

## MADE BY LOCALS



## ACT LIKE A LOCAL

### BE LIKE A LOCAL!

Welcome to Oulu, the biggest city in Northern Finland and one of the **youngest populations** in Europe. Once upon a time Oulu tried to brand itself as the "the capital of Northern Scandinavia", which sparked debate and amusement since we aren't even part of Scandinavia. We are one of the Nordic countries, sharing a lot of cultural influence and similar societies.

### Firms are known for **shyness or their quietness**.

We avoid eye contact with strangers, keep our personal space and walk past on the sidewalk without greeting or smiling and are surprised when someone does it to us. Don't worry though, we'll help a stranger in need of directions for example, so you can walk up to us and ask. Most Firms are fluent in English. We have been likened to cocomrins in a sense that it's difficult to get through the tough exterior, but once you're friends, they'll show the sweet side inside. You're now stuck with the Finnish friend for life.

Our culture has taught us to not publicly brag or come off as arrogant when accepting compliments or attention, which has resulted in us being excited anytime Finland is acknowledged or mentioned anywhere. We keep being surprised every year our country has been declared the **happiest one in the world**. We think it has more to do with being content with what we have, clean nature, safety and security and *monnally arvokas* value of Finnish conditions

### 1 WHERE RIVER AND SEA MEET



The **Island of Kiskell** is one the best parks to watch sunsets, and during summer the nights are light 24/7. Here and the nearby marketplace piers are some of the places where a lot of Oulians gather to enjoy their drinks and "pussikalla". You might need a sweater or a jacket for late night outings in the dark or when coastal winds decide to pick up.

### 2 HERE THERE BE DRAMA



Some of Oulu's best real estate is occupied by one of its most beloved bourgeois structures. **The theatre** hosts many different festivals, plays, musicals and other performance arts. The theater also hosts large events, public and private. Check out the restaurant upstairs for one of the best views of the delta and some of the most mediocre food you will ever eat. It also serves as a shelter for the city's youth as the primary destination to ingest alcohol and narcotics.

### 3 TORILLE TO THE MARKETPLACE!

"**Kauppa**halli" has everything a market hall needs: cafés, a lovely lunch place, fresh and local food ingredients and handmade design art and jewelry and souvenirs. A shout out to the tourist memorabilia shop there, as their products are good quality and often useful. Here you can find local and seasonal food produce and products. One of Oulu's most popular photo spots is Toripoliti, who keeps a watchful eye on the marketplace. You can hang out there by yourself or with friends and enjoy the day and all establishments by the water." *Open: Mon-Fri 08-18, Sat 8-16*



### LOCAL TIP!

### 4 CAFFEINE TREASURE TROVE

Located inside of one of Oulu's historic "aita" or storehouses in English, those over 180cm will have to duck to enter the door and more such stores can be found in the marketplace. **Kofeinkomppania** sells a diverse Finnish and imported selection of coffees, teas and herbs. The staff are friendly and knowledgeable. *Open: Mon-Fri 11-18, Sat 10:30-16*

### 5 NAME-SAKE RESTAURANT FOR FOODIES

**Ravintola Toripoliti** is a gastropub that uses mainly local ingredients. Prices aren't exactly budget friendly, but you'll get the freshest products from seasonal menu possible. Perfect for occasional celebrations and highlights, make sure to secure reservations during the busiest times, such as holidays. *Open: Mon-Thu 16-22, Fri 16-23, Sat 14-23, Sun 14-22*

### 6 AROUND THE CORNER

One of the main popular gathering spots for locals, **Kuluma** (meaning corner in Oulu dialect) is located in the heart of the city near Kauppaori, offers a wide selection of cocktails and beers. The bartenders are highly trained to provide incredible service and experience. An interesting detail is that if you ask the bartender for a drink based on your appearance,

### 9 LOVE LETTER TO BURGERS

A wonderful snapshot at the heart of Oulu's culinary scene. A crowd favorite for finer diners and late-night munchies alike, **Kauppuri 5** menu offers burgers piled high with delicious toppings as well as salads, loaded fries and a drinks selection that reflects local taste. The ambience inside is intimate and there will likely be heavy metal blaring. We recommend the *ladu porttu* a.k.a loaded french fries. If you are feeling brave, you can ask about their burger challenge. If you can finish 5 burgers in an hour, the meal is free and you get your picture on the wall!

### 10 K-20 PARTY VAULT

*Open: Sun-Thu 11-24, Fri-Sat 11-02:00*

**Kaalenhov** (Kaale's vault, often shortened to Kaale) is a two-story bar with a nightclub upstairs known as Jumpu. Jumpu is an excellent choice if you want to enjoy a local-style party until 4 am. Like many students do, The bar has a very pleasant atmosphere for a night of drinks. During the summer, they have a patio where you can enjoy drinks with friends. In general, it's always crowded, and you may have to wait in line a bit. *Open: Jumpu Mon-Sun 14-04:30 and Kaalenhov Wed-Thu 24-04:30 Fri-Sun (and student parties) 22-04:30*

### 11 LOOKING FOR THIS HOLY GRAIL?

If you are looking for a lovely place, **Graali** has a very special atmosphere with a unique and rustic design. They have a fireplace and a smoking area inside the pub, which makes it really comfortable. Their variety of local beers is quite good, and their whiskeys are of very high quality, not to mention their cocktails. The staff is very friendly and always willing to offer excellent recommendations. Coming to Graali is always a good choice. *Open: Sun-Tue 14-02:00 Wed-Thu 14-03:00, Sat-Sun 14-04:00*

