

A Presidential Independence Day Reception is organised in the Helsinki Presidential Palace on December 6, where the president acts as host for some 2000 guests.

December 13 - Lucia Day

(Luciadagen/Lucian päivä)

Lucia Day is not a public holiday, but one of the most traditional Scandinavian festivities, celebrated in the Swedish-speaking parts of Finland, as well as in Sweden and Norway, in memory of the Italian Saint Lucia. In Åbo, you can witness the Saint Lucia procession in the Cathedral.

December 24–25 - Christmas Eve and Day

(Julafton/Jouluaatto, Juldagen/Joulupäivä)

Christmas is celebrated on Christmas Eve, although it is not a public holiday, and is traditionally spent with family and close friends at home, whereas Christmas Day (public holiday) celebration traditions vary somewhat throughout the country.

December 26 - Boxing Day

(Annandag jul/Tapanin päivä)

Boxing Day is a public holiday.

December 31st - January 1st - New Year's Eve & Day *(Nyårsdagen/ Uudenvuodenpäivä)*

Note that only the New Year's Day is a public holiday but the celebrations take place already in the evening of New Year's Eve, which is not a public holiday.

January 6 – Epiphany

(Trettondagen/Loppiainen)

A Christian holiday that marks the end of the religious Christmas time.

February 9 - Shrove Tuesday

(Fastlagstisdag/Laskiainen)

Shrove Tuesday is not a public holiday but is quite widely celebrated among students. The main event in Åbo is the sledging competition on Vårdberget/ Vartiovuori.

March 25–28 – Easter *(Påsk/Pääsiäinen)*

Easter is celebrated in a fairly calm manner, and shops are closed throughout Easter except on Easter Saturday.

May 1 - May Day *(Vappen/Vappu)*

A big day of celebration among students and workers, especially the night before, April 30th. Current and former students of all ages are wearing student overalls and their traditional white student caps and thousands of people gather on Vårdberget/Vartiovuori in Åbo to celebrate. In many bigger university towns picnics are organised on May 1. April 30th is not a public holiday, whereas May 1 is.

May 5 -Ascension Day

(Kristi himmelfärdsdag/ Helatorstai)

A Christian holiday that celebrates Christ's ascension to heaven. There are no special celebrations.

May 8 - Mother's Day *(Morsdag/Äitienpäivä)*

May 15 - Whitsunday/Pentecost

(Pingst/ Helluntai)

A Christian holiday where the event of the holy spirit descending to the apostles is remembered. There are no special celebrations.

June 24–25 – Midsummer's Eve and Day *(Midsommar/Juhannus)*

Midsummer is celebrated on Midsummer's Eve which is not a public holiday, although shops may close earlier than usual. Midsummer's Day is a public holiday. The cities may feel emptier than usual as many Finns spend Midsummer at their summer cottages.