



# Finland

The nation of Finland is part of northern Europe. It borders the Baltic Sea, Gulf of Bothnia, and Gulf of Finland as well as Norway, Sweden, and Russia. It has about 776 miles (1,250 km) of coastline. It is also home to more than 60,000 lakes. The temperature is cold, but not as cold as you might expect given how close it is to the Arctic Circle. The most northern part of the country is actually inside the Arctic Circle and has sunshine 24 hours a day during the summer. Most of Finland's people live in the south.

The land of Finland was fought over for centuries, especially by Sweden and Russia. Finnish and Swedish are both official languages in Finland. The country became independent from Russia on December 6, 1917, and is a parliamentary republic.

About two-thirds of Finland is covered by forests. There is excellent farming along the Gulf of Bothnia and Gulf of Finland. These are the areas where most of the Finnish people live. There are thousands of islands in the Gulf of Bothnia and Gulf of Finland, but most are small and uninhabited. Some of the islands are used by fishermen, and some of the larger ones are used as vacation spots, with cottages and recreational activities available. The northern part of the country has less fertile soil, and the very northern part is frozen tundra where no trees grow.



Helsinki was founded in 1550 by the Swedish king Gustav I Vasa. It is the capital of Finland, an important port, and the country's largest city. It sits on a peninsula and several islands in the Gulf of Finland along the southern coast.

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SAMPLE

I hope you've enjoyed visiting four of the many amazing places in Finland! Before you leave to go home, could I ask you to do something special for the people here? Many of the people in Finland believe in Jesus as their Savior, but some do not. Pray that people will hear and understand what Jesus has done for everyone who trusts Him. Pray also for the many missionaries Finland sends to those who haven't heard about Jesus yet.

Will you remember to pray for the people of Finland? Here are a few things you can pray for. You can add more prayer requests to the list as you think of them!



Pray that all people will understand how much Jesus loves them.



Pray for the people living in Helsinki, Tampere, Espoo, and Oulu, plus every city and town to believe in Jesus.