### 12 DA ITALIAN PIZZERIA

**Da Mario** is an Oulu institution and the oldest pizzeria in the city. Home to a cool fish tank and one of Oulu's best salad bars. Ask for the *känkkä*, an Ouluan pizza delicacy. *Open: Mon-Tue 10:30-22, Wed-Sat 10:30-4:30 Sun 12-4:30*

### 13 COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO

**Rooster** is located in the restored Jugendstil Sarranholma building, preserving architecture from 1900 to this day. It's a pub, restaurant and a cafe all rolled into one, rooster is famous for their quality burgers and salads. Street level restaurant is brightly lit and rustic, whereas the downstairs pub is designed to be warm in color. Check out their taps for local craft beers and wine selection. *Open: Mon-Tue 10:30-21, Wed-Thu 10:30-22 Fri 10:30-23, Sat 12-23*

### 14 ETHICAL NORDIC FASHION



Want to find many different Finnish fashion brands? *monnally arvokas* in *Wana*

### 18 #1 IN OUR HEARTS



### 19 FRIENDLY RE RECORD STORE

**#45 Special** is the oldest rock club in Oulu and often regarded as one of the best nightclubs in Oulu. Also serves gastropub style of food. This three-story bar/club features different resident DJs, each with unique styles that make the night special. You'll find an amazing atmosphere here, perfect for a night out, enjoying drinks with friends, or indulging in great live music. Check out the schedule for shows, gigs and stand-up comedy from the website [www.45special.com](http://www.45special.com).

Last of its kind in Oul record store is basic for all local teenage Perfect place to grab or finally purchase it but haven't bothere streaming it has been physical media of yo is a different kind of





which has resulted in us being excited anytime Finland is acknowledged or mentioned anywhere. We keep being surprised every year our country has been declared the **happiest one in the world**. We think it has more to do with being content with what we have, clean nature, safety and security and generally good value of living conditions.

Anytime of the year, but especially in the summer, we go to our summer cottages and spend vacation times **outside of the city**. Juhannus (Midsummer) is one of the biggest festivities, but during that time visitors will find our cities empty of people.

Oulu is located right by the seashore and you can expect it to be windy. The weather likes to be unpredictable, so it's good to be prepared by **dressing in several layers**. Many of us have learned this the hard way and some simply don't comply as it messes with our style. Condolences to all the hairstyles that have been messed up by our coastal winds blowing from all four directions.

Trying a traditional wooden heated sauna is highly recommended, as the electric ones just don't give the same experience, if you want to fit in the Finnish culture, **go into a sauna** and try ice swimming or rolling in the snow in the winter will really impress us and make you look badass. It's an ancient practice to us and not weird at all! Sauna is the one place where Finns can truly relax and are open to small talk.



## TALK LIKE A LOCAL!

We're impressed if someone wants to learn our language, but switch to talking in English pretty fast to make it easier for visitors. Spoken Finnish is different from textbook Finnish, which no-one speaks.

Oulu has its own dialect and we shorten our words a lot. Small talk isn't really part of the culture to just fill the space, so when we ask how things are we mean it and are interested in hearing the answer.

We don't make empty promises either and generally may talk quite straight and bluntly. Silence isn't awkward to us and is a basic sight in bus stops and elevators. Sweating isn't considered as rude in Finland as in many other countries, so sometimes we say them in a conversation quite easily. It's kind of a way to show we're comfortable around you if we feel like you won't get offended. We'd definitely still avoid it with an older or more official company.

## EAT LIKE A LOCAL!

Arctic Food Lab is a programme that brings together those operating in gastronomy and food culture in the Oulu region. Discover the northern cuisine made with local know-how into high-quality products and services. Arctic Food Lab wants to offer locals and international guests experiences that cannot be found anywhere else.

**Kuurna** (meaning corner in Oulu dialect) is located in the heart of the city near Kaupatori,

offers a wide selection of cocktails and beers. The bartenders are highly trained to provide incredible service and experience. An interesting detail is that if you ask the bartender for a drink based on your appearance,

they'll prepare an original cocktail—highly recommended! Additionally, their Rammstein cocktail is one of their specialties and comes with a small show. It's the perfect pub to sit on the terrace in the summer or enjoy the great atmosphere inside.  
*Open: Sun- Thu 11-03:00, Fri- Sat 11-04:00*

## 7 MON CHOU MINCH

A lovely little French bakery with fresh handmade pastries daily. Easily the best croissants in town. The buttery goodness will take you to a different time and place. The owner is French and makes all products in-house.  
*Open: Tue-Fri 8-18, (Thu 10-18), Sat 10-17*

## 8 HOUSE OF CULTURE



"The local cultural center **Valve** has many things to offer throughout the year. Everything from an art house movie theatre to a famous comic book store, the only one in Oulu. There's free exhibits, theater, a comfy café to hang out in, dance studios and other spaces to rent along with the numerous festivals and events that you can find. Be sure to check out what Valve has going on from the front desk or seasonal pamphlet! The cultural center is on a summer break and closed during July!"  
*Open: Mon-Sun 8-22*



