

Let's walk around Old Porvoo. All year round there is plenty to see: architecture, art, handicrafts and antiques. In summer you will find the guided walking tours in the weekly events programme (see pages 26-27). You can also walk the 2 km route marked on the adjacent map at your own pace. The route is as follows:

**A. The Valtimo Building**

Near this old bank property is the site where the Asstenius Inn stood at the beginning of the 19th century. Finland's national poet J.L. Runeberg spent the night there when he first arrived in the town of Porvoo. It is thought that the well-loved Runeberg cake is the result of product development by the inn's bakery.

**B. Simolin House**

The yellow stone building houses Finland's oldest department store (1854) still in operation. The Simolins also owned a tall brick warehouse near the Mannerheiminkatu bridge. Both buildings are now under new ownership.

**C. Old Town Hall**

Completed in 1764, the tower some years later, the building is one of Finland's oldest town halls. The plot was donated by Town Councillor Rahling, after whom the narrow lane starting from the corner of the building, Rahlinginkuja, was named. It was in the Town Hall that the nobility and the burghers' estates convened during the Diet of Porvoo in 1809. Now the building houses the Porvoo Museum.

**D. Porvoo 'Castle'**

Famous historical figures who have spent the night in J.E. Solitander's house (Jokikatu 12) include the Swedish King Gustav III and the Czar of Russia, Alexander I, during the Diet of Porvoo. For the Czar a wooden walkway was even built from the house to the Cathedral so that he could walk there without getting his feet wet. Nowadays the house is in private ownership.

**E. Bridge on Mannerheiminkatu Street**

Porvoo is well known for the red ochre painted wooden shorehouses lining the river banks. In the old days ships used to come upriver from the sea to unload and load their cargo here. The buildings which line both banks of the river were the merchants' warehouses. The bridge offers a picturesque view of the river.

**Now you can choose route Ea or Eb.**

Route Ea (not maintained in winter) runs along the river bank to the old cannon, which was last used in the battles of the Continuation War (1941-44). It was moved here as a memorial.

Route Eb follows a sand road to the cemetery and



continues from there down to the riverbank. The Näs-nämäki cemetery was consecrated in 1789. National poet J.L. Runeberg (1804-77) and his wife Fredrika (1807-79) are both buried there, as is sculptor Ville Vallgren (1855-1940).

**F. The Old Bridge**

Kuninkaantie, King's Road, leading from Turku to Vyborg, once an important Finnish town and now in Russia, is also known as the Great Coast Road. It used to take travellers over the Old Bridge to Porvoo. A fantastic view of the waterfront shorehouses, the Ca-

thedral, and the picturesque Old Town opens up from the bridge. Near the bridge is the old railway station area. Nowadays museum trains run to Porvoo in summer and the station area has been transformed into an attractive operating environment for enterprises involved in handicrafts, interior design and art.

**G. Porvoo Cathedral**

The first church was built on the church hill in the late 13th and early 14th century. The present church was built in the 1450s. Over the centuries it has been destroyed and pillaged several times, but its consecra-

tion as a Cathedral was celebrated in 1723, when the former seat of the Cathedral, Vyborg, was left behind the Russian border. The Porvoo Diet was both opened and closed in the Cathedral in 1809, and a statue of Czar Alexander I commemorates this historical event. As a result of arson, the church was damaged by fire in 2006, but it has since been restored and was re-inaugurated in November 2008.

**H. The Chapter House**

The Porvoo Kymnaasi school building was completed in 1759 and served as a grammar school until 1850.

The clergy convened there during the Diet in 1809. Czar Alexander I held his opening speech there, and a ball to celebrate the Diet was held in the great hall upstairs. The story goes that the Czar was much taken by a young lady who had dropped her fan, Miss Ulla Möllersvärd. Along with Porvoo Cathedral and the Town Hall, it is one of Finland's national monuments. The building now houses the Chapter House.

**I. The Bishop's House**

The Bishop's seat of Finland's Swedish-speaking diocese was established in Porvoo in 1923. The bishop's

official residence was completed in 1927. In 2009, Bishop Björn Vikström was inaugurated.

**Ja Pirunportaat (The Devil's Stairs), Koulukuja**

This route is not maintained in winter. According to an old tale, the devil himself had a hand in creating this rock formation that resembles a set of stairs. There is a fine view from the top of the stairs and adjacent to them a small park.

**Jb Lukiokuja**

National poet Johan Ludvig Runeberg and his family lived in four different houses in Porvoo. The first residence was located at Lukiokuja 4 in 1837. It was close to the grammar school where Runeberg taught Latin and Greek. (see H).

**K. Itäinen Pitkätie-Kulmakuja**

The streets wind between residential blocks in an idyllic setting of lanes and alleys. On the way you can see many houses and glimpses of inner courtyards, which are often communal. The area survived the great fire of 1760.

