Visit Oulu – Northern Experience

Oulu is a combination of northern hospitality, nature and modern technology.



Why Finland, Oulu?

- Good accessibility
- Compact & walkable
- Surrounded by pure nature
- Exotic arctic setting
- Four seasons
- Safe & welcoming
- Numerous meeting and events facilities
- Plenty of accommodation options
- OCB's professional assistance in planning and attracting conferences and events
- Several DMCs, meeting agencies and activity providers ready to help you
- Strong year round potential for MICE and business travel
- Part of Pohjola route a new way to discover the best parts of Finland and Bothnian Coastal Route where the sea unites.





THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL, LOGISTIC AND CULTURAL HUB IN NORTHERN FINLAND, ARCTIC EUROPE

270.000 inhabitants in Oulu region

Oulu's population and the economy are growing

5th biggest city	2nd BUSIEST AIRPORT IN FINLAND
in Finland	50 MINUTE FLIGHT FROM HELSINKI
By the border of Lapland	THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE IN 2026 THE WINTER CYCLING CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

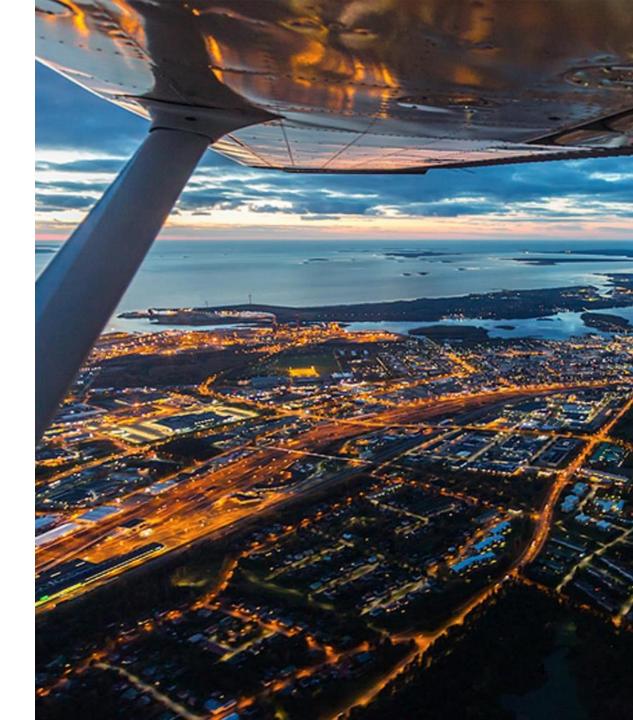


GOOD ACCESSIBILITY

Several daily flights from Helsinki

Lufthansa connection from Munich 2-3 flights/week





Flights to Oulu

New York 8h5min Chicago 9 h 35 min San Francisco 11 h 45 min Buenos Aires 20 h Stockholm 55 min

