

## Finland

---

### **Some important events in the history of Finland:**

1155 The first crusade to Finland by the Swedes. Finland becomes part of the Swedish realm.

1809 Finland is handed over to Russia by Sweden and becomes an autonomous Grand Duchy under the Russian emperor.

1917 Finland's declaration of independence on December 6.

1919 The present constitution is adopted and Finland becomes a republic

1955 Finland joins the United Nations

1995 Finland becomes a member of the European Union



*Mynd 1 - A view from the top of Himos*

### **Finnish nature**

Trees and water are the most obvious features of Finland's natural landscapes. Forests cover more than two-thirds of the land, and lakes and rivers account for almost another tenth.

Finns enjoy being outdoors, fishing, hunting, picking mushrooms and berries.

The climate of Finland is marked by cold winters and fairly warm summers. In the far north of the country the sun does not set for about 73 days, producing the white nights of summer. In winter the sun remains below the horizon for 51 days in the far north.



*Mynd 2 - Colors of autumn*

**The Finnish sauna-culture** is unique in the world. The sauna is a place of relaxation and after the hot steam is wonderful to go for a dip in the lake.



*Mynd 3 - Midsummer*