

SIGHTS AND ATTRACTIONS

HAMINA BASTION

The Central Bastion, which is part of the fortress of Hamina, was built by the Russians in the early 19th century according to the plans of the Dutch-born General Peter van Suchtelen.

The Hamina Bastion was formed in 1998 after extensive renovation work: the bastion vaults, in other words 58 casemates, were equipped with modern technology and the bastion field was covered by the largest summer canopy in Europe. Renowned as the venue of events such as the Hamina Tattoo, the Hamina Bastion can provide even large-scale events with a splendid setting and memorable experiences.

TOWN MUSEUM

Kadettikoulunkatu 2 b
The museum is located in a building completed in ca. 1760. This building known as "Catherine's Palace" served the negotiations between Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia, and King Gustav III of Sweden, during three days in 1783. The Town Museum moved to the building in 1957. The museum houses a permanent exhibition displaying the colourful history of Hamina, plus temporary exhibitions. The upstairs room is a cosy venue for various workshops and events, and it is rented as a meeting room also for outsiders.
Open: June–August Tue–Sun at 10–16
May–September Wed–Sun at 12–16

SHOPKEEPER'S HOUSE MUSEUM

Kasarminkatu 6
The Shopkeeper's House Museum, completed in 1841, is a log building with cultural history value. The courtyard of the house comprises outbuildings, the last of which were built in the 1870s. The house and the adjacent buildings used to serve as the residence and work rooms for craft-people in various fields, and most recently for the Muravjev merchant family, which kept a shop in the building.
The house was opened as a museum in the late 1970s. The museum with the old shop presents the Finnish-Russian merchant traditions of the early 1900s, and the courtyard dwellings and outbuildings reflect the everyday life of craftspeople. Some of the courtyard buildings are open to the public. In addition to the permanent exhibition, the museum arranges Easter and Christmas exhibitions plus various events.
Open: June–August Tue–Sun at 10–16
At other times open during the exhibitions and for groups by appointment.

RESERVE OFFICERS' SCHOOL MUSEUM

Kadettikoulunkatu 8
The museum presents the traditions of the Reserve Officers' School and its students since the 1920s.
Open: June–August Tue–Sun at 10–16
In the winter by appointment.

ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES ST PETER AND ST PAUL

Raatihuoneentori 2
The main church of the Orthodox par-

ish, built in 1837, is dedicated to the memory of the apostles St Peter and St Paul.

Open: June–August Tue–Sun at 12–16

ST MARY'S CHURCH AND CHURCH MUSEUM

Pikkuympyräkatu 36
The church has been destroyed and repaired on several occasions, which is why only very few old paintings and ecclesiastical items have survived to our day. The church was renovated to its present appearance after the fire of Hamina in 1821 in accordance with drawings by C.L. Engel. The current belfry was also built at that time. The altarpiece probably dates from the second half of the 19th century. It is a copy of a painting by the French painter Jean Andrae. The altarpiece depicts the resurrection of Christ. The belfry is decorated by a relief by Sulo Mäkelä, a local artist, from 1964. Ecclesiastical items from the 18th century onwards are on display in the museum room in the southern wing of the church.
Open: June–August at 11–16. There is a guide in the church during the opening hours.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Raatihuoneentori 10
St John's Church, designed by Carl Ludvig Engel, originally served the Swedish-speaking population in Hamina. The church named after John the Baptist was inaugurated on Midsummer Day in 1843.
The altarpiece which depicts the resurrection of Christ was painted by B.A. Godenhjelm. The oldest item in the church is a Bible from 1703. The traditional miniature church boat above the font originates from Koivisto in Karelia. The church yard contains a soldiers' graveyard with memorials of soldiers who died in the Winter War and Continuation War and those who were left in Karelia during the wars, plus a memorial stone commemorating the Treaty of Hamina of 1809.
Open: June–August at 11–16. There is a guide in the church during the opening hours.

