



WorldwideQuest

EXPERIENTIAL TRAVEL SINCE 1970

Most Liveable Cities: Helsinki

WITH KEN AND ETI GREENBERG

August 15 – 23, 2020

WE HAD A CHANCE TO SPEND SOME TIME IN HELSINKI TWO YEARS ago hosted by the city and came away enormously impressed. We were struck by its beauty and grace, the celebration of its spectacular natural setting, the generosity and care given to maintaining its public spaces, its walkability and commitment to inclusion in its neighbourhoods. Quality design and the presence of arts and culture were everywhere evident from the smallest details to architecture and city form.

We are in the midst of a major shift in the life of our cities, growing vertically, getting denser and learning how to live together at closer quarters, dealing with issues of affordability, congestion, climate readiness, how to provide and maintain great public spaces and social service for the whole population. We have lots to figure out and are learning from each other as cities around the world make these adjustments and respond to new challenges. Helsinki exhibited an inventiveness in facing these challenges and an embrace of the future informed by a human-centred urbanism with a commitment to social equity, public education and life in public that resonated with us. Despite many very significant differences there seemed to be significant shared values with Canadian cities and our own city Toronto that made us feel that there was much more to learn and understand that would be inspirational in our own efforts.

This tour has been designed to provide the opportunity to dive more deeply with a chance to meet local people and experience neighbourhood and city life firsthand. You will visit places of culture, business and recreation, explore the city on foot and on transit, and meet with many people who are making a difference. These individuals are in government, in the private sector, or are citizens and NGOs. They are individually and collectively shaping buildings and neighbourhoods, building remarkable new structures and urban spaces, revitalizing older areas, and creating new ones. We will about hear their experiences and get some sense of what it might be like to live there, learn about both successes and challenges, and the lessons learned in wrestling with issues like housing affordability and integration of newcomers, mobility and congestion, and innovations in dealing with waste, energy and climate change.

We are all participating in a collective learning curve and no one city has a monopoly on the answers. But we are inspired by the ways we see how others tackle similar issues to reflect on our own places practices and see and how we might do better. Finally there is the sheer pleasure of experiencing city life off the beaten tourist path at close quarters in another environment, the sights, the sounds, the tastes and the feeling of being in unique city like Helsinki. We hope you will consider joining us on this voyage of discovery.

Ken and Eti Greenberg



Why travel to
Helsinki with us?

- Meet professional planners
- Learn about 'carless blocks' and active transportation
- Meet educators at a secondary school
- Take the ferry to gorgeous Tallinn
- Attend the Helsinki Biennial



TOUR LEADER

Ken Greenberg is an architect, urban designer, teacher, writer, former Director of Urban Design and Architecture for the City of Toronto and Principal of Greenberg Consultants. For over three decades he has played a pivotal role on public and private assignments in urban settings throughout North America and Europe, focusing on the rejuvenation of downtowns, waterfronts, neighborhoods and on campus master planning, regional growth management, and new community planning.

Detailed Itinerary

We'll be adding details of presentations and meetings with professional planners and policy makers including a scheduled meeting with Helsinki's Deputy Mayor for Urban Environment. Please check back for the most up-to-date itinerary.

Saturday, Aug. 15: Arrive in Helsinki

Welcome to Helsinki! Participants will be met on arrival and transferred to our city centre hotel. Meet with Ken, Eti, and fellow travellers for a briefing and introductory seminar this afternoon, followed by dinner together with views over Helsinki's bustling seafront market.

Overnight: Hotel Katajonakka, Helsinki

Meals: Dinner

Sunday, Aug. 16: Public spaces, shared services

Get to know Helsinki on a guided walking tour focussing on the use of public space. During our walk, we'll see the new Oodi Library, the Musiikkitalo concert hall, the Kiasma Modern Art Museum, and the subterranean Amos Rex museum expansion. This afternoon head to Vallisaari Island to experience the outstanding Finnish and international art at the Helsinki Biennial.

Overnight: Hotel Katajonakka, Helsinki

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Monday, Aug. 17: Mixed-income neighbourhoods

Today we explore one of the new districts of Helsinki; the Jätkäsaari-Ruoholahti neighbourhood. We'll be examining themes of 'carless blocks', the expansion of transit and active transportation, strategies for mixed income in new neighbourhoods within individual blocks, and the provision of local services to meet the needs of mixed neighbourhoods. Take in an afternoon presentation by an urban planner addressing these issues.

Overnight: Hotel Katajonakka, Helsinki

Meals: Breakfast



Tuesday, Aug. 18: Saunas, active transportation

This morning's guided walking tour takes us to the Vuosaari neighbourhood exploring the themes of the changing relationship of living and working in mixed-use settings and how this is expressed in the evolution of the block pattern from closed courtyards to shared open courtyards. This afternoon drive just out of town to Nuuskio National Park for a Finnish forest experience. Enjoy a short hike in the forest with a nature guide, then enjoy a true Finnish sauna experience by the lake. After the sauna, enjoy dinner in the Lappish style kota around an open fire.

