

## HELSINKI 1. - 4. AUGUST 2011

This time we had booked a trip to [Helsinki](#), which is the capital of [Finland](#). This is the 28<sup>th</sup> capital we are visiting. 😊  
We went as usual from [Gardermoen](#). This time we went once again with [Norwegian](#). The plain departed 14.15 and was planned to arrive 16.35, but it went a bit quicker.



Flagg



Riksvåpen



Map showing Finland's location in Europe.



Flagg



Coat of arms



The area “[Finland Proper](#)” was incorporated in [Sweden](#) in 1154 by [the Swedish king Erik](#). That was the start of the 700 years of Swedish rule. In the 1200s also [Tavastia](#) and most of [Karelia](#) became parts of the Swedish empire.

In 1808 [Alexander I of Russia](#) conquered the parts of Sweden that are located east of the [Bothnian Bay](#) during a war called [The Finnish War](#), and it became thereafter the autonomous [Grand Duchy of Finland](#) inside the [Russian Empire](#) until the revolution in 1917.

The Finnish national poem [Kalevala](#) was written down in 1835 and fiction in the Finnish language started to grow.

The 6<sup>th</sup> of December 1917, shortly after the [Bolshevik revolution in Russia](#), Finland declared itself independent. There was an agreement about the Finnish-Russian border in 1920 by [the treaty in Tartu](#).

In 1918 broke out a short, but very bitter [civil war](#), which marked the country's politics during many years.

During [WWII](#) Finland fought against [The Soviet Union](#) twice: In [the Winter War](#) from 1939 to 1940 and again in the [Continuation War](#) 1941–1944.

When the German Continuation War collapsed the same year, Finland ceased peace with the Soviet Union.

The country became a member of [EU](#) in 1995.

Helsinki was founded by the Swedish king [Gustav Vasa](#) in 1550, about 300 years after the Swedes had established themselves in the country. The purpose with the city was to be a rival to the [Hanseatic](#) city Reval ([Tallinn](#)). In the beginning of the 1800s the city had still only 4 000 inhabitants. The change came when the Russians took the country in 1808 and Finland became a Grand Duchy under the Russian czar.

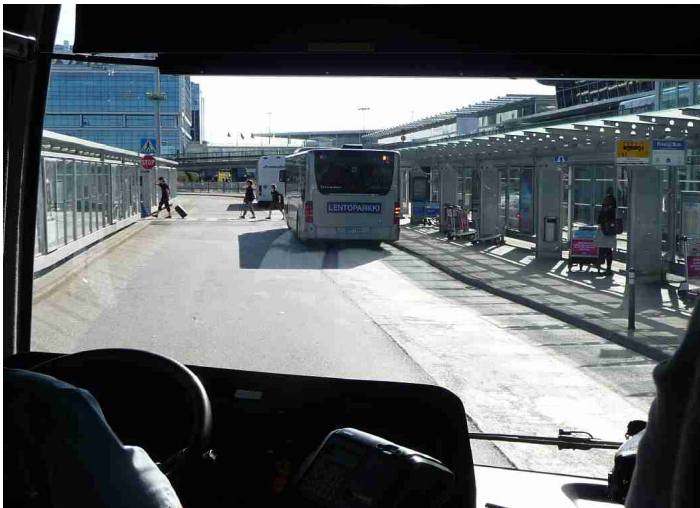
In 1812 the czar decided the the Finnish capital should be moved from [Turku](#) on the south west coast to Helsinki, because this city was nearer [Saint Petersburg](#). A new center in Empire style was built around Senaatintori/Senate square with gorgeous buildings as Storkyrkan. The city experienced a strong growth, and soon went past Turku in significance.



