



Suomenlinna

NEWSLETTER

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My Suomenlinna
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as a release unit



Editorial



Jaakko Antti-Poika

DIRECTOR, GOVERNING BODY OF SUOMENLINNA

From the point of view of tourism the rapid deterioration of the economic outlook brings up many questions, the most important of which is probably: will the total number of visitors to Suomenlinna shrink or will the downswing favour domestic tourism rather than visitors from abroad? This is an important question for the tourism operators in Suomenlinna. With last year's poor summer weather the number of visitors last year was somewhat less than in the previous year, but in spite of that the demand for services grew overall.

The beginning of 2009 has brought an exceptional amount of work for the office here: in addition to the normal peak caused by the closing of accounts, there has been the process of change involved in becoming clients of the personnel and financial administration service centre. None of this should be seen by our customers, except as a smoother payments system, but the long and thorough preparatory work has been a drain on the office's resources during the past year.

The coming year will bring closer cooperation with the Helsinki Open Prison. The prison buildings, which have been owned by Senate Properties will be taken over by the Governing Body of Suomenlinna. The prison and the Governing Body will repair and renovate the wooden buildings in the area to a fairly tight schedule, and so our own capacity will be largely committed to this work in the near future. The project is particularly important because the work input of the prison is crucial for Suomenlinna's long-term building plans. In the future, the prison's importance may grow even further as we face the new challenges of renovation work on Vallisaari and Kuninkaansaari.



Suomenlinna quality developers receive diplomas at the Travel Fair

Six of Suomenlinna's tourist operators who have successfully completed the Haaga-Perho quality training course were handed their diplomas on the stage at the Travel 2009 Fair. The operators who passed the quality training were Ravintola Yläkerho (restaurant), Ravintola Walhalla (restaurant), JT-Line (charter cruises), the National Board of Antiquities' Suomenlinna Museum, the Ehrensvärd Society and the Governing Body of Suomenlinna. The diplomas were awarded by Jaakko Lehtonen, director of the Finnish Tourist Board. The other six of the twelve Suomenlinna tourist operators who took part in the training will receive their diplomas at the next award ceremony this autumn.

The name of the programme, Quality 1000, comes from the Board's goal of getting a thousand Finnish operators involved in the quality training. This time the diploma was awarded to 23 tourist operators around Finland. The Haaga-Perho Institute is responsible for the training, which was started in 2001 line with the Finnish Tourist Board's concept. The Haaga-Perho Institute is also responsible for the upkeep of the LaatuVerkko (Quality Net) database for the use of those who have participated in the training. Among other information, the enterprises involved enter customer satisfaction data into the database, where they can then compare their ratings with those of other operators.



The men who built the fortress

Jan Peter van Suchtelen

Jan Peter van Suchtelen was a Dutch member of the Russian Army Collegiate and the army's Head Quartermaster. He led the siege of Viapori Castle during the War of Finland in 1808. Thanks to his negotiating skills the Viapori fortress commanded by Vice Admiral C. O. Cronstedt surrendered after battles fought in early spring, on May 3, 1808. The surrender had an important impact on the course of the war. After the war the Czar appointed van Suchtelen Russian Ambassador to Stockholm.





The soul is cleansed in Suomenlinna

"I find peace of mind in Suomenlinna. When I leave I feel like a new person. My energy begins to flow again. It is the picturesque landscape and the pure, fresh air. When I look out at the open sea, I feel I am a small person and my worries are also small. For me Suomenlinna is a gift."



My Suomenlinna

Toshiko Huttunen speaks Finnish well and with colourful expression in a quiet voice. Toshiko comes from Japan's southernmost island, Kyushu island, from Nagasaki. She arrived in Finland with her husband and has now been a Finnish citizen for 40 years. Toshiko has introduced the fortress to the Kamppi Social Services Information Centre's personnel and also takes her Japanese guests to visit the fortress. Over the years Toshiko has also got to know some of the residents of Suomenlinna. She goes there 2-4 times a week all year round. The important things in her life are ceramic sculpture, synchronised swimming, singing and especially Suomenlinna.

