



9 DAYS RELAXATION IN FINLAND'S UNIQUE ARCHIPELAGO

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Discover the natural and cultural attractions of this amazing archipelago. On peaceful islands with old wooden houses and fine sea views, time stands still, giving you a chance to truly relax.

DAY 2 Out towards the archipelago

DAY 1 Turku: history and fun – in the gateway to the archipelago



© Turku Touring

Down by the River Aura
Turku has many features typical of European towns that became important in the Middle Ages, including a riverfront, a market square, a castle and a cathedral. The River Aura flows through the heart of the modern city, linking the two poles of historic Turku: a formidable castle and a grand old cathedral. Most of the city's other sights also lie near the river. There's plenty to do and see around town, as befits a city chosen as the European Capital of Culture for 2011.

Accommodation: Hotels, campsites and hostels in Turku area www.visitturku.fi

Activities: sightseeing, thematic walking routes, rent-a-bike, paddling, SUP-board and canoe rental on the River Aura, electric boats

Tourist information: www.visitturku.fi



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On the way to Nagu it's well worth stopping for a break or a picnic, by the ruins of Kuusisto Castle (1). In the Middle Ages this grand and luxuriously furnished castle was home to a bishop and his entourage – meaning that it served as the centre of spiritual life in then Catholic Finland, as well as a political power base. The castle's fortunes turned in 1527 when King Gustav Vasa of Sweden ordered the bishop's residence to be demolished after the Reformation. These ruins are all that remains of those former glories.

With more than 10,000 islands and islets spread over an area of 5,500 square kilometres, the beautiful Archipelago Sea is a unique natural treasure, with a fascinating cultural history. Nagu (Nauvo in Finnish), one of its larger islands, still has a thriving community and is also popular with holiday-makers and tourists (2). To reach Nagu you need to take a short trip on a free car ferry from Pargas. This route forms part of the longer island-hopping Archipelago Trail touring route.



© Metsähallitus

Accommodation: Many kinds of accommodation available in Nagu: www.nagu.net, archipelagobooking.fi

Activities: Join fishing and canoeing trips, archipelago safaris, and discover the Archipelago Nature School.

Tourist information: www.visitturku.fi
www.nationalparks.fi/kuusisto
www.pargas.fi
www.saaristonrengastie.fi

DAY 3, 4 & 5

Day trips around Nagu – charming islands with good ferry connections



The old fisherman's croft at Västerby on the north shore of Berghamn Island, in the Archipelago National Park ③, has a timeless feel. Enjoy a picnic among old-fashioned meadows and pastures, and learn how fishermen used to live here by visiting an exhibition in the waterside shed.

The island of Seili ④, reachable by ferry, has a gloomy past, as a remote refuge for lepers, and later as a

mental asylum. Those exiled to the island brought along planks for their own coffins, and never returned to the outside world.

Today, visitors can admire the Museum Church of Seili and enjoy the peaceful settings of this charming island.

Accommodation and restaurants, 3rd, 4th and 5th nights: Many varied options are available in Nagu: www.nagu.net

Activities: sightseeing, hiking, cycling, nature watching, kayaking, rowing, relaxation

Tourist information: Tourist information in Nagu: www.nagu.net, archipelagobooking.fi

Please check the timetable on ferry: www.lautta.net
 National park: www.nationalparks.fi/archipelagonp

Enjoy a relaxing sauna and tasty local food



© Kari Ylitalo / Visit Finland

In Archipelago you can try rowing or kayaking or your luck out at sea on a fishing trip. By renting a bike you may experience the unique and beautiful Finnish Archipelago up close.

www.nagu.net/vastergard/outdoorseng.html

Wind down physically and mentally in a traditional Finnish sauna and end the day with dinner in a friendly restaurant, which favours local products.

www.hotelstallbacken.fi

DAY 6

Back to Turku



© Turku Touring

Accommodation, 6th night: Hotels, campsites and hostels in Turku area www.visitturku.fi

DAY 7

Short trips in the Turku region - Kurjenrahka National Park



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Within easy reach of the historic town of Turku, the forests and marshes of Kurjenrahka National Park

⑤ are home to many wild animals and birds, including stately long-legged cranes and curious woodland owls. The park has several well-marked and interconnecting trails. The most popular circular route is the 6-km Savojärven Kierros trail, which leads from Kurjenpesä Nature Information Hut around Lake Savojärvi, along duckboards for part of the way.

Accommodation, 7th night: Hotels, campsites and hostels in Turku area www.visitturku.fi

Services: www.nationalparks.fi/kurjenrahkanp

Activities: hiking, nature

Tourist information: www.visitturku.fi

DAY 8

Short trips in the Turku region – the lovely small town of Naantali

Naantali has a unique atmosphere among Finland's small towns, encouraging all visitors to relax and break free. Enjoy delicious food and drinks in the town's fine restaurants, and pamper yourself with various health and beauty treatments. For tips on the well-being services and activities on offer, please contact Naantali Tourist Information.

Accommodation: Hotels, campsites and hostels in Turku area www.visitturku.fi

Activities: sightseeing, shopping, well-being

Tourist information: www.visitnaantalifinland.com



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DAY 9

Travelling home

For more information:

VisitTurku Tourist Information

info@visitturku.fi

www.visitturku.fi

Nationalparks.fi
 Up-to-date information about Finnish national parks and their facilities

VisitFinland.com
 The official travel guide of Finland

Outdoorsfinland.com
 Find the best hiking, cycling and canoeing trails in Finland

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