



PROGRAM 4 DAYS/3 NIGHTS
 PERIOD SUMMER 1.-30.7.
 PARTICIPANTS 10-30 PAX

FINLAND LAKELAND & OPERA FESTIVAL TOUR

The Savonlinna Opera Festival is Finland's premiere cultural event. World renowned for its high-quality opera performances and concerts, every summer it brings music lovers from across the globe to the charming lakeside city of Savonlinna. The month-long festival is held in Olavinlinna, a towering medieval castle by Finland's largest lake.

The construction of **Olavinlinna Castle** began in 1475. The Danish-born founder of the castle, knight Erik Axelsson Tott, decided that a powerful fortification should be built to protect the strategically important Savonia region. The castle was to repel Russian attacks from the east and to guarantee the control of the Savonia region for the Swedish Crown. The history of Olavinlinna Castle is a mixture of power struggles between the east and the west, medieval arms clashing, cannons roaring and everyday chores inside the castle's thick walls.

Note: to get opera tickets and accommodation for the group, bookings must be done at least 10 months before the event.

Time zone: UTC +2.00 Helsinki,
 Currency: Euro (€) Helsinki,
 Average temperature: JUL +20-25
 Main Airport: Helsinki HEL

DAY 1 ARRIVAL HELSINKI AND SAVONLINNA

Welcome to Helsinki – the capital of Finland! Meet your driver and guide at the airport, transfer towards Savonlinna via Mikkeli (~4h/327km). Check-in to Sokos Hotel Seurahuone Savonlinna. Lunch and dinner arrangements on your own. In the evening enjoy Savonlinna Opera Festival Evening opera performance in the covered courtyard of Olavinlinna Castle.

Accommodation example: **Sokos Hotel Seurahuone Savonlinna ***+**

Original Sokos Hotel Seurahuone at the heart of Savonlinna, is located by Lake Saimaa, next to the Market Square and a stone's throw away from Olavinlinna Castle. Almost every room boasts an unforgettable view over Lake Saimaa. Restaurant Perlina di Castello serves delicious Italian food, and during the summer months, Muikkuterassi offers a menu of seasonal, local Saimaa flavours.

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Your partner in both
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DAY 2 SAVONLINNA – SAHALAHTI (B+D)

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out. Visit in **Olavinlinna castle** by joining public guided tour or pre-ordered private group tour. **Cruise with a steamboat** around Lake Saimaa (1,5h) and have a own cost snack and beverage on board.

Next the visit in **Kerimäki Church**, which is the biggest wooden church in the world! Transfer time ~30 min/23 km. Tour continues via **Punkaharju**, a unique national landscape with very clear water and beautiful nature. Own cost coffee stop in Punkaharju. The tour continues to the Parikkala, visiting very special **Veijo Rönkkönen Sculpture Garden**. Over the course of almost 50 years, from the early 1960s until his death in 2010, Finnish-born artist Veijo Rönkkönen constructed nearly 500 concrete figures and displayed them on the grounds of the home he'd lived in since birth. The majority of these are human statues performing a variety of activities; one noteworthy sight features a cluster of roughly 200 figures, purportedly self-portraits of the artist, in various yoga poses.

Head to Sahanlahti for check in to the traditional lakeside hotel in standard rooms. 3-course dinner at their hotel restaurant, famous for its homemade local delicacies.

Accommodation example: **Saha Hotel, Sahanlahti Resort *****

Saha Hotel is an independent building on the shores of Sahanlahti Resort. The hotel has 10 cosy hotel rooms, some with views of Lake Saimaa and some of which overlook the rock. The hotel reception, breakfast, info and small shop are in Restaurant Koskivahti. Old-fashioned wooden floors and contemporary décor create a homely atmosphere. They are equipped with a private bathroom, TV, minibar and hairdryer, as well as toiletries. Rooms have a private balcony, or a porch shared by two rooms.

DAY 3 SAHANLAHTI – PORVOO (B)

Breakfast at the hotel, check-out. Transfer continues to Porvoo via Imatra and Lappeenranta (~3h15min/285km). Lunch on own en route or in Porvoo.

Arrive in Porvoo - proceed to a guided walk in the idyllic town of Porvoo with its well-preserved wooden houses and picturesque cobble-stoned streets. The city's town plan is from the Middle Ages, the low small houses, picturesque yards and narrow streets form a historically unique wooden town milieu. The symbols of Porvoo – the red warehouses on the riverbanks – tell the story of seafaring and trading. Get familiar with the Old Town of Porvoo and the beautiful medieval cathedral. There will be some free time for a cup of coffee or lunch and a walk in the old town filled with delightful shops and craftsmen's workshops.

Check in at Spa Hotel Haikko Manor. Dinner on own.

Accommodation example: **Hotel Haikko Manor & Spa ******

Hotel Haikko Manor & Spa is the largest holiday destination and conference hotel in the Eastern Uusimaa area. You can choose to stay in the modern Spa Hotel near the Spa area or in the historic Manor Hotel. The surrounding Manor Park is a beautiful green area by the sea.

DAY 4 FAREWELL (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the Helsinki airport.

****END OF TOUR****

B=Breakfast | L=Lunch | D=Dinner

**ESTIMATED TOUR PRICE / PERSON / IN DBL ROOM:**

10 PAX	1315 €/PAX
20 PAX	925 €/PAX
30 PAX	796 €/PAX

PRICE INCLUDES:

- 3-nights at mentioned hotels in standard rooms
- Daily breakfast
- All meals, transfers, activities, sightseeing tours as mentioned in the itinerary
- Taxes and mandatory service charges

EXCLUSIONS:

- Personal expenses such as other meals, drinks, tips and gratuities, shopping, portage fees and optional tours/ visits, unless otherwise stated.
- Any domestic / international airline tickets, airport taxes, visa fees
- Any accommodation expenses of a personal nature, such as mini-bar consumption, laundry, room service, any telephone or other communication costs
- International travel and medical insurance coverage for customers.

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