



REDESIGN

Explore Alvar Aalto's

YOUR

architecture and

MINDSET IN

change how you see the world

FINLAND

Welcome to the Alvar Aalto Route, where the magic of architecture and design come alive, inviting you to see the world through a new lens. Alvar Aalto (1898-1976), a mastermind of modern architecture, designed buildings with a human approach. They are experiences that speak to the soul. His creations, scattered across Finland and beyond, are more than structures—they're gateways to a world redesigned.

In 2021, this route was honoured a certification as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe, a recognition of its place in the rich tapestry of European heritage. As well as a journey through architectural landmarks, it's a warm invitation to step into a space where design, nature, and the human spirit come together as one.

This catalogue is your guide to an array of Aalto experiences. Each package is a curated adventure into Alvar Aalto's world, blending his iconic architecture with the unique flavours of local life. From the tranquil Finnish landscapes to the heart of European Aalto spots, there's a journey for you here. We welcome visitors of all kinds, and continuously seek new partners.

Walk through spaces that challenge the ordinary, where every corner, every curve, tells a story that changes how you perceive the world around you. That's what awaits you on the Alvar Aalto Route. We're here to help you navigate this adventure, to discover how Aalto's vision can transform not just spaces but also the way you see the world.

An unforgettable voyage awaits.

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ALVAR AALTO ROUTE
20th Century Architecture and Design

Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe





FINLAND

Destinations in different parts of Finland combine Aalto's cultural heritage with local sights and specialities.



EUROPE

Alvar Aalto Route - 20th Century Architecture and Design is a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe offering an enchanting architectural journey across Europe.

www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/alvar-aalto-route



In Noormarkku, Pori, you'll experience a comprehensive journey into architecture and design through guided tours of the world-renowned Villa Mairea and Ahlström's unique historical industrial area with its museums.

01

VILLA MAIREA & AHLSTRÖM WORKS – CULTURAL AND CULINARY EXPERIENCES



This experience is a feast for the senses, combining culinary delights at Noormarkku Works area with a journey through history, design, and architecture. Villa Mairea's aesthetic brilliance is a tribute to Aalto's genius as well as the relationship between modern design and natural beauty. In Ahlström's Noormarkku works, come and meld culture, architecture, and gastronomy, and ask yourself how architecture can elevate and redefine the cultural landscape.





01 | VILLA MAIREA AND AHLSTRÖM WORKS - CULTURAL AND CULINARY EXPERIENCES

1 — The Guest House Vainiola, Pori 2 — Seasonal menu at the Club House, Pori 3 — Traditional smoke sauna, Pori



Tour in brief: Villa Mairea and the Ahlström Ironworks are a harmonious marriage of art, design, and industry. Designed by Alvar and Aino Aalto, Villa Mairea is an architectural gem amidst a pine forest, while the Ironworks Park invites you to stroll through a living museum of industrial heritage. Together, they offer a rich cultural experience highlighting the creative synergy of Aalto's design and Ahlström's industrial legacy.

SINGLE ATTRACTION & ROUTE PACKAGE Duration	1-2 days
Distance from Helsinki	3 hrs
Highlights	Villa Mairea, Aalto's and Ahlström's collaborative design
Includes	Museum visit, accommodation, culinary experiences
Availability	All year round
Travel Agency	Ahlström Works
Contact	www.ahlstrominruukki.fi and www.villamairea.fi



4 & 5 — The Ahlström Voyage exhibition, Pori

A place where history, architecture and innovations seamlessly intertwine with nature.

02 | PAIMIO SANATORIUM



Paimio Sanatorium, Alvar and Aino Aalto's international breakthrough design, is one of the most renowned buildings in Finland. Completed in 1933, it is a masterpiece of humane modernism and a true gesamtkunstwerk. Designed as a tuberculosis sanatorium and having served as a general hospital, Paimio Sanatorium has now entered a new era of the philosophy of well-being.



Enclosed by a vast forest of tall pine trees, the iconic site invites you to unwind in its tranquil ambiance. Explore the corridors, sense the luminous light and colors of the Sanatorium as you take a guided tour, discovering the stories of the past. A hike through nature trails or outdoor meditation, Paimio Sanatorium offers the perfect retreat to rejuvenate senses. Lengthen the stay by accommodating on-site, enjoy the local cuisine and various spaces of the Sanatorium.

1

2

3

Single attraction

Distance from Helsinki 1,5 hrs

Highlights Guided tours, accommodation, exhibitions, cafe and restaurant

Availability All year round

Travel Agency Paimio Sanatorium

Website www.paimiosanatorium.com

Contact sales@paimiosanatorium.com

03

VILLA SKEPPET – AALTO'S
PERSONAL DESIGN JOURNEY

Discover the intimate nuances of Alvar Aalto's
personalised architectural style with a tour of
Villa Skeppet.





