

# WELCOME TO VARKAUS

## A Practical Guide for Taideniitty Residents

### Welcome to Taideniitty and to Varkaus!

We hope you will feel at home during your residency and have time not only to work, but also to discover Varkaus, Old Varkaus, Lake Saimaa and the surrounding nature.

This small guide contains practical information about everyday life in Varkaus: getting around, food and groceries, cafés, health services, shopping, culture, nature and useful places.

For the latest information, opening hours and events, please also check the links provided in this guide.

The map of Varkaus: <https://kartta.varkaus.fi/IMS/en/Map>

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## TAIDENIITTY

### Taideniitty Artist Residency

Kissakoskenkatu 6  
78300 Varkaus  
Finland

**Phone:** +358 44 245 6449 Annikka, +358 44 579 6850 Kati, +358 41 362 1119 Teemu

**Email:** [taideniitty@gmail.com](mailto:taideniitty@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.taideniitty.fi](http://www.taideniitty.fi)

Taideniitty is located in **Old Varkaus (Vanha Varkaus)**, a historic wooden-house district at the heart of Varkaus's industrial heritage.

### Useful websites

#### Taideniitty

[Taideniitty | Artist Residency in Varkaus, Finland](#)

#### Visit Varkaus

[visitvarkaus.fi/en](http://visitvarkaus.fi/en)

#### City of Varkaus

[varkaus.fi/en](http://varkaus.fi/en)

#### Visit Finland

[visitfinland.com](http://visitfinland.com)

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# 1. GETTING AROUND

Varkaus is a relatively small town and many places in the centre can be reached on foot. Taideniitty is located in Old Varkaus, close to the historic industrial area.

## Walking

Walking is often the easiest way to get around the centre. The town centre, restaurants, cafés, library and many cultural attractions are within walking distance of Taideniitty.

The **Old Varkaus sightseeing route** is an excellent introduction to the area. It is approximately 3.5 km long and has 16 sites connected with the history of Varkaus. The route is available in English and can be followed all year round.

### Old Varkaus sightseeing tour:

[visitvarkaus.fi/en/page/old-varkaus-sightseeing-tour](http://visitvarkaus.fi/en/page/old-varkaus-sightseeing-tour)

## Cycling

You can borrow a city bike for free from the Konsti Museum Center from May through the end of October.

## Local buses

Varkaus has local bus services operated by Soisalon Liikenne. The nearest Bus stop is only 50 meters away in Savontie street

For current routes and timetables, always check the City of Varkaus website:

### Public transport:

[varkaus.fi](http://varkaus.fi) → Traffic → Public transport

A single ticket can be purchased using the **Reitit ja Liput** mobile application. A single ticket bought through the app is valid for 60 minutes and allows unlimited travel during its validity period.

## PALI – accessible local transport

Varkaus also has **PALI**, a low-threshold service transport system. It is open to everyone and can, when needed, pick up passengers close to their home and take them close to their destination.

**PALI:** +358 50 329 7618

Bookings are recommended between **7:30–8:00** and **12:00–12:30**.

## Train

Varkaus railway station is served by trains connecting Varkaus with other Finnish cities.

Because train timetables vary by day, always check the current timetable before travelling.

### VR – Finnish Railways:

[www.vr.fi/en](http://www.vr.fi/en)

The VR website and app provide current timetables, ticket sales and real-time travel information.

## Taxi

For a taxi, use a local taxi company or taxi application. It is usually best to order a taxi in advance, especially outside the town centre. Tel. +358 100 86100

## Travelling by car

If you have a car, there is generally good access to the main roads around Varkaus. Free parking is available in many areas, but always check local signs.

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# 2. FOOD & GROCERIES

There are several supermarkets and smaller shops in Varkaus.

### Prisma Varkaus

#### Sorvikatu 3

Prisma is probably the easiest place for a large grocery shop. You can also find toiletries, household goods, an Alko shop, pharmacy, Post parcel locker, café and several other services in the same building.

#### Opening hours:

Every day 07:00–22:00

**Phone:** +358 50 360 3063

The pharmacy and other services inside the building have their own opening hours.

