



After Dinner Speech Category 1st Prize Winner Samarth Agrawal, Groton School

Why you should move to Finland

Hello! My name is Sammy Agrawal, and as your travel advisor, I'd like to welcome you to Travelocity's webinar on *Escaping America*. I'm here, not as an agent selling you something, but as a friend to give you some advice. Think of me like Jerry Mcguire- from the second half of the movie. And as your friend, I'd like to tell you something- move to Finland. Now I know what you're thinking: Finland, that place Santa Claus is from? Why the heck would anyone move to Finland? I mean America is *finally* legalizing weed- *this is when it gets good*. Does Finland have the things we treasure as Americans? Wendys? Spending 3 hours at the Mall and not buying anything? The ability to rewatch Friends for the 16th time on Netflix? I grant you, all those things are great, but I still think that this could provide an amazing opportunity! The last few presidential debates have grown our emigration office revenue by like 50% so I can address *all your concerns*. Here are three reasons why YOU.. should move to Finland.

Finland, yet again, has ranked as the happiest country in the world. Now people have attributed this to their advanced social safety net, universal access to healthcare and the resultant economic equality. Now I know you may be thinking: having healthcare? What is this, communism? To which I respond: The Red Scare was 70 years ago- it's time to move on.

As a red blooded property loving American, You might be also worried about the high levels of taxation and your ability to become the next Elon Musk. To which I respond, it's the middle of the day and you're here listening to a 17 year old pretending to be a travel agent. Are you, really gonna be the next Elon Musk? But even besides that, studies suggest social democracies are a breeding ground for becoming wealthy. A study by Forbes, defining a high net worth individual to be 30M, revealed that America is ranked 13th in rich people per capita. Although America is regarded as the land of opportunity, Finland ranks 24 places higher than us in terms of social fluidity. How can that be? Well, part of the reason is education. the World Economic Forum ranks Finland first in the world in enrollment and quality of education; there is almost no drop out rate. So even if you screw up, your kids can afford to go to college and have a chance to do better. And if you hate your kids, it's more likely they'll leave you alone and go to school. It's a win-win situation!! The second reason is that the high minimum wage incentivizes companies to innovate and develop technology; due to the high minimum wage, Finland has a lot more RPA to replace menial unskilled labor. Innovation boosts overall economic productivity; in Finland, companies automate without ruining someone's life.

With educated and healthy workers, a social net that means unions are open to collaboration- they know their members will be taken care of. Finland is actually a *good* place to start a business. So whether you want to relax and mooch off the government (my preferred option) or start a business out of a misguided impetus to “give back to the economy”, you can do it all!

Another great benefit our Finland package offers is the connection with nature. While we’ve been deleting EPA regulations like they’re our Youtube Search History, Finland is ranked top 10 in environmental stewardship, using green technology for district heating, Hydroelectric power, and reforestation. With the low population density, you can escape all the craziness, enjoy cleaner air and water, and escape climate guilt for just a little bit longer.

But what about the culture? I hear you say. How will my family and I fare in the new environment? Well Finnish people have an amazing culture! Did you know that Finland hosts the world championships in the greatest sport of all time, wife carrying? In case your life has been incomplete, and you’ve never encountered this boundary pushing paragon of human genius, Wife carrying is a sport in which you carry your spouse through an obstacle course as fast as possible... there’s no way for me to sell that- that simply speaks for itself! Finland is known for their amazing Saunas and geothermal springs, with festivals dedicated to the art and science. Finnish people are extremely generous as well; half the population regularly gives to charity. Even if you don’t like the Nordic heavy metal scene, with extremely high immigrant satisfaction levels, I’m sure you’ll be just fine!

And so, I implore you ladies and gentlemen, that when the urge to cross the border to *Canada* strikes you again, you call our office and think a little more out of the box.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/03/finland-is-the-world-s-happiest-country-again/>

<https://economics.com/where-in-the-world-is-it-easiest-to-get-rich/>

<https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/do-business-with-finland/explore-key-industries/cleantech/>