

brick factories sprung up all around this bay. There were once as many as 25 of them.

**25** Our city beaches, like those on your right, become especially crowded in summer when the days grow longer and the cold Baltic Sea warms up. On the hottest summer days, we get temperatures of 30 degrees Celsius, and water that simmers at 20 degrees.

**26** The beautiful, brown-striped villa behind the trees is of great cultural and historical value, and it also has stunning acoustics. The villa belonged to the world-famous soprano singer Aino Ackté.

**27** The moorings we're passing are for small craft like fishing boats, sailboats, and motorboats. In summer, they fill these intricate waterways giving residents so much pleasure. We love fishing, water skiing and cruising from island to island.

**28** On the right is tranquil Kulosaari island, which was inhabited since the Middle Ages and is today the home of several embassies.

**29** We are now arriving in a new urban district called Kalasatama. Nowadays you can find the REDI shopping centre in the area. A metro line runs through REDI. Did you know that the Helsinki metro is the world's northernmost?

**30** The magnificent white bridge is called Isoisänsilta, or the Grandfather's Bridge. This pedestrian and bicycle bridge was opened in 2016 and it connects the Kalasatama neighbourhood to the Mustikkamaa island.

**31** On the left you will see Korkeasaari island, which hosts the Helsinki Zoo. This 20-hectare zoo is like the world in miniature. On the island, you can discover hundreds of plant species and more than 150 animal species in their natural habitats, ranging from northern tundra to humid rainforests.

**32** In front of us are ice breakers at their moorings. When the sea freezes in winter they become essential in keeping our shipping lanes running. Their mighty engines push those massive hulls up onto ice more than one metre thick, and the powerful bows slam down to smash the ice and clear a passage through it.

**33** We are now passing the island of Katajanokka. Katajanokka was originally a peninsula, but today it is separated from the mainland by the Katajanokka canal. There are four bridges over the canal. The Katajanokka district is a prestigious residential area, and apartments in the Art Nouveau-style buildings of this neighbourhood are expensive and sought-after.

**34** The islet on the left, called Katajanokanluoto, is the smallest excursion and restaurant destination open to the public off the coast of Helsinki.

**35** We have now returned to the bay, where you will again see the large ferries. On the left is the Olympia Terminal, from where the Silja Line ferries sail to Stockholm, and on the right is the Viking Line terminal from where you can take a ferry to Tallinn or Stockholm.

**36** We are now approaching our starting point, the Market Square. In front of us is a view of the Empire-style centre of Helsinki, dominated by the Cathedral, the light blue City Hall and, on the right, the Presidential Palace and Uspenski Cathedral.

**We hope you have enjoyed the cruise.**

**Please remember to take all your belongings with you when you disembark.**

**Thank you for your company and we look forward to welcoming you again!**



ENGLISH

## ROUTE MAP

### BEAUTIFUL CANAL ROUTE CITY HIGHLIGHTS



HELSINKI  
SIGHTSEEING



**1** Hello – and welcome to this Stromma cruise in the beautiful archipelago of Helsinki.

We begin our tour from the South Harbour, which is one of the most beautiful passenger ship ports in the world. This is also the reason why numerous cruise ships make a stop here. From the South Harbour, there are also busy ferry connections to Sweden and Estonia.

**2** On our right is Kaivopuisto, a very prestigious district. There are also many embassies here – the brick buildings in the foreground belong to the Embassy of the United States.

**3** The wooden jetties on the right are for washing rugs. Anyone can use these jetties to wash their rugs in the old Finnish tradition.

**4** There are several popular cafés along the waterfront boulevard. One of them is Café Carusel, a magnificent ecological café.

**5** The impressive and multi-dimensional wooden building by the waterfront is Löyly. It was built using 4,000 pieces of wood, including recycled wood.

**6** We will now be passing several small islands, including Uunisaari, Liuskasaari and Sirpalesaari. Many of the islands off the coast of central Helsinki are accessible by boat from April till November.

