

# Camp centre brochure

A photograph of two young people hiking through a lush green forest. The person on the left is wearing a light pink t-shirt, blue jeans, and a tan cap, carrying a large backpack with a rolled-up sleeping bag attached. The person on the right is wearing a blue and white striped t-shirt and blue jeans, also carrying a large backpack. They are walking on a path covered in tall grass and wildflowers.

## Book facilities and equipment

Youth services, Culture and Leisure Division

Helsinki



**Symbols:**



Café



Island destination



Non-accessible



Summer use only



Year-round use



No possibility of an overnight stay

# Contents

<b>Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Meriharju Nature House and Uutela cabin</b> .....	<b>4-5</b>
<b>Östersundom Camp Centre</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Vartiosaari</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Mäntyniemi Camp Centre</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Villa Furubacka and Vartiosaari camping area</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Youth Island Gallery</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Edible Park</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Granö camping area</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Adventure House</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Bengtsår Camping Island</b> .....	<b>14-17</b>
<b>Bengtsår Camping Island map</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>For youth groups and organisations</b> .....	<b>18-19</b>
<b>Camping equipment loan centre Wempaimisto</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Services of Environmental Activities Youth Work</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Sponssi project grant</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Audiovisual equipment rental centre AV-lainaamo</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Varaamo booking service</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Back cover: Contact details</b> .....	<b>20</b>

# Foreword

Hi,

You're viewing the Youth Service camp centres introduction brochure. This brochure describes the general facilities and services available, and highlights services that make camping easier. The facilities are managed by the Environmental Activities Youth Work Unit which arranges environmental and adventure activities for young people.

You can make reservations for regular seasonal activities, camps, courses and day camp activities, or temporary activities. When deciding on reservations, priority is given to Helsinki-based youth organisations and groups, and other Helsinki-based groups and schools come second. You can apply for shifts using the dedicated forms. For more information, see our [website](#).

Alcohol or drugs are not allowed at any of the facilities, and the principles of smoke-free Helsinki apply. All of our facilities operate sustainably, which means that the operations are as environmentally friendly as possible. The Youth Services have been awarded an [EcoCompass environmental certificate](#).



The facilities are offered free of charge for Helsinki-based organisations and groups. In the case of companies and religious communities, rates approved by the Culture and Leisure Committee apply.

If you subscribe to the Youth Services newsletter, you will be the first to receive essential information and reminders of important dates.

Click here to subscribe: <https://www.hel.fi/fi/kulttuuri-ja-vapaa-aika/kumppanikirjeet>.

Welcome to use our facilities and services!





## Meriharju Nature House and Uutela cabin

Meriharju Nature House and Camp Centre and Uutela cabin are in the Uutela outdoor recreation area in Eastern Helsinki. **Meriharju Nature House** or **Villa Meriharju** (built in 1910) is the heart of the camp centre. On school days, there is also a nature school services operated by the Youth Services.

**Uutela cabin and its seaside sauna** are about 400 metres away as the crow flies. The cabin is suitable for smaller groups. Both facilities can be booked separately or together. Villa Meriharju can also be used for meetings and seminars.

These facilities are surrounded by beautiful seashore, forest, marsh and meadows. Särkkäniemi nature reserve is close by.



### Services available at Meriharju Camp Centre:

- Accommodation for 34 people in bunk beds, no camping possible
- Four rooms with private toilets
- A three-storey villa
- An industrial kitchen with appliances, a high-speed dishwasher and dishes for 40 people
- A dining room, a fireplace room, the accommodation facilities and small meeting rooms on the main floor
- Two showers and a toilet downstairs
- A separate sauna with one shower and a wood-fired hot water cauldron in the yard area
- Internet access, a projector, HDMI jack
- A covered barbecue area with two outdoor tables

### Website:

[Meriharju Nature House and Camp Centre – Youth Helsinki](#)



### Services available at Uutela cabin:

- Accommodation for 11 people: 9 in the cabin and 2 in the seaside sauna, no camping possible
- A kitchen with a gas stove, a small solar-powered fridge without a freezer compartment and dishes for 11 people
- Lighting with solar panels and storm lanterns; heating with a fireplace or a potbelly stove
- Water is available in the summer through a hose from Meriharju Camp Centre
- A seaside sauna with a separate washroom and a wood-fired hot water cauldron
- A barbeque hut in the patio
- Two outdoor privies, a woodshed and an outdoor washing-up area
- Poor internet access

### Read more:

[Uutela cabin – Youth Helsinki](#)







## Östersundom Camp Centre

Östersundom Camp Centre is located in Eastern Helsinki. The camp centre is a former school building, and it offers an excellent setting for camps. There is a large sandy field, and the camp centre is surrounded by forest.