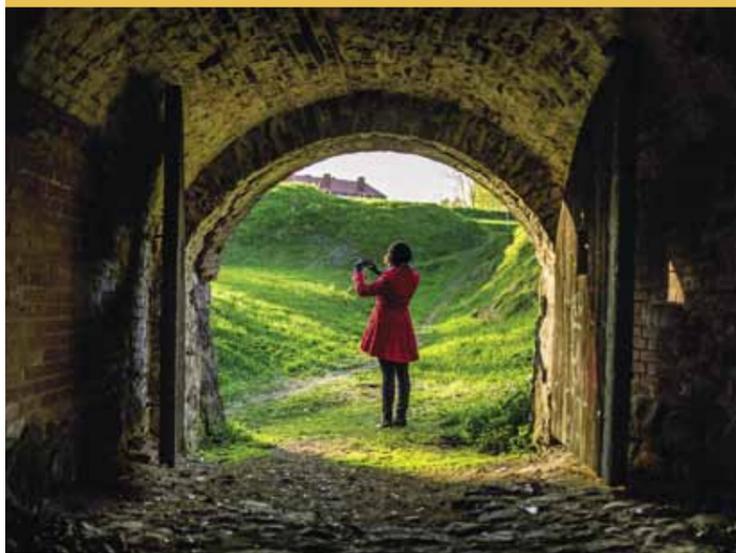
HIETAKYLÄ CEMETERY

Laivasillankatu 6
The Hietakylä Cemetery was established in 1773 outside the fortress walls beside the sea. The cemetery rich in atmosphere contains many valuable headstones which reflect the cultural history of Hamina and its surroundings.

The Hietakylä Lutheran cemetery was expanded in 1859, and it was also surrounded by a stone wall then. Wealthier town dwellers have been buried there since the fire of Hamina in 1821. A cremation urn cemetery was established in conjunction with the cemetery in 1997–1998 according to the plans of the architect Bey Heng.



You cannot get lost in the circular streets of the old centre of Hamina. The attractions are close to each other, and the Town Hall located in the centre of the circle is an excellent landmark, since you can see it from every street corner. Hamina and its history can be viewed more broadly from the ramparts of the surrounding fortress.



TOURIST INFORMATION HAMINA

SpaHotel Hamina
Sibeliuskatu 32,
tel +358 40 199 1330
Open Mon-Sat at 8-20

Information point in the summer at the Flag Tower of the old Fortress
Kaivokatu 6, tel +358 40 577 4472
Open May-August Mon-Fri at 9-17,
Sat-Sun at 10-15
info@hamina.fi

SOUTHEAST 135° INFO
tel +358 40 135 6588,
info@kaakko135.fi
www.kaakko135.fi

facebook.com/hurmaavahamina
instagram.com/hurmaavahamina

hamina.fi



WALKING IN OLD HAMINA

hamina.fi



Fortress and circular streets

HAMINA IS A CLEAN-CUT FORTRESS TOWN – THE TOWN AND THE FORTRESS MAKE UP AN INSEPARABLE WHOLE.

The town of Hamina was built in the place of its predecessor, the town of Vehkalahti. Vehkalahti was founded in 1653 when Per Brahe was the Governor-General of Finland. Vehkalahti was a modest trading place with a square street plan in accordance with the instructions drawn up by the surveyor Erik Aspegren. However, it experienced complete destruction in 1712, when its own troops, the army of Sweden-Finland, burnt it while retreating.

Sweden lost its position as a great power, and its future appeared to be bleak as Russia became increasingly stronger in military and political terms during the era of Peter the Great. Finland, the eastern province of Sweden, once again served as a borderland between the East and the West, and the defence of Finland had to be designed from a completely new basis. The preparation of the defence plan was entrusted to General Axel Löwen, who converted Vehkalahti into a completely new shape. It was renamed Fredrikshamn after Frederick I, the King of Sweden at that time. This soon became the Finnish name Hamina.

The new town plan differed completely from the former. It follows the principles of the 16th century Italian Renaissance fortress. The town plan is based on a strict geometric pattern, where two squares placed on top of each other symmetrically constitute a circular fortress. The protruding corners of the squares form the six bastions, which were named in the 1730s after Finnish towns as the Savonlinna, Hamina, Turku, Helsinki, Lappeenranta and Hämeenlinna bastions.

The fortress was built more extensively than ever during the Russian rule after 1742. The construction work was completed in the early 19th century, but the fortress was closed as early as 1836 after it had lost its military importance. Fortification structures regarded as useless were gradually demolished to give way to expanding housing from the 1890s, and most of the outer fortifications had been dismantled by the end of the 1950s. The preserved parts of the historic centre were protected by means of a town plan in 1969.

