

Cultural History Walk



This little tour around the city passes by many historically important places. In the brochure you can find a map and a short description of 34 different sights.

Enjoy your tour!



1. We begin the tour at the tourist information building on the street Rauhankatu, built by baker **Frans Engelbert Palmros** after the fire of 1855. The building used to serve as the town hall of Uusikaupunki for over a century,



from 1861 to 1974, and therefore it is commonly known as “raatihuone” (town hall). Also the police department of the town has had its premises here. On the wall facing the church there is a bas relief by Jussi Vikainen.

Uusikaupunki was founded in the year 1617 and the bas relief presents the founder, **Gustav II Adolph**. At the inner yard we can find a decorative wooden

building that used to serve as the weigh house of the town in the 1890s. Even horse loads could get weighed on the public scale of this house. It should, however, be noted that this is not the original location of the building; it was moved here from the waterfront in the 1920s because of the construction of railway track.



2. At the corner of Alinenkatu and Rauhankatu on the wall of the recess between Raija’s kiosk and the shoe store Alina, you can see a bronze plaque (designed by **Raimo Aarras**) on the wall of the post office building. The plaque tells about the Danish telegraphic company that used to operate in Uusikaupunki. “**Det Store Nordiske Telegraf-Selskab**” wired the first cable from Grisslehamn, Sweden,



to Uusikaupunki in 1869, thus connecting Russia to the worldwide telegraphic line. Plaque of the telegraph is situated on a rock behind Novida Vocational College.



3. The birthplaces of two famous Finnish painters, court painter **Robert Wilhelm Ekman** (1809-1873) and his student **Arvid Liljelund** (1844-1899), are located near to each other at the corner of Alinenkatu and Pohjoistullikatu. Turun Uudenkaupungin Kilta (the Uusikaupunki guild of



Turku) had these birthplaces marked with memorial plaques, like those of all the other great characters of the town.



4. The headquarters of the company Uudenkaupungin Laiva Oy were located in this building on the street Kirkkokatu. The company played a prominent role in the history of shipbuilding in Uusikaupunki; at the shipyard in Kainpirtti they built ships such as, schooner Wellamo and barques Rauha, Eläköön and Varma. Nowadays a boutique, Pikku Putik, is occasionally located in this building, selling old and new goods. Every time there's a sailor next to the gate, the shop is open for visitors.



5. After the town had been founded in 1617, it naturally also needed an own church. They started building the now so called Vanha kirkko (the old church of Uusikaupunki) in 1623 and six years later the first services were held. At that point the church was still rather plain, but little by little it was made better. During the 18th century the church got, for example, its unique ceiling. Until the 20th century the bell tower of the church also served as a fire watchtower; every fifteen minutes the watchman would strike a triangle as a sign that he is awake and alert. Since the new church was built, the old church served as a culture historical museum. After the museum got its own premises, the church got fully renovated during the years 1971–1976. Since then it has only been in use during the summer months and serves as a popular tourist attraction. Next to the church also lie the topsail yard of the German barque Peking and a memorial plaque for magistrate **Olof Snellman** (1668 –1700). On the south side of the church there is the statue “Saaristonaisen suru” from 1952 by **Jussi Vikainen**. In memory of those who lost their lives in the wars during the years 1939–1945, the statue shows a wife of a fisherman waiting for her husband to come back home, in vain.





6. Close to the old church there is a monument for the alchemist **August Nordenskiöld** and his assistant **Kaarlo Bergklint**. In their forge, located in this very place, they tried to create the philosopher's stone and this way turn metal into gold. They didn't succeed though, and Nordenskiöld died in Sierra Leone in 1792.



7. Up on the hill Vallimäki we come to **the Naval Pilot Museum**. The house from 1857 still has its original furnishings, with additional pieces brought from the pilot stations of Lyökki and Isokari. The building is a rare example of 18th century naval pilot house.

West from Vallimäki there is an area called **Paltsapori** with several wooden houses. This area survived the fires of 19th century and is now under protection. In the old days the area housed a great number of sailors and craftsmen.



8. Up on **Vallimäki** there is also an anchor, donated to the city by the shipyard. It is to honor the sailors of Uusikaupunki, many of whom not only made the city known abroad but also lost their lives at sea. During the 17th and 18th centuries the hilltop used to serve as a lookout. During the Crimean war as well, the enemies' moves were observed from Vallimäki.

A few years earlier, a sobriety restaurant donated by merchant Gabriel Ceder was founded here. The town dwellers called it "Turha" (=Useless). The current Vallila building was completed in 1880. Its restaurant soon became a popular



place for celebrations. Downstairs there was the pub Roistola, but as demanded by the temperance society it had to close its doors in 1908. It houses a reservation-only restaurant and an event venue. The route continues down the stairs to Rantakatu street.