SARA

## LOCAL TIP!

*Open: Mon- Tue 10:30-21, Wed- Thu 10:30-22, Fri 10:30-23, Sat 12-23*

## 14 ETHICAL NORDIC FASHION



Want to find many different Finnish design brands under one roof? In **Kure**, you'll find a feast for your eyes, with a wide selection to choose from! Handcrafted from quality materials, you can trust the products to last a long time in use. The staff can help you as well by telling more about the individual designers and artists featured in the store.  
*Open: Mon- Fri 11-19, Sat 11-17*

## 15 BOWL OF HAPPINESS

Sometimes you need an authentic bowl of ramen to warm you up and **Nekosama** has you in for quite the treat. The Japanese restaurant in Pekuri patio not only has ramen but rice dishes and delicious sides you'll want to have again.  
*Open: Mon- Thu 11-18, Fri 11-19, Sat 12-18*

## 16 BELOVED SNACK

Named after a beloved Bangladeshi snack, **Fuchka** is Finland's only Bangladeshi restaurant at the time of writing. Enjoy delicate flavors with a subtle kick. Highly recommend omelet and **fuchka** plates.  
*Open: Mon- Fri 10-21, Sat - Sun 11-21*

## 17 LATE NIGHT LIFESAVER

Pizza place **Nine** is open until small hours every day and night. Prices are cheap. Pizzas are good and service friendly. Perfect after bar.  
*Open: Mon-Sun 16-4:30*

style of food. This three-story bar/club features different resident DJs, each with unique styles that make the night special. You'll find an amazing atmosphere here, perfect for a night out, enjoying drinks with friends, or indulging in great live music. Check out the schedule for shows, gigs and stand-up comedy from the website [www.45special.com](http://www.45special.com).  
*Open: Fri-Sat 19-04:30*

# EVENT CALENDAR

JANUARY	JULY
National Hangover Day Tervahillo	Ostok music festival Bättre folk- festival in Halluoto
FEBRUARY	AUGUST
Perkkant (High school graduation and party in trucks around the city) Talvikylä (Winter village) Polar Bear pitching	Oulu August festivals Air guitar world championship Oulu night of Arts and Flow prod. International Grand Market Pride-week
MARCH	SEPTEMBER
Finns winter holiday, primetime winter sport season <b>APRIL</b> Easter and on Palm Sunday Finnish kids dress as witches Birdswatching when migratory birds arrive	The Irish festival of Oulu Oulun päivät- festival Kekri (Karelian harvest festival that continues until November)
MAY	OCTOBER
Vappu (May Day) Talviturkin heitto ("throwing the winterfur" first swim of the summer)	Halluoto Silkamarkkinat Halloween is celebrated but trick treating isn't a common practice
JUNE	NOVEMBER
Juhannus (Midsummer) and polar nights Vectorama Rotuaari Piknik music and culture festival	Lumo Light festival Tierna boys perform until Christmas
DECEMBER	DECEMBER
	Pikkujoulut (Lil' Xmas), Joulutontit (Independence Day is on 6.12)





**HEARTS**

oldest rock club in Oulu and often regarded nightclubs in Oulu. Also serves gastropub three-story bar/club features different with unique styles that make the night special, zing atmosphere here, perfect for a night out, th friends, or indulging in great live music. edule for shows, gigs and stand-up comedy. [www.45special.com](http://www.45special.com).

### 19 FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD RECORD STORE

Last of its kind in Oulu. **Lennykauppa** Ax record store is basically sacred grounds for all local teenage metalheads. Perfect place to grab a souvenir, or finally purchase that album you like but haven't bothered to buy because streaming it has been so easy. Physical media of your favourite music is a different kind of special memento.

### 20 MALT CELLAR FOR BEER HIPSTERS

Must stop for beer lovers. **Mallaskelari** has a great selection of beers from small breweries all around Finland. The weirdier the name, the more interesting the experience. Another of their attractions are retro video games and a summer terrace. This isn't a cheap bar, but it's worth its price.

### 21 AFTERWORK DRINKING GAMES

Located in the heart of Rotuaari with over 30 beers on tap, **Leskinen Pub** is a beer lovers paradise. Not only are local breweries like Naliko and Somnisaari represented, they offer a seasonal selection of beers, wines, liquors and spirits from all over the world. Oktoberfest-themed week and a cabinet of rarer bottles offers visitors a diverse experience. A comfortable vibe inside is contrasted by a patio in the front that allows for some of the spiciest people-watching that Oulu has to offer. It's suspected the founders of this bar didn't want the bar to be named after another English word, so they chose to use a famous Finnish musician, Juice Leskinen's name. It's unknown if the man himself ever visited the pub.

### 22 BELLETOILE MEETS WITH LOVE

**Café Pustola** brings Central-European-inspired sweet and savory pastries, cakes and sandwiches or breakfast to sample from. With their own bakery and connecting restaurant, we recommend taking time to enjoy the cozy atmosphere and high-quality menu. The century-old building has hosted many skilled bakers and chefs over the years, and the professional staff can give recommendations and talk more about the ingredients. In 2015, Pustola was granted the shield of the international gastronomy organization La Confrérie de la Châlière des Rotisseurs Finland, which is the highest recognition for a restaurant to receive in Finland. Open: Tue-Fri 9-22, Fri 9-23, Sat 10-23

