

LOCATION: VARKAUS

"Museum" of Mechanical Music - When Machines Began to Play!

Before Spotify, radios, or speakers, music was made by hand - and soon after, by machines. In the mid-1800s people discovered how to make instruments play on their own. Turning gears, shiny metal discs, and rolling cylinders created a magical new way to enjoy music.

The Mechanical Music Museum in Varkaus celebrates this fascinating era - a place where machines really do play! The story began in the 1980s with one music lover's dream: to preserve the wonder of mechanical music for future generations. Today, the museum features over 400 instruments across seven rooms, showcasing the evolution of music from the 1850s to the present day.

Every visit is an adventure! Hear an accordion play itself, a violin performs without a violinist, and the mighty "Goliath" orchestrion fill the room like a full orchestra. Each guided tour is an entertaining show - from Mozart to Lady Gaga - filled with stories, surprises, and smiles. Come and experience the happiest, liveliest, most colourful and musical destination in Finnish tourism scene, with immersive tours which in times remind more show and circus.

Opening Hours & prices:

Check current opening times on the website.
Tours: Always guided, duration about 70 min.

Groups: Advance booking recommended,
especially outside the summer season (Nov-Mar)

Café services: Available nearby in Varkaus city
center (we can make reservation for you)

Adults: 22€

Children (5-15 yrs): 11€

Children (0-4 yrs): Free

Groups:

10-30 people: Adults 20€ / Children 11€

30-60 people: Adults 18€ / Children 11€

Driver and group leader free of charge

Languages: English, German

Accessibility: Not accessible (no elevator)

Parking: free

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Explore the Roots of World-famous Architect Alvar Aalto

Discover the legacy of Alvar Aalto – Finland’s world-famous architect whose human-centred modernism reshaped cities, workplaces and everyday living across the globe. Known for his warm approach to modern architecture, Aalto believed buildings should serve people, blend with nature and bring harmony to daily life. His influence reaches from Europe to the United States – yet some of his most meaningful experiments took place in the Finnish lakeland district.

Step into a chapter of Finnish modern-architecture history where Aalto’s visionary thinking met the rhythms of an industrial town. In Varkaus, beginning in the mid-1930s, Aalto shaped factories, homes and community spaces with his signature blend of functionality and beauty.

- See how Aalto designed type-houses for everyday Finnish families – his work in Varkaus helped hundreds of homes be built across Finland after the war.
- Discover the site of the former sawmill designed in 1948 – once a landmark of industrial architecture crafted by Aalto.
- Walk the industrial-heritage district of Varkaus and imagine how architecture met work, life and nature.
- See Konsti’s Aalto exhibition at the Museum Centre.

Take a moment by the lakes, breathe in the fresh Finnish air, and reflect on how Aalto’s work aimed at an equal, functional society through design.

Availability & prices

From April to October

Duration: 1,5h

Price: Guided tour for groups starting from 200€

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