

feeling home in helsinki

helsinki uncovered

HOW CAN YOU FEEL AT HOME IN A
PLACE THAT IS NOT HOME?



by manon and mar



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the European Union



Coordinating Locally
to Initiate more Changes
within the European
Solidarity Corps

who are we?

we are two friends who had the opportunity to volunteer in helsinki. manon from france, mar from spain. we lived together in a house, close to the forest.

finland came for both of us with a sense of discovery, of the unknown, and culture shock. little by little, we started to feel at home in this place, but still, we found it difficult to belong. so, we decided to integrate on our terms and construct a home by getting involved in the local community.

your authors



mar & manon

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introduction

immersing in a new place is discovering a lot of new perspectives. helsinki holds many realities for each one of us.

but then, how can you, as a foreigner, feel at home in a place that is not home?

is home a place to feel safe? is it physical or emotional? do we all have the same idea of this place to come back to?

for us, home is related to the concept of social imaginaries created by Cornelius Castoriadis:

« the imaginary system that holds society together. it provides the web of meanings and structures that guide our collective and individual actions and values. »

this magazine wants to help you to reflect on the diversity of local communities and find your home in your own way, connecting dots and feelings to find your place, your people, your causes, and most importantly: yourself.

we have also created google maps lists and a QR code for you with all the information at the end of the magazine, so don't worry.

tervetuloa to one of many imaginaries, helsinki based.

winter garden



sopukka



turku



market square



helsinki's balconies

local life

*how do you become a local in helsinki?
being a local is subjective and can be experienced
in numerous ways. by diving into different
communities, you get to discover helsinki in a
different light.*

**but then again, where
can you start discovering
local life?**

*in the end, it will be
you who defines
what local is.*

HOW TO MEET NEW PEOPLE?

youth
centers

cottage of
cultures

sports
groups

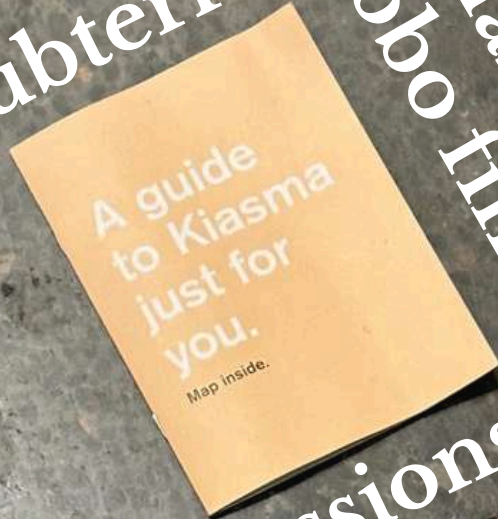
dodo



WANT TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

Kaupunginmuseo
Tehohöjazz bar
Sompasauna

subterra



hörtiala farm
hobo finland

p.h. sessions

haaga rhododendron

WANT TO SEE LOCAL EVENTS?

vappu
savoy theater
helsinki tall ship race



night of the arts
midsummer



kalasatama



kontula



cafe reggata



vappu



vantaa's beach



hietaniemi



olympic swimming pool



ph sessions



hsl bikes



kontula

festival life

volunteer &

contributing to a festival is a good way to get involved in local life while still enjoying the show for free.

give back

lots of festival promotion posters appear all around the city in the summer, and you may want to form part of them...

to the community

find or resale cheap festivals and concerts tickets on liputon.fi & [ticketmaster finland!](http://ticketmaster.fi)

**here are some festivals we've
been to that are worth checking
out!**

WORLD VILLAGE

music, celebration of unity,
global action, solidarity and
sustainable development

FLOW FESTIVAL

a cutting-edge fusion of
music, popular culture and
experimental arts

SIDEWAYS FESTIVAL

a three-day festival in helsinki
blending alternative music, hip
hop, and street food

SOLSTICE FESTIVAL

a magical midsummer. mixing
music and art beneath the
midnight sun in arctic finland

