

NORDIC ROSES 2024

Pre-tour to Finland

Highlights of the tour.

1. Overnight cruise from Stockholm to Turku through one of the world's most beautiful archipelagos enjoying a get together dinner on the boat.



2. An introduction to the Finnish flora and Finnish roses in The botanical garden of Turku University and a rosarium with a unique collection of Finnish found roses with knowledgeable guides.

(website: <https://sites.utu.fi/kasvitieteellinen-puutarha/en/outdoor-gardens/>)

3. Get a glimpse of the fascinating history of Turku city in Aboa Vetus Museum for archeology and contemporary art

(Website: <https://avan.fi/en>)

4. Helsinki, the Daughter of the Baltic is the vibrant capital of Finland. The old and new centre of Helsinki shows the beautiful architecture of Engels from past time around the Senate square and modern Finnish architecture in front of the Parliament house with the central library Oodi, the Finlandia Hall and the Music Hall. (bild från presentation)

(Website: <https://www.visitfinland.com/en/places-to-go/helsinki-region/helsinki-city/>)



or YouTube:

5. Cruise on the lakes north of Tampere on the 115-year-old steamboat Tarjanne, The world's only old steamboat still in regular traffic. Enjoy a light meal of local dishes while enjoying the scenery.(Website: <https://www.tarjannelaiva.fi/en>)



6. The Kvarken Unesco World Heritage site outside Vaasa shows the traces of the ice-age in unique geological formations like the De Geer and Ribbed moraines. It is the best place in the world to see the effects of the land uprising after the ice-age.



(Website: <https://www.maailmanperinto.fi/en/kvarken-archipelago/>)

7. Visits to three unique private gardens where focus is on growing roses that can survive and flourish in our harsh climate.



Useful Websites:

1. Turku University Botanical Garden: <https://sites.utu.fi/kasvitieteellinen-puutarha/en/>
2. Masku Rosarium (only in Finnish): <https://www.masku.fi/vapaa-aika/matkailijalle/nahtavyudet/rosarium/>
3. Aboa Vetus, Museum of Archeology and contemporary art: <https://avan.fi/en>
4. Wohls Gård: <https://wohls.fi/en/wohls-history/>
5. Meilahti Rosarium: <https://vihreatsylim.fi/en/meilahden-rosarium/>
6. Hataanpää Arboretum: <https://www.discoveringfinland.com/destination/hatanpaae-arboretum-tampere/>
7. Jokilaakso Garden Center: <https://www.visitlakeus.fi/en/destinationcard/jokilaakso-garden-centre/>
8. Stundars Homestead Museum: <https://stundars.fi/en/stundars-museum/>
9. Ahlström Ruukki: <https://ahlstrominruukki.fi/en/about-us/history/>

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Pre-tour Programme

June 25

Arrival in Stockholm. You will be greeted and taken to the harbour for departure by ferry to Turku in Finland in the evening. The ferry departs at 8.p.m. In the harbour You will be met by Your host from the Finnish Rose Society that will accompany you during the Finland visit. On board we are accomodated in comfortable two-person cabins. We enjoy a three-course get together dinner. The nights are bright at this time of the year so there is ample time to enjoy the scenery of the worlds most beautiful archipelago.

June 26

Early breakfast on board. Arriving in Turku harbour we are met by our tour bus. It will take us to the botanical garden of Turku University where we get an introduction to the Finnish flora and especially roses that can manage our winters. This is followed up by a visit to the small Masku rosarium that has specialized in preserving found roses from different parts of Finland. We also have an introduction to the history of Turku city in the Aboa Vetus Museum for archeology and contemporary art before moving to our hotel Majvik in the vicinity of Helsinki.

June 27

We start the day with a visit to a private garden whose owners have been devoted to growing roses for a few decades. We enjoy lunch and a short walk in the park at the beautifully situated Wohls gård. After lunch it is time for a round trip in central Helsinki where we can see both the old historical center around the Senate Square and the modern new center in front of the Parliament house.

A relaxing walk in Meilahti Rosarium that focuses on hardy Finnish roses rounds up the day before transport to Tampere and our hotel there.

June 28

The day starts in Hataanpää arboretum and its gem, the rose garden where we can see both hardy shrub roses and modern (not so hardy) roses. A round trip in Tampere city before lunch in museal surroundings. Transport to Visuvesi and a small private garden situated beautifully at the lakeside. After a short stop-over we enter the 115 years old steamboat Tarjanne that takes us to Ruovesi along the poets route. Bus transport to Lapua.

June 29

Morning visit to Jokilaakso Garden Center. Jokilaakso Garden Centre's pride and joy is its area of edible plants, the Herb Plot. It is one of Finland's largest show areas of edible plants. It also has quite a few typical Finnish shrub roses in addition to some thousand other plants. Bus transport to Vaasa for lunch. At last, some hours free in the afternoon before moving to the Kvarken World Heritage site in the archipelago. The day is rounded off with a dinner at the restaurant Bernys in the archipelago.

June 30

This last day in Finland starts with a visit to the small city rosarium in Vaasa where You can see many of the specific Finnish shrub roses. We visit Stundars homestead museum which is one of the best in Finland. After lunch visit to a private garden with more than 500

different roses in a small space. The focus of the owner has been to find roses that can survive and flourish in spite of harsh winters, but also to find ways to get not so hardy roses to survive and bloom despite the unfavorable climate.

On our way to Turku we stop at the Ahlström's historical industrial area in Noormarkku. In the evening we board the ferry back to Stockholm.

July 1

Arrival in Stockholm early in the morning we are met by the local hosts and taken for sightseeing.

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Hotels/ lodging.

1. Viking Line (2 person cabins)

(Website: <https://www.sales.vikingline.com/>)

2.Meeting and Congress Hotel Majvik

(Website: <https://majvik.fi/en/>)

3. Scandic Rosendal Tampere

(website: <https://visittampere.fi/en/accommodation/scandic-rosendahl/>)

4. Lapuahovi

(Website: <https://www.lapuahovi.fi/hotelli/>)

5. Original Sokos Hotel Royal Vaasa

(Website: <https://www.sokshotels.fi/en/vaasa/original-sokos-hotel-royal-vaasa>)