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**TOWN GUIDE
KUOPIO**

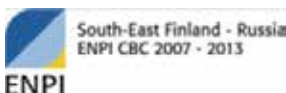


Stone Town Guide Kuopio

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STONE

TOWN GUIDE

KUOPIO



22 Kuopio Museum

24 Art Museum

26 Bank of Finland

28 Industrial School of Kuopio

30 Konttinen's house

32 Kuopio Cathedral

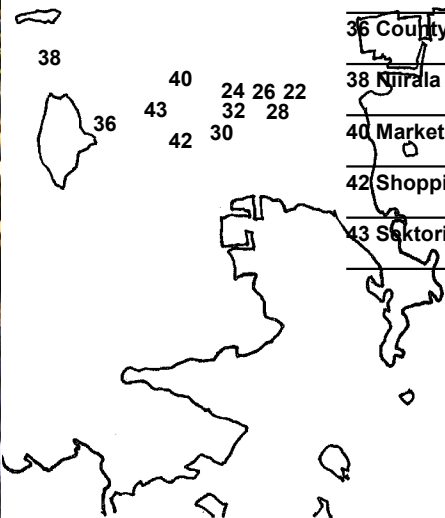
36 County Hospital

38 Nivala School

40 Market Square

42 Shopping Centre Minna

43 Sankari



HALLIKATU

10



LEIKKURU-
KÄRKÄ



A short history of the City of Kuopio

The history of Kuopio began 8000 B.C., when the first people arrived in the area. Thinking of transport, Kuopionniemi was an excellent place of residence, as it is located in the top parts of the vast Saimaa waterway, tucked into Kallavesi and Puijo.

The development leading to the current city of Kuopio began at the beginning of the 1550s when the people of Kuopionniemi established their own administrative parish, Kuopio's own congregation and the first church of Kuopionniemi. The church could have been established further north, near the Royal manor in Tavinsalmi - the current Maaninka - in which case Kuopio may have never been founded. At the beginning of the 17 century, there were altogether nine administrative parishes in Savo: Mikkeli, Juva, Puumala, Sääminki, Rantasalmi, Pieksämäki, Mäntyharju and Kuopio. An essential component of the defence of Savo was a functional army. The allotment agreement in the province of Savo and Savonlinna was confirmed already in 1681. In 1695, the infantry regiment of Savo consisted of 875 files from Savo and 33 files from the province of Vyborg. The essential component of the regiment was the company of Kuopio. The official building of the Kuopio company of Savo's infantry regiment was located in Kuopio's Hatsala and since then, Kuopio was a garrison city. The military history continued in the 19th century through the construction of the wooden barracks area for Kuopio's sniper battalion and later through the construction of the newer brick barracks.

The Convention in Kajaani founded the city of Kuopio in 1653 after receiving permission from the Swedish Governor General, Per Brahe. However, it is considered that Kuopio was founded in 1775, when the king of Finland-Sweden, Gustav III, gave orders to establish the city as the capital of the Savo-Karjala province and as the residence of the county governor. The city established by Per Brahe in 1653 withered into a village and it was abolished during the reduction of the 1680s.



Kuopio in the 18th century

The second coming of Kuopio occurred because of Gustav III. The founding of the new city in 1775 was made possible because of the king's trip to Finland, during which he gave orders to split the province of Kymenkartano and Savo into two. However, the place of residence of the new Savo-Karelia province was Nilsia at first, according to the king's orders. Gustav III ended the quarrel over the place of residence by ordering the residence to be moved to Kuopionniemi. As the 18th century went by and as the county administration improved, the local government largely changed hands, ending up with crown authorities, especially with the bailiff.

The town was a modest wooden town, exactly like the other similar towns in Finland-Sweden. The landscape of Kuopio was governed by the light wooden church of Kuopio, Kallavesi Lake and behind Kallavesi Lake, the mighty ridge of Puijo.

