

Introduction to Finland and the Finns

Brief Introduction:

Welcome to the 'Introduction to Finland and the Finns' self-learning package – your gateway to become more familiar with your hosting country and its people. This course equips you with some basic knowledge about Finland as an independent country, Finnish society, landscape and culture.

Course Overview:

The 'Introduction to Finland and the Finns' self-learning package is crafted to enhance your understanding of the Finnish environment and Finns, but at the same time, to give you more perspective as you look at other countries and your own home country.

Wider perspective helps you to observe and understand your environment - in Finland and elsewhere - the meaning of the past in evolution of what we see today and what lies ahead. Whether you meet with Finns or discuss your experience in Finland, you will be able to relate to the Finnish people and share some basic knowledge about Finland as a country.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:

Understand how Finland became the welfare state it is today.

Understand the difference between three geographical areas, the mainland, Lapland and Åland.

Learn a little about the Finnish nature which so, so very important for and beloved by most Finns.

Learn a little about Finnish customs and habits, with a little humor.

Who is this course for?

This course is suitable for learners of all levels, from those who know nothing about Finland to native Finns. No prior knowledge or experience is required.

Course Content:

The course material (several 1-5 minute videos and short texts) is provided on-line and can be viewed at own time. Related to each theme, there are short reflective questions to be answered. The purpose of this entity is to become familiar with the hosting country, its people and the way of life, and, at the same time, to become more aware of one's own background, acknowledging the similarities and appreciating the differences in a non-assessive manner.

Completing the course:

This course is completed by responding the questions at: <https://link.webropolsurveys.com/S/76FCAB6E3BABA8A2>

Assessment and Evaluation:

This course is not graded separately, but a Vaasa University hoodie will be drawn among all those who have completed it.

Required Materials:

Access the course materials online. All needed links are provided below.

Contact Information:

For inquiries, contact tiina.jokinen@uwasa.fi or hanna.turpeinen@uwasa.fi

Registration and Enrollment Information:

No separate registration of enrollment is required.

Duration and Schedule:

This course spans 4 weeks, from 12.8.2024 until 15.9.2024.

Language and Format:

The course is conducted in English. It is a self-learning package allowing maximal flexibility.

Certification:

Upon successful completion, you will receive a certificate of completing this optional on-line course as a part of International Vaasa Summer School program.

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COURSE MATERIAL (REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE VIRTUAL COMPONENT)

1. Creating Finnish welfare: a century of Finland and the Virtanen family.
<https://areena.yle.fi/1-4119080>
2. What is this place? - Åland Islands, Explained
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-kCdI1w8t8>
3. Who are the Sámi?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KrAzlO-3f3o>
4. A guide to Finnish customs and manners
<https://finland.fi/life-society/a-guide-to-finnish-customs-and-manners/>
5. Nature in Finland <https://finland.fi/life-society/nature-in-finland/>

Complete this module and participate in the drawing of a Vaasa University hoodie by answering the questions behind this link: <https://link.webpolsurveys.com/S/76FCAB6E3BABA8A2>

Other/additional material – just in case you are interested

Finland:

- Finland – The Country of Happiness ppt – slides <https://toolbox.finland.fi/life-society/finland-a-basic-presentation/>
- Facts about Finland - A brief overview of Finnish society
[file:///C:/Users/tijo/Downloads/finfo facts en toolbox.pdf](file:///C:/Users/tijo/Downloads/finfo%20facts%20en%20toolbox.pdf)

Åland:

- Åland Islands - Countryball Explained: <https://youtu.be/J-kCdI1w8t8?si=cRLtV8jK2IM5faMw>
- The Åland Island Solution: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFOFrzwmnCc>

The Sámi:

- 3 Days with the Sámi Reindeer People [Swedish Lapland]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Tf2QgcVfk4>
- The Sámi People in Northern Scandinavia <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swQw2kJCFIA>

The Finns:

- Finns Are Weirdos – 10 Weird Things That Are Normal in Finland <https://aleksihimself.com/finns-are-weirdos-10-weird-things-that-are-normal-in-finland/>
- How to Make Friends in Finland: Avoid These 9 BRUTAL Mistakes <https://aleksihimself.com/how-to-make-friends-in-finland-avoid-these-9-common-mistakes/>
- Revealed: 23 surprising things Finns do differently
<https://veryfinnishproblems.com/blogs/news/curiosities-exposed-23-surprising-things-finns-do-differently>
- Surviving 15 Finnish culture shocks: A foreigner's guide
<https://veryfinnishproblems.com/blogs/news/surviving-15-finnish-culture-shocks-a-foreigners-guide>