

Trip to Finland.

Romana 06-05-2021



I realize this may not happen, but I'm proceeding anyway. I'm waiting for a change in a few days, because travelers from the United States are not currently allowed entry into Finland unless they have a reason, like visiting relatives. The date for allowing visitors from the U.S. keeps getting extended. Currently, it is June 15th.

So, I'm planning a trip to Finland, in latter August. It does not look promising, because I will need a long time to plan. I have had all my vaccinations, and I haven't been sick. I decided on multiple destinations. I plan to go solo, which will be quite an undertaking at age 79. I will also need a new outfit. I do have a problem: since I grew up in a Finnish culture, I got to drink coffee at a young age; now I'm intolerant to coffee.

I dread going through the TSA line. There's always a lot of fuss over my artificial knees and the fusion in my back. I lost my wife a decade ago, so there's no one to watch my things while the examination is underway.

I need to plan how to dine out, since I might not cook anything. I will always need to carry slippers, because it is the custom nearly everywhere to remove shoes indoors, but I can't walk on bare floors due to *Plantar Fasciitis*.

Since I'm autistic, it would seem that I should fit right in with Finns, due to their fabled reticent nature; however, I've drifted away from usual autistic categories, ever since I became a Buddhist and a meditator. I lost my shyness and can be an extrovert, if I choose. I understand that Finnish women are independent and logical, maybe I'll observe this while in Finland.

As a semi-professional photographer, I plan to document my entire trip. There will also be the usual selfies, taken with my camera on a tripod and using a

remote control. If I take my Garmin GPS with the built-in dash cam, I can take even more picture, so long as I save them.

I will be a long way from home; my cats will have to be boarded. As with my many trips in the U.S. southwest, I will need to create a spreadsheet of all the things to keep track of, and the things to take. I haven't been good at dealing with discrepancies, but I will need to have a plan for contingencies. I have a new cell phone, for which I will have to buy roaming credits. I know that I need to have a scanned copy of my passport, just in case I lose the original.

I'm still building a useful itinerary.

- Day 1: First is the flight from Seattle to Helsinki, with a possible stop in Iceland.
- Day 2: First look a Helsinki. Kaisaniemi Botanical Garden, Helsinki Cathedral, Kaivopuisto Park, Korkeasaari Zoo.
- Day 3: More Helsinki. TBD
- Day 4: Sibelius Monument, arrive picturesque town of Espoo, 19 KM. Nuuksio National Park, Espoo Cathedral, Tapiola Garden City
- Day 4: Arrive at Turku, 150 KM. Turku Castle, Turku Cathedral, Turku Market Square, Aboa Vetus & Ars Nova museums.
- Day 5: More Turku.
- Day 6: Arrive at Vaasa, 331 KM. Pohjanmaan Museo - Osterbottens Museum, Mustasaaren kirkko, The King's Manor Park. Kustaanlinna Beach and Hietalahti Park,
- Day 7: Tour Vaasa; visit Kaustinen, 143 KM.
- Day 8: Visit Tampere, 240 KM. Pyynikki Park and Observation Tower, Pohtiolampi, Kalmakurjenkoski, Duck Park.
- Day 9: Return to Helsinki, 179 KM.
- Day 10: Fly back to Seattle



I've had three years of Latin and three years of German. This won't help me in Finland, unless I talk to a Swede. They likely only speak Finnish in Kaustinen. I have several Finnish language books. . While English is spoken nearly everywhere, it is not a guarantee; so, I think knowing some Finnish would be helpful. Finnish is not an Indo-European language, even though it sometimes sounds like Latin. The Finnish language has no gender, which will work fine for me.

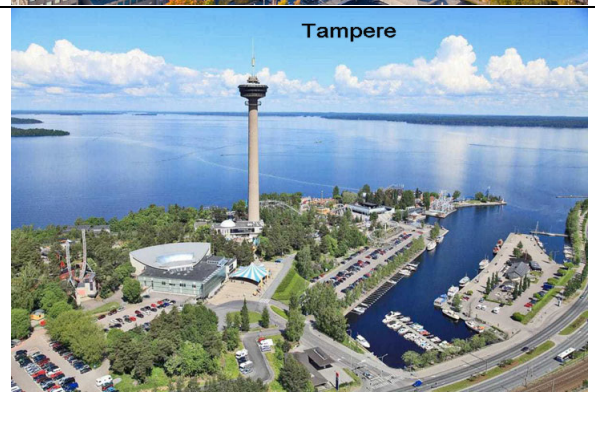
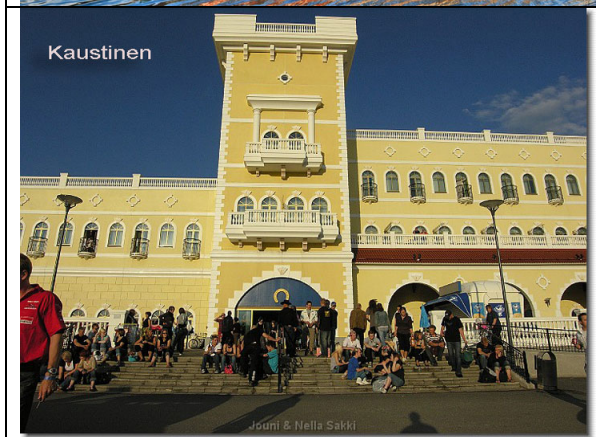
The numerals one to ten illustrate the general lack of cognates:

- 1–yksi
- 2–kaksi
- 3–kolme
- 4–neljä
- 5–viisi
- 6–kuusi
- 7–seitsemän
- 8–kahdeksan
- 9–yhdeksän
- 10–kymmenen

Ordinarily, Finnish words don't start with the letter "G." My dad always got a kick out of the fact that giraffe became kirahvi in Finnish.

