of the church, is an open-air museum with more than 20 old buildings and guided tours every hour.

Dragsfjärd

Dragsfjärd, in the southwest of Kimito Island is a quiet, rural village with a **church** dating from the 1700s. **Söderlångvik** (☎ 424 662; adult/child €3.50/free; ☞ 11am-6pm summer) is a manor house that belonged to local newspaper magnate and art collector Amos Anderson until 1961. There are paintings, furniture and special exhibitions in this beautiful manor, as well as an extensive garden and a café. The best reason to stick around in Dragsfjärd, however, is the excellent hostel.

Pensionat och Vandrarhotell (☎ 424 553; Kulla; dm from €14, s/d €22/36, with bathroom & breakfast €40/68; ☞ May-Sep), at the turn-off to Dragsfjärd, is one of the most comfortable hostels in Finland. It's beautifully furnished like a private home, has several common areas, kitchen, a big garden, sauna and bicycles and boats for rent. The sea is just steps away.

Dragsfjärd is on road 183, 18km south of Kimito village. Take a bus from Salo, Turku or Kimito village; there are several daily.

Kasnäs

The Kasnäs harbour, on a small island south of Kimito Island, is the main jumping-off point for archipelago ferries to some smaller islands. Visit **Sinisimpukka** (Naturum; ☎ 466 6290; ☞ 10am-6pm summer) for information on the

South-West Archipelago National Park. The centre organizes tours to some islands in June, July and August, depending on demand. There's also a nature trail from Sinisimpukka.

At the road's end **Hotel Kasnäs** (☎ 521 0100; www.kasnäs.com; s/d €84/118, weekends €74/98; P ☒ ☒ ☒) is a sprawling hotel at the harbour. There are plenty of facilities, including a brand-new spa complex with 25m pool. The rooms are spread over several buildings and many have good views; they are cheaper outside the summer season. There's also a good restaurant and terrace, a beach sauna and water-sports hire kiosk. Non-guests can use the spa for €6 per two-hour session.

Ferries **MS Rosala II** and **MS Aura** ferry to nearby islands, including Hitis/Hiittinen, daily in summer. Even if you don't want to visit the islands, they make a pleasant day cruise.

There are just one or two daily bus-and-ferry connections from Dalsbruk (Taalintehdas) on Kimito Island, about 5km south of Dragsfjärd on road No 183.

NORTH OF TURKU

UUSIKAUPUNKI

☎ 02 / pop 16,260

One of Finland's more appealing spots, relaxed Uusikaupunki, 70km north of Turku, makes a great place to stop for a day or two. The name translates as 'New Town' – ironic because Uusikaupunki is now one of the oldest towns in Finland, first founded in 1617 by Gustav II Adolf, the king of Sweden.

Uusikaupunki's claim to fame is the treaty of 1721 which brought an uneasy peace between Sweden and Russia after the Great Northern War. Today, almost nobody in the town speaks Swedish and Nystad (the Swedish name) is an historical note – use Uusikaupunki (oo-see-cow-poonki).

Built on either side of an inlet well-stocked with boats, Uusikaupunki boasts an hilarious spoof museum, a great place to stay and eat, riverside beer terraces and a cheerful Finnish summer holiday atmosphere.

Information

Public library (☎ 8451 5382; Alinenkatu 34; ☒ 11am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat, closed Sat in Jun & Jul) Free Internet access and a newspaper reading room.

Tourist office (☎ 8451 5443; http://uusikaupunki.fi; Rauhankatu 10; ☒ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm Sat late Jun-early Aug, 8.30am-4pm Mon-Fri rest of year) Has free Internet terminal, rents bikes per hour/day €2/8, and produces an excellent booklet of services in the town.

Sights

The **Bonk Dynamo Centre** (☎ 841 8404; www.bonkcentre.fi; Siltakatu 2; admission €5; ☒ 10am-6pm mid-May-late Aug, 10am-4pm late Aug-mid-May) is a museum that sends-up the world of corporations and advertising: and crackles with dry, offbeat Finnish humour. The Bonk dynasty began by shipping giant Peruvian anchovies to the Baltic; the business soon diversified and these days produces a variety of 'fully dysfunctional machinery applications' and turns a tidy profit by repacking consumer goods with the Bonk label. Read about Tom of Riga, whose productivity duel with an Enochite steamdrill 'left him broken but launched a legend'. The creation of local artist Alvar Gullichsen, this is a classic and not to be missed. The humour will be over the head of small children, but they can construct their own Bonk machines in the workshop.

Three museums concentrate on the region's seafaring history and can be visited on a combined ticket (€3). **Kulttuurihistoriallinen Museo** (Museum of Cultural History; ☎ 8451 5447; Ylinenkatu 11; admission €2; ☒ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, noon-3pm Sat & Sun early Jun-early Sep, noon-5pm Tue-Fri rest of year) is in an old house built by a powerful shipowner and tobacco magnate. Rooms are furnished in the style of a wealthy 19th-century home and exhibit seafaring memorabilia.

Merimiehen Koti (Seaman's Home; ☎ 8451 5413; Myllykatu 18; admission €1; ☒ 11am-3pm Tue-Fri, noon-3pm Sat & Sun early Jun-mid-Aug, weekends only in late Aug) is a home museum of a local sailor and evokes the life of a seaman and his family in the early 20th century. **Luotsimuseo** (Pilot Museum; ☎ 8451 5450; Vallimäki hill) is a small house devoted to maritime navigation. Admission and hours are the same as for the Seaman's Home.

