

1 Johan Ludvig Runeberg

Walter Runeberg, 1885

J. L. Runeberg (1804–1877) is the national poet of Finland. His most famous poem is Our Land (Maamme), which has become the national anthem. Runeberg, who wrote in Swedish, was a respected public figure already during his lifetime, and his literary production helped to strengthen Finnish culture and the birth of Finnish national identity. His most famous work is The Tales of Ensign Stål, which tells the story of the Finnish War 1808–1809 and its heroes. The monument is sculpted by Johan Runeberg's son, Walter Runeberg. A larger version of the artwork is in Helsinki.

2 Parliamentary Triptych (Valtionpäivätriptyyksi)

Kirsi Kaulanen and Ylva Holländer, 2009

The Parliamentary Triptych and the surrounding park August Eklöf's park (Augusti Eklöfin puisto) are part of the projects of the Diet of Porvoo's 200th anniversary. The City wanted a permanent memorial to the Diet of 1809 that would in a respectful way symbolise the significance of the event for Finland's development towards independence and democracy.

3 Georg (Göran) Magnus Sprengtporten Memorial plaque, 2010

G. M. Sprengtporten (1740–1819) was born in Porvoo and served in both the Swedish and Russian armies during his career. He has been regarded both as a national hero and a traitor because of this. Sprengtporten's goal was to create an independent Finnish state with Russian support, and he played a significant role in the birth of the Grand Duchy of Finland. Sprengtporten served as the first governor-general of the autonomous Finland from 1808–1809.

4 Louis Sparre

We can thank Louis Sparre (1863–1964), a Swedish painter and designer who settled in Finland, for the fact that the old town of Porvoo has been preserved as we know it today. A grid plan had already been drawn up for the area, which would have destroyed the streets, squares, and residential areas dating back to the Middle Ages. The memorial plaque shows a picture of Sparre's announcement, which he used to invite residents to hear his presentation in 1898, where he spoke for the preservation of the area. Attitudes changed gradually, and the city council approved the preservation of the area in 1911. Sparre is also known as the founder of the Iris factory in Porvoo. Furniture designed by Sparre and ceramics designed by Alfred William Finch were produced there 1897–1902.

5 Ville Vallgren

Ville Vallgren (1855–1940) was a sculptor born in Porvoo. He was Albert Edelfelt's age mate and friend. Just like Edelfelt, Vallgren also lived several years in Paris. Vallgren's most famous work is the fountain sculpture Havis Amanda in Helsinki Market Square. Vallgren is also remembered for his miniature sculptures and Art Nouveau-style utility goods decorated with female figures. In 1934, Vallgren donated a relief he had made to the Edelfelt-Vallgren Museum, which had previously operated in the building. His works are currently on display at the premises of Porvoo Museum.

6 Monument to the cavalry

The monument is dedicated to the Finnish Light Dragoon Regiment, which was the Swedish Army's light cavalry unit 1770–1927. The regiment's headquarters were based in Porvoo until 1777.

7 Larin Paraske and Adolf Neovius

Nina Sailo, 1983

Larin Paraske (1834–1904) is one of Finland's best-known poetry singers. Thousands of verses in the Kalevala metre, proverbs, and traditional lament songs have been recorded as sung by her. Adolf Neovius, a theologian and collector of folklore, met Paraske in Sakkola in 1887 and began to record the poetry that she sang. The cooperation with Paraske continued when Neovius got a job in Porvoo. Paraske lived mainly in Porvoo 1891–1894, and she became a celebrity. Among others Eero Järnefelt and Albert Edelfelt came to paint her portrait, and Jean Sibelius came to hear her sing.