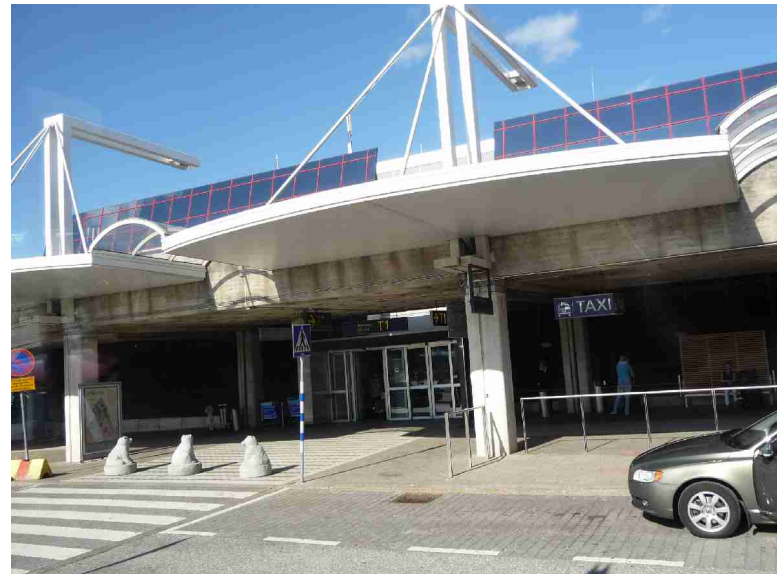
Here we are almost there, flying along the south coast of Finland.



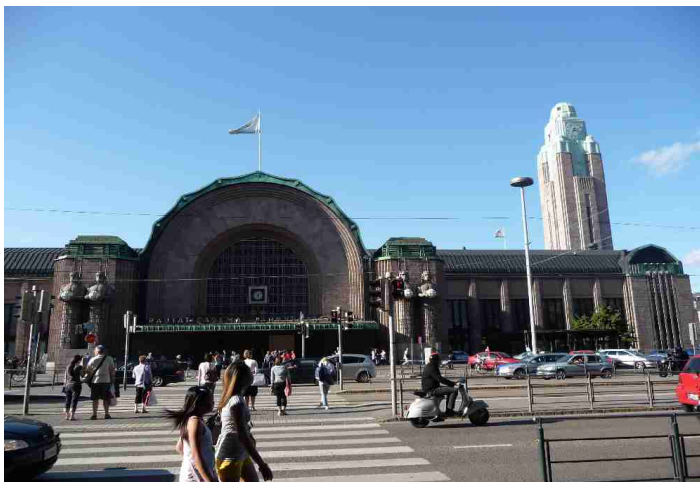
At [the airport](#) there was a tourist office, and there we got various maps of the city.



We took the express bus to the railway station in the city. Here we are inside the bus ready to go. We needed ½ hour to the center of the city.



Three Finish bears in the pedestrian crossing.



[The railway station](#). 200 000 people are travelling through here every day, and this building is thereby the most visited building in Helsinki.



After our installation in the hotel room we needed food. We had dinner at the restaurant in the hotel. Kjell has steak. Very good!



Anne Berit has chicken filets. That was equally good. We agreed to give the hotel restaurant the highest character.



Afterward we had Irish Coffee. We brought it with us out on the terrace.



The next day we went for a sightseeing trip through the city and took pictures as we went along and saw interesting motives. This is the customs- and warehouse, which lies right beside the hotel.



Kjell has got his first photo assignment in Helsinki. The task is performed with a deep knee-bending.



Here we are on a picture as well.



There were many ferries in the south harbor.



This is the hotel, which we stayed in.  
It is named [Scandic Grand Marina](#).



