

Friendly Advice

My main advice is to make the most out of your exchange. There are so many fun opportunities and places to see while going to school at Aalto and being in Helsinki. But life like anything else is what you make of it. So go out and explore, try different foods, and enjoy bonding with your fellow students.

As for some practical advice, if you are looking to save money Lidl is the cheapest grocery store, and they always have various sales going on. Also in Finland the price of alcohol is quite expensive especially at bars, and for grocery stores they stop selling alcohol at 9PM.

Some cool places to visit while you are in Helsinki:

- **Kamppi Chapel**-It is also known as the “Chapel of Silence” and it is a place where you can go to have a quiet moment to yourself. Try to go when it is not during busy hours or when there are a lot of tourists in the area. The chapel welcomes people from all religions and backgrounds, and you can just go inside for a moment of silence. Everyone that goes inside is not supposed to talk or make that much noise so that people can just enjoy a moment of quiet.
- **Linnanmäki Amusement Park**-I believe the amusement park doesn't open till the summer, but when it does open I would definitely suggest visiting. The cool thing is it is actually free to go inside the amusement park. There is no entrance fee. People can just go inside and explore and there are even 10 rides that are free in the amusement park. Most of them are for kids though. Though there is one free ride where you can see a bird's eye view of the entire amusement park as well as parts of Helsinki. For the other rides you can pay per ride, or buy a whole day/evening pass. I really like the concept of this amusement park, because they purposely made it free to enter so that anyone can experience the fun of an amusement park even if they can't afford to. On top of that for those that can afford to pay for the rides the money goes towards a really good cause, child warfare in Finland.
- **Allas Sea Pool**-This is located in downtown Helsinki nearby the sea. They have a nice public sauna there as well as some swimming pools. One of the pools is heated, and the other one is ice cold at 4 degrees Celsius. It was definitely a memorable experience going there in the winter when the weather was -1 degrees Celsius outside and jumping into the ice cold pool after the sauna.
- **Trillby & Chadwick**-This was really fun experience for me. My friend took me here for my birthday. It is a secret speakeasy bar in Helsinki. On the outside there is no marking to show that it is a bar, and you can't find the place unless you know its secret location(which you can find online). There are three rules for the secret speakeasy bar: 1) No pictures, 2) You can't table hop, and 3) You have to go out a different entrance from where you came in, so others won't know where the secret bar is.