8 Albert Edelfelt, Ville Vallgren, 1934

Albert Edelfelt (1854–1905), who was born at Kiiala Manor (Kiialan kartano) in Porvoo, is one of the most significant and beloved visual artists in Finland. Edelfelt made an international career and lived and worked for a long time in Paris and at the Russian Imperial Court. In the summer, he would return to Haikkoo in Porvoo to be with his mother and sisters and paint in his summer studio. Many Porvoo-themed artworks were created in Haikkoo, like A Child's Funeral Procession (Lapsen ruumissaatto), Boys Playing Boys on the Beach (Leikkiviä poikia rannalla), and Porvoo as seen from Linnamäki (Porvoo Linnamäeltä nähtynä).

*Find out more about
Albert Edelfelt's Porvoo:
Albert Edelfeltin ATELJEE
www.albertedelfeltinateljee.fi*

9 Memorials of the wars in the 20th century

There are two memorials in Porvoo dedicated to the victims of the Finnish Civil War of 1918. The Statue of Liberty (Vapaudenpatsas) is in the courtyard of the Porvoo Cathedral and the memorial For those who fell for their convictions (Vakaumuksensa puolesta kaatuneiden muistomerkki) at Näsi cemetery. There is also a military cemetery for the victims of the Winter War and Continuation War at Näsi cemetery. The memorial is a high wooden cross, designed by Lennart Segerstråle.

Näsi cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in Finland. It has been in use since the late 18th century, and it has many grave monuments made by sculptors.

10 Plague Memorial

The plague epidemic that had been raging in Europe spread in 1710 to Porvoo with ships that had left from the Port of Tallinn. There was no known cure for the disease, and the mortality rate was extremely high. In Porvoo, 652 people died from the plague. This was about half of the population. They were buried at the hill in Näsi, Näsinmäki, which was at the time on the outskirts of the city. This was the first time the place was used as a burial place.

11 Gabriel Linsén, Alpo and Nina Sailo, 1959

Gabriel Linsén (1838–1914) was a composer, musician, and choir director. His most famous composition is A Summer Day in Kangasala (Kesäpäivä Kangasalla), which he composed to a text by Sakari Topelius. In Porvoo, Linsén worked as a music teacher at the lyceum and as an organist at the Finnish church. Linsén was a productive composer who composed around 80 choral songs and solos. Gabriel Linsén lived with his wife, the photographer Natalia, and family near a park in the so-called Borenius House at Vuorikatu 9. In her photographs Natalia Linsén has captured Porvoo at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries.

12 Fredrika Runeberg, Gunnar Elfgrén, 1957

Fredrika Runeberg (1807–1879) was the national poet J. L. Runeberg's wife, who also produced diverse literature. She is regarded as the author of the first Finnish historical novel. In addition, Fredrika was a journalist and commented on women's issues, arts, and language issues. She published under a pseudonym. The sculpture stands next to the family's long-term home at Rihkamakatu 8.

13 Monument to the Royal Guard Jaeger Regiment, Lennart Segerstråle, 1939

In the beginning of the 19th century, Finland was part of the Kingdom of Sweden. The border between Sweden and Russia ran through Ahvenkoski, only about 40 kilometres from Porvoo. Five hundred soldiers from the Royal Guard Jaeger Regiment arrived to patrol the frontier area 1803–1805. Three hundred of the soldiers were billeted in Porvoo, and the rest in the countryside. The number of soldiers was significant in Porvoo, as the city's population was only around two thousand. The regiment donated the monument as a token of gratitude to the City of Porvoo and its residents for accommodating the soldiers for two years.