Users can also borrow bicycles for easy access to nearby nature spots such as the Sipoonkorpi National Park, which is some five kilometres away.



\*Mostly accessible

### Services available at the camp centre:

- Accommodation for 34 people: two dormitories with bunk beds for 32 people and a bedroom with a double bed for instructors
- A kitchen with appliances, a high-speed dishwasher and dishes for about 40 people
- A gymnasium with stall bars and a small stage
- A small meeting room
- Showers and toilets
- A wood-fired sauna and a washroom in the basement
- Internet access, a projector, a HDMI jack
- A barbeque spot and a large playing field in the yard area

### Website:

[Östersundom Camp Centre – Youth Helsinki](#)



## Vartiosaari

Vartiosaari is an old villa island in southeastern Helsinki, near Laajasalo and Tammisalo, a short boat ride from the mainland. Charter boat service Aurinkolautta operates between Yliskylä and Vartiosaari from May to September. The journey across Reposalmi takes just a few minutes.

In addition to the island's diverse nature, some of its best attractions include the sea view from the Vartiokallio vantage point, a glacial erratic,

a giant's kettle and a forest church. Vartiosaari nature trail tours many of the island's attractions and is open all year round. Sheep from Haltiala farm often graze on the island in the summer. In Vartiosaari, you can book Mäntyniemi Camp Centre, the Vartiosaari camping area Villa Furubacka and functional services from the Youth Island Gallery in the stable area. When the Youth Island Gallery is open, so is the Ecological Youth Summer Café.





## Mäntyniemi Camp Centre

**Mäntyniemi Stuga** (built in 1896) is the main building of the camp centre. In the yard area, you will find **Sinikka-la**, which acts as the accommodation building, and **Punakkala**, which is used to store equipment. There is a barbecue shelter, a campfire hut, a playing field, a sauna with a jetty and

a clean sandy beach for swimming. Mäntyniemi is excellent for fishing and water activities such as standup paddleboarding (SUP) and canoeing. There's plenty to do in the yard area both in winter and summer. Mäntyniemi Camp Centre is intended for events for about 40–50 people.



### Services available at the camp centre:

- Accommodation for about 28 people: 25 in the accommodation building and 3 in the main building
- Camping in the yard area is possible by agreement
- A two-storey building
- The main floor houses a kitchen and the main room, and there are three small rooms upstairs
- A kitchen with appliances, a dishwasher and dishes for about 30 people

- A separate sauna building with a jetty, including a washroom without showers, a wood-fired hot water cauldron and a dressing room
- A barbecue shelter and outdoor tables
- Two outdoor privies, a woodshed and an outdoor washing-up area
- A jetty, a rowing boat, SUP boards and canoes, a trampoline and a disc golf basket
- Internet access

**Read more:**  
[Mäntyniemi Camp Centre – Youth Helsinki](#) (in Finnish)



## Villa Furubacka and Vartiosaari camping area

The heart of the camping area is the old two-storey **Villa Furubacka** (built in 1908). The area is excellent for water activities such as standup paddleboarding (SUP) and canoeing.

The area also includes barbecue shelter, a clean beach, rowing and pedal boats, and a floating sauna. Furubacka camping area is intended for events for about 30–40 people.



