

FINLAND 1. - 8. AUGUST 2022

We were in Helsinki in 2011 and in 2012 we drove the motorhome from Finnmark through Finland to Sweden. This time we wanted to go to the southwest coast. We drove to Gardermoen and parked the car at [Gardermoen Parkering](#). They have a shuttle bus that goes every 15 minutes to the airport. We booked the travel with [Norwegian](#) and the flight left at 11.30. There is an hour time difference and we were at Helsinki Airport at 1.55pm.



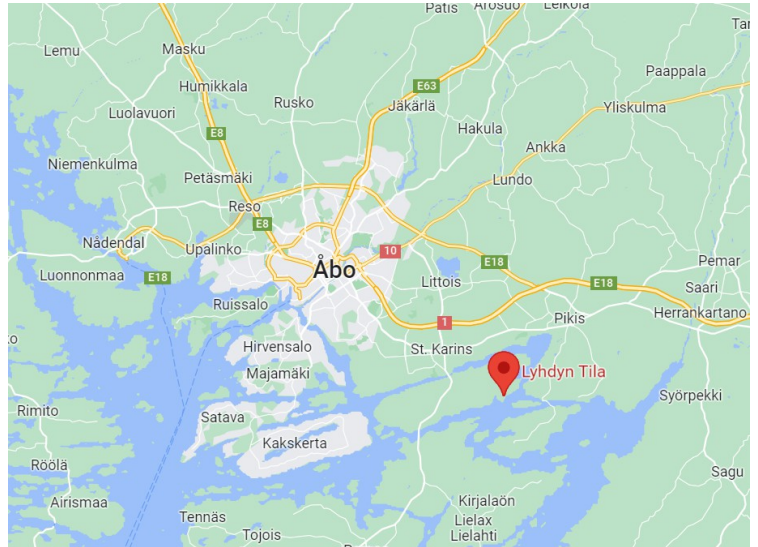
The airport is located north of Helsinki and it is called [Helsingfors-Vanda lufthavn](#).



We had booked a rental car via CarTrawel & Norwegian Air Shuttle. [Avis](#) had a BMW Series 1 at a favorable price. The car we were handed over looked roughly like this.



We had booked an apartment via [Booking.com](#). The place is called [Lyhdyn Tila](#). This picture was probably taken many years ago, because by now all the trees had become much bigger.



The place is on an island called [Kuustiso](#) or Kustö in Swedish. Many people here speak Swedish.



It was a one-room apartment with a double bed.



Good sofa.



The kitchen department.

The apartment was very good. We paid on-line and we were told by email what the number was on the apartment we were supposed to have. The key was in the door when we arrived.



Sauna.



There was a large and good terrace, but we missed a parasol. Most of the days it was sunny and it was too hot to sit in the sun for more than a maximum of 5 minutes.



View along the apartment building.



View down towards the sea. On the other side we see a small island called Jauhosaari.



Operating buildings on the farm.

It appeared to be a large farm. It seemed as if it was the husband who ran the farm and the wife who arranged the apartments.



Lots of flowering plants everywhere.



This is the entrance to the apartment.



At the entrance there was a shed for the cows. There were also many cats who lived there. We counted about 15 of all ages. We gave them some food because they looked hungry.



Here, a cow has made it behind the shed.



It wanted this grass.



On the roof of the farm building were two stork nests. One of the days there were lots of swallows on the roof.



Just below the terrace was a large apple tree.



More flowers.



Here the road goes down to the sea.



Right down by the sea, there is a rental cabin.



I reckon this boat is owned by the people we rented from.



View upwards from the lake.



Pasture.



Along the road to where we stayed was this church, Kuusiston kirkko, [Kustö kyrka](#).



The bell tower.



The cemetery.

The Kustö chapel congregation was founded in 1653. After that, the island's farmers built a wooden church on the church hill. We do not know what form the church had, but it is known that it had fallen into disrepair at the end of the 18th century. Today's archipelago church is from the year 1792. The church was repaired in neo-gothic style in 1899-1900. The building was restored in the years 1973–1974 under the direction of architect Pekka Pitkänen and under the supervision of the Swedish Museum Agency.



Northeast of Kustö are the ruins of a castle. We drove over here one day, but first we made a stop at this parking lot. From here there is a hiking trail that was called the cultural trail. Maps and descriptions.



Indication of the tour destinations.



Here the trail starts.



[Kustö farm](#) is a manor house. The farm's current main building dates from 1738 and is thus one of Finland's oldest preserved wooden buildings. Kustö farm near the castle was one of many farms responsible for the bishop's castle's food service. The Reformation stripped the bishops of their power, and in 1528 an order was given for the bishop's castle to be destroyed. After the Reformation, Kustö farm was the stable yard of Turku Castle. Nowadays, the farm is an art farm, a summer gallery for contemporary art.



Operating building on the farm.



This is probably some of the art that is exhibited.



This house stands by the castle.



The ruins of the castle.

[Kustö bishops castle](#) was first mentioned in written sources on 7 November 1295 by Bishop Magnus I. Possibly the castle was originally made of wood, and it was initially a small building. It was developed in several stages, gradually in stone. The castle experienced its glory days during the time of Magnus II Tavast in the 15th century.

