**Turku – City of Expertise and Culture**

Centrally located at the crossroads of the Baltic Sea in the Southwest-Finland, the City of Turku has for centuries served as Finland’s gateway to the world. Today, Turku is home to over 180 000 inhabitants and altogether 300 000 inhabitants in the Turku region. In addition to its top class universities, vibrant businesses and thriving cultural life, Turku is also known as the centre of Finland’s maritime and bio clusters.

As the oldest city in Finland founded in 1229, Turku is Finland’s historical centre for culture and education. Turku Cathedral, situated on the hillock of Unikankare by the river Aura, is Finland’s National Sanctuary. Dedicated to the Virgin Mary and Finland’s first bishop, St Henry, the church was consecrated in 1300. The Turku Cathedral is considered to be Finland’s most valuable historical monument.

The River Aura is the heart and soul of Turku and home to sights, such as the Cathedral, University, Old Great Square and Turku Castle. A great way to explore Turku is to take a stroll along the riverfront. You'll find not only historical sites, but also a wide spectrum of places to eat and drink. The riverboats are a real Turku speciality, and many are also restaurants.