"I go there at around 10 in the morning. Finns would take rye bread sandwiches for their lunch, but I take a rice ball and a thermos flask of boiled water," Toshiko tells us. The rice ball is actually a triangle shaped from boiled rice, and hidden inside is a dried,

salted, roasted sour plum wrapped in a shiso leaf. It is covered with seaweed.

"I have two places in Suomenlinna, a certain rock for sitting on and one good resting place. On a warm summer day I take something to lie on and have forty winks. I pack everything the night before a trip to Suomenlinna and that way I can enjoy the trip for even longer – in advance as well," Toshiko says with a smile.

"The secret is to have the right clothes and a good packed lunch"

"In summer you need two hats, a sun hat and a woollen cap. In winter you need wind-proof clothes and two pairs of gloves. For a really enjoyable trip you need to take some fruit and a good book. In spring I take my binoculars and bird books along. For instance, I've got to know the low call of the Common Goldeneye, the Mute Swan, the Goosander, the Arctic Tern and the Common Buzzard – one Buzzard used to always sit at the top of a birch tree, but I haven't seen it for two years. The flight of

the buzzard is such a wonderful sight."

The landscape of Suomenlinna also brings to Toshiko's mind beautiful songs, one of which I have the privilege of hearing in Japanese. "The autumn dusk deepens/The journey's sky falls silent – from loneliness/As I gaze at the sky on the way to my home village/I miss my village and I miss my parents'.

And is there a Finnish song that she associates with Suomenlinna? "Rauno Lehtinen's 'On hetki' ", she answers without hesitation. We agree that nostalgia seems to be the common denominator uniting the Japanese and Finnish musical traditions.

In addition to Suomenlinna Toshiko Huttunen says that she has been to Lapland's "Rocky Mountains" nine times to see the autumn colours. Are other Japanese people as keen on hiking as she is? "Well, let's say that everyone develops an ability to enjoy life, but the Japanese want to do it thoroughly, like everything else," she says with a laugh. Like many other Japanese, Toshiko belonged to a mountaineering club when she lived in Nagasaki. In Japan 73% of the surface area is mountainous. The members of the mountaineering clubs go on regular hikes, leaving at sunrise. All the equipment has been packed the night before.

Toshiko's instructions for life have been tried and tested throughout Japan's long history. "A person's life is like a long journey carrying a heavy rucksack, but without being in a hurry," she says, adapting a poem by shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu.



The open prison serves as a release unit

The new director of the Open Prison operating in Suomenlinna, Tapio Iinatti, has changed his field of work every ten years, and in his toolkit he has plenty of tools and skills for his current job: With a Master's degree in law, Iinatti has a thorough knowledge of the Statute Book, as a police officer he knows the prison inmates' background, and as a building contractor

he understands the building work projects undertaken by the Open Prison and its inmates.

Where are all the prison inmates?

Iinatti, who came from Pyhäselkä Prison to Suomenlinna just before Christmas last year, tells us that he last visited Suomenlinna 10

years ago as a 'tourist'. The first day at work on Suomenlinna was a confusing experience for the new Prison Director.

"The first surprise was at the landing stage, where I noticed that there are actually people living here: at eight in the morning there seemed to be plenty of quite ordinary people, families and pensioners around, along with those who were hurrying to work



on the mainland.” The morning at his new workplace passed quickly getting to know the personnel and the premises, but in the afternoon Iinatti says he had a feeling that something was not quite right:

“I wondered where all the prison inmates were? Could the figures be correct when there was not a soul in sight?” he remembers with a grin. “Well, of course, during the day they’re at the work site, whereas in a closed prison like the one I came from, you bump into the inmates all the time in the prison corridors,” he explains.

Stricter rules in an Open Prison

Suomenlinna Open Prison is not immediately recognisable as a prison. A gate in a low wooden fence leads into it from the adjacent residential building. It’s no wonder that foreign tourists often wander into the prison area by mistake. For the personnel, too, the small Open Prison is a more relaxed place to work. There are extremely few disturbances. For the inmates, any breaking of the rules can mean being sent back to a closed prison. The possibility of having more freedom in an open prison is what motivates the inmates to behave sensibly,” Iinatti points out.

As a former police officer Iinatti sees the prison inmates as clients.