This journey offers a unique insight into a residence that blends Mediterranean warmth with Aalto's signature Nordic touch. Explore rooms where architecture tells personal stories, spaces that pulsate with intimate narratives. As well as observing architectural excellence, explore how thoughtful design can create environments that echo with personal histories and deepen our appreciation for the transformative power of architecture.

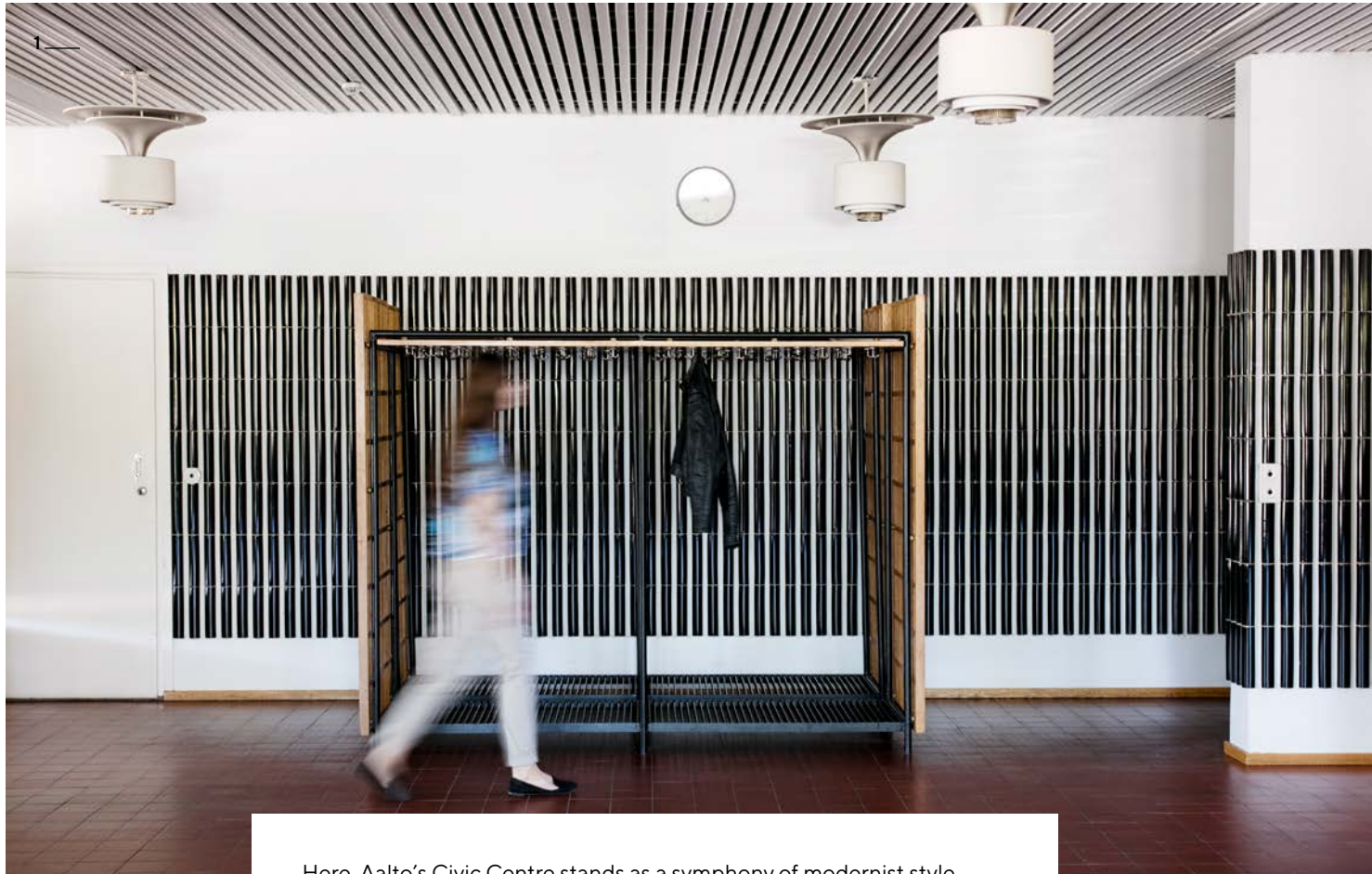


Tour in brief: Experience a guided tour of Villa Skeppet, where Aalto's personal touch and Mediterranean influences are evident. Discover the unique history of a home designed as a token of friendship and explore the various architectural solutions that Aalto developed throughout his illustrious career.

