Finland

Source: European Union/Re-open EU
26.08.2020

**Travelling to Finland**
Entry is allowed without restrictions for travellers from Estonia, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Slovakia and Vatican City.

Travelling from other countries is subject to limitations - details are available at [www.raja.fi](http://www.raja.fi)

**Travelling from Finland or returning to Finland**
From a country classified as "Restriction Category 1", you may arrive in Finland for family matters. Persons travelling to meet a relative living in Finland are categorised as persons travelling for family matters. For the purpose of meeting a relative living in Finland, the entry into the country is allowed not only to the relatives of Finnish citizens who live in Finland but also to the relatives of EU/Schengen citizens and their family members residing in Finland and to the relatives of third-country nationals residing in Finland with a residence permit. Relative refers to spouse, children, parents, parents-in-law, grandparents, siblings, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, uncles, aunts and cousins, including family members of the aforementioned. Persons arriving in the country on the basis of a relationship are also considered persons travelling for family matters.

**Rules and Exceptions**
Those wishing to cross the internal border must use border crossing points where border control has been reinstated. Crossing the border in other places is not permitted without a border crossing permit. Self-quarantine is recommended for those arriving in Finland from countries subject to internal border control (Restriction Category 1).

Leisure boat traffic between Schengen countries is unrestricted and not subject to border controls.

**Find out more:**
[www.raja.fi](http://www.raja.fi)

Documents you need to travel in Europe

Borders are open for residents of the following third countries: Georgia, New Zealand, Rwanda, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay.

Family members of Finnish citizens may enter the country regardless of nationality.

Updated Q&As about travel and coronavirus are available at [um.fi](http://um.fi)


Remarks from the International Road Transport Union
23.09.2020

Finland eased travel restrictions on 19 September. Restrictions will be lifted for travel between Finland and Cyprus, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Poland and Sweden, as well as for residents of Australia, Canada and Japan who are travelling from their home country to Finland.

Restrictions on entry into the country will be reintroduced for those travelling to Finland from Hungary and Italy.

Under the new regulations, entry will be allowed from countries with fewer than 25 COVID-19 infections per 100,000 inhabitants over the preceding two weeks. Travellers from countries exceeding this limit will be required to take a COVID-19 test when they arrive.

From 19 September, Finland will not require travellers to self-quarantine if they arrive from Sweden, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Germany, Cyprus, Australia, Canada or Japan.

Travelers from countries in which the 25 per 100,000 limit is exceeded will be required to take a COVID-19 test when they arrive.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foreign Ministry’s general travel advice continues to be to avoid all but essential travel to and from all countries.

More details from the links below:
- Government Press Release
- Finnish Border Guard
- Finnish Institute for health and welfare

Source: SKAL

24.08.2020

Government tightens travel restrictions at internal and external borders.
The changes regarding border traffic are valid from 24 August 2020.

Travellers arriving in Finland from a country with travel restrictions are recommended to stay in voluntary quarantine for 14 days. Travellers arriving in the country will be given instructions on how to proceed. The list of countries is assessed on a regular basis, and the Government has stated that restrictions can be lifted if the number of new infections in a country has not exceeded eight cases per 100,000 persons over the previous two weeks.

**European countries:**
Travel restrictions are in place with the following countries:
- Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, France, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.
- From 24 August 2020: Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, Norway and San Marino.

Note that traffic across border crossing points between Finland and Sweden and between Finland and Norway will be permitted between local border communities.

**Non-European countries:**

Source: European Commission
29.06.2020

Changes to internal border control

Border control at internal borders will change in Finland on 15 June so that controls at internal borders will be lifted for certain countries and modes of transport. Internal border control will be abolished from 15 June:

- at the land border between Finland and Norway
- for air traffic and regular ferry services between Finland and Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
- for pleasure craft, i.e. tourism by private persons on their own boat.

Internal border control will continue for traffic between Finland and other Schengen countries than those mentioned above. This means that internal border control will continue, for example for traffic between Finland and Sweden. The aim is to enable unrestricted travel from Sweden to Finland as quickly as the epidemiological situation allows. The situation is constantly being examined.

Insofar as internal border control continues at internal borders, return traffic to Finland, commuting and other essential traffic will be allowed at internal borders.