#### Prisma:

[www.prisma.fi/myymalat/726015093](http://www.prisma.fi/myymalat/726015093)

### Other grocery shops

There are also K-Market, K-Supermarket, Lidl and other smaller shops in Varkaus.

For a complete and current list of shops and opening hours, check Google Maps or the shops' own websites.

The nearest stores are within 1 km:

S-Market Kommila, K-Pirkkahalli Savontie, Sale Päiviönsaari

### **A Finnish supermarket tip**

Finnish supermarkets sell many ready-made foods, salads, bread, dairy products and vegetarian products. Tap water is safe to drink.

Most shops accept international payment cards.

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## **3. RESTAURANTS**

Varkaus has a surprisingly varied selection of restaurants for a small town.

Here are some places that may be especially interesting to visitors.

### **Keskuskonttori (The cat restaurant)**

#### **Taipaleentie 15**

A colourful Italian trattoria and café in one of the historic buildings of Old Varkaus. Fresh pastries, coffee, lunch and pizzas.

The building itself is part of Varkaus's industrial history.

### **Kaks Ruusua**

#### **Ahlströminkatu 25**

A restaurant in the historic Kansankeittiö building in Old Varkaus. Lunch and à la carte dining, including local fish.

### **Konttiravintola Morton**

#### **Rajakatu 27, Hertunranta**

A relaxed restaurant known for burgers and salads. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options are available.

## **Oscar's Bar & Dinner**

### **Kauppatori 4**

Located at Hotel Oscar. A good choice for a more traditional dinner or a special evening.

## **Pancho Villa <https://panchovilla.fi/en/>**

### **Ahlströminkatu 21–23**

## **Sai Gon Kitchen**

### **Kauppakatu 42–44**

Asian cuisine, including a lunch buffet and an à la carte menu.

## **Harri's Food Factory**

### **Längmanninkatu 11**

Street food with a strong focus on Finnish and local ingredients. Vegan and gluten-free options are available.

## **More restaurants**

For the complete and current restaurant list:

### **Visit Varkaus – Restaurants**

[visitvarkaus.fi/en/page/restaurants](http://visitvarkaus.fi/en/page/restaurants)

Opening hours can change seasonally, so please check before going.

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## **4. CAFÉS & PLACES TO RELAX**

Finnish café culture is an important part of everyday life. Coffee is often enjoyed slowly, with a sweet pastry or something savoury.

### **Gaffer-Cafe**

#### **Pirnankatu 4, Forum**

A relaxed café with coffee, pastries and food. It is also a good place to work with a laptop or meet people.

**Phone:** +358 20 793 1959

## **Varkauden Wanha Asema**

### **Asemakatu 3**

A café and event venue in the historic former railway station.

## **Nautinto Bakery**

### **Kauppakatu 35**

A local bakery offering a selection of sweet and savoury products.

## **Café Piirakkapaja**

### **Kauppakatu 48**

A good place to try Finnish baked goods, including **Karelian pies (karjalanpiirakka)**.

## **Café at Taidekeskus Väinölä**

### **Ahlströminkatu 8–10**

A café connected with the Art Centre Väinölä.

## **Café at Varkaus Library**

The library also has a café, making it possible to combine reading, working and coffee.

## **Summer cafés**

During the summer season there are several seasonal cafés around Varkaus.

One of the most distinctive is **Terrace Café Torni**, located at the top of Varkaus's water tower, offering views over the town.

### **Visit Varkaus – Cafés:**

[visitvarkaus.fi/en/page/cafes](https://visitvarkaus.fi/en/page/cafes)

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## **5. HEALTH & EMERGENCIES**

### **In an emergency**

## CALL 112

Call **112** for life-threatening emergencies such as:

- serious accidents
- unconsciousness
- severe breathing difficulties
- heavy bleeding
- severe chest pain
- serious allergic reactions
- suspected stroke

112 is the Finnish emergency number and can be called free of charge.

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## Urgent health problems: 116 117

For an urgent health problem that is **not life-threatening**, call:

### Päivystysapu 116 117

The service provides medical advice and tells you where and when to seek treatment.

