



# LATITUDE GROUP TRAVEL INFORMATION

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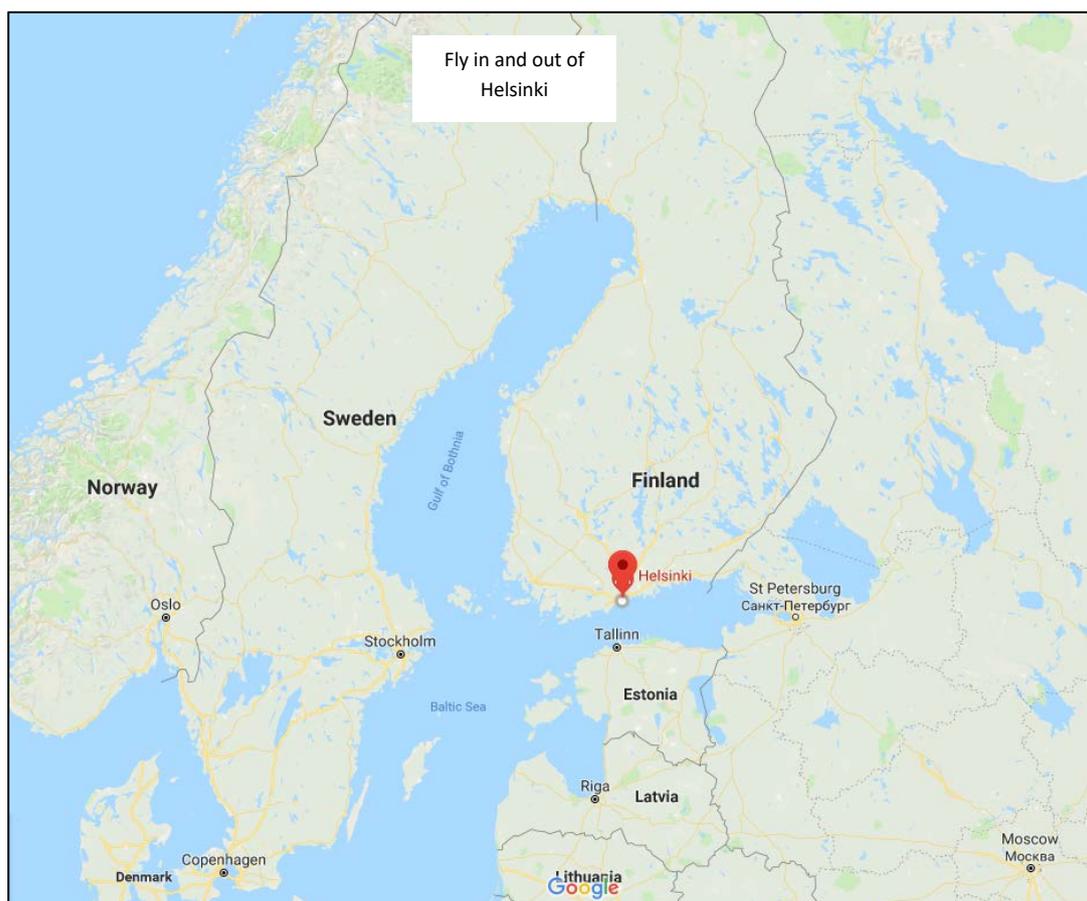
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## TOUR ITINERARY

<b>Tour:</b>	<b>Teacher Professional Development Study Tour</b>
<b>Code:</b>	<b>ADSFIN1018</b>
<b>Date of travel:</b>	<b>29 September - 7 October 2018</b>

**Please note, this itinerary is subject to change**



**DAY 1****AUSTRALIA – HELSINKI****Saturday 29 September 2018**

Board your flight to **Helsinki, Finland** arriving early the next day. Flight times to be advised.

Flights are available from **anywhere in Australia**, with the group coming together en route and arriving in Helsinki together. A minimal flight surcharge may apply for regional areas.

