

EUROMAR 2025

Qulu

RUN



Run route (9.7 km) starts and ends at the Toripolliisi statue. We run the route clockwise.

1 Toripolliisi statue.

A bronze statue (1987, Kaarlo Mikkonen) to commemorate the three police officers who served to ensure lawful proceeding of commerce and maintaining of order in the Oulu market square, in 1934-1979.



Oulu Library

3 Pikisaari (pitch) island

Pikisaari island is a protected residence area favoured particularly by artists and and craftsmen and craftswomen. Through it goes a popular walking and cycling route. Historically, from the 17th century onward, it is known as the site of pitch manufacturing, shipyards, as well as, later, liquor distilling, fabric dyeing and mechanical engineering. Tar and pitch were the major international export article of the region during the era of wooden ships. During the Crimean war in 1854, British troops landed in Pikisaari, which ended shipbuilding on the site.



Pikisaari

2 Oulu Theatre and Library.

Oulu Theatre and Library represent brutalistic concrete architecture and are located on the artificial Vänmanninsaari island (theatre 1972 and library 1982, Marjatta and Martti Jaatinen). They were originally planned as parts of the monumental centre of Oulu, of which only these two parts were ever realised. The locals love these buildings, although their beauty is in the eye of the beholder.



Oulu Theatre



Office of a machine shop. Built between 1885 and 1889. The building was renovated after a fire for residential purposes in the 1990s.



Cultural house TurusenSaha. Built in 1923 as a canteen. Later mostly rented out as artist apartments. Also nowadays, it is possible to rent an apartment from there.



Vanha Villatehdas, the old wool factory. A home to visual artists, photographers and designers.

4 Mustasaari, Hietasaari, and Vihreäsaari islands

Mustasaari, Hietasaari, and Vihreäsaari islands have risen from the sea 300-400 years ago (the land is still rising here due to the slowly releasing pressure of the last ice age) and historically they have served both as the villa region of the wealthy locals and, during WWII, an important harbour of German troops based in Northern Finland. Now there is a modern oil harbour and the homes of the town's two sailing clubs.

5 Nallikari beach

Nallikari beach, the "Riviera of the North" is loved by both tourists and locals, who gather here en masse during the (ahem) many hot summer days. It is sided by a popular camping site.



6 Toppilansalmi region

Toppilansalmi region was an important industrial and harbour location, with many of the buildings (particularly the grain silo-turned into an apartment building) designed by the world-famous architect Alvar Aalto. The industries included a pulp mill, a grain mill, brewery and (even today) a peat power plant, which continues to provide the central heating to much of the town. Now Toppila is a trendy residential area close to the sea.



A grain silo-turned into an apartment building.
The original building can be seen at <https://yle.fi/a/3-6332104>



Vaasa mill. The first part of the mill was completed in 1924. In later years, the mill has been expanded four times. The building was converted into a modern residential building in 2018 preserving one end of the old mill and rebuilding the rest.

7 Koskikeskus

Koskikeskus is a residential area planned by Alvar Aalto in the 1940s and 1950s, partially on the artificial island of Toivoniemi. The first student dormitory, Domus Botnica, of the town has been here since the inauguration of the University of Oulu in the late 1950s. The construction of the dormitory was partially funded by selling (to the public) small pieces of ore donated by the Finnish mining industries.



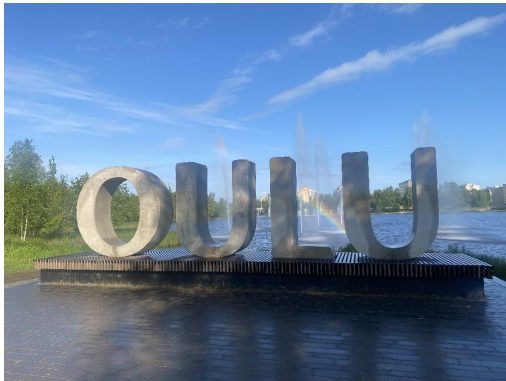
8 Merikoski hydropower plant (and dam)

Merikoski hydropower plant (and dam) is the first of its kind in the Oulu river, originally planned since 1915 and constructed throughout the painful war years until 1948 (Bertel Strömmer).



9 Ainolanpuisto park

Ainolanpuisto park, "park of the white bridges" is located on many islands next to the town centre. It was planned as the original location of the University but luckily remained a popular free-time resort of the townspeople. It is sided by the popular science centre Tietomaa, the Oulu Art museum and the Oulu cathedral. Historically the site has been visited by notable persons such as the Swedish king Gustav IV Adolf (1782), Russian czar Alexander I (1819), and the Italian explorer Giuseppe Acerbi (1779) – and now You, of course!



10 Oulu castle

Oulu castle was built in 1590 during the Swedish reign as a base for military campaigns towards White Sea Karelia in Russia, presumably on the site of an earlier citadel of the Novgorodians. The small remaining part of the castle is left from a huge explosion on July 31, 1793, when the gunpowder storage blew up due to a lightning strike. The wooden structure, constructed in 1875, on top of the stone base was the astronomy classroom of the Oulu seafarers' school. Now it is the site of a picturesque summer cafeteria.

