

Walking Route to Töölönlahti

English

Includes maps



Helsinki



Welcome to Töölönlahti

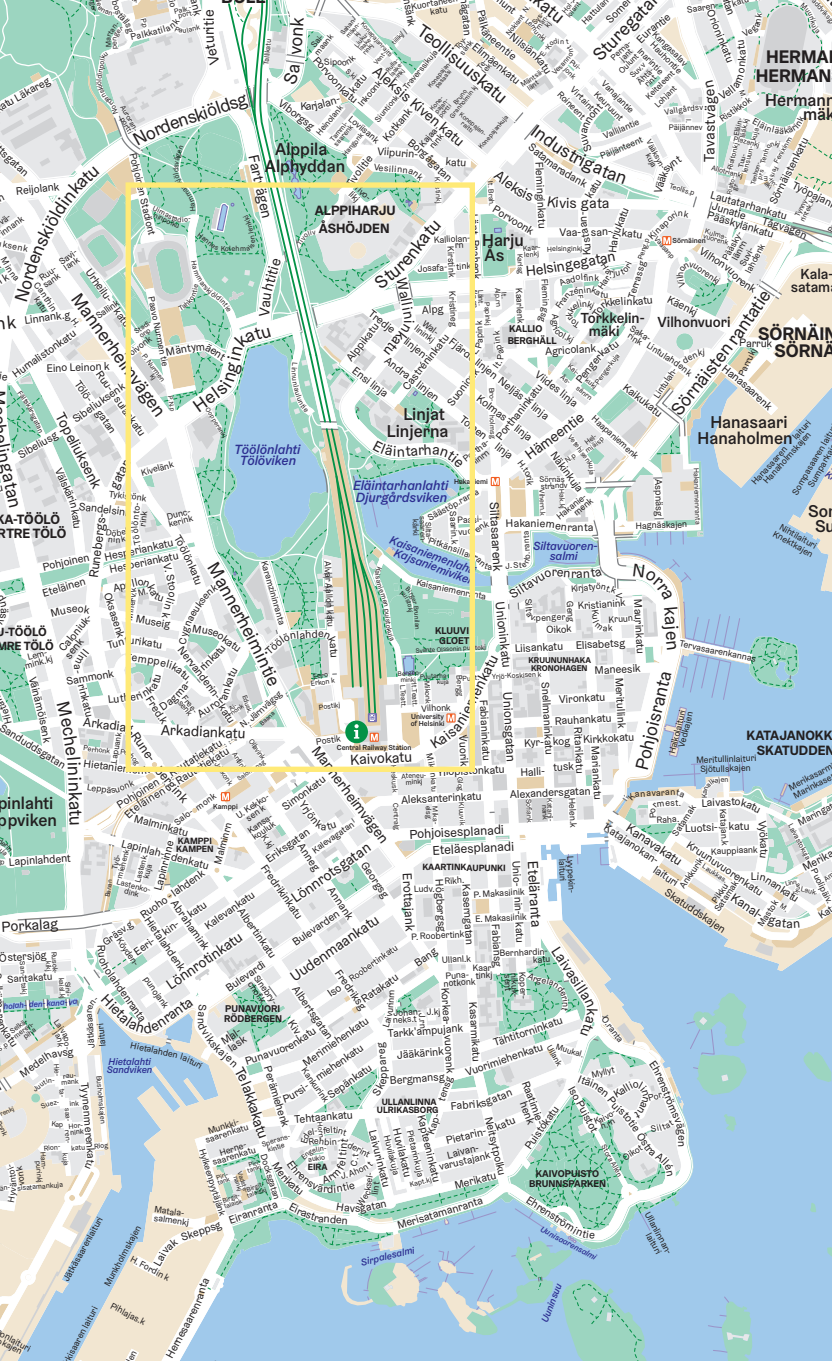
Töölönlahti holds a special place in the hearts of locals. The park and bay are an urban oasis that provides invigorating nature and culture experiences.