SINGLE ATTRACTION Duration	Starting from 1 hour
Distance from Helsinki	1,5 hrs
Highlights	Villa Skeppet, Aalto's design
Includes	Guided tour of the house
Travel Agency	Villa Skeppet/The Christine and Göran Schildt Foundation
Website	villaskeppet.fi/en
Contact	info@villaskeppet.fi

04 | GET INSPIRED IN SEINÄJOKI

Grasp the essence of Alvar Aalto's architectural philosophy in Seinäjoki and Alajärvi.



Here, Aalto's Civic Centre stands as a symphony of modernist style, where architectural melodies play in perfect harmony with the rhythm of community life. Discover buildings that transcend aesthetics, shaping the very spirit of public spaces. From the embracing arms of the town hall to the spiritual sanctum of the church, each structure pays homage to Aalto's belief in architecture as a transformative force, reshaping our collective experience of community in space.



2



3



4

Tour in brief: In a day and a half, this tour explores Seinäjoki's Aalto Centre, an architectural ensemble that's within easy reach from the train station. Engage in a guided tour that inspires with its beauty and historical significance, creating a unique blend of cultural experience and modern architectural wonder.

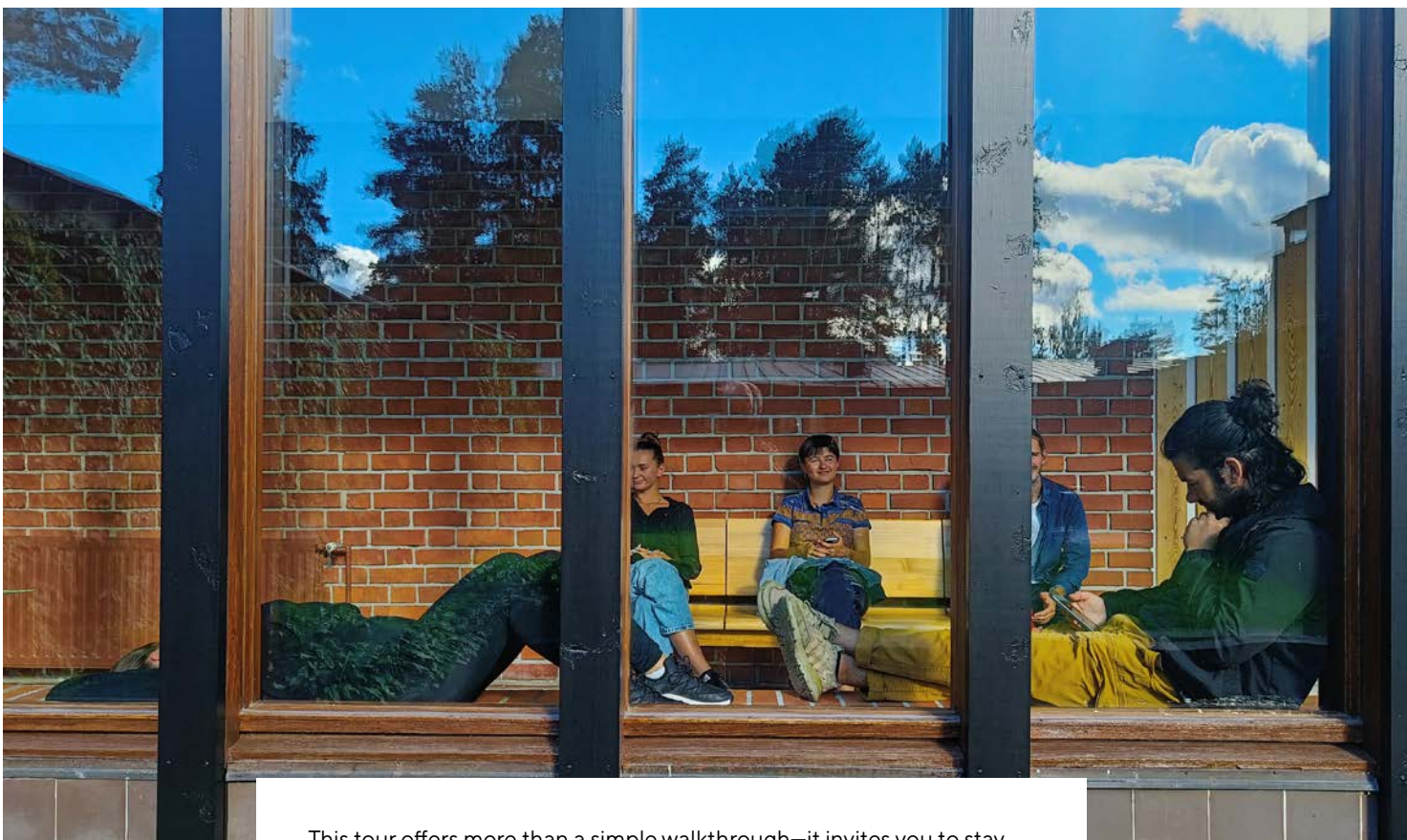
ROUTE PACKAGE Duration	1.5 days
Distance from Helsinki	2 hrs 40 min
Highlights	Seinäjoki Civic Centre, Civil Guard House and Alajärvi's Aalto sites
Includes	Accommodation, some meals, guided tours, city centre services
Availability	All year round
Travel Agency	Visit Lakeus
Website	visitseinajoki.fi/en/see-and-experience/alvar-aalto
Contact	info@visitlakeus.fi

