



BOTTENVIKENS SKÄRGÅRD

HAPARANDA • KALIX • LULEÅ • PITEÅ • SKELLEFTEÅ



*Your
guide to*

100 gems in the
Bothnian Bay!

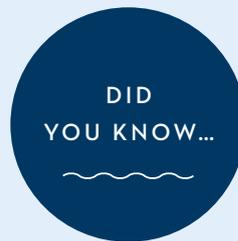


Welcome!

We're so glad that you want to explore Sweden's most northerly archipelago! The coastline from Haparanda in the northeast to Skellefteå in the south offers great opportunities for recreation and outdoor fun. We've chosen a bunch of fabulous places on the mainland and the islands to show you what's available. They're all well worth a visit. Read about each of the places and get tips on what to do, summer and winter alike. You'll need your own boat to reach some of the places, and there are boat services to others.

All of us here in the five archipelago municipalities hope that our guide to 100 gems in the Bothnian Bay encourages you to visit and enjoy great experiences.

Photo: Lisa Lundstedt



... the Bothnian Bay has the most northerly brackish water archipelago in the world.

... the archipelago has more than 4,000 islands.

... roads are ploughed across the ice to many islands in the winter.

... there are more than 100 stone labyrinths along the coast and in the archipelago.

... there are free saunas in many places open to everyone.

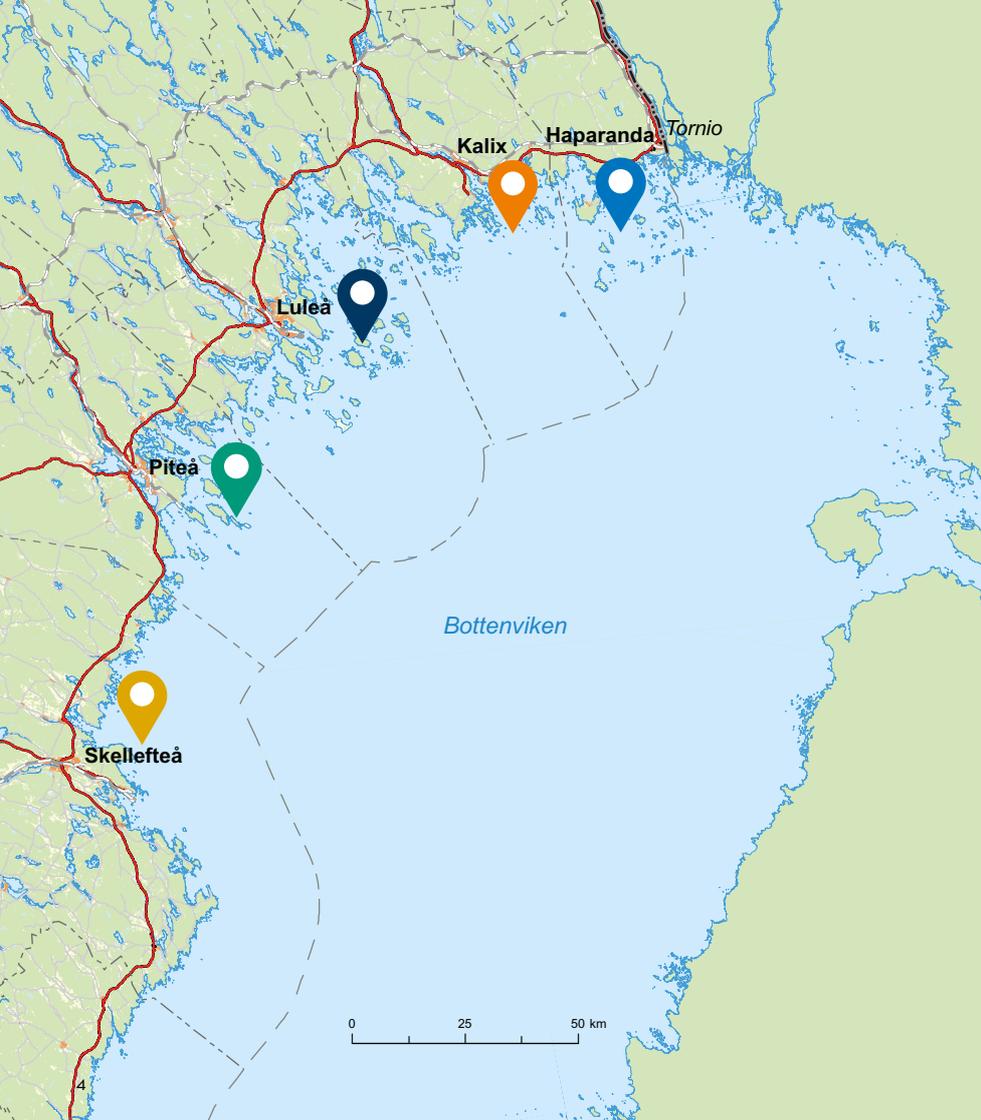
... Sweden's most easterly point is on the island of Kataja in the Haparanda archipelago.

