



Finnish Country Guide

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Finland forms part of the Schengen Area. Australian passport holders are usually allowed to enter the Schengen Area for Tourism or Business purposes for up to 90 days in any 180 day period without a visa. The countries which make up the Schengen Area are Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Travellers to the Schengen Area are recommended to ensure their passport is valid for at least six months beyond their intended stay. Travellers are also recommended to be able to provide documentation confirming their ability to financially maintain themselves during their stay as well as tickets and entry documents for their onward destination. For further information and to confirm that you are able to travel to the Schengen area without a visa, please contact a Finnish mission on the details below.

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise normal safety precautions. Use common sense. Look out for suspicious behaviour. Terrorism is a threat throughout the world, including in Europe. The Finnish government assesses the domestic terrorism threat level to be 'elevated', level two of four. Report any suspicious activity to police and follow the advice of local authorities. See [Safety and security](#).

Finland has strong surveillance and border controls to check entry documentation. Carry your passport and/or Finnish residency permit when crossing borders, even within the [Schengen](#) area. See [Entry and exit](#).

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Finland at www.smarttraveller.gov.au.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Frequent or long stay travellers to Finland should consider vaccination against Hepatitis B. Tick-borne encephalitis is present throughout many areas in Europe, predominately in forested regions. Whilst no vaccine is available in Australia, travellers visiting risk areas and planning outdoor activities during summer might consider vaccination once in Europe. Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations, including a recent annual Influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures.

Australians in Finland are entitled to subsidised health care as part of the Reciprocal Health Care Agreement (RHCA) between the two countries. To take advantage of this program, travellers must be able to present their Australian Passport and Medicare card and advise medical staff that they wish to be treated under the RHCA with Australia. This agreement does not replace the need for travellers to take out travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. For further information regarding the RHCA, please go to www.humanservices.gov.au. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit www.smarttraveller.gov.au/tips.

Finnish Representation in Australia

Embassy of Finland, Canberra

12 Darwin Avenue
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6273 3800
Fax: (02) 6273 3603

Web: www.finland.org.au

Finland also maintains honorary consulates in all states and territories of Australia. However, the embassy previously outlined should be the first contact for any visa related enquires as honorary consulates offer limited services.

For the contact details of the honorary consulates, please see the website of the Embassy of Finland in Canberra.



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Time Differences between Finland and Australia

Finland is Greenwich Mean Time +2 hours (+3 during daylight saving). The applicable time zone is Eastern European Time (EET) or Eastern European Summer Time (EEST). Daylight saving is observed from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October.

Finland, 12 noon, Winter (Dec) = Perth 6pm; Darwin 7:30pm; Brisbane 8pm; Adelaide 8:30pm; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 9pm.
Finland, 12 noon, Summer (Jun) = Perth 5pm; Darwin, Adelaide 6:30pm; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 7pm.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Finland: +358

To Dial Australia Call: 00 61 <City><Number>
(990, 994 or 999 are sometimes used as the international prefix rather than 00)

Australian Reverse Charges Direct:
0800 110 610

Travelex Card Services:
Call the US on +1 954 838 8294

Visa Global Assist: 0800 11 0057

MasterCard: 08001 156234

American Express Travellers Cheques:
0800 9 3313

Helsinki City Tourist Information:
+358 (0)9 3101 3300

Emergency Services: 112
The emergency services operators should be able to answer calls in Finnish, Swedish and English.

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals, and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in Finland

Australian Embassy, Sweden
Klarabergsviadukten 63, 8th Floor
111 64 STOCKHOLM

Tel: (+46 (0)8) 613 2900
Fax: (+46 (0)8) 613 2982

Web: www.sweden.embassy.gov.au

Honorary Consulate of Australia,
Finland

Museokatu 25 B 23
00100 HELSINKI

Tel: (+358 (0)10) 42 04 492

The honorary consulate in Helsinki provides limited services. The Australian Embassy in Sweden is accredited to this country and can provide full consular assistance to Australians in Finland.

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305. Australians travelling to Finland are encouraged to register their presence and contact details in Finland with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Duty Free Allowances

Duty Free limits when entering Finland from a non EU state:
Alcohol: 1 L spirits (>22% alc vol) or 2 L other beverages; as well as 4 L of still wine and 16 L of beer.
Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 g of tobacco.
Other Goods: Up to a value of €430 for air and sea travellers, €300 for others.

Duty Free limits when entering Australia:
Alcohol: 2.25 L
Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
Other Goods: Up to \$900 (\$450 for minors)

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products (min age limits in Finland - Spirits 20 yrs, other alcohol and cigarettes 18 yrs). Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting Finland, Europe and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For information on Finnish customs please visit www.tulli.fi, or for information regarding Australian customs please visit www.homeaffairs.gov.au.

Electrical and Telephone Adaptors

Electrical Socket type: European.

Voltage: 220-240 volts (same as Australia, no voltage/frequency converter required).

Modem Plug Type: Norwegian and Finnish type.

