

## Kuopio Dance Festival – The Most Vibrant Celebration of Dance

Kuopio Dance Festival is the Nordic region's largest and most vibrant international celebration of dance. For over a week, the city of Kuopio comes alive with world-class performances, breathtaking artistic expression, and unforgettable moments under the Finnish summer. This is not just a festival – it's a celebration of movement, creativity, and culture in its purest form.

Set in the heart of Finland's stunning Lakeland region and held during the brightest weeks of the year, the festival offers an atmosphere found nowhere else. Imagine endless light-filled nights, pristine nature dotted with thousands of lakes, and performances by some of the world's most outstanding dance artists – all coming together to create a magical, once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Visitors can enjoy spectacular stage productions, a wide selection of free outdoor events, engaging workshops, camps, and inspiring seminars. Throughout the festival, Kuopio transforms into one grand stage: performances and activities spill from the main theatres to the market square, parks, and lively street corners.

In 2026, our main guest company will be one of Europe's most daring contemporary dance companies, known for its bold, beautiful, and unpredictable performances – a highlight you won't want to miss.

Tickets between 17€–69€

**Group reservations:**

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**READ MORE**

[kuopiodancefestival.fi/en](https://kuopiodancefestival.fi/en)



Elle Sofo Company Answer is the land © Sanni Kirjavainen



GöteborgsOperans Danskompani Wild poetry by Hofesh Shecter © Lennart Sjöberg



LOCATION: KUOPIO | WHEN: SEPTEMBER

## ANTI - Contemporary Art Festival

ANTI is an international contemporary art festival held every September in Kuopio, Finland. Free to attend, the festival has been Finland's leading live art event for over 25 years. It attracts visitors seeking an authentic experience of Finnish creativity, city life, and contemporary art.

The festival features live art – performative, participatory, and site-specific works that happen in the present moment. Events take place across Kuopio's streets, parks, lakesides, forests, and industrial spaces, offering a unique way to explore the city through art. ANTI brings together art, environment, and community, creating a vibrant and unforgettable cultural experience for all.

### Curated festival experiences

We can tailor exclusive festival packages in collaboration with local partners – including restaurants, museums, and cultural institutions – according to the wishes of travel organizers or private groups.

### Example package:

- 1–6 day art experience in Kuopio
- Includes meals in local restaurants and guided festival tours
- Group size: 5 – 20 people
- Language: English
- Price: €100–500 per person

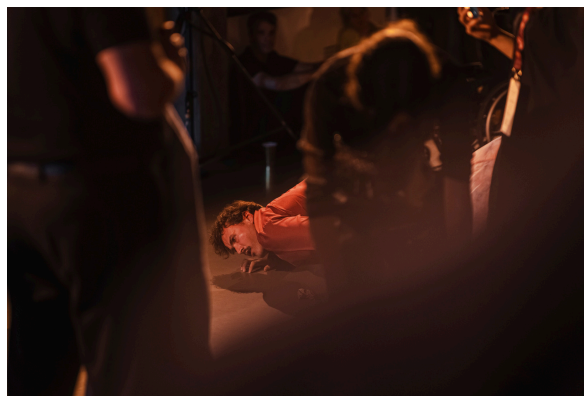
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**READ MORE**  
[antifestival.com/en](https://antifestival.com/en)



Ocean Island Mine ANTI Festival © Akseli Muraja



Left Behind ANTI Festival © Akseli Muraja



LOCATION: KUOPIO | WHEN: JUNE / EARLY JULY

## Kuopio Wine Festival - Cheers by the Lake!

Every summer the Kuopio Wine Festival transforms the city's harbour into a lively celebration of taste, music, and summer nights by Lake Kallavesi. For two unforgettable weeks, locals and visitors gather to enjoy fine wines, delicious food, and top Finnish live music - all under the open sky.

Each year, the festival has its own exciting theme, bringing new flavours and experiences to discover. From wine tastings and gourmet dishes to sparkling cocktails and relaxed summer vibes, the atmosphere is pure Finnish joy.

Tickets can be purchased via [www.lippu.fi](http://www.lippu.fi) (search by name "Wine Festival").

