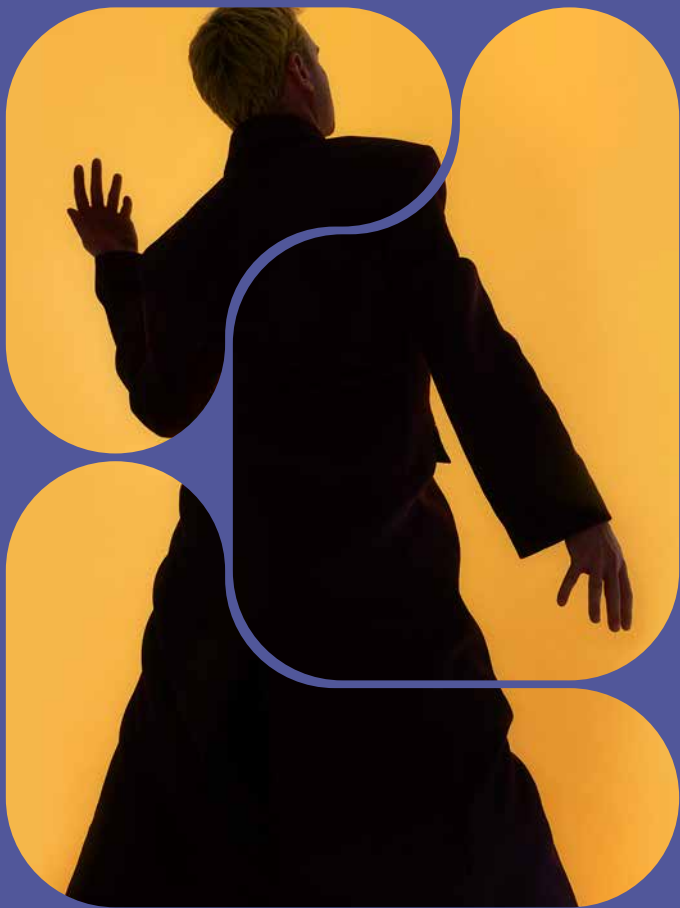




Oulu2026
European Capital
of Culture



Oulu2026

Must-See in European
Capital of Culture

Explore programme
→ oulu2026.eu



Thousands of events, works of art and experiences!

**Oulu is European Capital of Culture in 2026,
together with 39 municipalities from Northern
Finland.**

THROUGHOUT history, the most interesting ideas, innovations and art have emerged at the far edges of the world. Oulu2026 embodies and combines them in ingenious and diverse ways. From nature trails to extraordinary performances, from stunning traditional festivals to new dimensions, and from high-end exhibitions to the best saunas in Europe.

Pure Northern flavours invite you on a shared culinary journey. Craftsmanship, artificial intelligence and sports come together in extraordinary ways. We experiment, play and challenge.

Welcome to an inspiring celebration of Northern and European culture!

Throughout the year:

Fotografiska Tallinn x Oulu2026. Exhibition PLAY challenges the idea that play belongs only to childhood. While digital play flourishes today, the exhibition turns to forms that are quietly fading: embodied, face-to-face, unscripted. Through the works of 17 international artists, it presents play as a powerful mindset that shapes how we engage with the world and connect with others.



Layers in the Peace Machine. An immersive media installation blending art and technology at Oulu City Hall. Ekho Collective's interactive artwork portrays peace as a dynamic process that shifts and evolves with participants' interactions.






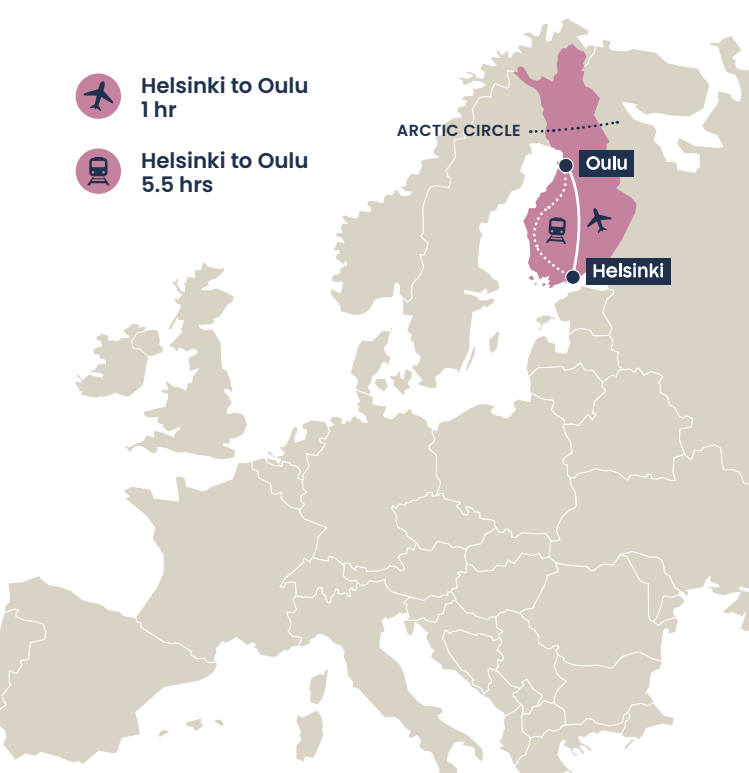
Earworm – Media Art from Kiasma. A media art exhibition at Oulu City Hall, curated by the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Helsinki. Spanning several decades, the video works highlight the close relationship between media art and the technologies and digital culture of their time, from the Internet and television to pop music and video games.

