

HÄME

The heartland of happiness



VISIT  HÄME

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WELCOME TO *Häme!*

Häme has a central location near Helsinki, Turku and Tampere. The Häme region features both urban city life and breathtaking nature experiences. Learn more about the rich history and culture of the area and embark on exciting experiences to your liking. Immerse yourself in local life and meet nice people.

Enjoy yourself, feel well and come back soon!





THE MIDDLE AGES COME ALIVE IN HÄME

Häme was already inhabited in the Stone Age, and as a result, the area contains plenty of historically significant sites. The ruins of Hakoinen Castle date from the Middle Ages, possibly as far back as the 13th century. The historical Häme Castle is one of the three largest medieval castles in Finland. The Oxen Road of Tavastia running from Turku to Hämeenlinna is one of the oldest historical roads in Finland. Häme is also home to many old churches, such as the Holy Cross Church in Hattula, the shingle-roofed log church Santa Pirjo in Loppi and the valuable Tammela Granite Church from the 16th century.

Take an enchanting journey through time in Häme!



The first written mention of Häme can be found in a Russian document from 1042





EXPERIENCE LIVING HISTORY AT EVENTS

The Häme Medieval Festival is the largest medieval festival in Finland and it is organised in Linnanpuisto Park in Hämeenlinna. The Hakkapeliitta event, on the other hand, will whisk you off to 17th century Tammela. A tournament on horseback is organised in Hämeenlinna in the spring, and if you have never heard of buhurt, you should definitely visit the Vanaja Tournament, where you can learn more about the full contact fighting sport practised with medieval equipment.

GET SWEEPED AWAY BY THE HISTORY AND STORIES OF HäME

Häme is a veritable cornucopia of historical stories. You can learn more about the fascinating historical events on visits to villages, the countryside and small idyllic museums, which are often run by local entrepreneurs. Laurinmäki in Janakkala is an excellent place to learn more about the lives of tenant farmers, and you can take a dive into the prehistoric era in impressive scenery in the Linnavuoret hillfort.





GLISTENING GLASS AND GLORIOUS DISPLAYS OF SKILL

Häme is the home of glass art. The Riihimäki and Iittala areas are among the most significant destinations. You can explore the history of glass and see extraordinary glass art pieces in the Finnish Glass Museum in Riihimäki. Iittala, on the other hand, is home to the last operating glass factory in Finland. There you will be able to see the skilled glassblowers at work. Crafts are a traditional pastime in Häme and they are highly valued. You have the opportunity to learn more about glass art and making glass art in several locations.

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EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF GLASS YOURSELF BY BLOWING YOUR OWN GLASS ITEM

The area surrounding the old glass factory in Riihimäki contains glass studios, where you can see glass artists at work. Mafka & Alakoski as well as the Lasismi studio also offer the chance to try your hand at glassblowing. You can also become a glassblower at the Iittala factory by blowing a vase, for example, for yourself.

IITTALA VILLAGE

You can visit the Iittala glass factory in Iittala Village and see how the Aalto vase is made. Pop into Design Museum Iittala to learn more about the village and the history of design. Iittala Village offers plenty to see and experience for those who love art and crafts, such as the Iittala Centre of Naive Art. The area also boasts many small arts and crafts boutiques, like the Kultasuklaa chocolate factory for those with a sweet tooth.



MUSIC AND EVENTS IN HÄME

You can visit the birth home of the most famous Finnish composer, Jean Sibelius, in Hämeenlinna. Sibelius was inspired by the nature of his native region, especially Aulanko, where you can hike in the forest dedicated to the composer. In Sibeliuksenpuisto Park, you can sit on the sound benches and enjoy Sibelius' famous compose, The Trees.

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MUSIC EVENTS

Häme offers a vast selection of music events from festivals and rock concerts to classical music. In the summer you can enjoy outdoor concerts in many different genres in Häme. The Häme region also contains concert and cultural venues with active programming, such as Verkatehdas and Vihreä talo. Music events like Linna Jazz, Tykkijazz and Tykkiblues pamper music lovers with Finnish and international artists.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Häme also hosts many special events in addition to musical treats. Those interested in the action on the motor racing track or head to the Pick-Nic in Forssa and the Linna Cruising event in Hämeenlinna. Furthermore, the open villages day (Avoimet Kylät) and open farms event (Avoimet Maatilat) invite you to explore some of the local life and food in the Häme region.





HARMONIOUS NATURE IN HÄME

Häme is home to magnificent Finnish national landscapes and nature destinations. You can visit the beautiful Liesjärvi and Torronsuo national parks and a large number of nature destinations where you can go camping. You can cross-country cycle, SUP, paddle or hike the Ilvesreitti route in Häme – the choice is yours!

In Häme, you are never far away from nature destinations. The region is dotted with recreational and camping sites, they can even be found near cities. The beautiful Aulanko area is located right next to Hämeenlinna, and urban parks offer nature experiences for those who crave them.

Enjoy the multifaceted, clean nature of Häme and refresh yourself!





1495 km of hiking routes

HÄME IS THE GATEWAY TO THE FINNISH LAKELAND

Häme, the heart of southern Finland, is the gateway to the Finnish Lakeland. The lakes, rivers and ponds offer countless opportunities for relaxation and leisure time activities all year. Paddle along the river across the Häme region or go tour skating on the lake in the winter. The clear and clean waters in Häme also offer excellent swimming and diving opportunities.