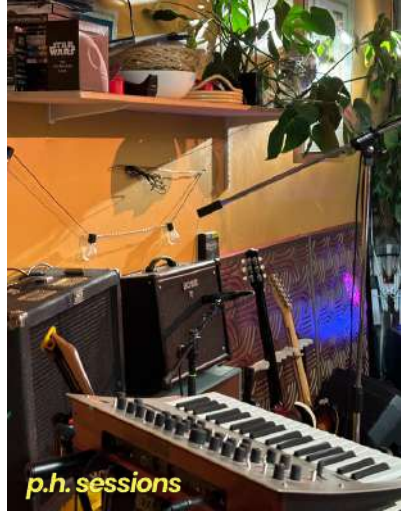
HELSINKI CITY

a huge august celebration: arts,
culture, music performances,
theater, dance, & more!

**each festival updates their
social media with volunteer
calls around spring.**



never-setting sun



p.h. sessions



haltiala flower field



suomelinna



nuuksio



turku



mascot



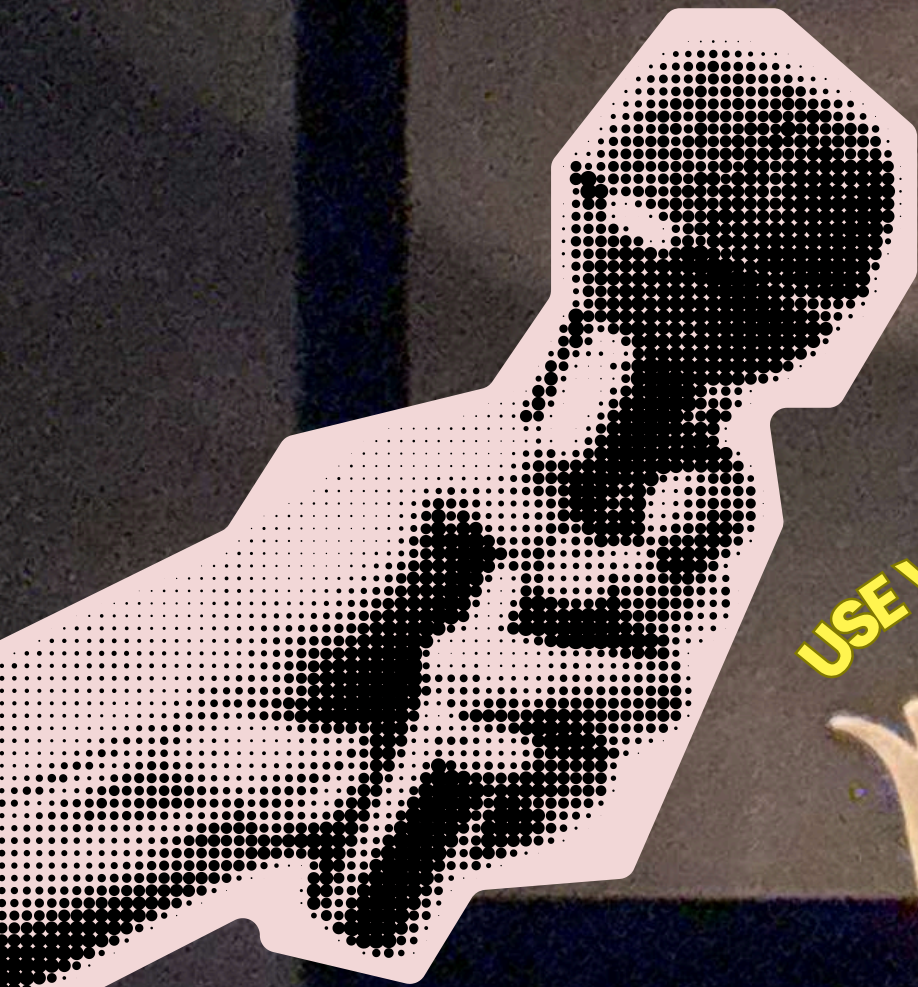
activism

activism doesn't come with a guide and there are no rules to form part of civic society, you can do it in the way that feels right to you.

walking in helsinki, you'll notice many demonstrations, protests, and initiatives.

if you decide to join this community, you'll have the chance to meet fantastic people & contribute your way.

