

Visiting Vellamo

Maritime Centre Vellamo focuses on accessibility and comfort

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Contents

Introduction	3
Communications and getting there	3
Signage and wall text.....	5
Equipment rentals	7
Rest areas and room to move.....	8
Experiences from exhibitions	10

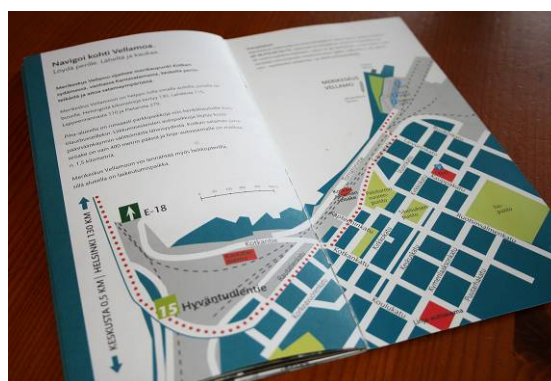
Photographs: Anne Stolt and Sari Salovaara

Introduction

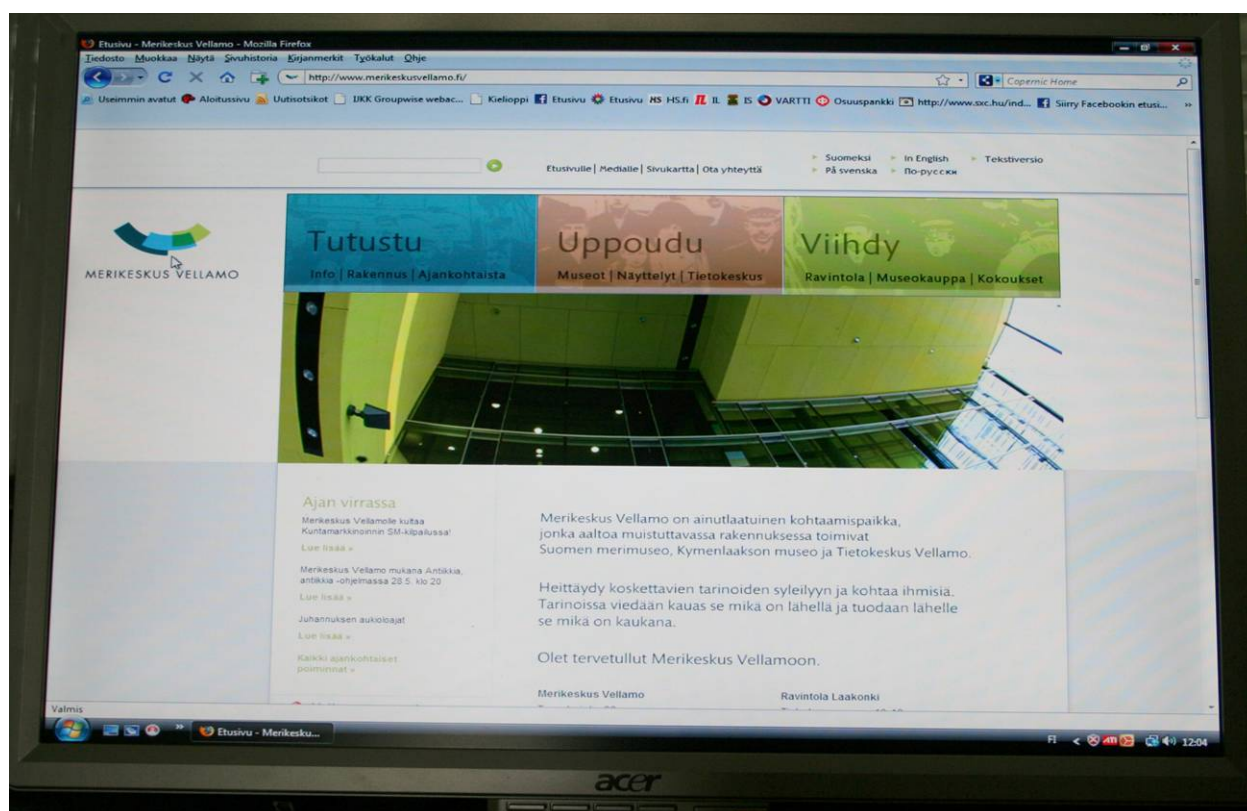
The Maritime Museum of Finland, the Museum of Kymenlaakso and Information Centre Vellamo are all located within the Maritime Centre Vellamo. The Centre, located in Kotka, was opened to the public in summer 2008. Anne Stolt visited Vellamo and wrote a report on its accessibility. Vellamo's example can inspire others!