On November 17, 1775, Gustav III also gave an order to map out a city plan for Kuopio. The land surveyor of Hämeenlinna, Pehr Kjellman created a rectangular neoclassical grid plan and the king accepted the city plan already on March 5, 1776. The purpose of the city plan was to follow the compass points but the direction of the city plan ended up being

north - north-west - south - south-east. The city plan is a strict grid plan, based on large blocks, which are divided into smaller blocks by narrower streets. The structure of the street plan is evident in the present time in the Sorvarinkatu and Ajurinkatu area.

The new grid blocks received their first inhabitants already in 1776, when burghers and officials moved to Kuopio. This began the filling of the new grid blocks with private and public buildings.

By the year 1780, the grid plan area had received permanent residents. At the change of the century, there were about 800 inhabitants in Kuopio and the number of 1000 was reached in 1806. Soon, the city plan started to run out of space and the city attempted to expand its land boundaries. The lands of the parsonage and the official building in Hatsala hindered the expansion efforts. It was not until 1806 that these lands were bought and taken over by the city.

The original city plan consisted of land from the area of Maljalahti to the vicinity of Kuopionlahti. The centre of the area was the area of the old church and Suurtori, the current Snellmaninpuisto (Snellman's Park). At the beginning of the 19th century, inhabitation and the grid plan spread toward north-west, near the current market square.

Kuopio in the 19th century

The era of the Russian rule (1809-1917) was the time of development and the awakening of Finnish nationalism. The considerable improvement of traffic connections was significant to Kuopio and to the whole Eastern Finland, as the Saimaa Canal opened a connecting waterway to the sea from Lappeenranta via Vyborg in 1856, and the Savo railway, which was completed in 1889, facilitated transportation to the south. Industries started to form around timber trade in the city: sawmills, a reel factory and a match factory. Viable industries also grew up to make use of the local agricultural products, for example butter was an important export product.

The wooden old city church in Piispanpuisto was demolished in 1815. That same year, a new church was completed at the edge of Kustaantori, the current Snellman's Park. As a result of these actions, the trade centre of Kustaantori strengthened its position as the focal point of the town.



By the middle of the 19th century, inhabitation had already spread across the market square toward Hatsala. In 1852, the population of the city was almost 4000. At the end of the 19th century, inhabitation had spread to fill the current grid plan and the focal point of the city had clearly moved from Kustaantori to the new market square. In addition to the church, some of the first stone buildings of Kuopio were Triviaalikoulu, a “trivium” school, built in the 1820s (later, the secondary school of Kuopio), the two-storey stone house of the country surveyor Rehnström and the Kuopio county prison, completed in 1830, for which Engel created the original blueprints in 1825. This so-called “six-chimney” building still operates as the prison of Kuopio.

The population of Kuopio increased rapidly and it was already over 8000 in 1886. Records show that there were several people from Prussia, Germany and Sweden living in Kuopio in the 1890s.

Stone became a popular construction material but Kuopio remained mainly as a wooden city until the 1880s. In the 1880s, there were a couple of devastating fires along Kauppakatu which runs between the Cathedral and the market square. They helped to expedite the process of this area moving from wood to stone in construction. Several grand business buildings made of stone were built in the area. Some examples of these are G. Ranin's stone mansion, factory owner C. G. Svahn's house and pharmacist F. E. Bergroth's two-storey stone house. Kauppakatu is also the location of the city's three oldest stone buildings: the Cathedral, secondary school and Bastman's stone house, which is at the address Kauppakatu 2 and dates from the 1850s. The last-mentioned building



wrongly advertises itself as the oldest stone building in the city. In reality, Kuopio's oldest stone building is located at Vuorikatu 14 and it was completed in 1847.

The province of Kuopio was a former province that was in existence in 1831-1997. The province of Kuopio was abolished during the 1997 province reform, after which it became a part of the province of Eastern Finland. The province of Kuopio was succeeded by the county of Pohjois-Savo, which now became an administrative unit.

