

## **FINNFEST USA 2020: JOENSUU, FINLAND**

(This draft presents the latest program draft. Check back regularly for changes and additions)

### **Air and land Travel arrangement assistance:**

Borton Overseas Travel

### **Hotel accommodations:**

Kimmel (Sokos) Hotel with special FinnFest USA 2020 rates

### **August 15, Saturday**

Pre-FinnFest USA Program

Proposed: Finnish and Finnish American authors All-day seminar

Proposed: Finnish and American Musicians folk/world music

Exploring Joensuu options (individual options for people who choose to arrive early.)

1. Botania Gardens
2. Saturday Tori (market)
3. Sauna and swim

Proposed: Evening concert of various musicians from Finnish America TBD

### **August 16, Sunday**

1. Jumalan palvelu (Divine Worship service) at the Joensuu Cathedral) with American participation.

2. Proposed: FinnFest USA presents programming for the Joensuu community: free events

Public reading by American authors attending FinnFest USA 2020 (in Joensuu)

Finnish American musicians performing

3. Bus trip (option for attendees who choose to come by bus from Helsinki to Joensuu) traveling via Savonlinna, Finland's eastern border medieval castle and fortress)

19:00 Evening reception and formal welcome program

A. Music (Finnish and American musicians)

B. Welcome remarks: city and region dignitaries

C. Keynote: Climate Change, the Russian neighbor and Refugees: Finland perspectives

### **August 17, Monday**

7:00-8:30 Breakfast at Kimmel Hotel

### **Who is Finland Today?: Finland and its Social & Cultural Geography**

Morning venue: Kimmel Hotel

9:00 Finland's Cultural Regions: Where are they? Do they continue? How?

Keynote: It's a small country, but Finland has historically distinct regional cultures

Panel: Regional responses from Finland

- 10:00 Finland's cities  
How do cities outside of Finland's three major metropolitan regions create and sustain their own unique history and identity?": Joensuu as an example
- 11:00 Kalevala and North Karelian Culture Today  
1. What does the Kalevala mean to Finland?  
2. What is North Karelian Culture?
- 12:30 Buffet lunch at Orthodox Cultural Center  
<https://www.ortodoksinenkulttuurikeskus.fi/en/home>
- 13:30 Finland, Not just Lutheran: Finnish Orthodox Church & Culture  
Speaker(s) TBD
- 14:30 Tour of Orthodox Chapel and Seminary gardens
- 15:30 Guided Bus tour of Joensuu
- Free time
- 19:00 Evening with Traditional Karelian music and dance  
Motora: Finnish Folk dance group specializing in Karelian dance and music  
An evening of performance and instruction/experiences  
Venue: Riverside Garden park

**August 18 (Tuesday):**

7:00-8:30 Breakfast at Kimmel Hotel

**Who is Finland today? Finland and Its Natural Environment**

Morning Venue: Metla Talo, Finnish Forestry Research Institute, University of Eastern Finland.

- 9:00 Finland's Green Gold: Forests, past and present  
Speaker: TBD
- 9:30 An introduction to the Metla's building, (completed in 2004), Finland's first large three-story building to be built from wood, including a wooden frame. Today, the building serves as a significant example of Finland's global leadership in wooden architecture that meets sustainability goals.
- 10:00 Northern Karelia: Global Environmental issues
- Climate change: the impact on Koli  
Kai-Eerik Nyholm, Environment Educator and Activist, Finland
  - Climate change: the impact on wild animals: Finland and Minnesota  
William Saber, Environment Educator and Activist, USA
- 12:15 Bus Departs for Koli region

Lunch boxes served enroute

- 13:30 Exploring wood in the natural environment and culture of the Koli National Park region Pielisen Museo (300 years of Finnish wooden architecture) <https://www.liekka.fi/in-english> Paateri, home and museum Eeva Rynnänen, sculptor, 1915-2001. <https://www.visitkarelia.fi/en/Summer/Guided-tour-at-Eva-Rynnänen-Ateljee-and-Paateri-Church,-VuonisjarviLiekka>
- 18:00 Return trip to Joensuu:  
Karelian farmstead supper enroute
- 19:00: Viewing of *Oma Maa* (Land of Hope) 2018, Markku Pölönen, Director, 1 hour, 48 minutes  
Introduction to the film: Markku Pölönen,  
Feature film (shown in Finnish with English subtitles). A young couple creating a life in Northern Karelia in the years after WWII, 1945-1952, when Finland settled over 440,000 Karelian evacuees and war invalids. Over 10,000 new homes were established.  
Venue: TBD
- 21:00 Post-film discussion with Markku Pölönen, the director  
Audience responses: Finnish Americans and Joensuu-area community members.  
Open to the Public.