London München Rome Paris Madrid

Cape Town Mumbai Singapore Bangkok

19 h

Melbourne Tokyo Seoul Beijing

7 h 40 min 11 h 30 min 10 h 45 min

3 h 10 min

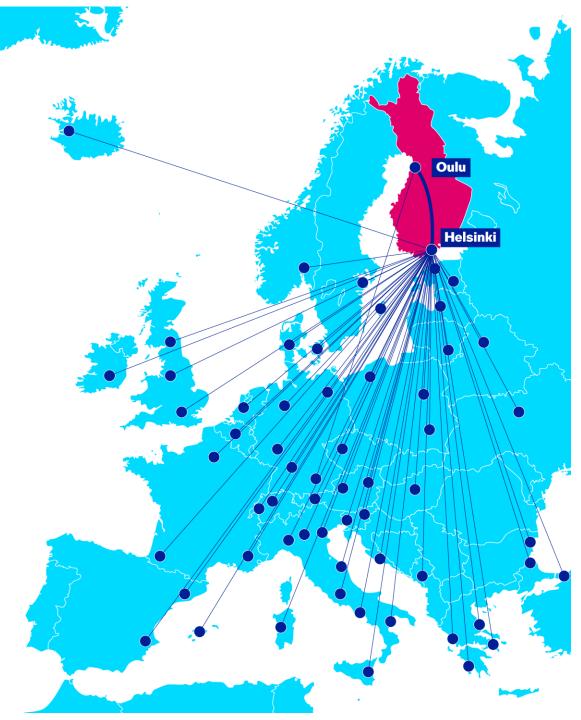
3 h 15 min

3 h 45 min

4 h 20 min

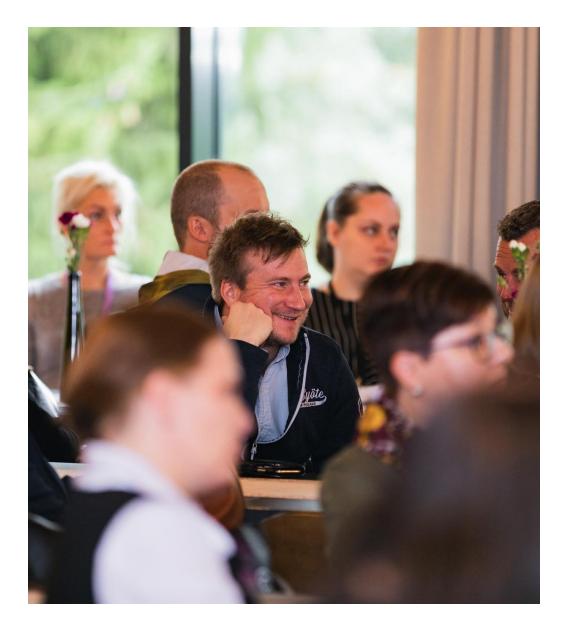
3 h 5 min

20 h 9 h 35 min 9 h 50 min 7 h 55 min



Congresses attract more and more international experts to visit Oulu

- The year 2024 is looking bright: thousands of congress attendees are expected to arrive to Oulu from different fields of study.
- 25 registered international congresses were held in Oulu during 2023. A total of 1747 attendees participated in them.
- Most of the congresses were in the fields of natural sciences and mathematics. Other significant fields of study were social sciences, history and safety.
- By attendee numbers the largest fields were technology, information technology and architecture on top of natural sciences and mathematics.





Oulu is part of Pohjola route, a new way to discover Finland

Kemi, Sampo ice breaker 1 - 1,5 h Syöte, fell district 2 h Hailuoto island 1,5 h Rokua UNESCO Global Geopark 1 h Raahe, historical wooden city centre 1 h

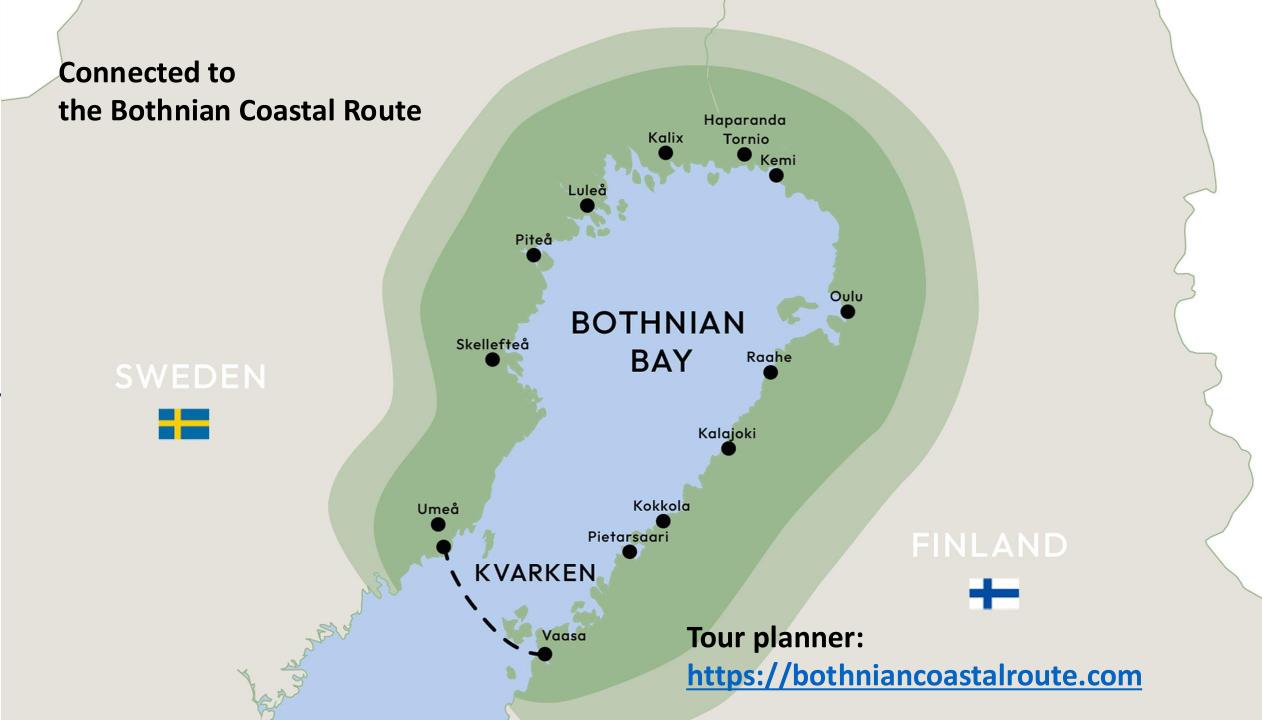
Rovaniemi, Santa Claus & Arctic Circle 3 h Ranua, zoo 2 h Kuusamo, Ruka tourism destination 3h

