



Education First

## *College Study Tours*

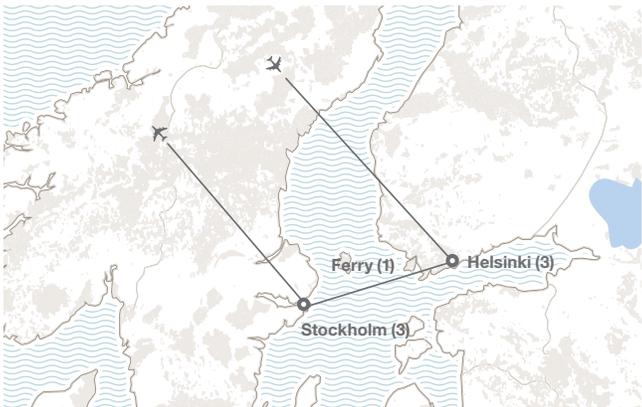
A scenic view of a city skyline, likely Stockholm, Sweden, with colorful buildings and a prominent church spire, reflected in the water under a soft, sunset sky.

# **EDUCATION IN FINLAND & SWEDEN**

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Finland's unique educational system is internationally renowned as a model for success. In the past decade, they have excelled despite having radically different methods from almost every other developed nation—including their very close Swedish neighbors. With specialty visits including a meeting with the Finnish National Board of Education, hear why a world without homework, tuition fees or standardized tests is exactly what the Finnish system needs.

Sail from one Nordic landscape to another on a night ferry to Stockholm, where the beautifully reconstructed wreckage of the Vasa ship reveals the dangers of an impatient king. As you begin to explore these seemingly similar countries, you may find the contrasts between these northern giants to span wider than the gulf that divides them.



### Day 1: Fly to Finland

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Helsinki.

### Day 2: Helsinki

**Arrive in Helsinki:** Welcome to the capital of Finland. Helsinki is known as the major political, educational, financial, cultural and research center of Finland, the country that ranks No. 1 in the world for tertiary education.

**Walking tour of Helsinki:** Explore Helsinki on foot this afternoon, and see why the city was voted the World Design Capital of 2012. From the Sibelius Monument to Senate Square, notice how Nordic modernism has influenced American architecture. This evening, get to know your tour group over a delicious dinner of Finnish specialties.

### Day 3: Helsinki

**Sightseeing tour of Helsinki:** A local guide will introduce you to Helsinki today where you'll see some of the city's most famous landmarks, from Helsinki Market Square to the Uppeski Orthodox cathedral.

**TempPELLIAUKIO Church:** Also known as the Church of the Rock, this iconic landmark was built directly out of one, and boasts natural sunlight through its glazed dome. In addition to its natural beauty, the church also serves as a frequent concert venue due to its excellent acoustics.

**Attend a lecture on education:** Visit the Finnish National Board of Education. The FNBE is responsible for education at all levels—from primary through post-secondary, including adult education and vocational training. Today's visit will highlight Finnish education from a policy point of view.

### Day 4: Helsinki

**Visit a school:** Examine the methods that lead to high results on PISA and other forms of student assessment.

**Free time in Helsinki:** Enjoy free time to explore Helsinki on your own. Grab some friends and visit the Maritime Museum of Finland to learn about the long history of seafaring or satiate your hunger for politics at Eduskunta, the Parliament of Finland. Indulge your inner scientist with hands-on exhibits at the Finnish Science Centre. Looking to relax? Bring your euros and enjoy a little shopping at the Stockmann's department store—Finland's Harrods.

### Day 5: Helsinki | Night ferry

**Visit a library:** Check out one of the best reference centers and reserves of national collections in Helsinki.

**Free time in Helsinki:** Enjoy time to explore the Finnish capital at your leisure, before your ferry to Stockholm. Then, enjoy overnight accommodations on board a ferry, departing this evening and bound for Stockholm.

### Day 6: Stockholm

**Arrive in Stockholm:** Welcome to Stockholm, the Swedish capital.

**Sightseeing tour of Stockholm:** After your arrival, your local guide will introduce you to Stockholm's impressive architecture and rich history. See the Royal Opera House, the Parliament, the Royal Palace and the oldest church in Stockholm, dating from 1306.

**Vasa Ship:** Journey to the island of Djurgården to visit Vasa, a well-restored 17th-century war ship. King Gustavus Adolphus demanded that this ornate eight-level ship be created with two gun decks (as opposed to the standard one). However, when the ship went out for its maiden voyage, a gust of wind sank Vasa before it could even leave the city's harbor. The ship's wreckage was discovered in 1961. Later, enjoy a traditional Swedish dinner with group at a local restaurant.

### Day 7: Stockholm

**Walking tour of Stockholm:** Today, your Tour Director will lead you through Stockholm's Gamla Stan (Old Town). Järmtorget, its famous square, was home to the city's copper and iron trade in the 16th and 17th centuries.

**Meet with teachers:** Compare education in Finland and Sweden while you meet with local teachers this afternoon at your hotel.

### Day 9: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

## INCLUDED ON TOUR:

-  Round-trip flights on major carriers
-  Full-time Tour Director
-  Land and water transportation
-  Hotels and night ferry accommodations
-  Light breakfast daily; 2 local dinners
-  **Sightseeing tours**  
Helsinki; Stockholm
-  **Entrances**  
TempPELLIAUKIO Church; Finnish National Board of Education; Library visit
-  **Experiential learning**  
1 lecture; 1 school visit; 1 library visit; 1 teacher visit

— the easiest ways to —

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