

JAKOBSTAD - PIETARSAARI

If you have checked Novia's web page, you might be confused why do they offer courses in Swedish in Finland?! The answer can be found in Jakobstad's and Finland's history.

language

Bilingualism roots back to the 12th and 13th century, when Finland was under Swedish rule - this period ended with the Finnish War in 1809. Lot of things have happened as years passed by - for instance gaining independence from Russian control in 1917 - but I don't really want to get in details.

Back to Jakobstad! The town was founded in the mid 1650s and was granted city privileges by Queen Victoria of Sweden. 300 years later Jakobstad's was overwhelmingly Swedish speaking but the industrial expansion lead to the settlement of Finnish speakers. So this is the town's story in a nutshell!

history

However, most of the inhabitants can speak 2 languages, the usage of English is not a problem for them either - even elder generations can speak it fluently!



little hiking around Runebergs Stuga

Even though Pietarsaari isn't the biggest town, many cultural events takes place here. Exhibitions, music- and cultural festivals are held through the year.

In February you can join the Runeberg's week, which focuses on literature. Johan Ludvig Runeberg was the national poet, who spent his childhood's long summer nights in a hunting and fishing cottage - nowadays called Runebergs Stuga.

culture

The town is revived by week long festivals: Jakobs Dagar in July and other events like Spotlight, Children's Day, Lucia and Gammaldags torg revives the town.

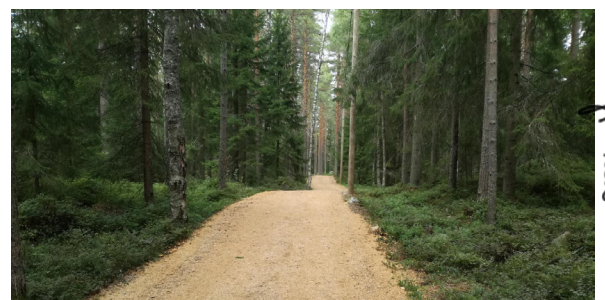
Concerts and exhibitions are frequently held due to the presence of Novia. Most of them takes place in the university (Schauman Hall, White Box, Black Box) or in Café's in the nearby.

For example: three (amazing!) gigs were held this week in the After Eight Music Café and Gearhead's Den Café by the music department's student.



Skaten

Of course there are days when it seems that nothing is going on in town... Those days gives you a chance to discover every little corner! Such as wondering in Aspegren Garden and School Park Botanical Garden; strolling around the old town - called Skata, or relaxing on the both sandy and rocky beach in Fäboda.



running trail

All in all, it's quiet hard to get bored here!