

The Longest Wall in Finland at Saaristokatu 7 was created over the years during renovation work on adjacent buildings. The record it holds is quirky yet completely unofficial!

When approaching the granite **Holy Trinity Church** from Cortenkatu street, the church tower's clock faces and decorations resemble a large owl.

The statue of **Per Brahe** gazes over the archipelago from **Pekkatori** and is decorated with floral wreaths during Pekkapäivät.

## STORIES OF OLD TOWN RAAHE

"A gossip mirror" placed perfectly by a window reveals the street for curious eyes to see – everyday theatre at its best!

Cousins Catharina Freitag and Johan Sovelius fell deeply in love. Over the years, they sought permission to marry from various crowned heads, including King Gustav IV Adolf during his visit in 1802. Since **marriage between cousins was forbidden**, it was never granted. The lovers lived separate lives yet remained devoted to each other, spending evenings gazing each other by candlelight from the windows of their opposite houses. Catharina died in 1840 and Johan, faithful to the end, was found twelve years later by his window beside a burnt-out candle.

Young, 12 to 17-year-old boys who worked in Johan Leufstadius's tobacco factory (1848–1867) were called **tobacco angels**. The name derived from their pale-coloured adult sized work shirts that fluttered as they ran around. The tobacco angels worked in a small factory room

The **Packhouse Museum** and the museum shore are the most photographed and iconic landmarks of Old Town Raahe.

Where Old Town Raahe ends, the **Raahe archipelago begins**. Tectonic uplift changes the landscape in just one generation – Capture your view now!

Spot the silhouette of Old Town Raahe in all its glory from **Fantti Island** on the opposite shore of Pikkulahti. The view is especially beautiful in evening as the city lights up.



### TOURIST INFORMATION



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### OLD TOWN RAAHE HOUSE, MILIEU & ACTION OF THE YEAR

The Old Town Raahe house and milieu of the year award has been presented since 2017. From 2026 onwards, the award will also recognise deeds and phenomena that keep the historic wooden town alive and valued. The award highlights insights that enrich the cityscape and those who cherish cultural heritage, making the uniqueness of Old Raahe visible.

The event is part of the official Oulu2026 European Capital of Culture programme.



### OLD TOWN RAAHE ADVENT CALENDAR

In the run-up to Christmas, a magical atmosphere descends on Old Town Raahe as the window advent calendar presents 24 destinations in Old Town Raahe, one day at a time. The windows can be admired on site from 1st of December to 6th of January, as well as in pictures and stories on Visit Raahe's digital channels.



# Discover Old Town Raahe!



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A charming coastal town brimming with enchanting tales, rich history, and vibrant culture awaits discovery. Feel a whisper of internationality in the sea breeze as you wander the idyllic alleys of the 19th century wooden town with its captivating museums.

The magic of this wooden house milieu lies in its intricate details, in colors kissed by the sun and sculpted by the sea winds, as well as in friendly encounters.

Embrace the unhurried pace and let time slip away in Old Town Raahe, where the echoes of the past dance harmoniously with the present.

The roots of this excellently preserved wooden town date back to the 17th century; Claes Claesson designed the grid plan of the town, founded in 1649, in the Renaissance style. The Empire-style houses tell stories of life in the port town, of the reconstruction after the fire of 1810, and of the residents of Raahe who rebuilt and repopulated the town. Walking along the cobbled streets, you can sense the rhythm of life by the sea, admire the decorative eaves, pilasters and coffered facades, and pause for a moment at the historic squares of Pekkatori or Myhrberg Park.

# HISTORICAL OLD TOWN RAAHE

**1 PEKKATORI:** Square designed for administrative and commercial use. Pekkatori (formerly Isotori) is central to Gustaf Odenwall's (1820) Renaissance style grid plan. Plots surrounding the square were given to the city's leading bourgeois. Houses built by **Lang (1a)**, **Fontell (1c)**, **Montin (1d)**, **Frieman (1f)** and **Hedmanson (1g)** after a devastating Raahe fire in 1810 represent prosperous neoclassical urban construction. **Kivi-Sovio** and **Reini (1h)** (1870) houses complete the uniform style. Montin and Kivi-Sovio log houses are plastered.

**1b Trade House of Lang:** Historic trading house and boutique hotel used for trade during 1811–1934 under the name of Johan Lang.

**1i Patala:** One of the most presentable classical townhouses. Later housed Oma-Pata; Teachers' seminar canteen cooperative.

**2 CHURCH SQUARE:** The Church of the Holy Trinity (1912, Josef Stenbäck) was built at the site of a 17th century wood church that burned in 1908. Made of granite quarried from Raahe archipelago it represents romantic nationalism and

Art Nouveau styles. Altarpiece was painted by Eero Järnefelt. Wooden sculptures (Mikael Balt) saved from the old church are displayed in Packhouse Museum. Surrounded by an old cemetery with a war grave and classical style buildings around the square: **Kirkkokatu 17 (2a, early 1800s, vertical panelling)**, **Himanka House (2b, 1812)**, **Old Pharmacy (2c, 1787)** and an Empire style **Väänänen House (2d, 1813)**.

**3 LEUFSTADIUS HOUSE:** The oldest part of sea captain Johan Leufstadius house dates from 1804. The wing on Cortenkatu street from 1830 is a former tobacco factory.

**4 MYHRBERG PARK:** Former market square that reflects the development of wooden town construction in the 18th to

20th centuries. Green **Sovelius House (H)** in Art Nouveau style is the oldest surviving residence in Raahe.

**4a Heikku's House:** Neoclassical Gustavian style house from 1812. Mansard roof and enclosed courtyard with its original gates. Currently houses city reception facilities.