14 The Harvesters (Elonleikkaajat)

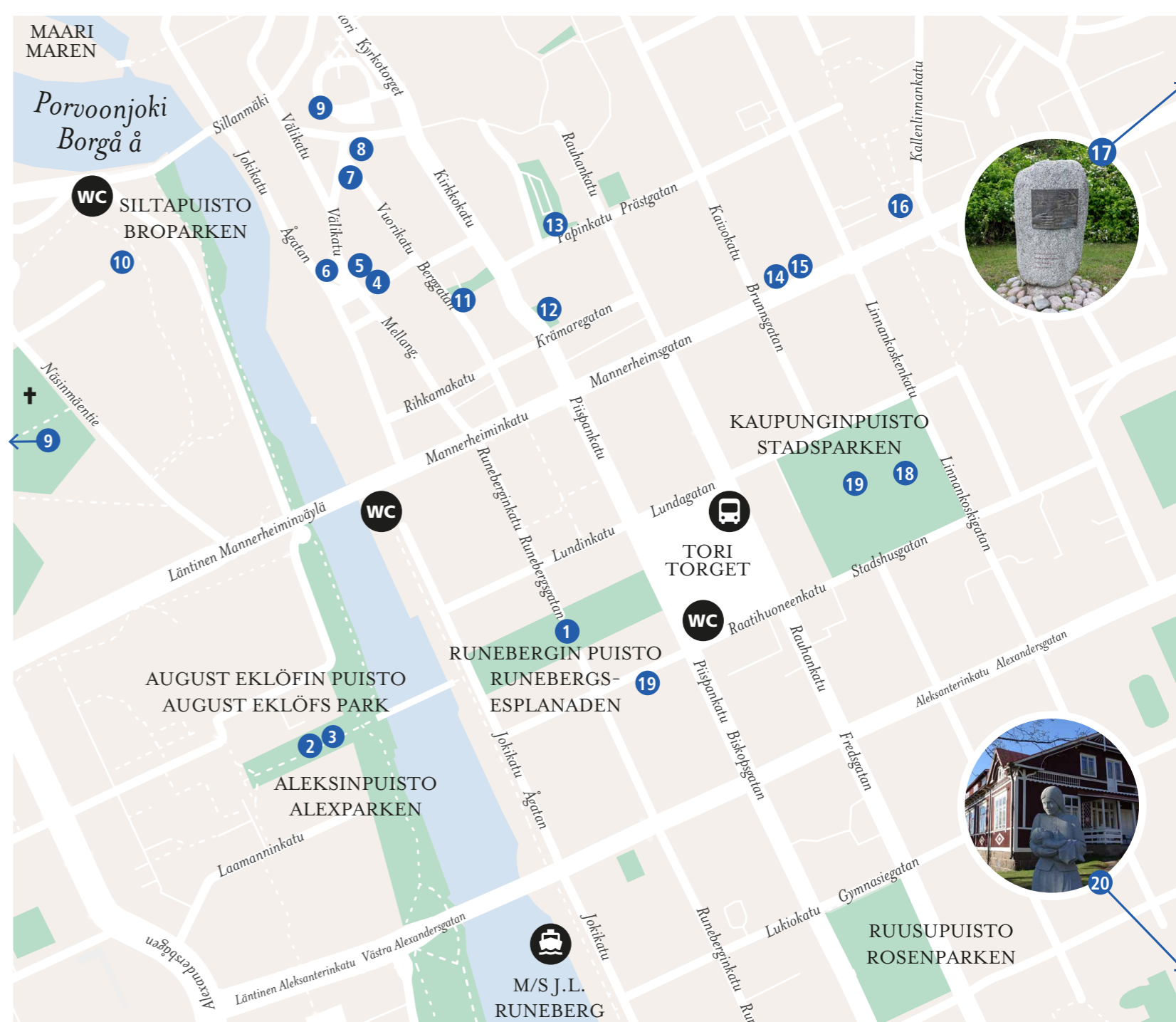
Aimo Tukiainen, 1945

The relief The Harvesters is located on the wall of a property known as the WSOY house. WSOY was a publishing company in Porvoo. The artwork honours the memory of the victims of the bombing during the Continuation War. A bomb that fell on the grounds of the publishing company in August 1941 killed nearly 30 people who were rushing to the bomb shelter located beneath the building. In addition, dozens were injured. The victims are buried in the Porvoo military cemetery.