The fortress of Hamina has been under repair from the early 1960s. The central bastion on the northern side of the fortress was completed in 1998. The Town of Hamina has been converting it into an event arena. The area is now covered in the summer by a canopy designed by the architect Roy Mänttari, forming a bold counterbalance in terms of its architecture and dimensions to the row of 58 casemates surrounding the inner court of the bastion. The casemates are fitted with modern technology, and some of them are equipped to serve as restaurant facilities.



1. TOWN HALL 1798

(Johan Brockman)
The Renaissance-style Town Hall (the tower is of Neoclassical style from the 1840s) has served many purposes, including local administration. The building has also housed a bank, shops, the police department, and the main guard of the fortress. The middle floor is currently in festive use and serves as a meeting facility for the town council and town executive board.

2. TOWN MUSEUM 1760

The oldest town building in Hamina built for private use. Empress Catherine II of Russia and her cousin King Gustav III of Sweden held negotiations in the building in 1783. The new permanent exhibition was opened after the renovation in 2008.

3. THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL 1837

The present church is the third Orthodox church in Hamina. It was probably designed by the Italian-French architect L.T.Visconti, and it represents the Neoclassical style: the church is round on the outside, and the inside forms a Greek equal-arm cross. The bell tower of the church representing the Neobyzantine style was built in 1862.

4. FLAG TOWER 1790

Built at the tip of the Helsinki Bastion to serve as the flag tower of the fortress commander. The Bastion was demolished along with the ramparts around it in 1889. The 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Hamina was held in the area. To mark the occasion, the historic Russian marble pictures depicting events of the war were placed on the outer walls of the tower. In the summer, the Flag Tower houses an information point of the Town of Hamina.

5. TANELINKULMA HOUSE 1889 (Waldemar Aspelin)

The Neorenaissance, Swiss-styled wooden town residence of the originally Russian Aladin family, which has lived in Hamina since the 19th century. The building also houses the coffee house and bakery Huovila. Privately owned.

6. ST JOHN'S CHURCH 1843 (Carl Ludvig Engel)

The Neoclassical church of the Lutheran town parish was built in the form of a Greek temple. The residence of the fortress commander, earlier located in this site, was the place where the Russian negotiators lived and signed the Treaty of Hamina. There is a memorial stone beside the church commemorating this event.

7. CENTRAL BASTION (HAMINA BASTION) 1803–1811

The Central Bastion of the fortress and its 58 casemates, or brick vaults, were originally designed to serve as bomb-proof storage facilities. It currently provides a venue for large-scale events with its grandstand and summertime canopy.

8. HUGO SIMBERG'S BIRTHPLACE 1829

The painter Hugo Simberg (1873–1917) lived in the house with his family until he was six years old. The main building was originally built of bricks, but a section made of timber was added in 1846 to the northern part of the building. The current Neoclassical exterior dates back to the 1920s. The building

currently houses an office of the Parish of Hamina for youth work.

9. THE 15TH CENTURY CHURCH OF ST MARY AND CHURCH MUSEUM

A medieval stone church dedicated to St Mary. The oldest building in the Kymenlaakso region. The Neoclassical exterior is by C.L. Engel dating back to the 1820s renovation. Of the many medieval paintings, only the Holy Cross on the eastern wall has survived. The section serving as a museum presents church life from the 18th century onwards.

10. RESERVE OFFICERS' SCHOOL

a. Main building 1898 (Jacob Ahrenberg)
The main building of the Imperial Finnish Cadet School located in Hamina from 1821

to 1903. Used by the Reserve Officers' School since 1920.

b. Indoor arena 1832 (Carl Ludvig Engel)

A former riding arena, currently serving as a festival hall.

c. A former Cadet School laboratory 1851 (E. B. Lohrmann)

The small brick building in the park is a 1860s well.

11. RESERVE OFFICERS' SCHOOL MUSEUM

The museum has preserved the traditions of the Reserve Officers' School since 1920 and is serving as a link between the past and present courses.

12. GARRISON CLUB 1863

(E.B. Lohrmann)
The former residence of the head of the

Imperial Finnish Cadet School, representing the Russian red brick architecture. Served as the Officers' Club since 1918. Currently housing a restaurant.

13. SHOPKEEPER'S MUSEUM 1841

The Kasarminkatu street area was an important shopping area at the turn of the century. This museum with the old shop and the shopkeeper's house tells about these traditions. There is, for instance, a smithy and craftsmen's workshops within the yard.

14. ARTILLERY COMMANDER'S HOUSE 1798

Originally the residence of the fortress artillery commander. The Neoclassical facade embodies the renovation at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. Privately owned.

