

An adventurous cycle tour starting from the oldest city and former capital of Finland, continuing through the Archipelago all the way to Åland, the autonomous island region of Finland. This unique sea area of thousands of islands has often been described as the most beautiful of its kind. Enjoy untouched Finnish island nature and the amazing light of the long Nordic summer nights towards the open sea. Experience the changing sceneries of both lush and rugged islands and learn about the relaxed and happy lifestyle of the people living in the archipelago. The winding roads and numerous smaller and bigger ferries enable you to ride a long loop tour that effortlessly combines city life, medieval castles and maritime life to island hopping.

### Itinerary (6 days cycling)

Day 1: Arrival Individual arrival to Turku.

# Day 2: Turku-Parainen-Nauvo Island (56km).

Start the tour by riding through beautiful Turku and onwards to the lush nature of the archipelago. Stop for a coffee break in the quaint seaside town of Parainen and take in the view of its vast limestone quarry. Spend a night in a cosy inn in Nauvo, located right next to the lively marina.

#### Day 3: Nauvo - Kökar island (26 km)

Experience beautiful sea views. Island hopping: two ferry rides and bridges that span from an island to island. The summer daylight is almost endless so no need to hurry. After a 2,5-hour ferry ride, we end up in the outskirts of the archipelago, by the open sea on a small island called Kökar, known from seals and the ruins of a Franciscan monastery. Spend the afternoon relaxing or by taking an extra 26 km cycling tour on the island, that feels like a miniature island state.

# Day 4: Kökar - Marienhamn (30 km)

After a breakfast there's a ferry to Långnäs, located on the main island of Åland. Cycle on the distinguished red roads towards the only town in Åland, Marienhamn. This lively seaside town has plenty of restaurants, cafes, and sightseeing from museum ship Pommern to beautiful villas and boutiques with local products.

#### Day 5: Marienhamn - Brändö (62 km)

The true island-hopping day starts with a visit to a local brewery and a lunch break near the Kastelholm medieval castle. Cycling past potato chip factory might also deserve a stop. Enjoy historical sites along with apple gardens while cycling through the beautiful countryside. A cable ferry and many small bridges lead you to a small village called Brändö.

# Day 6: Brändö - Naantali (72 km)

This long cycling day takes us back to the mainland via Kustavi, where you can visit some exciting cave-like rock formations. Enjoy the lunch and a cup of coffee on a pier before heading to the ferry. An afternoon connection takes you to the last stretch of the day that ends in beautiful Naantali with its' wooden houses and a marina. A night in Spa hotel!

# Day 7: Naantali - Turku (50km)

Enjoy the morning in Naantali Spa and the village before the last stage of the tour that leads towards the island of Ruissalo. It's a mix of natural beauty and lush vegetation and seaside villas that make this a very distinctive part of Finland. A short ferry ride takes you to Hirvensalo and back to the city centre.

### **Great Archipelago Cycling Tour:**

# Self-guided departures:

Throughout the summer season

**Guided departures:** Ask for details **Total distance:** 296km

**Level:** Intermediate

Including Assemmedation

**Including:** Accommodation, breakfast, luggage transfer and ferries on tour.

**Bikes:** Touring or eBike

 $\textbf{Roads:} \ \mathsf{Most} \ \mathsf{of} \ \mathsf{the} \ \mathsf{tour} \ \mathsf{runs} \ \mathsf{on} \ \mathsf{tarmac}, \mathsf{some}$ 

short parts are on gravel.

**Terrain:** Mostly quite flat. The ferry crossing areas are usually lower on coastline, so there are some steeper downhills and uphills close to these areas.

As we want to provide the best possible experience to the guests, we reserve the right make changes to the route when needed, for example due to road work or ferry timetable changes.

# Accommodations (7 nights)

Turku 1st and 7th night,
Nauvo Island 2nd night,
Kökar Island 3rd night,
Mariehamn 4th night,
Brändö 5th night,
Naantali 6th night



