

Travel advisory for the  
**126<sup>th</sup> IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting**  
Helsinki, Finland, Saturday-Sunday, 28-29 March 2026

Please check the latest information at the meeting homepage:  
[2026-March – Helsinki – IEEE Region 8](http://2026-March-Helsinki-IEEE-Region-8)

**WELCOME TO HELSINKI – HOST CITY FOR THE IEEE REGION 8 COMMITTEE MEETING**

Helsinki is the capital and most populous city in Finland. It is on the shore of the Gulf of Finland and is the seat of southern Finland's Uusimaa region. As the most populous urban area in Finland, it is the country's most significant centre for politics, education, finance, culture, and research. Helsinki is 80 kilometres (50 mi) north of Tallinn, Estonia, 400 kilometres (250 mi) east of Stockholm, Sweden, and 300 kilometres (190 mi) west of Saint Petersburg, Russia. Due to the large number of sea passengers, Helsinki is classified as a major port city, and in 2017 it was rated the world's busiest passenger port.



- Population: capital city 689,758; urban area 1,360,075; metropolitan area 1,616,656
- Time zone: Eastern European Time (EET, GMT+2) until Saturday, 28 March 2026; Eastern European Summer Time (EEST, GMT+3) from Sunday, 29 March 2026.
- Electricity: Electrical sockets (outlets) are Type F (Schuko) sockets as standard, which accept two round pins, and sometimes Type C (Europlug) sockets, both operating at 230V and 50Hz. Telephone: telephone calling prefix is +358-9
- Units of measure: The metric system
- Currency: Euro (EUR)



**VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION – INTERCONTINENTAL BUDAPEST**

The **Clarion Hotel Helsinki** will be the main venue for the IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting. It is located in the vibrant district of Jätkäsaari, right next to Helsinki's West Harbour. The location is ideal – just a short walk from the city centre and all its services, yet offering guests the chance to enjoy the calming maritime atmosphere. With its 16 floors, the hotel's striking towers have quickly become one of Helsinki's most recognizable landmarks.

**Address:**

[Clarion Hotel Helsinki](http://Clarion-Hotel-Helsinki),  
Tyynenmerenkatu 2, 00220 Helsinki, Finland  
Phone: +358 10 8503820  
Hotel booking number: BK-04225  
Hotel website: <https://www.strawberryhotels.com/hotels/finland/helsinki/clarion-hotel-helsinki/>,  
[Google Maps](http://Google-Maps), Facebook.com/clarionhotelhelsinki, Instagram: @clarionhelsinki,



## GETTING FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE MEETING VENUE

Helsinki-Vantaa Airport, or simply Helsinki Airport, is the main international airport serving Helsinki, the capital of Finland, as well as its surrounding metropolitan area, and the Uusimaa region in Finland. Helsinki-Vantaa Airport is located 20 kilometers from the center of Helsinki. The journey takes about half an hour by train and car. The bus journey takes about 40–50 minutes. Helsinki Airport has multiple transport connections to Helsinki metropolitan area and around Finland.

1. **Train:** Helsinki Airport's train station is located under the terminal. There is a direct elevator and escalator connection from the departures and arrivals hall to the train station. Local I and P trains operate to and from Helsinki Airport. A train ride to Helsinki City Centre takes about 30 minutes. Local train tickets can be purchased from HSL's mobile app, or from the ticket machine at the train platform. Timetables, tickets and fares on the HSL website: <https://www.hsl.fi/en/tickets-and-fares>.
2. **Bus:** Helsinki Airport's bus station is located outside the Arrivals hall. Bus route 600 operates between Helsinki Airport and Helsinki City Centre. The travel time is about 40 minutes. Tickets can be purchased online on HSL's mobile app, or at the bus station's ticket machine. Read more about tickets and fares from HSL website.
3. **Taxi:** If you are leaving the airport by taxi, you will find the taxi station outside the Arrivals hall. There are four taxi lanes, and you can choose which lane and which taxi company you want to use. The taxi companies that have an agreement with the airport company Finavia operate from the lanes. These are FixuTaxi, Taksi Helsinki, Menevä-taksi and Lähitaksi. The fares for taxis are indicated on the taxi station. Pre-booked taxis are waiting for passengers at the pick-up area on the first floor of the P2 parking hall. Price: 6 am – 6 pm 1.24 €/km, 1.24 €/min; 6 pm – 6 am 1.35 €/km, 1.35 €/min; minimum charge 15 €. NOTE: The price from the airport to the Clarion Hotel is approx. 75 €. Based on your arrival data, we can send you information to share the taxi with the colleagues arriving with the same flight or at approximately the same time.
  - **RECOMMENDED: Bolt app.** Bolt also provides fast and cheaper service, approx. 45 €. The official website from which you can get the app is: <https://bolt.eu/en-fi/>.

## SOCIAL EVENTS:

### Friday, 27 March 2026, 19:00h – Welcome reception and dinner

141 Located at the top of Clarion Hotel Helsinki on the 16th floor, Skyroom Bar is one of the city's most stunning venues. The bar features a classically stylish interior, and its floor-to-ceiling windows offer breathtaking views over both the rooftops of Helsinki and the sea – definitely the best place in Helsinki to watch the sunset. On Friday and Saturday nights, an alternating DJ brings a lively weekend vibe to the bar. Please note that after 8:00 PM, the age limit at Skyroom Bar is 21 years.