I just found out that, typing Finnish words on a U.S. keyboard is tedious. I now own a German keyboard, which makes typing easier. Phrases like "Minä olen Romana" require the frequent use of the diacritical mark "over various letters.

Photos



History

The Grand Duchy of Finland enjoyed great autonomy in the days prior to World War I. Finns had no love for Russia, and Russia was seen as doing next to nothing to help the Finnish economy. Life was austere, and most people lived in near poverty. Immigration to Canada and the United States became a popular form of escape.

Finnish genealogy is difficult for the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; when people moved, they often changed their last name, which is why many of my early relatives had several last names.

My great uncle Walfrid Jarvela (1889-1956) immigrated to Boston in March 1907 on the ship *Ivernia*. He eventually moved to Washington State and changed his name to Jarvi.

Lempi Jarvela (1895-1946,) and her brother or cousin Juho, together, first tried to immigrate in April 1912. *Jarvela* means little lake, or pond. Their journey would have started in March, 1912. First, there was the port city of Hanko. From there, it was most likely Stockholm, Malmo, and then Gothenburg. Next was Hull, where the pair would have passed all the hurdles of customs to travel on the *Titanic*, but Lempi was not well. Fearing that she might have tuberculosis, officials finally turned her away at boarding time. The two of them returned to their home of origin, Kaustinen, Finland. In 1914, they returned to Liverpool and successfully immigrated on the *Lusitania* in April 1914. Two potential calamities had been avoided by luck.

The search for immigration records for Kaarlo Perna Sr. (1891-1941) has come up mostly blank. It is known that he once lived in Vaasa, and that he reached the United States before 1916. New findings indicate he used the first name *Kalle*. Kalle Perna arrived in Boston on June 9, 1910.

Members and relatives of the Perna family began to emigrate from Finland to America in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Besides the Perna's, this included the Koski's, the Palo's, the Aalto's, and the Eskola's. Romana's grandfather, Kaarlo Perna's parents were Johan Perna (1850-1930) and Liisi Palo Perna (1849-1918). Many details are very sketchy. Maybe they came with their son, Kaarlo Sr.

Kaarlo Sr. married Lempi in 1916. Kaarlo Sr. was a Lutheran, while Lempi was Greek Orthodox. Since Lutheran men were taught to read and write, the Finnish emigrants had an advantage not enjoyed by most other emigrants. Like many able men of the time, Kaarlo Sr. left to work in the mines at Red Lodge,

Montana. This is where Romana's father was born. Kaarlo Sr. contracted Tuberculosis in the early 1920's. In 1923, he supposedly went back to Massachusetts to die. Romana's father was told he had died about 1925, but it was a lie.

Lempi moved to Washington State in 1923, because her brother Walfrid lived there. There she married Tom Hemmingson, also from Finland, who was a brutal, unsociable man. In all fairness, Tom too had probably been the victim of abuse in his youth. While Tom was an abusive step-father to Romana's father, he did not treat his own favorite son, Rudolf, much better. Lempi divorced Tom early in the marriage. Tom's next marriage was extremely brief.

Lempi is buried in the Pioneer Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Renton, Washington. It is unusual that her gravestone says WIFE, and the matching adjacent gravestone for someone named Adolf H. Jarvi (1893-1941) says HUSBAND. We do not know who the man was, though he was probably a relative, but he was not her husband!

Walfrid had two daughters: Sylvia and Gertrude. Walfrid died in 1956. Romana's father's line carried a certain tolerance to the new American style of living, because the combination of smoking, drinking, and fatty foods led to deaths in middle-age.



This is a picture of Romana's father's mother Lempi Aina Jarvela, Romana's father, Kaarlo (1918-1990), and Romana's father's father Kaarlo Perna. This picture was taken in late 1918. Romana's father's parents split up (for reasons that are not clear) in 1923. Romana's father suffered abuse from the *Stepfather from Hell* when his mother remarried. Romana's father had a half-brother, Rudolf, who died in 1958, in a manner not unlike many unloved homosexuals addicted to alcohol.



Photo by Janet Perna-Columbo

Here is Laina Perna of Ashby Massachusetts, a distant cousin of Romana, at the grave of Romana's grandfather, Kaarlo Perna, in Ashburnham. Laina lived to the age of 104.

PASSENGER RECORD

American Family Immigration History Center® at Ellis Island

First Name: *Juho*
Last Name: *Jarvela*
Ethnicity: *Finland, Finnish*
Last Place of Residence: *Kaustinen, Finland*
Date of Arrival: *Apr 17, 1914*
Age at Arrival: *19y* Gender: *M* Marital Status: *S*
Ship of Travel: *Lusitania*
Port of Departure: *Liverpool*
Manifest Line Number: *0011*

PASSENGER RECORD

American Family Immigration History Center® at Ellis Island

First Name: *Lempi*
Last Name: *Jarvela*
Ethnicity: *Finland, Finnish*
Last Place of Residence: *Kaustinen, Finland*
Date of Arrival: *Apr 17, 1914*
Age at Arrival: *18y* Gender: *F* Marital Status: *S*
Ship of Travel: *Lusitania*
Port of Departure: *Liverpool*
Manifest Line Number: *0010*