Finnlines Travel Magazine

We connect: Germany, Finland and Sweden.

From Abba to cinnamon buns: Discover the north

On board: 29 hours. 25 knots. 1 encounter.

Where is the lemonade tree? Fun & games for little sailors

finnlines.com
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On behalf of Finnlines and our entire crew, I wish you a warm welcome aboard. I hope you have a great journey, whether you are headed for Finland, Sweden or Germany. Our sea voyage is the ideal opportunity to get into a care-free, holiday mood and relax while sailing across the Baltic.

As your captain, I am responsible for your safety and well-being aboard. My crew and I will make sure that everything runs smoothly. All that is left for you to do is relax and enjoy the scenery. You can also take time to indulge yourself in our ship’s restaurant, sunbathe in the fresh sea air, or just snuggle up with your favourite book in your cabin – it’s up to you.

In this brochure, you will find useful information on our ships and onboard services. We give you tips on where to go and how to make your trip with us unforgettable. The list of 10 excellent reasons to visit northern Europe we have compiled for you, will hopefully help you find your holiday paradise.

Have a relaxing and enjoyable stay on board!

Jussi Auer, captain
MS Finnstar
The Travemünde harbour bathes in orange light as the queue of trucks moves steadily between the cranes and containers into the bowel of the ship. Along with trucks, the harbour fills up with passenger vehicles, varying in size and country of origin. Among these passengers waiting to get onboard are holiday-makers Lena and Jacob, who can’t wait to begin their journey up North. This year they want to travel with their own car and make their own schedule. Life is a little hectic, so they are looking forward to their holiday and the relaxing journey across the Baltic Sea.

It’s almost mid-night when they settle into their cozy cabin which they will call home for the next 29 hours. To wind down from their long ride Lena and Jacob decide to go the ship’s bar to have a nice cold drink. At Bar & Bistro Navigare on deck 11 they get to know a Finnish truck driver, Pasi, who is always happy to meet new people. Pasi enlightens them on life onboard a passenger-freight ship.
For Pasi this is a weekly trip, so the first time travellers Lena and Jacob ask about the slightly peculiar departure time. Pasi explains to them that the ship's schedule is tailored to the needs of the freight it carries. Since Finnlines is the largest transporter of fresh goods on the Baltic Sea, the ship needs to be unloaded and reloaded fast. The ship's turnaround time in Travemünde is only five and a half hours, so that is why the anchor is weighed at three in the morning. This time Pasi has made his way from Holland with a truck full of tulips. He tells them how it only takes 48 hours to get the tulips from the fields to Finnish flower shops. Amazed by this Lena and Jacob offer another around with which they toast to tulips and plenty of time.

Despite the lateness of the hour – or perhaps because of it – Lena is wide awake and still wants to visit the sauna. After all, where else can you enjoy a hot sauna at three in the morning, let alone at sea? Jacob stays in the bar for a little while with Pasi. Pasi tells him stories about life on the road and his two beautiful daughters at home in Tampere which he loves so dearly. After a while Pasi retires to his cabin. He has a long day of driving behind him. “Goodnight and see you tomorrow”, Pasi says to Jacob as he slowly gets up, he is sure they will bump into each other the next day.

Somewhere on the Baltic Sea, the sound of waves mixes with the clatter of crockery. The smell of freshly brewed coffee fills the air. Breakfast includes a view of the vast ocean through floor-to-ceiling windows. Jacob is looking forward to his baked beans. Lena takes the opportunity to acquaint herself with Finnish cuisine. She announces that “karjalanpiirakka”, rye pasties filled with rice, are now her favourite food, even if the name is still hard to pronounce.