1 & 3 ____ Seinäjoki City Hall 2 ____ Lakeuden Risti Church, Seinäjoki 4 ____ Seinäjoki City Hall and Lakeuden Risti Church

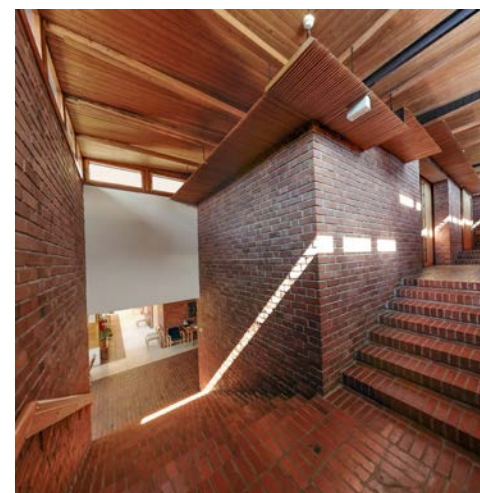
05

SÄYNÄTSALO TOWN HALL - LIVE-IN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Explore this architectural gem where Aalto's vision of form and function is realised in each minute detail.



This tour offers more than a simple walkthrough—it invites you to stay and soak in the community spirit that the building embodies. As you explore this space, you have the unique opportunity to extend your visit with an overnight stay, allowing you to fully immerse yourself in the unflustered landscape that inspired Aalto's design and experience the communal essence of the thinking behind his designs.



Regardless of your profession, education, experience, or what stage of your life you are in, what mobility you have, or who you love, you are always safe and welcome to visit Säynätsalo Town Hall.

Tour in brief: Join us at the Säynätsalo Town Hall, a cherished historical gem reflecting Alvar Aalto's brilliance. Uncover the stories and facts of Alvar and Elissa Aalto during our guided tour, which is suitable for all ages and backgrounds.

Why not extend the experience with an overnight stay? That way, you can create an even deeper connection with this iconic masterpiece and live like a local in our warm, inviting atmosphere.

ROUTE PACKAGE Duration	A day visit or a more extended overnight stay
Distance from Helsinki	3 hrs
Highlights	The atmosphere of an iconic building in a human scale
Includes	Accommodation, entrance and guided tour
Optional	Overnight stay
Travel Agency	Tavolo Bianco
Contact	info@tavolobianco.com, tavolobianco.com

Embark on a journey that weaves through Alvar Aalto's architectural imagination, stretching across Finland to the cultural heart of Rovaniemi and the historic charm of Turku.

06 | FINLAND'S MODERNIST TAPESTRY TOUR



This tour unveils a world where concrete, glass, and nature blend into a seamless, beautiful continuum. Marvel at the bold modernism of Helsinki's Finlandia Hall, and experience the tranquility of Säynätsalo Town Hall, a gem nestled in Lakeland. In Rovaniemi, bear witness to the administrative and cultural prowess of the Aalto Centre, including Rovaniemi City Hall, the City Library, and Lappia House. Further south, explore Turku to discover Alvar and Aino Aalto's early modern buildings, pioneering a new architectural era. As you drift from the urban vibrancy of the capital to serene lakesides and historic cityscapes, let Aalto's vision inspire a new understanding of harmony between built environments and nature.