*extinction rebellion · fridays
for future · sumud (palestinian
activism group) · rhythms of
resistance · somos sur*



USE YOUR VOICE



*becoming part of the city also comes with
acting and getting involved in initiatives
that you care about.*



we define an island as « *a piece of land surrounded by water* ». as a newcomer you can also feel from time to time like « *a piece of a person surrounded by a new culture* ».

helsinki's archipelago has 330 islands

aprox.

islands are part of the finnish lifestyle. by visiting them at different times of the year, you get the chance to have the full experience.

Where?

SUOMENLINNA

UNESCO world heritage site, access from the market square with amazing landscape

SEURASAARI

open-air museum, funny squirrels (*take nuts with you!*) and peaceful vibes

PIHLAJA-SAARI

cute little cabins on the beach, a lot of birds, walking, swimming, or enjoying the nudist beach

PENTALA

a must visit! you will notice the aim to preserve maritime culture and heritage

KULOSAARI & KALASATAMA AREA

sit down on the rocks and enjoy the good weather. be aware of the seagulls if you decide to have a picnic!





second hand



don't worry if you came to finland with little to nothing, there are many sustainable ways to buy those snow boots, the summer clothes you thought you would never use, and decorate your new home.

helsinki strongly embraces the thrifting culture. but, be mindful! second-hand shopping is not meant to foster overconsumption.

so, make sure you really need that item!

our ultimate favorites are uff and kierrätyskeskus, you can find them all over the city.

uff offers a big selection of clothes and accessories with crazy sales at the end of each month, going to 1€! follow them on instagram to know when they happen.

arkadia international bookshop

has tons of second-hand books and fun events. it's a cozy space with a piano, pool table, and more.

aleksis kive street

hosts every sunday (if the weather allows it) an independent flea market filled with unique secondhand finds, check it out!

kierrätyskeskus feels like a big garage sale where you can find the unimaginable. ask for the 10% discount card!

being sustainable

metro, train, onni bus
green transport

recycling?

biking in the summer

to dive into the biking lifestyle, HSL bikes are the best. from april to october, you can experience the city from a new perspective, one pedal at a time.

7 bins

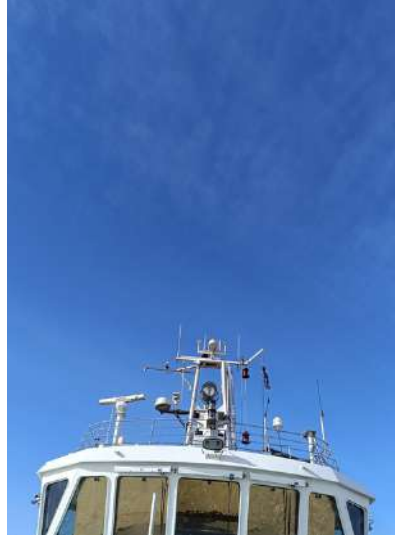
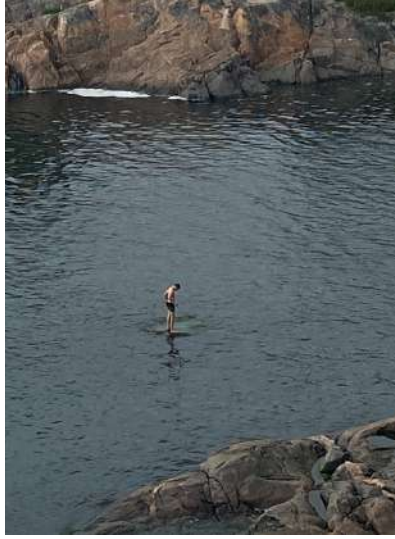
glass
metal
plastic
carton
mixed
paper
biowaste



