

ITINERARY | DAY-BY-DAY



CAREER ENRICHMENT



Introduction to Education Journey to Oulu, Rovaniemi and Helsinki

Finland

9 days / 7 nights

October 5-13, 2018

\$5,999 (Based on double occupancy)

Enjoy the unique culture and traditions of Finland while you spend time with the locals. This adventure includes a very special visit to Santa Claus Village!

BOOK NOW 888.747.7501

Finland Highlights

- ✓ Take in the sights of Oulu including a nature tour by the **Koiteli Rapids** with a walk in the forest, canoeing and handicraft workshop.
- ✓ Enjoy a **cooking class** and dinner with a local chef inside a Lappish Kota.
- ✓ **Accompanying guest program** is available on this itinerary.
- ✓ An *optional Helsinki extension* will be offered on this program.

Community Connections

- ✓ **Interact with teaching professionals** from a variety of facilities in both Oulu and Helsinki. Explore Finland's education system including **local schools**, government offices and/or local NGOs.
- ✓ Giving back and engaging with the **local community** is an important part of your journey. Spend time with a facility dedication to giving back to their local community.

Educational Interaction

- ✓ Explore Finland's programs for the **preparation of teachers**; the approach used in ongoing professional support; and design for career development for their teaching force.
- ✓ Learn about the organization of the teaching day and year, **strategies for developing personalized learning**, assessment assumptions for both students and teachers, and the structure for administration and preparation for administrative leadership.
- ✓ Participate in informal and formal professional discussions during visits with **local school officials** and **educators** in Oulu and Helsinki. You will have the opportunity to **tour a local school**.
- ✓ Meet with **government officials** or leaders of NGOs to discuss educational policy and government regulations.

What's Included:

- 4* accommodations throughout
- All transportation and activities outlined in the itinerary
- Group transfers to and from the international airport
- International air to and from New York
- Local English speaking guides
- Meals as mentioned and most tips

Not Included:

- Personal expenses at the hotels
- Meals not specified
- Tips for national guide & porters
- Passport renewal or issuance
- Domestic flight to gateway city
- Departure taxes if applicable



📍 New York, New York

DAY 1: October 5, 2018

Fly to Finland

Depart from New York and make your way to Oulu, Finland. The stunning beauty and friendly people alone are worth a visit!

📍 Oulu, Finland

DAY 2: October 6

Welcome to Oulu

Upon arrival, the group will be met and transferred for check-in at your lovely local hotel.

Depending on your arrival time, all travelers will gather this afternoon (or following morning) with your national guide and receive further information on the program and today's activities.

Enjoy a welcome dinner with your guide.

Overnight: Scandic Oulu Hotel (or similar)

Included meals: Dinner



📍 Oulu, Finland

DAY 3: October 7

Cultural Exploration

Please Note: Breakfast is included daily at your hotel.

The focus of your explorations this morning with your national guide will be to learn about the history and special characteristics of Oulu. Visit some of the key landmarks during a two-hour walking tour from the old monumental center where the first settlers had their homes, onward to market place and the **Oulu Cathedral**. Restored by the architect Carl Ludvig Engel, this Evangelical Lutheran cathedral is the seat of the Diocese of Oulu.

Your national guide will share information today about how the old wooden community has been replaced by today's busy center of traffic and telecommunication. Hear stories about salmon fishing, tar burning, seafaring and life in the magnificent houses of powerful tar merchants and sea captains.

After lunch at a local restaurant, explore the **Koiteli Rapids Nature Area**. This afternoon you will enjoy a lovely walk through the forest, a canoe ride along the river, and wrap up doing a handicraft workshop. Snacks will be provided this afternoon.

This evening take part in a **Lappish cooking class** and dinner. Make a three-course dinner from fresh local ingredients while instructed by a professional and entertaining local chef inside a Lappish Kota.

Overnight: Scandic Oulu Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



📍 Oulu, Finland

DAY 4: October 8

Professional Exchange

Professional members of the program will interact with local education professionals today including a visit to a local school such as the unique **Pudasjärvi Log Campus**, the world's biggest log school campus. Approximately 850 students go to school here daily. Also spend time today learning about the Finnish education system, the use of ICT in schools, pupil and student welfare, multidisciplinary staff collaboration and school management.

Journey Mission: We would like to explore Finland's programs for the preparation of teachers; the approach used in ongoing professional support; and design for career development for the teaching force.

Lunch will be provided this afternoon at a local restaurant.

Guest program

*Today accompanying guests will visit a local **reindeer farm**. You will have a chance to get up close and personal with the animals including feeding them and learning some lasso throwing techniques. Enjoy some snacks onsite before having a local lunch and returning to the hotel this afternoon for free time.*

Dinner is by individual arrangement (own expense).

Overnight: Scandic Oulu Hotel (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch



📍 Oulu, Finland

DAY 5: October 9

Morning meeting & afternoon service project

Today, continue your professional exchange with visits to a **local school** to observe classroom lessons and continue your dialogue with the faculty. Topics may include priority setting, financial strategies, parental involvement, cultural issues and challenges that remain. The aim is to walk away with a better understanding of what you can do to improve your own strategies for personalized learning for your students.