The service operates **24/7**.

It is recommended to call **116 117 before going to an emergency department**.

### Varkaus Emergency Department

#### Aalto Wellbeing Centre

Savontie 55  
78300 Varkaus

Emergency services in Varkaus are open **08:00–22:00**.

Between **22:00 and 08:00**, emergency care is provided in Kuopio. Call 116 117 first.

### Non-urgent medical appointments

For non-urgent health problems and appointments in Varkaus:

**Phone:** +358 17 273 4700

**Monday–Thursday:** 08:00–16:00

**Friday:** 08:00–15:30

For non-urgent matters, contacting the service between **08:00–10:00** is recommended.

## Pharmacy

There are several pharmacies in Varkaus. One convenient option is the pharmacy located inside **Prisma Varkaus**.

The hearest Pharmacy is Kommilan Apteekki within 1 km.

For current opening hours, search for **Varkaus pharmacy / apteekki** on Google Maps or check the pharmacy's website.

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## 6. EVERYDAY LIFE IN FINLAND

A few things may be useful to know if this is your first longer stay in Finland.

### Tap water

Tap water is safe to drink in Finland.

### Payment

Cards and contactless payment are widely accepted. You usually do not need cash.

### Tipping

Tipping is **not normally expected in Finland**. If you receive particularly good service, you can of course leave a small tip, but it is not obligatory.

### Restaurant etiquette

In restaurants, you normally order at the table unless the restaurant tells you otherwise.

### Quietness

Finns generally appreciate peace and quiet, especially in residential areas.

Please remember that Taideniitty is a residential building. Avoid loud music and noise late at night.

### Sauna

Sauna is an important part of Finnish culture.

At Taideniitty, please follow the instructions provided for the sauna. If you have never used a Finnish sauna before, just ask us!

## Recycling

Finland has an extensive recycling system.

Please follow the recycling instructions at Taideniitty. If you are unsure where something belongs, ask us rather than guessing.

## Weather

Finnish weather can change quickly.

In winter, temperatures may fall well below freezing. In spring and autumn, rain and changing temperatures are common. In summer, days are long and evenings can remain light until late.

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# 7. LIBRARY, CULTURE & ART

## Varkaus Library

### Osmajoentie 1

The Varkaus City Library is an excellent place to read, work, use Wi-Fi and discover Finnish culture.

### Opening hours

**Monday–Thursday:** 09:00–19:00

**Friday:** 09:00–17:00

**Saturday:** 09:00–15:00

**Sunday:** closed

Self-service use is available **Monday–Friday 09:00–10:00**.

### Library:

[varkaus.fi/en/page/well-being-and-leisure/library](http://varkaus.fi/en/page/well-being-and-leisure/library)

The library belongs to the **Lumme library network**. Library services are open to everyone, although borrowing books requires a library card.

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## Museum Centre Konsti

**Satakunnankatu 1**

Konsti combines Varkaus Museum, Varkaus Art Museum and children's activities in the historic former factory school.

It is particularly worth visiting if you are interested in the industrial history of Varkaus and the relationship between art and industry.

The exhibitions are generally free of charge.

**Visit Varkaus – Museums:**

[visitvarkaus.fi/en/page/museums](http://visitvarkaus.fi/en/page/museums)

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## **Taidekeskus Väinölä**

**Ahlströminkatu 8–10**

An important local art centre with exhibitions and cultural activities.

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## **Taideniitty Gallery**

And of course, don't forget your own temporary home:

**Galleria Taideniitty**

Kissakoskenkatu 6

Ask us about current exhibitions and events during your stay.

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## **8. EXPLORE VARKAUS**

Varkaus is a small city, but it has an unusually rich industrial and cultural history.

The city lies on the shores of the Saimaa lake system, and nature is never far away.

### **Old Varkaus**

Start right outside your door.

Old Varkaus is a historic wooden-house and industrial area with buildings connected to the development of the Varkaus factories.

The **Old Varkaus sightseeing tour** is approximately 3.5 km and includes 16 historical sites. The tour is available in English and can be followed throughout the year.