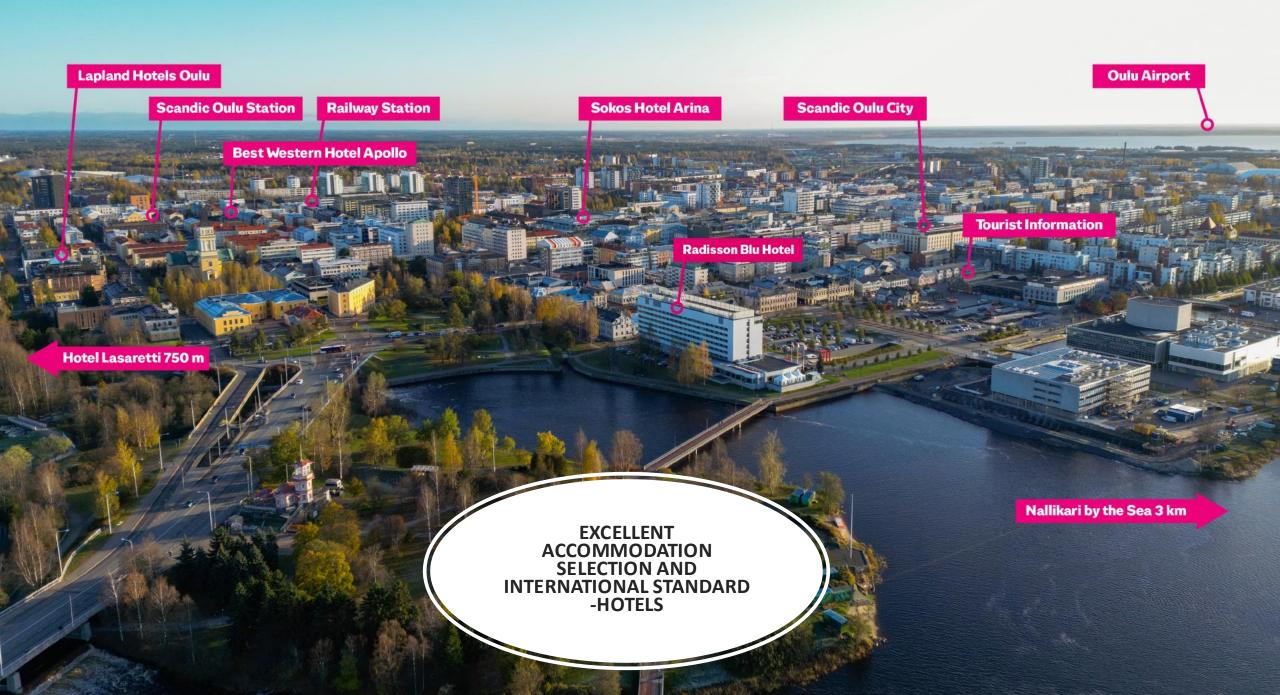
Sweden, Haparanda 1,5 h

<u>Pohjola route web page</u> with Tour Planner in October 2024.









