

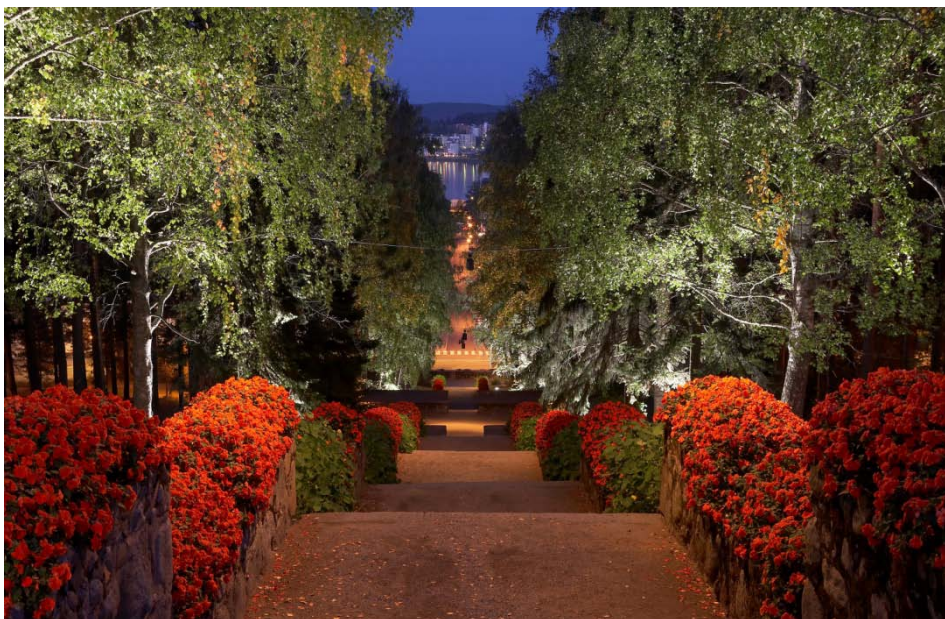
Options for Social Programme in Jyväskylä



Pedestrian street. Owned by Jyväskylä Convention Bureau. Photo by Markku Tiitinen

In Jyväskylä there is a lot to see and do. The real pearl is the city's **pedestrian precinct**, the fun heart of the city, the venue where residents of the city as well as visitors come to see and be seen. It is flanked by shopping centres, boutiques, giftware stores with Finnish craft products, cafés, restaurants, pubs, and much more besides.

The Harju ridge forming the backdrop to the city centre is the best known of Jyväskylä's observation points and green areas. The area contains a network of footpaths, a sports ground and – in the **Vesilinna water tower** an observation platform and panoramic restaurant as well as the **Central Finland Natural History Museum**. The **market place** on the corner of Väinönkatu and Yliopistonkatu is open all year. The **harbour**, situated on Lake Jyväsjärvi in Jyväskylä's central area, is the northernmost passenger harbour on the Lake Päijänne waterway.



Harju steps. Owned by Jyväskylä Region Tourist Office. Photo by Keijo Penttinen

There are 30 well-educated **tourist guides** in Jyväskylä. Guiding is available in wide variety of languages. On guided tours participants are introduced to the city's past and present, its architecture, culture, wildlife and business activity. **Go-as-you-please excursions** like Hidden Stories in Jyväskylä, the University of Jyväskylä Hill to Hill and The Lights of Jyväskylä are also available. Also special excursions with themes such as the architecture of Alvar Aalto can be easily arranged. Just outside Jyväskylä there are several interesting places to visit, e.g. factory *outlets, craft workshops and direct sales of local produce and craft items*. Nature guide services offer an insight into the local region's nature and all its delicate biodiversity. The area's natural attractions offer a combination of adventure and fascinating experience.

History and Culture

Local cultural treasures include two unique **UNESCO world heritage sites: Petäjävesi Old Church** and Oravivuori triangulation tower. Completed in 1765, Petäjävesi Old Church is a wonderful example of beautiful and durable wooden construction. In Korpilahti, at the top of Oravivuori, lies Oravivuori triangulation tower, one of Finland's six points in the Struve chain.