1 — Southwestern Finland Agricultural Cooperative building, Turku 2 — Rovaniemi City Library, Rovaniemi 3 — The Office Building for Turun Sanomat Newspaper, Turku 4 — Finlandia Hall, Helsinki



06 | FINLAND'S MODERNIST TAPESTRY TOUR



1 ____ Rovaniemi City Library, Rovaniemi
 2 ____ St. Henry's Ecumenical Art Chapel, Turku



3 ____ Windows at the Office Building for Turun Sanomat Newspaper, Turku
 4 ____ Riverboat ride at Aura River, Turku



Tour in brief: A nine-day journey encompassing the architectural marvels of Alvar Aalto in Finland's key cities. This package offers a comprehensive experience including accommodations, select meals, entrance fees to notable attractions, and insightful guided tours. Free time is allocated for personal exploration and shopping, promising a full immersion into Aalto's world.

ROUTE PACKAGE | Duration 9 days

Highlights Aalto sites in major cities, including Turku, Helsinki, Jyväskylä Rovaniemi

Includes Accommodation, some meals, entrance tickets, guided tours, transport

Availability All year round

Travel Agency Magni Mundi

Contact sales@magnimundi.fi



07

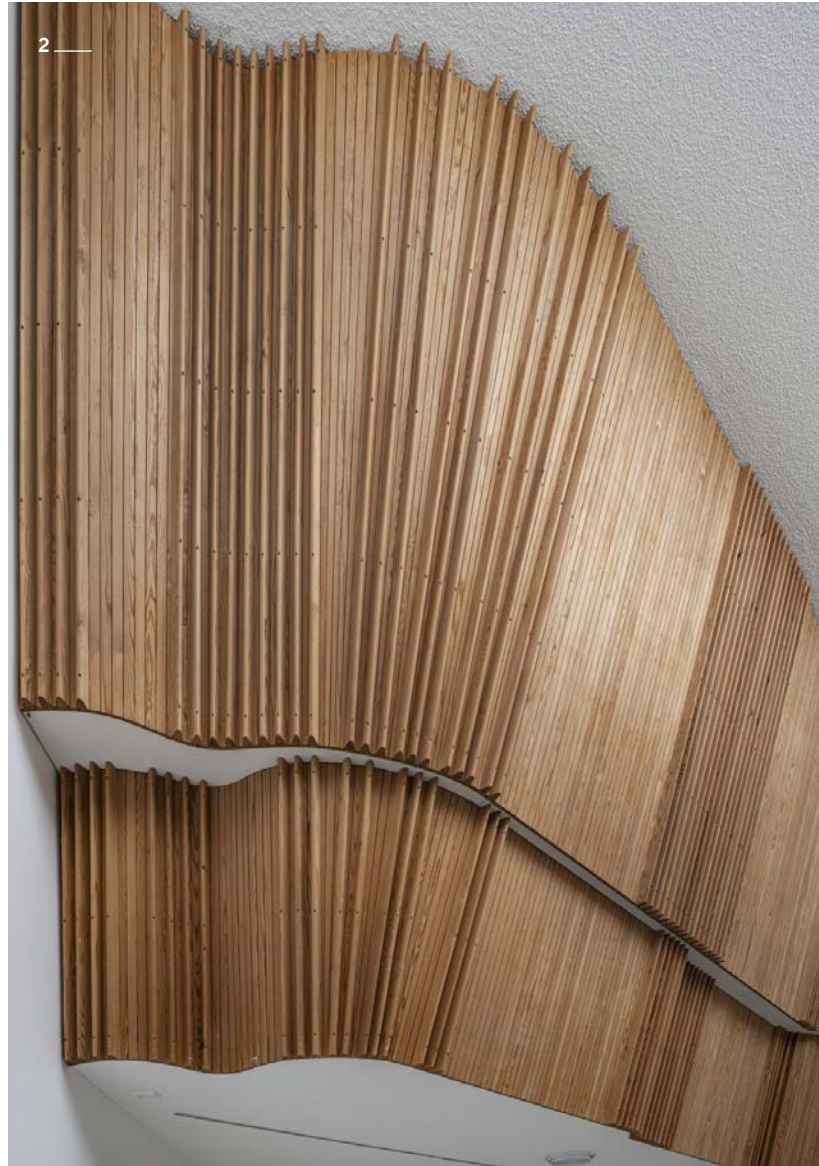
JYVÄSKYLÄ – AALTO'S LAKELAND IMPRESSIONS

This experience is an intimate exploration of Aalto's structural poetry: the University of Jyväskylä Campus, a testament to his genius. The serene Säynätsalo Town Hall. Then add the architectural allure of the Jyväskylä City Theatre, a stage for cultural narratives, and the spiritual resonance of Muurame Church. Each visit isn't to a site but to a story—a narrative shaped by Aalto's dedication to innovation and elegance. Dive into the depths of architectural marvels and discover spaces that redefine the essence of form and function.

Aalto2 (Alvar Aalto Museum, Museum of Central Finland), Jyväskylä

Immerse yourself in the essence of Jyväskylä, where Alvar Aalto's architectural vision unfolds into reality.

