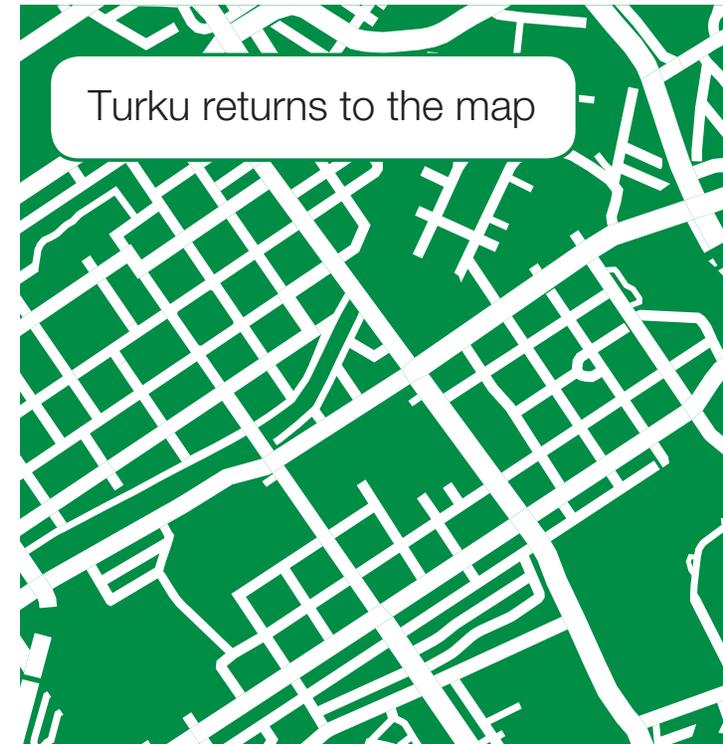
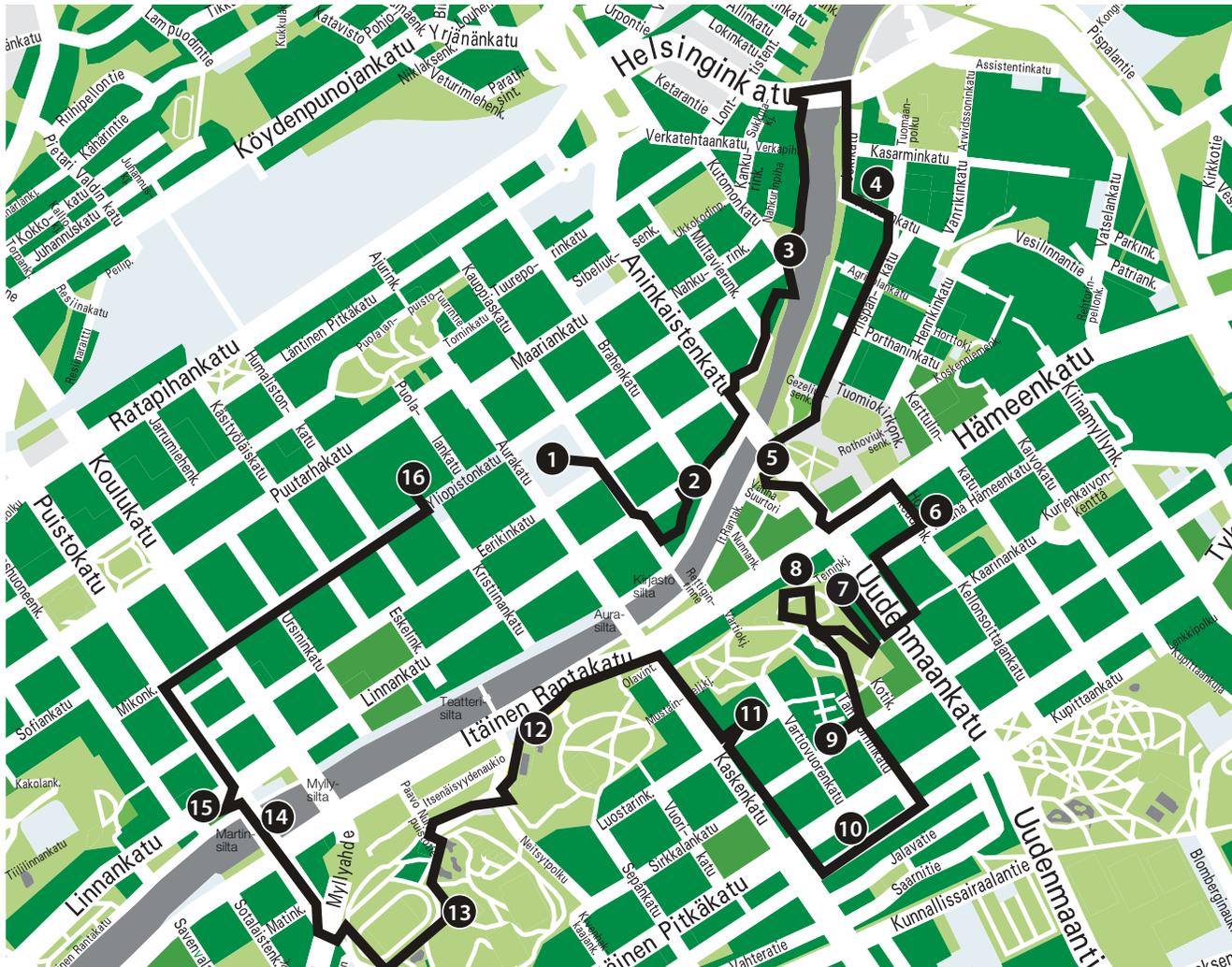