9. Pakkahuone, nowadays a guest harbor and café, was built in 1840. Originally it served as a weight and packing warehouse and confiscation storage. In the summer time, Pakkahuone organizes traditional evening market events on the shore.



In the guest harbor, there is an exhibition space of the local marine society **Merikeskus (Maritime Centre)**. In the exhibition, you can see for example miniature model of the barque Warma..



10. On Rantakatu we can find one of the oldest wooden houses of the town, the so called “**Lehtisen talo**”. It was built in 1838 and unlike many other buildings, didn’t suffer from fire damage in 1855.





11. Coming from Rantakatu and climbing up the small stairs we come to the park Rauhanpuisto. At the top of the stairs there is a monument called “Pelastuspartio” (rescue party) by **Onni Pursiainen**, in memory of captain **Emil Erholm** and all the sailors who have disappeared at sea.



12. The wooden building by the park houses the library of the town. It used to serve as the lyceum (school) though, and the oldest parts of the building date back to the year 1854. In the park there is also the bronze statue “**Toivo**” (hope) by **Jussi Vikainen**. Säästöpankki (Savings bank) donated the statue to the town in honor of its 100th anniversary.





13. At the market place we can find **the monument of Treaty of Uusikaupunki**. It was the last peace treaty of the Great Northern War of 1700–



1721, and it was concluded between the Tsardom of Russia and the Swedish Empire on 10 September (30 August) 1721. The negotiations were held in a house that was brought from Lokalahti for this particular use. The monument is designed by **Reino Harsti** and is situated in the very place where the negotiations took place. In the end of August, a special rowing

event is organized to honor the treaty of peace, and the content of the treaty is read in Finnish, Swedish and Russian.



14. At the corner of Koulukatu and Rantakatu, in the former stables of the count of Wasaborg there was the first glass factory of the country (1681–1685). The factory was managed by Gustaf Jung whose father Melchior Jung had already founded a glass factory in Stockholm. The factory of Uusikaupunki got destroyed in fire.



Nowadays, K-Market Pikkuherkku is located in this place.



15. The so called “**Kaupunginlahti**”, the bay by the town, used to form a harbor deep enough for smaller boats. As the bay got shallower, the harbor had to be moved further away in the 18th century.

The first bridge over the bay was built in 1850; the current one, Tervaportti (=tar gate) is from the year 1998. Kalatori (=fish market) was a popular trade place. The red buildings at the waterfront are old salt storages, which date back to years 1820-1850, except for one which was built in year 2000. There are nowadays restaurants located in them. The Kaupunginlahti bay has been renovated a lot lately. Nautical phrases and ships' names on the pavings and seawall are related to the marine history of the town. The pier names describe old routes of trade vessels: Stockholm, Copenhagen and London. The walls with stories form an open-air museum introducing these three cities. Around the Kaupunginlahti bay there are also ten smaller text walls telling about the old life in Uusikaupunki with photos and funny stories.





16. The former power station of Uusikaupunki, built in 1909, now serves as **Bonk-museum**. There are “function free” machines and stories about them presented. Open in the summertime. Children can build their own Bonk machine in children’s workshop, Innovatorium.



17. Archbishop **Martti Simojoki** was born in the house situated at the corner of Rantakatu and Sepänkatu. He served as archbishop of Finland during the years 1964–1978. In addition, archbishop **Aleksi Lehtonen** was born in Uusikaupunki. He served as archbishop during 1945–1951.



18. Uusikaupunki has had its own pharmacy since 1779. The stone building where the pharmacy nowadays operates was built in years 1858–1860 by consul **Ramsell**. Before moving to the stone building the pharmacy served in the nearby wooden house that then became the chemist’s residence. A double-headed eagle from the Russian Empire decorates the pharmacy.





19. On Sepänkatu there also used to be the home of baker **Frans Engelbert Palmros**. In July 1855 there was a great fire in the town that started from Palmros' baking oven. All together 93 houses and the town hall were destroyed.



20. In August 1846 the house of **Helena Juliana Söderman** at the corner of Alinenkatu and Myllykatu was struck by lightning, causing a fire that burned down 97 lots. Almost half of the inhabitants of Uusikaupunki became homeless. Local heritage society “Kaupunkim poja” has placed a plaque to the place where the fire started.



21. The buildings at the corner of Alinenkatu and Myllykatu were built after the fire of 1846. The so called “**Jungqvistin talo**” was built by tanner **H. F. Roslin**, but belonged for a long period of time to mayor **Georg Jungqvist**. The trees by the street were planted to prevent such huge damages, if another fire started in the city.





22. At address Myllykatu 6, on the wall of the house there is a memorial plaque for composer **B. H. Crusell**. Crusell was born in Uusikaupunki and is one of the most well-known Finnish composers. “Oi terve, Pohjola” and “Pieni orjatar” are two of his most famous works. Since 1982 an annual music festival, “The Crusell Music Festival”, has been organized in town. By the street there is also a beautiful, renovated gate of an old merchant house. The route continues from Myllykatu street to the east and to Ylinenkatu street.