### 23 DISCOTHEQUES FOR SHOPPERS

The go-to, and only, shopping mall is **Valkea** in Oulu city center. It harbours multiple basic clothing stores, restaurants and cafés, and the only book shop in Oulu. On the street level of the mall you can stop here to warm up during winter or duck for cover during rain. You'll also likely find drunk people drinking or sleeping here at any hour of the day. Open: Mon-Fri 9-20, Sat 9-19, Sun 11-18

### 24 BUBBLES MEET WITH LOVE

**More Tea** founded the bubble tea trend in Finland and wants to bring the culture to a wider audience in the country. They pride themselves by serving high-quality ingredients and creating classic, new and delicious recipes. The menu offers fruit teas and coffees as well. You'll get an authentic bubble tea experience with skillful staff, who value the satisfaction of the customer. Open: Mon-Fri 11-18, Sat 12-18, Sun 13-17

### 25 WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?

Did you get hungry during a long night out? Don't worry! The always trustworthy **Nakkikiekkari** serves hotdogs and meat pies around the year from their charming food truck usually in the Otto Karhi park (Lekkunpusto). Firms joke that fistfights usually break out in drunken late night hotdog lines. Open: Wed-Thru 17-24, Fri-Sat 20-03:00

### 27 SWEET TOOTH @ THE CENTRAL PARK

**Makia** is a modern and cozy café located in Otto Karhi park, which is also the central park in the city center. It's also known as Lekkunpusto among locals ("those park", as the city's first fire station used to be there) and before Makia, the grill kiosk was a popular hangout spot. Now Makia also serves breakfast, lunch and during summer sitting on the patio and listening to music from nearby Rotuaari liva doesn't get old, ever. Open: Mon-Fri 7:30-19, Sat-Sun 9-19

### 27 IRISH VIBES IN THE NORTH

**St. Michael's** is a comfortable Irish pub in Oulu's city center with a classic feeling of coziness. We also shorten the name to "Malkieir". Located in front of Otto Karhi park, the pub's wide selection of whiskey and scotch will keep fermented wheat enthusiasts busy for hours at a time. Ask the bar staff about live music and other cultural events. There's an Irish cultural festival in Oulu at the end of September and St. Michael

### 28 GREEN TINGS FROM THE HORN OF AFRICA

"This new corner on the Oulu food scene has placed itself in a league of its own as Oulu's first East African eatery. **Mesob** offers dishes from Eritrea and Ethiopia, the friendly family-run staff are happy to answer any questions about the menu that you may have. Make sure to make reservation as they have limited opening hours. Plates are meant to be shared with delicious fermented injera, a spongy pancake made from teff. The creative menu also offers vegan inspired creations that reflect a unique expression of modern arctic cuisine". Open: Fri-Sat 17-22

### 29 YE OLDE BAR

The oldest bar in Oulu, **Sarkka** went through notable changes when it was sold to new owners, but Sarkka's over-80-years-long past as a sailor bar can still be felt there. Around the corner is an iconic graffiti that depicts the words "pska kaupunki" ("shit city") Many anonymous artists have remade the graffiti with their own versions since the 80's. Open: Mon-Thru 1:00-02:00, Fri 1:00-03:00, Sat 9:00-03:00, Sun 9:00-02:00

### 30 NIGHT SJP AT THE LGBTQ+ CLUB

**Yohukka** nightclub opens its doors on Fridays and Saturdays at 10pm, when you can party until 5 in the morning. It's a nightclub for modern adults and night owls, that's how this club identifies itself. Members of the queer community like to party here and in Snooker time (spot #33). On the first floor, you'll find small karaoke booths, pool tables, an indoor smoking area, and a great atmosphere! Downstairs, you'll find the main floor and a small karaoke room for an entertaining night out! Open: Fri-Sat 22-05:00

### 31 GAME ON!

**Pelipunkeri Magazine** has anything you want for an action filled day with friends! They host a laser tag maze, arcade hall with many classics and sell snacks when you need a break. If you want to try escape rooms as well, head to Exit Oulu on Uusikatu, which is right next to spot 29! Open: Mon-Thru 14-21, Fri 13-21, Sat 12-21, Sun 11-19

### 32 EVERYONE'S A PEARL

**Helmi** is a bar with a little something for everyone. The beer is poured cold and for a fair price. Upstairs it is a typical bar with lotto machines and a sheltered smoking area. Downstairs, there is world-class karaoke that can go on the whole night! Make sure to download the app to get your proper place in line. The bar has a comforting dive vibe that tells you that you can indeed hit the high note and the karaoke stage is defro the highlight of this spot. Karaoke is an important part of the bar scene here in Finland. Open: Mon-Sun 12-04:00

### 33 I SPY GOOD TIMES

**Snooker time** is a local bar with pool tables and many cultural events. It is a watering hole for the alternative scene of the city. Many people would argue that it is the real "gay bar" of Oulu. They have cheap beer and live music, poetry readings and other events that are sure to entice any visitor.



EVAN



three-story bar/club features different unique styles that make the night special, offering atmosphere here, perfect for a night out, with friends, or indulging in great live music. [www.45special.com](http://www.45special.com).

