

## 1.3 The City of Vasa/Vaasa

Vasa, or Vaasa in Finnish, is situated on the west coast of Finland and is the regional capital of Ostrobothnia. Vasa has a population of about 66,000, of which 25% are Swedish-speaking.

Vasa is a centre of education, both in terms of further education for Finnish students, and in terms of the fact that all future Swedish-speaking teachers in Finland get parts of their education in Vasa. Vasa is also an important centre for energy technology. In fact, a significant share of Finland's – and of all the Nordic countries' – energy technological industry is concentrated to this region.

Vasa is known as the sunniest town of Finland based on the number of sunny hours a year. The town got its name after the Swedish Royal House of Vasa (Gustav Vasa was the King of Sweden in the 16<sup>th</sup> century). Similar to Åbo, Vasa has a beautiful archipelago (Kvarken) which is also part of UNESCO's world heritage list.

For more information about Vasa, visit [www.vaasa.fi](http://www.vaasa.fi) or [www.visitvaasa.fi](http://www.visitvaasa.fi).

For more information about Finland, see [www.visitfinland.com](http://www.visitfinland.com).