

Rauma History chart

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1. During the Bronze Age highest points of the western coast saw the emergence of inhabitants as the land uplifted. The burial cairns at Sammallahdenmäki speak to this.
2. In the Middle Ages a trading location and port formed on the shores of Raumanmeri which was adjacent to the mouths of multiple sailable rivers and long shores projecting inland.
3. Germanic word ***Straumr*** refers to a stream straight or narrow passage that use to reach the Church of the Holy Cross.
4. Raumanjoki in the Middle Age was a narrow strait connecting the Äyhönjärvi lake with Raumanmeri. It was 20m wide and 4m deep. The shoreline of Raumanjoki was near present day Kalatori Square, with ships docking by the granaries.
5. In the 14th century a wooden church of the Holy Trinity is built. Later replaced by a stone version in the oldest part of Rauma
6. 15th century, members of the Franciscan order arrive in Rauma. The friars preached northwards along the coast of the Gulf of Bothnia and inland as far as Häme.
7. On April 17, 1442, the knight Karl Knutsson granted privilege (the right to trade) to the bourgeoisie of Rauma in the name of King Christopher III. This letter is the founding document of Rauma.
8. Bobbin lace was likely introduced in Rauma by Merchants in the beginning of the 16th century. Parish register makes a reference to this and clothes decorated with lace are seen in paintings from that time. Another theory is that sailors brought lace into town. Another school of thought is that a Dutch noble lady who moved into town taught lacemaking. The role of the nuns of Vadstena played in this matter has also been studied.
9. Church of the Holy Cross is built, initially as the church of the Franciscan Monastery, consecrated in 1512.
10. 16th century, Collegium Raumaense established by Franciscan monks is the regional centre for Education, Administration, Health Care and Poor relief. In the 17th century, the Rauma pedagogy was established, which was a two-year school.
11. 1537, The Plague kills over 200 people, the whole population of Rauma. (Registered population)
12. 1538, Franciscan monks are expelled in connection with the Reformation performed by the King Gustav I of Sweden.
13. 1550, King Gustav dictated a force move of population to Helsinki to help with its construction.
14. 1557, Duke John permitted the return to Rauma.
15. 1572, The Plague brought by a Dutch ship kills most of inhabitants.
16. 1623, A map by Dutch Willem Janszoon Blaeu depicts Rauma as an island near Turku because trade restrictions on the Gulf of Bothnia (1617-1775) concentrated foreign Trade in Turku and Stockholm. In charts printed before 1617, Rauma is portrayed in the correct location.
17. 1626, a toll fence is constructed to limit the size of town and extract taxes through a single gate that one can enter or leave town.
18. 1636, Rauma is stripped of sailing rights in foreign waters for 130 years.
19. 1640, a third of Rauma burns down along with the church of the Holy Trinity. The church of the Holy Cross becomes Lutheran and is shared church of the Rauma Town and the rural parishes.
20. 1650, the oldest map of Rauma, the medieval times reflected in the town plan.
21. 1682, Fire started in the Pungila house destroys all the private houses and public buildings in the town sparing the church of the Holy Cross.
22. 1695-97, crop failures result in famine that kills over 220 people.
23. 400-500 people live in Rauma by the end of the 17th century.

