



# TRACKS+PRACTICES

RETHINKING ARTIST RESIDENCIES

21+22.08.2026

OULU+VARJAKKA

TINYSPACES.EU

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Welcome to Oulu and TRACK+PRACTICES Symposium!

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# 1. Information about the event

Date: 21st – 22nd Aug 2026

Location: Oulu, Finland

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## 2. Venues and access

**21st August 2026**

Oulu Central Library Saari

Kaarlenväylä 3, 90100 Oulu



The first day of event takes place in Pakkalansali on the ground floor of the Central Library. You find full details of the accessibility of the building [here](#).



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## 2. Venues and access

**22nd August 2026**

M/S Casandra boat

Built in 2012, 25m long and 7.5m wide



Not easily accessible.

The boat leaves and returns from Torinranta, close to the market square next to the Central Library.

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## 2. Venues and access

### KALAMAJA

Varjakantie 223, 90470 Varjakka



The building itself is accessible.

However, it is located in Varjakka – around 18km from the centre of Oulu.  
Return bus services will be provided.

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## 2. Venues and access

Workshop Venues



itu artlab – partly accessible



[Culture Centre Valve](#) – lift in the building



The Red House, Aitta 7 – not accessible

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# 3. Traveling to Oulu

## BY TRAIN

Trains are operated by the national railway service [VR](#).

There are regular trains from Helsinki and Turku harbour to Oulu.

You can travel by land via Denmark and Sweden to Stockholm and take a boat to Turku. On your way from Turku harbour to Oulu, you will need to change the train in Tampere.

There is also a new train service starting in Northern Sweden, circling around Bothnian Bay.



The train station in Oulu is centrally located and roughly 1km walk from the Central Library.

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# 3. Traveling to Oulu

## **BY BUS**

The main bus service provide in Finland is [OnniBus](#).

The buses leave from Kamppi, which is close to the central train station in Helsinki. The buses arrive at the bus station in Oulu that is behind the train station.

Other companies providing bus service are [FlixBus](#) and [Matkahuolto](#).

## **BY PLANE**

There is [Oulu airport](#) with regular flights between Helsinki and Oulu.

## 4. Getting around Oulu

Walking and cycling is made easy in Oulu. The city centre is fairly small with excellent pedestrian and cycling paths across the city

You can rent a bike from the [Tourist Information](#) located in the Market Hall

There are regular local [buses](#) across the city. A bus ticket can be bought from the driver, costs €2.60 and is valid for 90 minutes

Local legit taxi company is [OTAXI](#) and BOLT runs a few cars in the city.



# 5. Accommodation

## HOTELS

There are several hotels at the city centre of Oulu within short walking distance from the event venue.

[GreenStar Hotel](#), Uusikatu 26, 90100 Oulu

[Radisson Blu Hotel](#), Hallituskatu 1, 90100 Oulu

[Lapland Hotels](#), Kirkkokatu 3, 90100 Oulu

[Scandic Oulu City](#), Saaristonkatu 4, 90100 Oulu

[Scandic Go](#), Saaristonkatu 1, 90100 Oulu

[Scandic Oulu Station](#), Kajaaninkatu 17, 90100 Oulu

[Original Sokos Hotel Arina](#), Pakkahuoneenkatu 16, 90100 Oulu

[Nordic Art Hotel Lasaretti](#), Kasarmintie 13B, 90130 Oulu

[De Gamlas Hem](#), Kirkkokatu 54, 90120 Oulu

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# 5. Accommodation

There are also other options for accommodation in Oulu:

[TurusenSaha Guesthouse](#), Pikisaarentie 10, 90100 Oulu

[Gamified Cohousing](#), Lipporannantie 16, 90500 Oulu

A selection of rooms and flats in [AirBnB](#)

**We recommend to book as early as possible. Oulu is very busy throughout 2026 due to the European Cultural Capital Year.**

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## 6. Get to know Oulu

The city of 200,000 people is located on the coast of Bothnian Bay on the edge of the Arctic Circle.

The city is known for its incredible tech scene, (Nokia has its headquarters here, as well as several large tech incubators) and for the beautiful arctic nature within walking distance from the city centre.

Oulu is home to the largest Sami village – the only indigenous people of Europe – outside the Sami homeland in northern Lapland.

Throughout 2026, Oulu will serve as a European Capital of Culture, along with 39 other municipalities across Northern Finland. With the overarching theme of Cultural Climate Change, Oulu's program connects art, tech, and nature, seamlessly weaving the three together. The program showcases local and international talent in culture and art as well as highlighting the work of Sami artists.

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# 7. What to do and see in Oulu?

Here are few highlights of the Oulu2026 programme that take place around the symposium:

[PLAY – Fotografiska Tallinn X Oulu2026](#) (exhibition)

[Layers of The Peace Machine](#) (installation)

[Earworm – Media art from Kiasma](#) (exhibition)

[Luutarha](#) (performance 19th-21st Aug)

[Delta Life](#) (multidisciplinary spectacle 27th-29th Aug)



Here's the full [Oulu2026 programme](#).

There is also Oulu Arts Night with a variety of free-of-charge art events, exhibitions and performances taking place around the city on 21st-23rd Aug.

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# 8. Practical information

Finnish and Swedish are the official languages in Finland. Most people have a good level of English. Finnish language is one of the hardest to learn, but here are some easy words to get started.

Finnish	English
Hei	Hi
Kiitos	Thank you
Kyllä	Yes
Ei	No
Not existing in Finnish, use 'Kiitos'	Please
Anteeksi	Pardon, Sorry, Excuse me
Kiva tavata	Nice to meet you
Hei hei	Bye

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# 8. Practical information

**Currency:** Euro

**Paying:** Everything is digitalised in Finland, so be prepared to use card and mobile payments in shops and restaurants. Hardly anyone uses cash. There are only a few cashpoints in town.

**Tips:** No one leaves tips in restaurants and cafes. Staff are paid a fair wage.

**Weather:** Summer in Northern Finland is short – mainly in July. The end of August is the start of Finnish Autumn. It is unlikely to be warm. As Oulu is located on sea front, it is always windy.

**Water:** tap water is safe and pleasant to drink.

**Recycling waste:** please recycle your waste. Most plastic bottles and cans can be returned to supermarkets and grocery stores for money.

**Shoes:** Oulu is excellent for walking. Bring a good pair of walking shoes with you.

**WiFi:** there is a free WiFi network – panOULU available throughout the city centre.

# 9. Health, Safety and Emergencies

**Emergency number:** 112 (police, ambulance, fire service)

**Hospital:** [OYS](#), Kajaanintie 50, 90220 Oulu

**Pharmacies at the city centre:**

[Yliopiston Apteekki](#), Isokatu 27, 90100 Oulu

[Oulun Keskus Apteekki](#), Isokatu 45, 90100 Oulu

**Health cover:** EU/EEA visitors, bring your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) with you. Others, make sure you have an adequate travel insurance.

**Safety:** Oulu is generally safe. However, remember to lock your bike.

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# 10. Key Contacts

If you need any support or help before arrival to Oulu or when in Oulu, you can contact:

Tanja Råman, Artistic Director TaikaBox & Producer of the event  
[tanja@taikabox.com](mailto:tanja@taikabox.com)  
+358 (0) 44 981 73 48

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See you in Oulu!



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