15. FEDERLEY'S HOUSE (Waldemar Aspelin)

The Neorenaissance 1890s main building has housed, for instance, a pharmacy with A. Nymalm and later A.T. Federley as the pharmacists.

16. HOTEL SEURAHUONE 1890 (Kiseleff & Heikel)

One of the oldest hotel-restaurants in Finland. The Marski Room upstairs is decorated with Tove Jansson's wall paintings depicting historic Hamina. The basement houses restaurant Hostina Kompas, formerly known as Kompassi, a famous seamen's tavern until the 1970s.

17. ARVILOMMI'S HOUSE 1849

The Neorococo exterior of the plastered wooden house is unique in the Finnish town architecture. The building has, for

instance, housed a pharmacy. Privately owned.

18. RUUTIKELLARI GALLERY 1785

The gunpowder magazine of the Hämeenlinna Bastion has been renovated to serve as an art gallery and meeting facility. It was used as a communications centre during the wars. There is a Japanese-style park adorning the yard.

19. MAYOR'S HOUSE 1866

One of the most significant bourgeois homes with its buildings and trees. The residential buildings and the outbuilding represent the late Empire style. Privately owned.

20. TEMPERANCE HOUSE 1902

Earlier housed a temperance association that began its activities in 1884, currently housing the cinema Kino Hamina and the theatre Haminan Teatteri.

STATUES AND MONUMENTS

A. Statue of Varvara (Veikko Haukkavaara)

Varvara Schantlin (1870–1941) was a street vendor of bakery products. She sold her products to officer candidates even when they were in the middle of their field exercises. To show their appreciation, the officers who had graduated from the courses 1–43 gave the town this statue in 1972.

B. Statue for Finnish Baseball (Onni Pursiainen)

Donated to Hamina in 1968 by Onni and Otso Paavola to show their appreciation for everything the town has done for Finnish baseball and youth work.

C. Monument to Fallen Officers (Kalervo Kallio)

Inside the pedestal, there is a paper with more than four thousand names of the Finnish officers killed in the 1939–1944 wars.

D. Monument to Soldiers Fallen in Coastal Battles (Veli Klami)

To commemorate the soldiers killed in the 1939–1944 wars.

E. Monuments in the Park of St John's Church

Including the memorial stone to the 1809 Treaty of Hamina, the monument to the 1918 Finnish Civil War, the soldiers' graves, the monuments to the soldiers killed in the 1939–1944 Winter War and Continuation War and to those left in Karelia.

F. Orthodox Chapel 1837

Built to commemorate the original wooden Church of St Peter and St Paul, which was located in the current field of the Reserve Officers' School and demolished in 1830.

G. Millstone (Eino Marttila)

Old millstones found in the Hietakylä village were used as the models for this one. Erected in 1974. According to a legend, King Gustav III of Sweden proposed to Empress Catherine II of Russia during the 1783 negotiations. Catherine would not, however, say yes until one could, instead of a hand kiss, give a proper kiss through the hole in the millstone.

23. HIETAKYLÄ CEMETERY 1773

Founded beside the sea outside the fortress walls. The earliest surviving headstones date from the end of the Finnish War, from 1809. There is also an area to deposit ashes in the cemetery.

24. VALLIN KOULU SCHOOL 1888 (Waldemar Aspelin)

Originally a Swedish school for girls and women, later a co-educational school, a folk school since 1939. Currently housing a day-care centre and a kindergarten.

25. GARRISON BUILDINGS

The mansard-roofed barracks in the Isoympyräkatu street area and the brick building for the storage of food built opposite the guardhouse of Meriportti date back to the 1770s. Performances by Hamina Summer Theatre began in the Turku Bastion in 2011.

26. GUARDBOUSES OF THE FORTRESS

One could enter the fortified Hamina through three barriered and draw-bridged gates with a guardhouse beside each of them. The medieval Turku–Vyborg highway, the Kuninkaantie road, went across the town from the Lappeenranta gate to the Vyborg gate.

a. Guardhouse of the Lappeenranta gate 1774

Served as the main guard from 1840 to 1974. The exterior has retained its original appearance. Now serving as the Hamina office of the National Board of Antiquities.

b. Guardhouse of the Vyborg gate 1774

The exterior has been altered. Currently used by the Reserve Officers' School.

c. Guardhouse of Meriportti 1776

The guardhouse for the lane leading to the port. Privately owned.



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