Perfect place to grab a souvenir, or finally purchase that album you like but haven't bothered to buy because streaming it has been so easy. Physical media of your favourite music is a different kind of special memento.   
*Open: Tue-Fri 11-18, Sat 11-16*

# EVENT CALENDAR

JULY	
Over Day	Osloek music festival Bättre folk- festival in Hailuoto
AUGUST	
1	Oulu August festivals Air guitar world championship Oulu night of Arts and Flow productions International Grand Market Pride-week
2	hilday, primetime
3	ason
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5	halm Sunday- Finnish kids when migratory birds arrive
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The weirder the name, the more interesting the experience. Another of their attractions are retro video games and a summer terrace. This isn't a cheap bar, but it's worth its price.   
*Open: Tue-Thu 16-00:30, Fri-Sat 14-02:00*



A controversial vine name is contradicted by a patron in the town that Oulu has to offer. It's suspected the founders of this bar didn't want the bar to be named after another English word, so they chose to use a famous Finnish musician, Juice Leskinen's name. It's unknown if the man himself ever visited the pub.   
*Open: Sun-Thu 12-02:00, Fri-Sat 12-03:00*

## PRACTICAL INFO



You can travel to and from Oulu by train by booking tickets from national railway service. **VR** There is an extensive bike network throughout Oulu and connecting areas, that give you diverse routes to explore the city. You can rent one of the available electric scooter services or during summer months or try the Pornapekka city train for a tour around the city. Bike taxi rickshaw also operates during summer months, book a fun and environmentally friendly ride at [www.biketaxi.fi](http://www.biketaxi.fi).

Oulu is great for biking, but notorious for bike thieves. Make sure to lock them twice. The cars give way for pedestrians and bikers, and generally Finns follow traffic rules diligently. Buses are usually punctual and the custom is to greet the driver and thank them when exiting, saying **"kiitos"** (thank you) or just waving bye when stepping outside. Public transportation offers day tickets and has discounts for example for students, which you can check at either the website [www.osli.fi/en/](http://www.osli.fi/en/) or download the mobile app. It's possible to pay the fare with your card too.

Usually people pay with cards (Visa, Visa Electron, American Express, Mastercard and also Diner's Club, Credit and Debit). Cash is still accepted, but decreasingly. It's good to check first and most Finns use Mobilepay app for digital paying alongside with cards when cash is not possible. Cash can be withdrawn from ATMs marked **OTTO** or **NOSTO**, which are around the city centre, adjacent to banks and in most supermarkets across the country. Shops are mostly open during holidays and on working days many of them close by 20:00. Oulu's only 24/7-S-market store is located in Turja, north side of the river over the dam.

Finnish public restrooms in the cities are modern, cleaned regularly and handicap-friendly. Most of them can be found in department stores, cafés and bars around the city centre, though sometimes they may charge 1€. Some locations that have free restrooms are **Oulu Cathedral**, **Valkea shopping centre**, **Maaneriemipuisto** (park), **Alhola park** (summer only).

**Jokamiehenoikeudet** (the so-called everyman's rights) are guidelines, what is and isn't allowed to be done in Finnish forests and nature. You can for example freely walk, explore and pick berries or mushrooms, but cutting or damaging standing trees, alive or dead is prohibited. Remember to carry insect repellent with you, which you can buy at any supermarket. You'll need sunscreen during summer too. From May to July you can see polar nights in Oulu, when the sun doesn't set below the horizon.

City spots with **wheelchair** symbols have been checked by the local disabled community.

Located in front of Otto Karhi park, the pub's wide selection of whiskey and scotch will keep fermented wheat enthusiasts busy for hours at a time. Ask the bar staff about live music and other cultural events. There is an Irish cultural festival in Oulu at the end of September and St. Michael figures prominently.   
*Open: Mon-Sun 12-02:00*

## TOURIST INFO



You can also find more info, grab a city guide and buy tickets to some events at Oulu market hall, Kaupatori 1   
*Open Mon-Fri 9-17 (summer times differ)  
Opening times for tourist office can be checked in <https://visitouli.fi>*

Oulu 10, Torikatu 10 A.   
*Mon-Thu 10-17 and Fri 10-16, Sat-Sun closed.  
(Check venue tickets from R-kioski in the city and [www.ticketmaster.fi](http://www.ticketmaster.fi), [www.lippu.fi](http://www.lippu.fi) or [www.tiketti.fi](http://www.tiketti.fi))*



You can rent a bike from tourist info! Available times are 10€ for 3h or 20€ for 24h for a bike, and a helmet is included in the price. Payment with cash or card to the **Tourist info**. Maps and brochures of Oulu available on weekdays 8-18 and Saturdays 8-16, while **Market Hall** is open. There you can receive practical info on things to do, eat and visit in the city. The office also has a gift shop of Oulu and Toripolliis- inspired merchandise including postcards, mugs, soaps, handmade ceramics, magnets and reflectors.

The national emergency number is **112**. You can ask for lost items at the city's lost & found office. Oulu city also offers free wifi names **panOulu**, that reaches the center area. You can also see concerts or chamber music events for free all throughout the year, check dates and locations in [www.ouliinfo.fi/en/](http://www.ouliinfo.fi/en/). For all events in the city and surrounding area, you can check them at [tapahtumatunnusouli.fi/en-FI](http://tapahtumatunnusouli.fi/en-FI).