Automuseo (☎ 484 8068; Autotehtaantie 14; admission €5; ☒ 11am-5pm Sep-May, 10am-6pm Jun-Aug) is dedicated to old Saab cars; Saab (and Porsche) models are still manufactured in Uusikaupunki. If you're a fan of Scandinavian automobiles, you'll love it.

Vanha Kirkko (Old Church; Kirkkokatu 2; ☒ 11am-3.30pm Mon-Sat, noon-4pm Sun Jun-mid-Aug) is worth



a look. Completed in 1629, it's the town's oldest building. Its ornate barrel-vaulted roof is meant to resemble a ship's hull. Outside are the evocative graves of locals killed defending their homeland against Russia during the Winter War.

Myllymäki (Windmill Hill), northeast of the centre, is a hilltop park with four lovely windmills – the sole survivors of the dozens that used to exist in Uusikaupunki.

The village of **Kalanti**, about 7km to the east of Uusikaupunki on road 43, is where the first sizeable party of Swedes, led by King Erik, arrived on a crusade in 1155. Among the party was Henry, an Englishman who was the bishop of Uppsala. He began the process of Christianizing Finland; this incursion also marks the beginning of our knowledge of Swedish influence and rule over Finland. **Kalanti Church** dates from the late 14th century and its interior paintings depict Bishop Henry meeting a pagan on the Finnish coast. There are buses roughly hourly from Uusikaupunki to Kalanti (10 minutes); they are marked Laitila.

Activities

There are plenty of charter boats and water taxis available for archipelago cruises from the harbour in Uusikaupunki. The **M/S Marival II** (☎ 050 66 698; www.marival.fi) runs from late June to mid-August and on Thursdays and Sundays goes to the **Isokari Lighthouse**, and on Saturdays to **Katanpää fort island** (€35, both 6½ hours). The cost of this full-day cruise includes lunch and a guided walk. On Fridays the boat heads to Kustavi (€15), from where you can head out on a ferry to the nearby Åland. There are various other trips available on this boat. Cruises just to the lighthouse and back (adult/child €5/2) are also arranged in summer and it can be booked through the tourist office.

Little **MS Kuha** (☎ 8451 5443) offers hour-long archipelago cruises leaving Monday, Wednesday and Saturday in summer (€6), as well as day-cruises to the lighthouse (€25, Tuesday and Friday) and other destinations.

In summer the **MS Franz Höjjer** sails to and from Turku once a week (see p211).

Sleeping

Gasthaus Pooki (☎ 847 7100; pooki@uusikaupunki.fi; Ylinenkatu 21; s/d €70/95; P ☒ ☒) This is *the* place to stay hereabouts, and has a little bit of everything. A sturdy granite building right in the centre, this was once a bank but is now a charming, welcoming inn with just four spacious, stylish rooms looking over the new church. Rates include breakfast, and there's everything from restaurants and theatre at Juhla Pooki, to bizarre indoor skiing, available. An excellent choice, but you'll need to book ahead.

Hotelli Aquarius (☎ 841 3123; www.hotelliaquarius.fi; Kullervontie 11; s/d €85/100, d Sat, Sun & summer €69-75; P ☒ ☒ ☒) The largest and most business-like hotel in town, this good-value spot is in a park-like setting near the sea with tennis courts. The rates include breakfast and a free morning or evening sauna.

Santtioranta Camping (☎ 842 3862; Kalalokkikuja 14; tent sites €10 plus per person €1.50, cabins €30-42; ☒ mid-May-mid-Sep) An attractive seaside camping ground, 1.5km northwest of the town centre. You can rent bikes as well as rowing boats here.

Hotel Lännentie (☎ 845 6100; www.hotelli-lanntie.fi; Levyspänkatu 1; s/d from €55/65; P ☒ ☒) East of the centre on the road to Rauma is a hotel-motel with basic but tidy rooms. There's a slight discount in summer and on weekends. There are plenty of facilities to grease the holiday wheels, like a sauna and small pool table.

Eating & Drinking

Juhla Pooki (☎ 847 7100; Ylinenkatu 21; buffet lunch €14) A cracking place to eat or drink, the Pooki does a variety of food. The best is in the Juhla, a pretty wooden building next door, which has a buffet served in a boat that offers great quality and value (noon to 6pm June to August). In the main building, bar-style lunches cost €7.50, and there are also more elaborate plates, while the big outdoor terrace buzzes with happy families in summer. There's regular entertainment in summer, including performances in an ultra-characterful wooden theatre building.

Captain's Makasiini (☎ 841 3600; Aittaranta 12; pizzas €6-8, steaks €15-16; ☒ from 5pm weekdays, from 2pm weekends) The place to dine – or just sun yourself over a drink – on a summer afternoon is at one of the red wooden shophouses lining the south bank of the *kaupunginlahti*

(town bay). All have enticing terraces and among the restaurants are some interesting craft and souvenir shops. This is the pick of these if you want to have just one big meal in Uusikaupunki. The menu basically has three things; burgers, pizzas and steaks – but you're really here to soak up the terrific nautical atmosphere. **Orren Krouvi**, next door, is a great pub with a popular terrace.