World-class experiences – near, far and everywhere in between.



 Helsinki to Oulu
1 hr

 Helsinki to Oulu
5.5 hrs



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By subscribing to our newsletter, you will receive information once a month about what is happening around the Oulu2026.



Scan the QR code or visit oulu2026.eu/newsletter

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MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Key Dates for 2026

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DIVERSE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE PROGRAMME

22–23 May 2G Festival A brand-new music festival at Prunni Square in Oulu, featuring The Soundtrack of Our Lives, Mikko Alatalo and Kissa, among others.

22 May–11 Oct Tomorrow's Wardrobe & Yuima Nakazato: Glacier. Exhibitions at Oulu Art Museum present the work of leading Japanese fashion designer Yuima Nakazato, opening a window onto the future of fashion, where bold artistic vision meets advanced technology and ecological materials.

5–9 Jun The Best Saunas in Europe At the Oulu Sauna Festival, visitors can enjoy traditional lakeside saunas, take a dip in the River Oulujoki, and experience both classic and contemporary sauna culture.

5 Jun–9 Aug Art House KATVE A to-be-demolished building in central Kalajoki is transformed with clay murals made from sand, clay, natural fibres and pigments, reflecting the stories and experiences of local residents.

10–14 Jun The Singing River International musicians and artists travel the full length of the river, from Lake Pyhäjärvi to the sea, performing aboard a boat that stops in villages along the way.



12 Jun–15 Aug Let's Play! The summer exhibition at Design Centre Proto showcases playful environments created in design workshops.

11 Jun–31 Jul Art II Biennial An international biennial known for its environmental art, reflecting both local and global ecological issues.

13 Jun Climate Clock Seven new public artworks by leading Finnish and international artists form a permanent art route across Oulu, where art intertwines with science and nature to inspire environmental awareness and reconnect us with nature's time. Each location offers a moment for reflection and hope for the future.

25–28 Jun By the Same Sea Music, food, cruises and a diverse programme of performances on land and at sea—in Kemi, Tornio and Haparanda.

10 Jun ARToulu art district The ARToulu art district invites you to explore Oulu through moments of discovery—whether seeking out artworks or encountering them by chance. Spread across the city, the works reveal new perspectives, sounds and forms of life, highlighting the layered nature of shared urban space. Open year-round from summer 2026.

31 Jul–1 Aug Elojazz Village The 100th anniversary of Finnish jazz will be celebrated as part of Elojazz. Elojazz Village brings a wide range of international jazz to Oulu, from the spirit of New Orleans to more modern expressions.

14–16 Aug Marakni A festival of Romani culture showcasing outstanding performers of both traditional Finnish and contemporary international Romani music at Cultural Centre Valve in Oulu.

15 Aug Summer Night's Dinner A communal and unforgettable experience bringing together local food culture, art and the joy of being together. A one-kilometre-long dinner table will be set in the centre of Oulu, offering a rich and varied programme.

27–29 Aug Delta Life Grand Finale The Delta Life show will be performed on a unique stage built on water at the birthplace of the city of Oulu. The programme features artists including Meta4, Marzi Nyman and the Oulu All Star Big Band, and also hosts the legendary Air Guitar World Championships.

26 Aug–12 Dec Faravid's Land An immersive production combining theatre, dance and circus, creating a semi-fictional, mythical past for Oulu and Northern Finland in a former hyper market building.

23–26 Sep Arctic Tasting Restaurants and cafés compete to create the most delicious tasting portion. Savoury and sweet, mocktails and cocktails! The winner is chosen based on customer votes.

13–22 Nov Lumo Art & Tech Festival An international festival bringing together art and technology across multiple venues, from light art and sound art to diverse forms of digital art.

19–21 Nov Beyond the Sky An innovative work combining art, science and technology, bringing distant nebulae within reach of the audience at Ouluhalli. Inspired by the life's work of Oulu-based astrophotographer Jukka-Pekka Metsävainio, with music by Lauri Porra performed by the Oulu Sinfonia.

4–19 Dec Snowball Grand Musical A brand-new Christmas musical for the whole family at Oulu Hall, transporting audiences to the enchanting land of the Northern Lights. Starring Kristo Salminen, Saara Aalto, Mika Nuojua and Mia Hafrén, with script and music by Douglas Pashley.

Until 31 Dec The Logos A new sound art installation by Andrew Melchior, transforming billions-of-years-old radio signals from deep space into sound, making them audible in Oulu Cathedral.

Discover even more wonderful experiences – both traditional and unexpected → oulu2026.eu

Oulu2026 Info & Shop

Pekuri Shopping Centre, 2nd floor,
Kauppurienväki 10, Oulu

Open daily
Mon–Sat 11–19
Sun 11–18

Buy official Oulu2026 shirts, accessories and gear to celebrate the European Capital of Culture in style!
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