Walking along the recreational paths around the bay is a great way to see many of the main sights in Helsinki. Iconic buildings such as Finlandia Hall and Parliament House have been joined by new landmarks in recent years. Helsinki's brand-new central library Oodi and the bulging galleries of Amos Rex art museum have rapidly become popular social spaces.

Hesperia Park, Töölönlahti Park, the Kansalaistori square and the Makasiinipuisto park also attract visitors to enjoy urban events or simply hang out. Töölönlahti lets you enjoy your own peace and quiet while being in the heart of the action at the same time.

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Culture & Events

Töölönlahti is where you can experience Helsinki's contrasts, where the exciting urban vibe coexists with the peace and quiet. Right in the heart of the city you will find a green oasis of natural beauty and great experiences. Next to the bay you can listen to the sounds of both birdsong and opera.

Route distance approx. 4 km



1 Helsinki Central Station

Designed by legendary Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen and inaugurated in 1919, this impressive granite railway station is famous for its clock tower and the two pairs of statues holding spherical lamps designed by sculptor Emil Wikström.

2 Amos Rex

Completed in 2018, the Amos Rex art museum was designed by JKMM Architects. It comprises new subterranean exhibition spaces and the Lasipalatsi “glass palace” that was built in the 1930s.

3 Natural History Museum

The exhibitions at the Natural History Museum brings the nature of Finland and the rest of the world to life. This museum building was built in 1913 and originally served as a Russian boys’ school.

4 Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma

Kiasma is one of the leading museums of contemporary art in the Nordic region. It was designed by US architect Steven Holl and completed in 1998. Kiasma is part of the Finnish National Gallery.

5 Parliament House

Designed by J. S. Sirén and completed in 1931, Parliament House represents 1920s Classicism with elements of Functionalism as well. The plenary sessions of Parliament are open to the public, and guided tours are also available.

6 Musiikkitalo

Opened in 2011, Musiikkitalo (Helsinki Music Centre) was designed as a concert venue and social space that is open to all. Musiikkitalo is home to the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Sibelius Academy.

7 Villa Hakasalmi

Built in 1846, Villa Hakasalmi is part of the Helsinki City Museum. The villa’s most famous resident was Aurora Karamzin, a prominent philanthropist in the 19th century.

8 National Museum of Finland

The permanent exhibitions at the National Museum of Finland present Finnish history from prehistoric times to the 19th century, while the temporary exhibitions are surprisingly diverse. Completed in 1916, the museum is one of the most impressive examples of National Romantic architecture in Finland. It was designed by Herman Gesellius, Armas Lindgren and Eliel Saarinen.

9 Finlandia Hall

One of the most cohesive designs by legendary Finnish architect Alvar Aalto, Finlandia Hall is also a popular tourist attraction for its design and architecture. It is one of the most prominent congress, concert and event centres in Finland.

10 Hesperia Park

The park beside the bay is a popular place to relax. In the 19th century, there was a restaurant that offered a wide range of entertainment. When the lease of the land was expired in 1892, it was transformed into a public park.

11 Finnish National Opera and Ballet

The modern home of the Finnish National Opera and Ballet was designed by Finnish architects Eero Hyvämäki, Jukka Karhunen and Risto Parkkinen. The opera house opened in 1993.

12 Olympic Stadium

The Olympic Stadium was originally built to host the 1940 Olympic Games, which were postponed due to the outbreak of war. The Olympics eventually made it to Helsinki in 1952. The Olympic Stadium is currently undergoing a major renovation and expansion, which will be completed in 2020.

13 Swimming Stadium

Designed by Finnish architect Jorma Järvi, the Swimming Stadium was also originally built for the 1940 Olympic Games. It hosted the swimming and diving events in 1952.

14 Winter Garden

Since it first opened to the public in 1893, the Winter Garden has remained a popular attraction among locals for over 125 years.

15 Linnanmäki Amusement Park

Linnanmäki is Finland's oldest and most popular amusement park. It has over 40 rides and games, as well as cafes and restaurants. Its most popular ride is still the wooden roller coaster, which dates back to 1951.

