

Caravelle is transported to Finland on August 19th, 2022

Aviation Museum Society Finland is having the epic Sud Aviation SE 210 Caravelle III passenger jet transported from Arlanda Airport to Finland. It is brought by ferry to Naantali harbour on August 19th, 2022. The aircraft is transported to Pansio harbour area to be restored and next year it will be placed on display at Turku Airport.

Sud Aviation SE 210 Caravelle is one of the first jet airliner types. Aero Oy, the predecessor of Finnair, ordered three Caravelle IA airliners in 1958 and they were taken into use in spring 1960. A fourth aircraft, a Caravelle III, was purchased in 1962. The Caravelles acquired earlier were also modified into the type III. Already in 1964, Aero Oy's Caravelle III aircraft were replaced with Super Caravelles (Caravelle 10 B3). Finnair's Super Caravelle fleet operated until 1983. The Caravelle IIIs and Super Caravelles were the aircraft types which took Finnair and the Finnish passengers into the jet age. Most Caravelles which served in the Finnair fleet have been scrapped, only two have survived. One of them is in a museum in France and another in an aquapark in Mexico. The nose section of a third one is used as a clubhouse at a French airfield.

Aviation Museum Society Finland decided to salvage the Caravelle which was available in Sweden. Based on the agreement signed in 2021 by Aviation Museum Society Finland and Swedish National Maritime and Transport Museums (SMTM), the former Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) Sud Aviation SE 210 Caravelle III SE-DAF "Sven Viking", which had since 1974 been waiting at Arlanda to be scrapped, was transferred into the possession of Aviation Museum Society Finland. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the aircraft wasn't examined and approved until on April 19th, 2022.

The volunteers of Aviation Museum Society Finland dismantled the aircraft at Arlanda for transportation in June and July 2022. On Thursday August 18th, 2022, the aircraft parts will be loaded on four special trailers of Ahola Special (AT Special Transport Oy), from Kokkola, Finland. The trailer convoy will move during the night from Arlanda to Kapellskär harbour, where the trailers are loaded on the Finnlines ferry in the morning of August 19th. The ferry will arrive at Naantali in the evening and the transporting vehicles head for Pansio harbour area in Turku. There the aircraft parts will be unloaded in a large hangar, which has been rented by Aviation Museum Society Finland for the restoration work of the Caravelle.

The aircraft will be restored during the winter 2022–2023 and placed on display at Turku Airport next year. A suitable exhibition site for the aircraft has been prepared near the passenger terminal.

Dismantling the Caravelle for transportation, bringing it to Finland, restoring it and placing it on display is a great effort for Aviation Museum Society Finland. Funding is needed, naturally, and the Caravelle team hopes to find sponsors and a fund-raising campaign has been established.

In the harbours of Kapellskär and Naantali the press and media can independently follow the loading and unloading of the trailers carrying the aircraft parts in the public areas of the harbour. It is not possible for Aviation Museum Society Finland to arrange access to the closed harbour areas. The hangar in Pansio is also located in a closed private area. Aviation Museum Society Finland is planning to arrange later an event for the media to see the aircraft in the hangar.

Further information:

Caravelle history and details: www.caravelle-projekti.fi/english/what

Photographs: www.caravelle-projekti.fi/media

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