The building of the Kuopio provincial office is located on Hallituskatu, in the immediate vicinity of Kuopionlahti and Väinölänniemi. It was designed by architect Konstantin Kiseleff, who finished the Neo-Renaissance style building plans in 1882. The building is conserved both on the inside and the outside. The building is currently owned by Senaatti-kiinteistöt (Senate Properties) and the Eastern Finland Regional State Administrative Agency's Kuopio office as well the Regional Council of Pohjois-Savo have offices in it.



The people of Kuopio created Finnish culture

The civilized life of Kuopio is long-standing. The first Triviaalikoulu, “trivium” school, established already in 1788, was followed by upper secondary school in 1844. An industrial school, a commercial school and a nursing school were founded at the end of the 19th century. However, it was not until 1966 that Kuopio became a city of higher education and the educational institute originally called Kuopion korkeakoulu (Kuopio Institute of Higher Education) officially became Kuopion yliopisto (University of Kuopio) in 1984.

Already in the 19th century, Kuopio played an important role in the ascent of Finnish nationalism and the Finnish culture. A Kuopio resident, principal J.V. Snellman, started to publish a Finnish newspaper called *Maamiehen ystävä* (Farmers’ Friend) already in 1844 and Snellman was a significant advocate of Finnish nationalism. Snellman moved to Helsinki in 1849, during the rule of Alexander the Great, and became a professor at the University of Helsinki. Kuopio was the centre of the Finnish cultural life, in which music, literature and fine arts flourished. Influencers who lived in Kuopio, such as authors Minna Canth, Juhani Aho and Maria Jotuni as well as the von Wright artist brothers, the culture family of Järnefelt and the artist Juho Rissanen, left their permanent marks in the history of Finland.





The low-rise wooden buildings of Kuopio started to make way as the new city hall was built at the change of the 1870s. The new stony Kuopio was built on Kauppakatu after the fires in the wood-built centre in 1877 and 1880. Store keeper Ranin, factory owner Ranin, pharmacist Bergroth and store keepers Saastamoinen and Tolonen had their own stone mansions build in the Kauppakatu area. The designers of these buildings were usually famous architects from Helsinki, such as Sjöström and Kiseleff & Heikel.

The new brick-built Kuopio City Hall and its park were completed on the northern edge of the market square in 1885, according to architect Sjöström's blueprints.

The building of the Kuopio provincial office was constructed on Hallituskatu, in Piispanpuisto, in the immediate vicinity of Kuopionlahti and Väinölänniemi. The Neo-Renaissance building was designed by architect Konstantin Kiseleff in 1882 and the park surrounding the city hall was finalised in 1933.





Kuopio at the beginning of the 20th century

After Finland gained independence, the population of Kuopio started to grow rapidly. The high stone buildings, erected at the beginning of the century, gave the centre of Kuopio the atmosphere of a “real” city. At the beginning of the 20th century, the city was given the spirit of a new era by, for example, vehicle traffic which started in the 1920s and various leisure activities which were made popular by the growing amount of free time, such as theatre, movies, sports fields in Väinölänniemi and the skiing centre in Puijo. The second observation tower of Puijo, this time made of stone, was built in 1906. The administration of the city was also reformed and Kaarlo Sallinen was elected as the first mayor in 1929.

A large and modern set of 25 barracks made of red bricks was erected along Niiralankatu in 1914-1917. Similar sets of barracks are for example in Lappeenranta, Hämeenlinna and Riihimäki. The barracks became the

property of the government of Finland in 1917 and the buildings were later populated by, for example, North Savo Brigade and Firearm Training Institute. Nowadays, the buildings are in civilian use. The current barracks area has been determined as a nationally significant culture environment.