Pakkahuone Cafe (☎ 842 4822; ☒ 8.30am-8pm Mon-Sat, 9am-8pm Sun) A little west of the centre, and also on the water, this place services the visiting yachties at the guest harbour, and is the town's liveliest café, with a nice waterfront terrace. Food tastes little rolls and a good *karjalanpiirakka* (delicious rice-filled savoury pastries) with egg.

Apteekin Krouvi (☎ 844 2244; Alinenkatu 28; pizza €9-11, lunch specials €6-10; ☒ food served 11am-10pm Mon-Sat, noon-9pm Sun) A fine pub and restaurant in a historic building that was once a pharmacy. There's a great courtyard terrace at the back. Pizza is the speciality, but the daily lunch plates are a good deal. At nights, when it dubs itself the Hot Rock Café, it's one of the livelier spots in town to drink, and is open late at weekends.

The kauppatori is in full swing from Monday to Saturday in summer with snack stalls and grills.

Getting There & Away

Uusikaupunki is 70km north of Turku and 50km south of Rauma, off the main north-south road (road 8) – take road 43 west to reach Uusikaupunki.

Buses to Turku (€10.20, 1¼ hours) run from behind the kauppatori in the centre of town once or twice per hour on weekdays, less frequently on weekends. There are five to eight buses per day from Rauma (€8.70, one hour). Buses from Helsinki run via Turku.

RAUMA

☎ 02 / pop 36,673

Rauma (Swedish: Raumo) was founded in 1442 and came of age in the 18th century, when it became famous throughout Europe for its production of beautiful hand-made lace. Locals still turn out the delicate material, and celebrate their heritage of lacemaking with an annual festival.

Although Rauma is not as attractive as many south coast seaside towns, it certainly

merits a stop for its Vanha Rauma (Old Town) district. The old-town area of more than 600 low wooden houses won a spot on the Unesco World Heritage list as Finland's first entry and is the largest wooden town preserved in the Nordic countries. Refreshingly, the town doesn't live off past glories; Rauma is presently an important shipbuilding centre and has a busy port that ships Finnish paper round the world.

Information

Public library (☎ 834 4531; Ankkurikatu 1; ☒ 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat) Has free Internet terminals.

Tourist office (☎ 8378 7731; www.rauma.fi; Valtakatu 2; ☒ 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat, 11am-2pm Sun

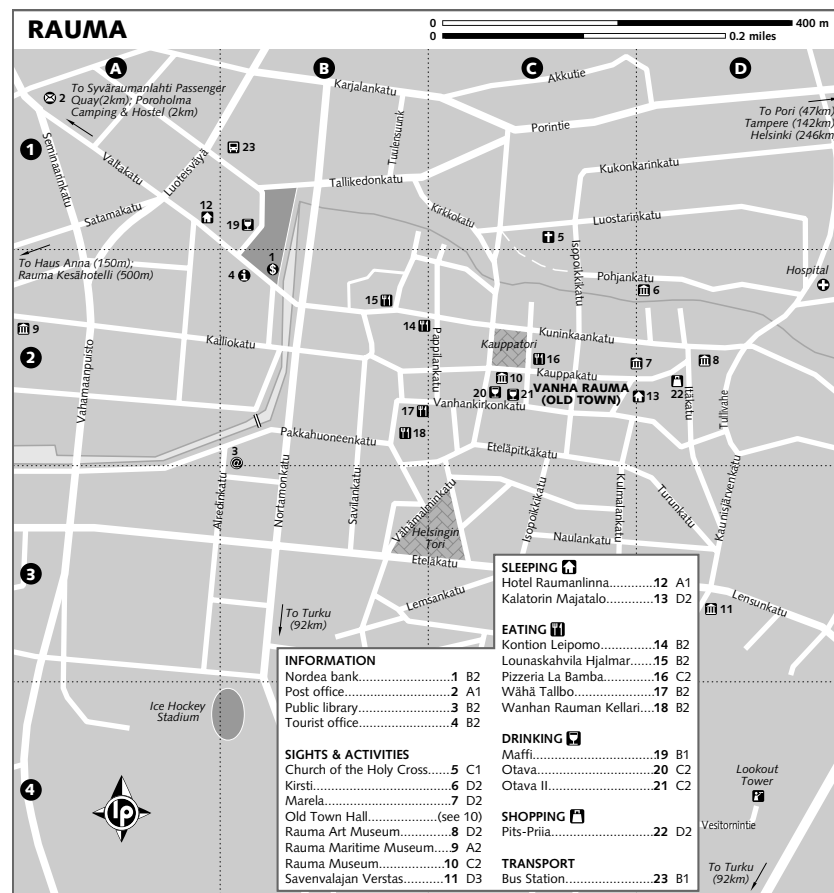
Jun-Aug, 8am-4pm Mon-Fri Sep-May) Publishes a good self-guided walking tour through the old town.

Sights

VANHA RAUMA

Vanha Rauma, the World Heritage-listed Old Town in the heart of modern Rauma, is not a museum but a living centre, with low-key cafés, hardware shops, residences and a smattering of artisans and lacemakers working in small studios.