**7** Harakka island can now be seen on the right. It is a popular recreational area for Helsinki residents.

**8** There are over 300 islands in the archipelago, but the one right in front of us is unique. That's Suomenlinna - the fortress Island. Suomenlinna Fortress was an impregnable 'Gibraltar of the North' designed to withstand a massive enemy attack from the sea. Those walls are 10 metres thick, and they're built in a classic military star, across six interlocking islands. Any

ship approaching from the open sea would get caught in a lethal crossfire. The fort never came under fire during Swedish rule, and when it finally fell it was because the enemy came from an entirely unexpected direction... from across the frozen land.

**9** The small island on the left is called Lonna. On this island, there used to be a demagnetization station, which was needed to clear sea mines. Today, Lonna is an integral part of the Helsinki summer with its concerts and restaurants.

**10** We are now passing Vasikkasaari island. The island was completely destroyed when an ammunition depot exploded here in 1919. The explosion was truly massive and shattered thousands of windows in the surrounding area. Today, there are about 50 privately owned summer cottages on the island.

**11** The building that looks as if it is floating on water are the sauna and meeting facilities of a large energy company. It is built on top of the loading dock structures of the former oil harbour on Koirasaari island.

**12** We are approaching Kruunuvuorenranta. A significant part of this area was long used as an oil harbour, but now a large new sea-side residential area is being built here.

**13** Finland's longest bridge, the Kruunuvuori bridge, is being built in this area. This bridge, which is going to be some 1,200 metres long, will provide a public transport, pedestrian and cycling route between Palosaari, which is part of Korkeasaari, and Kruunuvuorenranta.

**14** The large island to the right is one of the few you cannot visit. That's because it's the Santahamina Military Base, the home of the Guard Jaeger Regiment that defends Helsinki, and the Finnish National Defence University where our soldiers are trained in urban military strategy.

**15** This is Hevossalmi strait, and as we pass through it watch out! The drawbridge connecting Laajasalo on the left with Santahamina on the right is very low.

**16** To our left is Jollas, which is the South-eastern part of the island Laajasalo. And as you can see, the people of Helsinki always make the best of their beaches. You'll often find saunas near beaches. It's wonderful to jump into the fresh sea after enjoying the steam of the sauna!

**17** With so many islands nearby, it's easy to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city for a weekend. In just 30 minutes you can be out in nature, living island life.

**18** Nature and forests have inspired Finnish writers, musicians and designers for generations. Forests are part of the Finnish soul.


**19** The island on our right is Villinki island. It is one of the most important summer residence areas in Helsinki and a historical site protected by the National Board of Antiquities.