and keep empty cans to save money

(by bringing them back to the store)

suomelinna island



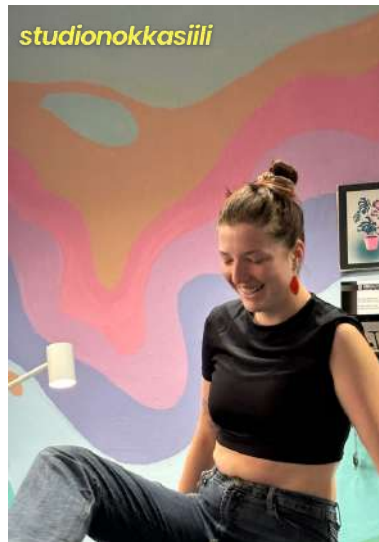
berries



dodo



night of the arts



studionokkasiili



leisure time

your free time in finland will be
very different each season,
especially during winter.

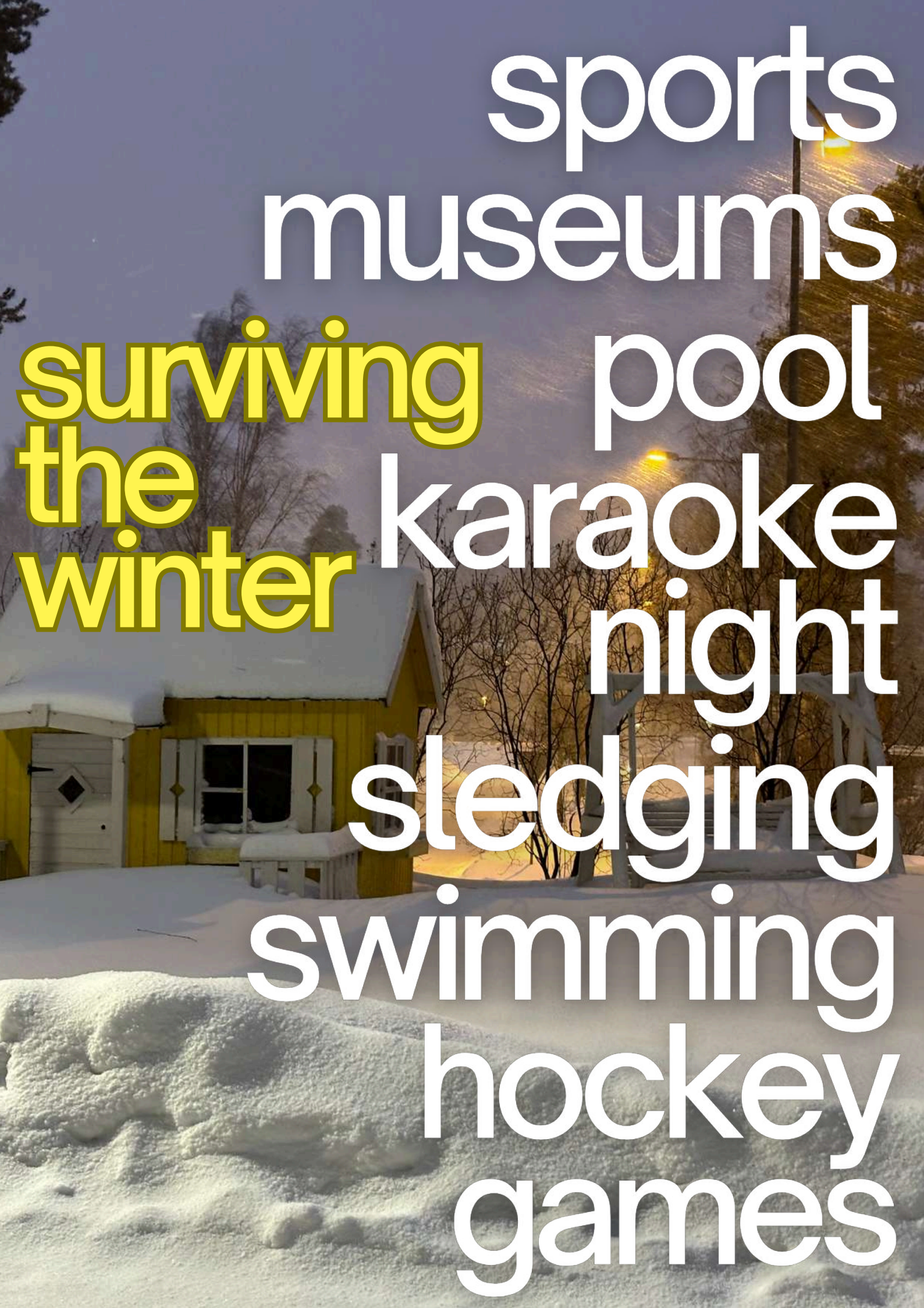
winter
spring
summer
autumn

don't worry, we have discovered
many things to do each season.

A winter scene at night. A snow-covered yellow house with a white door and windows is the central focus. The house is surrounded by snow-covered trees and a path. The sky is dark, and there are some lights visible in the background. The overall atmosphere is cozy and serene.

winter
garden
orion
cinema
ice
skating
skiing
libraries &
winter stuff

surviving
the
winter



sports
museums

surviving
the
winter

pool
karaoke
night
sledging
swimming
hockey
games

A photograph of an outdoor swimming pool. The pool is filled with blue water and has red lane dividers. Several people are swimming in the pool. In the foreground, there are concrete steps leading into the water, with numbers 4 and 5 visible. On the pool deck, there are some items like shoes and a water bottle. In the background, there is a grassy area with a person sitting on the grass.