### AFFORDABLE HOSTELS OR HOTELS AROUND THE CITY:



- A** **Nailikari Aalto**, wheelchair accessible, Leiritie 10, 90510 Oulu, [reception@nailikari.fi](mailto:reception@nailikari.fi), +358447031353
- B** **Oulu Hostel Café Huvila**, Panimotie 1, 90520 Oulu [info@hostelhuvila.com](mailto:info@hostelhuvila.com), +358503535667
- C** **Pikasaari guesthouse Tunusen Saha**, Pikasaarentie 10 90100, [info@tunusensaha.fi](mailto:info@tunusensaha.fi), they offer Bed & breakfast, +358449720031
- D** **Oulu Hostel Ailimaria**, wheelchair accessible, Ailitie 1, 90150 Oulu, [info@ouluhostels.fi](mailto:info@ouluhostels.fi), +358 50 552 8365, +358 50 592 3696



**Fantasiapelit** offers what every nerd needs.

Open: Mon-Fri 12-18, Sat 10-16

**Taltoshop** is conveniently located right next to

wooden decorations or kitchen tools

from Finnish designers.

Small art exhibition Rännigalleria is maintained

for a sneak peek into the local art scene

Affectionately called "Oulu's Riviera", the Naikkari beach

camping grounds, Hotel Aalto and rentable cabins

booking reservations in advance.

sections, woodlands and grasslands.



located in **Meri-Tonnilla** outside of the city center

over the sea and civilian harbour

## Ravintola Mallassauna in Pikisaari is Hailuoto

workshops and other events.

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like nudity.

Open: Mon-Fri 6:15-22, Sat-Sun 8-2

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is a popular picnic spot, especially during the

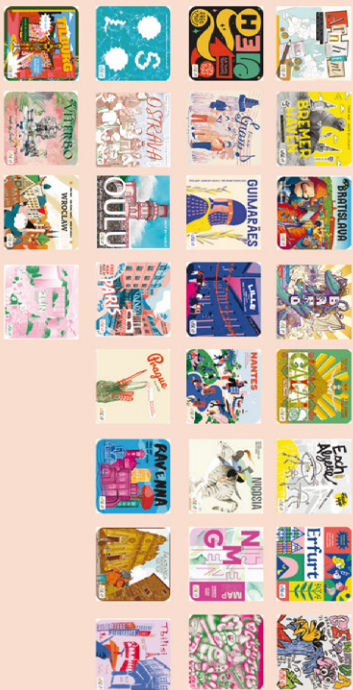




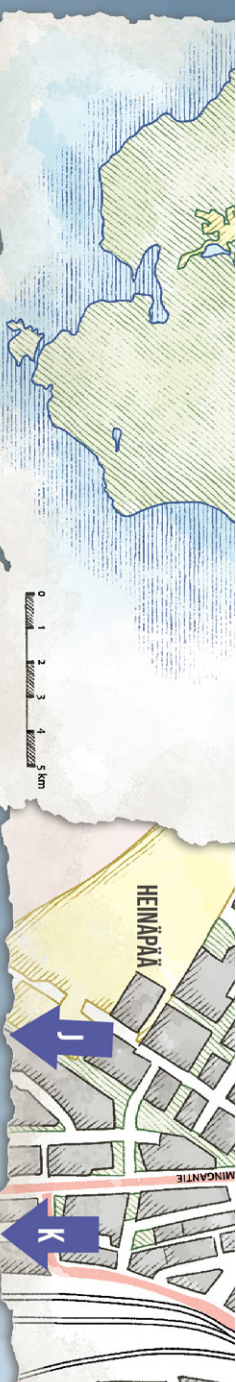
**LOCAL TIP!** Go grab a local specialty tar ice cream and enjoy the view in the tower or visit the old dungeon, which has a small exhibition about the building's history. (Open only during summer from May to September)  
 Open: Mon-Thu 11-21, Fri 11-24, Sat 11-22, Sun 11-19  
 and outdoor garden Mon-Sun 8-20

## WWW.USE-IT.TRAVEL

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### 45 MULTICULTURAL STREET

In **Merikoski** street many foreigners have set up their own shops, specialising in imported and ethnic products that otherwise would be difficult to find in Finland. Check out the nearby Tuira park in summer, when rhododendros are blooming.

### 48 SOME LOCAL PUB

Charmingly normal, yet personally little **Joku Palkkainen Publi** (shortened to JPP) in Tuira has reasonable prices, tasty roast, karaoke and sports. Also darts. Every Thursday there's discounts as a local thirsty orchestra visits there often that night.  
 Open: Mon-Thu 18-02:00, Fri-Sat 16-03:00, Sun 16-02:00

### 46 KEBAB CHAMPION

A long-time resident in Tuira, **Hadia** is a small *kärrky* restaurant that gives the biggest kebab portions with their delicious house sauce. The sizes can last for days even for a big appetite, often hailed as the best kebab spot in the city and if you ask customers, maybe even in the whole country.  
 Open: Mon-Sun 17-02:00

### 49 STARGAZING

"Looking for some recent movies with good seats to get comfy in? The local **Star** in Tuira has quite the selection for you! Good audio and seats are basically guaranteed with the intimate auditoriums. The family-owned business founded in 1938 is known as the best choice to go see movies in Oulu. They have the latest movies, allow customers to bring their own snacks, and their movie sounds are mixed in a more ear-friendly way than in the other movie theater. Only the kid's movies are dubbed in Finnish, and the rest of the movies are subtitled in Finnish and Swedish!"