Communications and getting there

There is detailed information on Vellamo's location and accessibility through various transport alternatives on the Maritime Centre Vellamo's website and brochure. According to the website and brochure, Vellamo is located at the old City Port in downtown Kotka. The Centre is located 400 metres from the port's train stop and 1.5 km from the bus station. The website and brochure also contain information on, for example, equipment rentals, special services and parking spaces for the disabled.



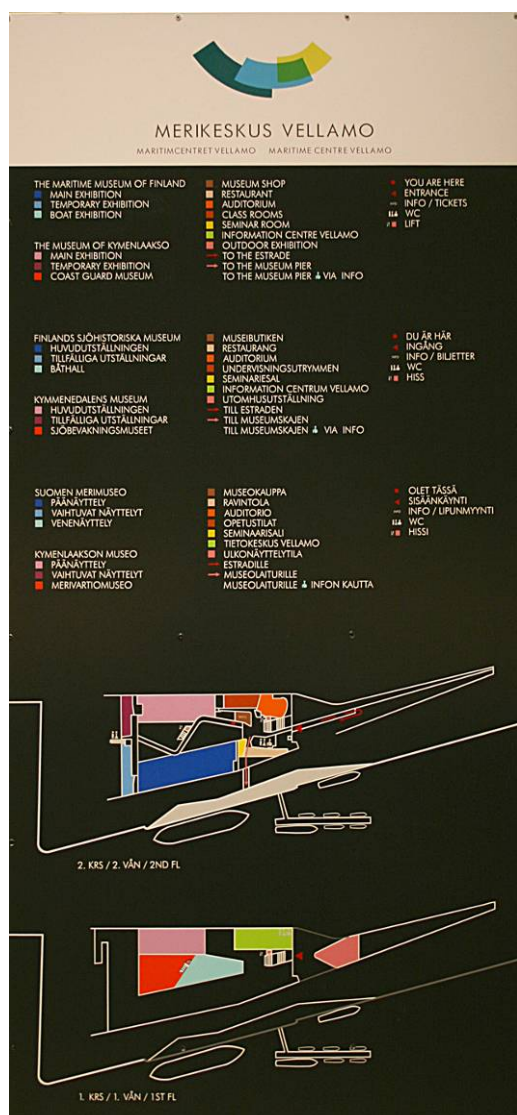
The Maritime Centre Vellamo's brochure includes detailed information on the Centre's location and accessibility.



There are four different language versions of the Maritime Centre Vellamo's website. There is also a text version for screen reading software.

Signage and wall text

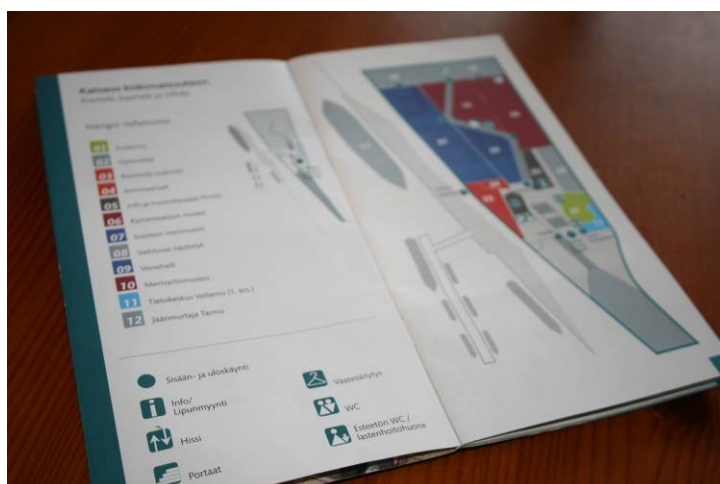
The Maritime Centre Vellamo has invested in clear signage. Visitors can find everything they need more easily with the help of signs and maps. The signs and wall text are effective if their font is large enough and there is enough contrast between the text and its background.