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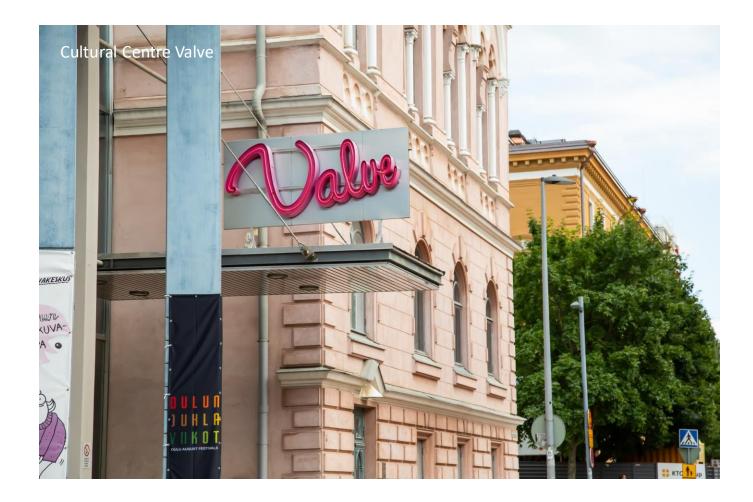
ACCOMMODATION



Venues

There are many unique places in Oulu for organizing events of different kinds and sizes.

https://www.ouka.fi/en/guideevent-organizers/venues

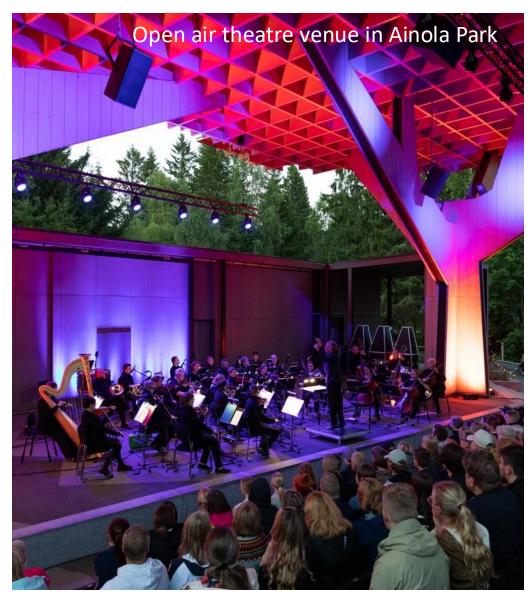




Variety of atmospheres and setting to choose from

- An industrial setting
- A symphony exprenience
- Near shopping experiences
- By the sea
- At the movies
- At the sport centre
- At the heart of Science
- In a medical and educational setting
- In a historical setting
- Surrounded by nature
- In an amusement park / winter village



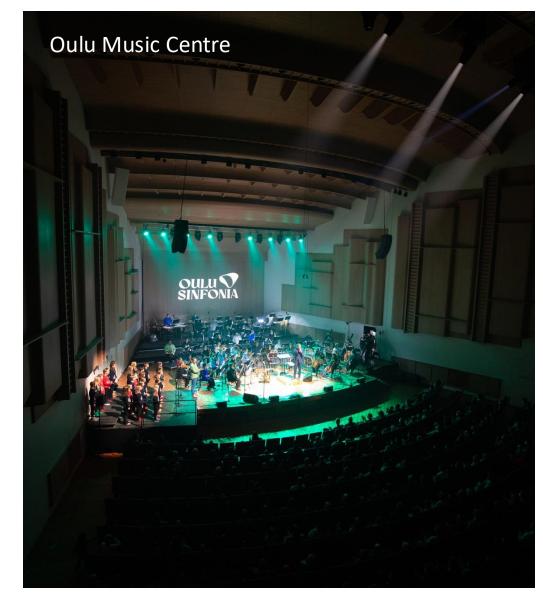


Lager convention and event facilities in the City of Oulu:

