

Oulu is European Capital of Culture 2026



Oulu2026
European Capital
of Culture

Now is the time to get excited!

- Finnish Culture will be in the European Spotlight in 2026
- In addition to Oulu, 39 municipalities from Northern Ostrobothnia, Kainuu, Southern Lapland, and Northern Savonia are committed to cultural climate change



European Capitals of Culture since 1985, starting from Athens

An initiative putting culture at the heart of European cities:

- Highlight the richness and diversity of cultures in Europe
- Celebrate the cultural features Europeans share
- Increase European citizens' sense of belonging to a common cultural area

Helsinki 2000 | Turku 2011 | Oulu 2026





Cultural Climate Change has begun



The challenges as the starting point

- From hard and tech to vibrant, gripping city
- A more balanced community
- From a peripheral region to a Creative Area

Our goals

- Re-connecting people, art & tech, culture & nature
Broadening the concept of culture
- vibrant city
- more equal cultural rights
- new audiences for culture
- stronger creative industry with new jobs





Brave Hinterland

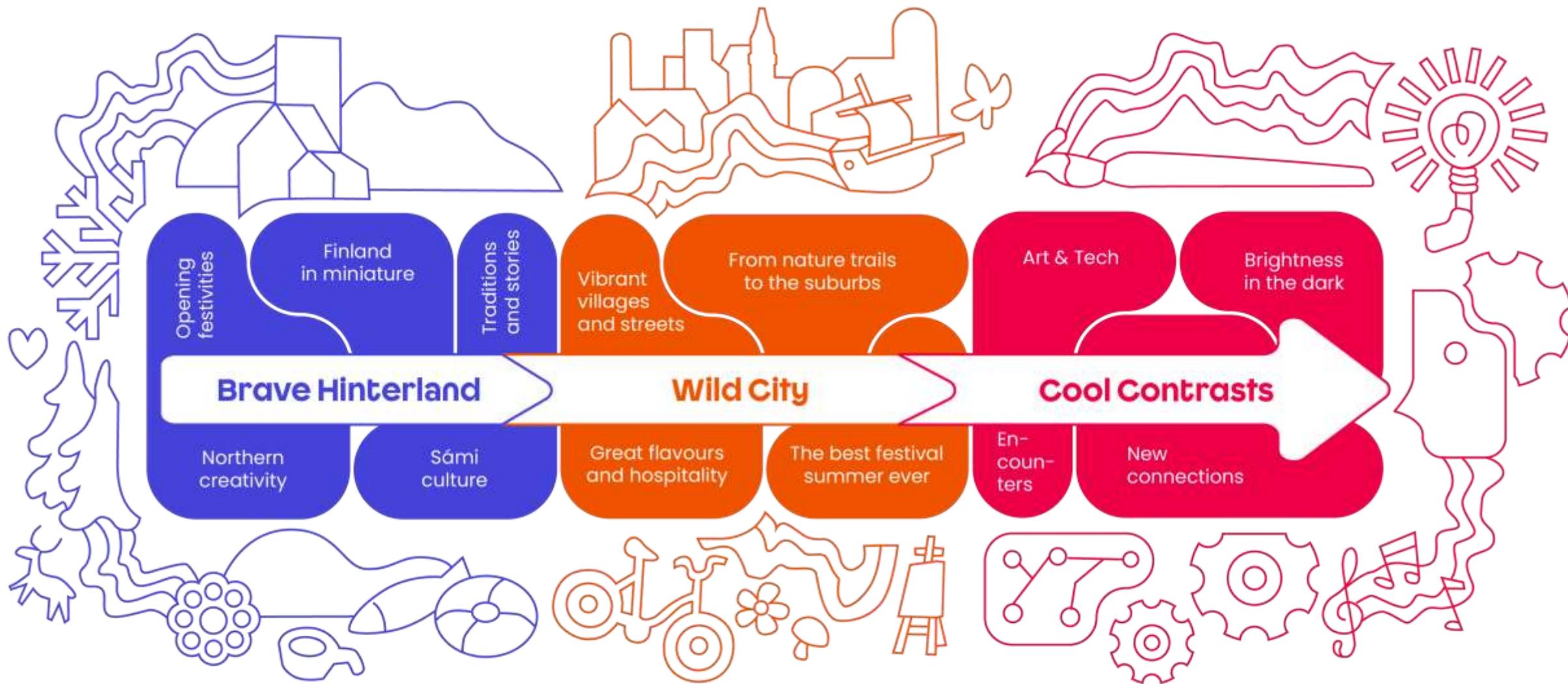


Cool Contrasts



Wild City

365 days of exciting events, works of art and experiences



**365 days of the
European Capital of Culture
program.
Thousands of events,
sights, and experiences!**

Arctic Food Lab

Local flavours and experiences!

Arctic Food Lab brings together those operating in gastronomy and food culture in the Oulu region, and celebrates Northern cuisine and gastronomy.

- A registered Trade Mark
- Network of professionals and companies
- Food events & local food in cultural events

[Website: Arctic Food Lab - Oulu2026](#)
[How does Oulu taste like? -video](#)



Aalto Silo

- Alvar Aalto's silo in Oulu comes to life through fantastic events that offer international stars, music, and art.
- In 2026, the silo will transform into a magnificent media/cultural center, curated by the Factum Foundation.
- The Toppila Silo is Alvar and Aino Aalto's first industrial site.



Tales of Tar – experience historical Oulu on the Tales of Tar route!

- The stories, written by Katariina Vuori, are based on authentic locations, events, and individuals from the golden age of tar trading in Oulu.
- A plaque with a QR code will be placed at 10 locations associated with tar in Oulu.
- By scanning the QR code with a mobile phone or another mobile device, you get to read the story or listen to it.

Website: [Northern Stories - Oulu2026](#)

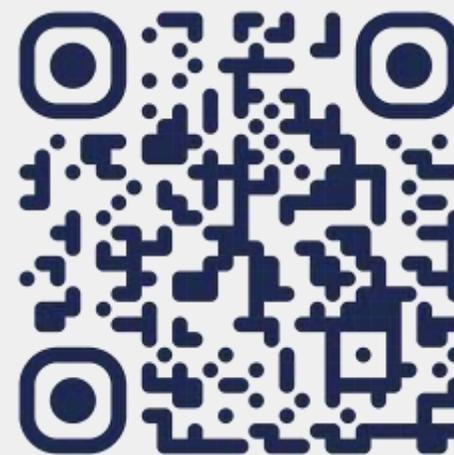




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