“In police work I saw how situations can get out of hand and people can react in unpredictable ways. In prison the inmates’ actions are more logical and controllable. Those with substance abuse problems get medication and care. The inmates know the burden they carry from their own past well enough, and it doesn’t make sense to keep reminding them of it. They want to go forward in their lives, and it’s the prison’s task to support them in achieving this goal.”

Prison inmates well received by Suomenlinna residents

The Open Prison has operated in Suomenlinna since 1973 and there have been no complaints about disturbances either from residents or visitors. The people living in Suomenlinna have over the years been

able to see how the work sites where the prison inmates work have started and ended well, producing good results.

“The Open Prison inmates are all nearing the end of their sentence, and will soon be released back to normal life, among the rest of us. In a way the situation here and now is not much different from what it will be like very soon, when the inmates have regained their freedom,” Iinatti points out.

A glance at the future

Iinatti speaks enthusiastically about the prison’s future. One of the most important functions of the prison he considers to be the prevention of recidivism.

“Many people think that the current trend of encouraging criminals to a crime-free life is a waste of time, or too Utopian, but even a few success stories are significant.”

For example, an important aspect of prison life is training. According to Iinatti the vocational training provided during the time spent in prison is a way for open prison inmates to find their place in normal life, which awaits them in a short time.

“The stonemasons’ course at present in progress in Suomenlinna is very well suited for the fortress, since the prison inmates are repairing the walls and stonework. For those who complete the course, the work situation after release is extremely good: for example in a city the size of Helsinki there should be work for all of them. This is an excellent situation for the prison as well,” Iinatti says.

On the other hand, there are prisoners who have never had a job, and for whom getting to work on time and keeping to a schedule is difficult. For them, the road to training is opened up, for example, through substance abuse rehabilitation, which is implemented in collaboration with Helsinki Deaconess Institute. For young prison inmates who have not completed their education, there is a cooperation project with the Järvenpää training centre of the Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities, where learning difficulties are tackled. A release plan is worked out for each prison inmate: for example, if necessary, sheltered hous-

ing or other forms of support are planned for the time immediately after release, work prospects are charted, and it is assured before release that substance abuse work will be continued with the former prison inmate.

Governing Body a flexible partner

Businesses, municipalities and the State order subcontract work and product parts from the prisons, but the schedules and sanctions of the business world are not always in harmony with the prison’s objectives.

“The Governing Body of Suomenlinna is a flexible cooperation partner, though. The work site can, if the situation requires, be closed for the winter and started again in the spring,” Iinatti tells us. “The inmates have also done landscaping work in Suomenlinna, and in future possibly also on the adjacent islands of Vallisaari and Kuninkaansaari, if they are placed under the administration of the Governing Body,” he envisages.

A flying prison director

Iinatti lives on the mainland during the week and spends weekends with his family in Oulu. For family reasons, he is unable to move to Suomenlinna.

“Many people have asked me if I don’t find the sea journey a problem. I myself have found it to have its own attraction: even though things may be hectic at work, on the ferry you have time to relax for a moment and forget the day’s stress. I still have a good feeling when I go to work in the morning. Even though the journey is familiar by now, I haven’t got tired of it, nor of the walk from the ferry to the prison: in the blue light of dawn, the white snow, it’s a calm and solemn feeling – it gives you a great sense of tranquillity!” says Iinatti.

What does the Prison Director do in his time off? Iinatti mentions ‘flying’ as his hobby.

“When I was younger I used to do ski jumping, and in the army parachute jumping. Now I want to get my ultraflight pilot’s licence – it would be great to glide above my workplace!

A memorable venue - the Pirunkirkko banquet hall

The Pirunkirkko Banquet Hall is a popular venue for weddings and other functions, so you have to book it in good time. The hall has seating for somewhat more than 120 guests, but it is not too big for smaller occasions, either.

Combined with the Pajasali conference facilities downstairs, the Pirunkirkko Banquet Hall provides a suitable venue for various seminars and meetings. The two smaller meeting rooms at the end of the hall can be used, for example, as rooms for group work or children's play rooms. Pirunkirkko is easily accessible even in winter, as it is only a few minutes' walk from the ferry landing stage and Suomenlinna Church.