### 47 TALENTS IN THE CULTURE BASE

Formerly a city-owned maintenance hall, it's nowadays a nonprofit culture space and has gained graffiti decorating its walls. For a traveler, **Tukikohta** offers mostly art exhibitions and concerts. Go check their Instagram @tukikohta\_oulu for any events.  
 Open: 24/7

### 50 FLOATING SAUNA AND ICE SWIMMING

Built on a small raft, Saunalautta offers a peaceful break from reality in a relaxed atmosphere next to the Tuira beach. Workers there are volunteers and Saunalautta has been ever popular since it was opened in 2014. Remember to take your own towel and swimsuit there. (Open only in summer 1.5 to 30.9). There's a public sauna building for winter and ice swimming next to the beach. On your way or from the beach you can see the scenic dam bridge. Gates are usually opened after a rain so you can see water being released downstream into the sea.

### 52 ART MUSEUM

**Oulun Taidemuseo** is located in the former office building of a former le. The inside of the building has adapted creatively for different features mainly contemporary art. The Oulu and Northern Ostrobothnia Museum also sometimes has guest galleries on online chat. The museum also sometimes has chamber music performance. Remember to ask about disc buying a ticket. Opening times between summer and winter.  
 Open: Tue-Fri 9-19, Sat-Sun 12-18

### 53 ARTISAN PIZZA AND

The interior design of **Tuba** is one of the coziest Oulu can offer. From the recycled furniture, decorations to coffee mugs, during lunch time since the their buffet and the menu a vegan options. It offers Seas is a popular place for shows. Check their upcoming gigs! Open: Tue 10:30-18 Wed 12-18 Fri 10:30-21:30 (24h), Sat 12-



LOCAL TIP!





# 5 MINUTES OF HISTORY

During the **Stone Age**, Oulu was largely uninhabited because the last Ice Age (not the movie franchise!) had geologically speaking ended recently.

Sometime in the **Bronze Age**, the first people started inhabiting the region. No permanent settlement, mostly nomads and hunter-gatherer-fishers and wanderers who decided to stay here, for some reason.

By the **Iron Age**, more people started finding this area, such as hunters, but they haven't left many settlements behind.

During the **12th century**, some people from Lake Laitokki started to pass by the area that would eventually be known as Oulu.

The word Oulu comes from Sami language meaning floodwater, due to the river delta area.

In **14th century**, Oulu belonged to Novgorod, according to the Treaty of Nöteborg, but Sweden still sorta acted like they owned Oulu and 1373 they built a bigger version of Oulu castle.

By **1595** Russia was done with Sweden, and said "fine, whatever, Oulu is yours" (we paraphrased).

In **1605** The king of Sweden ordered that there should be a city, so they made one.

In **1610** Oulu received its own city rights, which allowed tradespeople to open businesses. Oulu sold mostly fur, salmon and wood. (The salmon also made it into the Oulu coat of arms). However, Oulu was not allowed to sell anything outside the Kingdom of Sweden until **1765**.

During the **18th century** Oulu burned twice by accident (1705) and once by russians (1715).

During colonialization Oulu got rich by selling tar to the ship-building industry.

The Oulu Cathedral was built in **1777**.

The little that was left of Oulu castle was lost when a lightning hit castle's gunpowder storage in **1793**. Finland, Oulu included, was given to imperial Russia after another war between them and Sweden in **1809**. It was okay times with relative autonomy for Finland until it eventually wasn't.

In the **19th century**, Oulu developed industry that wasn't dependant of fur trade and started to join the modern world. The railroad was built in Oulu in **1886**.

Another big fire was in **1916**. In total, Oulu had to burn down ten times during its history before the first fire brigade was formed.

As being part of imperial Russia wasn't fun anymore, Finland decided to declare independence in **1917**, when Russia was busy with its own issues. However, Finns didn't agree on how Finland should be run so they started a civil war (1918) between the Reds (working class) and Whites (the bourgeoisie). Whites won.

During Winter and Continuation War in **1939-1940**, Oulu got bombed 7 times, hosted over 4000 German soldiers, and got good money out of them (yikes, say no to war profiteering kids).

In **1954** hydroelectric power plant in Merikoski was finished and in **1958** Oulu University was opened at a swamp.

Oulu got the first science park in the Nordic countries in **1964**, teknologialyö. Around that time, Oulu got nickname of "The Silicon Valley of the North".

Oulu opened a free Wi-Fi to the public called panOulu, which is still used to this day. In **2003**,

**2008** there was the next big recession taking even more jobs and ended the Nokia boom.

In **2013** Oulu, Haukipudas, Yli-Ii, Kivimäki and Oulunsalo merged together into one really big Oulu municipality.

In **2021**, Oulu was chosen to be the Cultural Capital of Europe in **2026**.