... The Baltic Sea's most northerly point is located in Törefjärden in the Kalix archipelago.

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AT 37 METRES, PITE-RÖNNSKÄR IS SWEDEN'S THIRD HIGHEST LIGHTHOUSE.



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A unique archipelago



The Bothnian Bay is the most northerly part of the Gulf of Bothnia. The entire area is characterised by the many large rivers that gush freshwater to mix with the saltwater sea to make water that is neither fresh nor salt. The brackish water and a climate with great seasonal changes has created environments unique to these special conditions. The coastline is almost 1,800 km long, and with its more than 4,000 islands the coast and archipelago form a unique part of the country offering rich and varied flora and fauna. The rich cultural history tells us how important fishing and seal hunting were from the Middle Ages onwards, and how their dwelling places were influenced by land uplift. In the summer, there's daylight round-the-clock and it's never too early or too late for a dip in the sea. Autumn, with its bright warm colours, has its own special charm. The winter's frozen sea makes the archipelago easy to access, and spring-winter - many a person's favourite season - provides a fascinating spectacle when the ice releases its grip.



Photo: Camilla Carlsson

Arctic bramble 'The berries are superior to all European berries through their delicious aroma and taste,' according to Carl von Linné.

FLORA

The Bothnian Bay's brackish water, climate and land uplift create conditions for a special, richly varied vegetation on the islands. Some species are endemic and can only be found here. Bothnian wormwood and Bothnian eyebright are good examples. There are also arctic seashore plants such as the endangered Siberian primrose and East Bothnian Sedge that migrated in from the Arctic sea around 9,000 years ago. The barren, windswept settings on some islands are reminiscent of the mountains with their heaths and creeper vegetation. Other islands are home to woodlands with ancient pine trees that have grown broad and gnarled. The rising islands gradually became wooded, and some of them have never been affected by modern forestry. You can still experience virgin forest out in the archipelago. In the autumn there's a wealth of berries and mushrooms to pick.

FAUNA

The varied archipelago landscape is home to a rich wildlife. Seabirds, waterfowl and birds of the forest all make the archipelago their home. Along the beaches there are waders such as the ruddy turnstone and Common Ringed Plover, and in the woods you can come across the black grouse and Willow Ptarmigan. Black guillemots and razorbills nest among boulders on islands in the outer archipelago. There are also little gulls, the world's smallest gulls, and the Caspian tern, the world's largest tern. You might also see the white-tailed eagle and the osprey out on the hunt for fish. Moose are common in the archipelago. Reindeer are mainly winter visitors but can sometimes be seen in the summer. The Bothnian Bay is home to two species of seal, the ringed seal and grey seal. The grey seal can be up to three metres long and weigh 300 kilos, while the smaller ringed seal is barely half the size. The ringed seal is utterly dependent on ice in its habitat; low-ice winters mean pups have less chance of survival.

Reindeer round-ups Several Sami communities have winter grazing for their reindeer in the archipelago.



Photo: Alf-Arne Harjo



Photo: Dan Blomkvist

Only in the Bothnian Bay Grayling and the vendace are utterly unique to the Bothnian Bay, as the species otherwise live in lakes and streams.

BELOW THE SURFACE

The Bothnian Bay's archipelago is so singularly special it's known – without exaggeration – as the world's most northerly brackish water archipelago. Its salinity of 2-4 per mille in combination with cold winters mean life here must make special adaptations to survive. Below the surface is a unique mix of freshwater and saltwater species not found anywhere else. For example, the Baltic water plantain, which is endemic to the Baltic Sea, and in a few places the



Photo: Petra Pohjola

endangered Arctic marsh grass can still be found. The bottom vegetation in the shallow bays and lagoons is teeming with life. It's home to the smallest creatures such as insect larvae and crustaceans, which serve in turn as food for fish and birds. These shallow areas are important for the entire archipelago. By providing protection for small fry, they are places where many fish species begin life. Salmon, herring, vendace, sea trout, whitefish, grayling, perch, burbot, pike and various carp fish all swim in the Bothnian Bay. About 90% of all wild Baltic Sea salmon hatch in the rivers that flow into the Bothnian Bay. Baltic herring and vendace are the source of two delicacies – surströmming and Kalix löjrom PDO, roe from vendace fished in Kalix archipelago.



