

Helsinki 31 January 2015



### Dear friends of the HBB – Helsinki Bed and Breakfast

The year 2015 is about to end in most positive feelings with a gratitude for the great visitors we have had and a joy for the wonderful hosts that have opened the doors of their homes.

This is the key idea of our activity in the HBB network, and we feel we have succeeded once again.



Most of our guests kept on arriving in summer (*Fig. 1*) which is understandable due to the holidays on this hemisphere. In addition, it has been delightful to find out that more and more people on their business trips chose a homestay – and enjoyed it. It has also been a pleasure to receive South and Central European visitors heading north during their winter holidays, some of them just to visit Helsinki but many of our guests continuing to Rovaniemi, Lapland, where we are nowadays happy to offer a homestay, too.

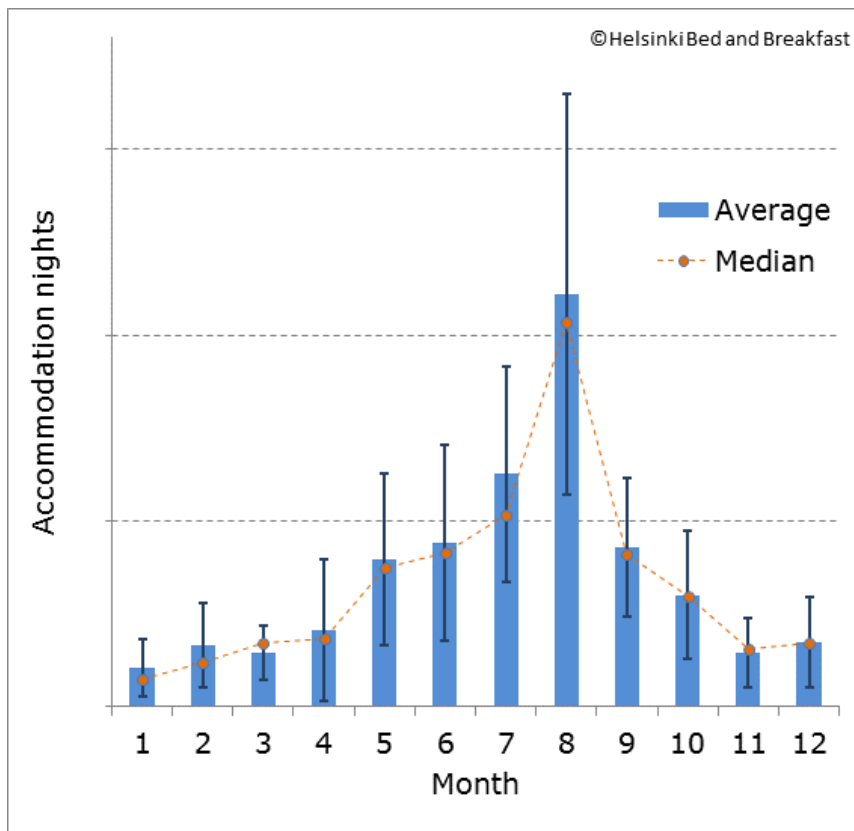


Figure 1. The share of the accommodation nights between different months in years 2007-2015.



Those who visited the country early in the season 2015 could enjoy an exceptionally early spring which, however, did not continue as a warm June and July. On the contrary, the weather in August was most pleasant with moderate temperatures and only a few days with rain. This was the time when several South-European people escaped the heat waves of their own country and spent a most comfortable time in Helsinki. The weather actually continued sunny and dry all the way through September and October, and our visitors could enjoy most pleasant outdoor life in the city as well as in the surrounding nature which actually is never far while you are in Helsinki.

Although we in Helsinki are fortunate to live in one of the safest places on Earth the increase of violence elsewhere has shocked all of us. The repeated sad news from areas of long-lasting conflicts may easily desensitize us, which is sad, too, but the year 2015 suddenly brought the conflicts closer. It was moving to read our earlier guest *Mrs. B.* writing us from Paris in November as follows: "*i am completely shocked, one of the attack happens opposite to my house, and i used to go in this bar in the day time... Now a mountain of flowers and candles are on the pavement in front of the bar which keep in mind what happen.*"

During the year 2015 we have accommodated people from twenty-one countries and four continents. They have met our hosts, shared their stories, and always improved each other's mutual understanding on different cultures and nations. In this way we at Helsinki Bed and Breakfast hope to bring our small contribution to grow understanding between people which, we believe, is a prerequisite for advancing peace in the world.

In the hope for a better world we wish you

Health, Success, Love, and Happiness during the New Year 2016.



Kindest regards Tapani Koskela  
Helsinki Bed and Breakfast

