



Practical information for WCEF2023 participants

The World Circular Economy Forum 2023 main event will be organised on 30-31 May at [Messukeskus, the Helsinki Expo and Convention Centre](#), Finland's largest event venue. Located in Pasila, Helsinki, the centre is easily accessible from Helsinki-Vantaa international airport.

Travel info

Helsinki-Vantaa international airport is located in Vantaa, 23 minutes from Pasila railway station (from where it's just a five-minute walk to Messukeskus).

The airport serves around 400 flights each day and connects Finland to Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia. Read more about [required travel documents](#). Please note that in some countries visa applications may take several weeks to process.

We recommend that all participants compensate the CO₂ emissions of their flights, for example with the non-profit providers [Atmosfair](#) or [Compensate](#), or any other organisation for compensating flight emissions.

Travelling to and from the airport

There are many ways to get from Helsinki-Vantaa Airport to Pasila (and to Helsinki city centre). We recommend using public transport.

By train

[Local trains I and P](#) operate between the airport and Pasila railway station (and Helsinki central railway station). The journey between the airport and Pasila takes about 23 minutes. The same trains also run between Pasila and Helsinki central railway station, taking about 6 minutes. A regional ticket (ABC) costs 4,10 € when purchased from HSL Helsinki Region Transport ticket machines or via [HSL Mobile ticket app](#).

By bus

[Bus 600](#) ("Lentoasema-Rautatientori", requires an ABC ticket) is operated by HSL Helsinki Region Transport. The closest bus stop to Messukeskus is called "Pyöräilystadion". The final (or first when travelling to the airport) bus stop is at the central railway station. At night, you can also take the [415N](#) night bus.

By taxi

You can also travel between the airport and the city centre by taxi. There are several taxi operators in Helsinki offering different rates. For example, a ride from the airport using [Taksi Helsinki Lane 2](#) cars will cost around 32 €.

Public transport in and around Helsinki

Helsinki has an efficient [public transport system \(HSL\)](#) with bus, tram, metro, local railway and ferry services as well as city bikes.

You can use a single ticket for trams, buses, the metro and even the ferry to [Suomenlinna island](#). Single tickets can be purchased from ticket machines, R-kiosks and other HSL sales points or through the HSL mobile application. Please note that you must purchase a ticket **before** boarding any public transport. Day tickets are also available for unlimited use on public transportation for 1-13 days.

The HSL area is divided into four zones, identified by letters A, B, C and D, spreading out from the centre of Helsinki (see map [here](#)). You can travel between Messukeskus and the city centre with an AB ticket, but to go to the airport, you will need an ABC ticket.

City bikes

You can either rent a bike or use HSL city bikes, shared-use bicycles that can be borrowed for a small fee by anyone in Helsinki and Espoo. There are 4,600 yellow bikes in 460 locations around Helsinki and Espoo. Prices range from 5€/24 hours, 10€/week or 30€/season (from April to October). For more information, please visit [the city bikes website](#).

Useful timetable sites

- [Journey Planner](#) – A journey planning service provided by YTV Transport to the users of the Helsinki metropolitan area
- [Train timetables](#) – Provided by the Finnish railway company VR
- [Long distance bus timetables](#) – Provided by Matkahuolto, the Finnish service and marketing company for bus transport

Accommodation

We have negotiated special conference rates on a limited number of rooms at several hotels. See the [list of available hotels with special rates](#). Please note that participants are responsible for all travel and accommodation expenses.

All selected hotels are committed to minimising environmental stress and to developing sustainable solutions. All hotels have an environmental certificate. More information is available on the hotel websites.

Venue: Messukeskus

WCEF2023 will be hosted at Messukeskus (Expo Plaza main entrance, Messuaukio 1, Helsinki), one of the largest event venues in the Nordic countries.

Messukeskus provides a **free-of-charge wireless network called “Messukeskus”** in all its premises. It is suitable for browsing the internet and other light traffic. No login or password are required to access the network.

The event industry has a reputation for its single-use culture and waste. At Messukeskus, circularity is embedded in all operations. Constructions, made of natural materials (such as timber), are remodelled and reused at the end of their life cycles. The life cycles of high-quality products are prolonged and single-use products are avoided. Target is zero waste and 99% of waste is currently already reused or recycled.

Messukeskus has also invested in new technologies to reduce the consumption of energy and water. The venue uses renewable energy and has its own solar powerplant. Food waste is minimised and leftover food is donated when possible. Preference is given to seasonal foods and vegetables.

At WCEF2023, your tableware is environmentally friendly, fairly produced and 100% biodegradable. The palm leaf dishes are made from withered, fallen palm leaves. The products are manufactured where they are collected, thus respecting the country's own natural resources and people. The dishes have the certificate SA8000 for ethical work.