The almost entirely original, time-worn,

wooden plank floor gives the space an atmosphere of the past and is one of the special features of the hall, which is divided by a handsome row of vaulted pillars and has a vaulted ceiling. The long tables and benches used to furnish the hall also contribute to the historic feeling of the place. There are kitchen, toilet and cloakroom facilities. The kitchen can be used for heating food provided by caterers or by the organisers of the function themselves.

Pirunkirkko forms the western wing of the Crownwork Ehrensivård. Building of the crownwork was started in 1776, and during its history the hall has had many uses, for example as a work space, as store rooms and as living quarters. People often won-

der about the name, Pirunkirkko, which means "Devil's Church", but its history is not known with certainty. According to one theory, the name comes from the fact that it served as a meeting place for people of different religions in the garrison town.

To check reservations for the Banquet Hall, please go to the Finnish-language Suomenlinna website at www.suomenlinna.fi -> kokous- ja juhlatilat -> Pirunkirkon juhlasali.



Welcome to an Open Doors evening!

The sales service for Suomenlinna Conference and Banquet facilities is organising an Open Doors evening together with the other organisations and operators on the island on Wednesday March 25, 2009, at 4 -7 pm. The organisations involved are Suomenlinna Church, Ravintola Café Chapman, Ravintola Suomenlinnan Panimo, Ravintola Yläkerho, Ravintola Walhalla, Viaporin Juhlapalvelu, Cafe Vanille, Hostel Suomenlinna and JT-Line.

Come and enjoy the evening and take part in a raffle, where the main prize will be the services of a photographer at your function held in summer 2009 at Suomenlinna!

Sales secretaries Sari Mäkinen and Henna Savolainen
Suomenlinna Conference and Banquet facilities

Tourist service personnel

The Artists' Association of Helsinki, a professional association of more than 700 artists has organised exhibitions in Suomenlinna since 2004. The organisation, which represents the interests of artists, arranges monthly changing exhibitions of contemporary art of a high standard at the atmospheric Jetty Barracks Gallery, as well as broad-ranging private exhibitions and joint exhibitions of both Finnish and foreign artists.

The Gallery's exhibition secretary since autumn 2007 has been Eeva Muona. She is well known to many art lovers from the popular Rikhardinkatu Library's Artotheque, which she ran for almost 9 years.

"The Artotheque is still close to my heart; through it a considerable amount of good art finds a new home. However, after a long stint there I wanted to work in the exhibition sector, and it has indeed been enjoyable and rewarding. The exhibitions are a valuable

channel through which artists can present their latest work, and the Jetty Barracks Gallery's spacious, beautiful premises offer opportunities to present exceptionally wide-ranging entities."

The Gallery's exhibition secretary is responsible for almost everything relating to the production of an exhibition: choice of exhibitions, information, contacts with artists, constructing the exhibitions, sales of art and customer service tasks.

"The long-term objective is to raise the profile of contemporary art and artists by showing multi-faceted, exciting, even ground-breaking contemporary art, so as to make it easily approachable for the public.

"There are plenty of challenges, sometimes keeping me very busy, but the recent figures are encouraging: the number of visitors, media attention and interesting exhibition applications are all on the increase."





What's on in Suomenlinna

27–28 February: Viapori Winter Blues

A hot atmosphere and cool vibes in the spectacular setting of Suomenlinna, with J. Karjalainen and Veli-Matti Järvenpää's ensemble Paratiisin pojat (see photo). Earthy blues performed by Wentus Blues Band and Eero Raittinen and Noisy Kinda Men, and others. The event is organised by Viapori Forum ry. Tickets from Lippupiste, tel. 0600 900 900 (1.75 e/min + local network charge). See www.viapori.fi/winterblues

11–13 April: Easter on Suomenlinna

The Easter traditions are honoured in Suomenlinna. The Family Mass on Palm Sunday begins in Suomenlinna Church at 2 pm. The church's exhibition of Easter eggs is open from 6–15 April, from 11.30 am–4 pm. The restaurants in the fortress area serve traditional Easter dishes.

After winter some of the fortress's museums open their doors. You can find out more about the period under Swedish rule at the Ehrensverd Museum. The Suomenlinna Museum has tasks and stories for the whole family. In the Toy Museum there are old toys from the 19th and 20th centuries on display.

