

Summer Cottages and Cabins in Finland – Guide to Finnish Cottage Life

Summer vacation in Finland is not complete without spending time at a summer cottage by the lake. We Finns drive to our cottages for hours, only to spend weekends and summer holidays in complete peace and solitude. The most popular cottage season starts at Midsummer in late June and lasts until the end of the summer holiday season, end of July.

Finnish summer cottages are shared only between family and close friends. Private space and peace is so important that the view to the neighbor's cottage must be blocked at least by a small patch of forest acting as a fence. It's considered quite rude to visit somebody's cottage without an invitation.

Many summer cottages are modestly equipped, for example not all have running water or an indoor toilet. The washing water is carried in a bucket from the lake, and there's a dry toilet in a separate hut. Electricity and a wood-heated sauna can be found in every cottage.

Sauna and barbecue – the cornerstones of Finnish cottage culture

Spending time at a Finnish summer cottage is casual life with family (and often relatives or friends): sauna, swimming, barbecuing, reading books on the pier and fishing. At the cottage, days can be almost boring – and in a way, that's the whole point. When internet connection is breaking down and there's nothing but previous year's women's magazines on the bookshelf, mowing the lawn or chopping firewood begins to feel like a meaningful task.

Firewood is needed, as perhaps the most important part of cottage life is the sauna, which is usually heated every day. From the 80-100 degree sauna, take a dip in the lake to cool off. In winter, you can make a hole in the ice and take a dip – or simply jump from the sauna to a heap of snow.

Another shrine in a Finnish summer cottage is the barbecue. A traditional charcoal grill is made of red bricks and due to smoke stands on the edge of the yard. Nowadays increasingly common is a man-sized gas grill that has been raised to the honorary spot: it covers half of the terrace.

cottage = kesämökki
cabin = kesämökki
vacation = loma
complete = tässä kohdassa: täydellinen
spending time = viettää aikaa
by the lake = järven rannalla
for hours = tunteja
solitude = yksinäisyys
Midsummer = juhannus
share = jakaa
private = yksityinen
view = näkymä
blocked = estetty
patch = tässä: tilkku
fence = aita
rude = töykeä
invitation = kutsu
modestly = vaatimattomasti
equipped = varusteltu
running water = juokseva vesi
indoor toilet = sisä vessa
washing water = pesuvesi
dry toilet = kuivakäymälä
separate = erillinen
hut = maja
electricity = sähkö
wood-heated = puulämmitteinen
cornerstone = kulmakivi
casual = rento
pier = laituri
previous = edellinen
mowing the lawn = nurmikon leikkuu
chopping firewood = polttopuiden pilkkominen
meaningful = merkityksellinen
task = tehtävä
take a dip = pulahda
cool off = jäähdyttää
heap of snow = lumikasa

shrine = pyhättö
charcoal grill = hiiligrilli
brick = tiili
due to = vuoksi
on the edge = reunalla, perällä
nowadays = nykyään
increasingly common = jatkuvasti yleistyvää
man-sized = ihmisen kokoinen
gas grill = kaasugrilli
terrace = terassi

Lähde: <https://featuringfinland.com/finland-summer-cottage-cabin/>