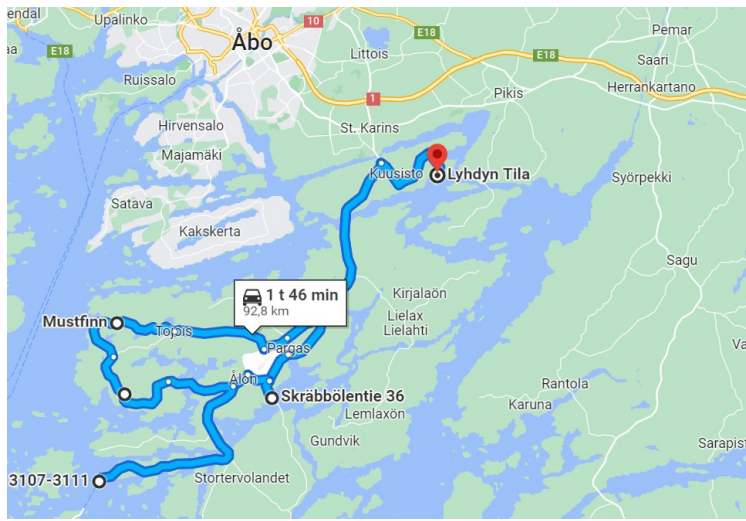
The castle was destroyed on Gustav Vasa's orders in 1528.

Stone material from the castle may have been used to build the forecourt of Turku Castle and Piki's Church. A sunken barge loaded with stone from the castle has been found. In the 19th century, bricks were taken to renovate Kastelholm Castle.



This is part of the cultural trail.

The fjord outside.



One of the days we drove a short trip out to the islands, as shown on the map.



Here we drive on the [Rävsundsbron](#) from Kustö over to [Kirjala](#).
The bridge is the longest suspension bridge in Finland.



Here we have just driven over the Hessund bridge and are over at Kvarnholm.



Here we are on a new bridge over to [Ålön](#).
Here is the only town on the islands. It is called [Pargas](#).



There is a narrow strait that separates [Ålön](#) and Kvarnholm.
Many boats are moored here.
The sound is called Kyrksundet or Kirkkosalmi.



Here we drive past one of Northern Europe's largest open-cast lime quarries. There are a number of companies involved in the extraction and processing of lime.



We had intended to drive over to the next island via Lillholmen, but it turned out that they were replacing a drawbridge on that stretch, so we had to turn around and drive another way. Here we are over on the island called Stortervolandet.



Then we are immediately over a new bridge and two new islands, [Lenholmen and Mattholmen](#), which have grown together. The road that runs from Turku and across these islands is called Skärgårdsvägen.



The last bridge went over to [Lillmälö](#).



From the west end of this island there is a ferry to the next island, [Lilllandet](#). We can make out the ferry on the other side of the strait to the left. The ferry leaves every 15 minutes and is free.

We weren't going across, so we turned around here.



We drove back to Ålön and turned left here towards Skärmola



There is a lot of broad-leaf trees here.



This is Simonbyslussen. The lock was built in the 1960s. It separates seawater and fresh water inside the fjord on the island. Small boats can go through the lock. It is inspected in spring, summer and autumn.



There are dirt roads on the entire west side of the island.



This is at Skärmola.



We came to this sign that said Mustfin. We drove to the left there.



It looks like there are good growing conditions here.



Here we look out over Görlaxviken.



Here we came out onto the paved road again.



We drove via Pargas to the apartment.
This is the Pargas roundabout.



Then we drove back over the Råvsundsbron to Kustö.



Here we are on another trip to [Åbo](#) or Turku.



Turku Cathedral. It was built at the end of the 13th century and is dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

Turku, with its approximately 177,000 inhabitants, is Finland's sixth largest city. It is Finland's oldest city and was founded in the 13th century. Until 1812, Turku was the capital of Finland, which until 1809 was part of Sweden.



This is in the cathedral square. The statue we see is by [Per Brahe](#). He was born 18. February 1602 at [Rydboholm castle](#), Uppland, died 12 September 1680 at [Bogesund castle](#) in [Uppland](#), was Swedish riksdrots, governor-general of Finland and count of [Visingsö](#).



Turku academy.



[Åbo Akademi University](#). The main building.
It is a Swedish-language university.



This statue stands by Aura river. It is called [Åbo Lilja](#). It was created by [Wäinö Aaltonen](#) and was unveiled on 7 September 1928. The lily at her foot is also part of Turku's city coat of arms, and the statue has therefore become a symbol of Turku.



[Aura River](#) flows through the center of Turku, and along the banks are many restaurant boats.

This one is called [Black Rudolf](#). The house in the background is the former building of [Turku City Council](#).



Here we come to the bridge where we cross over to the north side of Aura river.



The next stop is at [Turku Castle](#). The building started in the 1280s.



This is the eastern facade.



This is the store where we shopped a few times. It is located right after we have driven over the bridge from the mainland.



We also made purchases a couple of times in this shopping center in St. Karins. There was a larger selection here.



Nice reeds at the local shop.

[Sankt Karins](#) is a suburban municipality of Turku. Around 30,000 people live here. It is monolingual Finnish, but of all monolingual Finnish municipalities, St. Karins has the largest minority who speak Swedish.



When we returned from the Turku trip, there was a large flock of starlings that were ready to go south for the winter.



The cows stood and watched.



This must be turnips.



Finally, an evening picture from Lyhdyn Tila.

On Monday 8 August, we drove back to Helsinki Airport and returned the rental car without any problems. We checked in our luggage, went through security and had to wait a bit for the flight to take off, because as usual we were out in good time.

The flight departed precisely at 14.25 and we were at Gardermoen at 14.55.

We had to wait a bit for the transfer bus to Gardermoen parking.

We found out that Anne Berit could wait at the airport with the luggage while I went with the shuttle bus and collected the car. We found it to be an excellent arrangement. Then we didn't have to struggle with heavy luggage in and out of a full bus.