12 March–23 April: Public lectures on the fortress's past and present

The series of public lectures is organised by the Ehrensverd Society and the Governing Body of Suomenlinna. The lectures will be held in the Suomenlinna Museum auditorium on Thursdays from 5.15 pm. The ferry leaving the Helsinki Market Square at 4.40 pm will get you there in time. For the subjects of the lectures see www.suomenlinna.fi

1 June–31 August: Daily guided walking tours

11 am and 2 pm in English, 12 noon in Swedish, 1 pm basic tour in Finnish, 3 pm Viapori's cannons and tunnels – a thematic tour in Finnish, see www.suomenlinnatours.com

3–6 June, 2009: 190th Anniversary Festival of the Guards' Band

A new festival, in which brass band versions of military music will resound in the church, drums and fanfares will echo from the towers, a grand picnic concert will entertain you in the sun and the festival soloists will delight you at a club evening. For information, see www.kaartinsoitokunta.fi

9 June–8 August: The Secret of the Enchanted Vault

An adventure tour based on history, that takes children and their parents on a time journey into Viapori. Tues, Wed, Thu and Sat at 12 and 3 pm in

Finnish, Fri at 12 in Swedish, (except 19–21 June), tickets from Lippupalvelu.

13–14 June: Les Lumières – A Cultural Festival of the Enlightenment and an Historic Military Camp

Les Lumières gives an insight for all into the lighter side of 18th century life, as well as the music and customs of the time. See www.historiapai-va.fi

At the military camp of the Society of Military History in Finland, the public can experience what 18th century camp life was like for a soldier and follow historic battles staged during the weekend.

10 June: Siniväriset, première, Suomenlinna Summer Theatre

Q-theatre will perform a play produced in Finland (in Finnish), directed by Heidi Räsänen. In the main roles you will see Laura Birn, Elena Leeve, Taisto Oksanen and Wanda Dubiel. For information see www.q-teatteri.fi



Minun pohjoiseni -exhibition, photo Rune Snellman

Spring events

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| 27–28.2 | Viapori Winter Blues |
| 11–13.4 | Easter at Suomenlinna |
| 12.3–23.4 | Series of public lectures |
| 1.6–31.8 | Daily guided walking tours |
| 3–6.6 | 190th Anniversary Festival of the Guards' Band |
| 9.6–8.8 | The Secret of the Enchanted Vault – an adventure tour for children |
| 13.6 | MeriViapori Floating Boat Show |
| 13–14.6 | Les Lumières – Cultural Festival of the Enlightenment |
| 13–14.6 | Historic Military Camp |
| From 10.6 | (première) at Suomenlinna Summer Theatre, Noitasota (Witch War) |

Spring exhibitions

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| Until 31.12.2009 | Surrender – C. O. Cronstedt's Darkest Hour in Spring 1808, Suomenlinna Museum |
| From 21.5 | Summer exhibition of the Customs Museum: International activities of the Customs. |
| 29.1–15.2 | TRILOGI(i), Tiiu Kirsipuu - Aime Kuulbusch - Marja-Liisa Mäki-Penttilä, Jetty Barracks Gallery |
| 19.2–8.3 | Inverse Park, Antti-Ville Reinikainen, Jetty Barracks Gallery |
| 12.3–5.4 | My North, Nordic Art Association in Finland, Jetty Barracks Gallery |
| 9.4–3.5 | Soledad Chuaqui - Aulis Harmaala - Maija-Liisa Heinälehto, Jetty Barracks Gallery |
| 7.5–24.5 | Pretend – for Real, 20th anniversary exhibition of the art school of the Artists' Association of Helsinki, Jetty Barracks Gallery |
| 28.5–18.6 | Eerola Marja - Juurinen Jussi - Kontio Kaisa - Korkiakoski Sami, graphic art and paintings, Jetty Barracks Gallery |



Viapori Winter Blues, photo of Paratiisin pojat by Timo Kirves



SUOMENLINNA VISITOR CENTRE

Open daily from 1 October–30 April
10 am–4 pm (closed on 10 April),
2 May–30 September daily from 10 am–6 pm
Governing Body of Suomenlinna,
Suomenlinna C 74, 00190 Helsinki
Tourist information, tel. +358 (0)9 684 1880, info@suomenlinna.fi, www.suomenlinna.fi

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