23. F. W. Wahlberg was one of the most notable tradesmen of the 20th century Uusikaupunki; he was not only a shipowner but also ran a tobacco factory. In 1870 he had a great wooden house built for himself. Since 1968 the building on Ylinenkatu has housed the Museum of cultural history, also known as **Wahlberg’s museum house**. The rooms on the ground floor are furnished and decorated in the 19th and 20th century style. Besides, there is a collection of objects telling stories of maritime activities. On Myllykatu there are also still wooden houses where the tobacco factory once operated.



24. At the corner of Ylinenkatu and Nordströminkatu we come to the so called “Uudenkaupungin Työväenyhdistyksen talo” (the house of the workers’ association of Uusikaupunki), built in 1907. The association was founded in 1892. On the wall there’s also the memorial relief of **Rafael Paasio**, a politician.





25. Years back there used to be several windmills in the town. Retired sailors, for example, often tried to secure their living by taking care of them. In the 1930s commercial counsellor **J. G. Nordström**, born in one of the houses at **Myllymäki**, started restoring the park. Windmills of four different types, for example, were brought to the park back then. Thousands of loads of soil were brought to the hill, and wide plantings were made. Stairs were made as well. There's also a 30-meter long water tower built in 1953. Nowadays, there is no more access to the tower. Also an **arboretum** was found there, with multiple special trees and plants. We come down the hill to Myllykatu.



26. On Myllykatu you can find **the Sailor's home museum**. It's one of the oldest residential houses of the town, built in the late 18th century; it has housed several sailor families. Since 1994 it has served as a museum, showing the way these families used to live.



27. On the street Myllykatu there is a memorial for craftsmen of Uusikaupunki. In the memorial are listed many of the professions of the 19th century Uusikaupunki, such as tailor, baker and rope maker.



28. On the street Vuorikatu you can find the former home of the composer **Usko Kemppe** (1907-1994); Kemppe lived in this house in the 1920s.





29. The church hall of Uusikaupunki, designed by architect Pekka Ilveskoski, was built in 1982. The building fits well among the surrounding 19th-century wooden houses.



30. The Community Hub Wintteri was completed in spring 2025. Before it, the site was home to a coeducational secondary school built in 1957, later known as Viikainen School and Upper Secondary School. Under the same roof, you will now find a daycare center, a comprehensive school, an upper secondary school, a music institute, an adult education center, a youth space, a self-service library, sports, meeting and cultural facilities, as well as a swimming hall.



The name Wintteri is a tribute to pedagogue and schoolmaster Johannes Wintter, who took care of the well-being of the town's residents during the Great Northern War (1713–1721). The names of the different spaces honor people who have played a significant role in the history of Uusikaupunki, many of them women.



31. “Seikowin vähälasten koulu” was the first school in Uusikaupunki open to all children; it was built in 1865. The building of the school was funded by the ship owner **Samuel Seikow**, after whom it also was named. The other wooden school building nearby was built in the 1870s. Seikow School was closed in 2010, and the former school buildings now house Seikow Daycare.





32. The so called **Uusi kirkko** (the new church of Uusikaupunki) was designed by **G. T. Chiewitz** and built during 1855–1863. Most of the bricks were brought from the local factory located in Sorvakko. The alterpieces have been painted by **R. W. Wkman**. The church has authentic Marcussen organs. In 1865, **Jens Zachariassen** arrived in Uusikaupunki from Denmark to assemble the organs ordered from the Danish organ factory Marcussen & Søn. Zachariassen settled in Uusikaupunki, married Maria Helena Rivell, the daughter of local shipowner Johan Rivell, in 1869, and began building organs himself in 1866. His organ factory and home were located at Zachariasseninkatu 1, where today the Sakunkulma day center for the elderly operates. The factory produced 140 large church organs as well as numerous smaller ones. Later, Zachariassen also worked as a shipowner.



On the side of the New Church facing the market square stands the Freedom and Independence Memorial monument, designed by Katri Varen-Varis. In the churchyard on the Rauhankatu's side, there is a veterans' memorial erected in 1992 at the initiative of the Vakka-Suomi Reserve Officers' Association.



33. The stone building from 1911 at the corner of Ylinenkatu and Koulukatu, designed by **Walter Thome**, used to serve as a **bank**. Nowadays it houses a popular restaurant and hotel called **Gasthaus Pooki**.



34. The yellow building in the corner of the streets Vuorikatu and Koulukatu, commonly known as “VPK:n talo” (the house of the volunteer fire department), used to serve as the fire station of the town 1829-1973. The second floor is still used by the volunteer fire department, but the actual fire station is now located on the street Liljalaaksonkatu.





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