

FinTrailO

TURKU 31.3.-1.4.2018

Trail orienteers to Turku in Easter

Finland's trail orienteering's main annual event FinTrailO will be in Turku during Easter. During the four-day event there will be six competitions, where you will compete in Ruissalo's Natura-area as well as in Turku's medieval old-town.

This year, for the first time, it will be competed to receive points for the world ranking in TrailO. The first points were given in early February in Alexandria, Egypt, and on March the competition was in Lipica, in Slovakia. Finland's sectionals are the two races on Saturday in Ruissalo.

The competition will occur mainly in Ruissalo Natura-area, where normally is not allowed to do traditional orienteering. Ruissalo is a popular place to be outdoors for the local people of Turku, and its nature differs a lot from the other terrains in the area.

FinTrailO has traditionally belonged to the TrailO European Cup. Saturday's TempO and Sunday's PreO races are the first two sectional races from the total ten races tour.

FinTrailO itself consists of three sectional races: two on Saturday and one on Sunday. The three races combined will provide the winner.

The event will start already on Friday with the national competition in Uittamo in Turku. The warm-up competition will be a combination race with PreO track and three TempO points.

Brand new is Saturday night TempO race in Turku city center. Competitors will get to know at the same time Finland's oldest town's historical buildings and alleys. Then you will be moving in the same area where Christmas peace is announced every year to whole Finland. At the same time, the local people hanging around Aura river will get to know about this sport.

The Easter event will conclude with Monday's three-leg relay. As in Uittamo's race, the terrain will be a typical suburban area. The ground is mainly asphalt and the flags will be in steep hills between buildings.

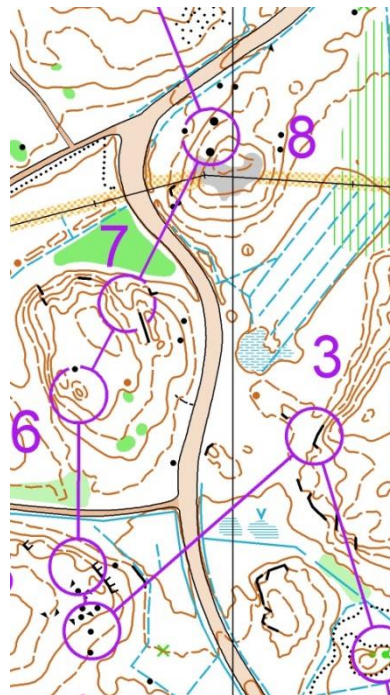
The organizing club Turun Metsänkävijät expects the top orienteers to come to the competition. Furthest competitors, so far, are coming from Hong-Kong.

Expectations are high, because Easter time offers good opportunity to prepare for Bratislava's European Championship in Labor Day, which is organized every second year.

The opportunity to get a place to represent Finland in the European Championship will add excitement to Finns. There is still one available place in TempO. Swedes seem to have their whole team still open.

Swedish Marit Wiksell has won the last three FinTrailO competitions.

-She can be considered this year's favorite, together with Finnish Antti Rusanen and Norwegian Geir Myhr Öien. Other tough competitors will be the first WRE competition winner Alessio Tenani from Italy and Jan Furucz from Slovakia, who will be the course setter in the European Championship, Juha Hiirsalmi (Turku's competition man in charge) thinks. Hiirsalmi has already been chosen as part of Finland's team for the European Championship.



Hiirsalmi bets an all in all tight competition with up to ten potential winners.

Along with Hiirsalmi, Pinja Mäkinen from Koovee will also be course setter and controller. Mäkinen was chosen world's best trail-orienteer last year.

-Pinja will take care that at least FinTrailO competition's tracks and maps are top quality, Hiirsalmi promises.



FinTrailO course setters Pinja Mäkinen and Juha Hiirsalmi are requesting approval for their plans from Turun Metsänkävijät Chairman Mikko Knuuti (middle)

TrailO Easter in Turku 30.3-2.4.2018

Friday 30.3

- Open national PreO+TempO, Uittamo, Turku

Saturday 31.3

- International TempO, Ruissalo, Turku, FinTrailO 1st Sectional, WRE, ECTO
- International PreO, Ruissalo, Turku, FinTrailO 2nd Sectional, WRE
- Open national TempO, Old town, Turku

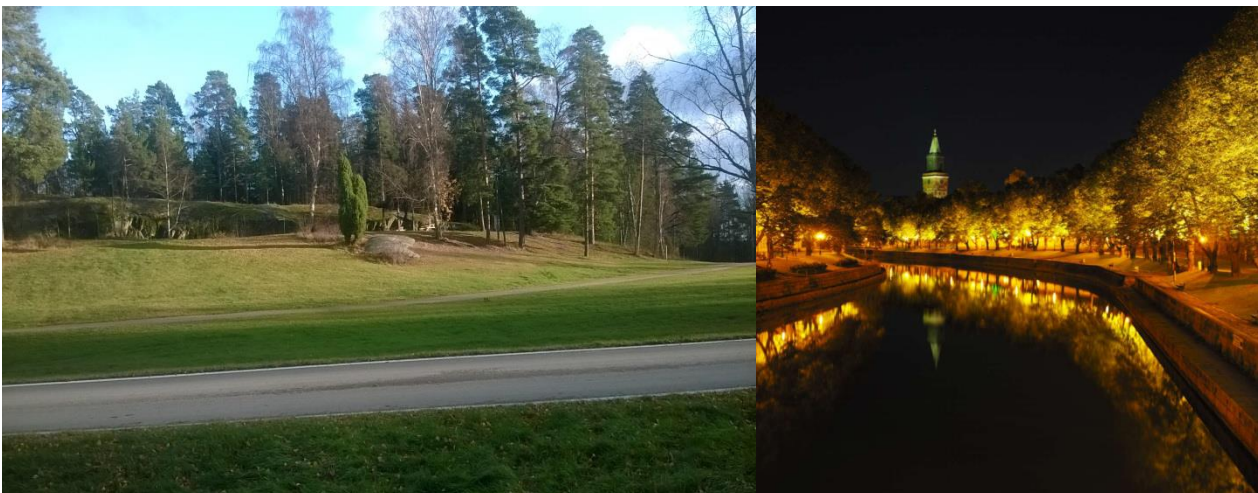
Sunday 1.4

- International PreO, Ruissalo, Turku, FinTrailO 3rd Sectional, ECTO

Monday 2.4

- Open national relay, Suikkila, Turku

More information: <http://www.tume.fi/fintrailo2018/>



TempO and NightTempO terrains