Photo: LewerL Jönsson

A Taste of Bothnia

Kalix löjrom PDO has enjoyed protected designation of origin (PDO) since 2010.

HISTORY

For thousands of years, people have been travelling among the islands in search of a livelihood and food, and we can follow the trail of the settlements from the first time land arose from the sea to the present day. Land uplift has forced people to move many times. Throughout the ages, fishing harbours moved with the shoreline, and it's possible to trace the fishing settlements of many generations on the islands. The most common ancient remains are dwelling sites, boat landings, fishing settlements, carins from drying racks and labyrinths. The dwelling sites are remains of temporary homes used during seasonal hunting or fishing. Boat landings are places on the former shoreline cleared from stones to allow boats to be brought ashore. The drying rack cairns laid out in lines once held poles in place from which nets were hung to dry.

Of Sweden's more than 300 known labyrinths, around 100 are located in the Bothnian Bay archipelago and their proximity to fishing settlements and individual cottages is often manifest.

Going round in circles meant good hunting and fishing Walking a labyrinth to summon hunting and fishing success was likely one of several ways to use them. Example of labyrinth from the island Kluntarna.



Photo: Gunilla Edbom

INLAND ICE

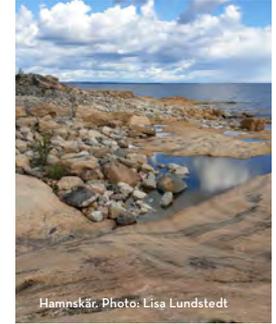
The last Ice Age had a major impact on the Bothnian Bay's coast and archipelago. Abraded rocks and sand washed down from the glaciers have set their stamp on the entire area.

Moraines, which cover most of the archipelago's islands, were formed from boulders and stones when the inland ice melted. Glacial striations on rocky outcrops arose when boulders and rocks firmly frozen into

the inland ices scored trails across the rock surfaces. The land is still rising since the end of the last Ice Age. The land uplift here is around 0.9 cm a year, which means an archipelago in constant change.

When the land was at its lowest, today's coastal cities would have been submerged. During land uplift, the islands were exposed to the sea's wave and ice action and the loose material was pounded heavily.

The result can be seen in the form of extensive cobblestone fields.



Hamnskär. Photo: Lisa Lundstedt

BEDROCK

Bedrock in the Bothnian Bay consists of many types of rock. The oldest, deep rock types are mainly gneiss, diorites, granodiorites and granites, which were formed between 1,800 and 2,000 million years ago. They have been exposed by erosion and are visible in many different places. Granite and pegmatite in the form of quartz and feldspar have been quarried in several places since the early 1900s.

In some parts of the archipelago there are greenstones, schists and limestone – all rocks that contribute to a richer flora. The youngest rocks, including kimberlite pipes, are found in the outer archipelago. You can find Kallax gabbro, Norrbotten's landscape stone, to the south of Luleå. When crushed, it's used for gritting our roads in the winter.

The coastline along the Bothnian Bay offers many possibilities for outdoor activities, relaxation and adventures. Throughout the year, visitors can take part in exciting activities under the shimmering northern lights or the rays of the midnight sun. We have glittering sounds, frozen seas, beaches, sauna heat, arctic bramble, sea buckthorn and the mystique of the labyrinths. Not forgetting roe of vendace and surströmming. Here's just a few of the activities we hope will inspire you.

Enjoy the archipelago – summer and autumn



HIKING Pack your flora and bird books and discover nature on your terms! Many of the islands are ideal for hiking and there are many nature trails all around the archipelago. There are also excellent hiking trails along the coast, especially the Solander trail, Furuögrund trail and the pasture footpath in Risböle.

FISHING The Bothnian Bay provides many opportunities to catch fish whether you prefer rod and line, spinning or fly fishing. In the archipelago, hand tackle is permitted for fishing e.g. a rod and line. Further out, grayling and whitefish are common catches and in the inner sounds are fish such as perch, roach and pike. Visit svenskafiskeregler.se to see what applies when you want to go fishing.