As MS Finnmaid continues to make its way smoothly across the Baltic Sea, passengers make the most of their free time. Some take their time and enjoy a long relaxing brunch, some decide to get some exercise, while others sleep happily in their cabins. After enjoying her delicious breakfast Lena wonders on the
The bustle continues in Travemünde until all cars and freight trucks are loaded on board. Once this is done, everyone can relax and enjoy the view over the sea from the bar, café or deck.
sun terrace on deck 11. She leans on the rails and catches a glimpse of the car deck below. She cannot believe the number of trucks she sees. She wonders how much cargo is transported across the Baltic each year. As she stands there in awe, she suddenly remembers she has one thing scheduled for this trip and that is her massage on deck 11. She booked an entire hour, just long enough to shake off the last of her road trip tension.

The morning slowly turns into afternoon – the perfect time for a fresh cinnamon bun and cappuccino in the Star Café. Perhaps Pasi will pop in with a few tips for their holiday in Finland. But Pasi is eight decks below, peering at the temperature displays on his truck. The temperature has to be just right or the tulips will begin to droop. The truck is Pasi’s home away from home. He has decorated his driver’s cabin like a little living room. After his work is done, Pasi heads back up to the sun deck, to enjoy some vitamin D and fresh salty sea air.

On beautiful sunny summer days like this truck drivers take time to catch up with each other. Many of these drivers have been traveling this route for years and have developed life long friendship on the way.

Lena and Jacob are playing cards to see who will pay for tonight’s cocktails. While the winner is being decided, a voice on the loudspeaker announces that dinner is being served. Like brunch, the dinner buffet offers a wide variety of German and Finnish dishes, from delicious fish appetizers to sweet chocolate cake and mouth watering cheeses.

After dinner Lena and Jacob contemplate on going for an evening stroll but as they leave the restaurant they hear music. A Finnish Country duo has started playing at the bar. Jacob makes his way to order some drinks, while Lena finds them a seat. As they sit comfortable with a drink in hand Lena almost feels sad that the first leg of the trip is over, time onboard fly by so fast. While Lena and Jacob decide to have another Negroni cocktail, truck driver Pasi is fast asleep. He has to get up early to check the temperature in his truck and prepare to drive down the ramp and
off the ship to deliver his delicate goods. Lena and Jacob will drive their camper van down that same ramp a little later, adventurous Finland awaits. Just as they are about to leave the port, they hear a loud horn hoot. Pasi grins and waves from his truck and yells, “Hyvä matka!” wishing Lena and Jacob a good trip to where ever their holiday will take them.

While Lena and Jacob enjoy the sun, Pasi controls the temperature in his truck. After 29 hours at sea, it is time for everyone to say goodbye and descend the loading ramp onto dry land.
Travel with class:

The Finnlines fleet

Star, Hansa or Clipper Class – on our combined passenger and cargo ships, we offer plenty of comfort and space. Your only task is to relax, enjoy great food and our authentic travel experience. We have plenty of room for your car and your luggage – no weight limits.

Mare Balticum Restaurant
Feeling hungry? Looking for a great meal? Come and enjoy a wide range of seasonal specialties in our restaurant.

Bar & Bistro Navigare
We offer fresh cocktails, classic drinks and delicious snacks. Summer evenings are filled with live music.

Star Café
A delicious latte macchiato? Or would you prefer a regular coffee? Enjoy your choice of drink in our Star Café.
**Star Class**

Our modern and comfortable Star fleet ensures that all passengers enjoy their stay on board. Star Class ships can be found on all three routes. Have a look at this map and find out what MS Finnstar, MS Finnlady, MS Finnmaid, MS Finnswan and MS Europolink have to offer.

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**Child’s playroom**

A sea journey is fun – especially in our colourful Kids’ Playroom designed especially for our energetic younger passengers.

**Gymstick Gym**

Did you have a long, tiring journey? Why not recharge your batteries with a workout in our gym?

**Cabins**

Our maritime themed cabins ensure a relaxing atmosphere for your journey.
Hansa Class. MS Finnpartner and MS Finntrader sail between Travemünde and Malmö. The Hansa Class ships offer plenty of comfort on board: a bar, restaurant, special cabins for pet owners and a large sun deck.

