

## In Transit

A Guide to Intelligent Travel

# At Helsinki Airport, Skateboarders at Play

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The skateboarder Arto Saari at the Helsinki Airport. Finnair

To promote quick and easy transfers between flights — with a particular focus on those bound for Asia — Helsinki Airport is the host of a pop-up skateboarding invitational from Oct. 12 to 13.

The event will turn the airport into a temporary playground featuring the Finnish skateboarding star Arto Saari, along with the United States skaters Curren Caples and Louie Lopez.

The first skating session on Oct. 12 will be held in Finland's biggest building: one of Finnair's aircraft maintenance halls. The session on Oct. 13 is in the terminal building at Helsinki Airport.

More than 250 video entries of skateboarders from over 50 different countries were submitted on the site [#matchmadeinHEL.com](#) in late September; from this pool, four skaters will be selected and will have skating sessions with Mr. Saari's crew.

Videos from the sessions will be on Finnair's [YouTube channel](#); Mr. Saari says in one of his videos, "I've always had this idea of skating in places where you're not supposed to skate."

The invitational follows some [recent news](#) from Helsinki Airport. To improve connection times between flights, airport management has decided to expand its existing terminal rather than build a separate satellite terminal.

Mari Rouvi, Finnair's communications manager, said that while Copenhagen airport receives more traffic, Helsinki Airport offers the fastest connections (no more than 35 minutes) to Asia-bound flights, and also the shortest route to Asia from the West.

Finnair has a goal of doubling the revenues of its Asian traffic by 2020 and the airport is preparing to accommodate 20 million passengers per year by that year.

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