15 Werner Söderström

Oskari Jauhiainen, 1960

Werner Söderström (1860–1914) was a pioneer in Finnish-language publishing. He bought his father's printing house and expanded it. The father had worked as a bookseller in Porvoo. In the late 19th century, WSOY was the most significant publisher of Finnish-language literature. In the statue, Werner Söderström sits in front of his office and printing house, which covers an entire quarter. WSOY's publishing and printing operations ended in Porvoo in the 1990s and were moved to Helsinki.



16 The Birth of Words (Sanojen synty)

Jukka Tuominen, 1996

The printing industry and other book-related sources of livelihood have been major employers in Porvoo. A three-part group of sculptures is a reminder of this tradition. It is situated in the park near the main library and the former headquarters of the WSOY publishing company. Printing trade workers had a habit of meeting in the park during their breaks and shift changes.



17 Monument to Evacuees (Evakkomuistomerkki)

Jarmo Vellonen, 1999, Viborg square

After the Winter War and the Continuation War, the Porvoo region became a new home for some 5,000 Karelians who had lost their homes. The Karelian societies in Porvoo launched a project to produce a monument in the late 1990s. The motif of the work is two hands; one symbolises the life's work that the Karelians were forced to leave behind. The other hand symbolises the helping hand of the people of Porvoo.

18 The Fishboy (Kalapoika)

Pekka Alava, 1947

The Fishboy is the only fountain sculpture in Porvoo. The publishing house WSOY donated the sculpture to the City of Porvoo in honour of its 600th anniversary in 1946. The donation was intended for the creation of a playground and a water basin for children. The sculpture was ordered from Pekka Jalava, an employee at WSOY, who also worked as a sculpturer.

19 Johannes Linnankoski, Kalervo Kallio, 1946

Johannes Linnankoski (born Vihtori Peltonen, 1869–1913) was a writer and journalist born in Askola. He took a stand on topical issues, like the language issue and matters concerning crofters and the working class. His best-known novel is The Song of the Blood-Red Flower, which has also been adapted into films. In Porvoo, Linnankoski is known especially as the founder and editor of the newspaper Uusimaa, and he also took the initiative to establish a Finnish-language secondary school, currently known as Linnankoski High School (Linnankosken lukio). On the wall of the school building is a relief designed by Heikki Varja, depicting the birth of the school. The artwork was published in 1970 to mark the school's 75th anniversary.

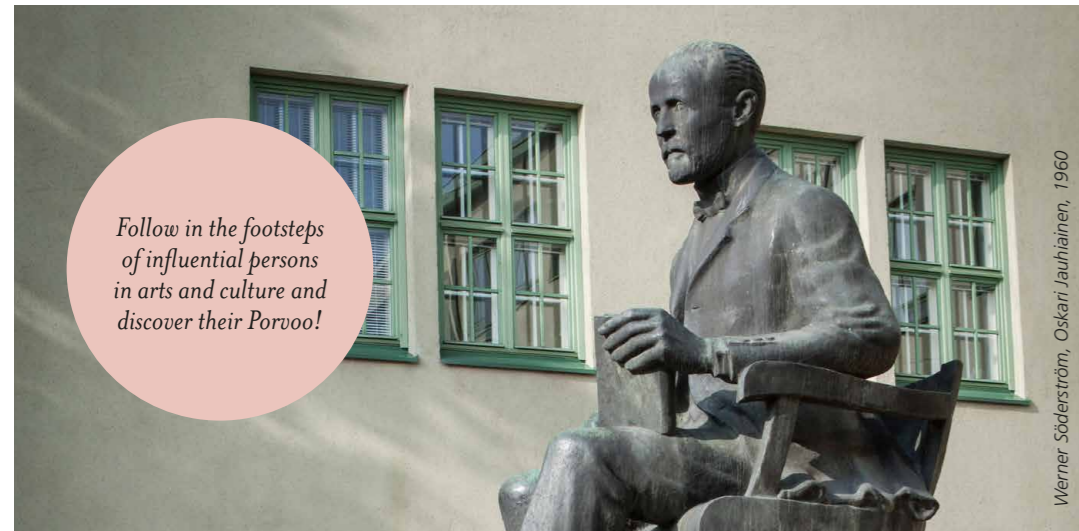
20 Alva Forsius, Marko Vaher, 2016

Alva Forsius (1866–1935) was a midwife and a women's rights activist who dedicated her life's work to the welfare of women and children. She founded a maternity hospital in Porvoo and a home for mothers and children, which was the first in Finland. It was intended for single mothers and their children. Today the former maternity hospital houses a youth hostel, and the house opposite, that used to be a home for mothers and children, is now an early education centre. Linnankoskenkatu 1.