### Contact

[kuopio.winefestival@sok.fi](mailto:kuopio.winefestival@sok.fi)

Tel. +358 50 402 4519 (group reservations)

### READ MORE

[kuopiowinefestival.fi](http://kuopiowinefestival.fi)



Kuopio Wine Festival © Marko Paakkanen



Kuopio Wine Festival © Marko Paakkanen

LOCATION: KUOPIO | WHEN: JULY / EARLY AUGUST

## Kuopiorock

Kuopiorock, one of Finland's most legendary rock festivals – and the beating heart of Finnish music culture. Held on the beautiful Väinölänniemi Peninsula by Lake Kallavesi, this festival brings together pure rock energy, stunning lake views, and that unmistakable Finnish spirit.

For Finns, rock and heavy metal are more than music – they're a way of life. At Kuopiorock, you'll feel that passion in every riff and every cheer from the crowd. The lineup mixes international stars, Finland's top rock and metal legends, and fresh new names, with a touch of pop for balance.

The festival also celebrates sustainability with eco-friendly practices and local flavours – from Savo-style street food to craft drinks. The atmosphere is wild yet warm, as fans of all ages headbang, sing, and celebrate together under the summer sun.

Tickets for the four-day festival can be purchased via [www.lippu.fi](http://www.lippu.fi) or [www.tiketti.fi](http://www.tiketti.fi)

### Contact

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READ MORE

[kuopiorock.fi/info/in-english](http://kuopiorock.fi/info/in-english)



Kuopiorock © Vicente Serra



Kuopiorock © Vicente Serra



LOCATION: KUOPIO | WHEN: AUGUST

## BarokkiKuopio – Early Music Festival in the Heart of Finnish Lakeland

Step into the enchanting world of BarokkiKuopio, an annual early music festival that brings history, creativity, and innovation together in the heart of Kuopio. Founded in 2005, the festival attracts top Finnish and international musicians alongside local talent, creating a vibrant celebration of sound and artistry.

Experience the rich textures of Baroque music performed on authentic period instruments, or discover daring reinterpretations where historic instruments meet contemporary, folk, and electronic music. From churches and concert halls to parks, museums, and cozy cafés, performances unfold in unique venues across the city, making every concert a memorable adventure. Many events are also free to attend, allowing everyone to enjoy the magic of BarokkiKuopio.

Whether you are a devoted classical music fan, a curious traveller, or someone seeking a truly unique cultural experience, BarokkiKuopio offers traditional concerts, experimental performances, and inventive collaborations that honor history while pushing boundaries.

### Contact

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READ MORE

[barokkikuopio.com/english.html](https://barokkikuopio.com/english.html)



## Vekara-Varkaus – Finland's Largest Children's Festival

Step into a world of imagination, creativity, and fun at Vekara-Varkaus, Finland's largest children's festival! The festival transforms the charming town of Varkaus into a playground of arts, adventure, and discovery for children of all ages and their families.

Sister events Winter-Vekara (week 10) and Autumn-Vekara (week 42) bring the same excitement during Finnish school holiday weeks, offering a wide variety of activities ranging from interactive performances and creative workshops to sports and outdoor adventures. Each festival week has its own unique theme, making every visit fresh and unforgettable.

Vekara-Varkaus is a community celebration: city organizations, associations, clubs, and local businesses collaborate to offer a rich program, with the majority of events free of charge.

Events take place throughout Varkaus, from small, intimate workshops to large-scale shows. The town itself, a captivating mix of urban nature and vibrant industrial heritage, provides a perfect backdrop for the festival, inviting children and families to explore, play, and create memories together.

### Contact

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### READ MORE

[vekara-varkaus.fi/en](https://vekara-varkaus.fi/en)



© Vekara Varkaus



© Vekara Varkaus



LOCATION: SONKAJÄRVI | WHEN: JULY

## Wife-Carrying World Championship - The Wildest Event in Finland

Imagine a race where strength, laughter, and tradition all collide – welcome to the world famous Wife-Carrying World Championship in Sonkajärvi, Finland. Held every year in early July, this legendary event invites courageous pairs to run a 253.5-meter obstacle course full of sand, water, and rugged terrain.