smelling the spring, feeling the summer

HSL bikes

botanical garden

barbecue at nuuksio lake

open island student party

picking berries & mushrooms

visiting the allotments gardens

open air cinema

swimming at vuosaari beach

flower fields

sunbathing on the islands

mustikkamaa

sliding into the fall

*carnival of lights festival at
linnanmäki amusement park*

picking apples

relaxing in the sauna

making pumpkin soup

hiking at sipponkorppi

national park

reading sessions in oodi

walking in kaisaniemi park

sending postcards



onnibus stop



pori



pride month



turku



porvoo



**we figured out a lot of places and initiatives through social media, especially instagram.*

cracking the city



@dodo_org

@jamjarsession

@sibeliusglobalmusic

@translibraryhelsinki

@helsinkiathings

@helsinki_mag

@kuplakupla

@kohtaus

@helsinkiartwalk

@funkyamigos

@somos_sur_

@helsinkiurbanart

@rivieracinemas

@wheretoeathelsinki

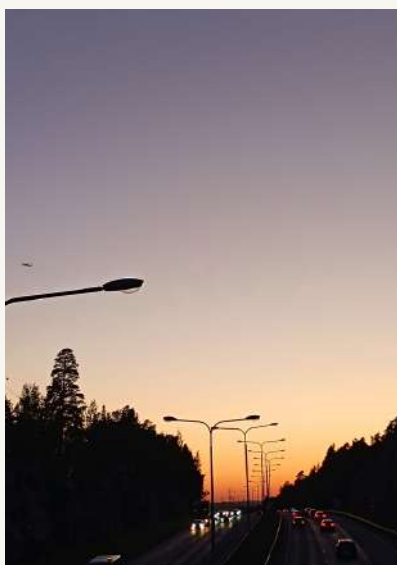
@studentsforpalestinefinland



kokkola



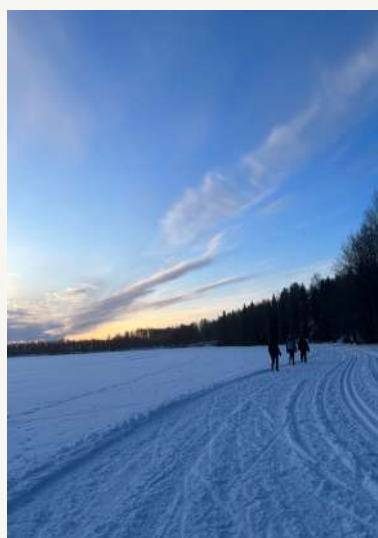
herttoniemi station