Most of the low wooden buildings of Vanha Rauma were erected in the 18th and 19th centuries. There are some 600 houses and 180 shops, and each building has a name – look for it on a small oval sign near the door. You can spend a pleasant half day



wandering around Vanha Rauma's cobbled streets and visiting its shops and museums. The tourist office has an excellent pamphlet detailing a self-guided walk

The **kauppatori** is in the heart of Old Rauma. It's a typically lively market square teeming with food and craft stalls, buskers and tourists. On the south side is Rauma's most imposing building, the Vanha Raatihuone (old town hall), built in 1776. It now houses the **Rauma Museum** (☎ 834 3532; Kauppakatu 13; combined entry to all museums €4, when only 2 are open €2; ☎ Tue-Sun, also Mon mid-May–Aug), with exhibits relating to seafaring and the city's lacemaking heritage, including model ships, paintings, baroque furniture and lace costumes.

North of the kauppatori is the attractive stone **Church of the Holy Cross** (Pyhän Ristin Kirkko; Luostarinkatu 1; ☎ May–Sep), a 15th-century Franciscan monastery church set by the slim Raumanjoki. It has early-16th-century frescoes around a stained-glass window depicting the Transformation, and several beautiful painted panels, a fine Prussian triptych from the 15th century and an ornate pulpit.

Marela (☎ 834 3528; Kauppakatu 24; ☎ Tue–Sun, also Mon mid-May–Aug) is the most interesting of Rauma's museums and one of its most elaborate buildings. The preserved home of a wealthy 18th-century shipowner is furnished with turn-of-the-century antiques, wall paintings and Swedish ceramic stoves.

Kirsti (☎ 834 3529; Pohjankatu 3; ☎ mid-May–mid-Sep) is another loveable house museum – this has rooms from the 1930s and 1960s, as well as a stable and granary.

Savenvalajan Verstas (☎ 533 5526; Nummenkatu 2; ☎ mid-May–mid-Aug) is a small museum of pottery, and a workshop where you can see potters at work and have a go yourself.

Rauma Art Museum (☎ 822 4346; Kuninkaankatu 37; admission €3.50; ☎ 10am–6pm Mon–Thu, 10am–4pm Fri, also 10am–6pm Mon in summer), in the heart of Vanha Rauma, features changing exhibitions of traditional and modern art. Note the old town well in the middle of the square.

RAUMA MARITIME MUSEUM

Wandering around the wooden centre of Rauma, it's easy to forget that this is a port, so this **maritime museum** (☎ 822 4911; Kalliokatu 34; www.rmm.fi; admission €4; ☎ noon–4pm Tue–Sun) is a good way to fill you in on Rauma's main livelihood. It's been well thought-out, with

lots of interesting old photos. The highlight is practising your navigation skills – keep that oil tanker off the rocks please!

Festivals & Events

Rauma's biggest event sounds pretty staid on paper, but it's a good time to be in town. **Rauma Lace Week**, beginning in the last week in July, celebrates the town's lacemaking heritage. Lace-trimmed caps were in vogue in Europe during the 18th century – heady days indeed for Rauma's 600 or so lacemaking women, many of whom started learning the craft when only six. Museums hold lace-related exhibitions, and lacemakers in period costume can be seen sewing in shops around Vanha Rauma. Lace Week culminates with the 'Night of Black Lace', a carnival that draws party-minded Finns. Check for details on the town website, www.rauma.fi.

There are also several music festivals worth looking out for: the **Rauma Blues Festival** (www.raumablues.com) is for two days only in mid July, but it draws a decent line-up of international and Finnish performers to the main venue at the ice hockey stadium; **Festivo** (www.raumanfestivo.fi) is a week of classical and choral music at various venues held in early August; and **Raumanmeren Juhannus** (www.raumanmerenjuhannus.com) is a three-day rock festival held during Midsummer.

Sleeping

Kalatorin Majatalo (☎ 8378 6150; www.kalatorinmajatalo.com; Kalatori 4; s/d €98/130, Sat, Sun & summer €78/95; ☎ ☒) The only accommodation in the old town, and it's in the only building not made out of wood! Although it clashes with the plank façades all around, this Art Deco warehouse holds a very pleasant family-run hotel. The owners are very friendly and know a lot about the history and sights of the area. The rooms are spacious and decorated with a personal touch. There's also a good restaurant here.

Rauman Kesähotelli (☎ 824 0130; Satamakatu 20; s/d/tr €40/52/72; ☎ Jun–Aug; ☎ ☒) A 10-minute walk from the bus station, this summer-only option houses guests in a student residence. But forget any negative connotations: the rooms are sparkling, bright and spacious, with their own bathroom (good shower), TV and kitchen (although no utensils).

Haus Anna (☎ 822 8223; www.hausanna.com; Satamakatu 7; s/d €47/60; ☎ ☒) This is a modern and tidy family-run B&B not far from the town centre. The rooms are a cut above most B&Bs in Finland, having their own bathroom, TV and small fridge.

Hotel Raumanlinna (☎ 83221; www.raumanlinna.fi; Valtakatu 5; s/d €105/130, ste €175; ☎ ☒ ☑ ☒ ☒) This central hotel is one of the most popular with both tourists and business travellers. It has excellent facilities, including a small swimming pool, restaurant, and bar. For €20 more than the normal rate, you can get a 'business class' room, which are bigger and have a few small extras.

