

Olvi Brewery Museum

– a Sparkling Journey Through Beer’s Past

Imagine stepping into a story that has been bubbling for 145 years – one shaped by passion, craftsmanship, and the resilience of Northern Savonia. In 1878, W.G. and Onni Åberg founded a small brewery in Iisalmi. From these modest beginnings grew Olvi, today the last independent brewery remaining from an era when Finland had 78. This legacy now comes to life at the Olvi Brewery Museum, the only brewery museum in Finland open to the public.

The main exhibition takes you back to the origins of brewing, showcasing 19th- and 20th-century traditions. Barrels, labels, tools, and artifacts reveal the spirit of the craft, while the story of the Åberg-Hortling family unfolds over five generations—each contributing to the rise of an iconic Finnish brewery.

The experience culminates in the Olvin henki (“Spirit of Olvi”) space, where an immersive audiovisual journey moves from past to present, highlighting how heritage and sustainable development continue side by side. Afterwards, step into a nostalgic old-style office and laboratory, where vintage bottles and advertisements tell stories of decades gone by.

You can finish your visit with a lunch buffet at the Olvi Beer Hall, enjoy fresh Olvi beverages, or book a small beer tasting.

Opening Hours & prices:

Check current opening hours online.

Admission to the museum is free.

Guided tour for groups outside opening hours (4–30 people): 100€ / hour

Olvi Beer Tasting: 25€ / person (4–20 people)

Lunch buffet: €12.50 / person

Accessibility: yes

Parking: free

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The Juhani Aho Museum in Iisalmi

Located just one hour from Kuopio, the charming Juhani Aho Museum in Iisalmi, the writer's childhood home, invites you to step into the world one of Finland's most important literary figures. Juhani Aho (1861–1921) was a pioneer of Finnish realism and journalism, whose novels, short stories, and articles helped shape Finland's national identity and modern literature. The museum's historic parsonage buildings, dating back to the 1840s, display original furnishings, Aho's writing desk and typewriter, his early bicycle license – and stories of life in 19th-century Finland.

The museum also highlights regional heritage, pappila culture, and everyday life in 1800–1900s Finland. Its peaceful countryside setting and well-preserved buildings make a visit a journey into Finland's cultural past. Aho Museum is a must-see for literature lovers, history enthusiasts, and anyone eager to experience the roots of Finnish culture.

Opening Hours & prices:

15.5. – 31.8. daily 10:00–18:00 (summer season only)

Adults: 3€

Reduced & under 18: 2€ (students, seniors)

Under 7: Free

Groups (min. 15 people): 2€ per person

Groups reduced (min. 15 people): 1,5€ per person

Special guided tour: 20€ + admission fees (by reservation)

Languages: English

Accessibility: Not fully accessible.

Read details iisalmi.fi/vapaa-aika/kulttuuri/juhani-ahon-museo

Parking: free

Contact (summer time only):

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Hanhenglento Open Animal Farm

We are an experiential farm environment in the countryside, in the city of Iisalmi. Our animal therapists, tame animals, joyfully welcome you in their enclosures. Come and enjoy leisurely time with our animals in an idyllic and peaceful rural setting, away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Our lovingly raised and cared for domestic animals await you to pet and care for them. We are home to traditional Finnish domestic animals as well as some rarer species, such as the reindeer and the llama.

The lady of the house was born here and still lives in the farm's original homestead, carrying on the legacy of generations. Step into Riihipirtti, a charming heritage building that showcases Finnish craftsmanship. Inside, you'll find authentic old tools and household items – each with its own story to tell. Nestled by the water, the farm offers breathtaking views as the sun sets and colors the evening sky.

And for those seeking a touch of northern magic, Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, and Tuisku the Reindeer bring authentic Christmas spirit to your visit.

Opening hours & prices

Open year-round by appointment

Check summer opening hours from the website.

Suitable for families and groups (1–45 visitors)

Duration of guided experiences: approx. 1.5 hours

Activities:

1. Farm visit – Explore the farm and meet the animals. Price: 10€ (open during summer season)
2. Spend time with the animals together with the hostess. 68€ / 1.5 h + 10€ admission per person (group 1–10 persons). Extra participants: 16€ / person
3. Meet Tuisku the Reindeer and Santa Claus 120€ / hour (minimum charge 1 hour) Visit takes place at the farm (group 1–10 persons)
4. Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus & Tuisku the Reindeer together. 150€ / hour (group 1–10 persons)

Accessible: Yes

Languages: English

Parking: Free

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