

# Finland

## What is the Finnish Miracle?

In the 1950s, Finland was a poor, agrarian nation, battered by wars to expel both the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany from their country during WWII. In less than 50 years, Finland became one of the wealthiest and most advanced countries in the world. We will study the role of the storied Finnish education system as we explore the history, business, culture, sights and people of the country Newsweek magazine named “Best in the World” based on education, health, political environment, economic competitiveness, and quality of life. Experience Finland for its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!

## Where will we go?

**Helsinki** – The nation’s capital (pictured above) is a modern European capital with art, culture, nightlife, and shopping.

**Rovaniemi** – At the edge of the Arctic Circle don’t expect darkness even after the sun goes down around 11pm.

**Oulu** – This seaside town is a hub for technology and innovation in Northern Finland.

**Turku** – Finland’s first capital city, the European Union named historic Turku the Cultural Capital of Europe for 2011.

**Stockholm**, Sweden – Finland was part of Sweden for more than 600 years and has been independent for only 100, so we will also visit Stockholm, one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

## How will we travel?

Most of our in-country travel will be via the top-notch railway system, including a night in a private sleeper cabin on the way from Helsinki to Rovaniemi, located at the Arctic Circle. Another highlight will be the overnight cruise from Turku to Stockholm, where students can rest in their cabins, hit the onboard dance clubs, or view the thousands of islands in the world’s largest archipelago.

## What is covered in the cost of the module?

Lodging and two meals per day are included while on the trip, as are airline tickets, tours, transportation, admission to museums, and most other expenses. Students will have the time and freedom to choose their other meal of the day.

## Who will we meet?

In addition to meeting people like government officials, the Director of Angry Birds toons, business executives, doctors, engineers, and golfers from the Finnish National Team, you will have chances to interview educators and hang out with local college-age students who have volunteered to show you around. It is impossible to truly experience a culture without knowing its people.

## What will we do?

All the people and activities are subject to change based on availability, but here are just a few of the opportunities:

- Observe/compare classrooms in the US and Finland
- Picnic on the island fortress of Suomenlinna
- Take an Amazing Race adventure through historic Turku
- Visit museums, cathedrals and palaces
- Tour the Finnish Parliament with a ranking member
- Learn from local experts and knowledgeable faculty
- See reindeer in their native habitat and visit Santa’s office
- Make friends at a party hosted at a private home on the lake
- Tour an innovative chocolate factory
- Explore the local shopping and dining scene
- Check out the Finnish University system
- Enjoy Finnish nature at a nighttime bonfire by the water

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