- Oulu Theatre
 - Multiple spaces up to 1000 guests
- Oulu Music Centre
 - Madetoja hall apporx. 800 seats
 - Pohjankartano hall 475 seats
- Oulu Hall
 - The largest and most central event venue in Northern Finland suitable from concerts to fairs.
- Oulun Energia Arena
 - Ice hockey arena and rink suitable venue for different events, galas and concerts.
- Univeristy of Oulu venues e.g.
 - L1 hall in Linnanmaa up to 600 people
 - Banquet hall Saalastin Sali up to 500 seats



VISIT OULU









Examples of Winter activities for MICE groups

- Arctic Sauna Experience on the frozen sea
- Arctic activities in Winter Village
- Arctic adventure on the frozen sea
- Snow Sculpting

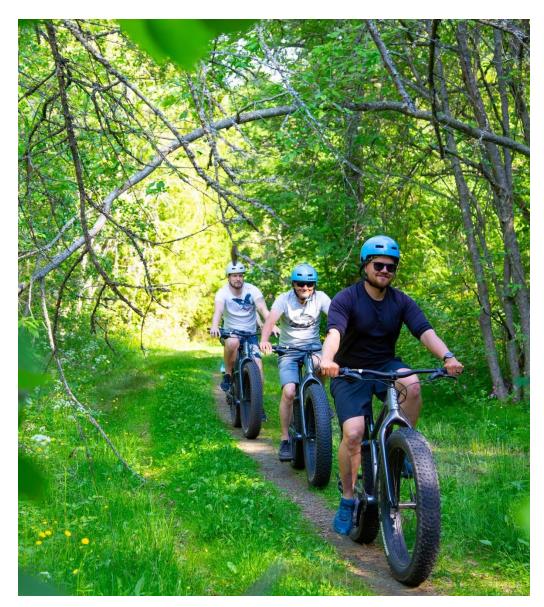






Examples of Summer activities for MICE groups

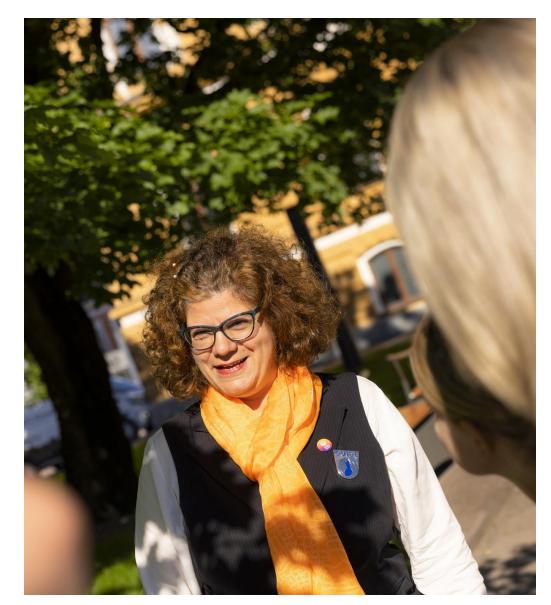
- Tar boat rowing in Oulujoki river
- Vauhtipuisto The trill of speed in fairground atmosphere
- Wild Finnish nature and Everyman's rights
- Fatbike adventure





Examples of year-round activities for MICE groups

- Sustainable Arctic Adventures
- Incentive dinners
- Guiding services
- Sauna experiences
- Workshops
- Free time: shopping and souvenirs







WORKSHOPS LOVI CHOCOLATE FILM MAKING TAR BURNING





OULU EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2026



Oulu2026.eu

365 days of captivating events, artwork, and experiences

Oulu is the European Capital of Culture in 2026. Art, technology, and nature converge, just as diverse cultures and people do. Welcome to join the celebration of inspiring Northern and European culture!

In the programme, among other things ightarrow





Oulu2026 Program Launch

January 15, 2025 – Program Launch 1:

• The structure and main highlights of the year will be announced.

September 4, 2025 - Program Launch 2:

• The event calendar will be opened, and detailed event information for the entire year will be published.