helsinki's deers



winter trees



how do you feel?

being abroad is nice, until it's rough. each season welcomes new emotions. knowing where to find support resources in this constant change is fundamental. whether it's surrounding yourself with friends, finding your safe spaces, or talking to someone, learning and protecting your mental health is key.

listen to yourself and take care.

**mieli without borders offers mental health information, guidance and is also a community for foreigners living in finland.*



pasila



bike in the summer



cafetino



cafe regatta



dodo



kontula



kierrätyskeskus



→ Puikeus Parkki
← Järjestelmä 2,0



oodi

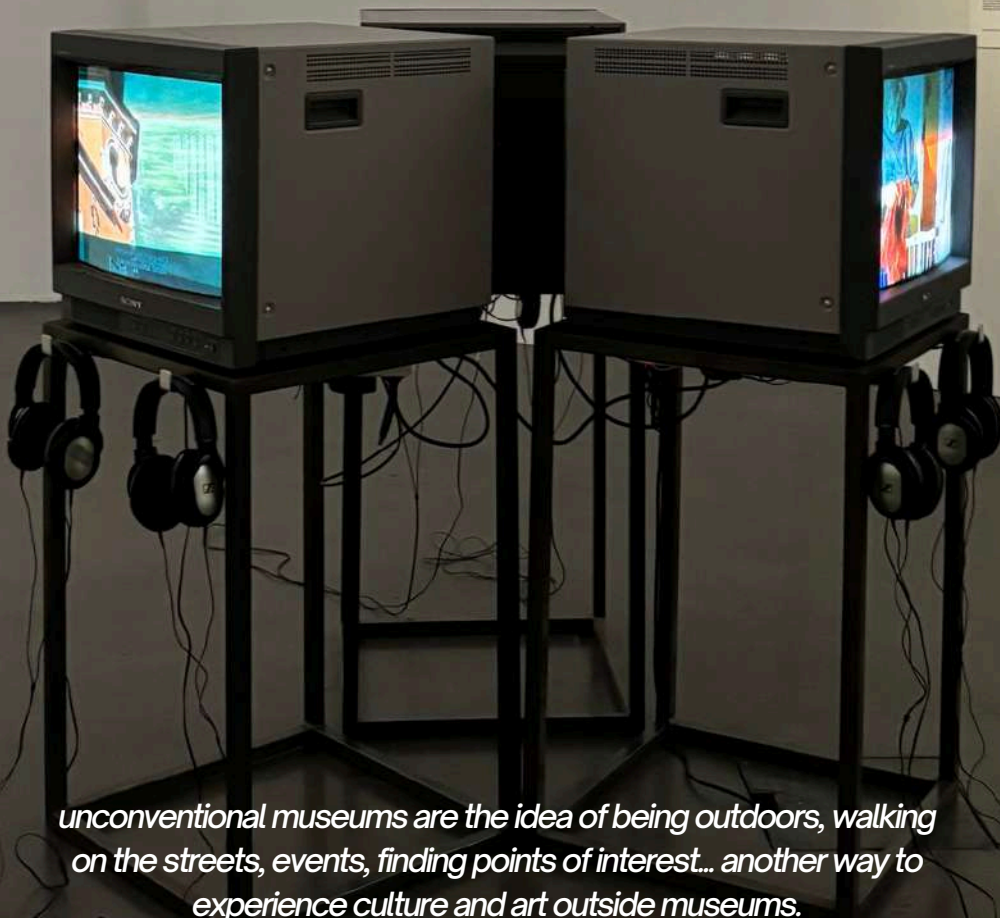


unconventional museums

museum pass 79€
(valid everywhere in Finland)

*the winter can be very long
and one of the easiest
escapes is museums.*

free entry days every month
(check every museums website)



unconventional museums are the idea of being outdoors, walking on the streets, events, finding points of interest... another way to experience culture and art outside museums.