The origins of this quirky sport are rooted in the stories of Herkko “Robber” Ronkainen, a folk hero who tested his men by having them carry sacks during desperate times. Today, the tradition lives on with a fun twist. Racers run the course carrying their partners, using strength, balance, and a good sense of humour. There is also a women’s series, where female carriers can compete under the same rules as the traditional race.

Beyond the competition, the festival has a true community feel. There’s a lively evening party with Finnish music, market stalls, and joyful fans cheering from the sides. Whether you watch or take part, this event is a fun and unforgettable Finnish experience – where love, strength, and humour meet over a bottle of beer (yes, the winner gets the wife’s weight in beer!).

Join the adventure in Sonkajärvi – and carry a story you’ll tell forever.

Tickets can be purchased from the website.

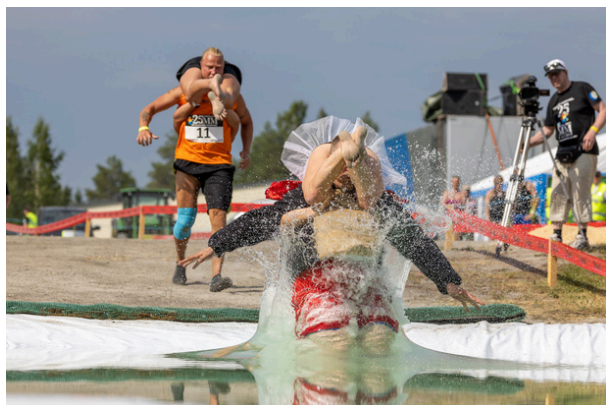
### Contact

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### READ MORE

[eukonkanto.fi/en/front-page](https://eukonkanto.fi/en/front-page)



Eukonkanto © Wille Markkanen



Eukonkanto © Wille Markkanen

LOCATION: KUOPIO | WHEN: FEBRUARY

## Finland Ice Marathon - International Ice-skating Event

Kuopio is Finland's capital of ice-skating - from mid-January to early March (depending on the weather conditions), you can skate, cycle, or kick-sled across the frozen lake Kallavesi. And in February - skaters and winter enthusiasts from around the world gather to Kuopio to participate Finland Ice Marathon - one of Finland's oldest natural-ice skating events.

Outside the event days, the Kallavesi ice tracks remain one of Kuopio's best winter experiences. When the ice is strong, long tracks are created for walking, skating, cycling, and kick-sledding. The tracks are free for everyone and begin at Kuopio Passenger Harbour, where rentals, cafés, restaurants, and even a lakeside fire hut await.

Whether you brave the cold for the thrill or simply crave a magical winter memory, here is a journey you'll carry long after the ice has melted.

### Contact

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READ MORE

[finlandicemarathon.com](http://finlandicemarathon.com)



Ice Marathon © Vicente Serra



Ice Marathon © Vicente Serra



LOCATION: KUOPIO | WHEN: DECEMBER

## Christmas Market in Kuopio

Step into a true winter wonderland at the Kuopio Christmas Market, voted the most beautiful Christmas market in Finland year after year. For nearly a week before Christmas, the Market Square glows with thousands of sparkling lights, creating a festive dream for visitors of all ages.

Wander through charming wooden stalls filled with handcrafted gifts, traditional Finnish treats and artisan goods from local makers. Warm up with mulled drinks or hot chocolate from cosy market cafés, and soak in the holiday spirit and joyful aromas around you.

Children can enjoy a free carousel ride, while families and friends gather to admire the enchanting light displays and magical atmosphere all around. Meet the Christmas season's heartwarming couple, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus – take photos and share your holiday wishes.

Whether you're shopping for unique gifts, tasting delicious Finnish treats, or simply soaking up the joyful Christmas spirit – Kuopio Christmas Market promises unforgettable winter memories.

Check the official website for exact dates and opening hours. The market typically runs daily from 11:00 to 19:00. Parking is located under the Market Place.

### Contact

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### READ MORE

[kuopionjoulu.fi/en](http://kuopionjoulu.fi/en)



Joulutori © Vicente Serra



Joulutori © Vicente Serra