Read more about [Messukeskus' corporate responsibility scheme](#), [instructions for a safe event visit](#) and [how to get to the venue](#).

Lost and found

In case you find a lost item at Messukeskus, please leave it with the Messukeskus cloakroom staff.

If you lose something at Messukeskus, you can ask the cloakroom staff for lost items during the opening hours of the Forum. After the event, you can contact Messukeskus' customer service which is open on weekdays from 9:00–16:00 at asiakaspalvelu@messukeskus.com, tel. +358 40 450 3250.

A week after the event, all found goods will be delivered to Suomen Loytötavarapalvelu (Finland's Found Property Service), Mäkelänkatu 56, 00510 Helsinki, Finland, tel. +358 600 41006 (1.98€/min+lnc), open Mon-Fri 10:00–18:00 and Sat 10:00–14:00.

Helsinki – Host city of the WCEF2023

Helsinki is a modern European city known for design and high technology. Helsinki's attractive and unique character comes from its proximity to the sea, as well as its location between the East and the West. The Finnish capital is a vibrant seaside city with beautiful islands and great green parks. The city's pace is laid back but refreshingly active.

Helsinki can easily be explored on foot. Design, architecture, culture and shopping are all great exploration angles, and large park areas, forests, lakes and the coastline with its numerous islands make certain there's no shortage of natural environments. There's something interesting going on in Helsinki every day of the year.

The Helsinki archipelago has about 330 islands, providing beautiful settings for days at the beach or weekend camping trips. Many of the islands, such as [Suomenlinna](#) and [Pihlajasaari](#), can be reached by ferries that run from early morning until late at night.

A third of Helsinki is made up of green areas. There are numerous sports grounds, offering great possibilities for outdoor recreation and relaxation. The large [Central Park](#) and its forests spread out just outside the city centre.

Read more about [Helsinki](#), its [carbon-neutrality target for 2030](#) and [places to visit in Helsinki](#).

The Nordic region

The Nordic region consists of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland, as well as the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland. Each of the countries has unique characteristics, but also much in common. The Nordic region is the world's 11th largest economy.

One of the most defining elements of Nordic countries is clean nature. Exploring lakes, forests, archipelagos, fjords, volcanoes and beaches will offer breathtaking views and makes you feel connected to the wilderness.

Yet, modern architecture and world-famous Nordic design offer inspiring experiences also for those who can only stay for a shorter period. Nature's gifts can also be enjoyed through the [New Nordic Cuisine](#). Local, natural and seasonal ingredients are turned into simple traditional foods prepared in new, sustainable ways.

Other defining elements of Nordics are equality and happiness. According to the Global Gender Gap Index, the Nordic countries rank among the most equal in the world (yet we acknowledge that there is lot of work left to be done here, too). In 2022, all five Nordic countries were ranked in the top ten in the World Happiness Report, with Finland at the top. Some of the key factors for these results are high levels of societal trust and a strong welfare system.

We believe that the Nordic philosophy of living a simple life amidst nature is something that can positively contribute to social well-being. Increasing understanding of our dependence on nature's well-being is also something we want to promote through the World Circular Economy Forum 2023.

Read more about [Nordic co-operation](#) and our co-host [Nordic Innovation](#).

Finland – the Land of the Midnight Sun

The big surprise of the Nordic countries is a natural wonderland with more trees than people and more islands than any other nation in the world. With miles of empty wilderness, Finns are uniquely in tune with their natural surroundings.

Finland is also full of interesting contrasts: four distinct seasons, urban and rural, East and West.

On white summer nights in Finland – as in most other Nordics – the sun dips beyond the horizon only briefly before rising again. With the midnight sun, anything you can normally do during the day, you can also do at night.

With autumn, the Northern Lights appear and light up the sky. The first snows fall at the beginning of December and [the Polar Night](#) arrives. No wonder Finland has [the most metal bands per capita in Europe](#).

The things Finland has plenty of are trees and water – thousands of clean, blue lakes. There are 188,000 lakes in the country, most with water quality good enough to drink. Over 70% of the country is covered by forest and the archipelago is the biggest in the world. Pristine and beautiful landscapes provide habitats for thousands of wild animals and birds.

With a population of just 5.5 million and a total area of 338,424 km², Finland is one of the most sparsely populated countries in Europe.

Finland is also the [most stable country in the world](#) as well as [one of the world's safest countries](#) with the [least organised crime](#) and the [second best police and internal security in the world](#). In addition, the [risk to be exposed to natural disasters in Finland is the lowest in the world](#).

One of the most famous elements of Finland's heritage is the sauna. It's reckoned that there are over two million saunas in Finland. In addition to the sauna, everyone knows that Santa Claus – the one and only – comes from Finland.

Read more from [This is Finland](#) magazine and [Visit Finland's website](#).