The Government still recommends avoiding unnecessary travel to other countries except for Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Restrictions on border traffic will continue at external borders, in other words at the Russian border and for those arriving from other third countries, until 14 July. Return traffic to Finland, transit traffic at Helsinki Airport and other essential traffic will be allowed at the external borders. Family members of Finnish citizens may enter the country regardless of nationality.

Start date: 15.06.2020

Further information: https://intermin.fi/-/10616/lahimatkailun-rajoitukset-puretaan-osittain-ulkorajoilla-rajoitukset-pysyvat-ennallaan....

More info: Ministry of Transport and Communications information pack: Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the transport system, communication networks and services

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/coronavirus-response_en

Restrictions on entry from non-European countries continue for all other countries except: China (provided that the Council of the EU confirms reciprocity with China), Georgia, Japan (until 23 August), New Zealand, Rwanda, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay.

Return travel to Finland, business travel and other necessary traffic is permitted. In addition, transit traffic will be permitted at airports.

Note that no further specifics regarding transport of goods have been communicated (but no further restrictions either).

As the detailed requirements keep changing, we recommend you check the specific guidelines on the following websites:

Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare - Travel specific COVID-19 info

Ministry for Foreign Affairs on COVID-19

Border Guard

Source : SKAL

24.06.2020

On 24 June, the Finnish Government updated policies on travel and border crossing rules. Controls at internal borders have been lifted for the following countries: Germany, Italy, Austria, Greece, Switzerland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Liechtenstein. Travel to Finland has been allowed for people coming from Croatia, Cyprus and Ireland. The Government will continue to assess the overall situation in the Schengen Area and the EU Member States until 10 July, and will update the list of countries based on the development of the pandemic at that time.

Based on the current epidemiological assessment, internal border control and travel restrictions will continue between Finland and the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Poland, France, Sweden and the Czech Republic, with the exception of leisure boating. Anyone travelling from Finland to these countries must remember to check the entry restrictions for the country of destination.

Further information on measures adopted can be found here.

Source: SKAL

18.06.2020

On 16 June, the Finnish government lifted the state of emergency. From 15 June, controls at the internal border with Norway have also been lifted. Traffic returning to Finland, commuting and other essential traffic are allowed. Controls at the internal border between Finland and Schengen countries (other than Norway) remain in place. Restrictions at external borders remain in place until 14 July.

Self-isolation remains recommended for people arriving from countries that are still subject to internal or external border control. Such countries include Sweden and Russia. Self-isolation is not required if the person arrives from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Denmark or Iceland.

More information can be found here and here.

Source : SKAL

25.05.2020

Finnish Government decides on plan for gradual lifting of restrictions (04.05.2020)

Finnish Government decided on the gradual dismantling of the following restrictive measures:

As of 14 May 2020, the statutory restrictions on border traffic will be lifted in cross-border traffic across the Schengen internal borders by allowing employment or commission-related commuting and other essential traffic.

For the time being, recreational travel abroad is not recommended, and the travel advice issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs will be extended accordingly. The Ministry of the Interior will draft more specific guidelines on the gradual opening of border traffic.

Start date: 14.05.2020

Further information: https://intermin.fi/artikkeli/-/asset_publisher/rajailikerne...

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/coronavirus-response_en
Due to the urgent need to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Finland and the related need to maintain the core functions of the society, the Finnish Government has issued a nationwide emergency legislation to be implemented starting from the 18th of March.

As it currently stands, the emergency procedures will be in place until the 13th of April, unless otherwise decided.

In practice this means that the critical sectors of the society will be upheld – including, but not limited to, border authorities, security authorities, hospitals and other emergency authorities. Schools will be closed, apart from certain exceptions. Public gatherings are limited to the maximum of ten people.

All civil servants with the possibility of working from home are ordered to work from home henceforth, with the exception of those who work for the critical functions and sectors. Passenger traffic to Finland will be halted, with the exception of Finnish citizens and residents returning home. Necessary commute over the northern and western borders can still be allowed. Goods traffic will continue in a normal manner.

In Finnish customs all personnel except for those working in critical functions have been instructed to work from home from the 18th of March onwards. The critical functions include:
- Customs control officers;
- Crime prevention officers (incl. risk analysis officers);
- National contact point;
- Customs operational centre;
- Customs clearance personnel;
- IT managers (especially those responsible for troubleshooting);
- Key personnel for Customs Statistics unit;
- Guarantee management;
- IT Infrastructure maintenance and management personnel, including subcontractors;
- Critical administrative functions (HR, premises, procurement, security, translation, communications)
- Customs Laboratory;
- Product safety officers;
- Officers working for development projects that have a legal obligation to be completed according to schedules (e.g. those working for the VAT eCommerce Package).