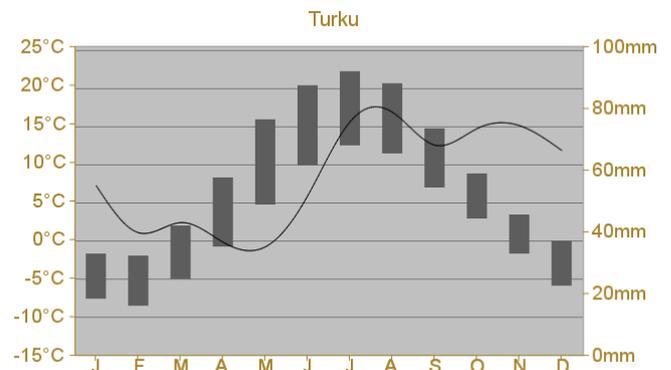
To purchase electrical/modem adaptors, or for further information on this matter, please view the Korjo adapter guide at www.korjo.com.au.



Finnish Holidays 2018

01 Jan:	New Years Day	20 May:	Whit Sunday
06 Jan:	Epiphany	22 Jun:	Midsummer's Eve
30 Mar:	Good Friday	03 Nov:	All Saints' Day
01 Apr:	Easter	06 Dec:	Independence Day
02 Apr:	Easter Monday	24-25 Dec:	Christmas
01 May:	May Day	26 Dec:	St Stephens Day
10 May:	Ascension Day		

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Finland



Source: Finnish Meteorological Institute. For local forecasts please go to www.fmi.fi/en/index.html or www.bbc.co.uk/weather.

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Page 4 of 5 Finnish/Euro Currency Information and Cheat Sheet Exchange Rate Purchasing-Power Parity

Interbank Rate
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 0.63 Euro
 1 Euro (EUR) = 1.58 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 0.61 Euro
 1 Euro (EUR) will cost 1.65 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

The following is a purchasing-power comparison of the Euro in Finland and the Australian Dollar, using the Big Mac as a common good. While it does not present a faultless comparison, it is a useful indicator of the purchasing-power of the currencies.

Big Mac Australia: \$5.95 (AUD) = 3.76 Euro
 Big Mac Finland: €4.56 (EUR) = 7.22 Australian Dollars

A Big Mac in Finland is therefore 21% more expensive than in Australia.

This comparison is based on 2018 prices using current exchange rates. Prices may not include variations by locality or local taxes.

Currency Cheat Sheet

This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.

€0.50 = \$0.82 AUD	€10 = \$16.47 AUD	€100 = \$164.73 AUD
€1 = \$1.65 AUD	€20 = \$32.95 AUD	€200 = \$329.47 AUD
€2 = \$3.29 AUD	€30 = \$49.42 AUD	€300 = \$494.20 AUD
€3 = \$4.94 AUD	€40 = \$65.89 AUD	€400 = \$658.94 AUD
€4 = \$6.59 AUD	€50 = \$82.37 AUD	€500 = \$823.67 AUD
€5 = \$8.24 AUD	€60 = \$98.84 AUD	€600 = \$988.40 AUD
€6 = \$9.88 AUD	€70 = \$115.31 AUD	€700 = \$1,153.14 AUD
€7 = \$11.53 AUD	€80 = \$131.79 AUD	€800 = \$1,317.87 AUD
€8 = \$13.18 AUD	€90 = \$148.26 AUD	€900 = \$1,482.61 AUD
€9 = \$14.83 AUD		€1,000 = \$1,647.34 AUD

Notes and Coins

The legal currency of Finland is the Euro, which is abbreviated using the symbol € (for example €100). The subunit of the Euro is the cent, of which there are 100 in every Euro. The following units of currency are the most common in Finland but other versions and denominations are also in circulation (including a purple €500 note and other nations' coins). Pictures are not to scale.





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About Finland

Full Name: Suomen tasavalta (Republic of Finland).

Independence: 1917 (from Russia).

Size: 338,145 sq km (50% larger than Victoria).

Population: 5.3 million. (23% the size of Australia). Helsinki 1.1 million; Tampere 320,000; Turku 250,000; Oulu 185,000.

Ethnicity: Finnish 93%, Swedish 6%.

Language: Finnish 91%, Swedish 5.5%.

Religion: Lutheran Church of Finland 83%, Orthodox Church 1.1%.

GDP Per Capita: \$36,500 (Australia US\$40,800).

Significant Dates:

- c1100 AD - Crusaders from Sweden under King Erik convert the Finns to Christianity.
- 1323 - Present day Finland becomes part of the Swedish Kingdom.
- 1550 - Helsinki established by King Gustav I of Sweden.
- 1809 - The Russian Empire invades Sweden. Finland is ceded to Russia.
- 1917 - Finland declares independence from Russia following the Russian revolution.
- 1918 - Civil war claims 30,000 lives.
- 1939-40 - Russia invades neutral Finland sparking the Winter War.
- 1941-44 - Fighting resumes between Russia and Finland. Finland concedes land and reparations to Russia but is not occupied.
- 1947-91 - Finland remains neutral during the Cold War, but Soviets maintain a veto on Finnish foreign and defence policy.
- 1952 - Helsinki Olympic Games.
- 1955 - Finland joins the UN.
- 1995 - Finland joins the EU.