ART DISTRICT IN KALASATAMA

SEURASAARI OPEN AIR

NIGHT OF THE ARTS

OPEN EXHIBITIONS AT OODI

FREE MUSEUM ENTRIES EVERY MONTH

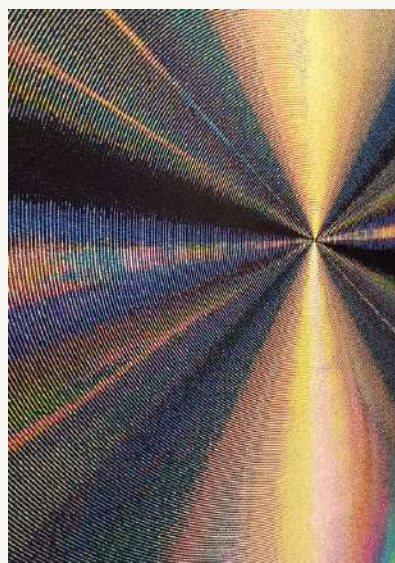
URBAN DISTRICT KAMPPI

SAVOY THEATER

LATERNA MAGICA



finnish museum of photography



sports

otanko pole dance

unisport.fi

running in the woods

cross country skiing at

hiihtocenter espoo oittaa

brahenkenttä artificial ice rink

bouldering liikuntamyly

helsinki roller derby

salsa borealis dance events

nyt-liikunta (almost) free sports

for young adults

dance stage at design

museum square

itämeri plogging free kayak

finndai judo club

viikingit football club vuosaari



vappu



biking



puistola forest



finland's lakes



i need a coffee moment

☺☺☺ are you on a budget???

don't worry;)



as volunteers, we discovered places that became part of our home in helsinki

coffee shops

cafe pequeño

cafe ursula

round kallio

cafetino

cafelito

meli

bars

wineist, gate a21 & h11,
just another bar,
siltanen, vallilan varikko,
flow bar, jugge bar