Poroholma Camping & Hostel (☎ 8388 2500; fax 8388 2502; Poroholmantie; camping per person/tent sites €4/10, dm €10, s/d €30/45, cottages €44–54; ☎ mid-May–late Aug) This place is on Otanlahti bay about 2km northwest of the town centre. It's a pleasant waterside location with plenty of boats around. The HI-affiliated hostel section is in two parts – one a cheaper, very basic building with dormitories, the other a nice old villa that also houses a café and the reception. Kitchen, sauna and laundry are available. There is no local bus service.

Eating

Wanhon Rauman Kellari (☎ 866 6700; Anundilankatu 8; mains €12–20; ☎ 11am–11pm Mon–Thu, 11am–midnight Fri & Sat, 1–11pm Sun) On the edge of Vanha Rauma, this is a very popular cellar restaurant with a terrific rooftop beer terrace open in summer. The restaurant is brightly lit; the service is good and well-acustomed to foreigners. There are good salads, including a tasty one of smoked salmon and shrimp; you can follow this up with a range of cutlets, steaks and fish dishes. Grab a booth to avoid the attractive but backbreaking leather sling seats.

Wähä Tallo (☎ 822 6610; Vanhankirkonkatu 3; mains €11–20; ☎ 10.30am–7pm Mon–Fri, 11am–4pm Sat) In a relatively quiet street south of the kauppatori, this attractive restaurant has a refined old-world atmosphere entirely suited to its location. As well as a tasty à la carte menu, there are daily lunch specials from €6 to €9.

Kontion Leipomo (Kuninkaankatu 9; ☎ 7.30am–5.30pm Mon–Fri, 8am–3pm Sat, 11am–4pm Sun) Charming cafés are plentiful in Vanha Rauma and this is a perennial favourite. It's a great place for compassionately priced coffee, cakes or pastries, has teddy bears lounging on the seats, and a large garden at the back.

Lounaskahvila Hjalmar (Kuninkaankatu 6; specials €6.50; ☎ lunch Mon–Sat) This is a hearty home-cooking kind of place in Vanha Rauma. On the menu you'll find fare such as chicken nuggets, Wiener schnitzel, and pan pizza on the menu for a relative pittance.

Pizzeria La Bamba (Kauppatori; mains €7–11; ☎ lunch & dinner) Although its logo looks alarmingly like an extracted molar from a distance, this popular restaurant on the kauppatori serves reasonably priced pizzas and pastas and has a festive, family atmosphere, all hanging garlic and Mediterranean cheer.

Drinking & Entertainment

Rauma doesn't have the liveliest nightlife on the west coast.

Maffi (☎ 533 0857; Valikatu) The best spot in town for a few sociable beers, this is a hotel bar, but doesn't feel like it. It's warmly decorated and has a couple of levels and a terrace. Out the back are several pool tables; there's also Internet access.

Otava (Isoraastuvankatu; ☎ 9pm–3am Fri & Sat) In the old town you'll find this typical Finnish dance club, with couples of all ages twirling solemnly to tango and humppa music.

Otava II, just around the corner, is equally typical and rustic, but, as it opens at 9am, usually has a couple of paralytic customers by midday.

Shopping

Pits-Priia (Kauppakatu 29) This is the best place to buy bobbin lace, and you can see it being made.

Getting There & Away

Between Rauma and Pori, there are buses every hour or so (€8.70, 50 minutes). From the south, Turku and Uusikaupunki are connected by buses every two hours or so. There are also direct services to Helsinki and Tampere.

Get off the Tampere-to-Pori train at the Kokemäki train station, and transfer to a connecting bus. Your train pass will be valid on the bus.

AROUND RAUMA Lappi

The small village of Lappi (Finnish for Lapland) is particularly pleasant, with the Lapinjoki running through it, and more importantly it's a base for visiting a couple of

very significant prehistoric sites. In the village an old stone bridge survives, and nearby is a church dating from 1760. It has medieval sculpture and a separate bell tower.

Sammallahdenmäki is a Bronze Age burial complex probably dating from the late 2nd millennium BC. Spread over an area about a kilometre long are a number of stone burial cairns of different shapes and sizes. The main attraction is nearest the car park: the **Kirkonlaattia** (Church Floor), is a flat stone tableau roughly 20m x 20m in extension. While it seems that there was an associated burial, the meaning and function of this monument are shrouded in time. The site is 4km from the main road 12 – turn north to Eurajoentie and then follow the signs. Buses to Lappi from Rauma (10 a day, 15 minutes) will let you off at the turn-off.

Köyliö

This quiet hamlet was an important estate in medieval times. It is famous for being the scene of a celebrity crime in the 12th century. The crusading Bishop Henry of Uppsala, after a Swedish force had defeated the Finns in battle, set about baptizing the conquered. One of his flock, a peasant named Lalli, rebelled, and did in Henry with a club, propelling the English-born bishop to sainthood. The circumstances are unclear; some sources suggest Lalli was upset at having been excommunicated, while others suggest the bishop had helped himself to a sandwich from Lalli's larder without permission. In any event, winners write history, so the local church has paintings – created much later and intended to teach a lesson – that depict Lalli under the perfumed foot of a saint, his inevitable fate in the afterlife. The church and its paintings are on an island in Köyliönjärvi and are accessible by a small causeway. This is the finishing point of Catholic pilgrimages from Turku.

Köyliö is about 35km east of Rauma, south from road 12 at the town of Eura. There is no bus service beyond Eura.