## SECOND HAND STORES IN OULU

**E** SMILK, Kaupunkienkatu 10  
Mon-Fri 10-18, Sat 10-17

**F** SININEN PYSÄKKI, Saarisalonkatu 18  
Tue-Sat 10-16

**G** KIRPPAILLA.FI, Kirkkokatu 4  
Mon-Fri 10-18, Sat 10-17, Sun 12-16

**H** DOM SECOND HAND, Asemankatu 6 2nd floor

**I** KIERTOKAARI, Ruskonitienkatu 10  
Mon-Fri 7-20, Sat 9:30-16

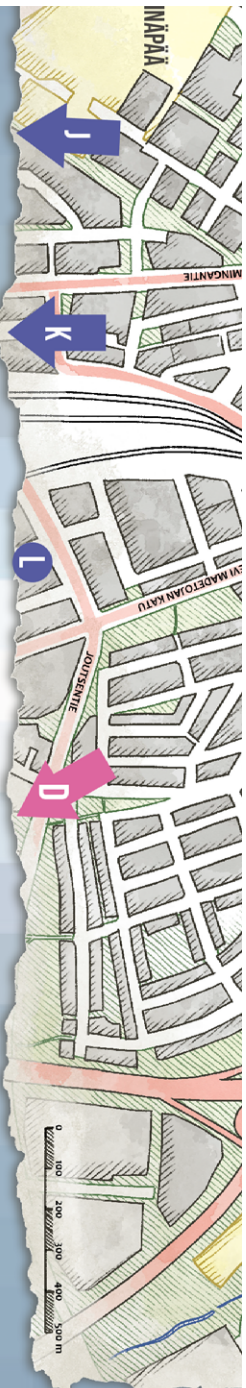
**J** KIERÄTYSKESKUS LIME, Jääsälöntie 16-18  
Mon-Fri 9-18, Sat 10-15

**K** KONTTII, Tynäväntie 14  
Mon-Fri 9-17, Sat-Sun 11-17

**L** PALIKIRPPIS, Paljette 12  
Mon-Fri 10-18, Sat-Sun 10-16







## SAUNA AND ICE SWIMMING

[illegible]

## 52 ART MUSEUM

**Quilín Taldemussu** is located in the restored office building of a former leather factory. The inside of the building has been changed and adapted creatively for different exhibitions. It features mainly contemporary art from the Oulu and Northern Ostrobothnia region. Check out their international and guest galleries on online channels. The museum also sometimes hosts free entry chamber music performances in the café area. Remember to ask about discounts before buying a ticket. Opening times differ.

**54 IDYLIC SWING-BY**

**Kanavia Kikku** is located in the middle of Anjola park, right next to the small greenhouses and Central playground. Enjoy the daily changing selection of handmade pastries, drinks, ice cream and other refreshments.

Inside the café you'll be surrounded by an indoor garden, or you can enjoy the summer weather on the patio. The café is open from March to September.

*Open: Mon-Sun 10-20*

One of the oldest cafés in Oulu, the oh-my wooden **Kokuraman kahvila** (birch beech), opened in 1920. Kokuraman is a popular place for gigs and shows, which you can check from their website or facebook page. The resident chef has artistic freedom to create something different every day with seasonal ingredients, so you'll have a gastronomic experience like nowhere else. They also have gluten free and vegan options. Right next to them is the second floating sauna of Oulu, which includes another café inside! You can enjoy a pancake with drinks while chilling

in Raksila, next to the city swimming hall. Surpass yourself with the climbing challenges with different

**Kilpeipurosto Huide** is a climbing park located in Raksila, next to the city swimming hall. Surpass yourself with the climbing challenges with different difficulty levels. See the sky from a higher ground while ziplining between the trees, the park has 150 installations and challenges in total. Whether you're a seasoned climber or a newbie, the staff will help you.

Check out the categories for discount prices.  
*open: Wed-Fri 15.-20, Sat 11.-20*

brewery, where beers are crafted from grown raw materials and are always

**Hailuogu paimou** is Filand's first organic brewery, where beers are crafted from organically grown raw materials and are always preservative and additive free. Local island groundwater is the main ingredient, and they support sustainable practices – powering the brewery with renewable resources. The renowned bar also hosts a pub and a gift shop. Next to it is also the main gift shop of Hailuogu, which sells the island's resident artist handi-crafts.

*Open: Mon-Fri 10-19, Sat 12-21, Sun 13-17*

**59** HOME OF DULL SYMPHONY

**Oulun Musikiteatteri** is Northern Finland's biggest cultural center for music. There are over 60 annual shows and events for all ages, starring Finnish and international artists performing concerts, ballet, stand-up and theater. Finland's only conservative also works and teaches students and artists in this building. Check from Teemu Sympony's website when and where they also have free concerts and shows. Open (with exceptions): Mon-Thu 8-20:30, Fri 8-19:30.

## 62 AFTERMATH OF ICE AGE

**Hailuoguo** is one of the biggest Finnish islands, having emerged from the sea about 1700 years ago. The land is still rising from post-glacial rebound. Home to about 1000 residents, it triples every summer when Finns go there to spend time at summer cottages. Much of the island is protected by nature reserves, but outside of the main road you can find very striking spots and maybe even see the hairy grackling moths of Sleip, deer, and moose! Check out the menu in Luotii hotel restaurant Aava, as they are part of the Arctic food lab.

The free ferry and bus number 59 takes you to the island.

## the city nois

the city noise and bustle? See the northern lights with me in autumn and winter? Call 34/35 and then 38, or write to Kottelinkoski.

## 53 ARTISAN PIZZA AND INDIE GIGS

## 55 AMUSED ARCHIPELAGO

**57** BEST PLACE TO MEET CELEBRITIES

**60 FUN IN HOLLIHAKA PARK**

This large park area is a walking distance away from the city center and has a skatepark, outdoor workout area, legal graffiti walls, playgrounds and kid's traffic park. The surrounding **Hollibaek** park hosts a stage for cultural events people can sign up for and attend for free during summer. Great spot for a picnic, drinks and chilling.

Luotsi hotel's restaurant Aava, as

The free ferry and bus number 59 takes you to the island.



## LOCAL TYPE