Clipper Class. MS Finnclipper and MS Finnfellow travel between Naantali and Kapellskär stopping over at the Åland. As on our Star Class ships, the central passenger areas have been recently renovated.

With Finnlines...
... cats, dogs and their friends travel comfortably. Animals are welcome on all of our ships. We offer special pet-friendly cabins, as well as a walking area with a small tree for when nature calls.
Cool Cargo:

Tomatoes on the high seas

Finns love tomatoes! They are particularly dependent on imports of the delicious, red vitamin bombs during the winter months. How do tomatoes get to Finland? With Finnlines of course. We are the largest transporter of fresh goods on the Baltic Sea!

20 million kilograms of tomatoes

are imported by Finland every year from places like Naaldwijk which is the largest producer of greenhouse tomatoes in Holland.

330 minutes

is how long it takes to load and unload our passenger-freight ships.

At speeds of up to 25 knots

the tomatoes are whisked across the Baltic Sea. They reach Helsinki after a journey of around 29 hours.

48 hours

after being harvested, the tomatoes are in Finnish supermarkets. Fast transport and well-timed logistics enable fresh produce to be delivered all year round.

6 hours

is all that freshly harvested tomatoes need for the truck journey from Naaldwijk to the port of Travemünde.

10–15 °C

is the temperature at which the tomatoes should be kept to ensure that they are fresh on arrival. The temperature is precisely monitored on board.

In 2016,

22 Finnlines ships transported 1,611 million tonnes of cargo.

Each Finn eats 10 kg

of tomatoes a year. This is not surprising. In addition to 13 vitamins and 17 minerals, this fruit vegetable contains tyramine, a natural mood enhancer that brings a smile to your face and a kick to your step during the winter months.
Cappuccino in a street café or freshly-caught fish by a campfire? Why not enjoy both? Let’s start with a design and culture stop in Helsinki and then continue onto the countless lakes and forests of the Finnish wilderness. We can best discover all the treasures Ålands numerous little islands have to offer by hopping on our bikes. After cycling away in the archipelago, we can head for southern Sweden by car and take in the beautiful coastline before arrival in the buzzy city of Malmö. Here we must follow in the footsteps of crime writer Henning Mankell. We warmly invite you on a voyage of discovery to northern Europe with us.

Exploring the North
Across the Baltic Sea on holiday

Germany, Finland, Åland and Sweden: sail around the Baltic Sea with Finnlines.
Travemünde (DE) – Helsinki (FI)
Travel time: 29 hours
7 departures a week.

Kapellskär (SE) – Långnäs (FI) – Naantali (FI)
Travel time: 8 hours
2 departures a day

Travemünde (DE) – Malmö (SE)
Travel time: 9 hours
Up to 3 departures a day
In Helsinki, you need to take in the city with all you senses. The central Kauppatori market square is filled with the wonderful scent of the sea and sizzling of fresh fish, which has practically leaped out of the Baltic into the trader’s pan.

The Design District in Helsinki is a feast for the eyes. A great part of the city for window shopping. You may even be lucky enough to witness the birth of a new international trend – the port city is said to be a global pioneer in design.

To taste the sweetness of Helsinki you must visit Roobertin Herkku (Eerikinkatu 10). Siblings Marja and Martti reopened their grandmother’s delicatessen and now

The fragrance of the sea air and cinnamon

Wide boulevards and breathtaking architecture. Cosy cafés and design stores. With its beautiful sea views Helsinki has the potential to become an “I-must-live-here” city. We tour the island metropolis, which is one-third land and two-thirds Baltic Sea.
Looking for something trendy to wear? How about wearable works of art from independent label **Ivana Helsinki** (Uudenmaankatu 15)? Designer Paola Suhonen has been collecting mementos from camping adventures, road trips or quirky hotels since her childhood. She uses these mementos for unique prints, which have made the design label famous in Finland and abroad.