Overnight: Hotel Katajonakka, Helsinki

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday, Aug. 19: Integrating new technologies

Get out on a walking tour of the Kalasatama neighbourhood with a specialist architecture guide. Owing to good transport connections, the area has thousands of jobs, and the redevelopment will bring many new offices and new commercial space to the area. The new residential blocks will offer versatile housing alternatives. The shoreline and canals will be lined by a long promenade. A former power plant in adjacent Suvilahti turned into a cultural centre adds to the charm of the area.

Overnight: Hotel Katajonakka, Helsinki

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Thursday, Aug. 20: Role of public education

This morning, we visit a secondary school to consider the critical role of public education in Finland. A special presentation on the role of education and meetings with teachers rounds out our morning. This afternoon head back to the Helsinki Biennial.

Overnight: Hotel Katajonakka, Helsinki

Meals: Breakfast



Friday, Aug. 21: Excursion to Tallinn

The Estonian city of Tallinn lies almost directly across the Gulf of Finland. It's splendidly photogenic; the walled city looks over the Baltic Sea and its medieval streets are lined with gabled merchants' houses, churches, and classical buildings. We'll take the two-hour ferry trip to Tallinn and enjoy a guided walk in the Upper Town to see the Russian Orthodox Cathedral with its profusion of onion domes and many fine historic buildings including the 15th century Town Hall, the Parliament building set in the remains of Toompea Castle and the 12th century Saint Olav's church, once the tallest structure in the world! Return to Helsinki this evening.

Overnight: Hotel Katajonakka, Helsinki

Meals: Breakfast

Saturday, Aug. 22: Mixed use settings

The full day is yours to revisit a favourite site or discover something new before dinner together on a traditional summer island restaurant.

Overnight: Helsinki

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday, Aug. 23: Depart Helsinki

After breakfast cruise to Patara, Turkey's longest beach, overlooked After breakfast today, we are transferred to the airport for homeward-bound flights.

Note: The itinerary and accommodation described in this tour brochure are subject to change due to logistical arrangements and to take advantage of local events.



TOUR DETAILS

Tour Cost (per person): Approx. C\$4950

Guaranteed Single Supplement: C\$975

We would be happy to try to match you with a suitable roommate. If we are unable to, the single supplement will apply. This will be collected at 90 days prior to departure.

Group Size:

16 – 20 participants

What's Included:

- Airport transfers for passengers arriving and departing as per the group itinerary
- Accommodation based on double occupancy in hotel as listed or similar
- Meals as noted in the itinerary
- Transportation by public transit, air-conditioned coach, and ferry
- All activities and entrance fees for activities with the group
- Services of specialized English-speaking guides
- Gratuities for escort, local guides, drivers, hotel, and group meals
- Applicable Taxes at time of writing
- Fully escorted by Ken Greenberg and Eti Greenberg

Not Included:

- Roundtrip airfare from your home to join the tour
- Meals other than those mentioned above
- Beverages with meals
- Visa fee
- Fuel surcharges, if applicable
- Excess baggage charges
- Items of a personal nature
- Travel insurance
- Additional arrangements required due to any emergency or other situation
- Any item not mentioned in "What's Included"

Payment Details:

A non-refundable deposit of C\$500 per person is required to reserve a space on this tour. A second payment of C\$1000 per person is due six months prior to departure. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.



What to Expect

Joining Instructions

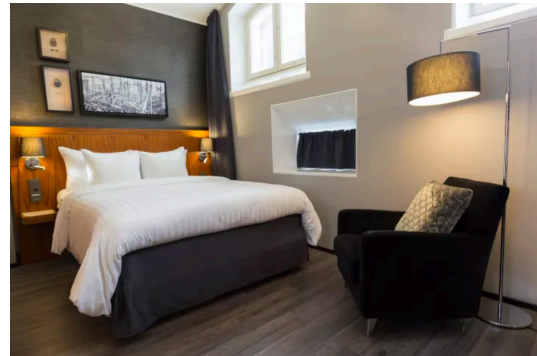
This tour begins with our briefing at 5PM on August 15th. Please ensure that you arrive in Helsinki by 3PM to join the group. All travellers arriving on the start date of the tour will be met on arrival and transferred to the group hotel. This transfer is included in the cost of the tour. When you book the designated pre-trip accommodation with Worldwide Quest, your transfer from the airport to our group hotel on arrival is included. If you are making your own pre-trip arrangements, this transfer can be provided at additional cost. The tour concludes with a single complimentary transfer from the hotel to the airport on August 23rd. Please contact us to verify timing of this transfer prior to making any flight arrangements.

