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Hanko Suggested Walking Route: Historic Homes Along Appelgrenintie

Start/Return Here: Water Tower

Church

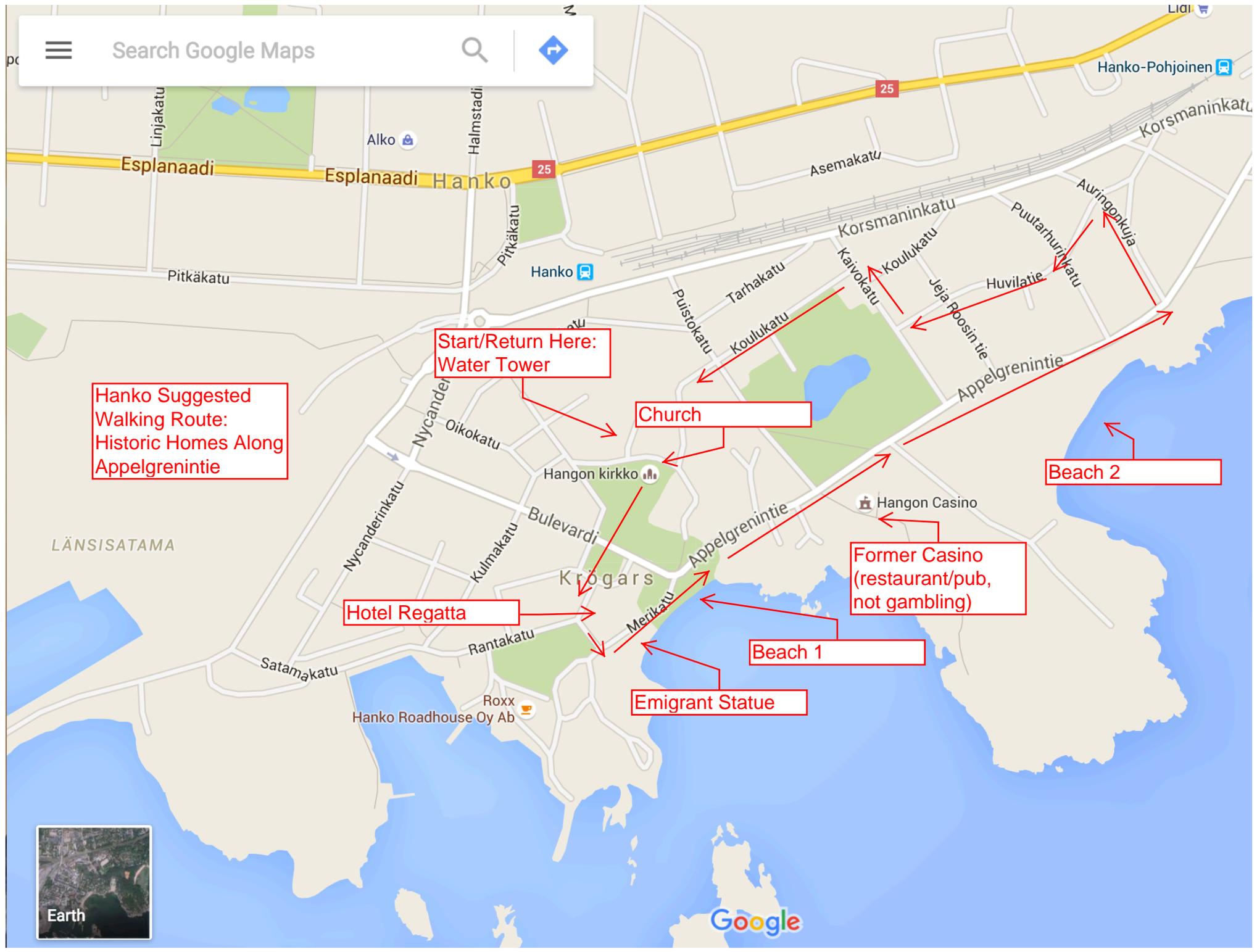
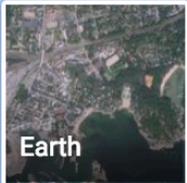
Beach 2

Former Casino (restaurant/pub, not gambling)

Hotel Regatta

Beach 1

Emigrant Statue



Introduction to Hanko (Wikipedia)

Hanko (Finnish pronunciation: [ˈhɑŋko]; Swedish: Hangö), is a bilingual port town and municipality on the south coast of Finland, 130 kilometres (80 mi) west of Helsinki. Its current population is 8,835 (2016), with a majority being Finnish speakers and a strong minority being Swedish speakers (44%). The city has a coastline of approximately 130 km (80 mi), of which 30 km (20 mi) are sandy beaches. There are also over 90 small islands and islets within the city limits. The skyline of Hanko is dominated by the church and the water tower. Both of them received their current appearance after World War II, as their predecessors were either damaged or destroyed by the Soviet Armed Forces. The site was already known by sailors in the 15th century. Petroglyphs from that time are carved into the rock at the Hauensuoli island.

Hanko has a long history of wars and battles. The Battle of Gangut between Swedish and Russian navies was fought in 1714 in the archipelago north of the peninsula. The battle was the first-ever victory of the Russian regular fleet. The fortification works on the Hanko Peninsula had already been started by the end of the 18th century, when the Swedish constructed three separate forts on the outlying islands. The forts were taken over by Russia in 1809, and were later bombarded by the Royal Navy during the Crimean War and they were eventually blown up during the hostilities by their own defenders.

The city was founded in 1874, soon after the Hanko-Hyvinkää railway was inaugurated in 1872. The Imperial Charter for the city was granted by Tsar Alexander II.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Hanko was the port of choice for emigrants leaving Finland for a new life in North America. A memorial statue, showing birds in flight, commemorates this.

In the late 19th century, while Finland was still a Grand Duchy under Russia, Hanko was a popular spa resort for the Russian nobility. Some of the buildings from that period survive, notably the Hanko Casino (which is not a gambling establishment, but a former banquet hall of the spa). It is nowadays a restaurant. The Hotel Continental (1901) (nowadays Hotel Regatta) was designed by architect Lars Sonck in the notable Jugendstil style of the time; after falling into a poor state, the hotel was in 2013 restored to its former glory.

Field Marshal C. G. Mannerheim owned a café, De fyra vindarnas hus (English: The House of the Four Winds) which is still very popular among tourists and residents alike.