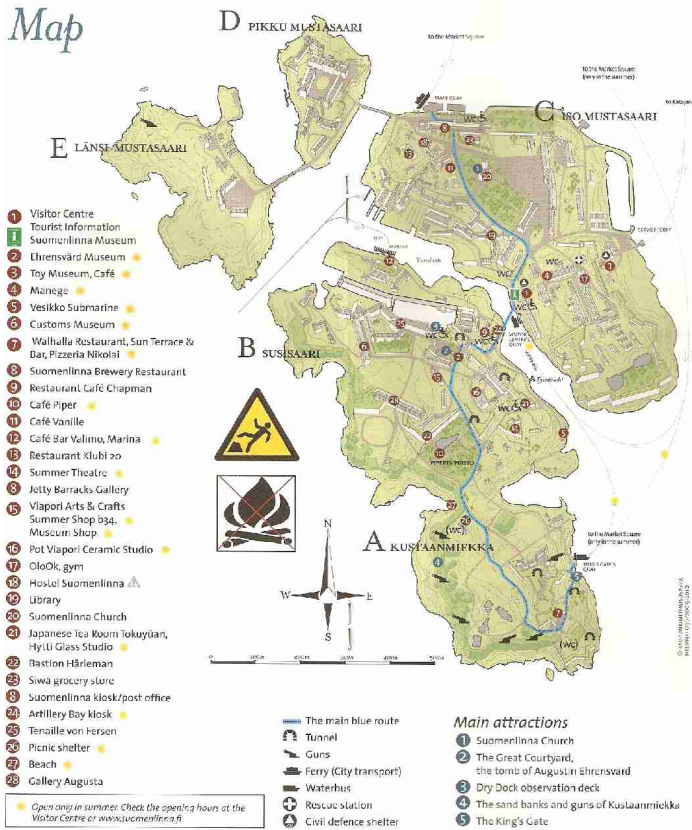


HELSINKI 1. - 4. AUGUST 2011



After having arrived to Helsinki in the afternoon the 1st of August and having walked on sightseeing the entire 2. August, We had planned to go to some islands south east of the city. There is a large fortification that UNESCO in 1991 put on the [World Heritage list](#). It is called Sveaborg in Swedish or [Suomenlinna](#) in Finnish.

The construction is one of the worlds largest coastal forts, and has been called the Nordic Gibraltar. The construction consists of various islands in the approach to Helsinki, started by Sweden in 1748 as Sweden's most expensive fortification of all times. Today there are about 1 000 people living in the historic buildings and they have also a primary school. The domestic buildings were mainly built for Russian officers and higher employees.

The construction is a museum, which is placed under a independent department. [Link](#) to the official Web page. [The Naval Academy](#) is still stationed at Suomenlinna.

Suomenlinna's history is closely connected with the history of both Finland and the [Baltic Sea](#), and the fortification has been an assumption for Helsinki to develop. The construction has to be seen as an answer to [Peter the Great's](#) foundation of [Saint Petersburg](#) inmost in the [Gulf of Finland](#).



Here we have bought tickets and are waiting for the ferry.



Here it is approaching.



Coming alongside the quay.



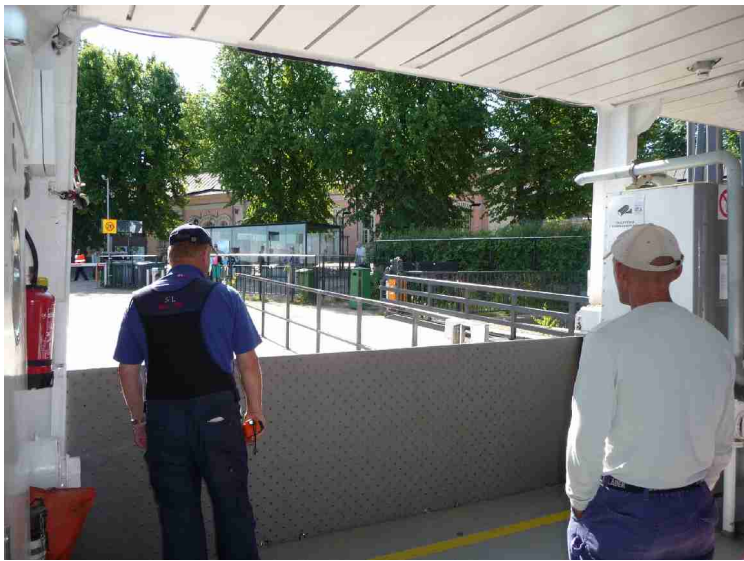
Lilla Östersvartö With the Naval Academy.



