

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)

31 July - 15 August 2025

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 will be the continuation of the successful activities of the previous years. This year the project continues to use participatory methods and uniting different interest groups in developing new approaches to the interpretation of the Suomenlinna story, World Heritage education and understanding as well as cultural heritage preservation. With this emphasis, the project aims at raising discussions, generating new ideas, actions and involvement to make participants feel that they have a say in preserving our common cultural heritage and how it is taken care of, while also strengthening sustainable cooperation between participants and people who live and work in Suomenlinna.

ACTIVITIES - Volunteers will work on restoration of historical cannons, landscaping work on different islands and also get more familiar with erosion caused both by climate change and rapidly changing weathers and by people walking outside recommended paths. Also, the volunteers will perform visitor information tasks under the supervision of the visitor centre staff / Tourism specialist during the busy month of August. The visitor information tasks are related to sustainable tourism and sustainable visit at the World Heritage site. In addition to physical work, the volunteers will have guided tours both about the history of the fortress and about landscape and its importance as a part of the fortress and the whole World Heritage site. The volunteers will also have a half a day mini seminar where each volunteer presents one World Heritage Site from their own country.

PARTNERS - Governing Body of Suomenlinna; Allianssi Youth Exchanges; European Solidarity Corps ((EU & Finnish National Agency for Education); hostel Suomenlinna; K-market and local stakeholders and restaurants in Suomenlinna.

The Governing Body of Suomenlinna

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<https://whc.unesco.org/en/whvolunteers>