**Champagne corks and modern art**

Shopping should definitely be followed by coffee. Thankfully, the oldest and perhaps the coziest cafe in Helsinki is just around the corner. **Café Ekberg** (Bulevardi 9) still has its own on-premise bakery and they sell delicious goods in their beautiful shop and cafe next door. Here, you can indulge in Napoleon cake, cinnamon buns or juicy Champagne cork pastries made with liquor. Ekberg is one of the rear cafes in Helsinki that has table service. Now is definitely the time for some a) exercise and b) culture. Both can be combined with a wonderful walk through the **Temppeliaukio Church** (Lutherinkatu 3). Carved out of the granite rock bed, this structure was completed in 1969. Visitors can experience its unique acoustics during concerts held there.

Next stop on the tour: culture in a contemporary way in the **Kiasma art museum** (Mannerheimintie 2). Some visitors loose track of time in Kiasma and end up spending the whole day there. No wonder, there is so much to see: four floors full of mind-blowing art and a ground-floor theatre.

**Beauty and wild food**

Gazing out over the water is a timeless pleasure – luckily, the Baltic Sea is always nearby in Helsinki. But make sure to take a short detour inland to the Concept Store **TRE** (Mikonkatu 6). Here you can find furniture, fashion and cosmetics – with many products produced fairly and sustainably.

When you finally tear your gaze away from the embroidered silk cushions, you will encounter the Finnish forest restaurant – the
WILD. You do not have to leave the store to enjoy spruce rolls and reindeer heart, because the restaurant moved into the TRE store in 2017. WILD’s creative cuisine is created from ingredients brought directly from Finland’s forests and pastures.

Out of the sauna, into the sea
Want to get away from it all? Just pop into one of the many public saunas’ in Helsinki. In the brand new Allas Sea Pool in the market square (Katjanokanlaituri 2a), you can enjoy a sauna right in the centre of the city and port. The definite highlight is to cool of in the filtered sea water pools. This is the ideal place to sit with an apple cider, watch the bustle in the market square, and plan your next visit to Helsinki.

Berries and other delicious treats fresh from the Kauppatori market.

After strolling through the city, relax at the Allas Sea Pool with its port-side saunas and swimming pool.

Beautiful and sustainable – the Concept Store TRE.

Roobertin Herkku – a paradise for lovers of sweet treats.
The luxury of taking it easy: 
Slow Finland

There is no such thing as popping into the forest and quickly gathering some berries and mushrooms, before a speedy visit to the sauna. You need to take your time for these pleasures and take in all the beauty Finnish nature has to offer.

Fabulously healthy
As nature lovers, Finns enjoy spending time in the forest. They know that a walk in the forest can lower their blood pressure, help them ‘detox’ and improve their mood. You should try it, it’s good for you.

Tip: The Haltia Nature Center (haltia.com), which brings the whole of Finland’s nature under a single roof, is just 30 kilometres from Helsinki. Visit the Center to see the fells of Lapland and all of the country’s 39 national parks in miniature. Inspired by the Nature Center, you can go directly from Haltia for a hike in the real Nuuksio national park.

A sauna refreshes the soul as well as cleans the body. There are 1.7 million saunas in Finland: nine out of ten Finns relax in a sauna at least once a week.

Health-promoting blueberries
“Mustikka”, the Finnish word for blueberry, has a mystic sound. Blueberries grow in the Finnish forest, where they can be gathered by anybody in July and August. Blueberries don’t just taste great – they contain large amounts of vitamin E and C and even help tissue to heal.

Spending time on the waves
With its old wooden houses, lighthouses and large national parks, the world’s largest archipelago landscape is just off the coast of Finland. This is the perfect place to hire a boat and spend the day dangling a fishing line – and your feet – in the water.
Åland: Happiness on two wheels

Although this autonomous region officially belongs to Finland, Swedish is spoken here. Åland has its own anthem, flag and Internet domain. The Baltic Sea archipelago is simply amazing. Its 6,757 islands are best discovered by bicycle.