1 & 2 — Aalto2 (Alvar Aalto Museum, Museum of Central Finland), Jyväskylä



3 — Nemo Propheta In Patria (1954-55), a boat designed by Alvar Aalto
 4 — Muurame Church, Muurame
 5 — Lyhty at the Jyväskylä University Campus, Jyväskylä



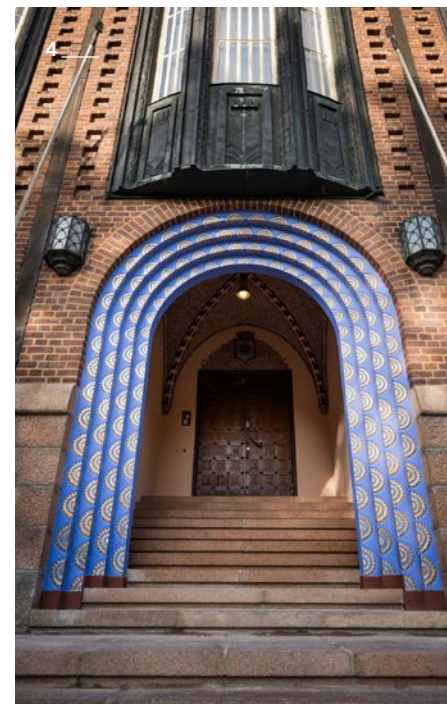
Tour in brief: Discover Aalto's diverse architectural phases in a three-day tour of the Jyväskylä region. From the early classicism to functionalism and from renowned Säynätsalo Town Hall's architecture in brick to the Jyväskylä City Theatre's monumentalism, this tour blends Aalto's heritage with the Petäjävesi Old Church's heritage and the natural beauty of Lakeland, complemented by local hospitality.

ROUTE PACKAGE Duration	3 days
Distance from Helsinki	3,5 hrs
Highlights	Säynätsalo Town Hall, University of Jyväskylä Campus, UNESCO site Petäjävesi Old Church
Includes	Accommodation, meals, entrance tickets, guided tours, local Lakeland experiences
Travel Agency	Northern Excellence by Heli's Travel in cooperation with Visit Jyväskylä Region
Availability	All year round
Contact	info@northernexcellence.fi
Website	northernexcellence.fi

08

LAHTI AND JYVÄSKYLÄ – AALTO AND SAARINEN ARCHITECTURAL PATH

In Lahti and Jyväskylä, Alvar Aalto and Eliel Saarinen’s architectural masterpieces are on vivid display.



1 & 4 ____ Lahti City Hall (Eliel Saarinen), Lahti 2 ____ Muuratsalo Experimental House, Jyväskylä 3 ____ Säynätsalo Town Hall, Jyväskylä 5 ____ Church of the Cross (Alvar Aalto), Lahti



Tour in brief: Trace the architectural dialogues of Aalto and Saarinen in a four-day tour in Lahti and Jyväskylä. Marvel at the interwoven styles of these Finnish masters, enjoy the independence of exploring the harbour area, and delve into Aalto’s works in Jyväskylä. Optional extras include meals and extended tours to other Aalto cities.

ROUTE PACKAGE Duration	4 days
Distance from Helsinki	1 hour
Highlights	Works of Aalto and Saarinen, Muuratsalo house, Säynätsalo Town Hall
Includes	Accommodation, guided walking tours, entrance fees, free time
Optional	Extra tours to other Aalto-cities
Travel Agency	Visit Lahti – Lakeland Finland
Availability	June-September upon request
Contact	sales@lahtiregion.fi

Begin your journey in Lahti and encounter Aalto’s tranquil mastery at the Church of the Cross, resonating with spiritual harmony, and Saarinen’s meticulous Art Nouveau in Lahti City Hall. In Jyväskylä, see Aalto’s Muuratsalo Experimental House and Säynätsalo Town Hall, culminating in a comprehensive experience of Finnish architectural heritage. This tour weaves through the legacy of two Finnish greats, their distinctive yet complementary styles forming a rich tapestry of design right in the middle of Finland. Each structure narrates a tale of architectural evolution, challenging and reshaping your perceptions, leaving a lasting impression of their transformative influence.