**DAY 2****HELSINKI****Sunday 30 September 2018 (D)****Morning**

Arrive at **Helsinki International Airport** where you will be met by your Tour Director and coach

**HELSINKI**

It's fitting that harbour side city of Helsinki, capital of a country with such watery geography, entwines so spectacularly with the Baltic's bays, inlets and islands. While Helsinki can seem a younger sibling to the Scandinavian capitals, it's the one that went to art school, scorns pop music and works in a cutting-edge studio. The design scene here is one of the most electrifying in the world today, with boutiques, workshops and galleries proliferating in the Design District, Helsinki's thoroughfares and intriguing backstreets.



Nevertheless, Helsinki's older icons endure. Its understated, yet glorious art-nouveau buildings, centenarian cafes, museums preserving Finnish heritage and restaurants that have changed neither menu nor furnishings since the 1930s remain an intrinsic part of the city's quirky charm.

This morning, take a **guided city tour**, showing you many of the wonderful Helsinki sights including:

**THE SENATE SQUARE**

The Senate Square and its surroundings form a unique and cohesive example of Neoclassical architecture. The square is dominated by four buildings designed by Carl Ludvig Engel (1778-1840): Helsinki Cathedral, the Government Palace, the main building of the University of Helsinki and the National Library of Finland. A statue of Alexander II (1894) stands in the middle of the Senate Square. Helsinki Cathedral is arguably Finland's most famous and photographed building; it celebrates its 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. The oldest stone building in Helsinki is the Sederholm House located on the southeast corner of the square. Today the building hosts the Helsinki City Museum. The Senate Square also hosts a sound installation called the Sound of the Senate Square. It is a modern version of the European glockenspiel and can be heard every day at 17:49 as it travels from one building to the next. The composition runs for 5 minutes 18 seconds and is composed by Harri Viitanen and Jyrki Alakuijala.

**HELSINKI CATHEDRAL**

The Cathedral, by Carl Ludvig Engel, rising on the northern side of the Senate Square is the stage of national and academic festive services and one of the most popular tourist sights. The church is part of Helsinki's Empire era centre and a landmark for those arriving by sea. It has become the symbol of the whole of Helsinki. Earlier called St. Nicholas Church and Great Cathedral, the current main church of the Helsinki Diocese was completed in 1852. Sculptures of the twelve apostles guard the city from the roof of the church.



### MARKET SQUARE (KAUPPATORI)

Located at the South Harbour at one end of the Esplanade Park, the Market Square is Helsinki's most international and famous market. In the bustling city centre of Helsinki, shop for locally made handicrafts, gourmet Finnish food, souvenirs and many more exceptional items. This renowned square is also near Esplanade Park, Helsinki City Hall and many other visitor attractions. Old Market Hall is next to Market Square and features some of the city's finest seafood and delicacies. This inviting hall opened in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and sells fine cheeses, fresh fish and shellfish, traditional cakes and spices.



**Afternoon Lunch is at your own expense in Market Square**

After lunch, continue exploring with your **city tour**. You will visit the following sights:

### TEMPELLIAUKIO CHURCH (ROCK CHURCH)

Excavated directly into solid rock, the Temppeliaukio church is situated in the heart of Helsinki, at the end of Fredrikinkatu. Because of its special architecture, the church, completed in 1969, is one of the main attractions in Helsinki. The church hall is covered with a dome, lined with copper and supported on the rock walls by reinforced concrete beams. The interior walls are of rugged rock and rubble wall. Before noon, the light spreads from the row of windows surrounding the roof periphery to the altar wall, where an ice-age crevice serves as the altarpiece. Due to its excellent acoustics the church is a popular venue for concerts.



### SUOMENLINNA

The Great Wall of China, the Acropolis in Athens, the Grand Canyon, and Suomenlinna. UNESCO's World Heritage List brings Suomenlinna together with a long list of cultural and natural sites that are considered common property of all of humanity. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Suomenlinna sea fortress is one of the most popular attractions in Finland for a reason. The site was originally built by the Swedes as Sveaborg in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. Several museums, former bunkers and fortress walls, as well as Finland's only remaining WWII submarine, are fascinating to explore.