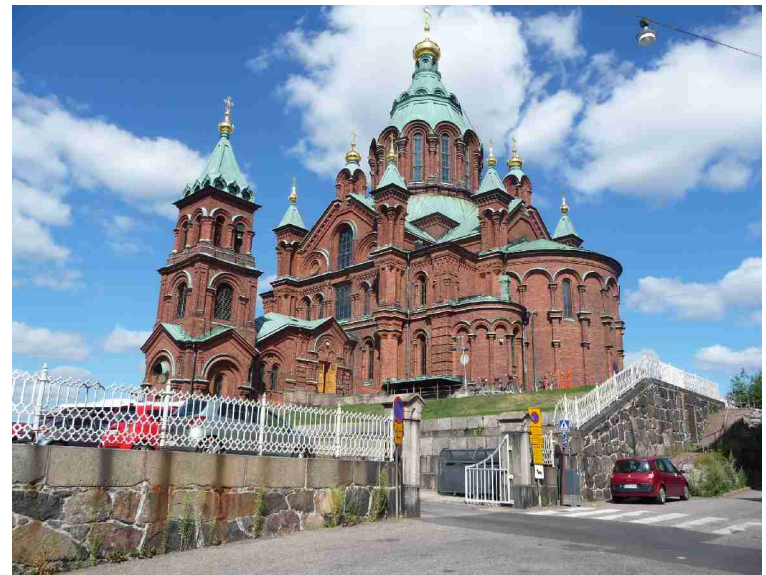
This cinema building lies also right beside the hotel.



Another nice facade right beside.

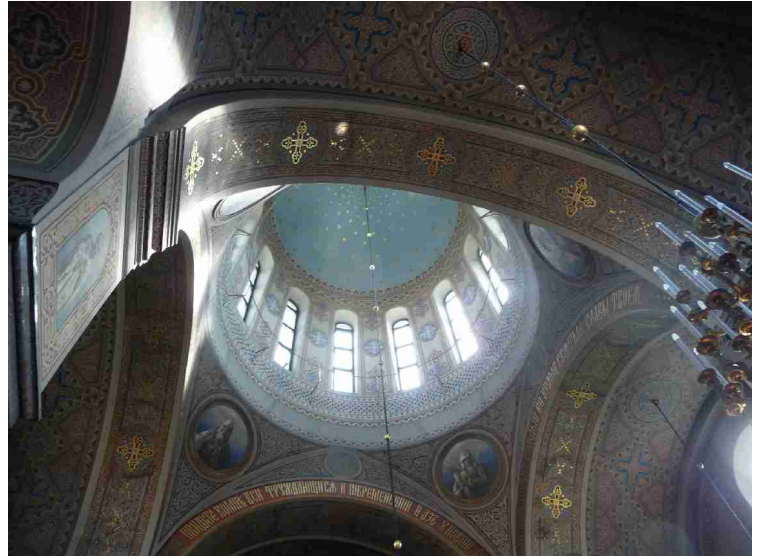


[The Uspenski Cathedral](#) lies only 500 meter from the hotel.



The Uspenski cathedral is North and West Europe's biggest Orthodox church. The church has 13 golden cupolas, shaped as blazes. The Uspenski cathedral is the main church for Helsinki's orthodox parish, and cathedral for Helsinki's orthodox bishopric. It was finished in 1868.

The name of the church is originating from the Slavonic word "uspenie", which means dormition. The cathedral is dedicated to the memory of virgin Mary's dormition, which is celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. In 2006 the Uspenskij cathedral was visited by 516 500 tourists.



View from the Uspenski cathedral towards the inner harbor.



View from the Uspenski Cathedral towards Helsinki Cathedral.



From the Uspenski Cathedral we are looking down on the roof windows of a restaurant.



A view towards the north part of the harbor.



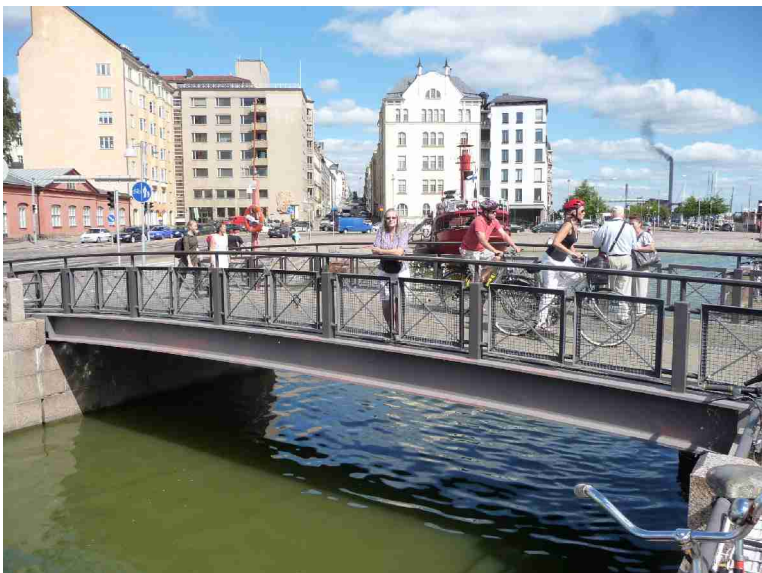
Here is the restaurant, on which we looked down at from the Uspenski Cathedral.