09

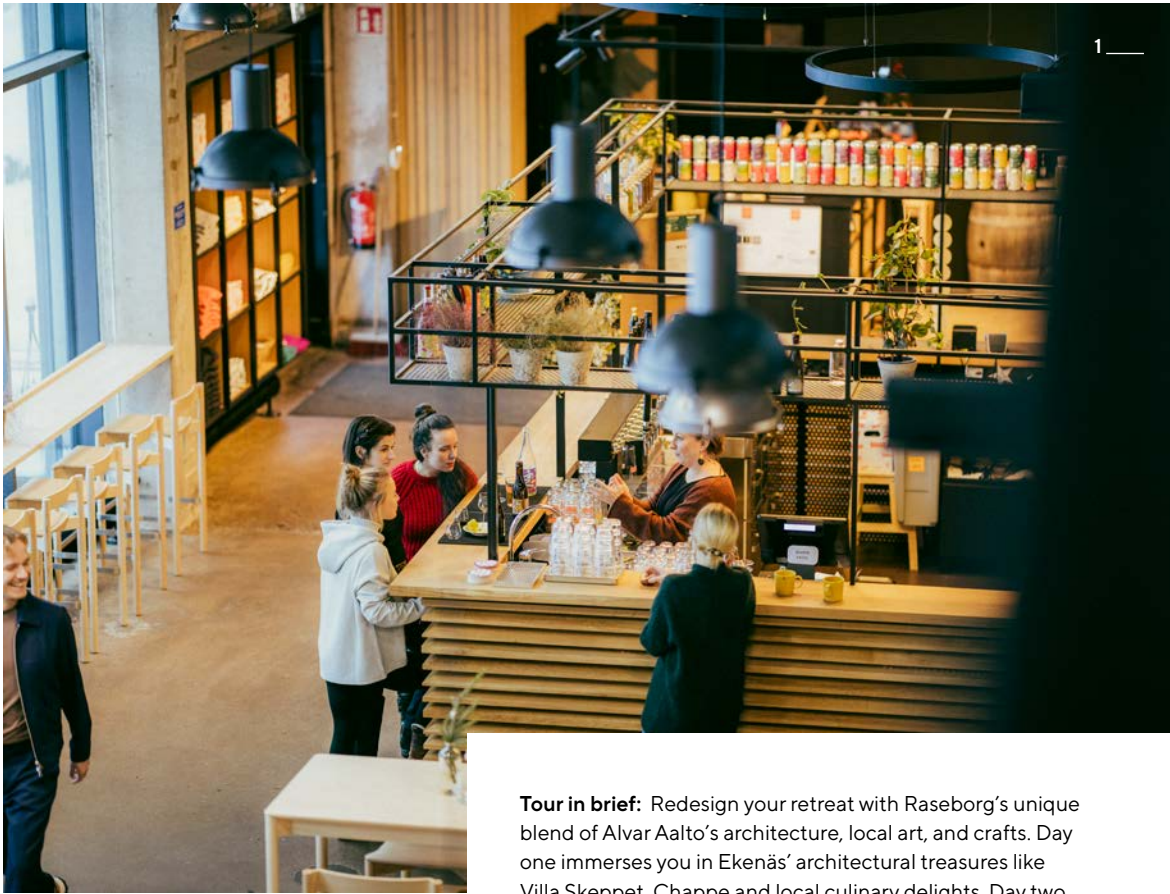
ARTISANS AND AALTO RETREAT IN RASEBORG

Retreat to the picturesque Raseborg, where architecture and artisanry coalesce with the splendour of nature.

Begin your escape in the coastal charm of Ekenäs, witnessing Alvar Aalto's small-scale architectural wonders like Villa Skeppet. Then, journey to the historic Fiskars Village, a cradle of Finnish art and design. Here, amidst the legacy of ironworks, discover the vibrancy of local craft, and let each boutique and workshop unveil a story of tradition and innovation. This retreat is an invitation to experience the integration of creativity and natural beauty.



1 ____ Town of Ekenäs by night 2 & 4 ____ Chappe Art House, Ekenäs 3 ____ Fiskars Village



1

Tour in brief: Redesign your retreat with Raseborg's unique blend of Alvar Aalto's architecture, local art, and crafts. Day one immerses you in Ekenäs' architectural treasures like Villa Skeppet, Chappe and local culinary delights. Day two invites you to the artistic Fiskars Village, a historic ironworks site now bustling with workshops and boutiques.



2

ROUTE PACKAGE Duration	2 days
Distance from Helsinki	1,5 hrs
Highlights	Ekenäs' Aalto architecture, Fiskars Village, Chappe
Includes	Accommodation, local food experiences, guided tours
Availability	All year round
Travel Agency	Magni Mundi
Contact	Sales@magnimundi.fi

3

1 ____Fiskars Village Veitsitehdas – The Old Knife Factory, Fiskars 2 ____ A street in the Old Town of Ekenäs 3 ____ Villa Skeppet, Ekenäs



Embark on a country-spanning odyssey to discover the heart and soul of Alvar Aalto's architectural legacy.

