



elisa

# TELEPHONE MUSEUM

The museum is maintained by Elisa Corporation, a big Finnish telecommunications operator. Elisa has approx. 1,2 million fixed and 1,5 million mobile telephone customers. The market share in Finland is about 33 percent. Elisa was formerly known as Helsinki Telephone Company (HTC), which was founded in 1882. Even worldwide HTC has always been a forerunner in telecommunications technology. As a result of this, the Telephone Museum contains many interesting and unique items from the time period of more than 120 years.

The museum is located in Helsinki in the switching station building of the Töölö district. The building was designed by the famous Finnish architect Lars Sonck and it stood ready in 1915. The address is Runeberginkatu 43. The museum has existed since 1987, and it has been enlarged twice. It does not have regular opening hours, but you can book a guided visit for your group (max. 30 people) by contacting Mrs. Anna Savikko, tel. +358 10 26 22914 or E-mail [ext-anna.savikko@elisa.fi](mailto:ext-anna.savikko@elisa.fi).



## FROM WHISTLE CALLING TELEPHONE TO CELLPHONES



True to its name, the Telephone Museum of course has an extensive collection of telephones on display, ranging from the whistle calling telephone from 1878 to today's cellphones with a camera. The historical telephones include many other unique and decorative objects like the massive wall telephone from 1882, made by the telephone manufacturing firm owned by the founder of HTC, Daniel Johannes Wadén, and presumably the only one of its kind. The special telephones made by HTC for two of Finland's presidents are also interesting. There are about 100 different fixed telephones from the early times up to the present. The collection of mobile telephones is quite extensive. Nearly all mobiles made in Finland are displayed, as well as a number of foreign ones, from the one known as "Gorba" from the 1980's to a modern GSM camera phone, in all about 80 different items. Moreover, there are many additional devices used in the fixed network from telefax machines to modems.



## MANUAL EXCHANGES, MASSIVE MECHANICAL AND MODERN DIGITAL SWITCHES



Side by side with the still operative museum exchange there are representative examples of six more modern switching systems used by HTC. Some of these are also partly still in operative condition. In the museum there are manual



exchanges from as far back as over 100 years. The cavalcade very clearly shows the development of switching technology. The mechanical, loud and space-consuming apparatus resembling a complex machine gradually becomes a modern compact digital switch consisting merely of electronic circuits and controlled by a processor.



## FROM OPEN WIRES TO FIBRE OPTIC CABLES

Network technology is yet another well displayed part of the museum. There are two telephone poles with examples of transmission paths of electrical information, from old open wires to modern fibre optic cables in which one fibre thin as a hair transmits hundreds of telephone connections. The network corner contains some old and rare items which cannot be found in other telephone museums.





## TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES – VALUABLE CULTURAL HISTORY

The telephone directory corner in the museum is interesting even from the viewpoint of cultural history. On the covered shelves there are telephone directories published by HTC and representing different times from the 1880's onward. There are also some directories from years back which the visitors can use to look for telephone numbers and addresses of their families or friends. Even more information can be found by using the microfilm reader and the microfilms showing the HTC directories from 1882 to 1981.



## AUDITORIUM (25 seats)