Our hotel lies on a peninsula called [Katajanokka](#) or Skatudden. Now this canal is dividing the peninsula from the mainland.



The Uspenski Cathedral seen from the canal.



A footbridge over the canal.



Plates and padlocks on the bridge.



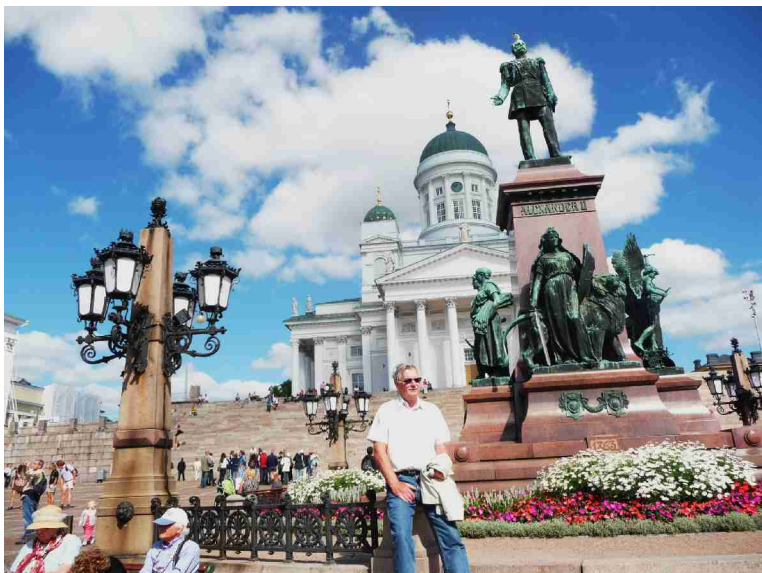
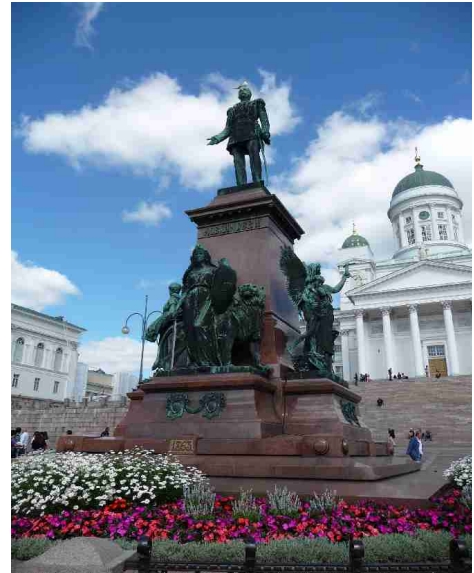
A restaurant boat at the canal.



[Helsinki Cathedral](#) is the cathedral for Helsinki bishopric and one of the biggest landmarks in Helsinki. The church at first was called Nikolajkyrkan and then Storkyrkan. The church had in 2006 over 350 000 visitors.



Statue of [Alexander II](#)



Kjell together with Alexander II.



A monument of three blacksmith at the railway station was unveiled in 1932.