The City of Artists

Porvoo has always been home to an exceptionally many artists and people who have been influential in Finnish culture, and this remains true also today. The creative artists of today continue Porvoo's rich cultural heritage through their work, and you can enjoy their art both in the urban environment and at events.

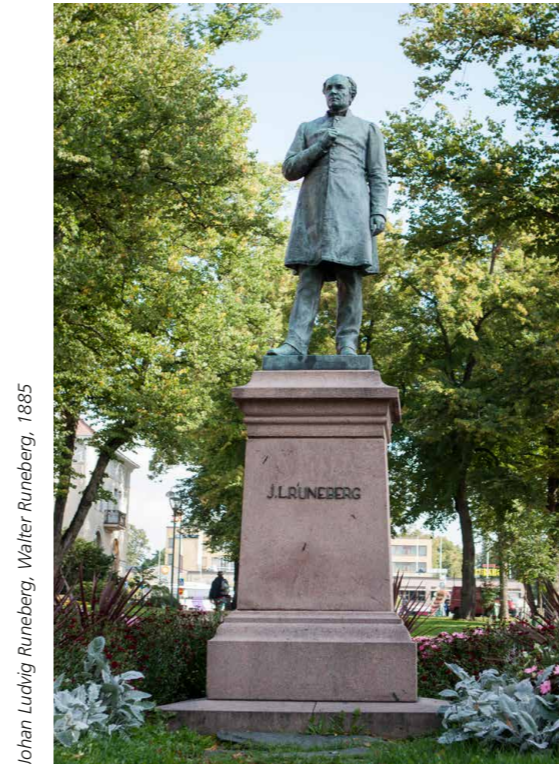
Many people who have been influential in the past live on in the cityscape in the form of monuments and memorials. You can encounter them in parks and near the buildings where they once lived and worked.



Follow in the footsteps of influential persons in arts and culture and discover their Porvoo!

The development of Porvoo as a City of Culture

Cultural and social life in Porvoo became more vibrant during the 19th century. Such influential persons within culture as J. L. Runeberg and his family also moved to the city. A new generation of artists and persons who were influential in culture, emerged during the second half of the century. Many of them have their roots in Porvoo and they have been immortalised in monuments in their hometown. Porvoo's significance as a city of artists is symbolised by the fact that many of its monuments are created by local artists.



Accessibility of the Route

Many of the artworks are in Old Porvoo, where the streets and squares are mainly paved with cobblestones. Raatihuoneentori [the Town Hall square] is uneven and slopes down towards the river. There are also differences in height in the area. You can explore the artworks in parks in an accessible way. In the parks and squares, and along the riverbanks there are benches where you rest for a while.

More detailed information on accessibility, please visit: visitporvoo.fi/en/accessibility/



The Arena for History

Porvoo is one of the eldest cities in Finland and has been the arena for many historical events. Porvoo's location on the coast and its good transport connections made it a centre for trade and religious life already in its early days. In addition, both Swedish and Russian military units have been stationed in the city during different centuries. Numerous monuments tell the story of the city's history and the events that have influenced the lives of its inhabitants.

Porvoo was granted city rights in the 14th century and it is one of the oldest cities in Finland.



Arts and prominent historical figures

Do you want to know more?
Find more detailed descriptions of the artworks and find more art online.



porvoo.fi/culture



Porvoo - The City of Memorials

PORVOO  BORGÅ

MAP