Level of Activity: Moderate

A good level of fitness is important for this trip. You must be comfortable walking on uneven terrain and irregular paving for at least two hours at a stretch. We will be using public transit for most of our activities in Helsinki.

Accommodation

Hotel Katajanokka is a historic 170 years old former prison, now transformed into a first-class hotel. Located in Helsinki centre in the historic Katajanokka district, by the sea, the hotel has 106 rooms, as well as restaurant and bar services, conference facilities, and an idyllic summer terrace.



Transportation

We will be using public transit for most of our activities in Helsinki.

Weather

We expect a mix of sun and cloud with average daytime temperatures of 20°C and overnight temperatures of about 14°C.

Travel Documents

You will require a passport for this trip. Please ensure it is valid for at least 6 months beyond your scheduled return home. Canadian and USA passport-holders do not require a visa for travel to Finland.

Additional Info

Extend your Stay

If you are interested in exploring more of this region, we would be happy to design a personalized extension for you either before or after this tour. Please let us suggest some options, based on your time available, budget and interests.

Terms and Conditions

For additional information about our terms and conditions, please refer to your booking form, the current brochure or our website. All participants booking with Worldwide Quest are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act (Worldwide Quest International, Ontario - License # 2667946).

Cancellation Policy

All payments are non-refundable, however you may transfer your initial deposit for any land tour to another tour 90 days or more prior to your scheduled departure date. Initial deposits for cruises are non-refundable and non-transferable. Your second payment and your final payment are non-refundable and non-transferable. If you cancel within 90 days prior to trip departure, all associated trip costs are non-refundable. The tour price is quoted as a package. No partial refunds or credits will be given for services not used. In the event of a cancellation, you must notify Worldwide Quest immediately and in writing.

Travel Insurance

We urge you to ensure that you have adequate cancellation and medical insurance in place, should an unexpected event cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip or should the tour not be operable per our terms and conditions. We will offer you Manulife insurance coverage. Medical insurance including emergency medical evacuation coverage is mandatory on all our tours.



Worldwide Explorers Club

Travel twice with us and you become a member of the Worldwide Explorers Club. Earn 5% off all your subsequent, catalogue-advertized group tours. The bonus is non-transferable and cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount or credit. Note that some exceptions may apply. Members also get access to special offers and exploratory tours!

**Can't make the dates of this tour?
Make it a Private Journey!**

We can plan this tour:

- For your dates
- For your specific interests
- And we deliver all our signature touches...

We'll tailor most of our small group tours to suit your time frame, budget, and interests, or plan a completely customized itinerary to suit your exact specifications. With a Worldwide Quest Private Journey, you have the same attention to detail, logistical expertise, and imaginative details of our small group tours, expertly designed especially for you, as a couple, a family, or a group of friends. Private Journey are surprisingly affordable. *Please call us to get started.*

How to Book

Please contact the Worldwide Quest office for more information and to secure your booking.

1-800-387-1483 | 416-633-5666 | travel@worldwidequest.com



TICO#: 2667946

The Worldwide Quest Experience

Designing travel is an art and a craft. It's creating a combination of special unforgettable experiences complemented by flawless technical proficiency. Making sure you travel well is a skill that comes with insider knowledge, know-how and imagination. It's something we've been doing since 1970; creating unique itineraries for curious travellers to some of the world's most intriguing destinations. Every trip we create features these essentials:

Discovery and Enrichment

Our expert leaders and hosts, both North American and local, bring scholarship, specialized knowledge, and congeniality. They ensure not only that all the details of your travels are flawlessly taken care of but also provide a grass roots understanding of the context of what you're seeing and experiencing.

Small Group Size

Small truly is beautiful. Small allows us the joy of intimate experiences in accommodation and touring. Small means we can all sit around a table for meals and get to know each other, to hear what our tour leaders are saying, ask questions, and delve deeper.

Responsibility

We consider the impact of our travels on the places we visit and travel to reduce our footprint. We connect with local communities where we travel.

Value

We respect the investment you make in your travels. It's important to us that you are delighted by your experience; that your anticipation is not only satisfied but rewarded. We strive to fill our tours with Signature Moments that you carry home in your heart.



Our Commitment to You

We design each and every itinerary we offer and we offer an outstanding variety of unique experiences on every journey. We relentlessly stay abreast of accommodation choices for exceptional location, quality and service. We constantly monitor destination developments for special opportunities and any changes in security.

Because we manage the quality of the experience on all our Small Group Tours and Private Journeys firsthand, we are confident that we will meet your expectations. We respect your time and your budget and are keenly aware that your travel dreams are precious. Travellers who enjoy the Worldwide Quest experience return to us to enjoy our fine portfolio of tours because they know where ever they travel around the world we deliver what we promise.

We invite you to call us, email us or visit us in our Toronto office and let your travels begin...