At the beginning of the 20th century, several stone buildings in the Art Nouveau style started to emerge especially along Kauppakatu. The first one, the market hall on the market square was completed in 1902 and shortly after, the Kansallis-Osake-Pankki building was completed in 1904. The Kansalliskauppa building was completed in 1912, as was Bank of Finland's building, which was built to replace a wooden building destroyed by a fire. The Pohjoismaiden Yhdyspankki building was completed in 1920. Kauppakatu played an important role in the construction of stone buildings.

At the start of the new century, the population of the city had increased by 3000 people in 10 years, to 12,000 people. The strong growth continued during the first decade and in 1910, the population was close to 16,000 people.

A water pipe was built in the city in 1913 and this water pipe eliminated the need to carry water by hand to households from Kallavesi, various ponds and the numerous wells. Kuopio grew rapidly in the 1920s and the number of 20,000 inhabitants was reached. The cityscape changed due to the construction of high stone buildings.

A significant concentration of Functionalism emerged in the harbour area of Kuopio in the 1930s. SOK's office and warehouse by architects Hutunen and Riihimäki, as well as the Savo-Karelia wholesale building by architect Saarema were constructed in the area. In addition, Osuustukukaupan keskus was built in 1950, by architects Jägerroos and Pulkka. The architectural inspiration for the area must have been the similar functional concentration in the harbour area of Vyborg.

The districts of Haapaniemi, Itkonniemi and Linnanpelto were zoned. Limited automobile traffic began in Kuopio at that time. Traffic still relied very much on steam boats and the Savo railway. Several traditional inland water steam boats operated from Kuopio.

A great level of enthusiasm was also put into establishing sports areas in Kuopio, and the sports fields of Väinölänniemi, that for example run-

ner Hannes Kolehmainen diligently utilised, date from that time. The end of the 1920s, the middle of the depression, saw the construction of the Kallansillat bridges and Niirala school.

The construction of Rissala airport began in November 1939 and aviation activities started in May 1940. Regular air passenger traffic to the airport started in 1946 and the Karelian Air Command with its Hornets currently operates at the airport.

The time of war required sacrifices also in Kuopio. The city was bombed and many homes grieved the loss of family members fallen on the front. After the war, plenty of evacuees arrived to Kuopio from Karelia and as the birth rate was also high, the population of the city increased rapidly during the first years of peacetime and the number of 30,000 was reached by 1946.

After second World War the population of the city grew considerably, due to, for example, the settlement of the Karelian evacuees and the high birth rate. The exponential population growth forced the expansion of schools. The construction of the first actual suburb, Puijonlaakso, began in the 1960s. Since then, the new areas took turns to grow: Puijonlaakso in the 1960s, Saarijärvi, Kelloniemi and Levänen in the 1970s, Jynkkä and Neulamäki in the 1980s.





Kuopio today

The latter part of the century was an era of rapid development. Most of the rural municipality of Kuopio was consolidated to the city in 1969 and the Riistavesi municipality was consolidated in 1973, increasing the population to 86,000 by the year 2000. The appearance of the city changed as wooden houses made way to more modern constructions, as living in suburbs became more common and as supermarkets started to occupy the centre of the city and the suburbs.

Due to the consolidation of Vehmersalmi, the city reached the number of 90,000 people at the beginning of 2005. Since then, Karttula with approximately 3,500 inhabitants (2011) and Nilsinä with approximately 6,500 inhabitants (2013) were consolidated to Kuopio. After the consolidation of Nilsinä, the population of Kuopio increased to approximately 105,000.

The new Kuopio City Theatre was completed in 1963, designed by architects Luukkonen and Stenros, and the new City Library, which started to operate in 1968, was designed by architect Hakala. The new Kuopio Music Centre was opened in 1985.

In 1966, a law was created on establishing an institute of higher education (later a university) in Kuopio. Educational activities started at the garrison in 1972 brought along a lot of young people and new kinds of possibilities to develop Kuopio. The new university campus was moved to Savilahti in 1978 when the new university building, Canthia, was completed. Since then, the university has expanded into every direction and a true science park has emerged in the area.