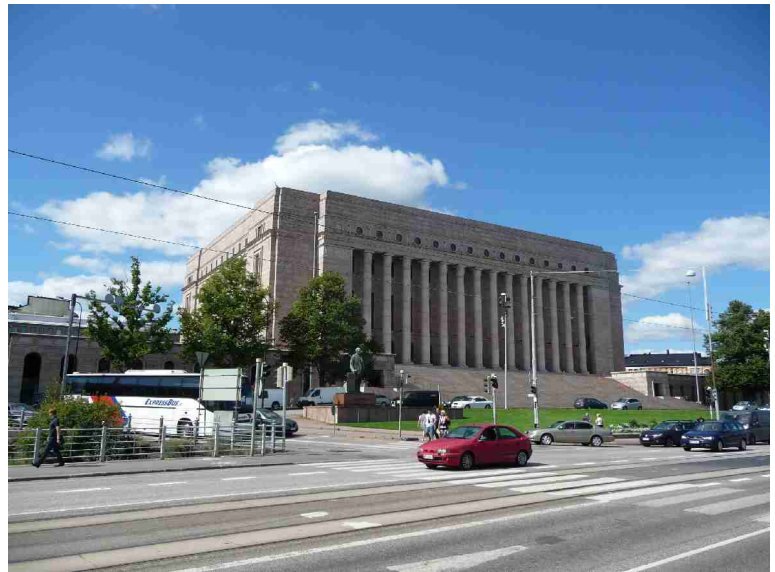
Now it was time for a beer. Kjell is in the middle of the purchasing process.



We sat here just beside the three blacksmiths and the post office. It looked to be a popular square.



A statue of [Carl Gustaf Mannerheim](#), who started his military career in the imperial Russian army and became military chief of Finland's white army during the Finnish civil war in 1918 and Finland's commander-in-chief during WWII.



The [Parliament House](#) from 1931.



[Kiasma](#). Museum for contemporary art. Stylish building.



A statue in front of the Parliament House.





North of the Parliament House is a statue of the fourth president in Finland, [Kyösti Kallio](#).



[The National Museum of Finland](#) was opened in 1916.



The Kalevala story teller, [Larin Paraske](#).



Plants in the park.



Arriving to Edesviken, at the west side of Helsinki.



Just below the Sibelius monument lies this cafe, Café Regatta.



Canada geese.