Board your coach and travel to your accommodation for check in

**Evening A welcome dinner is included tonight**

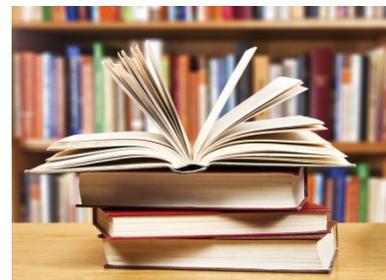
Overnight in Helsinki

**DAY 3****HELSINKI****Monday 1 October 2018 (B, L)****Morning****Breakfast at your accommodation**

Today you will commence day 1 of your 5-day **Finnish Study Tour Program**

**THE FINLAND EDUCATION SYSTEM**

Finland is one of the world's leaders in the academic performance of its school students, a position it has held for the past decade. This top performance is also remarkably consistent across their schools. Finnish schools seem to serve all students well, regardless of family background, socio-economic status or ability. Since the publication of the first PISA results in 2001, Finland is now seen as a major international leader in education. It has consistently ranked in the very top tier of countries in all PISA assessments over the past decade and its performance has been especially notable for its remarkable consistency across schools. No other country has so little variation in outcomes between schools and the gap within schools between the top and bottom-achieving students is extraordinarily modest as well. For these reasons, Finnish schools have become a kind of tourist destination, with hundreds of educators and policy makers annually travelling to Helsinki to try to learn the secret of their success.

**TOUR PURPOSE**

The purpose of this private, custom designed Teacher PD Tour is understand how Finland has managed to consistently remain at the top of the PISA scale for education - despite having the shortest school year in the western world. You will learn what changes they made to their schooling system, gain insight into how the Finnish curriculum differs from Australia, along with experiencing first hand the difference in Finnish schools through several interactive school visits with regular opportunities for you to speak directly with teachers of the Finnish school system.

**STUDY TOUR PROGRAM**

**Training methods:** Your program includes introductions by educational trainers into the various topics mentioned below along with independent and collaborative group activities. The training methods in your program are widely used within the Finnish education system. Particular attention will be paid to reflecting and expanding on the experiences you have during your visits to various educational institutions. During your program you will be working with trainers in the fields of education and training. They are comprised of experienced teachers and experts who have years of teaching experience, gained through the Finnish educational community and through teacher training.

**Your program today includes:**

**Introduction to the Finnish Education System**

- Finnish Education system and training routes
  - Introduction to the principles behind the education system
  - Paradoxes of Finnish Education: Less is More, no dead ends etc.
  - Teacher's role and tasks and teacher autonomy

**Afternoon****Lunch is included as part of your study tour program**

After lunch, you will take a **guided visit** to a local **Finnish School** where you will have the opportunity to participate in the following:

- Become familiar with each school's modus operandi and areas scheduled for development
- Participation in the school's day-to-day activities: class room, meal time, etc.
- A chance to talk with teachers and students

**Evening**      **Dinner is at your own expense tonight**

Overnight in Helsinki

**DAY 4**      **HELSINKI**

**Tuesday 2 October 2018 (B, L, D)**

**Morning**      **Breakfast at your accommodation**

Today you will commence day 2 of your 5-day **Finnish Study Tour Program**.

**Your program today includes**

**Curriculum and Assessment in the Finnish Basic Education**

- National core curriculum vs. local curricula
- Curriculum and teaching materials
- Assessment in the Finnish Basic Education: continuous assessment, but no national tests
- Learning theory and practices in Finland
- Student centred learning approach



**Afternoon**      **Lunch is included as part of your study tour program**

After lunch, you will take a **guided visit** to another local **Finnish School** where you will have the opportunity to participate in the following:

- Become familiar with each school's modus operandi and areas scheduled for development
- Participation in the school's day-to-day activities: class room, meal time, etc.
- A chance to talk with teachers and students

**Evening**      **Dinner is included tonight**

Overnight in Helsinki

**DAY 5**      **HELSINKI**

**Wednesday 3 October 2018 (B, L)**

**Morning**      **Breakfast at your accommodation**

Today you will commence day 3 of your 5-day **Finnish Study Tour Program**.

