

Naantali

Turku · Finland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Naantali is a small seaside resort town on Finland's southwest coast, a short drive from Turku. Its wooden Old Town, cobbled lanes, and pastel merchant houses grew up around a medieval convent, and the harbor still fills with sailboats every summer. The town is best known today as the home of Moominworld, Finland's best-known Moomin theme park, and of Kultaranta, the official summer residence of the President of Finland.

Naantali suits a relaxed one- or two-night stay: wander the Old Town, take the kids to the Moomin park, and unwind at Finland's oldest spa resort. It works equally well as a half-day trip from Turku or as a base for exploring the Archipelago Sea further west.

When to visit

Summers are mild and the town is at its liveliest from June to August, when the Old Town cafes, the guest harbor, and Moomin World are all open. Spring and autumn are quiet and cool; winters are cold and dark, though the spa hotel stays open year round.

Plan around **Sleepyhead Day** (Unikeonpäivä) on 27 July, Naantali's best-known tradition: each year a chosen local celebrity is woken up and thrown into the harbor from a boat, watched by a crowd on the quay.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for watersports	-1° / 4° Feels like -6°	-5° / -17°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for watersports	-2° / 4° Feels like -7°	-6° / -19°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for watersports	2° / 7° Feels like -3°	-4° / -13°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Poor Poor for sightseeing	8° / 14° Feels like 3°	1° / -5°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for sightseeing	14° / 22° Feels like 10°	6° / 1°	Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 25°	11° / 7°	Dry air · Calm winds
July	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 27°	14° / 11°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 25°	14° / 10°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	15° / 20°	10° / 5°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Poor Poor for sightseeing	9° / 14° Feels like 5°	5° / -2°	13 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for watersports	4° / 9° Feels like 0°	1° / -6°	13 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for watersports	1° / 6° Feels like -4°	-3° / -13°	14 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: July, August

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

July is the warmest and busiest month, with daytime highs around 20 °C; outside summer, expect cool, often rainy weather and short winter daylight.

Top sights

Naantali's sights fit easily into a day, split between the historic center and the Moomin park across the bridge.



- A Moominworld brings Tove Jansson's Moomin characters to life on the island of Kailo, with the Moominhouse, live shows, and character meet-and-greets — the main reason many families visit the town.
- B Kultaranta, the Finnish president's official summer residence, sits in a large granite manor surrounded by rose gardens; parts of the grounds open to the public with a guided tour.
- C Naantali Convent Church, built in the 1460s for a Bridgettine convent, is the only surviving building of the original monastery and still holds services and summer concerts.
- D Sarkansalmi Bridge carries the road out to the Moomin World island and gives a good view over the strait between the mainland and Luonnonmaa.
- For a wider view, climb E Uutiskuuvanvuori, a small granite nature reserve on the edge of town with rocky outcrops and archipelago views.

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What to experience

- Spend an afternoon at Naantali Spa Hotel, following the Finnish spa ritual of alternating saunas, sea-water pools, and cold plunges — Naantali has been a spa town since the 1860s.
- Join the crowds on the harbor quay for Sleepyhead Day on 27 July, when a well-known Finn is ceremonially tipped into the sea to open the town's summer festival season.
- Take an evening cruise from the guest harbor into the Archipelago Sea to watch the sun set over the islands, a classic summer activity here.
- Browse the small galleries and craft shops tucked into the Old Town's wooden houses, several run by local artists out of their own homes.

Day trips

Naantali's location next to Turku and the Archipelago Sea makes it a good base for both a city day and an island day.

- Ⓐ Turku — about 15 minutes by car or bus, Finland's oldest city has a medieval castle, a Gothic cathedral, and a lively riverside market hall.
- Archipelago Trail (Saariston rengastie) toward Ⓑ Kustavi — roughly 45–60 minutes by car including ferry crossings, a scenic drive through pine-covered islands connected by bridges and free cable ferries.
- Full-day archipelago cruises — Naantali's guest harbor is a starting point for day cruises deeper into the Archipelago Sea, reaching smaller islands and fishing villages that are hard to get to by road.



Where to explore

Naantali sits in the Finland Proper region, right next to the region's capital.

- Turku is Naantali's immediate neighbor and the main transport hub for the area — most visitors arrive via Turku.
- Kustavi, further west along the Archipelago Trail, is the gateway to the outer islands of the Archipelago Sea.

