

WHV – Working for the future of World Heritage in the Fortress of Suomenlinna

Fortress of Suomenlinna, Finland

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1991)

02 August - 16 August 2024

THE SITE - Suomenlinna (Sveaborg) is a sea fortress, which was built gradually from 1748 onwards on a group of islands belonging to the district of Helsinki. The work was supervised by the Swedish Admiral Augustin Eherensvärd (1710-1772), who adapted Vauban's theories to the very special geographical features of the region. The landscape and the architecture of the fortress have been shaped by several historic events. It has served to defend three different sovereign states over the years: the Kingdom of Sweden, the Russian Empire and most recently the Republic of Finland. In the history of military architecture, the Fortress of Suomenlinna is an outstanding example of general fortification principles of the 17th and 18th centuries, notably the bastion system, and also showcases individual characteristics.

OBJECTIVES - The project intends to raise awareness among youth and volunteers of the need to protect and promote World Heritage, and engage them in the preservation process of the fortress: the landscape and restoration professionals from the Governing Body of Suomenlinna will choose and assign specific areas at the fortress where the volunteers will work under the supervision of experienced gardeners; volunteers will also be offered the possibility to implement supportive restoration tasks in surface finishing of historical structures, supervised by restoration professionals; and will support the staff of the visitor centre contributing to the delivery of information related to sustainable tourism and sustainable visits at the World Heritage site.

ACTIVITIES - Volunteers will work on removing harmful and invasive vegetation and preventing the expansion of harmful species that are threatening the vegetation more culturally related to the history of Suomenlinna - especially on the ramparts where erosion is an ecological challenge. They will help removing deteriorated surfaces of wooden, metal and stone constructions, using traditional paints to finalise the restoration. Volunteers will also support the staff in informing international visitors about the attractions and services and the social and ecological sustainability issues of Suomenlinna, and will be invited to present one of the World Heritage sites in their countries, contributing to the local and international understanding of World Heritage and its values.

PARTNERS - Governing Body of Suomenlinna; Allianssi Youth Exchanges, European Solidarity Corps (EU); hostel Suomenlinna, Ehrensvärd-Society; local entrepreneurs and artists of Suomenlinna and Voluntary Park Pals of Helsinki; K-market and restaurants in Suomenlinna.

The Governing Body of Suomenlinna

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