

NELIMARKKA RESIDENCY ▪ VILLA NELIMARKKA

USEFUL INFORMATION

HOW TO GET TO NELIMARKKA RESIDENCY

From Helsinki the most convenient way to travel to Alajärvi is to take **a train to Seinäjoki** and **from Seinäjoki a bus to Alajärvi**. The ticket prices are cheaper if you book them early online. For the train it is recommended to buy a ticket in advance, but the bus tickets can also be bought from the bus driver with cash.

Train schedules: vr.fi/en

Bus schedules: matkahuolto.fi/en

example: Train Helsinki-Seinäjoki 10:24-13:16 >>> Bus Seinäjoki-Alajärvi ABC 13:45-15:15

There are only a few bus connections from Seinäjoki to Alajärvi (2-5/day depending on the day of the week). If it's not possible to take the bus the same day as the flight, it's recommended to stay overnight in Helsinki and travel to Alajärvi the next day. In addition to Couchsurfing and Airbnb, Omena hotel is an inexpensive option of the hotels in Helsinki: www.omenahotels.com/en/. Also there are many hostels to choose from.

When you arrive in Alajärvi, the museum staff will pick you up from the **Alajärvi ABC** (gas station) bus stop and drive you to Villa Nelimarkka. Next to the gas station is S-Market where you can buy food upon arrival. The Nelimarkka Museum's Curator of Education will be pleased to help you to find the best travel schedules and options.

PAYMENT OF THE RENT

The rent for the Villa is **400€/month** OR **200€/month plus a workshop/open studio event or artwork donation for the museum**. Donations are considered on occasion. The rent is always the same per artist.

Family members and partners are welcome to stay at the Villa, but we appreciate to get informed by this in advance. Payment for visitors: **12€/night, 50€/week**.

The rent can be transferred into our account or paid by cash or credit card. You can pay the rent in advance or while staying in the residency.

THE VILLA AND THE SURROUNDINGS

The virtue of Nelimarkka Residency is its **peaceful surroundings and nature**. Surrounded by pine, spruce and birch trees with Alajärvi lake nearby means that the artist staying at the house really gets **a quiet and serene working environment** with a large yard and terrace. The light and nature outside has its special features in different seasons.

Villa Nelimarkka has **two bedrooms and studios**. Both of the bedrooms and studios are upstairs of the Villa. Depending on bookings 1-2 artists can stay in the residency at a time.

The Villa is ideal also for an artist couple, family or co-operative artists. More beds can be arranged for bigger groups. If you apply for the residency alone, you're most likely going to be accompanied with another artist in the Villa.

1st studio-bedroom combination:

a lockable bedroom & a separate open studio space without a door just above the staircase.

2nd studio-bedroom combination:

bedroom and studio in the same space which can be locked.

Common areas such as the kitchen and shower are downstairs. There is a wifi-connection at the Villa. During the summer, the downstairs of the Villa is open to the public Tue-Fri 13-17 and there are occasional events at other times.

Address of Villa Nelimarkka: Pekkolantie 67, 62900 Alajärvi

MUSEUM FACILITIES

The laundry machine for your use is situated at the museum basement (500 m away from the Villa). The laundry machine can be used whenever the museum staff is present. Usually from 9.15am to 5pm during the week and on weekends Sat 12am to 4pm and Sun 12am to 5pm.

For printmakers we have **an intaglio and a lithography press** in a workshop space next to the museum. The space is used for museum workshops and by the local folk high school, but the presses can be used when the space is not used for the workshops.

The Curator of Education of Nelimarkka Museum is taking care of the residency as part of one's job. She/he will help you with planning the travels and help organizing the workshop/open studio. Also a trip to local sights is often possible to organize during a residency month. Feel free to ask any questions!

Address of Nelimarkka Museum: Pekkolantie 115, 62900 Alajärvi

Look for more info and history about the Villa Nelimarkka residency house and Nelimarkka Museum from our website: www.nelimarkka-museo.fi

ALAJÄRVI

Alajärvi is a small town in the countryside with less than 10 000 inhabitants. The peaceful environment has beautiful flatland landscapes, fields, forests and lakes.

Villa Nelimarkka-museum and Villa Nelimarkka are located in the cape of Pekkola **about 4 kilometers from the town center**. The residency house is within a walking distance from the museum, about 500 meters. The residency has **bicycles** for your use for shopping and other trips!

SUPERMARKETS & STORES

There are three big supermarkets nearby each other: **S-Market**, **K-Supermarket** and **Lidl** where you can buy food and basic necessities. There is no art supply store in Alajärvi but some basic materials can be bought from the local book and hardware stores like oil and acrylic paints and gesso (**Bookstore Info** / Address: Kauppakatu 16).

If you bring the materials with you, it's also good to check the airline restrictions. It is also possible to order supplies online. The **post office** is alongside the K-Supermarket. Art shops:

<http://www.arteljee.fi/> <http://www.tempera.com/shop/>

WEATHER

During summer it can get warm (+25C) and winters might be very cold (-25C). So depending on the time of your residency period, you might want to take some extra clothes with you. It's good to check the weather forecast before arriving because the weather can change quite fast. >

<http://en.ilmatieteenlaitos.fi/>

LEISURE TIME

Flea Markets

Adeliina / Address: Kuopiontie 1 / Open: Mon 10am-6pm, Tue-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-3pm

Lähetyskirpputori / Address: Kauppakatu 18 / Open: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 10am-2pm

Swimming pool, gym and sauna:

Website: www.alajarvenuimahalli.fi/en/index.html

Address: Urheilutie 2

Single ticket 6€/adult. Gym is also accessible with the ticket to the swimming pool.

