

What's the deal with Finns and cottages?

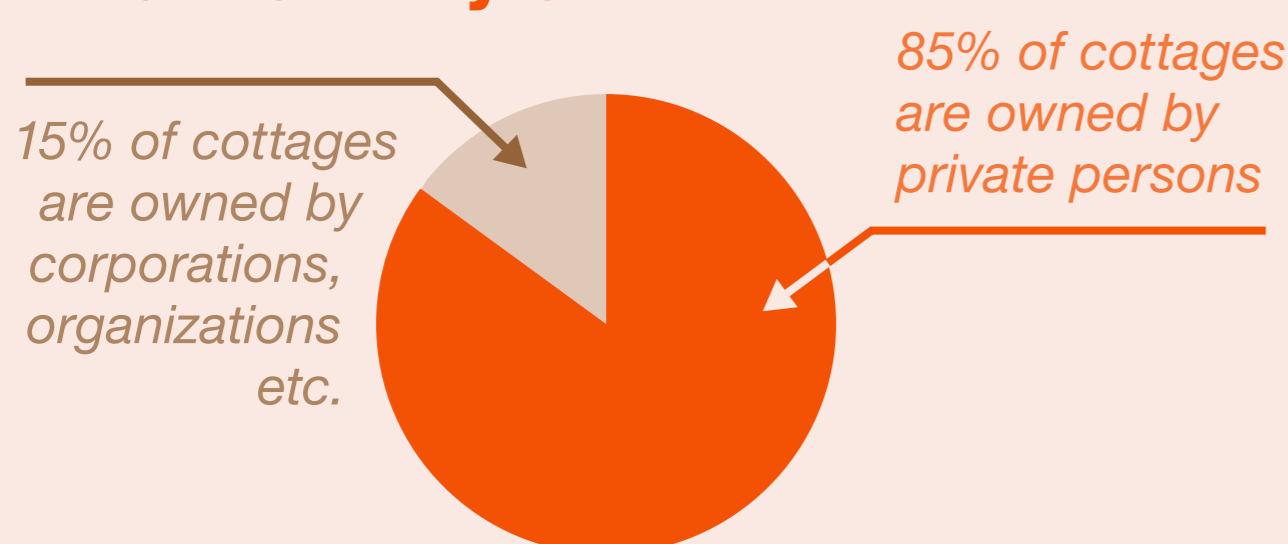
Visiting cottages (*Fin. mökkeily*) is an important and cherished part of Finnish culture, as Finns use free time residences the most in Europe. The amount of cottages in Finland is estimated to be about half a million, but non-recorded free-time residences (e. g. grandparents' homes and old farms) add to this number an estimated hundred thousand cottages more. The two most comprehensive researchers of Finnish cottage lives are Statistics Finland, and the Free-Time residence barometer created in 2003 by Finnish Consulting Group FCG under commission from Island Committee of ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Finland. Here are some more exact numbers about this special hobby of us Finns.

Cottage owners and users

Regular cottage users: 2,4 million

The average age of a cottage owner: 62 yrs.

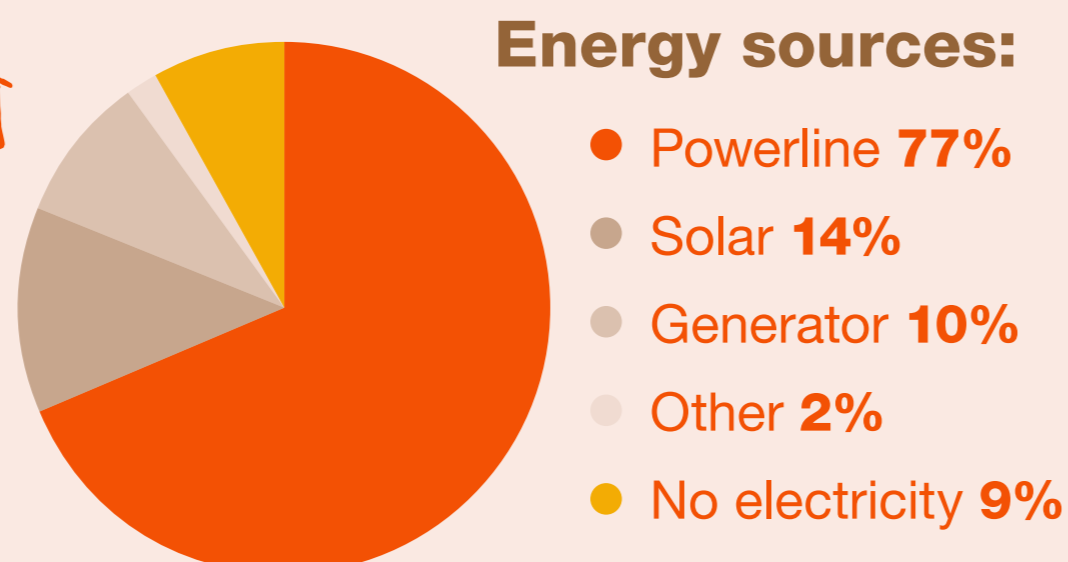
Older people with better income are more likely to own a cottage. Though the average cottage owner is old in age, the residences are often used by the owner's children and other relatives as well.