### Services available in the camping area:

- Accommodation for 16 people in the main building
- Three separate bedrooms upstairs and one room downstairs for instructors, for example
- Camping for a maximum of 10 people in the yard area is possible by agreement
- A kitchen with appliances and dishes for about 20 people in the main building
- A dining room and a living room in the main building

- A barbecue shelter and outdoor tables
- A wood-fired floating sauna for four people at a time, no running water or separate washroom
- A jetty and a sandy beach for swimming
- Outdoor privies
- Various recreational equipment such as canoes, kayaks, dinghies and pedal boats, as well as a volleyball court
- Internet access

**Read more:**  
[Vartiosaari camping area – Youth Helsinki](#)





## Youth Island Gallery

The Youth Island Gallery is in the Vartiosaari stable area next to an allotment garden. The natural beauty of the area offers an excellent setting for nature activities, hiking, adventure, arts and crafts. For working space, there are a stable and a barn, built in the yard of dentist **Ernst Wasenius's villa** more than a hundred years ago.

Activities managed by the Youth Services aimed at people aged 12–25 are available for around six weeks from mid-June to July (12 June to 20 July).

Between June and July, there is also the **Ecological Youth Summer Café**, which offers savoury and sweet vegan waffle delicacies, for example.



### Services available at the Youth Island Gallery when it is in operation:

- Ecological Youth Summer Café (card/MobilePay)
- Outdoor privies for customers when the café is open
- Water in the summer, garden furniture
- Small camping equipment and outdoor games available to borrow
- Poor internet access

### Please note:

- The Island Gallery area can serve as the base

for a day for a group staying in Mäntyniemi or Furubacka, or as a place to have a picnic.

- It is possible to agree on collaboration or purchased services with the staff: there are annually changing nature, adventure and handicraft workshops, for example
- No possibility of an overnight stay
- Camping in the area is not allowed!
- Suitable for day camps, among other activities

### Read more:

[Youth Island Gallery – Youth Helsinki](#)



## Edible Park

The Edible Park summer paradise is at the western end of Mustikkamaa, near the Isoisänsilta pedestrian/cycling bridge. The urban natural environment provides a great setting for art- and nature-themed workshops, cultivation and animal care. In a red cabin at the heart of the park, visitors can enjoy the delicacies of a summer café, run by young people as a business activity. In the outdoor garden, you can learn about hens and farming activities, and Youth Services also organise free environmental activities for young people in the park during the summer.



### Services available at the Edible Park:

- Suitable for day camps, among other activities
- A cabin with outbuildings, a fenced yard area with cultivated land, a chicken coop in summer, garden furniture
- A kitchen with appliances, a dishwasher and dishes for about 20 people in the cabin
- A toilet
- Water in summer
- Internet access
- No possibility of an overnight stay

### Read more:

[Edible Park – Youth Helsinki](#)





## Granö camping area

The beautiful and wooded Granö camping area is perfect for wilderness camping. It is separated from the mainland by a strait of roughly one kilometre. To the west, on the opposite shore of Kalkkisaarenselkä, are the nearest piers of Vuosaari Har-

bour, to the north are the Karhusaari and Talosaari islands, and to the south is Mölandet. In its own peaceful spot at the edge of the camping area lies campfire hut, a lean-to equipped with a fire pit. The area is excellent for camps of around 20–30 people.



### Services available in the camping area:

- Accommodation in a building heated with a potbelly stove for about 12 people
- Camping in the area is possible
- An outdoor kitchen with a washing-up area, a gas stove, a gas grill and a solar-powered fridge
- A covered dining area for about 20 people
- Outdoor privies
- A sauna with a washroom equipped with a wood-fired hot water cauldron, no showers
- A lean-to

- A playing field, a campfire spot, canoes, kayaks and a rowing boat

### Please note:

- Food and washing water must be brought to the island, depending on the size of the camping group
- No mains power, but electricity is generated by solar panels on the roof

### Read more:

[Granö camping area – Youth Helsinki](#)



## Adventure House

The Adventure House is by the sea at Kallvikinniemi, next to a beautiful nature reserve, and there is a sandy beach suitable for swimming. It operates in the idyllic **Villa Barndoft** (built

in 1912). The villa has a large hall suitable for meetings and recreational use. The villa is intended for events of less than 40 people.