Swimming time 1,5 hours.

During winter there is a possibility for **ice swimming**. Ask more if you are interested. In summertime you can also swim in the **three public beaches** in Alajärvi lake and rent a rowing boat.

Town library

Website: www.kirjasto.alajarvi.fi

Address: Kirkkotie 7

Open: Mon, Tue, Thu 12am-7pm and Wed, Fri 10am-4pm

They have some books in English. It is possible to get a temporary library card.

Cafés and bars

Café Pandora / Address: Keskuskatu 14 / Open: Mon-Fri 6am-6pm, Sat 10am-4pm

Kahvila Toivo / Address: Keskuskatu / Open: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 10am-2pm

Hotel-Restaurant Alvariini and bowling hall / Address: Paavolantie 1

website: www.alvariini.fi/main-page

Hiking

Pyhävuori hill / nature walk routes and a view to Lappajärvi lake

About 10km from center of Alajärvi
Some photos and a description in Finnish:
www.retkipaikka.fi/vapaa/pyhavuori-pohjanmaan-koli

Downhill skiing

Website: www.lakis.fi
Address: Lakeaharjuntie 98, 62840 (in Vimpeli about 16km from Alajärvi)

Cinema

Website: www.alareksi.fi
Address: Sairaatie 3

You can also rent a car for one day with a fair price from Alajärvi.

ARCHITECTURE

There are six buildings in Alajärvi designed by the Finnish architect **Alvar Aalto** (1898-1976). Aalto's output and his entire career, from the first public building to the last, can be seen in the centre of Alajärvi: *the Youth Association Building, Villa Väinölä, the Old Hospital, the Town Hall, the Parish Center and the Town Library* finished by Aalto's firm (1991) form a representative Aalto-centre.

The church of Alajärvi was designed by architect **Carl Ludvig Engel** (1778-1840). The Nelimarkka Museum building was designed by artist Eero Nelimarkka's friend architect **Hilding Ekelund** (1893-1984).

LOCAL ARTISTS

Elina Försti: www.elinaforsti.fi
Ritva Lindberg: www.suomensurrealistit.net/lindberg/index.htm
Antti Maasalo: www.maasalo.fi
Self-taught folk artist Tapio Autio: www.ateljeeautio.net
Meeting the local artists and visiting their studios can be arranged upon agreement.

EVERYMAN'S RIGHT AND NORTHERN LIGHTS

The so-called everyman's right (*jokamiehenoikeus*) means that in Finland it is allowed to walk freely in the woods and pick berries and mushrooms (but no other [parts of] living plants). More information about the rights and regulations:
www.nationalparks.fi/hikinginfinland/rightsandregulations

It is possible to see the northern lights in Alajärvi, but the circumstances with the weather and time of the year have to be favourable. Auroras Now! is a space weather service maintained by Finnish Meteorological Institute to help detect auroras in Finland: www.aurora.fmi.fi. The magnetic disturbance level diagram shows the current northern light activity. The northern lights can't be seen in the summer time due to the light nights.

COMMENTS FROM PREVIOUS RESIDENCY ARTISTS

Antje Pehle / Berlin, Germany www.antjepehle.de 2009 / 2010

After an initial two-month residence in the winter of 2009 I returned now - in August 2010 - for three months back here. I am experiencing the landscape in completely different colours. The dominant white of winter had disappeared and my drawings from August, September and October show blue and green and all the colors of Southern Ostrobothnia during this time of the year. I continued my project "Experiencing landscape" and produced a series of drawings which try to depict and mirror the atmosphere of the region. My residence times at Pekkola were wonderful and much appreciated chance to work and live in Finland, to exchange experiences with other artists as well as to become familiar with that part of the country and the general Finnish way of life.

The calmness and vastness which I find in Finland allows me to concentrate on my work. This atmosphere is a real contrast to my life in Berlin. I experience it as a wonderful enrichment for my artistic work and my life to be able to move between these two poles."

Wesley Berg / Ohio, USA www.wesleyberg.wordpress.com 2010 / 2012 / 2015

My time in Alajärvi at the Nelimarkka-museo greatly exceeded my expectations. I was seeking a quiet place to work and also to learn about a different culture than the American culture I am used to. What I found was an amazingly beautiful landscape filled with colors I feel I have never seen before. I found a magical quietude in the forests and on the lakes. And I met some of the most kind and friendly people I have ever met in my life.

I began my work at the residence with the intention of continuing a drawing series I had begun a year ago. Along with those drawings, unexpectedly, I felt a great desire to create a musical project, responding to the beauty I was witnessing around me. My work has always been inspired by the world. Therefore, my days in Alajärvi consisted of walks, bike rides, and running. Then I would work late into the evenings, often until the sun was rising! It was a perfect environment for the creation of my work - to be able to be out in nature and then have the time and space to create responses to that nature.

WELCOME!

The Regional Art Museum of Southern Ostrobothnia

Nelimarkka Museum

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