BIRD WATCHING There are good opportunities on the islands and coast alike to watch the interesting bird life. Haparanda Sandskär is home to Sweden's most northerly and easterly ornithology field stations. Visitors can both watch and ring birds. On Malören and Rödkallen you can generally see the same species as on Sandskär, and many migratory birds pass Bjuröklubb in the spring. Visit artportalen.se for information about birds and other things you might see.

PICK BERRIES AND MUSHROOMS Toward autumn, tuft and tussock light up red and blue. The wild berries here are perceived as bigger and juicier than those on the mainland. Or so we imagine. You'll find plenty of lingonberries and blueberries here. Among the stones the arctic bramble grows, Norrbotten's heraldic flower. Sea buckthorn also grows on the islands, and the brilliant orange berries are packed with vitamin C. In the autumn, bucketsful of wild mushrooms are ready to pick. But if you asked where to pick chanterelles, it's not certain you'll get an answer. It's usually a secret passed on down the generations.



Photo: Linnea Isaksson

SAY HI TO A SEAL Don't be surprised if the sounds of the sea include weird barks, howls and grunts. Or if a curious seals suddenly pops out of the sea. There are several places where you can see seals as they rest on islets and rocks.

BARBECUE There are barbecue facilities throughout the entire area. For example, the municipalities have set out 'archipelago barbecues' so typical of the Bothnian Bay. These may be used by everyone and in many places there is usually an equally characteristic sauna.

BY BOAT If you come by boat, there are plenty of guest harbours around the coast and archipelago. Visit bottenviken.se for information on e.g. harbour entry and service. There is also information on launching ramps along the coast for visitors exploring the archipelago with a trailer boat. Eniro and gasthamnsguiden.se also have information about guest harbours. If you didn't come by boat, boat services and water taxis are available from several places along the coast. Make a habit of checking the weather forecast before setting out. Always wear a life jacket.

WHAT'S UNDER THE SURFACE?

Go snorkelling in shallow bays and discover the jungle beneath the waves or go wading with an aquascope and watch snails and other creepy crawlies that live here.

KAYAKING Discover the archipelago by kayak! There are waters for beginners and pros and many great landing places. Kayaks are available for rent. Get tips about where to go from the municipal tourist centres.

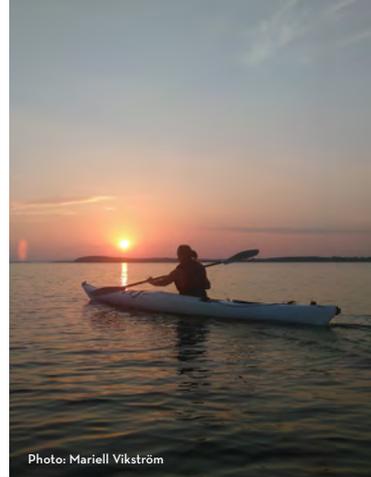


Photo: Mariell Vikström

BATHING AND SAUNA

Along the Bothnian Bay coast and in the archipelago there's bathing to suit every taste. From Pite Havsbad's extensive beach to small coves between smooth rocks. In many places, the municipalities have organised saunas for the public free of charge and bookable on site. There's usually wood for you to saw and split yourself, but at some places you must bring your own wood. Check before you go. However, there's plenty of water for washing in the sea.



Photo: Piteå municipality

WALKING LABYRINTHS Labyrinths may not be unique to the Bothnian Bay, but there are plenty of them here. Both on the mainland and on the islands. Improve your fishing fortunes and take a turn in a labyrinth to be on the safe side. But don't 'tidy up' in the labyrinth; let the stones stay where they are. Haparanda Sandskär, Rödkallen, Kluntarna, Stor-Räbben and Bjuröklubb are some of the places where the labyrinths will enhance the experience of your visit.

CLIMB A LIGHTHOUSE Lighthouses and their surroundings are popular day trip destinations. The surroundings are often picturesque and the lighthouses themselves offer fantastic views. The Bothnian Bay's oldest lighthouse can be found on Malören in the Kalix archipelago, and Sweden's highest Heidenstam lighthouse is located on Pite-Rönnskär. Rödkallen, Jävre, Gåsören and Bjuröklubb have lighthouses from the 1800s. Learn more about lighthouses on the [Swedish Lighthouse Society's website](#).