## **Taipale Canal**

### **Kanavakatu**

The Taipale Canal is one of the most interesting places to visit in Varkaus.

You can watch boats passing through the modern deep-water canal, walk beside the historic canal and visit the Canal Museum.

The canal area is especially beautiful in summer and autumn.

### **Kämäri & Ämmäkoski**

Kämäri is a natural area close to the town centre.

The Ämmäkoski rapids and fishway are particularly interesting during periods when fish are moving upstream.

It is a good place for a walk and photography.

### **Lake Saimaa**

Varkaus is surrounded by the waters of the Saimaa lake system.

You can enjoy the lake simply by walking along the shore, or explore it by boat, canoe, SUP board or bicycle.

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## **9. SHOPPING, SERVICES & PRACTICAL THINGS**

### **ATM / Cash**

Cash is becoming less important in Finland, but cash machines (ATMs) are available.

Look for the **Otto** logo.

### **Post**

Post parcel lockers can be found in several shops, including Prisma.

For sending letters or parcels:

**Posti:**

[www.posti.fi/en](http://www.posti.fi/en)

**Alko**

Alcohol sold for home consumption is mainly purchased from **Alko**, Finland's state-owned alcohol retailer.

There is an Alko shop inside Prisma Varkaus.

Opening hours are different from the supermarket, so check them before visiting.

**Hairdresser / personal services**

There are several hairdressers, beauty salons and other personal services in the town centre. Google Maps is usually the easiest way to find a suitable service and check current opening hours.

**Laundry**

If you need access to laundry facilities beyond those available at Taideniitty, ask us. We can help you find the nearest suitable option.

**Recycling**

Please use the recycling facilities provided at Taideniitty.

For larger amounts of waste or special recycling, ask us for advice.

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## 10. USEFUL LINKS & NUMBERS

### EMERGENCIES

**112** – Emergency number

Police, ambulance and fire & rescue services

**116 117** – Medical helpline for urgent but non-life-threatening health problems

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### TAIDENIITTY

## **Taideniitty Artist Residency**

Kissakoskenkatu 6  
78300 Varkaus

**Phone:** +358 44 245 6449

**Email:** [taideniitty@gmail.com](mailto:taideniitty@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.taideniitty.fi](http://www.taideniitty.fi)

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## **TRANSPORT**

### **VR – Finnish Railways**

[www.vr.fi/en](http://www.vr.fi/en)

### **City of Varkaus – Public Transport**

[varkaus.fi/en](http://varkaus.fi/en)

### **Matkahuolto – bus connections**

[www.matkahuolto.fi](http://www.matkahuolto.fi)

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## **INFORMATION & TOURISM**

### **Visit Varkaus**

[visitvarkaus.fi/en](http://visitvarkaus.fi/en)

### **City of Varkaus**

[varkaus.fi/en](http://varkaus.fi/en)

### **Varkaus Tourist Information / Museum Centre Konsti**

Satakunnankatu 1

Phone: +358 44 444 2606

Email: [visitvarkaus@varkaus.fi](mailto:visitvarkaus@varkaus.fi)

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## **SHOPPING**

### **Prisma Varkaus**

Sorvikatu 3

Phone: +358 50 360 3063

[www.prisma.fi/myymalat/726015093](http://www.prisma.fi/myymalat/726015093)

Posti

[www.posti.fi/en](http://www.posti.fi/en)

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# A FINAL NOTE FROM TAIDENIITTY

## Enjoy your stay!

We hope that your time in Varkaus will be much more than simply a place to work.

Take a walk through Old Varkaus.

Have coffee in a local café.

Watch the boats at Taipale Canal.

Visit an exhibition.

Walk by the lake.

Talk to local people.

And give yourself time to experience the quiet rhythm of a small Finnish town.

Varkaus may not be the first place that comes to mind when you think of Finland.

That is exactly what makes it interesting.

**Welcome to Taideniitty. Welcome to Varkaus.**

*If you cannot find what you are looking for, just ask us. We are happy to help.*