TURKU RETURNS TO THE MAP

The 'Turku Returns to the Map' tour tells how the people of Turku colonised the bottom of a lake, the tops of cliffs, steep riverbanks and the flat fields of their town. Most parts of the town that you will see have been rebuilt countless times. En route you will hear about misfortune and strokes of luck, the demolition and preservation of the old, as well as the changing of plans in quite a different direction from what had been originally intended. The face of the town never looks the same on two consecutive days. Let's go and see how it looks today.

Explore also the other interesting Cultural Exercise Routes. Mobile versions of all Route maps are available: www.turku.fi/kulttuurikuntoilu

Route length is 8,4 km.



TURKU

www.turku.fi/kulttuurikuntoilu



Picture:
The Museum Centre of
Turku / B. Lundsten

1. The Market Square 'raitsikka'

Trams remind people of a different kind of transportation in Turku

Here in the days gone by, you might have heard the clattering of trams, or 'raitsikka' as Turku folk called them. The people of Turku still remember them fondly, even though the last tram journeyed through the city on 1st October 1972. In summers, trams can be remembered at way of the 'ice cream tram' that sits at the edge of the Market Square. This No. 24 tram that has found a new purpose in life toured the city thousands of times, and now looks on at the hustle and bustle of the Market Square from its stationary location.

2. The Library Quarter

A site rich in culture

The library quarter is a fine example of the harmonisation of buildings constructed over four centuries. The look of the inner courtyard is cosy and a successful mosaic of historical and modern components. The oldest building, the yellow residence of the Provincial Governor, originates from 1733, and the youngest, the massive modern new library building from 2007. Since the construction of the old brick library building in the 1900s, many kinds of structures have been erected in the courtyard, such as residential houses, the town hall and book towers. It has even housed the headquarters of Turku's telephone company, with all its wires and cables. Now it offers us an integrated area rich in culture.

3. Richter's house

The house that the river swallowed

The area of the riverbank obliquely opposite the cathedral is known as Multavieru (soil side). There in the 18th century worked a large number of tanners (leatherdressers). The most successful of them was a man of German descent called Christoffer Richter. In 1809 Richter, now Turku's wealthiest citizen, rented offices to Finland's first ever government in the town's largest stone building by the river. Later, the value of this building hit rock bottom – literally! The house with its grain stores was too heavy for the clay soil on which it was built, and in 1830 it disappeared into the river. The place is not called Multavieru for nothing – as early as the 17th century, Turku folk knew that the steep banks of the River Aura would collapse into the water from time to time.



Picture:
The Museum Centre of
Turku / C.J. Gardberg

4. Arken

Metal work becomes knowledge work in a factory

150 years ago, hundreds of smiths and metalworkers used to walk through the gates of Arken. They handcrafted almost everything possible from iron – from memorial crosses to safes and ships. This iron foundry was one of Turku's oldest and largest factories. These days, it is students rather than smiths who walk through the gates. Arken's factory compound has been given a new lease of life as the premises for the Faculty of Humanities at Åbo Akademi University. It is one of a few old factory facilities in the centre of Turku that has discovered a new purpose.

5. Pinella

A restaurant that defies the ravages of time

The restaurant called Pinella consists of three buildings designed in the 19th century for very different purposes. The larger wooden house was built in 1848 as a kiosk in the centre of the park. At the same time only a small square-shaped part of the present high-roofed centre section existed there. The smaller wooden house from 1889 was the town's public lavatory. Adjacent to its stone lower section on the river side is Pinella's oldest part, Glylich's columns. The row of columns conceals a wall that evens out the height differences of the park behind. It was built in 1836 as a place for the permanent stalls of market square traders next to what was called Kalasatama (fish harbour). Over time, the buildings have moved closer to each other, both physi-

cally and functionally. Originally, Nils Pinello's kiosk and the market square stall facilities had nothing to do with each other. Now they are an inseparable part of one another and of the Turku cityscape.

6. Rotten lake

A lost lake in the centre of the town

You are now standing at the bottom of a lake; more exactly, at the bottom of Lake Mätäjärvi, which was situated here from the 18th century. Mätäjärvi is probably the first lake in Finland to have eutrophied and disappeared as a result of human activity.



Picture: The Museum Centre of
Turku / Henrik Cajander

7. Nobel's house

A victim of 'Turku disease'

From the beginning of the 1840s until 1961, Nobel's house stood at the crossroads of VähäHämeenkatu and Uudenmaankatu. The house was occasionally called by the name of its architect, as it was the only house in Finland to have been designed by Immanuel Nobel, the father of the famous Nobel brothers. This two-storey Empire-style stone house also went down in history for other reasons. It was the subject of the oldest daguerreotype photograph ever taken in Finland in 1848. Furthermore, its demolition was an example of so-called 'Turku disease'.