OVERNIGHT STAYS There are several ways to enjoy the archipelago life. For example, the municipalities offer cottages for rent. Many of them can also be rented in winter. There are many places to pitch a tent – on camp sites and in the country on the mainland and islands. And of course, there's a wide range of other types of accommodation, both in old lighthouses, pilot stations and hotels.



Guests at the Bjuröklubben lighthouse. Photo: Visit Skellefteå



Photo: Lisa Lundstedt



Photo: Lisa Lundstedt

Småskär's Chapel The chapel is from the beginning of the 1700s and services are still held here in the archipelago on a couple of occasions every summer.

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

The chapels on the islands are part of the archipelago's cultural heritage. The chapels on Haparanda-Sandskär, Malören, Rödkallen, Småskären, Brändöskär and Pite-Rönnskär were all built in the 1700s. As memorials of times past, they give pause for a moment's reflection. Services are held in some of the chapels during the summer. To learn more about this, visit the [Church of Sweden's website for the diocese of Luleå](#).

Enjoy the archipelago

– winter and spring

SKATING ALONG Long-distance ice-skating is a glorious way to enjoy the winter archipelago, but not entirely risk free. In the early winter, before the snow arrives, there are sometimes fantastic ices for skating. The Swedish Outdoor Association arranges organised, safe long-distance ice-skating under the guidance of trained leaders.

GLIDING ALONG The vast white expanses invite you on long ski trips, and when there's a crust on the snow the possible places to go are almost unlimited. The best skiing is usually in February to April. Even when the ice has broken up, you can ski in the archipelago on what is known locally as 'landkallen'. There are several places in the archipelago where ski tracks are prepared both privately and municipally.

WINTER BATHING The interest in winter swimming has exploded in recent years, and in Skellefteå holds regular winter swimming competitions. In several places, holes are sawn in the ice by associations and private individuals, where the prospective hero can take a dip.

BARBECUES AND SAUNAS Of course you can have a barbecue in the winter, and some of the saunas are also open during the winter.



The archipelago is not just a place for visiting in the summer. Once the ice covers the sounds, fresh winter opportunities open up for new excursions and fantastic experiences. Bear in mind that new ice, spring ice, snow-covered ice and sea ice may be weak. Make sure the ice will bear your weight before you set off, and check the ice forecast. [SMHI](#) has updated information on its website. Also, be sure to stay well away from the ice-free fairways into the major seaports along the coast. And don't forget your ice prods.



NORTHERN LIGHTS Aurora Borealis – the magical, legendary northern lights. They form when solar particles in space collide with the outer atmosphere in conjunction with the way the solar winds move across the firmament. The Bothnian Bay’s archipelago offers excellent opportunities to see the northern light’s as early as August. The archipelago’s open spaces provide great photo opportunities for people seeking to immortalise the experience.



Rödskallen's lighthouse. Photo: Peter Rosén



Photo: Dan Blomkvist

ICE FISHING In winter, ice fishing is a popular pastime. Take an auger along and drill a hole in the sea ice. When fishing in shallow water one exciting thing is looking down through the hole to actually see fish circling your bait, will they take it or not. But be kind to the fish you catch, the one you don't want to keep, remove the hook carefully and release the fish into the hole as quickly as possible. Immediately kill the fish you want to keep.

PACK ICE EXPERIENCES As spring approaches, pack ice begins to raft up far out in the archipelago. Wind and weather push together great piles of massive ice blocks. Getting up close to pack ice is an exciting experience and you can sense just how powerful the forces at work are. One can imagine being in the wild Arctic, surrounded by huge icebergs and cold, blue water. Where you can experience this depends on the wind and weather from year to year.

KITE SURFING In kite surfing, you are propelled forward while standing on a board using the wind to act on a kite. The sport has been described as a combination of sailing and wakeboarding. It is usually done on water, but it works just as well on snow and ice. All you need is wind, open spaces and the right kit. Many people kite surf on the waters around Luleå, but you can kite surf in many other places too.

CYCLE OUT TO AN ISLAND

Interest in cycling on ice is on the increase and the pastime is growing in popularity. Whether or not you have your own fatbike or rent one, unique experiences await. It's safest to stick to ploughed ice tracks and ice roads, but when the crusted snow supports your weight, you can explore new places.