Wall map of the Maritime Centre Vellamo's premises.



Signage on the door to the museum area.



Museum area map in the Maritime Centre Vellamo's brochure.



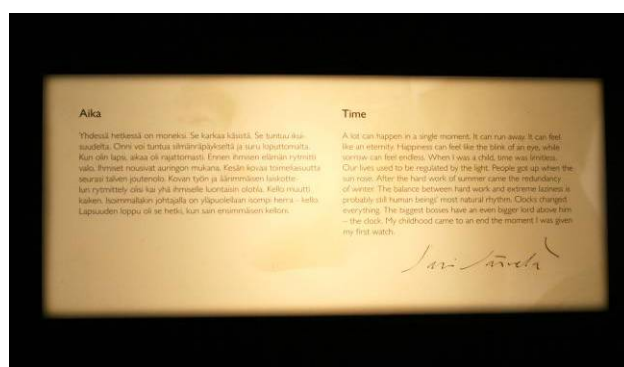
Wall text for the marine navigation section in the Maritime Museum.



Ship dog Vellu guides visitors in the Maritime Museum.



Floor text leading to the exhibition of the Museum of Kymenlaakso.



Illuminated wall text. To prevent glare from illuminated signage, it is recommended to set the text on a dark background – the opposite of what was done here.



Signage for restrooms and cloakroom in the Maritime Centre Vellamo's entrance hall. More contrast and clarity needed perhaps?



Description text for a miniature in the Coast Guard Museum.

Equipment rentals

You can borrow a wheel chair, a walker, prams, magnifying glasses, flashlights, portable induction loops and sound amplifying headsets from the Maritime Centre Vellamo's ticket office.



Customer-friendly, low desk at Info and the ticket office. Leg room for those using a (wheel) chair at the service point.



Visitor enjoying an exhibition on a borrowed wheel chair.

Rest areas and room to move

There is room to move around in the halls of the Maritime Centre Vellamo. A green line on the Maritime Museum's floor marks the route to follow. You can also decide your own route, because the exhibition is designed in a way that does not require you to go through it in any particular order.



Green guideline on the Maritime Museum floor.



You can stop to read by a table at the Maritime Museum.



You can sit down and admire the projected view from an ice breaker on the wall of the Maritime Museum. Seats with backrests and armrests would be even more convenient for many.

Experiences from exhibitions

Exhibitions at the Maritime Centre Vellamo are designed to be as accessible as possible. You can watch, read, listen, touch and smell your way through the exhibitions. Everyone can enjoy the multisensory, easily accessible exhibitions irrespective of their age or possible disability. The Maritime Museum's attractions feature a cartoon character that stands out well from its background, inviting you to try different activities.



In the Maritime Museum, you can try how heavy lifting an anchor onto a deck feels.



Ship dog Vellu invites visitors to try different activities.



You can build your own ship and then have a rest on a bean bag in the Maritime Museum.



You can try making knots with Vellu's help in the Boat Hall.





You can identify what has been transported in these barrels by smelling them in the Maritime Museum.



You can test the coarseness of salt by touching it in the Maritime Museum.



You can touch a miniature of the real airplane hanging from the roof in the Coast Guard Museum.



Miniature model of a wooden boat and its description in Braille in the Boat Hall.