24. 1710, The Plague kills 150 people more than one fifth of the population.
25. 1000 people live in Rauma into the 18th century
26. 1713-21, The Great Hate left only 30 houses inhabited, 43 were deserted, 82 left in ruin.
27. 1740's mark the earliest mention of lace making in Rauma.
28. 1751, a map marks the Fish Market, also known as Cattle Market or Cattle Field as Small Market and Market Square is named Big Market.
29. 1772, Sven Mellenius, historian from Rauma, writes that bobbin lace was made in almost every house.
30. By the 19th century Raumanmeri became too shallow for navigation of ships.
31. 1808-09, during the Finnish war Rauma suffers economically.
32. In the second half of the 19th century the Raumo Läderfabrik is established.
33. 1740, oldest document related to bobbin lace making.
34. 1780's, 300 towns people are making their living from bobbin lace.
35. Late 18th century to 1840's are considered the Golden Age for bobbin lace in Rauma do to the fashion of wearing a lace trimmed cap (tykkimyssy) amongst women, created a period of high demand for Rauma lace. In this period about 600 bobbin lace pillows were in use in Rauma.
36. 1816, The Neoclassical west tower of the church of The Holy Cross is built from the stones taken from the ruins of the church of the Holy Trinity.
37. 1830, Rauma receives Staple Town status when cross-Atlantic navigations becomes possible.
38. 1853, dysentery and cholera kills over 100 inhabitants of Rauma.
39. 1855, the Crimean war brings foreign frigates that bomb the city twice destroying warehouses and timber stores.
40. 1872, Rauma canal is completed.
41. 1880, the Maritime School is founded.
42. 1890's, marks the end of the sailing ship era and an economic boom for Rauma. Broad gauge railway is constructed connecting Peipohja in Kokemäki to Rauma over 47 km. Due to restriction on building most get renovated and given a Neo Renaissance style exteriors.
43. 1896, A Seminar for man starts, currently knows as Teachers Training Collage.
44. By the end of the 19th century there are about 5000 inhabitants of Rauma.
45. 1903, Rauma Museum moves into the Town Hall building first floor. 1930 it takes over the second floor.
46. 1912, the Wuojoki Gods AB saw mill marks the beginning of the industrialization of Rauma.
47. 1918, Dysentery and Influenza (H1N1 Influenza A virus, Spanish Flue is a misnomer) kills 150 inhabitants in the poorest area of Rauma.
48. 1930, Hjalmar Nortamo, medical doctor and a writer who wrote in the Rauma dialect dies at the age of 71. The Rauma dialect includes words from the Baltic languages, Swedish, English and Esthonian
49. 1940, Bombings during the winter war destroyed large parts of Rauma, particuraly areas of Naulamäki, Rantakatu street, Savilankatu street and Anundilankatu street.
50. 1945, Hollming Oy shipyard is established.
51. 1947, Rauma Adult Education Centre begins to offer a course in Traditional Bobbin Lacemaking.
52. 1950, there are 25000 people living in Rauma
53. 1960, is the last year before the Fish Market becomes a parking lot.
54. 1960's, The canal becomes unsailable dealing a blow to Rauma's reputation as a maritime city. The leather factory closes and is demolished 10 years later. Berndt Aminoff prepares a new town plan which calls for bulldozing old Rauma and replacing it with concrete and brick buildings typical of the time but is not enacted.
55. 1969, Paper mill becomes operational and goes through several name changes reflecting the global economic reality: Rauma Wood LTD, Rauma Oy, Rauma-Raahe Oy, Rauma-Repola Oy.

56. 1970, Music institute of Rauma is established.
57. 1970's Rauma born architect Eero O. Kari drafts a plan calling for a block of single story, flat roof department stores and three 17 story apartment buildings. Some buildings get demolished and replaced by flat-roofed boxes, like the log building built in 1930's in the market square is replaced by a bank. Further development stalls because an older mother of four refuses to sell her house making further development impossible.
58. 1972, Rauma Art Museum opens.
59. 1974, a statue of Franciscus Assisiensis (Francis of Assisi, 1181/82-1226) by Jussi K. Vikainen is installed in front of the church of the Holy Cross. He founded the Monastic order, and is the patron saint of animals, merchants, and ecology amongst other things.
60. 1975, Old Rauma Association begins to take shape, to take care of preservation of old houses.
61. 1979, the Olkiluoto Nuclear Power Plant is commissioned 20km from Rauma.
62. 1980, Rauma town council approves new town planning amendment.
63. 1983, Maritime Museum foundation starts.
64. 1991, Old Rauma listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a first in Finland.
65. 1990's, the renovation centre in Tammela is established to aid with ongoing upkeep of the town houses. "Protected" buildings cannot be destroyed without a valid reason. "Preferred to preserve" should be restored, but possible to replace with new building that fits the surroundings.
66. 1990's Sampaanala bay industrial area contains paper and pulpmills of United Papermills LTD. and Metsä-Botnia LTD.
67. 1992, Shipyards Rauma-Repola Oy and Hollming Oy fused to form Finnyards Oy later owned by Norwegian Aker Maritime.
68. 1992, the Technical College starts training engineers, new Institute of Health Care
69. 1997, Satakunta University of Applied Sciences is established in Rauma.
70. 2008 the shipyard was operated by STX Finland. In 2013 the company announced the closing of the Rauma shipyard and in 2014 it was purchased by the City of Rauma.
71. 2020, there are 39000 people living in Rauma including Kodisjoki and Lappi villages. Its neighbouring municipalities are Eura, Eurajoki, Kiukainen, Köyliö, Säskylä, Laitila and Pyhäranta.

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