restaurants

pronto, mango palace,
16 boom, uni cafe,
mono sushi, lafal food

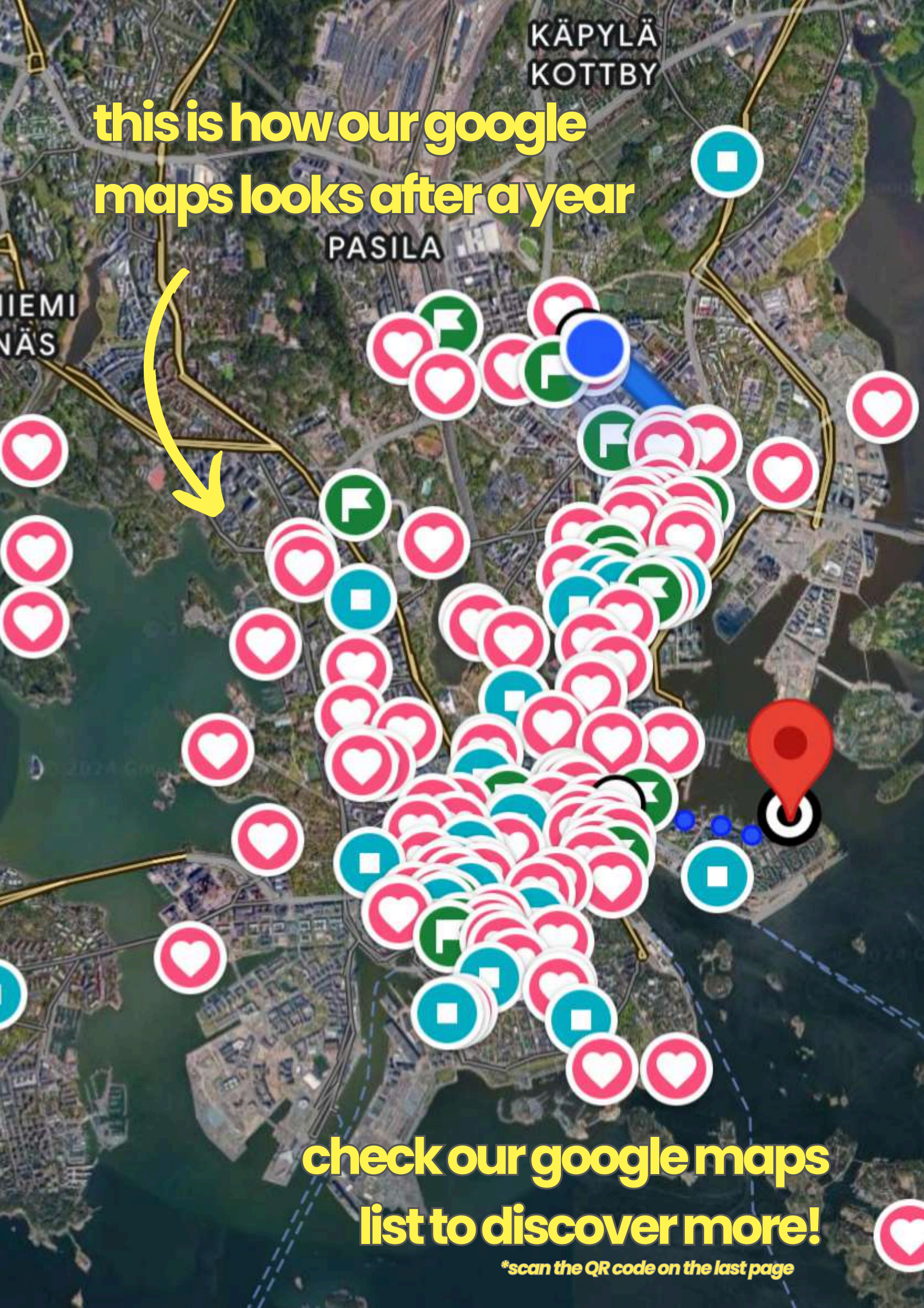
**these are just our favourites, check our
google maps list at the end for more!*

KÄPYLÄ
KOTTBY

**this is how our google
maps looks after a year**

PASILA

SIEMI
NÄS



**check our google maps
list to discover more!**

**scan the QR code on the last page*



esc & c.l.i.c



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**

European Solidarity Corps is a volunteering program that brings young people together to help tackle social issues and support vulnerable communities. It provides an opportunity to learn, develop new skills and make an impact through projects focused on solidarity in general.



**Coordinating Locally
to Initiate more Changes
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This magazine is sponsored by the C.L.I.C. project, a partnership of 10 organizations working to improve the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) program. Their goal is to expand ESC's impact, benefiting more young people and non-profits while promoting solidarity in communities.



thank you!

as you can see, feeling at home in a place that is not home is something that you build, one day at a time. it's a process that is necessary but takes time.

we hope this magazine helps you find your place.
thank you for coming with us on this journey.

overall, we want to thank everyone who helped make this project happen by contributing, supporting, funding, providing guidance, and giving us new perspectives along the way.

to learn more about all the places and activities (locations, recommendations...), scan the QR code and access the website page we created with all the information!



kiitos paljon,
m & m

a helsinki magazine

helsinki uncovered

THIS IS HOW YOU MAKE A PLACE FEEL
LIKE HOME BY EXPLORING AND
CREATING IT YOURSELF



the end
mar and manon