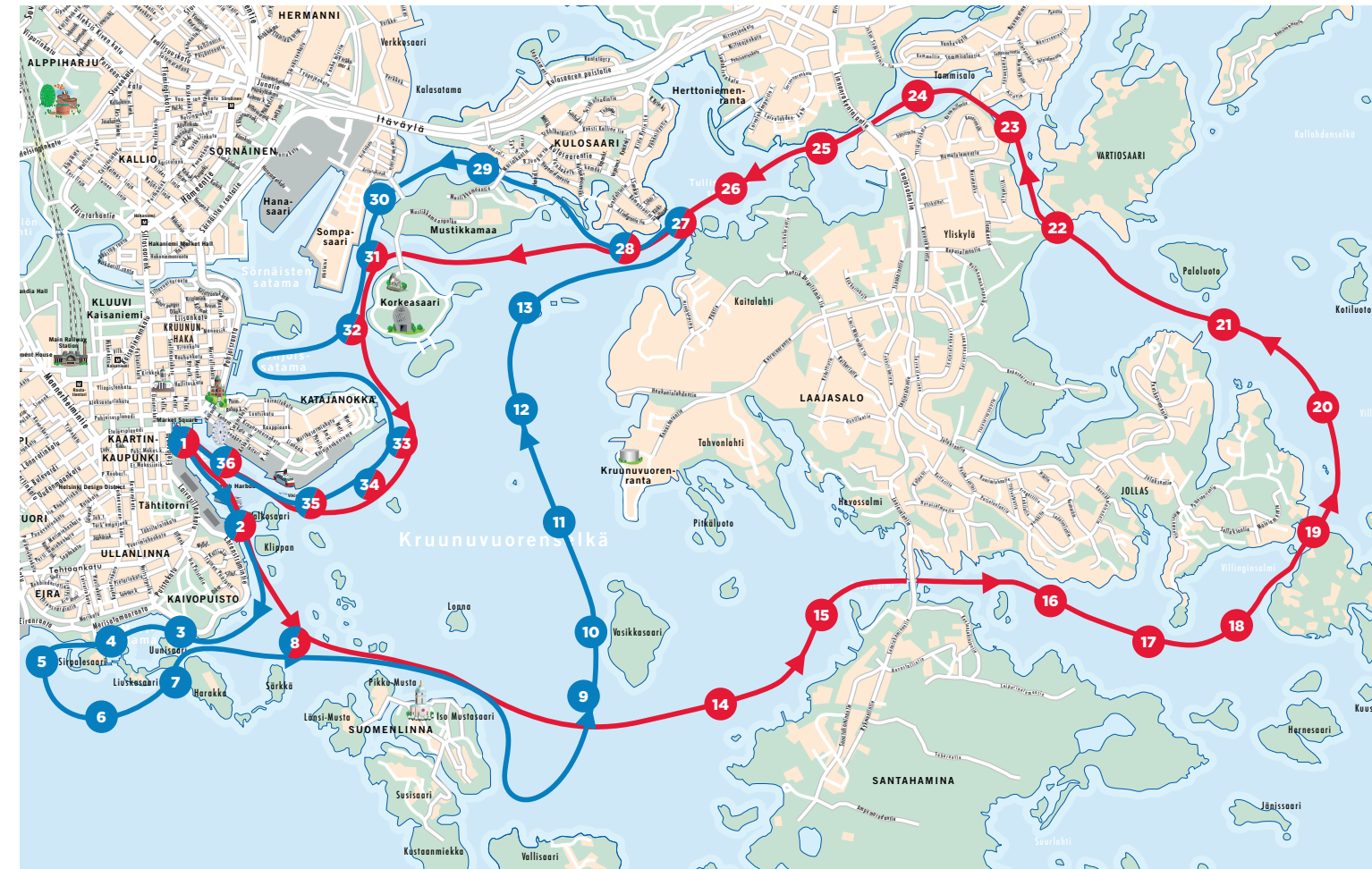
**20** These islands have protected Helsinki for centuries. One thousand years ago, fishermen lit fires on them to warn villagers that the Vikings were coming, giving people just enough time to run and hide in the forest! And 80 years ago, troops built bonfires on uninhabited islands to act as decoys and lure Soviet bombers away from the city.

**21** In the old days, smugglers often hid in these waters and brought their illicit cargo to Helsinki. In the 1920s, the prohibition era saw a booming business for liquor bootleggers, and the encounters between the police and criminals were often fatal. But the smugglers had an ingenious trick to make them look innocent. They would attach large bags of salt to the liquor boxes and, when they were spotted by the police, they would dump their cargo in the sea. As the salt slowly dissolved in the water, all they had to do was wait until the floats attached to the salt bags rose to the surface.

 CITY HIGHLIGHTS

 BEAUTIFUL CANAL ROUTE

 CITY HIGHLIGHTS  
BEAUTIFUL CANAL ROUTE



**22** The island on our right is Vartiosaari, a square kilometre of paradise just 7km out of the city. It's so peaceful and beautiful that even a moose regularly swims across from the mainland to visit. There are valuable deciduous groves and an old pine forest that's home to bats.

**23** We're entering the Degerö canal. Duck your head as we go under the bridge.

**24** We have arrived at Tiiliruukki bay, and the soil from here changed the face of our city. The high-quality loam you get near here is good for making bricks and so, 200 years ago