**Your program today includes****Educational support: Inclusive education, guidance, counselling and student welfare services**

- What does integration and inclusion mean in Finnish schools and how it is implemented?
- Categories of support and counselling practices
- The aims and practices of student welfare services

**Afternoon Lunch is included as part of your study tour program**

After lunch, you will take a **guided visit** to an **integrated class** where you will have the opportunity to participate in the following:

- Become familiar with each school's modus operandi and areas scheduled for development
- Participation in the school's day-to-day activities: class room, meal time, etc.
- A chance to talk with teachers and students

**Evening Dinner is at your own expense tonight**

Overnight in Helsinki

**DAY 6****HELSINKI****Thursday 4 October 2018 (B, L)****Morning Breakfast at your accommodation**

Today you will commence day 4 of your 5-day **Finnish Study Tour Program**.

**Your program today includes:****Open and Flexible Learning Environments**

- Media school, media pedagogy
- Library – school co-operation
- Museum as a learning environment
- Visits to library, museum, media school etc.

**Afternoon Lunch is included as part of your study tour program**

After lunch, you will take a **guided visit** to another local **Finnish School** where you will have the opportunity to participate in the following:

- Become familiar with each school's modus operandi and areas scheduled for development
- Participation in the school's day-to-day activities: class room, meal time, etc.
- A chance to talk with teachers and students

**Evening Dinner is at your own expense tonight**

Overnight in Helsinki

<b>DAY 7</b>	<b>HELSINKI</b>	<b>Friday 5 October 2018 (B, L, D)</b>
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**Morning**      **Breakfast at your accommodation**

Today is your last day of your 5-day **Finnish Study Tour Program**

**Your program today includes**

**Leadership and Management in Finnish Schools**

- The role and tasks of a principal in Finnish schools
- Shared leadership as a basis for Finnish education
- School as an educational working environment
- Cooperation between home and school
- School visit

**Afternoon**      **A farewell lunch is included as part of your study tour program**

This afternoon you will have an evaluation and reflection on what you have learned during your 5-day program

**Evening**      **A farewell dinner is included tonight**

Overnight in Helsinki

<b>DAY 8</b>	<b>HELSINKI – AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>Saturday 6 October 2018 (B)</b>
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**Morning**      **Breakfast at your accommodation**

This morning, check out of your accommodation and board your airport transfer to **Helsinki International Airport** for your flight home to **Sydney or Melbourne**

Flight times to be advised

<b>DAY 9</b>	<b>ARRIVE HOME TO AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>Sunday 7 October 2018</b>
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Arrive home, proceed through immigration and collect your bags. Once you have collected your bags and left customs, reunite with your family

**WELCOME HOME and we hope that you enjoyed your trip!**  
**END OF TOUR ARRANGEMENTS WITH LATITUDE GROUP TRAVEL**

### COLOUR KEY INDICATORS

**Purple:**      **Workshops / events / activities**

**Aqua:**      **Shows / entry tickets**

**Green:**      **Guided tour**

## INCLUSIONS

### GUIDES/TOUR DIRECTOR

- Tour Director in Finland
- Specialist guides as indicated in the itinerary
- Gratuities and tips for the tour director, specialist guides, coach driver and for included meals

### TRANSPORTATION

- International flights     Sydney / Helsinki  
   Helsinki / Sydney
- Coaches where required and indicated in the itinerary
- All airport transfers

### MEALS

- 6 breakfasts
- 5 lunches as part of your study tour program
- 3 dinners

### 4 star HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

- 6 nights in Helsinki

### ACTIVITIES

- **Guided sightseeing city tour of Helsinki**
- **5 day Finnish Study Tour Program**

## EXCLUSIONS

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

- Travel insurance is required for travel with Latitude Group Travel
- We offer both individual and adult group discounted insurance products through QBE,
- We **strongly advise all passengers** to have insurance with the same company. In the event that a claim is made, this means that all passengers will be treated equally. Please note: Our QBE insurance product is only valid for travellers up to 60 years of age
- If you incur medical expenses while overseas and you do not have travel insurance, you are personally liable for covering these costs. The Government cannot pay for medical expenses overseas, nor will your domestic private health insurance
- ***Travel insurance is as essential as your passport, regardless of your travel destination. If you can't afford travel insurance, you can't afford to travel!***