### Services available in the Adventure House:

- Tables, chairs and exercise mats in the villa's main hall
- A kitchen with appliances and dishes for about 40 people
- Two toilets
- A small meeting room upstairs
- Internet access, a display/TV, a HDMI jack
- Other equipment: a table tennis table

### Please note:

- No possibility of an overnight stay
- It is possible to agree on collaboration or purchased services with the Adventure House staff (adventure activities for young people, for example)
- Environmental Activities Youth Work staff is present on weekdays

### Read more:

[Adventure House – Youth Helsinki](#)





## Bengtsår Camping Island

In the inner archipelago of the Gulf of Finland, north of the Hanko peninsula, about 120 kilometres from Helsinki, you'll find a beautiful camping island where people have been spending memorable camping holidays since 1948. The island provides an excellent setting for a wide range of camping and adventure activities. There are seven camping areas, as well as insti-

tutional kitchen and beach services available for booking.

To highlight the climate footprint of the food we eat, the camping island uses a climate menu. Sheep graze on the island during the summer, playing an important role in the protection of the cultural landscape of Bengtsår and the preservation of the local species.



### Services available in the Bengtsår camping areas:

- Accommodation for about 50–100 people per camping area
- Each camping area has a tent area, a cooking shelter, an outdoor washing-up area, a jetty, a boat, a campfire spot and outdoor privies
- The camping island provides Niger tents with a groundsheet and base grille to be placed under the tent, a fully equipped field camp tent, a gas cooker and gas bottle, a cauldron for heating water, drinking water canisters, cleaning equipment and firewood
- On the main island there is a nature reserve, a large sports field, a barn, lean-tos, a Lapp hut, an activity beach and two wood-fired saunas

(Rantasauna and Merisauna), which can also be booked for accommodation outside the summer season

- Canoes, other equipment and kitchen services are available for hire during the summer season

### Please note:

- In summer, Bengtsår has its own connection boat
- There is no regular transport to the island between autumn and spring, but the camp organiser has access to a 10 hp outboard motor boat at that time

### Read more:

[Bengtsår Camping Island – Youth Helsinki](#)







**Click here:**  
[Map of Bengtsår](#)

[Bentsgård presentation video](#)

[Climate menu](#)





# For youth groups and organisations

## Camping equipment loan centre Wempaimisto

Wempaimisto is a camping equipment loan centre in the Östersundom Camp Centre. Wempaimisto lends equipment to young people and groups under the age of 29 who live in Helsinki, Helsinki-based youth organisations and other organisations operating in Helsinki, and the city's other divisions. Equipment can only be borrowed for activities taking place in Finland.

Private borrowers must have a valid Youth Services membership card, which can be obtained free of charge when borrowing equipment. Young people aged between 13 and 28 can also download the membership card electronically. Minors must have their guardian's approval.

### Read more:

[Camping equipment loan centre Wempaimisto – Youth Helsinki](#)

## Services of Environmental Activities Youth Work:

In addition to the facilities and equipment, we offer young people a wide range of environmental activities around Helsinki, mostly free of charge. [Read more about the activities](#)

## Sponssi project grant

Sponssi is a project grant for groups of young people to support their independent activities. 'Independent activities' means that the young people as a group plan, decide and carry out the activities themselves. The project grant is available to groups of young people where two thirds of the members are between 7 and 28 years old and live in Helsinki.

Sponssi project grants are granted for a wide range of activities such as events, cultural activities, civic activism, hobbies or sports. You can apply for Sponssi using the project grant application in the city's e-service.

### Read more:

[Sponssi - Youth Helsinki](#)

Grants are managed by the Youth Services Partnership Unit. You can contact the unit for more information about grants or for assistance with applying for Sponssi.

## Audiovisual equipment rental centre AV-lainaamo

Lainaamo is a service for adults and groups in Helsinki. It lends, free of charge, lighting and sound equipment, for example. You must book the equipment one week before the start of the loan period. Lainaamo is located at Cultural Centre Stoa in Itäkeskus, address Turunlinnantie 1.

### Read more:

[Lainaamo](#)

## Varaamo booking service


Varaamo is an online service managed by the City of Helsinki where you can book public facilities and workstations of the city for your private use.

### Read more:

[Varaamo](#)





 [ymparistotoiminta](#)

**Applications and enquiries by email:**  
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**Reservations:**  
<https://nuorten.hel.fi/en/things-to-do-and-places/camp-reservations>

**Subscribe to the partner newsletter:**  
<https://www.hel.fi/fi/kulttuuri-ja-vapaa-aika/kumppanikirjeet> (in Finnish)