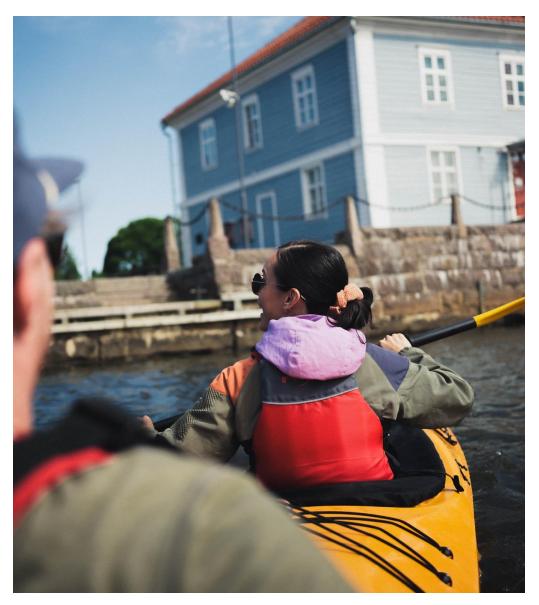






Excursions Pre- and Post Tours

- Pohjola Route provides several great destinations to visit.
- Oulu Convention Bureau, the local activity companies, DMCs and meeting agencies are happy to help you plan your visit in Oulu.







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OULU CONVENTION BUREAU

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OCB is the official conference office of the city of Oulu. They are a free-of-charge, independent expert ready to help you arrange a successful event.

Get in touch with Oulu Convention Bureau's event organizing professionals in the early stages when planning an event in Oulu!

Senior Advisor, Meetings and Conferences Helena Pikkarainen Email: <u>helena.pikkarainen@ouka.fi</u> Tel. +358 44 70 31 323





DMC'S AND MEETING AGENCIES

<u>Go Arctic!</u> – a DMC/incoming Tour Operator in Oulu that provides a full range of services to meet the varied needs of clients around the world.

<u>GreenEscape</u> - GreenEscape Oy is a Finland-based DMC that focuses on experiential traveling to relatively undisturbed and undervisited areas of immense natural, cultural and historical significance for a wholesome travel experience in the host destination

Kemi Tourism Ltd. – operates Icebreakers Sampo & Arktis and offers accommodation, meeting facilities, restaurant services and all year round snow & ice experiences.

<u>Nallikari by the Sea</u> - Group accommodations, group activities and meetings are all easy to arrange in the same seaside setting by one local DMC.

Oulu DMC – a rapidly growing DMC working also in other parts of Finland

Saaga Tarvel - a passenger transport provider and DMC/incoming tour operator based in Oulu.

<u>Taiga Resort</u> – a newly founded DMC, that also provides for accommodation in Best Western Hotel Samantta and group activities.

Taxari Travel Agency – a DMC and full-service travel agencyin Finnish Lapland operating in Oulu and Kemi

<u>Konffa</u> – a full service meeting agency with over 10 years of experience. It organises national and international meetings and event from start to finish.







Future investments in Oulu



Event Arena



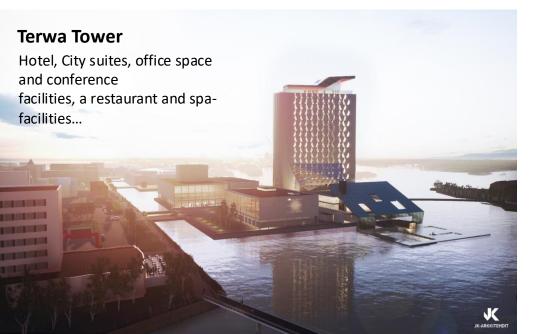
Travel: Market Square Hotel

Market Square Hotel

Oulu Market Square Hotel and a covered winter market have been designed next to the 110-year-old Market Hall.

The hotel is planned to have four floors and 130 hotel rooms.

The covered winter market space will serve year-round market activities and provide a sheltered space for a variety of events during the winter.





Thank you and for more information, please contact:

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VISIT OULU FACEBOOK VISIT OULU X VISIT OULU YOUTUBE VISIT OULU LINKEDIN VISIT OULU INSTAGRAM VISIT OULU TIKTOK