### VISAS, PASSPORTS AND ALL TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION

- You are responsible for understanding which visas are required for this tour. You are also responsible for ensuring that your passport has a minimum of six months validity from the date of your return from this tour, or you may not be allowed back into the country
- At this time Australian citizens do not require a visa to enter **Finland**
- You must supply a photocopy of your passport photo page to Latitude Group Travel. If you are applying for a new passport, please ensure that you do so immediately and that you supply a copy of the photo page as soon as your new passport arrives. Please advise Latitude Group Travel that you are applying for a new passport
- We require a copy of the photo page of the passport merely to check that name in your passport matches the name on your airline ticket. All other passport related issues, including date of expiry, citizenship or residency are your responsibility
- If you are not an Australian citizen, we will endeavour to assist with visa advice; however, since this information changes regularly and often rapidly, it is up to you to remain up to date on what visas are actually required for you to enter Finland, well in advance of leaving for the tour. Please call the Embassy of Finland or check their website for this information
- If you are NOT an Australian citizen or you are NOT travelling on an Australian passport, you will also need to ensure that you have the correct documentation to allow you to re-enter Australia. This is usually in your passport. Please check the dates on this documentation and ensure that it covers your return to Australia. If there is no information in your passport, or the dates are incorrect, you will need to contact Immigration. If you are not sure about this, please contact Latitude Group Travel and we will try to assist you
- If you are not travelling on an Australian passport and you need to renew your passport, you must ensure that you contact Australian Immigration after you have received your new passport from your country of citizenship, in order to have the correct re-entry to Australia documentation entered into this passport
- If you are not travelling on an Australian passport and Australian Immigration gives you documentation that is not in the passport you have from your country of citizenship, please make sure that you take the original documentation with you, but also leave a copy of this at home, in case it gets lost. This is important information and you must take excellent care of it
- We also advise you to take a full copy of your passport and leave it with someone you trust at home, in case your passport gets lost. Replacing your passport while away takes time, but it will take less time if you can produce a copy

## PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY

- You are responsible for having enough money to cover meals that are not included in this tour (see 'Inclusions, Meals'). You are also responsible for having enough money to make phone calls home and for any sundry expenses such as drinks, snacks, laundry and souvenirs, gifts etc. If you are not sure what you may need extra money for, please ask
- We advise you to take a small amount of money in cash and some money in an overseas debit/ATM card from your bank or similar

## MEALS EXCEPT WHERE SPECIFIED

- Your tour has been custom designed in conjunction with your school. Whilst some meals are included we advise students to have enough cash or money to cover those meals/snacks not included in your tour

## MOBILE TRAVEL PLANS

- Most mobile service providers have special passes or plans for international travel. Please contact them prior to your departure
- Latitude Group Travel advises you to turn off your mobile data usage prior to leaving Australia unless you have a travel plan

## VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS

You will receive, free of charge, a DVD of your tour photos, edited to music (one for each participant) plus one mosaic poster of an iconic site visited by the group, which is for the school

## LANYARDS

- We supply all students on tour with a lanyard. These assist to identify the students whilst out and about also provides them with readily available contact numbers for your Tour Director, the emergency services for the country you are travelling in, teachers on tour (if you wish), travel insurance contact details and our Latitude Group Travel 24/7 assistance line

## OUR COPYRIGHT

- **Please Note:** the concepts, treatments and production techniques detailed in this proposal remain the exclusive property of Latitude Group Travel Pty Ltd until such time as we are contracted to execute them
- They may not be developed or produced by any other parties without the express written consent of Latitude Group Travel Pty Ltd. Unauthorized use of this and attached materials, including, but not limited to, the solicitation of other bids, will be considered breach of propriety, under which this proposal has been developed and submitted
- This itinerary has been developed especially for you and has taken several days to complete, in order to get as close as possible to meeting your brief, taking into consideration costs and specific activities. We ask that you respect the amount of effort we put into these documents. We understand that you may want to obtain a comparative quote, however we ask that you brief the other travel companies in the same way you briefed us, rather than using our itinerary and documents especially developed for you