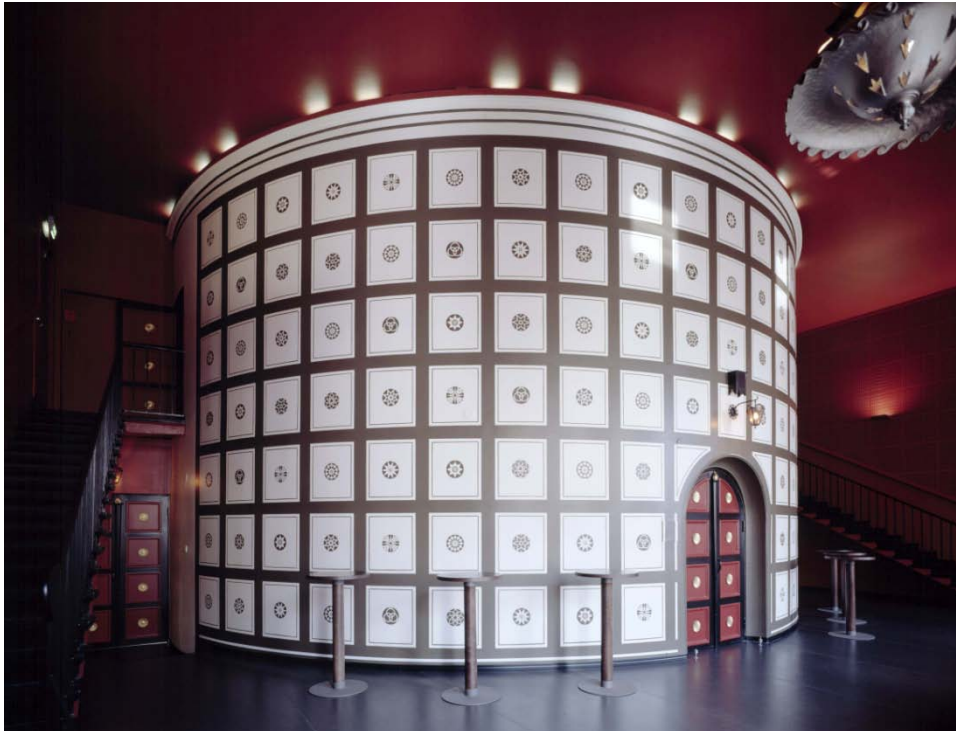


Alvar Aalto -museum Permanent exhibition Alvar Aalto. Architect. Owned by Alvar Aalto -museum. Photo by Rune Snellman

Alvar Aalto museum's permanent exhibition acquaints visitors with Alvar Aalto's colourful life and extensive production, with city plans, interiors, photographs, furniture and glass on display. The museum also features temporary exhibitions of architecture and design.

Jyväskylä Art Museum is a venue for exhibitions of modern art, a place for people to gather, and to interact. The **Museum of Central Finland's** permanent exhibitions provide an insight into life in Central Finland as well as the way in which the city of Jyväskylä has developed. The **Craft Museum of Finland** and National Costume Centre's permanent exhibition tells the story of craft across the human lifecycle. Craft is best understood by giving it a go oneself: in the museum's workshop visitors have the chance to create their own personal memento hands-on. The **Aviation Museum of Central Finland** details the history of aviation and the Finnish air force from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day in an interesting fashion; planes, aircraft engines, flying suits and accessories as well as communications equipment.

The Jyväskylä Region contains a unique cross-section of **Alvar Aalto's work** spanning the various phases of his illustrious career, from classicism to functionalism, architecture in brick to monumentalism. By retracing Aalto's footsteps visitors can explore the built environment on a go-as-you-please basis or in the company of a guide.



Jyväskylä workers club. A-Hall. Owned by Alvar Aalto –museum. Photo by Maija Holma

Jyväskylä is proud of its symphony orchestra, **Sinfonia Finlandia Jyväskylä**, which gives concerts each week. There are two theatres in Jyväskylä, **Jyväskylä City Theatre** and **Huoneteatteri** – Studio theatre with a versatile repertoire. The Rock Planetarium offers visitors both a fascinating experience as well as a chance to learn many new things connected to astronomy and the natural world.

Activities and nature

Varjola farm has a wide range of activities and organised experiences: white water rafting and other forms of adventure in and around the Kuusa rapids, canoe trips, church boat rowing, snowshoe and snowmobile safaris, off road and ATV safaris, fishing trips, paintball and laser combat, trap shooting etc. Various saunas, including a traditional smoke sauna, provide an unforgettable experience.



The major sports complexes in Jyväskylä are the **Hippos sports centre** and the sports parks in the suburban areas.. These provide opportunities for a wide range of sports, recreational activities and other events. Three of the city's ice halls are located at Hippos.

AaltoAlvari aquatic sport centre is a first-class swimming pool/spa complex in the heart of Jyväskylä. **Hutunki** sports centre, 15 minutes drive from the city centre, offers bowling, tennis, badminton, squash, wall climbing, floorball, table tennis, billiards, intercrosse and korfbal. The bowling hall has twelve lanes and is equipped for cosmic bowling.

Peurunka tourist area offers visitors relaxation and refreshment via a range of sports and experiential activities: curling and other fun on ice, and energizing spa treatments. For Alpine skiing and winter activities **Laajavuori** offers some challenging slopes and crosscountry trails and is situated just 4 km from the centre of Jyväskylä. Skis and snowboards are available for hire. There is also a smoke sauna on the shore of Vuorilampi pond that can be hired for private occasions. Just a thirty minute drive from Jyväskylä, **Riihivuori** ski centre offers slopes and winter activities with plenty of variety. Another excellent way to spend a winter day is **on ice**. Definitely worth trying is the skating circuit roughly 2.4 km in length created each winter on the ice of Lake Jyväsjärvi. There are also a dozen or so places in the region to go ice hole swimming.



All-year-round there's an exciting place to visit, **Kallioplanetaario**. In the depths of massive bedrock vaults, you can experience a wonderful three-dimensional planetarium show.



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