

# Old Rauma

Old Rauma, the centre of the present-day town of Rauma, was chosen as a Unesco World Heritage Site in 1991, an honour reserved for extremely valuable cultural history sites. It is the most expansive and unified area of wooden houses from the Medieval period within the Nordic countries. Old Rauma is a place where people live, work, and pursue free-time activities in a unique historical setting. The centre of the area is the Market Place, around which about two hundred shops and several attractive cafés, restaurants and artists' work rooms are situated. A great place for shopping is in the direction of the streets Kuninkaankatu and Kauppakatu. However, be sure to take a good look around the rest of the 28 hectare area and get enchanted with the atmosphere of the days-gone-by. Distances to shops and different sights are short, within walking distance of one another.

## THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

The Church of the Holy Cross was built as a church for the Franciscan monastery at the end of the 15th century. The Franciscans were banished from Rauma in 1538 due to the Reformation. After the Church of the Holy Trinity burned down in 1640, the Lutheran congregation took over the Church of the Holy Cross. Medieval elements are still visible today in the frescoes on the walls and vaults of the church and in its many valuable objects. On the north wall is the votive painting of Margareta, the mayor Jussoila's daughter. It is the oldest votive painting preserved in Finland.

## THE MARKET PLACE AND OLD TOWN HALL

The Market Place is the heart of the town, where people go to shop and for coffee all year round. The stately Old Town Hall, situated next to the Market Place, was built in 1776. The building is mainly baroque, representing a style typical to medieval towns. Nowadays the Town Hall is one of the museums in Rauma, and there you can find changing exhibitions and bobbin lace.

## NAULAMÄKI AND HELSINKI SQUARE

Naulamäki used to be the neighbourhood of sailors and craftsmen. It was situated at the southern edge of the town where the fields and meadows of the town-folk began. The gate-frame of Naola house is probably the oldest remaining wooden object in Rauma. It is said that the Helsinki Square received its name, because the bourgeois of the town gathered there to move to Helsinki. The king Gustaf Wasa founded Helsinki, the present capital of Finland, to act as a competitor to Tallin in 1550 and ordered the bourgeois of Rauma to inhabit the newly established town.

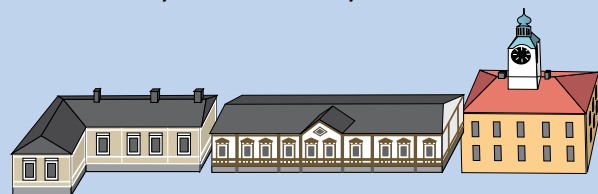
## TAMMELA

Tammela, a repair-building centre of Old Rauma is situated two blocks from the Market Place. Here you can find information on repair techniques suited to old wooden buildings as well as on Unesco World Heritage. Tammela also functions as a spare parts repository for building materials.



## KALATORI

The earliest inhabited area of the town is believed to have situated near the fish market. The sea still covered these areas in the 14th century, but because the land was rising, the sea moved further and further away, and the settlements spread closer and closer to the harbour. The remains of the Church of the Holy Trinity can be found in the middle of a park at the south-east edge of the fish market. This congregational church was built of stone in the 15th century, but was destroyed in a fire in 1640.



## MARELA

Marela is situated on the street Kauppakatu, and it was once the home of tradesmen and ship-building families. Most of the buildings are from the 19th century, when the Paqvalin family owned the property. The main building received its neo-renaissance appearance in the late 19th century, when it was owned by Gabriel Granlund, one of the leading citizens in Rauma. The town became wealthy by the boom in maritime sailing, and also other buildings were repaired and decorated according to the new fashionable style.



## HAUENGUANO

The two main streets in Old Rauma, Kauppakatu and Kuninkaankatu, meet in Hauenguano. The town was surrounded by a toll fence from the beginning of the 17th century to the year 1808. At this time, the town was entered from the Pori toll area, which was situated here. At the southern edge of the square is the first private stone house of the town, built by Efraim Broman in 1776. Nowadays, the Rauma Art Museum is situated in this house and in the next-door Pinnala House, which was built at the beginning of the 19th century. Shops and work rooms of many crafts people are situated in this part of the town.



## JOKELA HOUSE AND KITUKRÄNN

Hj. Nortamo, the first significant Finnish dialect writer, was born in Jokela House in 1860. His vivid writings in the Rauma dialect contain words borrowed from Swedish, Estonian, English as well as German. If you want to hear the Rauma dialect today, the best place for that is around the coffee stands in the Market Place. Opposite to Jokela House is Finland's narrowest street Kitukränn.

## KIRSTI

Kirsti's yard and its buildings represent well the building methods used in the town in the 18th century and at the beginning of the 19th century. The main building is located next to the street, and granary, stable, barn and storage buildings encircle the yard. The house was built by skippers, but it has been owned by sailors, workers as well as crafts people. The house has also been rented out. After being in the possession of a single family for 200 years, Kirsti was handed over to the museum in the 1970's. Kirsti is open to visitors in the summer, and the lifestyle of the owners and the tenants from the late-19th century to the 1970's can be viewed there.