



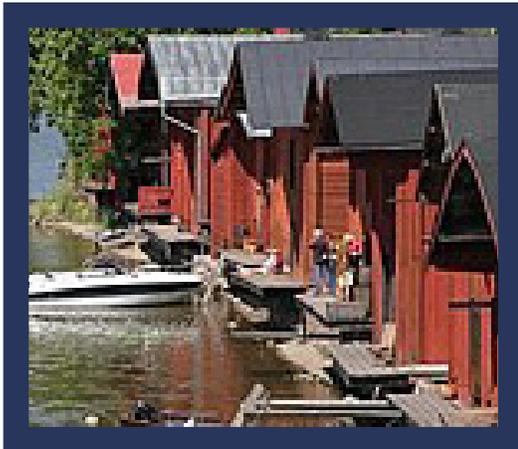
**Society of Biblical Literature and
European Association of Biblical Studies
2018 International Meeting
Helsinki, Finland • July 30–3 August**



HELSINKI HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, July 30, 9:00 AM - 100 PM

Depart with coach and guide for a Helsinki city tour. First, you will head to Senate Square and the green-domed Lutheran Cathedral - the symbol of the city. You will walk to the market square, from which you can also see the impressive Uspenski Russian orthodox cathedral. In Sibelius Park you can get off the coach to view the Sibelius Monument, before moving on past the Olympic Stadium, built for the 1952 Olympic Games. During the tour you will see many fine buildings such as the modern Opera House, Finlandia Hall, the National Museum, and the Kiasma Modern Art Museum. At the base of Esplanade Park is the bustling Market Square and harbour. One of the highlights of the tour is an inside visit to Temppeliaukio church, the famous “Rock Church.” The church is built into solid rock, with the inner wall left raw and unfinished. Duration 4 hours.



PORVOO EXCURSION

Monday, July 30, 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

A 50 minute drive to the east of Helsinki lies Porvoo, Finland’s 2nd oldest town. Stroll through the medieval quarter, along old cobbled streets of historic painted wooden houses, cafes, and antique stores. The town is famous for its ochre-painted shore houses along the riverside. The 13th century cathedral is the town’s major historic landmark. On this tour you will also visit the Art Factory, a superbly renovated factory milieu with concert venues, a gallery, restaurants and artists’ studios. Visit the Art Hall gallery displaying exhibitions of contemporary art. Coffee and cake is served in one of the atmospheric cafes in the Old Town. Duration 4.5 hours

ISLANDS TOUR TO VALALLISAARI & SUOMENLINNA FORTRESS

Friday, August 3, 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Depart by private coach to the Market Square & Harbour. Board a ferry for the 20 minute crossing of Helsinki Bay, with fine views of the city skyline. First you will arrive at Vallisaari island – a unique island that had been closed to the public during use by the Finnish army, but opened to the public in 2016. From Vallisaari you will continue to the Fortress island of Suomenlinna, and partake in a walking tour of the island. In 1747 a fortress was built as the main base for the armed forces stationed in Finland. Soon after Finland gained independence from Russia in 1917 the Swedish name of the fortress was officially changed to the Finnish Suomenlinna, “Castle of Finland”. In 1991, Suomenlinna was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit Suomenlinna Museum, which is in the main Visitor Centre, giving visitors a glimpse of the life of officers and soldiers during the periods of Swedish and Russian rule in the 18th and 19th centuries. Duration 5 hours.





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NUUKSIO NATIONAL PARK TOUR

Friday, August 3, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

On arrival to Nuukio you will visit Finnish nature centre Haltia, a unique interactive nature centre located by the national park. Our guide will lead you through the forest where you will experience Finnish nature. All your senses will be activated during this walking tour. Duration 4 hours.



VISA-FREE 2 NIGHT CRUISE TO SAINT PETERSBURG

Friday, August 3, 4:30PM - Sunday, August 5, 8:00 AM

Welcome to the impressive Saint Petersburg, full of tsar palaces and unique art collections. Visa-free status applies to all nationalities but please note that passengers who need a Shengen visa need to make sure they have a double entry visa to Shengen area in order to return to Finland after this tour. Schedule:

Friday, August 3

4:30 PM Check-in at Helsinki West Harbour Terminal

6:00 PM M/S Princess Anastasia departs towards St. Petersburg

6:00 PM Buffet dinner onboard at Seven Seas Restaurant

Overnight on-board in cabins with a private bathroom and a window

Saturday, August 4

7:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM Arrival in St. Petersburg

On arrival proceed to passport control. Your tour includes a visit to the Hermitage, one of the world's finest art museums. It contains more than 2½ million works of art representing different ages, cultures and peoples. Originally, the palace served as a winter residence of the Tsars and was not open to the public. The collection was started by Catherine the Great, who bought art from France, Austria, Italy, Germany, and other countries. Admire masterpieces of Leonardo da Vinci, Titian, Raphael, Rembrandt, works of the French impressionists as well as the magnificent interiors of the Winter Palace. Lunch is enjoyed in Legran restaurant - 3-courses and a bottle of water. Following lunch, enjoy a short walking tour along Nevsky Prospect, to see the Central book store and Kazan Active Orthodox Cathedral.

4:00 PM Tour ends at the harbour.

6:00 PM Check-in gates close.

6:30 PM Buffet dinner at Seven Seas Restaurant.

7:00 PM Ship departs back to Helsinki.

Overnight onboard.

Sunday, August 5

6:00 AM Breakfast onboard

8:00 AM Arrival back at Helsinki West Harbour, where the tour ends.