The bridge between Stora and Lilla Östersvärtö.



The Naval Academy.



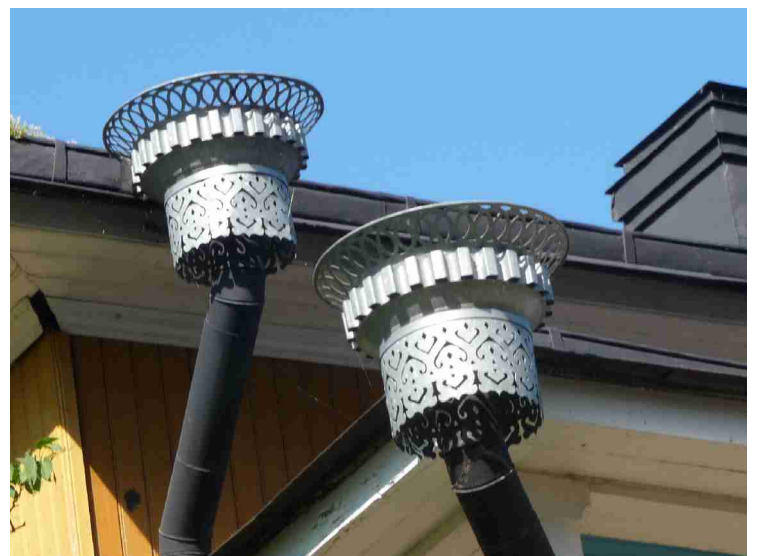
Just before coming alongside the quay at Stora Östersvärtö.



Many people are going with the ferry, which goes with 20 minutes interval.



Café Vanille.



Stylish decoration? On the rain gutters.



This [church](#) was built by the Russians as a Russian Orthodox garrison church in 1854. It was changed on the outside when Finland took over and made it to a Lutheran church.



A view across to Vargön.



There is also a small ferry between the city and to the south side of Stora Östersvartö.



There are many passengers here too.



The bridge over to Vargön.



The sound between the two islands is called Varvilahti.



The ferry is leaving again. We can see large fortification walls in the background.



On our way on Vargön.



A plaque, which is telling that the fortifications was noted on UNESCO's World Heritage list.



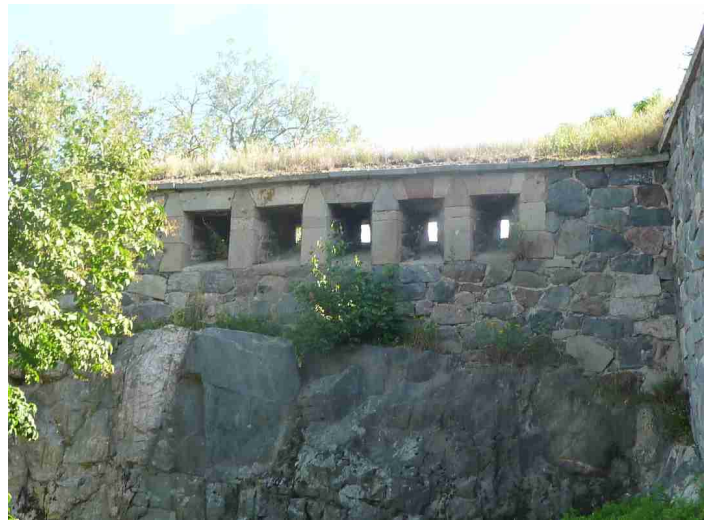
To get further we have to go through a tunnel in the fortification walls.



More walls.



Canons.





Kongens port





Here we have gone through the Kings Gate.



Now we are on our way back, and we need a beer. Kjell is in the line.



Nice watch in the cafe.



The cafe is called Café Piper. There was cool and good to sit in the shadows of the trees.



Almost back at Stora Östersvartö.



The road to and from the quay goes through Suomenlinna Bryggeri (brewery).



Almost back in the city. We can see a ferry belonging to Viking Line at the quay side.



The terminal building for Viking Line.



Our hotel lies right behind Marina Congress Center.



Here we can see our hotel behind the Congress Center.



Almost back to the quay.



A lot of people on the quay.



A ferry that goes to Högholmen.