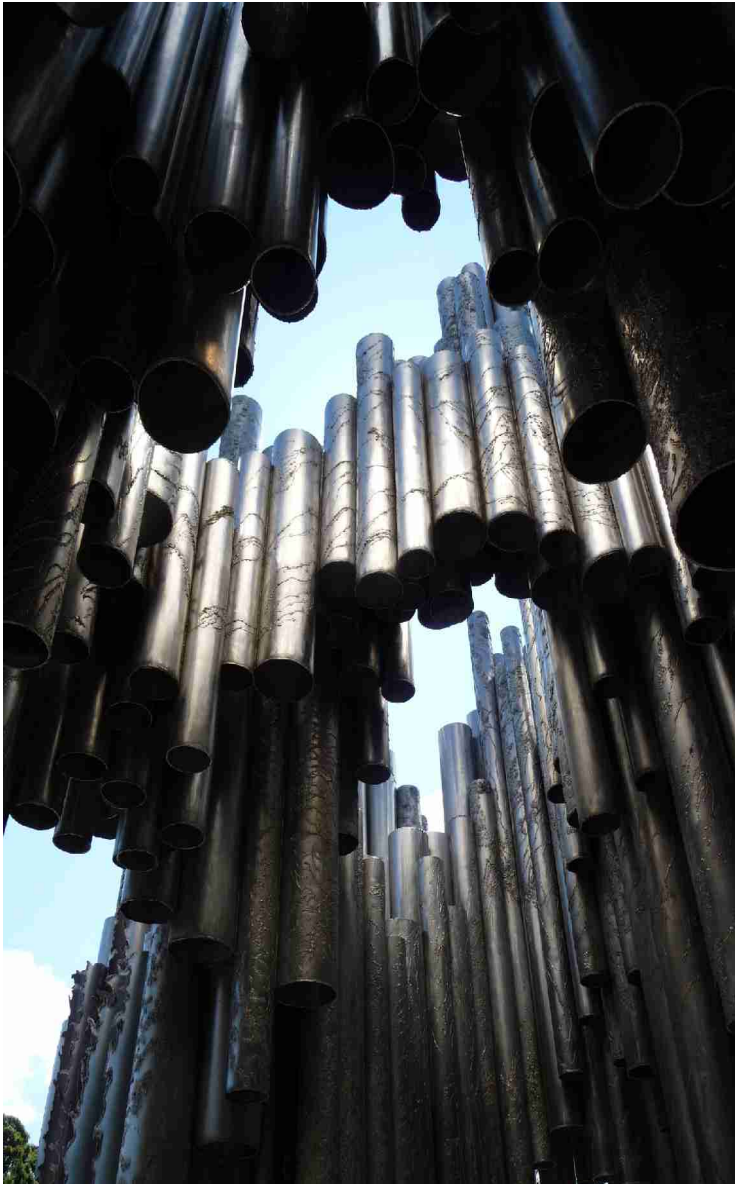


[The Sibelius monument.](#)



Kjell and Sibelius.

The Sibelius monument was revealed the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 1967 in memory of the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius (1865–1957). The monument consists of 600 hollow, perpendicular steel pipes weighing 24 tons.





The park around the monument.



[The Olympic Stadium](#) is the biggest stadium in Helsinki and was the main stadium during summer OL in 1952.



The Olympic Stadium and [Paavo Nurmi](#), who was a Finnish middle and long distance runner. In the 1920s he was the worlds strongest runner on all distances from 1500 meters and up. In his career he won 9 OL gold medals and made 22 official world records.



A small red house in the middle of the big city.



Public toilets are put up all over in Helsinki.



This is Tölövik, north in Helsinki. It has connection to the sea. There are many large green areas in the outskirts of the city.



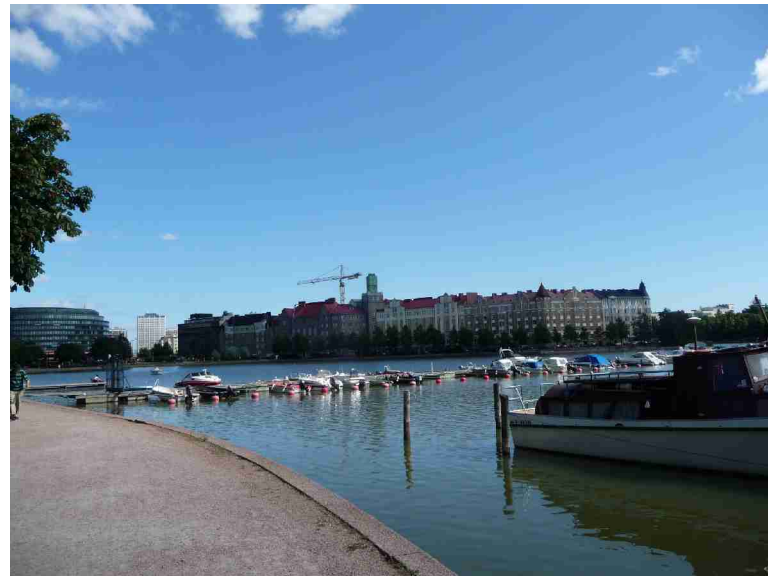
There became a good temperature in the middle of the day and Kjell has taken off his jacket.



Footbridge over the railway.



Nice bench.



This is Djurgårdsviken, that has connection with the sea. When we look across we see [Kluuvi](#), which is the commercial center of Helsinki.



Kjell is still walking, but now we are starting to get tired.

Buildings in Kluuvi.



Modern art at Djurgårdsviken.



A junction with big roads and the Metro station.