**L. Statue of A. Edelfelt**

Albert Edelfelt was born in 1854 in Kiiala, 4 km outside Porvoo. The statue looks towards the manor house where he was born. The young Edelfelt went to Paris to study, but always returned to Porvoo in summer. He immortalised well-known Porvoo views in his paintings and is one of the best loved of Finnish artists. Edelfelt's studio museum is located in Haikko (see page 9). The house of Judge Orreus behind the statue is where the peasant estate convened during the Diet of Porvoo. Nowadays there is a restaurant in a building in the courtyard.

**M. Vuorikatu**

It was about here that the Great Fire of Porvoo started in 1760. Of the town's 293 houses, more than 200 burned down. The cause of the fire turned out to be a fish soup cooked in the small hours of the morning: the fire blazed up when the housewife left the stove unattended for a moment. However, the people of Porvoo showed great determination and rebuilt their houses on the old stone foundations.

**N. Linsén Park**

Gabriel Linsén (1838-1914) was a prolific composer and music teacher at the Porvoo grammar school. His wife Natalia was Finland's first female photographer and an energetic activist in social affairs and education in Porvoo. At first they lived near the park, but later moved over to the Empire-style district of Porvoo. Gabriel Linsén and his students used to greet the poet Runeberg, who lived nearby, on his birthday (5 February) by singing under his window (for Runeberg's Home see p. 7). The tradition has continued until this day!

Map of walking routes



## PLAN YOUR OWN WALK



### a) The Art Factory

This is a factory that used to make tractors and mouldings. Now it makes dreams. Besides enjoying films, concerts, art exhibitions and shopping you can eat and drink well! The Porvoo Tourist Office is also based in the refurbished premises of the Art Factory. The Factory's renovation was designed by architect Hannu Kiiskilä.

### b) August Eklöf Park

August Eklöf (1837–1912) and the enterprises founded by him, which included sawmills, factories, forestry, barges etc, were important employers for about 100 years in Porvoo. The park area used to be an industrial estate owned by Eklöf. The park was opened in 2009 and an artwork by Kirsi Kaulanen and Ylva Holländer was erected to honour the bicentenary of the Diet of Porvoo.

### c) The modern wooden town district on the western bank

The modern architecture of the area is designed as a subtle reflection of the row of wooden waterfront storehouses in Old Porvoo.

### d) Runeberg Park

The statue in memory of national poet J.L. Runeberg, sculpted by his son Walter Runeberg, plays an important part in the annual celebration of Runeberg Day in Porvoo on 5th February.

### e-h) Around Porvoo Market Square

The Market Square (e) is the heart of the town. Around it are the Town Hall (f), various specialty shops and services, for example in the Lundi shopping centre (g), and the versatile cultural centre Culture House Grand (h). In the Market Square you can buy vegetables, fish, fruit, flowers and much more, all year round, and the café in the square is a place where people meet to exchange news and views.

### i) Borgå Gymnasium School

Borgå Gymnasium is a Swedish-language upper secondary school built in the 1840s. J.L. Runeberg taught Latin and Greek in the school, which also houses a library established in 1728 – the oldest public library in Finland. The school is not open to the public.

### j) Walter Runeberg Sculpture Collection

The collection includes more than 100 sculptures and a large portrait collection. Open in summer. See p. 8.

### k) J.L. Runeberg's Home

A typical 19th century milieu in the Empire-style part of town, this house was home to the Runeberg family from the year 1852 to the poet's death in 1877. The household articles and furniture tell the story of the family's everyday and social life, see p. 7.

### l) Jokiranta – Riverbank

A pleasant riverside boulevard with summer restaurants and cafés, also a guest marina and harbour for cruise boats.

### m) Aleksanterinkatu Bridge

The bridge designed by architect Mikko Kaira was opened in autumn 2004.


Map of walking routes



Porvoo Museum, Old Town Hall

PORVOO FOR KIDS

# Fun for all the family

 *The Magic Button.* Historical figures come to life when you press the Magic Button in Porvoo Museum on the third floor of the Old Town Hall! Ulla Möllersvard dances once again with the Czar of Russia, Ville Vallgren works away at his sculptures and businessmen August Eklöf and Werner Söderström lift their hats to each other.

Porvoo is not only for grown-ups. The cobbled streets of Old Porvoo invite the whole family to explore. There are adventure tours for kids in Old Porvoo and children will also love the Toy and Doll Museum as well as the toyshops and bakeries selling all kinds of good things to eat.

In Suomenkylä there is a new attraction for the whole family, TeatteriTalo, which is like a huge play house: you can dress up, play different roles and immerse yourself in the world of theatre! You can have fun birthday parties in TeatteriTalo, too. Kids will also enjoy the miniature world of Noark, and the

super-modern BioRex cinema showing the latest films for the whole family.

Porvoo and its surroundings offer many opportunities for outdoor exercise. You can go swimming in the sea and lakes, or at the outdoor and indoor swimming pools. A favourite place for an excursion with kids is Kungsbacka Farm, where you can see farm animals and even stroke them.

Porvoo – Playgrounds

Read more [visitporvoo.fi](http://visitporvoo.fi)



## HopLop

Ratsumestarinkatu 6, 06100 Porvoo  
Open: Mon – Sat 10 am – 8 pm,  
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