8. Vartiovuori Hill

A hill painstakingly greenified

In 1842, the citizens of Turku founded a committee with the aim of beautifying Vartiovuori Hill. The hill had already been embellished several decades earlier with the observatory designed by C.L. Engel made of boulders left over from quarrying the rock. As a result of some diligent work, the top of the hill became a green backdrop for the town. It is from the beautiful top of Vartiovuori that you can best see the changing look of the town. In front of the Jugend-style Art Museum, you can see the honeycombed glass roof of the Hansa Centre, empire style, functional style and the results of the 1960s boom in construction. The view never remains the same for more than a few years, as pieces of the jigsaw change with older buildings making way for newer ones.

9. Luostarinmäki Hill

An area of long-lost Turku

By the rear slope of Vartiovuori is a piece of long-lost Turku. By stroke of luck, this part of town that housed craftsmen and artisans survived the Great Fire of Turku in 1827, as Vartiovuori protected it from the sparks. People did not start to settle on Luostarinmäki until the late 18th century. The back of this remote hill was far from the town centre. The typical sort of person to move there would have been a carpenter from a nearby village who could build his own house. In that sense, Luostarinmäki was a suburb of its time.

10. Swedish houses

A miniature world of little houses set between blocks of flats

The area of Swedish houses that is distinguished from its surroundings by its 'low-rise' quality is not particularly Swedish or even Swedish-speaking. The name stems from the origin of the houses. 76 houses donated by Sweden to Finland during the truce period in 1941 were located in this area of fields on the edge of the town centre district. In the early 20th century, a variety of garden suburbs and parkland with summerhouses were planned for these fields. In the end, the area did get an 'urban garden' look, but not in the way that had been planned. This district of Swedish houses is a unique area of little houses and gardens in the midst of apartment blocks.

11. Surutoin (carefree)

An old-fashioned 'carefree' funfair

Turku once had a funfair, long before Copenhagen got its famous Tivoli Gardens. It did not have any truly daring rides, just swings and carousels. The large garden with its decorations, games and

musical performances was enjoyed in the early 19th century by the people of Turku who could afford the entrance fee. The fair survived only a short time as it suffered bad luck. It went bankrupt and then burned down in the Great Fire of Turku in 1827. In the town plan devised by C.L. Engel after the fire, there was no room for the fair and it sank without trace.

12. The Town Well

A strange tower by the road

Before the construction of Turku's network of water pipes, the town had dozens of public wells and some public lavatories. One of these lavatories remains in the wooden building that is part of Pinella. The last of the wells are in Kupittaa Park, and the old stone buildings in the lower part of Sampapa-Inna Park. If buildings are built durable enough, they will last longer than they were designed to. It may be that, one day, the public lavatory at Pinella will serve water and you will be able to go to the toilet at the old public well. The story of the town well is linked to the adjacent quarry, which, owing to the 'Network' environmental artwork in it, Turku folk know as the 'spider plot'.

13. Sports Park

The cradle of sport

Perhaps surprisingly, the first sport to be held in the Sports Park was cycling. The first sporting venue to be built there was the 1894 velodrome, an oval-shaped track for cyclists. Since then, the people of Turku and sometimes a few others have gone there to enjoy fresh air, outdoor activities and sport. The conversion of the hill into a sanctuary for sport was one of the big projects at the turn of the 20th century.

14. Myllysilta bridge

The bridge that collapsed

Up until the early 20th century, there was only one bridge over the River Aura and that was by the cathedral. The notorious Myllysilta (mill) bridge was the fourth to be built over the river in 1975. It joined the two halves of the city for just 35 years before collapsing in 2010. Prior to that, the lower reaches of the river were crossed by boat or ferry. Turku's speciality – the Föri – also previously operated at the location of Myllysilta. Re-built Myllysilta bridge was opened in the autumn of 2011. Two years later on the edge of the bridge was unveiled ensemble of four bronze sculptures named Tähtiin tähyävät (those looking up to the stars).

15. Stone Barracks

The building where nothing lasts long

Over the course of its history, this building has had many names and functions. It could just as well be called the Clinical Institute. It was built as the clinical institute of the Academy of Turku, in other words a university teaching hospital based on Engel's designs, and it was completed just two weeks before the Great Fire of Turku. Although the house was far from the area that was burned down, the fire proved to be a disaster for it. It was never used for the purpose for which it had been built, as the academy was moved to Helsinki on account of the fire. The building has never been used for the same purpose for more than 50 years at a time, even though it is already 184 years old.



Picture:
The Museum Centre of Turku / Hede

16. Betel Church

A church hidden in the heart of the town

Betel is a strange name for a place in Turku. It is a church that goes unnoticed by many. Turku has so many impressive churches that this one concealed in an inner courtyard in the city centre is scarcely known about. Turku once had many Jugendstyle churches, but Betel is the only one that remains, and nothing can be seen of it from the street except the functional-style bell tower that was added later.