Getting there

- **By air**: Turku Airport (TKU) is about 25 minutes from Naantali by taxi or bus; it has a limited schedule, so many travelers fly into Helsinki-Vantaa and continue by train and bus, a trip of roughly 2.5 hours.
- **By train**: Naantali has no train station. Take the train to Turku Central Station, then a local bus or taxi for the last 15 minutes.
- **By bus**: Föli city bus route 6 runs frequently between central Turku and Naantali; long-distance coaches from other Finnish cities terminate in Turku.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: Föli city bus route 6 connects Naantali's Old Town and the Moomin World area with Turku; pay by contactless card on board or with the Föli app. Föli journey planner
- **On foot**: the Old Town and harbor are compact and easy to explore on foot; Moomin World is a 20–25 minute walk from the center, or a short bus ride.
- **Cycling**: flat terrain and a marked path over the Särkänsalmi bridge make cycling to Moomin World and along the coast practical in summer.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The Old Town, harbor, and church are all within a 10-minute walk of each other; Moomin World is a further 20-25 minute walk or a short bus ride.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Flat terrain and a marked cycle path over the Sarkansalmi bridge make cycling to Moomin World and along the coast practical in summer.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: not needed for the Old Town or Moomin World, both walkable from the center, but useful for the Archipelago Trail and nearby islands.
- **Parking**: paid parking lots near the guest harbor and Moomin World fill up on summer weekends; pay by app or at the machine.
- **Restrictions**: none beyond normal town-center traffic; no congestion charge or low-emission zone.

Food & drink

Naantali's harbor kiosks and cafes serve fresh Baltic herring and archipelago bread (a slightly sweet, dark rye loaf traditionally baked for special occasions) — both worth seeking out in summer. The Old Town's small cafes, several in 18th-century wooden houses, are a better bet than any single restaurant for a relaxed lunch or coffee.

For a sit-down meal with a view, the guest harbor promenade has the town's best concentration of waterfront restaurants, many focused on local fish.

What to eat & drink

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Karjalanpiirakka
Thin rye pastry filled with rice porridge, traditionally topped with egg butter.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Salmiakki
Salty liquorice candy that divides visitors — Finns are devoted to it.

Leipäjuusto
Mild, squeaky "bread cheese", usually served warm with cloudberry jam.

DRINKS

Koskenkorva · Koskenkorva Viina
Finland's best-known grain vodka, often mixed into long drinks like the Lonkero.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Ruisleipä
Dense, dark sourdough rye bread eaten with almost every meal.

Poronkäristys
Sautéed reindeer served with mashed potatoes and lingonberry jam, a Lapland classic.

Kalakukko
Fish and pork baked inside a thick rye-bread crust, a specialty of the Savonia region.

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Safety & health

Naantali is a low-crime, low-hassle town; the usual Nordic common sense applies, with no particular scams or pickpocketing to watch for. In winter, watch for icy sidewalks in the Old Town's narrow lanes. At the public beaches, mind posted swimming-area markers, since currents around the strait bridges can be stronger than they look.

History

Naantali grew up around a Bridgettine convent founded in 1443; its name comes from the Latin *Vallis Gratiae*, "Valley of Grace." Naantali Convent Church, completed by 1480, is the only building that survived the Reformation, when the Crown confiscated the convent's assets in the 1550s under King Gustav Vasa; the last nun died in 1591 and the convent was never refounded.

The town reinvented itself in the 1860s as a spa resort after mineral springs were promoted for their health benefits, a role it still plays today. In 1914, the industrialist Alfred Kordelin built the manor at Kultaranta; the Finnish state bought it in 1922 and it has served as the president's summer residence ever since. Moomin World, based on *Tove Jansson*'s books, opened on the island of Kailo in 1993 and turned Naantali into a family-travel destination.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Finland at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR

EMERGENCY
112

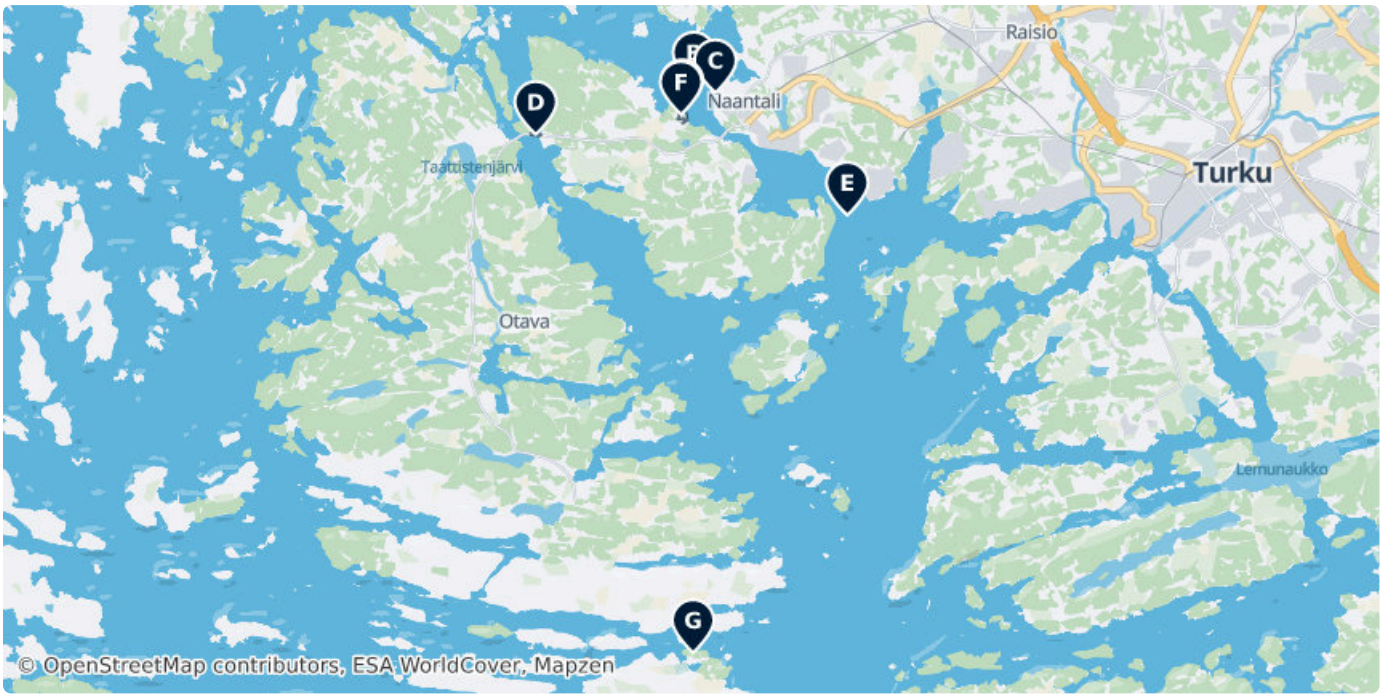
ELECTRICITY

Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Finnish, Swedish

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Top sights





A Kultaranta

Kultaranta is the summer residence of the president of Finland. It is in the district of Kultaranta on the island of Luonnonmaa, in Naantali.

Kordelininkatu, 21100, Finland (60.46637, 21.99892)



B Moominworld

Fairytale theme park based on the characters created by Tove Jansson. It features iconic locations like the Moominhouse and performances at the Emma Theater.

21100, Finland (60.47299, 22.00466)

Jun 09-Jun 30 Mo–Su	11:00–17:00
Jul 01-Aug 02 Mo–Su	10:00–17:30
Aug 03-Aug 21 Mo–Su	11:00–17:00

muumimaailma.fi



C Naantali Convent Church

Historic medieval stone church built in the 15th century as part of a Catholic Birgittine monastery. It is the second largest medieval stone church in Finland and the only surviving building from the original convent.

Nunnakatu 1, 21100 Naantali, FI (60.47115, 22.01511)

Su 09:00–12:00

naantalinseurakunta.fi/kirkot-ja-tilat/kirk..., +358401308300



D Särkänsalmi Bridge

240-meter-long road and beam bridge featuring a cycling path. It serves as a transit link between two islands.

Rymättyläntie, 21100, Finland (60.46115, 21.92759)



E Viheriäistenaukko

Bay and maritime fairway serving as a busy route for ships traveling to industrial ports and refineries.

(60.44177, 22.07938)



F Kultaranta Garden

Official summer residence of the President of Finland featuring a 56-hectare formal garden and a historic granite manor. The grounds include extensive rose beds and a landscape that blends European design with the natural archipelago surroundings.

Kordelininkatu, Naantali (60.46597, 21.99843)

presidentti.fi/en/presidency/official-residences/kultaranta/



Uutiskuuvanvuori Hill

Nature reserve and granite hill reaching an elevation of 56 meters.

21150, Finland (60.33656, 22.00428)

DATA SOURCES

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