PUURIJÄRVI-ISOSUO NATIONAL PARK

Puurijärvi, 65km due east of Rauma, is one of the best **bird-watching** lakes in Western Finland. The lake and surrounding marshlands have been protected since 1993 and are a favourite nesting site for migrating

waterfowl of many varieties, totalling about 500 pairs in season. The lake itself can be reached by a 800m nature trail from the main road. A boardwalk makes a loop of the open marshland, where there's an observation tower. The **näköalapaikka** (a viewing cliff) also offers a good general view. Visitors are required to stay on marked paths during breeding season, and camping is not allowed in the park at any time.

PORI

☎ 02 / pop 76,152

Pori (Swedish: Björneborg) would be a very unremarkable west coast town if it weren't for its internationally renowned Jazz Festival which sets the town ablaze for a week in July. Domestically it's one of the most important deep-water harbours in Finland, and is kept prosperous by numerous industries including brewing – you can smell the rich malty odours – and minting Finland's euro coins. Don't go robbing the factory though: they get stamped with the heads and tails elsewhere, after leaving town.

In 1558, Duke Juhana, who was then ruler of Finland, decided to establish a trading town on the eastern coast of the Gulf of Bothnia. As a result, Pori was founded at the mouth of the Kokemäenjoki. For a brief shining moment in 1726 a Professor Israel Nesselius championed Pori as the new capital of Finland – but it was not to be.

Information

There are 24-hour luggage lockers at the train and bus stations.

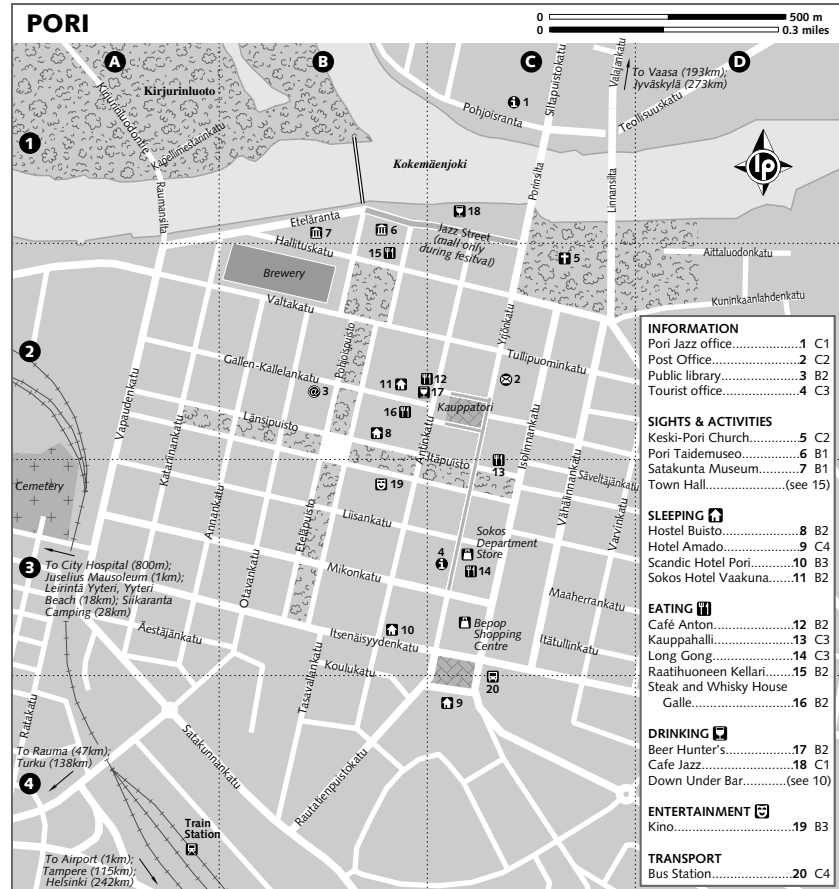
Public library (Gallen-Kallelankatu 12; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat) Has several free Internet terminals.

Tourist office (☎ 621 1273; www.pori.fi; Yrjönkatu 17; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, also 10am-3pm Sat May-Aug) The new tourist office is between the bus station and the kauppatori. There's Internet access here.

Sights

Despite being one of the oldest towns in Finland, Pori has few historic buildings or other attractions.

Satakunta Museum (☎ 621 1063; Hallituskatu 11; admission €4; ☎ 11am-5pm Tue-Sun, 11am-8pm Wed) is a stimulating museum of regional history and archaeology – the theme is water and how the river and sea have affected life in the town over the centuries.



Pori Taidemuseo (Pori Art Museum; ☎ 621 1080; Eteläranta; admission €3; ☎ 11am-6pm Tue-Sun, 11am-8pm Wed) is a fine modern art museum with a good permanent collection. Finnish and international art is exhibited in the airy, elegant space, a former warehouse, and there are various changing exhibitions.

The neo-Gothic **Keski-Pori Church** (Yrjönkatu) was built in 1863 and lovingly renovated in 1998. It has a steeple with blind arching and unusual ornate iron fretwork.

Juselius Mausoleum (Käppänä Cemetery; ☎ 623 8746; Maantiekatu; admission free; ☎ noon-3pm summer), west of the centre, is the most poignant sight in Pori. FA Juselius, a wealthy businessman, had the mausoleum built as a memorial to his daughter who died of

tuberculosis at the age of 11. The original frescoes were painted in 1898 by famous Finnish artist Akseli Gallen-Kallela (who had just lost his own daughter). The ones you see now were painted by Akseli's son, Jorma Gallen-Kallela, after his father's death.