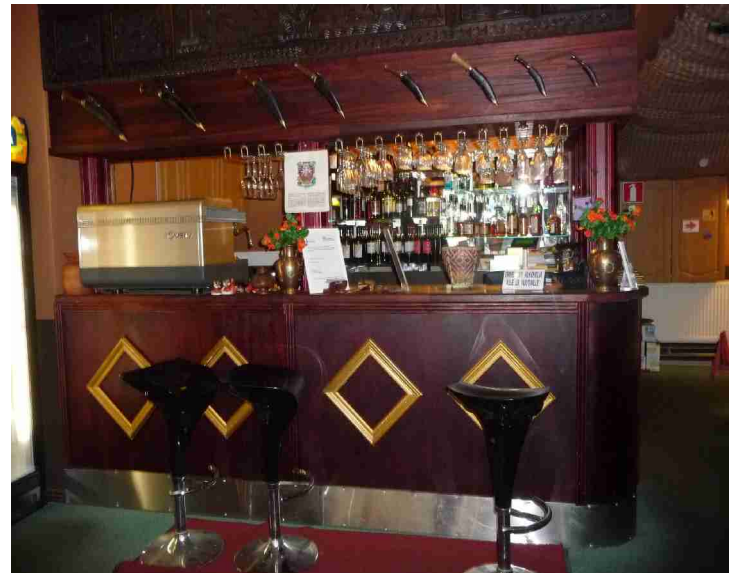
Now we wanted food, and we entered into this Nepalese restaurant.



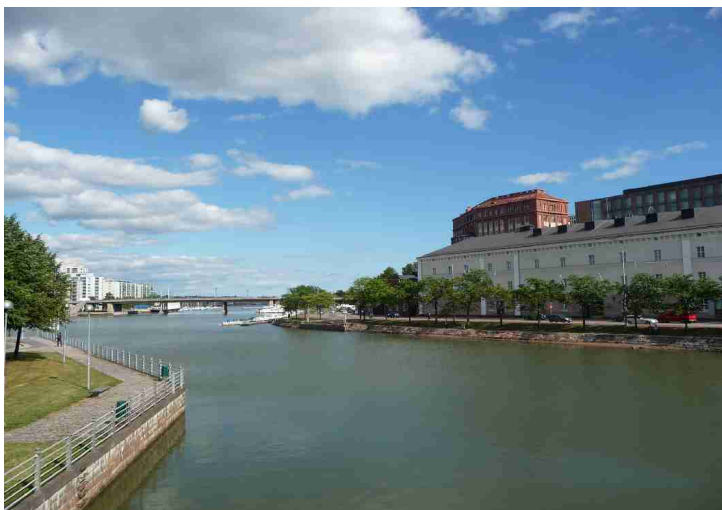
We sat down at the table to the right.



Vi had lamb and rice and nan bread. It was very good.



The bar.



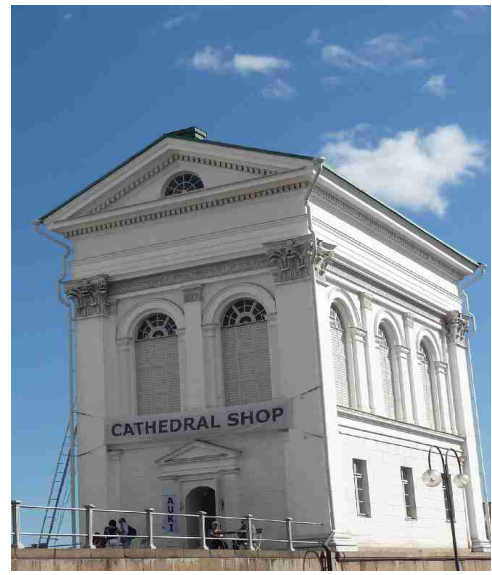
Right beyond the restaurant we crossed Siltavuorensalmi that has a connection to the sea.



This is a statue right outside the botanical garden.



Back to Helsinki Cathedral.



The cathedral shop.



The square outside the cathedral.



We could not resist the temptation.



Back to the restaurant ship.



We had Irish Coffee here. The creme in it was sour, but the staff would not admit that. We were too tired to argue, so we just left it. We had a decent Irish Coffee when we returned to the hotel.





The east side of Katajanokka.



Still the east side of Katajanokka. In the background we can see three icebreakers, which are laid up for the summer.



A view along Norra hamnen (North harbor).

In the evening we had buffet dishes for dinner. There was large assortments and quite good, but it did not compare to the dinner we had last night.