**4b Freitag Courtyard:** Merchant's house from early 1800s.

**5 RANTATORI:** Raahe old harbour, opposite to the former market square, **Myhrberg Park (4)**. Raahe shipyards were located north of **Packhouse Museum (F)** until the early 19th century. Due to tectonic uplift, illustrated by pillars at the square, the shipyards and harbour were eventually moved for few kilometres.

**5a Ruiskuhune:** A former fire station (1906) in Art Nouveau style, now a terrace restaurant. Old fire station on the south side of the market square dates from 1942.

**6 RAAHE THEATRE:** Art Nouveau building completed in 1913 as a meeting and office space for the Salvation Army.

**7 FORMER UNION BANK OF FINLAND:** This palatial style plastered brick building was designed by Valter Thomén (1915) and is based on 17th century Baroque architecture.

**10a Sofia's House:** Completed in 1840 and donated to a girls' school in 1859. The school later developed into a craft and home economics school and later the Lybecker Media Center. Nowadays, the house is home to **Kinosalonki Sofia**.

**10b Jaakoppi's Spring:** This 250-year-old communal well in a decorative wooden structure was still in use in the 1970s.

**11 SWANLJUNG HOUSE:** An impressive main building constructed in 1814 and a rare enclosed courtyard with outbuildings.

**8a Dyer's House:** A single-story building from the 1850s.

**8b Old Vicarage:** Parish clerk's official residence (1812), later a vicarage.

**8c Registrar's House:** Hipped roof house completed in 1848 and extended during 20th century.

**8d The Berg Sisters' House:** Dyer Berg's family house. Later served as a home bakery run by Berg's daughters.

**9 RAAHE CENTRAL SCHOOL:** Baroque style school by Jac Ahrenberg, completed in 1912. Also served as a military hospital and elementary school.

**12 ÄMMÄNKATU STREET:** The name derives from cows (ämmy) that walked along the street to the pastures on the north side of the city during summertime.

**13 TOWN HALL:** Customs officer Brunow's plastered log-built townhouse (1839) in Empire style was designed by Anders Fredrik Granstedt. Its appearance has remained nearly intact. City purchased the house for a town hall in 1862.

**14 HÄRKÄTORI:** A market place intended for livestock markets. Established after the Raahe fire in 1810.

## STATUES & MEMORIALS

**A MYHRBERG STATUE:** August Maksimilian Myhrberg (1797–1867), born in the Sovelius House, fought in the Greek War of Independence, the Polish uprising and the Spanish Civil War, among many others. He died in Sweden and was buried next to von Döbeln, famous colonel from the Finnish War. The statue sculpted by Evert Porila was unveiled in 1931.

**B STATUE OF PRESIDENT URHO KEKKONEN:** A bronze statue by Matti Peltokangas (2008) created on an initiative from Siika-Pyhäjoki Regional Association to highlight Urho Kekkonen's importance to the development of the region. Kekkonen had a particular influence on the location of Rautaruukki steel mill in Raahe.

**C STATUE OF PEHR BRAHE:** The statue of Pehr Brahe, the founder of Raahe and Governor-General of Finland, was erected in Isotori (now Pekkatori) in 1888. It was sculpted by Walter Runeberg, son of Finland's national poet J.L. Runeberg. The square was later named Pekkatori. A larger version of the statue can be found in Turku.

**D DEFENDER STATUE:** Bronze sculpture by Johannes Haapasalo (1908). A symbol of oppression, depicting a crouching man defending himself by protecting his head and holding a stone in his hand. The statue was donated to the city of Raahe by John "Sokeri-Jussi" Grundström.

**E KARI JUVA SCULPTURE PARK:** Established in 2008 in Raatiuhuone Park, the sculpture park of Kari Juva (1939–2014), who lived in Pyhäjoki and Raahe in his youth, contains 19 pieces. Juva's "Merien hengki (Tuulta purjeisiin)" is located in front of the library.

## MUSEUMS

**F PACKHOUSE MUSEUM:** This Old Customs House (1848) also served as a Seaman House. Raahe Museum, Finland's oldest museum (1862) with no ties to universities, has been operating in the building from the late 19th century. The exhibitions cover the history of the sailing ship era and feature wooden church sculptures by Mikael Balt from the 17th century. Raahe museum's are part of the official Oulu2026 European Capital of Culture programm

**G CROWN GRANARY MUSEUM:** The former crown granary (1852) presents Raahe from its prehistory to the present day, such as the famous **world's oldest diving suit, Old Gentleman**.

**H SOVELIUS HOUSE:** The oldest surviving residential building (1780) in Raahe and the only two-storey town house from the 18th century. The upper floor houses a merchant and shipowner's home interior museum, decorated in the 1890s style. The lower floor, restored in Art Nouveau style, hosts temporary exhibitions.

**I OLD PHARMACY:** Pharmacy building from building from 1811–1813. Main building possibly brought from Sweden. Hosts one of Finland's most valuable collections of pharmaceutical objects, with the oldest items dating back to the 18th century. Pharmacy from opposite the church moved to the premises in 1924.



### SEMINARY AREA:

**Rantakatu 7.** The Raahe Seminary is one of Finland's best preserved teacher training colleges from the late 19th century. In addition to a several school and residential buildings built in 1899–1900 and designed by Werner Polón, the park-like area contains a greenhouse. Finland's first IT college, and later a university of applied sciences, began operating in the area after the seminary was closed in 1971.

### GELLMAN'S OLD HOSPITAL:

**Rantakatu 4.** This Art Nouveau style wooden hospital was completed in 1912 with funds donated by merchant and sea captain Isak Gellman. Raahe Regional Hospital was later built around the building.