Mariehamn is Åland’s only town, as well as being its capital. It is probably the world’s only “mini big city” which has two harbours. Both harbours are connected by the Norra Esplanadgatan, a road lined with linden trees and old wooden villas that attest to the wealth of shipowners of the past. At 900 metres, the grand allée is about as long as the peninsula is wide. When you’ve had enough of busy Mariehamn and its many restaurants, museums and beautiful market square, why not explore the rest of Åland. The best way to do this is by bicycle, along the archipelago’s well-developed bicycle route and trail network.

Sund on the east coast is a great destination; a church with frescoes and an impressive 13th century altar cabinet sits right at the centre of the village. The imposing 14th century moated castle, “Kastelholm”, lies just outside Sund. The castle now houses the Cultural History Museum of Åland. Culture builds your appetite. So it’s great that “Smakby”, a restaurant serving Åland specialities, is nearby.

Would you rather sunbathe? Visit Degerö to the south of Eckerö, the longest and perhaps most beautiful sandy beach in Åland. Does the 40-kilometre tour from Mariehamn sound too strenuous? Åland’s buses will take you and your bike.

Exhilarating: a trip to Järsö. Water and land alternate on a route across several islands. Destination: the “Stickstugan” café located in an idyllic garden. There you can joyfully tuck into delicious “Pannkaka” pancakes with plum compote and lots of cream, and wish that the whole world was as beautiful as Åland.

Getting there

With Finnlines… you can reach Långnäs harbour, east of Mariehamn, from Naantali or Kapellskär, all year round. We offer two departures a day from all three ports.
And getting there is probably the last great adventure in Europe. A trip of 1500 km from Helsinki, or more than 2300 km from Malmö – both easily reachable by Finnlines ferries from Travemünde, Germany – through some of the most magnificent and remote parts of Northern Europe.

Leaving the hustle and bustle of Finland’s capital behind (see pages 18–19) you will find yourself in Lakeland. Deep green forests, rolling hills and, of course, thousands of glittering lakes. They are among the cleanest in the world, so make sure you go for a refreshing swim.

Heading farther north, you will reach Lapland – Finland’s true Arctic wilderness, home of the midnight sun. For up to 70 nights, the day never ends, and the sun bathes the barren, beautiful landscape in its light all day and night. The perfect conditions to hike, fish or even play golf at 3 am. Once you have crossed into Norway, and come to the literal end of the road, you have reached your destination: the North Cape. Up to 200,000 people visit this special place every year. But in the past, only a few people could afford the trip. People like the King of Siam (today’s Thailand), who came in 1907 – and whose visit is commemorated with a Thai pavilion in the visitor centre. Like the King, you will be standing on a cliff 300 m above the icy waters of the Arctic Sea, and truly feel like you have reached the end of the world.

Go north – all the way!

The North Cape is not really the northernmost point of Europe – that title could be claimed by Knivskjelodden point, a little to the west, which actually extends a further 1.5 km out into the great expanse of the Arctic Sea. But the North Cape is not only much easier to pronounce, but also the northernmost point accessible by vehicle.
Along the east coast, across the interior and back down the west coast to Malmö – the south of Sweden is nothing if not varied.

When approaching Malmö, the first thing you will see is a high-rise building, the third tallest in Europe. The “Turning Torso” was designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava and spirals a dizzying 190 metres into the sky. The inspiration for this extraordinary design was a twisting sculpture of a body. Back on land, you won’t be able to resist the bustle of city life. With its 320,000 residents, Malmö is Sweden’s third largest city after Stockholm and Gothenburg. It has its own beach just a walk from the city centre. The 2.5 kilometre long Ribersborg beach is a great place to meet up for a swim or sunbathing. From there, it is just a short hop to the young and hip city district of Västra Hamnen.

