



## Finland Basic Facts

- Independence declared on December 6, 1917. Previously an Autonomous Grand Duchy of the Russian Empire (1809-1917), and previous to that a part of Sweden for several centuries
- Member of the European Union since 1995; joined the euro zone in the first wave in 2002.
- Total area of 338,145 sq km (5th largest country in the EU by area); 70 % forest, 10% water, including 180,000 lakes and islands
- Coastline of 46,000 km
- Population circa 5.3 million
- Native Finnish-speaking population 91.0 %, Swedish-speaking 5.4 %, other 3.6 %
- Since 2000 immigration has increased 72 %
- Universal suffrage in 1906; Finnish women the first in the world to be given full voting rights
- Finns are the most avid library-goers in Europe, visiting a library on average 11 times a year
- Broadband penetration rate second highest within the EU; 86 % of Finns are Internet users
- Finland is home to two million saunas and half a million summer cottages

More information:

[www.finland.fi](http://www.finland.fi)