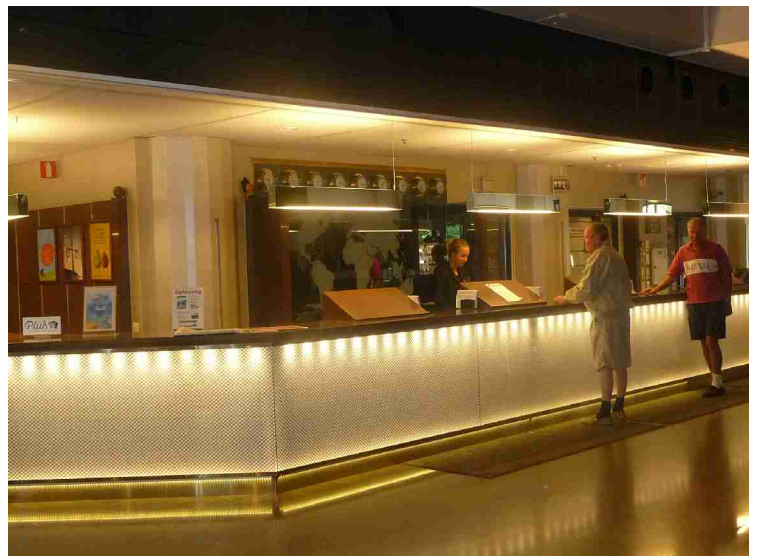
There were a lot of people staying at the hotel and there was quite crowded during the breakfast.



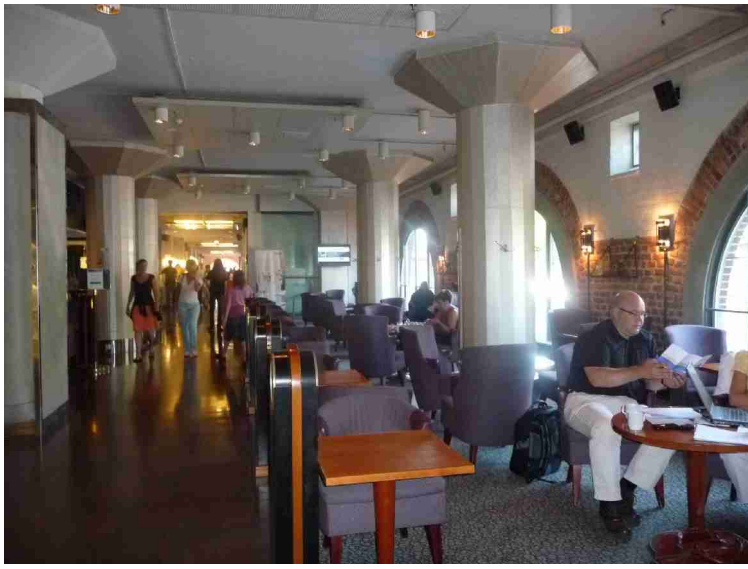
Abundant breakfast buffet.



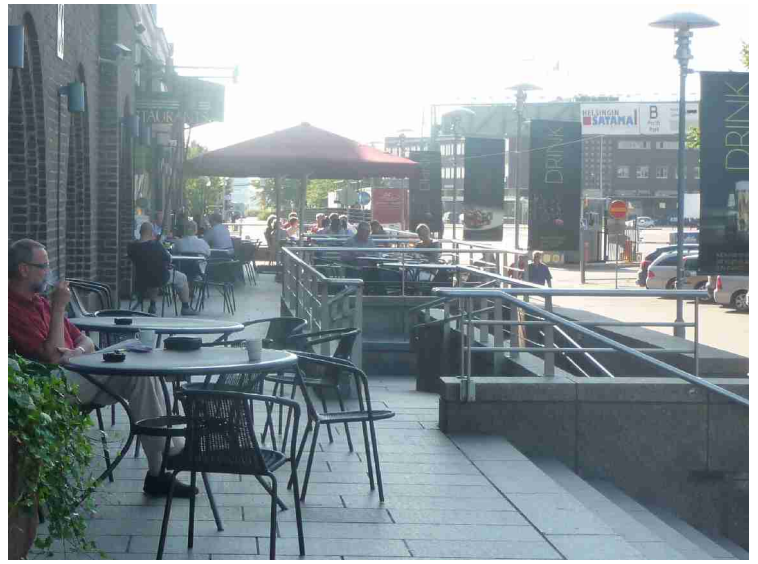
The bar.



The reception.



The lobby.



The terrace.



View from the room to one of the Viking Line ferries.

When going home, we took a taxi to the railway station and from there the express bus further on to the airport.

The airplane (Norwegian) was not leaving until 17.05 so we had plenty of time, both at the hotel and at the airport.

On the return journey the plain needed only 1 hour and 10 minutes.

Helsingfors – Helsinki was a nice city and can be recommended. There seemed to be many tourists in the city, and the ferries carried enormous amounts of passengers.

In addition we can recommend the hotel we stayed at, Scandic Grand Marina. It was very centrally located and the food was excellent.