Searching for clues
The next stop on our journey should be Ystad with its medieval, half-timbered houses. Ystad is located on the south coast just an hour’s drive from Malmö. Be careful, its idyllic appearance is deceptive. This small harbour town is one big murder scene – at least in the crime novels of Swedish author Henning Mankell, whose detective Kurt Wallander lives in a red brick house at Mariagatan 10. The address and house really exist, but the rest is pure fiction. This doesn’t stop hundreds of Wallander fans from visiting the house each year.

The impressive Viking monument “Ales Stenar” can be found a short distance to the south. Over a 1,000 years ago, seafarers arranged 59 heavy stones into the form of a large ship. Some of the stones weighed up to 1.8 tonnes.

On the way to the “Glasreich” in the south-east, we make a short stop at Sandhammaren, Sweden’s most beautiful sandy beach. From there you can visit Karlskrona, built in 1679 as a base for the Swedish naval fleet. Due to the preservation of much of the city centre and the old naval installations, this has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1998.

Fine art
We now leave the coast behind and travel inland, to where King Gustav I. Vasa brought Venetian glassblowers and started up the Swedish glass industry in the 16th
century. Kosta Boda is the oldest glassworks factory still operating: it has been making glass since 1742. Glassblowers from across Europe come to learn their trade in "Riksglasskola", in Orrefors. Half way to Falkenberg, on the west coast, we stop in Växjö to view the glass museum’s art collection, with items from over 30 countries. Falkenberg lies 170 kilometres further west along the coast. Worth seeing: the picturesque town centre, with its pastel-coloured wooden houses, whitewashed church built from fieldstones, and its 16th limestone painting.

A few steps further on: “Törngrens Krukmakeri” is the oldest pottery workshop in Europe. Via Halmstadt, our journey continues south to the 1,625 hectare national park of Söderåsen, our last stop before Malmö. The national park has endless hiking trails, sparse, deciduous forests, the remains of ancient stone walls dating back to the bronze age, rare mosses and ferns – and the twittering of birds. As one of Sweden’s 27 national parks, Söderåsen is a genuine spectacle of nature. If you book in advance, you can spend the night in one of the parks two huts and stay up so long that darkness falls on even the longest Polar summer nights. In the peace and quiet beneath the trees and clouds, you will understand what makes southern Sweden so special. This is an unrivalled meeting place of town, wilderness and sea.

Top tip

Travemünde – Malmö
Finnlines offers up to three departures a day from Travemünde to Malmö and back. The crossing takes nine hours. If you travel in the evening or at night, or have a pet with you, remember to book a cabin.
Fun & games for little sailors

Quiz time!

You know who Pippi, Emil and Lotta are, right? The Swede Astrid Lindgren wrote a series of funny stories about their adventures. With this little quiz you can test your knowledge about the world Lindgren created.

1) In one of her adventures, Pippi Longstocking, Annika and Thomas wanted to find out what a “Spunk” is. Do you know what it is?
   - A beetle with green wings
   - A delicious cinnamon cake
   - A ghost

2) Why did Emil Svensson’s sister hang from the flag pole?
   - She wanted to see the world from above
   - She wanted to experience how flying felt
   - She had driven Emil mad and he was taking his revenge

3) Do you know the lemonade tree? And do you know where it stands?
   - It stands between the southern and central courtyard in Bullerbü
   - It stands in Pippi Longstocking’s garden
   - It stands in front of Emil Svensson’s window

4) Where does little Lotta live?
   - In the southern courtyard
   - In Troublemaker street
   - In Villa Villekulla

Visit Pippi Longstocking!
In “Astrid Lindgren’s World” near Vimmerby in Sweden, you can walk through Troublemaker Street or play with Pippi, Thomas and Annika.
astridlindgrensworld.se/en

Reading adventure:
“Pippi Longstocking Complete Edition” from Astrid Lindgren (Oetinger)

What’s that?

A small tip: You can find this object on every Finnlines ship.
Did you know ...

... that there are around 300,000 elks in Finland?
Although they are huge, they are very shy. So you have to be really lucky to see one.