The temporary relaxations on driving and rest time rules based on EU Regulation 5612006, which apply until 31 May in Finland, will not be further extended. Normal driving times and rest periods will apply again as of 1 June 2020.

More information here.

Source: SKAL

20.05.2020

On 19 May, the Finnish Parliament adopted a legislative package on temporary modifications to transport legislation. The amendments aim to facilitate business activities and people’s daily lives and ensure well-functioning transport operations under the emergency conditions resulting from the coronavirus epidemic. Concerning road transport, relevant measures are the following:

- The notification period of providers of passenger transport services will be shortened from 60 days to 5 days.
- The Finnish Transport and Communications Agency will be allowed to renew a taxi driver’s licence so that the applicant can submit the required medical certificate within six months of the renewal of the licence. This applies to licences that expire between 16 March and 31 October 2020.

Full press release can be found here.

Source: SKAL

14.05.2020

On 7 May 2020, the Finnish Government decided to continue border controls at internal borders and restrict cross-border traffic from 14 May until 14 June 2020.

At internal borders, the following is permitted:
- return traffic to Finland
- return traffic to or through other EU and Schengen States
- travel for work
- other essential traffic

At external borders, the following is permitted:
- return traffic to Finland
- return traffic to or through other EU and Schengen States
- departure from the country of a third-country national
- other essential traffic

Details on new rules can be read here.

Source: SKAL

08.05.2020

The Finnish Government decided to prolong border control at internal borders and restrict cross-border traffic until 14 June 2020.

On 4 May, the Finnish Government announced the lifting of restrictions currently in force on cross-border traffic across Schengen internal borders from 14 May. The measure will allow employment or commission-related commuting and other essential traffic. Holiday and recreational travel abroad is still not recommended. The Finnish Border Guard drafted specific guidelines on the gradual opening of border traffic.

Source: SKAL

05.05.2020
Restrictions on Finnish border traffic will come into force at midnight on Thursday 19 March in accordance with the Government order. Passenger traffic will be restricted at the eastern border and at the internal borders. The Border Guard's measures relating to cross-border traffic will be carried out on the basis of the Schengen Borders Code and the Border Guard Act. The Finnish Government has ruled that Finnish citizens should not travel abroad. Furthermore, anyone returning to Finland from abroad should remain in conditions equivalent to quarantine for 14 days. This applies to transport by road, sea and air.

Start date: 19.03.2020
End date: not available
Further information: [https://www.raja.fi/facts/news_from_the_border_guard/1/0/finnish_border_...](https://www.raja.fi/facts/news_from_the_border_guard/1/0/finnish_border_...)

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The Finnish Ministry of the Interior will draft specific guidelines on the gradual opening of border traffic.

Source: SKAL

23.04.2020
On 23 April, the Finnish government extended the ban of large gatherings of more than 500 people until 31 July 2020, at least.

It also set out temporary relaxations on driving and rest time rules, which apply from 26 April until 31 May and are as follows:

- Maximum daily driving time of 11 hours
- Maximum weekly driving time of 60 hours
- Maximum fortnightly driving time of 120 hours
- Minimum daily rest period of 9 hours
- Minimum weekly rest period of 24 hours, every other week, without compensation
- 45 minutes rest period every 5.5 hours of driving time, which may be split into a 30 minutes before and 15 minutes after
- Regular weekly rest in the cabin allowed, as long as the vehicle is stationary and it has suitable sleeping facilities.

Source: SKAL

16.04.2020
On 16 April, the Finnish Government issued new decrees that bring into force special agreements on the transport of dangerous goods. The decrees enter into force on 17 April.

With the special agreements (M326, M327 and RID 4/2020), the periodic inspections of pressure receptacles, UN tanks and UN-MEG containers, that would expire during the coronavirus situation, will exceptionally remain in force with special arrangements in Finland and other signatory countries of the agreement.

The special agreements may be applied to transport by road and rail that are mostly used for the carriage of dangerous goods. The agreements will be available on the website of the Transport and Communications Agency - Traficom. The Agency will provide information in Finnish and Swedish.

