

Must-see experiences 2026 in Northern Finland



**Welcome to an inspiring celebration
of Nordic and European culture!**

31.12.2025 New Year's Celebration: Oulu2026 Show

Ring in the New Year in style as the Oulu2026 Show kicks off the celebration of our European Capital of Culture year with a bang! Expect explosive energy, dazzling visuals, sparkle and joy – with top Finnish artists lighting up the stage. Tickets are on sale.

16.–18.1.2026 The Opening Festival will transform the centre of Oulu into a festival area celebrating the European Capital of Culture year. The large complex offers activities for the whole family.

16–18.1. Opening of the new Children's Cultural Centre Kotilo. Kotilo invites you to play and get to know different fields of art. Everyone enjoys the meeting place, which feeds imagination and enthusiasm.

Sámi duodji, art, and events fill Oulu Art Museum from Mid-January to early May in 2026. At the exhibition in Oulu Art Museum, the visitors get to familiarise themselves with the variety, resilience and sustainability of Sámi culture.



16.1.2026 Ovlá world premier at Oulu Theatre. Ovlá is an opera about seeking roots and state-led oppression of the Sámi People.

6.2.2026 The Sámi National Day celebrates the traditions and present of the only indigenous people in the European Union. Sámi culture is represented in a variety of ways throughout the year.

28.2.2026 Frozen People is an electronic music festival on the ice of Nallikari beach in Oulu. The frozen sea creates brutal and unique Arctic conditions for the world's icy dances and art experiences.

22.8.2026 Faravid's Land premiere – A Story of Oulu's Mythical Past. Faravid's Land is a work that combines theatre, dance, and contemporary circus to create a semi-fictional, mythical past for Oulu and Northern Finland.



22.8.2026 Summer Night Dinner. A communal and unforgettable experience brings together local food culture, art and the joy of togetherness. This event invites everyone to share the flavours and stories of the North. The kilometer-long table in the center of Oulu can accommodate thousands of dinner guests. In addition to local delicacies, there is also music and dancing!

28.–29.8.2026 Delta Life is the highlight of the summer – an outdoor event in the river delta area of Oulu's birthplace. The Delta Life finale will be a carnival for everyone, where mythical maidens of nature inspire people to slow down the wheel of time together, through joy.





Adaptation, time is not on our side. Who or what should adapt: humans or nature? Project reclaims the narrative of adaptation, challenging acceptance and advocating for active agency. Through artworks and exhibitions, it seeks to empower individuals to shape environments. Main exhibition at the Oulu Art Museum from Autumn 2026.

Climate Clock. The world's leading international and domestic artists create a permanent artistic route around Oulu. Each unique place offers a moment of reflection and hope for the future. Opening in mid-June 2026.

ARToulu art area. The neighborhoods along the Oulujoki estuary will transform into a multifaceted art area as numerous artworks will be installed into the urban landscape. Diverse visual artworks will captivate and surprise in city neighborhoods and urban nature.

13.–22.11.2026 Lumo Art & Tech Festival. A ten-day international festival of art and technology in Oulu, showcasing a variety of art and technology encounters at multiple venues, from light art and sound art to diverse forms of digital art.

19.–21.11.2026 Beyond the Sky. An innovative work blending art, science, and technology, bringing distant nebulae within reach. Inspired by the life's work of Oulu-based astrophotographer Jukka-Pekka Metsävainio, the piece is elevated by music by Lauri Porra, performed by Oulu Sinfonia.



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THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

Layers in the Peace Machine. Media installation at Oulu City Hall can be experienced as an immersive aesthetic experience. Ekho Collective's artwork will be in interaction with the audience, using AI, machine learning and machine vision.

Fotografiska Tallinn curates a brand-new exhibition for the Oulu2026 Exhibition Center in Oulu. The exhibition invites us to see beyond the ordinary, and to envision a future where creativity and community are at the forefront.

Media Art from Kiasma at Oulu City Hall. The Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma in Helsinki curates an exhibition of media art from the collections of the Finnish National Gallery.

And much more!
Explore the programme

→ oulu2026.eu/en



Oulu2026
European Capital
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