Photo: Helena Holm



Gåsörens lighthouse. Photo: Visit Skellefteå



The ice track in Luleå. Photo: Burban Studios

ICE TRACKS Ice tracks are a popular attraction for residents and visitors alike.

The ice tracks ploughed in Luleå and Piteå offer several different ways of getting around, just a stone's throw from the city's heartbeat. Feel the slipstream on your face when you're skating, glide easily along on your kick sled or simply enjoy a promenade or bike ride across the frozen water. There are also 'kick sled lots' where you are welcome to borrow a kick sled for your trip.

SNOWMOBILES The most common form of winter transport between the islands is still the snowmobile. There are marked snowmobile tracks across the sea organised by snowmobile clubs, cottage associations etc. Note that it is not permitted to ride snowmobiles on the islands in the Bothnian Bay's archipelago other than on the shortest route to and from a cottage or on marked trails. There is information about snowmobile trails in the municipalities on the [Piteå](#) and [Skellefteå](#) municipal websites.

MOTORING ON ICE ROADS In the winter, when the ice along the coast outside Luleå is sufficiently thick, a little over 30 kilometres of ice roads are ploughed out to Hindersön, Storbrändön, Sandön and Junkön. Driving a car on an ice road and passing an ice-bound navigation buoy is a special experience. Ice roads are ploughed when ice and weather conditions permit. There is information about the current status of the archipelago's winter roads at lulea.se/isvagar

THE RIGHT TO ACCESS AND COMMON SENSE, DO NOT DISTURB, DO NOT DESTROY

The Swedish right of public access is a fantastic opportunity for us all to enjoy nature. But don't forget...

... show consideration for plant, animal and bird life.

... observe local rules, prohibited access and codes of conduct. Go to skyddadnatur.naturvardsverket.se for further information.

... if you take your dog into a protected area, keep it on a leash.

... leave ancient remains, boulders and stones undisturbed; do not make cairns in the in the cobblestone fields.

... only light camp fires where permitted; remember the fire hazard - carefully put out your fire when you leave.

... respect residents and other visitors.

... common areas are there for everyone; show consideration by leaving the place clean and tidy.

... take your rubbish with you.

Read more about the right of public access on the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's website naturvardsverket.se, and about the protection of ancient remains on the Swedish National Heritage Board's website raa.se

SYMBOLS

To make it easier for you to find information about the different places of interest, we have labelled them with the following symbols:



Boat taxi
landing



Guest
Harbour



Rental
cabin



Lodging



Camping



Beach



Accessible



Sauna



Barbecue
area



Wind shelter/
Public hut



Dry toilet



WC



Drinking water



Hiking trail



Attraction



Nature
conservation area



Observation tower



Outlook



Café



Restaurant/
Food service



Kiosk/Shop



Fuel

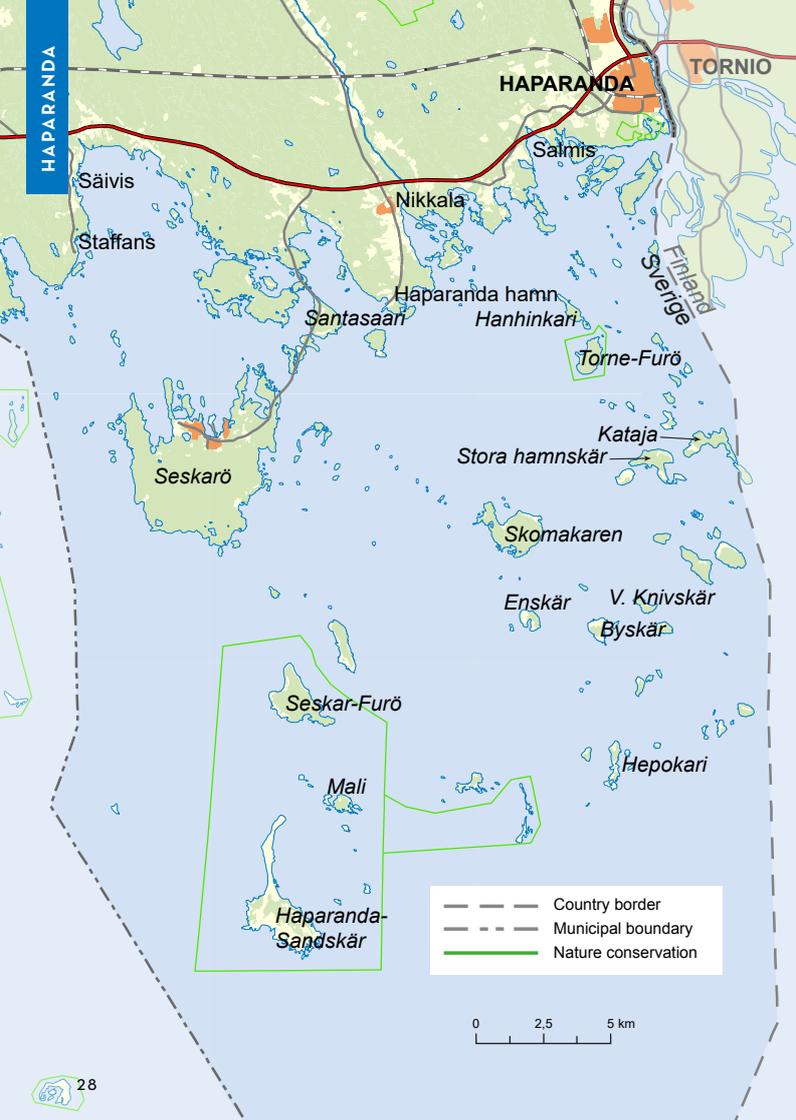


Defibrillator

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY AT SEA ALWAYS CALL 112



If you are a member of the Swedish Sea Rescue Society, you may call 0200-29 00 90 even when there is no emergency. There are Swedish Sea Rescue Society boats in Luleå, Piteå and Skellefteå. You can learn more about how preparation and the right equipment can enhance safety at sea by visiting sjoraddning.se



AN ARCHIPELAGO ON THE BORDER

Haparanda

COAST AND ARCHIPELAGO

The names of many of the islands bear witness to this being a bordering archipelago. Islands here have both Swedish and Finnish names. The archipelago is characterised by low lying islands with many sandy beaches. Why not visit Haparanda Archipelago's National Park - Sweden's most easterly. You can also experience coastal fishing right up close when the fishing boats return to harbour. Sweden's most easterly point is on the island of Kataja.

IN A NUTSHELL

NUMBER OF ISLANDS	652
LENGTH OF MAINLAND COAST	127 km
LARGEST ISLAND	Seskarö (21.8 km ²)
LAND UPLIFT	8.73 mm/year
LONGEST DAYLIGHT	24h
SHORTEST DAYLIGHT	2h 55m



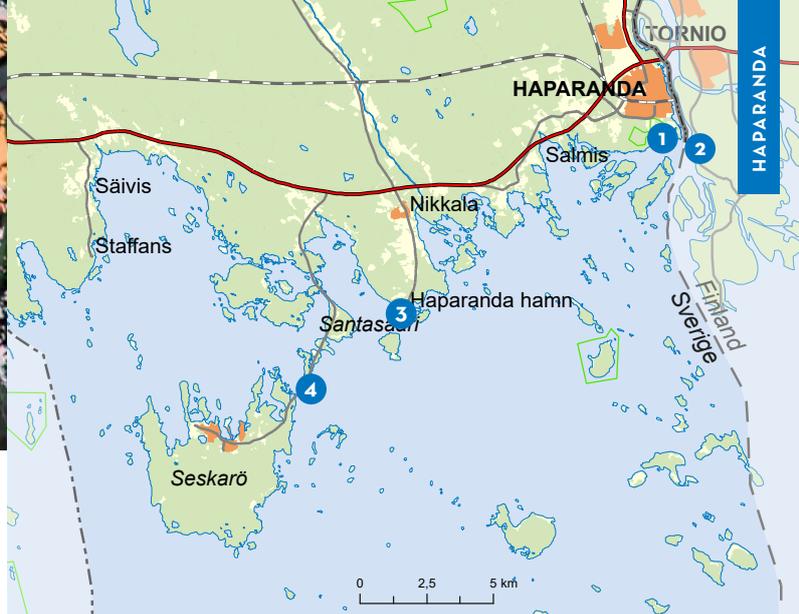
Photo: Linnea Isaksson

The Coast

- 1 Sweden's easternmost mainland point**
Sweden's most easterly point is marked by a cairn in the mouth of the Torne River.
- 2 Toranda** is located on the Finnish side of the Torne River estuary. There is a large marina which, thanks to its good depth, is also accessible to sailing boats.
- 3 Haparanda Harbour** is Sweden's most easterly guest harbour. It is also the municipality's largest marina and is popular with boat and caravan owners. In the old harbour storehouse, there is a museum dedicated to the village's fishing industry. A little to the north is Hillerströms Strand, which has its own

place in history. When Sweden lost Finland and Tornio City, the Swedish government decided to build a new city here - Karl Johan's City. When a governor reported that the city only had 23 inhabitants, all belonging to the same family, the plans came to naught. In its place grew the little village of Haapaniemi - today's Haparanda.