Sleeping

If you are planning to visit Pori during the Jazz Festival it's advisable to book hotel accommodation up to a year in advance, particularly for the final weekend – and expect to pay up to double the regular rates. The tourist office also has a list of festival-only accommodation, which ranges to comfortable rooms in private homes to a mattress on

PORI JAZZ FESTIVAL

Running over a week in mid-July, **Pori Jazz Festival** is one of the most appreciated summer events in Finland. It's a great time to be in Pori, even if you don't attend any of the major concerts – the free jam sessions and electric atmosphere alone make it worthwhile. The festival started in 1966 when some local musicians arranged a two-day event with an audience of 1000 people. These days the Jazz Festival features more than 100 concerts held in tents, outdoors or in old warehouses. Performers – and thousands of visitors – pour in from all over the world, and hotels are fully booked up to a year in advance. Even the local football team is now called FC Jazz! Although the emphasis is on jazz, the musical styles include blues, soul and mainstream performers. The line-up in recent years has included Stevie Wonder, Lauryn Hill and the Pointer Sisters.

There are 10 or so venues; the main arena is Kirjurinluoto Concert Park, on the north side of the river, where an open-air stage is set up for an audience of up to 25,000. Jazz Street, the closed off section of Eteläranta along the riverfront, is where a lot of the action happens, with stalls, free concerts, makeshift bars and street dancing.

Tickets for the biggest concerts are €50 to €60, or €160 for a four-day pass to the main stage. Other concerts are free or cost €10 to €30. For more information and to purchase tickets contact **Pori Jazz** (☎ 626 2200; www.porijazz.fi; Pohjoisranta 11D, 28100 Pori; ☎ 8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri, during festival 8.30am–10pm daily), or the Pori tourist office.

the floor of a school classroom; this is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Hostel Buisto (☎ 633 0646, 633 0647; www.hostelbuisto.net; Itäpuisto 13; s/d €34/48; ☎ ☒) An enterprising new owner has completely reformed this once-shabby central guest-house, and what a job she's done. The rooms are very appealing and welcoming, with bright cheery colours, wooden floors, and washbasin. Shared bathrooms are good, and while there's no breakfast, guests have access to a modern kitchen with free tea and coffee. Ring ahead outside summer time so the owner can arrange to be there. A top choice.

Yyterin Kylpylähotelli (☎ 628 5300; www.yyterinkylpylahotelli.fi; Sipintie 1, Yyteri; s/d €79/100; ☎ ☒ ☒) Situated at Yyteri beach, this is a good-value spa hotel, and more pleasant than Pori's hotels, as long as you've got transport.

Hotel Amado (☎ 631 0100; www.amado.fi; Keskusaukio 2; s/d €80/98, Sat, Sun & summer €65/75; ☎ ☒) Right by the bus station, this is the most reasonably priced of the city's big hotels and is independently owned and perfectly comfortable, with a very good à la carte restaurant. The rooms are cool and modern with large windows.

Sokos Hotel Vaakuna (☎ 020-123 4626; www.sokoshotels.fi; Gallen-Kallelankatu 7; standard s/d €89/114, superior s/d €101/127, Sat, Sun & summer r from €65; ☎ ☒ ☒) This place is in the town centre and is Pori's largest hotel. The superior rooms have a few extras like bathrobes, and

the hotel is excellent value at weekends and in summer (apart from during the festival of course). It's also something of a centre for local nightlife.

Leirintä Yyteri (☎ 634 5700; leirinta.yyteri@pori.fi; Yyterinsatojentie; tent sites €9–16, 4-bed cabins €45–55, 4–6-bed cottages with sauna €65–100; ☎ May–Aug) A fair way from Pori, but in a great location at the popular Yyteri beach, this camping ground is usually full around Jazz Festival time. There's a café and good facilities.

Scandic Hotel Pori (☎ 624 900; www.scandic-hotels.com; Itsenäisyydenkatu 41; s/d €99/123, Sat, Sun & summer r from €79, ste from €175; ☎ ☒ ☒) This is a stylish hotel within walking distance of the centre. It's a fairly sober place kitted out for business travellers, and has two classes of rooms. Downstairs, however, is a little slice of the Australian outback, the Down Under Bar (see Drinking & Entertainment).

Siikaranta Camping (☎ 638 4120; www.siikarantacamping.fi; camp sites €10 plus per person €3.50, cabins €35–40; ☎ Jun–mid-Aug) This peaceful camp site is on Reposaari, just northwest of Yyteri beach. The island is linked to the mainland by bridge. Take bus 30 or 40 from the centre.

Eating

Grillies around town sell the local speciality, *Porilainen* (Pori burger), best enjoyed late at night after a few pints of Porin Karhu (Bear of Pori) beer.

Kauppahalli (Isolinnankatu; ☎ 9am–5pm Mon–Fri, 8am–2pm Sat) There's food aplenty; look for

another local specialty here, smoked river lamprey (a fish that looks like an eel and killed Henry I of England when he ate too many one day).