For additional information, members can consult the following webpages: [UNECE](https://www.unece.org) and [OTIF](https://www.otif.org).

Source: SKAL

15.04.2020
On 15 April, the Finnish Government lifted the temporary restrictions on movement to and from the Uusimaa region which were enforced on 28 March. This will enter into force immediately following the Government’s plenary session, which is scheduled for 13:00 local time.

All other measures, including those on external borders, social distancing, restaurants and schools, etc. remain applicable.
On 7 April, the Finnish Government decided to prolong the validity of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the borders and the restrictions on traffic; border controls will be performed until 13 May 2020. Related decrees will be issued to Parliament for approval tomorrow (8 April) and are expected to be approved during this week.

Controls aim at further reducing movement at the main commuting border crossing points with Sweden, Norway and Estonia; only work travel that is strictly necessary will be permitted, and employees must carry an employer’s certificate stating that the work is essential.

Maritime passenger transport is prohibited; companies operating from Sweden, Estonia and Germany to Finland are requested to suspend the sale of tickets for ships departing on or after 11 April 2020. The provision does not apply to goods and freight transport operations.

Regarding the Åland Islands, air passenger transport is permitted only on scheduled flights from Stockholm, Helsinki and Turku to Mariehamn. Passengers travelling from Åland with the destination of mainland Finland are also permitted to travel.

People entering Finland are obliged to remain under quarantine-like conditions for 14 days. Such requirements do not apply to essential border crossings of emergency medical services and rescue service personnel or to freight transport.

Regarding traffic between Finland and non-Schengen countries (i.e. Russia), Finnish Border Guard officials allow the entry/exit of the following:

- Return to Finland: Finnish nationals and their family members; nationals of other EU and Schengen countries and their family members who are residing in Finland; third country nationals residing in Finland with residence permit.

- Returning transit traffic to other EU or Schengen countries or via them: nationals of EU and Schengen countries and their family members, third country nationals residing in another EU or Schengen country with residence permit.

- Exit of third country nationals.

- Necessary traffic, which is:

  a) Healthcare and rescue service professionals/personnel, health researchers, and elderly care professionals.

  b) Transport personnel and other transport staff to the extent necessary. Companies should be aware that, despite additional controls the borders remain open and functional; previous restrictions are still in place.

  c) Diplomats, staff of international organisations, military personnel and humanitarian aid workers carrying out their work.

  d) Necessary transit and return trips.

  e) Passengers travelling for imperative family reasons.

  f) Persons in need of international protection or for other humanitarian reasons.

  g) Other necessary and justified traffic (e.g. maintenance works that require a specific maintenance team or person arriving from another country and whose work cannot be postponed).

The restrictions set by Russia on the Finland-Russia border apply until 1 May 2020.

Source: FinMobility
03.04.2020

The Finnish Parliament have approved the extension of the deadline of the measures currently in force. These measures will remain applicable until 13 May 2020.

The Finnish Government is restricting traffic at external borders. Inbound passenger transport operations have been suspended, with the exception of citizens and residents returning to Finland. In this case, people returning to Finland from another country are required to quarantine for 14 days. Finnish citizens and residents are strongly advised not to travel abroad.

Preparations are currently underway to restrict the flow of traffic across the northern and western borders. Border surveillance has been increased and all passenger sea transport is now extremely limited. Freight transport is however exempt from restriction measures at Finnish ports.

All current restrictions in the Uusimaa region remain applicable and in force until 19 April 2020.

Detailed information on the current situation in Finland is available on our consolidated document on IRU Flash Info webpage.

Source: SKAL

02.04.2020

On 2 April, the Finnish Government issued a decree with the aim to ensure continuity of dangerous goods transport operations.

Current exceptional circumstances may make it impossible to provide training and tests related to professional qualifications in the transport of dangerous goods, or scheduled and interim inspections of tanks, or vehicle inspections for the carriage of dangerous goods. Therefore, the validity of licences, approvals and certificates which will expire in the near future can, on an exceptional basis, be further extended in 2020.

Source: FinMobility

28.03.2020

From 28 March (00:00), the Finnish government has closed Uusimaa region (Greater Helsinki Capital region). Thus, in practice, a temporary internal border has been established to separate Uusimaa from the rest of the country.