16 Linnunlaulu villas

The wooden villas along Linnunlauluntie ("Birdsong Road") were built in the 19th century. Villa Kivi is a writers' home, while the other villas are residences. Among the villas you will also find Sinisen Huvilan Kahvila ("Blue Villa Café") and Café Taideterassi ("Café Art Terrace").

17 SUP rentals

Here you can rent stand-up paddleboards to see all the sights from the water.

18 City rowing boat rentals

You can rent a city rowing boat from Café Veranda at Finlandia Hall.

19 Töölönlahti Park

Töölönlahti Park was inaugurated in summer 2016. Designed by landscape architects Näkymä Oy, the park covers an area of 9.5 hectares and includes the Alvar Aalto playground.

20 Makasiinipuisto park

The Makasiinipuisto park was built on the site of the old railway warehouses ("makasiinit" in Finnish). The park has a street basketball court and the children's playpark "Loru".

21 Kansalaistori square

The Kansalaistori square is a popular public space in the heart of the city.

22 Helsinki Central Library Oodi

Oodi opened in 2018 as part of Finland's centenary celebrations. In addition to books, Oodi offers recording studios, 3D printers, cafés and a cinema. Designed as a public living room, Oodi is open seven days a week.

23 Sanomatalo

Sanomatalo houses the editorial offices of Finland's biggest newspapers and radio stations, the head offices of numerous companies, and open space for the public and events. Designed by Jan Söderlund and Antti-Matti Siikala, the building was completed in 1999.

History of Töölönlahti

1600 BCA

The Töölönlahti bay is formed when the narrow strait to the Taivallahti bay closes and the Helsinginniemi peninsula is created as the land rises due to post-glacial rebound.

1600s

The crown bequeaths the land of the Töölö village, i.e. the entire Helsinginniemi peninsula, for the town's use in 1643. A brick factory is situated at the northern end of the bay. The Turku Road runs along the western side of the bay.

Early 1800s

The Kiseleff Sugar Factory moves from the corner of Senate Square to the site of today's Finnish National Opera in 1823. The cultural heritage of Töölönlahti begins to develop in the 1820s and 1830s with a lively villa milieu and fairs.

Late 1800s

The construction of a gas plant and the railway transforms the scenery around Töölönlahti.

1960s

The sugar factory is demolished in 1965. Architect Alvar Aalto proposes transforming Töölönlahti into an urban cultural space. His plans are not fully implemented, however, and only Finlandia Hall and the Finnish National Opera are built.

1200–1300 CA

Swedish settlers establish the village of Töölö on the Helsinginniemi peninsula. The villagers' fields and pastures line the sheltered bay.

1700s

A garden culture develops around the bay, including a fruit garden with carp ponds, a health spring and a plantation.

Mid-1800s

Plots of land for villas are zoned along the shores of the bay in the 1830s and 1840s. The most impressive of them, Villa Hakasalmi, is built in 1846.

1900s

In 1902, Villa Hakasalmi and its gardens are transferred to the City of Helsinki, which begins to develop Töölönlahti into a public park. A solution is sought to pollution in the bay, and the first wastewater treatment plant in Finland is built at the end of the bay in the 1910s.

2000s

The railway yard is made smaller to make space for developing Töölönlahti into a major centre for culture and urban events combined with a green area in the heart of the city.

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4 Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma

5 Parliament House

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7 Villa Hakasalmi

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 Helsinki Tourist Information, Helsinki Central Station

 café

 city bike station

 toilet

 **Tip!** The **Töölönlahti Mobile Sonic Walk** is a great way to dive into the historical layers of the old villas, industrial area, nature and cultural attractions around the bay. You can download the app from the Play Store or AppStore.



Helsinki Tourist Information

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City Centre

Helsinki Central Station

Helsinki Airport

Terminal 2 – Arrivals 2A

Both locations are open daily

Helsinki