... that in northern Europe the sun sometimes doesn’t set?
When the days are at their longest in June, the whole of Sweden celebrates “Midsommar”. According to tradition, this is the time when elves float through the forests and trolls hide in the undergrowth.

... that many children in Sweden only get sweets on Saturdays?
These Saturday sweets are called “Lördagsgodis”. This custom began in order to protect the children’s teeth.

Hugo travels alone
The little Finnish elk Hugo falls asleep in a container. When he wakes up, he is sailing on a big ship towards Germany. Find out how Hugo got back home and enjoy the adventures he had along the way. The book “Hugo far away from home”, written by Riikka Krenn and illustrated by Sanna Partanen, can be purchased from the Finnlines shop on board.

Discover the Moomins!
Every child in Finland knows these small creatures, which look a little like trolls or hippopotamuses. Moomins are roughly 50 cm tall, have short fur and a bushy tail. They are good swimmers and rowers. They were created by Finnish author and illustrator Tove Jansson. Would you like to get to know these furry creatures? Visit “Moominworld” on a small island close to Naantali. moominworld.fi

Answers
Quiz time! Question 1: A beetle with green wings. When Pippi, Thomas and Annika find him, they finally know: That’s a spunk!
Question 2: She wanted to see the world from above. The Swedish flag is hanging on the flag pole.
Question 3: It sits in Pippi Longstocking’s garden – and it’s her favourite hiding place because it produces lemonade!
Question 4: In Troublemaker Street. Lotta lives there with her older siblings, Mia and Jonas. What is that? Exactly, a life belt! It needs to be close by and ready to use at all times.

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10 reasons to travel to Finland and Sweden

1. The coffee culture
Black and strong, that’s how the Finns love their coffee. On average, each Finn filters twelve kilogrammes of coffee beans a year. That’s why a cosy café is never far away in Finland.

2. Playing air guitar
In August 2018, thousands of fans from the air-guitar community will once again pilgrimage to the Finnish city of Oulu to witness the world championships in air guitar playing. Fun fact – the first air guitar championships where held 23 years ago.

3. Nature for everyone
Want to swim in one of the countless lakes and camp on the shore? Stroll through the forest, collecting berries and mushrooms as you go? “Everyman’s Right” in both Finland and Sweden makes this possible.

4. Discover history
160 years ago, Swedish Nobel Laureate of Literature Selma Lagerlöf (who used the pseudonym “Nils Holgersson”) was born on the Mårbacka Estate near Sunne. That’s worth celebrating! Perhaps by visiting the house where she was born, which is now a museum.

5. Aurora Borealis
The season for the Northern Lights, which shimmer in green, pink and violet in the sky, begins in September.

6. Waterloo
...or maybe Dancing Queen? Fans of the Swedish cult band get to feel like its fifth member. Thanks to holograms of Agnetha, Björn, Benny and Anny-Frid, you can join them singing on stage in the Abba museum.

7. Dancing tango
When tango came to Europe from South America 100 years ago, Finns fell in love with its melancholic melodies. This love affair has continued to the present day. Finns love to tango – whether in small, local bars or at the annual tango festival held in Seinäjoki in mid-July.

8. Midsummer
... is always one hell of a party. As Midsummer approaches, many Swedes and Finns decorate their homes with birch leaves and women wear flowers in their hair. People meet family and friends, to eat, dance and be merry for the longest day of the year Midsummer 2018 will be celebrated 22nd–24th of June.
9. **Extensive range of products**

Liquorice ice cream? Or would you prefer blueberry? Sweden’s largest ice-cream parlour, in the little town of Söderköping, offers over 60 kinds of ice-cream and a range of ice-cream sundaes.  

**smultronstallet.se**

10. **Niklas Moisander’s tip**

My home town of Turku is worth seeing. Finland’s oldest town has a stunning range of attractions, from a medieval castle and cathedral to contemporary art. Turku was the European Capital of Culture 2011.

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