**August 19 Wednesday:**

7:00-8:30 Breakfast at Kimmel

**Who is Finland Today? Finland's Experiences with Its Political Geography**

- 9:00 Finland's Borderlands: Where have they been? Where are they now?  
Cross-Border Research Institute, University of Eastern Finland
- 10:00 Finnish 19<sup>th</sup> Century Discovery of Finnish National Landscapes (Suomen Sielun maisemat)  
The significance of the Koli region to 19<sup>th</sup> Century Finnish composers like Sibelius, artists like Gallen-Kallela and Järnefelt  
Speaker(s): TBD
- 11:00 Karelian Fever: Finland and North America in the 1920's and 30's  
Different Reasons; Different Results  
Speaker(s): TBD
- 12:00 The Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century Wars in Finland and Their Aftermath  
1. The Wars seen from the perspective of Joensuu  
2. Refugees: Post WWII, Finland & the USA  
3. Post-War Evacuees and Orphans in Northern Karelia  
Speakers: TBD

- 13:00 Lunch TBD  
Small group discussions with local Joensuu community representatives
- 14:00 Drive to Koli lookout  
OR  
Joensuu Artists' tour  
Walking from studio to studio, or place to place, where art is being created in the Joensuu area. Participants see how artists work at their craft and visit with the artists themselves.
- 18:00 Dinner and Reception at the Joensuu City Theatre and Restaurant  
(Building designed by Eliel Saarinen and opened in 1914 to serve as Joensuu City Hall)  
Location: River Front in Downtown Joensuu
- 19:30 Evening Performance(s) TBD in the City Theatre; proposals are  
1. Theater production that presents contemporary youth response to historic Joensuu  
2. Finnish American Musicians response to historic Finnish America  
Evening performance to be open to the Joensuu public as well as FinnFest USA attendees

### **August 20 Thursday**

7:30 to 8:30 Breakfast at Kimmel

### **Who is Finland today?: Finland and Its Living Past**

9:00 Bus – day trip: Karelian Culture, Winter War and Continuation War battle sites and the current Finland/Russia border region

Lönnrot collected some of his most important lamentation and epic poetry in this area. Both Sibelius and Gallen-Kallela traveled here on their honeymoons, using the landscape later to inspire their art.

Kaleva culture can still be explored here, including Karelian cuisine authentically prepared. Traditional architecture, including two historic wooden churches, one Orthodox, the other Lutheran, both dating back to the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, add to the experience.

The area, the site of significant Winter War and Continuation War battlefronts, became a significant entry point for Karelian refugees/evacuees, people whose homes were lost behind the new border with the Soviet Union. Today, FinnFest USA attendees will visit both battlefields and war memorials associated and experience Karelia without crossing the border into Russia.

18:00 Parppeinpirtti - No-host dinner with traditional Karelian food and music  
<https://www.parppeinpirtti.fi/en/>

20:00 Bus leaves for Joensuu

21:00 Bus arrives in Joensuu

**August 21 Friday**

7:00-8:30 Breakfast at Kimmel

**Who is Finland Today?: Contemporary Urban Joensuu in a Global World (including Finland and the USA)**

9:00 Creating a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economy in an Urban Center outside of Helsinki  
Joensuu Science Center

Presenters: John Deere, an American company in Finland  
Abloy, a Finnish company with a global reach  
UPM Plywood, a Finnish company created sustainable plywood  
products in Joensuu and sustainable paper products in MN  
Joensuu, Chamber of Commerce

10:30 Contemporary Finland: Where does the past (experienced throughout the week) fit into the present? The younger generation and their search for identity in a global world

12:00 Closing Luncheon with Keynote Speaker  
Keynote: Finland and America: Sharing a history through Migration; Creating a future together through Contemporary Connections  
Presenter: Prominent Finnish public figure

14:00 Joen Yö – Joensuu’s Annual Community Festival —a free cultural event suitable for all. Music performed by a cross section of contemporary Finnish musicians, from folk to rap, from classical to metal; open houses at cultural sites; food stalls and restaurants with special menus; arts’ studios open with artist present; artisan booths.  
<https://www.joensuu.fi/fi/web/english/-/a-full-and-dynamic-programme-for-joen-yo-a-night-by-the-river>

**August 22 Saturday**

Departure