



# Finland



AGE RANGE



SEMESTER



YEAR



CLASSIC

Finland's stark Nordic scenery is home to fascinating wildlife, pristine pine and birch forests, some 200,000 lakes and the world's happiest people, not to mention Europe's top educational system and an extremely high quality of life (and don't forget the saunas).

## Life in Finland

For the past several years, Finland has topped the list of the world's happiest countries, which might catch many people by surprise. Finnish people tend to be rather reserved and must endure long, cold winters. But scratch beneath the surface and you'll find a people that loves the outdoors, enjoys the pleasures of winter and knows how to have a good time.

## School in Finland

Finland's school system is famously one of the best in the world, promoting critical thinking and intellectual exploration, rather than repetition and memorization. There are no mandatory standardised tests, minimal homework assignments and shorter school days, since free time is seen as a vital part of a healthy and complete education. But although the school atmosphere is generally more relaxed,

Finnish students consistently rank among the best in the world for reading, maths and science, so they must be doing something right.

## Life after school

Finnish people don't lock themselves in during the cold winter. Instead, they adapt and make the most of it. Be sure to try some ice skating and cross country skiing during your exchange, and don't skip the sauna!

## Explore further

We organise shorter trips for our high school students in order for them to experience more during their time abroad. Contact your local coordinator for more information about trips in and around Finland. And don't miss the chance to go on an amazing trips to cities in Europe!

## Highlights

- The happiest country in the world
- Steamy sauna culture
- Extremely high quality of life and education
- A land of green forests and deep blue lakes

**Age:** 15-18 on arrival

**Departure:** August and January

**Language requirements:** good English

**Course length:** 5 or 10 months

**Area choice:** no

**Preparation course:** STS Welcome Camp, extra fee apply

**School year:** August to May/June

**School day:** 8/10am-2/4pm

**Subjects:** some mandatory and many elective courses

**Optional trips:** Options to join trips during the year