

TIPS FOR BEING AN EXCHANGE STUDENT (in Finland)

In my last blog post, I will try to collect some of my observations and write some useful tips for being and Erasmus scholarship in Finland.

FINLAND

- wear something reflective and warm (in autumn semester)
- some streets are unlit
- self-service cafés - pour boiling water for tea, or coffee to your mug and it costs just 1-2€
- gluten -, lactose free and vegan food can be found everywhere
- save some money in your piggybank before visiting Finland
- most of the apartments are unfurnished (350-600€ in Jakobstad)
- student cards (just Finnish ones) provides some discount on buses and trains
- don't be disappointed if you don't see reindeers everywhere - go to Lapland, you can spot them there every corner
- salmon is really everywhere - even in mayonnaise
- they also like the taste of mint
- and liquorice - in salty chocolate and also in black tea
- Christmas markets aren't about food - but handmade crafts
- go outside and pick some berries or mushrooms



vivid colours in nature

JAKOBSTAD

- the nearest railway station is in Pännäinen (10km from Jakobstad) - Ekman buses are in service to take you to the town/ railway station
- there are some cheap flights also to Tampere (2hours train ride)
- your cafeteria ticket provides some discounts in cafés, pubs
- mostly people speak Swedish, but their English is really good
- go to Faböda and try the hiking trails in the nearby
- the landscape is flat, flat and flat - it's just 15m above sea level
- you can find everything in Loppis (secondhand shops)
- for spring semester a bike could be useful
- camp in the forests



harbour in Jakobstad

TRAVELLING

- plan ahead!
- rent a car with the other Erasmus students - it's quite cheap when it's split
- always check ESN Vaasa page; in order to get to know about the Erasmus student's trips
- Onnibus is really cheap - sometimes it's hard to get to the bus station, but maybe your buddy can help
- flying to Norway and Sweden can be also affordable if you buy the tickets some weeks/months before

Finally just go and be an exchange student, no matter how afraid you are, or where you want to go! And I promise it will change your life, and you will be grateful for it forever - just the same as I am.