10 | FINLAND - DESIGNED BY AALTO



1 — The Terraced House at the Kauttua Works, Eura 2 — Riverside Sauna at the Kauttua Works, Eura 3 — Alvar Aalto Museum, Jyväskylä 4 — Muuratsalo Experimental House, Jyväskylä

Embark on a country-spanning odyssey to discover the heart and soul of Alvar Aalto's architectural legacy. Begin in Turku, where Aalto's modernistic early works stand as monuments to his evolving style. Find yourself in Helsinki, where the iconic Finlandia Hall and the Academic Bookstore exemplify his philosophy of form following function. In Jyväskylä, the Aalto2 Museum awaits, a space where Aalto's genius blurs the lines between practicality and artistry. Journey to Säynätsalo to admire the Town Hall, a beacon of community and design, and explore the Muuratsalo Experimental House, a canvas of Aalto's daring creativity. Venture to Kauttua Ironworks in Southwest Finland, a magnificent home to six Aalto structures, including the terrace house and riverside sauna. Finish up at Villa Mairea, a residential marvel that harmonises with the natural world. This tour is a true tribute to Aalto's vision, a chance to see the built environment through his transformative lens.



1 & 2 ____ The Aalto House, Helsinki 3 ____ Studio Aalto, Helsinki 4 ____ University of Technology, Helsinki

Tour in brief: This five-day tour commences in Turku with Aalto's first modernist works and progresses through Helsinki's iconic landmarks, such as the Finlandia Hall and the Academic Bookstore. The tour then ventures to the historically rich Kauttua Ironworks, followed by visits to Säynätsalo Town Hall and the Muuratsalo Experimental House. The excursion concludes with a tranquil stay at Villa Mairea, a serene architectural haven.

ROUTE PACKAGE Duration	5 days
Highlights	Aalto sites in major cities, including Turku, Helsinki, Jyväskylä
Includes	Accommodation, some meals, entrance tickets, guided tours, transport
Availability	All year round. Muuratsalo is only open during the summer
Travel Agency	Magni Mundi
Contact	www.magnimundi.fi

Aalto Vase, designed by Alvar Aalto 1936.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

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PHOTO CREDITS | COVER Johannes Romppanen, Risto Musta, Paimio Sanatorium Foundation | **PAGE 3:** A Frank Idea | **PAGE 4:** 1 & 3_ Mairea Foundation, Jarno Kylmänen, 2_ Frida Steiner | **PAGE 5:** Jarno Kylmänen | **PAGES 6:** A. Ahlström | **PAGES 7:** 1_ Johannes Romppanen, Risto Musta, Paimio Sanatorium Foundation, 2_ Paimio Sanatorium Foundation, 3_ Jaska Poikonen, Paimio Sanatorium Foundation | **PAGE 8:** 1_ Jaska Poikonen, Paimio Sanatorium Foundation 2 & 3_ Paimio Sanatorium Foundation | **PAGE 9:** Pyry Kantonen | **PAGES 10:** 1, 3, 4_ Katja Löönen, 2_ Tuukka Kiviranta | **PAGES 11:** Harri Taskinen | **PAGE 12:** 1_ Magni Mundi, Alvar Aalto Foundation, 2_ A Frank Idea, 3_ Jouko Luhtala, 4_ Rune Snellman | **PAGE 13:** 1_ A Frank Idea, 2, 3 & 4_ Magni Mundi | **PAGE 14:** Julia Kivelä | **PAGE 15:** 1 & 2_ Maija Holma, Alvar Aalto Foundation, 3 & 5_ Julia Kivelä, 4_ Tero Takalo-Eskola | **PAGES 16:** 1, 4 & 5_ Lassi Häkkinen, 2 & 3_ Tero Takalo-Eskola | **PAGE 17:** 1_ Johan Ljungqvist, 2_ Tuomas Uusheimo, 3_ Kjell Svenskberg, 4_ Tuomas Uusheimo | **PAGE 18:** 1_ Fiskars Village / Fiskars Oyj Abp, 2_ Kjell Svenskberg, 3_ Pyry Kantonen | **PAGE 19:** 1_ Magni Mundi, 2_ Tomi Glad, Glad Media Oy, 3 & 4_ Maija Holma, Alvar Aalto Foundation | **PAGE 20:** 1, 2 & 4_ Maija Holma, Alvar Aalto Foundation, 3_ Rauno Träskelin, Alvar Aalto Foundation | **PAGE 21:** Maija Holma, Alvar Aalto Foundation, A Frank Idea.

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