Cottage use

The average living space of cottages is 74 m²

85% of cottages are located next to a body of water



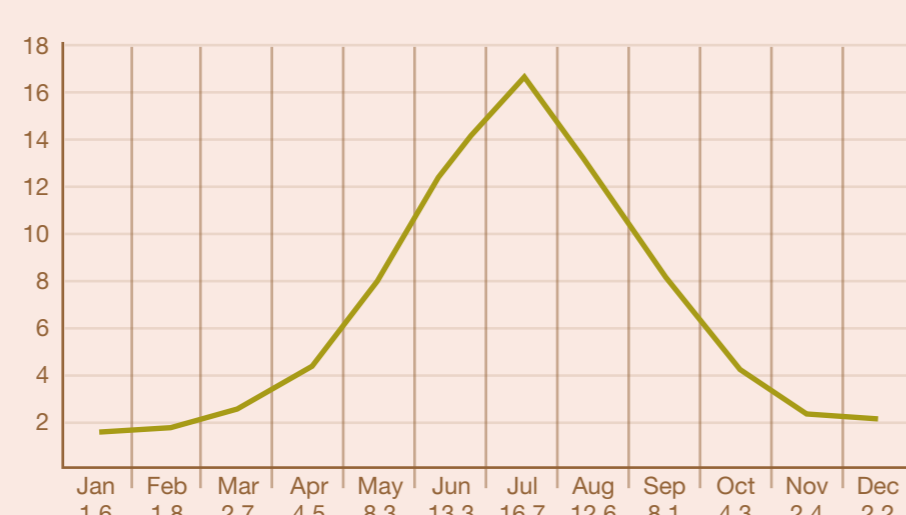
Distance to cottages: The median being 37 km means *half* of all cottage trips are over this distance. The average being this high means that the distances in the longer end are very long indeed.

Average: **91 km**
Median: **37 km**

Distance to cottages for owners living in Uusimaa: People living in uusimaa, near the capital, take significantly longer trips to their summer houses, the average distance being 166 km.

Average: **166 km**
Median: **130 km**

Time spent at cottages around the year (average days during the month):

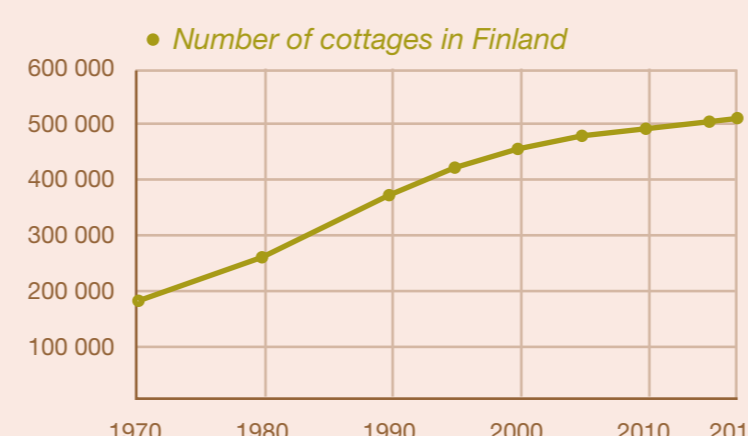


Amount of cottages in Finland by regions

Total: 507 200 cottages

Construction of cottages

The construction of new cottages has slowed down, compared to the 80's for example.



Regions with biggest number of new cottages (built between 2015-2017):

- Lapland: 31 481 > 32 535 (+1054)
- Southern Savonia: 49 070 > 49 595 (+525)
- Southwest Finland: 49 433 > 49 704 (+271)



82% of young adults and 84% of adults say cottage life will retain its' popularity

Conclusions:

Spending time in summer residences is a loved and obvious cultural phenomenon, which will surely keep its popularity far into the future. The use of summer cottages seems to have stayed almost the same for at least the last few decades, except for a small upgrade in the average equipment and construction. The building of cottages also seems to have become significantly more common in Lapland, as tourism in this region is steadily growing.

Sources: Island Committee, Finnish Consulting Group FCG, Finnish free-time residence barometer 2016, published 17.3.2016; Island Committee, Finnish Consulting Group FCG, Report: Young adults and holiday homes 2020, <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-949-4-4>, published 4.4.2017; Statistics Finland's Free-time barometer, <http://www.stat.fi/tutkimukset/mokkeily>, referenced 23.2.2019; <https://www.stat.fi/tutkimukset/mokkeily>, last updated 10.12.2018, <https://www.stat.fi/tutkimukset/mokkeily>, referenced 23.2.2019