Construction of the large district of Petonen started in 1986. In 2003, already 14,000 people lived there, but this will not increase significantly in the future. Instead, construction of a new district has started in the area between Petonen and the core centre.

The new district, Saaristokaupunki is the largest residential area being constructed in Finland. Construction started in 2003 and it will continue until 2015. When it is completed, it will be a home to 14,000 people. The total cost of the project is 1.6 billion euros, of which the city pays 160 million euros.

The strongest transformation has occurred in the grid plan area of Kuopio, which mainly had wooden houses only a few decades ago. A few old blocks have been preserved, for instance Old Kuopio Museum. New construction is on the increase especially in the harbour area, in the form of high-rise constructions.

Even though Kuopio expands in the south, some parts of Siilinjärvi, located on the north side of town near the Kuopio airport, are closer to the centre of Kuopio. Especially families with children live in these areas of detached houses. The Kallansillat motorway project facilitates traffic to Kuopio from the north and Highway 5.



Sportia

TERVETULOA!

Sportia

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STONE BUILDINGS IN KUOPIO

Domestic and local stones have been used in many buildings in the centre of Kuopio. There are interesting and beautiful details made of stone on the buildings. Unfortunately these stony details are not enough for a building to constitute as a stone building for this publication.



KUOPIO MUSEUM

The museum building (Kauppakatu 23), completed on the edge of Snellman's Park in 1907, is one of the oldest buildings designed as a museum and a library in our country. The castle-like building was designed by architect Johan Victor Strömberg. The building represents pure Art Nouveau. The building is dominated by castle-like towers and round shapes that follow the National Romantic style, and the shapes are structured by free-form window openings. The building has a roughcast stone façade and the upper parts of the towers as well as the plinth are made of grey granite.





ART MUSEUM

A bank building (Kauppakatu 35) designed by Vilho Penttilä in 1902. Penttilä was a partner in an architectural firm in Helsinki, called Nyström, Petrelius, Penttilä. KOP (Kansallis-Osake-Pankki) had started banking operations in Kuopio already in 1890. The building's style is Art Nouveau due to its corner towers and granite details. The door openings are black Kuru granite and the walls are grey Kuru granite. After the alterations in 1925, the original appearance of the building disappeared and the architecture of the building was changed to the style of the 1920s Classicism. Several extensive alterations have been made in the building and it became Kuopio Art Museum in 1980.







BANK OF FINLAND

Suomen Pankki, Bank of Finland started operations in Kuopio in 1840. Architect Johan Victor Strömberg designed the bank building (Kauppa-katu 25-27) which was completed in 1912. The building was placed on the centreline of the site, following the model of Bank of Finland's office in Helsinki. The main façade of the roughcast stone building is smooth granite with decorative friezes. The classic stone castle emphasises the position of the bank. The main entrance and its stairs are on the right side of the building. An additional floor was added to the building and the shape of the roof was changed in the 1940s. There is currently a restaurant in the building.





INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL OF KUOPIO

Constructed in the area of Snellman's Park, the Industrial School of Kuopio (Kauppakatu 14) was designed by architect Johan Victor Strömberg. The planning started already in 1899, blueprints were approved in 1902 and the building was completed in 1904. Even though the building is made of bricks, plenty of natural stone has been used in a decorative manner on the façade, for example on the edges of the window openings. The main types of stones used are grey granodiorite and light marble from Karelia. Even though the building is a roughcast brick building, it is a good representation of the spirit of Art Nouveau from the beginning of the century.





KONTTINEN'S HOUSE

Shopkeepers Konttinen's building (Minna Canthin katu 28) was designed by architect Oiva Kallio and the building was completed in 1920. The façade of the commercial building is made of built fairface red bricks but the plinth of the building and the main entrance with its staircase have been made of beautiful grey natural stone. The style of the building is Art Nouveau and the stone work in this Art Nouveau theme was made by stonemason Erik Pääkkönen from Kuopio. The Social Security Office of Kuopio operates in this building.







