

Survival Kit/Practical tips & advice

Money Exchange

Money can be changed in any bank. It is advisable to change a large amount at a time to reduce service charges. Exchange rates may vary slightly from bank to bank

In Oulu it is also possible to change currency in the Forex Currency Outlet on pedestrian precinct Rotuaari. Forex Oulu is open on weekdays 10–18 and on Saturdays 10–16.

Credit Cards

The most common credit cards are widely accepted in Finland.

Shopping

The business hours of grocery stores and supermarkets are usually from Monday to Friday from 9 am to 21 pm and on Saturdays from 8 am to 18 pm. Kiosks are open until 9 am - 10 pm every day and sell certain basic foodstuffs such as bread, butter, cheese etc. There are also hot snack kiosks and pizzerias, which are open until late at night.

Grocery stores and supermarkets can be open on weekdays from 7 am to 9 pm. On Saturdays they can be open from 7 am to 6 pm. Smaller shops and boutiques are open usually from 10 am to 5 or 6 pm, on Saturdays from 10 am to 2, 3 or 4 pm. Department stores are usually open 9 am – 9 pm on weekdays, 9 am – 6 am on Saturdays. In May - August all shops can be open on Sundays from 12.00 pm to 9.00 pm.

However, the shops in downtown are usually open on Sundays from 12 pm – 6 pm while the supermarkets on the outskirts of the town stay open until 9 pm.

Telephone

Popularity of mobile phones and the high number of mobile phone users in Finland have made public and pay phones almost extinct. Nowadays outdoor pay phones are practically non-existent. The still existing public phones are usually card phones located e.g. at the airports, railway stations, hospitals and in some R-Kiosks. Phone cards can be purchased nearby the phone (nearest place is usually mentioned on the

phone).

General emergency number is 112.

International calls

Codes can be found on the first pages of the telephone directory.

When calling abroad from Finland, dial:

International access code (e.g. 00, 990, 994 or 999)

Country code

Area code (omit the prefix 0)

Phone number

When calling from abroad to Finland, dial:

International access code (e.g. 00)

358 (country code)

Area code (omit the prefix 0)

Phone number

Please note that American cell phones do not necessarily work in Finland.

Public Transportation

Bus

A local traffic single ticket within the Oulu city area costs 3,60 EUR (double price between 23 – 04).

Single tickets are bought on the bus.

Taxi

To call a taxi in Oulu dial:

Landline: 10041 (0,99 € + local network charge)

Mobile phone: 0600-30081 (0,99 € + local network charge)

Calling Abroad: +358 600 30081 (0,99 € + local network charge)

Hints and tips

- Wave your hand to stop the bus, otherwise it will just drive past you.
- Self- service is the word in Finland! Everything works with self- service: The gas stations, cafés, fast food places, banks. So prepare to do almost everything yourself.
- We do not give tips. The service is included to the price of the product you are buying.
- Smoking is forbidden in most places.
- Taking taxi is safe in Finland.
- The quality of Finnish tap water is good.

Finnish language survival kit

Phrases

Kyllä yes

Ei no

Kiitos thank you

terve/hei hello/hi

hyvää huomenta good morning

hyvää päivää good afternoon

hyvää iltaa good evening

hyvää yötä good night

näkemiin/hei hei good bye/see you

anteeksi sorry / excuse me

Shopping

ale (alennusmyynti) sale

(erikois)tarjous (special) offer/sale

hintaa price

kuitti receipt

vaihtorahat change

pankkikortti bank card

luottokortti credit card

Transport

Taksi taxi

VR = Valtion Rautatiet Finnish Railways

Rautatieasema railway station

Juna train

Vaunu car, carriage

Raide track

lipunmyynti/lipputoimisto ticket office

makuuvaunu sleeping car

ravintolavaunu restaurant car

tupakoimaton non-smoking

tupakoiva smoking

linja-auto/bussi bus

linja-autoasema bus station

lentokenttä airport

menolippu one-way ticket

meno-paluulippu return ticket

matkatavara luggage, baggage

Signs

Puhelin telephone

M = miehet (men's room)

N = naiset (ladies' room)

Keskusta centre

Kassa cashier

Asiakaspalvelu customer service

avoinna/auki opening hours/open

suljettu/kiinni closed

vedä pull

työnnä push

ulos(käynti) exit

sisään(käynti) entrance

epäkunnossa/rikki out of order/broken

Viikontpäivät Weekdays

Ma (maanantai) Monday

Ti (tiistai) Tuesday

Ke (keskiviikko) Wednesday

To (torstai) Thursday

Pe (perjantai) Friday

La (lauantai) Saturday

Su (sunnuntai) Sunday

Kuukaudet Months

tammikuu January

helmikuu February

maaliskuu March

huhtikuu April

toukokuu May

kesäkuu June

heinäkuu July

elokuu August

syyskuu September

lokakuu October

marraskuu November

joulukuu December

Numerot – Numbers

1 – yksi

2 – kaksi

3 – kolme

4 – neljä

5 – viisi

6 – kuusi

7 – seitsemän

8 – kahdeksan

9 – yhdeksän

10 – kymmenen

Source: Oulu University of Applied Science (<http://www.oamk.fi/english/nettutor/>,
http://www.oamk.fi/english/exchange_opportunities/ects/practical_information/daily_life).