Guest program

*Guests will enjoy some time to shop in Oulu this morning with a local guide. Explore Market Hall to take in the scents and flavors of Finland. Prepare to see many of the city center sights on this walking tour, including the Park Esplandi, Bulevardi Street, a local candy shop, liquor store and traditional Finnish restaurant Kappeli. You will also have a chance to visit the **Oulu Museum of Art**. Opened in 1963, the museum focuses mainly on the art of northern Finnish artists.*

This afternoon the group will give back during a visit to a **local non-profit or other humanitarian organization** dedicated to assisting the local people. *More information will be provided closer to departure. This visit could include a local orphanage, elder care facility, hospital or the Red Cross.*

Lunch will be provided this afternoon with dinner by individual arrangement.

Overnight: Scandic Oulu Hotel (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch





📍 Rovaniemi, Finland

DAY 6: October 10

Santa Claus Village

After breakfast, depart for the drive to **Rovaniemi**. Today you will see Rovaniemi's highlights on a panoramic tour as your guide shares facts about the city, Finnish Lapland's capital. Then, travel through the countryside to the magical Santa Claus Village and come face to face with the great man himself in the Santa Claus Office. Visit the Main Post Office to send Santa Claus stamped greetings, join an Arctic Circle crossing ceremony, and enjoy the shops, elves' workshops, snow activities, cafés and more.

Lunch will be provided today with dinner on your own.

Enjoy an excursion to hopefully catch sight of the **Aurora Borealis** this evening.

Overnight: Sokos Hotel Vaakuna (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch



📍 Helsinki, Finland

DAY 7: October 11

Fly to Helsinki

Today, you will fly to **Helsinki**. Upon arrival you will be met for your explorations of Helsinki. Start your tour from the Railway Station Square, right next to one of the most beautiful Romantic buildings in Helsinki, the **National Theater**. From there, continue your walk through central Helsinki to get a feel for its vibrant streets, mostly built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Then, follow the main shopping street, **Aleksanterinkatu**, towards the city's main square, Senate Square. At the central point of the square is the magnificent **Helsinki Cathedral**, built in 1852 when Finland was part of the Russian Empire. Lunch will be provided at a local restaurant.

Continue towards the **Katajanokka Peninsula**, stopping at the Uspenskii Cathedral, a beautiful Orthodox cathedral atop a hill. Go up the hill and to the terrace of the cathedral for pretty views over Helsinki. Explore **Market Square** (Kauppatori), where you can find souvenirs and taste local specialties. After a walk through the district of **Töölö**, visit the unique Rock Church, carved within a rocky hill, and afterwards have a short city bus trip to the park and monument dedicated to the most famous Finnish composer, **Jean Sibelius**.

Check into your local hotel later today where dinner is on your own this evening.

Overnight: GLO Hotel Kluuvi (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch



📍 Helsinki, Finland

DAY 8: October 12

Professional Program

Today the group will wrap up professional interaction with visits hosted by **Finnish government officials** or other **education leaders** to discuss educational policy and government regulations in Finland as it compares to the United States and other countries. Visit a **local school** to observe a classroom and wrap up your discussions with their teachers and faculty. Continue talks of mutual interest and share information about the U.S. education system.

Guest program

Guests will spend the day visiting Porvoo with a local guide. Discover the delightful town of Porvoo on a private tour from Helsinki, with an expert local guide beside you. Venture east to this medieval town, Finland's second oldest, and learn about its 14th-century origins and the people who shaped it as you explore. Take a walking tour through the cobbled Old Town, and admire the 15th-century cathedral, Old Town Hall, and traditional, red-painted store houses along the riverside. Before returning to Helsinki, enjoy free time to stroll, relax and perhaps buy souvenirs at the quaint craft shops. Lunch will be provided today.

Enjoy a farewell dinner this evening.

Overnight: GLO Hotel Kluuvi (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

📍 Helsinki, Finland

DAY 9: October 13

Depart for home today

Depart for the airport today for your flight home. Depending on the flight time, lunch is by individual arrangement with free time to explore.

Included meals: Breakfast





📍 Oulu, Finland

Scandic Oulu

Saaristonkatu 4, 90100

Oulu, Finland

Telephone: +358 8 5431000

<https://www.scandichotels.fi/hotellit/suomi/oulu/scandic-oulu>



📍 Rovaniemi, Finland

Original Sokos Hotel Vaakuna

Koskikatu 4

Rovaniemi, Finland

Telephone: +358 20 1234695

<https://www.sokoshotels.fi/fi/rovaniemi/sokos-hotel-vaakuna>



📍 Helsinki, Finland

GLO Hotel Kluuvi

Kluuvikatu 4, 00100

Helsinki, Finland

Telephone: +358 10 3444400

<https://www.glohotels.fi/en/hotels/glo-kluuvi>