Raatihuoneen Kellari (☎ 633 4804; Hallituskatu 9; starters €8–10, mains €15–23, lunch from €9) This is an elegant cellar restaurant in the old town hall and by far the best dining experience in town. There's a superb weekday buffet luncheon, and Finnish cuisine is the speciality in the evenings, when you can enjoy such exquisite plates as salmon tournedos with morel mushroom sauce, or roast reindeer with sea buckthorn. Delicious.

Steak & Whisky House Galle (☎ 648 2170; Gallen-Kallelankatu 6; mains €12–20; ☎ lunch & dinner) This is a lot classier than it sounds. The interior is stylish and elegant, with intimate tables and a decent Finnish-continental menu of steaks, fish and salads. The lunch specials are the most worthwhile. Attached is a sophisticated bar with frequent live jazz; it's open fairly late most nights.

Long Gong (☎ 633 0088; Yrjönkatu 20; mains €8–13, lunch from €6.50; ☎ lunch & dinner). In an arcade across the road from the tourist office, this is a reliable Chinese restaurant with welcoming management. As well as the traditional choices, which are tasty enough, there are also a few fried reindeer dishes, which work well with a bottle of Tsingtao beer.

Café Anton (☎ 641 4144; Antinkatu 11; ☎ lunch & bar food until 9pm) On the corner of the market square, this place is more pub than café but it has a €7 lunch special and bar snacks such as nachos, wedges or pizza from €3 to €8.

Drinking & Entertainment

Pori is pumping around the time of the Jazz Festival, with the eastern section of Eteläranta being converted into 'Jazz Street', a pulsating and infectious strip of makeshift bars and food stalls.

Beer Hunter's (cnr Gallen-Kallelankatu & Antinkatu; ☎ 11am–2am) A great brewery pub and one of the most popular drinking spots in town. Its interior is low-lit and moody, with a maze of wooden booths. Of the beers brewed on the premises, the dark lager, Mufloni IV, is a (sweetish) taste sensation, but all are seriously good, and they also have a connoisseur's range of bottled ales and lagers from around Europe.

Café Jazz (☎ 641 1344; Eteläranta; ☎ noon-midnight Sun–Thu, noon–2am Fri & Sat) This is the most dynamic venue along Jazz Street. It has a perfect location on the river, a warm ambience and regular jazz slots and jam sessions. There's a good summer terrace to discuss what you've seen during the festival and reasonable food is served here.

Down Under Bar (Scandic Hotel Pori; Itsenäisyydenkatu 41; ☎ 9pm–4am) A little piece of Australia up near the Arctic. Along with the shockin' pseudo-Aboriginal murals and the crocodile-and-Kombi-van décor, there are some 'Aussie' cocktails with more bite than a Great White shark, and plenty of music and dancing.

Kino (Itäpuisto 10; ☎ Wed–Sat) Formerly a cinema, this spacious venue is now a popular club for the young, cheerful and mortgageless. The music is far from groundbreaking, treading a line between disco, Eurodance and bubblehead pop, but it's a happy place to be.

Getting There & Away

AIR

There are two to four daily flights between Pori and Helsinki (45 minutes). The airport is a couple of kilometres southeast of the centre.

BUS

There are frequent daily buses between Pori and Helsinki (€34.70, four hours), Rauma (€8.70, 50 to 70 minutes), Turku (€23.20, 2¼ hours) and Tampere (€18.90, 1¾ hours). Some Tampere-bound buses require a change at Huittinen and take considerably longer, so avoid those. There are also direct connections with Vaasa, Oulu and Jyväskylä.

TRAIN

All trains to Pori go via Tampere, where you usually have to change. There are frequent daily trains (regional and Intercity) between Tampere and Pori (€19.90, 1½ hours), all of which have good connections with trains from Helsinki (€35.80, three to four hours).

Getting Around

Local buses run from the kauppatori; route maps are available from the tourist office. These are handy to reach the attractions around the city (see p228) but won't be necessary within the town, which is compact.

AROUND PORI

Yyteri Beach

Yyteri beach, 18km northwest of Pori town centre, is still something of a playground in summer, though like many Finnish beach resorts, it has been in a decline ever since charter flights to Spain were invented. This is the nation's best beach for windsurfing; you can hire equipment in summer, and the long white-sand strip offers plenty of scope for strolling. There is a good camping ground and a spa hotel here; see p226.

Beyond Yyteri, **Reposaari**, linked by a causeway to the mainland, has a pretty, if slightly over-spruced, wooden harbour village which is a great place to wander around. There are a few choice spots for a beer in the sun if things turn thirsty.

Leineperi

This fine village received the Europe Nostira award in 1993 for careful preservation

of 18th-century buildings. The area was first developed in 1771 by the Swedish as a *bruk* (early ironworks precinct) for making household items, and was in operation for about a century. Today it is a lively place, at least on summer weekends. Attractions along the scenic Kullaanjoki riverside include **Masuuni ironworks**, now renovated, a blacksmith's shop, now a **museum**, and some **artisans' workshops**. **Museo Kangasniemi** is devoted to Kaarlo Kangasniemi, the 1968 Olympic weight-lifting champion (he is Finnish, of course). On weekends you may be lucky enough to meet the champion. Most of these museums charge a €1 admission and are open on summer weekends. Free town maps are available at most attractions.

Leineperi is on an unpaved road that runs parallel to the Tampere–Pori road 11. Buses between Pori and Kullaa stop at Leineperi; there are usually two daily.