### Saturday, 28 March 2026

**17:30–19:00h Sightseeing:** Bus guided tour; pick-up from the Clarion Hotel Helsinki.

**19:30–23:00h Gala Dinner:** Rooftop restaurant  
10. Kerros (10th floor), Kaivokatu 3, 00100 Helsinki.

Restaurant 10. Kerros is a stylish restaurant with a view commanding the top spot in Helsinki. Devoted to authentic flavors, the kitchen uses raw materials that highlight sustainability and emphasize their origins in



Finland and Helsinki, using traditional preparation techniques, adapting the flavors to modern tastes. In addition to enjoying food and beverages, guests can admire the magnificent views from the large windows open up on the bustling Mannerheimintie and Lasipalatsi building, stretching all the way to the Kamppi district. The elegant rooftop terrace is open all year round, subject to the weather.

## MEETING AND SOCIAL EVENTS DRESS CODE:

Please note that the dress code for the IEEE Region 8 committee meeting and the Welcome reception is business casual. The dress code for the social events, the bus sightseeing and gala dinner is casual.

## CURRENCY AND PAYMENTS

**Currency:** The official currency is the Euro (EUR). Credit cards are widely accepted.

**Tips:** Tipping in Helsinki restaurants is not expected because service charges are included in the bill, reflecting Finland's culture of fair wages and service included in prices. However, for truly exceptional service, you can leave a small tip, often by rounding up the bill to the nearest convenient amount (e.g., €2–€5) or slightly more for fine dining, but it's a gesture of appreciation, not a requirement, and many Finns simply say "Kiitos" (Thanks).

## CLIMATE OVERVIEW – WEATHER IN APRIL

In March, Helsinki's weather is a mix of late winter and early spring conditions, characterized by cold temperatures, significant potential for snow and ice, and gradually increasing daylight hours. It's still very much a winter environment, so warm clothing is essential.

Daytime High:	0°C to 2°C (32°F to 36°F)
Nighttime Low:	-6°C to -3°C (21°F to 27°F)
Precipitation:	35-64 mm (low, mostly snow or sleet)
Snowfall:	Snow cover is often at its deepest around mid-March.

**Sunshine:** Days are lengthening, from about 10.5 hours early in the month to over 13 hours by the end, e.g. Saturday, March 28, 2026 (GMT+2) sunrise 05:58 h & sunset 18:54 h.

**Wind:** Generally gentle to moderate, but can feel very cold due to the low air temperatures.

**What to Pack:** A thick winter coat, thermal layers, gloves, a scarf, a hat, and appropriate waterproof and insulated footwear are all necessary to stay comfortable.

**Detailed forecast:** check the [Finnish Meteorological Institute](#) or an online weather service like [Weather Spark](#).

## CITY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Helsinki's public transport, managed by the Helsinki Regional Transport Authority (HSL), is an efficient system comprising buses, trams, the Metro (subway), commuter trains, light rail, and ferries, all accessible with a single ticket. The network operates on a zone-based fare system. A single ticket allows transfers between different modes of transport within its validity period (80 to 110 minutes, depending on the zones purchased).

**Ticket Options and Purchase Methods:** The HSL area is divided into zones (A, B, C, and D). You must purchase a ticket covering at least two adjacent zones (e.g., AB, BC) as single-zone tickets are generally unavailable for zones A, B, and C.

- **HSL App:** The easiest way to buy single, day, or season tickets. You can use it as a guest for single and day tickets (1-3 days) or create an account for full features.
- **Contactless Payment:** A fast option for adult single tickets. Simply tap your debit or credit card on the card reader on board the vehicle (except the Metro/ferry, where readers are at the station entrance).
- **Ticket Machines:** Located at key transport hubs, metro stations, and railway stations.
- **Sales Points:** Single and day tickets can be purchased at R-kiosks and other HSL service points.

## Popular Routes and Tips

- **Airport to City Center:** An ABC zone ticket is required for travel between Helsinki-Vantaa Airport (zone C) and the city center (zone A/B) via I or P commuter trains.
- **Sightseeing:** Trams 2 and 3 offer scenic routes through the city center, which is a great way to see local life and attractions.
- **Suomenlinna Fortress:** The ferry to this UNESCO World Heritage site is part of the HSL network and accessible with a valid HSL ticket covering the necessary zones.

## KEY AND MUST-SEE ATTRACTIONS:

Helsinki is a compact and sustainable city, easily explored by foot, bike, or efficient public transport.

## Top Attractions & Experiences

- Suomenlinna: A UNESCO World Heritage sea fortress.
- Helsinki Cathedral & Uspenski Cathedral: Iconic religious buildings.
- Temppeliaukio Church (Rock Church): A church built into solid rock.
- Senate Square: A neoclassical square with the Cathedral.
- Art & Museums: Kiasma (contemporary art), Ateneum (Finnish art), and the National Museum.
- Saunas & Sea Dips: Enjoy public saunas and refreshing dips in the Baltic Sea.
- Market Squ (Kauppatori): A bustling harbor market for local food and crafts.

We look forward to welcoming you to the 126<sup>th</sup> IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting in Helsinki!

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