KUOPIO CATHEDRAL

For almost 100 years, Kuopio Cathedral dominated the cityscape of Kuopio on Vahtivuori, in the middle of the four main streets of the grid plan. The domineering power of the church was diminished as new stone buildings were constructed in the centre at the change of the 20th century. The fifth church and the first stone building of Kuopio, the Cathedral was completed in 1815 according to architect Palmroth's blueprints. The shape of the church is a cross, with a belfry at the eastern end. The massive church building was made of locally available natural stone boulders. Extensive alterations and renovations have been conducted inside this stone building.

The Cathedral's stone wall and stairs were completed in 1899. The rock material is diorite, there is granodiorite on the stairs and the surface has been carved or cross-carved. The structure of the wall required a lot of work because the stones are parallelogram and they were overlapped carefully. According to the original plan, there were supposed to be four arched vaults on the wall but only one was made in 1823. A bomb shelter was made into the wall in 1941.







KUOPIO CATHEDRAL





COUNTY HOSPITAL





Throughout the times, Kuopio has been a significant hospital city. There was a district doctor in the city already in the 18th century, a county sanatorium in the 19th century and a county hospital since 1877.

The original wooden structured county hospital was designed by architect Lohrman of the superintendent's office and the hospital was completed in the autumn of 1877. Originally built into a U shape, the building had 88 beds on four floors. Since then, a new brick-structured and roughcast county hospital building was constructed at the end of Kauppakatu. It was designed by architects Granholm and Scherfbeck who worked at the "Chief Cabinet of Public Works". The building was completed in 1910. The hospital building's architecture represents Art Nouveau. The central area of the hospital's courtyard as well as the plinths are made of light grey granite and tonalite. The stately main staircase, ramps and the main façade of the building open to the long Kauppakatu, emphasising the central position of the county hospital in the street view. The stone used is Kuru granite. The door portal has the coats of arms of Karelia and Savo, and they are made of polished stone. There are also decorations made of stone on the building's façade.



NIIRALA SCHOOL





Completed in 1926, Niirala school is made of bricks in the classic school building style and its design was created by architects Lindgren and Liljequist in 1921. The foundation wall, parts of the ground floor walls and the main staircase are made of hand-carved grey granite. The building is still in use as a school.





MARKET SQUARE

The market square is one of the key areas of Kuopio. The area has been a market place since 1818 but actual market place operations did not begin until 1856. Around the market square, there are, for example Kuopio City Hall, a secondary school, a market hall, Hotel Atlas and other banking and commercial buildings as well as several pieces of artwork, for example the famous Veljmies statue. The current market square ensemble is the result of a design contest organized in 1990. Architects Sarlotta Narjus and Antti-Matti Siikala won the contest. The surface of the market square is smooth special-seamed cobblestone, made of grey and red granite. Plenty of natural stone has been used on the structures surrounding the market square as well as the extended pedestrian areas.





SHOPPING CENTRE MINNA

Designed by architect Esa Malmivaara, shopping centre Minna (Haapaniemenkatu 23) was completed in 1988. Free-form slabs made of natural stone have been used on the façade of this commercial building with concrete elements. The rock material is red granite from Taivassalo and the surface of the stone slabs has been bush-hammer finished by machines. The architecture of the building, with its arching stone surfaces and plastic roofs, imitates the organic, if not post-modern style of the late 1980s.





SEKTORI

This commercial concrete structure building was completed on the eastern side of the market square in Kuopio in 1988 (Puijonkatu 23). The commercial building Sektori was designed by architect Heikki Tegelman and Kalevi Kauhanen. Made of glass and metal, the main façade on the side of the market square is partially clad with red granite from Taivassalo. The building represents the modern, yet quite modest and expressionless architectural style of commercial buildings.



This project is co-funded by the European Union, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Finland