The restrictions apply to movements to and from the Uusimaa region, and will remain in force until 19 April 2020. The purpose of this new restrictions is to prevent coronavirus (COVID-19) infections and to slow the spread of the epidemic from Uusimaa to other parts of Finland. Indeed, one third of the Finnish population lives in this region, and the vast majority of COVID-19 cases in Finland has been registered there.

- Goods and freight transport services should continue as usual, but delays are expected due to the restrictions on movements. There are some 30 crossing points to and from Uusimaa, but no Green Lanes for trucks have been put in place yet.

- Public transport services will not stop. However, the use of the services has already decreased and will continue due to the restrictions on movements.

- Restrictions on people’s movements do not apply if movements are necessary for:

(a) official activities;
(b) travel for work, whether as an employee or as an entrepreneur or self-employed person, for studies or in connection with a societal position of trust;

(c) the performance of military service or any other statutory obligation;

(d) the need for care, risk of death or death of a family member, the right of access to a child, or for any other similar compelling personal reason.

The police will monitor compliance with the movement restrictions. If requested by the police, people must provide an account of the reason of their journey.

More information can be found on the following links:

- Information released by Finnish Ministry of Internal Affairs.
- Q & A on the restrictions by Police of Finland.
- Information released by Finnish Ministry of Transport.

Source: FinMobility

26.03.2020

On 26 March 2020, the Government issued a decree on extending the driving times and shortening the rest periods of drivers of buses and heavy goods vehicles due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The exemption would be applied to road transport from 27 March to 25 April 2020, allowing a shortening of the daily rest period of drivers to 9 hours and weekly rest period to 24 hours. The Government also proposes that the required minimum rest period of 45 minutes be allowed to be more freely split into periods of 15 and 30 minutes within a period of four and a half hours.

The full press release can be found here.

Source: Ministry of Transport and Communications

19.03.2020

The Finnish Government is restricting traffic at borders from 19 March 2020, 00:00. People returning to Finland will be subject to 14 days quarantine.

Inbound passenger transport operations are suspended, except for citizens and residents returning to Finland. Finnish citizens and residents must not travel abroad.

Necessary travel for work and to access other necessary services will be permitted across the northern and western borders. Freight and goods traffic will continue as usual. Updated situation at borders:

- Helsinki–Vantaa, Mariehamn and Turku airports will be kept open for goods and return traffic. Border guards may allow travel for work if there is a necessary and justified reason. Other airports will be closed to international traffic.
- At the international border crossing points of the eastern border, traffic and opening hours will be restricted.
- Passenger traffic via the Vainikkala border crossing point will be suspended.
- Road and rail transport:
Imatra, Kuusamo, Niirala, Nuijamaa, Rajajooseppi, Salla, Vaalimaa and Vartius border crossing points are only for goods transport, and returning home to/from/via Finland for Finnish and other EU citizens as well as citizens of the Russian Federation.

Inari, Pariikkala and Vainikkala border crossing points are only for goods transport.

At the border between Finland and Norway, Kilpisjärvi, Karigasniemi, Kivilompolo, Nuorgam, Näätämö and Utsjoki will be kept open for goods and return traffic. In addition, necessary travel for work and other necessary traffic may be permitted. Crossing the border is not permitted elsewhere.

At the Finnish–Swedish border, Karesuvanto, Kolari, Muonio, Pello, Tornio and Ylitornio will be kept open for goods and return traffic. In addition, necessary travel for work and other necessary traffic may be permitted. Crossing the border is not permitted elsewhere.

Although cross border commuting is not prevented, the reduction in air and sea traffic will make it significantly more difficult for foreign workers to enter Finland from abroad. In the case of EU citizens and people with a permanent residence permit in another EU country who are returning to their home country via Finland, such travel will be allowed, taking into account the person's state of health.

Detailed measures are available here.

Source: FinMobility

18.03.2020

The Finnish government is restricting traffic at the borders from 19/3, 00.00. People returning to Finland will be subject to 14 days quarantine.

Inbound passenger transport operations are suspended, except for citizens and residents returning to Finland. Finnish citizens and residents must not travel abroad.

Necessary travel for work and to access other necessary services will be permitted across the northern and western borders. Freight and goods traffic will continue as usual.

Detailed measures are available here.

Source: FinMobility