

Uncover the Russian legacy of Eastern Finland with its wild & romantic forests; foaming white rapids; onion domed architecture and Karelian cuisine. Along the way drift around by boat to savour the lakes at Tervo; cruise on Lake Saimaa and, for the full Monty, take a trip into Russia proper.



The Pearls of Eastern Finland



THE PEARLS OF EASTERN FINLAND

DAY 1 UK - HELSINKI Scheduled Finnair flight to Helsinki. Self transfer to Hotel Tornio for 2 nights.

DAY 2 HELSINKI At leisure: the Neo Classical Senate Square and its orthodox counterpart the Uspensky are not to be missed and a stroll down the grass boulevard Esplanaden to the statue of Havis Amanda is a thing to do when the sun is shining.

DAY 3 HELSINKI-LAPEENRANTA Collect hire car and drive along the coast via Porvoo with its ochre coloured clapboard houses to Lappeenranta, with its eclectic mix of Swedish and Russian architecture. Overnight at Hotel Lapee for 2 nights.

DAY 4 CRUISE ON LAKE SAIMAA Visit the Old Fortress and its museums before taking a cruise along the canal to Lake Saimaa, the largest of Finland's lakes originally formed by glacier melt water running off at the end of the last Ice Age.

DAY 5 LAPEENRANTA-SAVONLINNA Drive to Imatra and along the pine clad, 7km long Punkaharju Ridge separating two fresh water lakes to Savonlinna dominated by its iconic 3 tower castle. Overnight at Savonlinnan Seurahuone. [NB during the Opera Season July 3rd to Aug 1st overnight in Imatra]

DAY 6 SAVONLINNA-KOLI Drive to the Karelian city of Joensuu; continue to Lieksa and from there by ferry [payable locally] to Koli. Overnight at Hotel Koli for 2 nights.

DAY 7 KOLI At leisure: the broad waters

littered with islands like so much pine detritus make this a haven for just watching the day go by, gentle hiking or canoeing.

DAY 8 KOLI-KUOPIO Turn south west and drive down to Kuopio: a city unique in blending countryside with urban living, having a lattice of pedestrianised streets dating back to the town's original 18th century street plan and being almost entirely surrounded by Lake Kallavesi on which you take a short cruise [payable locally] before supper. Overnight at Hotel Puijonsarvi.

DAY 9 KUOPIO-VANTAA Breakfast in your hotel before the drive down passing Mikkeli, a charming Lakeland city, the capital of the Province of Eastern Finland, to Vantaa. Overnight at Hotel Flamingo, Vantaa.

DAY 10 HELSINKI-UK Return Finnair flight to UK.



AIRPORT DEPARTURE SUPPLEMENTS

Alternative airport departure flight availability and prices on request



DEPARTURE DATES

Daily 1 May – 30 Sep

Prices are in £ per person

THE PEARLS OF EASTERN FINLAND SA10901

DATES	TWIN	3RD ADULT	CHILD
ALL	1070	61	425

Prices include scheduled return Finnair flight from Heathrow to Helsinki • Passenger service charges and airport departure taxes • IN FLIGHT CABIN SERVICE • 9 nights in twin room(s) with private WC/shower • Breakfast throughout • Group B car hire for 8 days including unlimited mileage; collision damage waiver and theft protection insurance; all local taxes, pick up and drop off Helsinki city • South Karelia Museum entrance and Saimaa Lake cruise *Under 12 years old.