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64% of the area is
wooded and 9% is water



EAT TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT IN HÄME

Häme is the home of genuine and versatile flavours. Most restaurants will have delicacies made with local and wild ingredients on their menu. You can buy locally produced food to take home at the farm shops in the area. You can pick berries and mushrooms or take a row boat out to the lake and do some fishing or catch some crayfish. Source your own ingredients and prepare a meal in the tutelage of a professional chef! Don't forget to pop by the atmospheric coffee houses and sample the fresh delicacies of local bakeries.





FOR CONNOISSEURS OF WINE AND BEER

Wine lovers should definitely visit the Lepaa vineyard, where you can taste wine and buy some to take home for yourself or as gifts. The OlutMylly brewery in Forssa and the craft brewery in Kuninkaankartano in Mustiala make local beers with heart. Whether you love food or drink, Häme has some local, high-quality delicacies to offer you.

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WELL-BEING FOR BODY AND SOUL

There is plenty to do for all active people in Häme. You can participate in organised sports activities or go at your own pace in nature and on the water. If you want to try something else in addition to traditional hiking, visit the climbing park and enjoy the forest from a new vantage point in the treetops. In the summer you can take a dip in the lake, and the winter provides an opportunity to venture into the hole in the ice. You can enjoy a hot tub in both Aulanko and Forssa and go dancing at one of the many open-air or barn dances.



GREAT FOR GOLFERS

Lakes, nature and history provide a wonderful backdrop for the seven golf courses in Häme, offering unforgettable golf experiences. Hämeenlinna, dubbed Tiilaakso, or the 'Tee Valley' of Finland, has four courses and all of them only a 15-minute drive from each other. The most high-end golf course in Finland, Linna Golf, and the oldest golf course in Aulanko, as well as the other courses in Hämeenlinna, Hattula and Ypäjä, offer a versatile selection for golfers of different levels.

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SLOW LIFE SLOW DOWN AND RELAX

Clean air and peace and quiet are the building blocks for well-being and happiness for most busy people. The guided nature tours in the county and nature yoga will allow you to relax and get in touch with unique nature. The traditional slow lifestyle of the Häme region is good for your body and soul.



WELCOME TO THE SAUNA

You can find some interesting saunas in the Häme region where you can relax and enjoy the heat. The county features lakeside saunas, smoke saunas, public saunas, village saunas, the Jalolautta sauna-boat, the Olympic sauna, the Viking sauna, the elf sauna, the tractor sauna, the bus sauna and the underground sauna..

RELAX IN NATURE

Find peace of mind on a lakeshore listening to the waves lapping, take a dip in the lake and feel your body loosen up. Rowing on the lake will also help your mind relax. The beautiful and clean nature and waters in the Häme region offer plenty of opportunities for relaxation and finding peace of mind.



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EQUESTRIAN EXPERIENCES

Did you know that Ypäjä in the Forssa area is the horse capital of Finland? No wonder, as every fifth 'resident' is a horse. Riders with different skill sets can take riding lessons at the riding school of Ypäjä Equine College. In the summer, Häme hosts many horse events with an international flair. If you like horse racing, Pilvenmäki in Forssa and the trotting track in Riihimäki offer excitement and the thrill of trotting.



FARM TOURISM IN HÄME

Stay on a farm! You can enjoy traditional agritourism and the laid-back, friendly atmosphere of farms in Häme. Learn more about farm animals and the daily comings and goings on farms. The countryside offers clean nature and locally produced food on farms that sell their products directly to consumers. Versatile accommodation options include idyllic Bed & Breakfasts and bigger sites with full board able to accommodate larger groups. Have a relaxed holiday in the Häme countryside!

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ENCHANTING VILLAGES AND ORIGINAL ACCOMMODATION

Old villages, village roads and local events are fascinating nods to tradition. You can travel back in time to the 1910s on the traditional Kortenieniemi farm in Forssa. The old tannery Portaan Nahkurinverstas, on the other hand, is a combination of accommodation, restaurant services, a museum and a village community. Walking along the main road of the village, you can sense the history, the stories and the local atmosphere. Indeed, villages are an excellent way to learn more about the history of the Häme region, local life and people. Häme is full of villages – a total of 120 charming, functional and different villages with their individual events are located there.



UNIQUE ACCOMMODATION

You can find many unique and individual accommodation options in Häme. Beautiful mansions and farm accommodation offer alternatives to traditional hotel nights. Numerous cabin options offer peace and privacy amid nature.

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SHOPPING, CRAFTS AND UNIQUE BOUTIQUES

Shoppers looking for crafts and design are in for a treat in the Häme region. Crafts boutiques offer high-quality handmade gifts, presents, souvenirs, interior design products and ceramics. Learn more about the beautiful and unique offering of glass workshops and find beautiful pieces to take home. You can find extraordinary products in the many factory shops, such as Iittala, Finlayson, Havi, Joutsen and Flow Cosmetics. Or go on a shopping spree in the shopping centres and brick-and-mortar stores in city centres. You are spoilt for choice!

TEXTILE PRINTING AND WORKSHOPS

The city of Forssa is known as a European textile town. The Forssa Museum located in the historical Spinning Mill Area houses cloth collections that document the history of Finnish printed fabrics: here you will find the first Moomin patterns and the most beloved patterns by Finlayson. Wetterhoff is a handicraft centre located in central Hämeenlinna. There you will find craftspeople, a shop and different kinds of participatory workshop activities where you can make wall rugs and weave.

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