- 4 Seskarö Bridge.** Seskarö bridge is one kilometre long and together with a few smaller bridges it connects Seskarö and a string of smaller islands to the mainland. The bridge was opened in 1978 and is a true landmark for people in the archipelago.



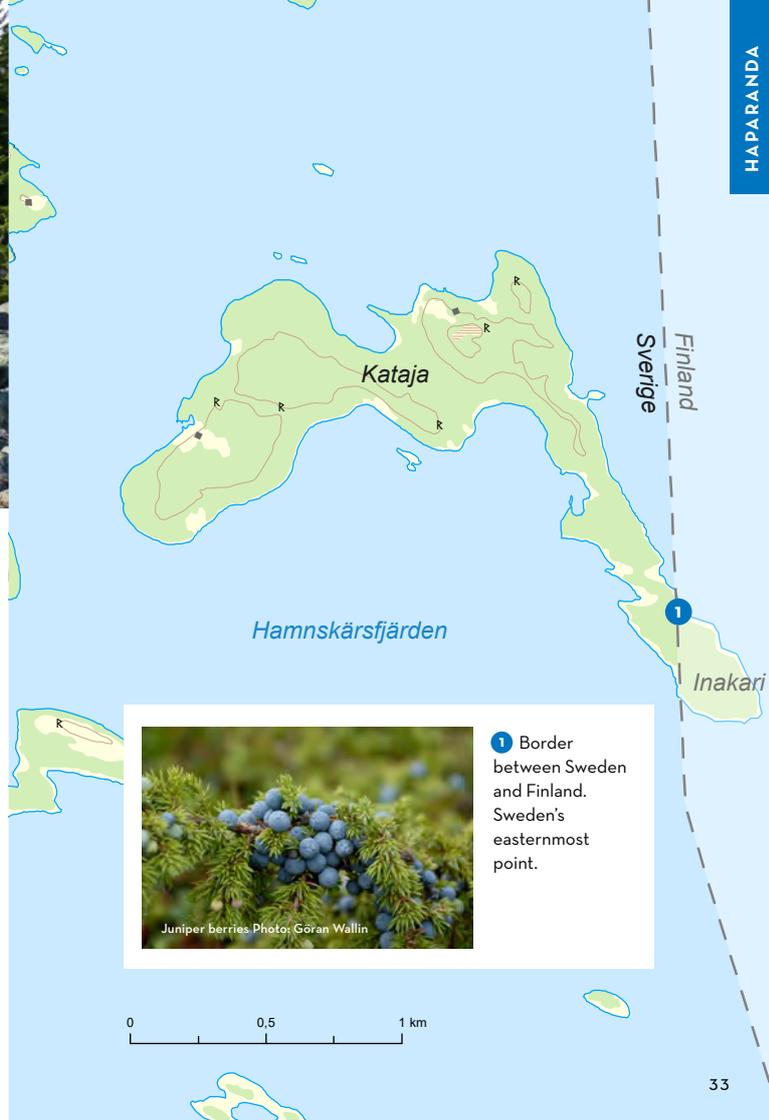
Salmon fishing Photo: Boris Ersson



National boundary cairn. Photo: Tina Nilsson

Kataja

SWEDEN'S EASTERNMOST POINT In Finnish, Kataja means Juniper berry. Kataja is also an island shared by Sweden and Finland. The border crosses the south-east part of the island and is marked with two cairns and a national boundary line. It is Sweden's most easterly point. When the border was drawn in 1809, it was located in the channel between Kataja and the even smaller island of Inakari. Due to land uplift, the islands have since grown together. On the Swedish side there are three private cottages on the west of the island. The Kataja shoreline consists mainly of rocky beaches and water meadows with some beaches in places. The eastern headland is predominantly deciduous woods, while the central and western parts are mainly coniferous woodlands above the band of broadleaf trees. Parts of the island are designated as Natura 2000 areas.

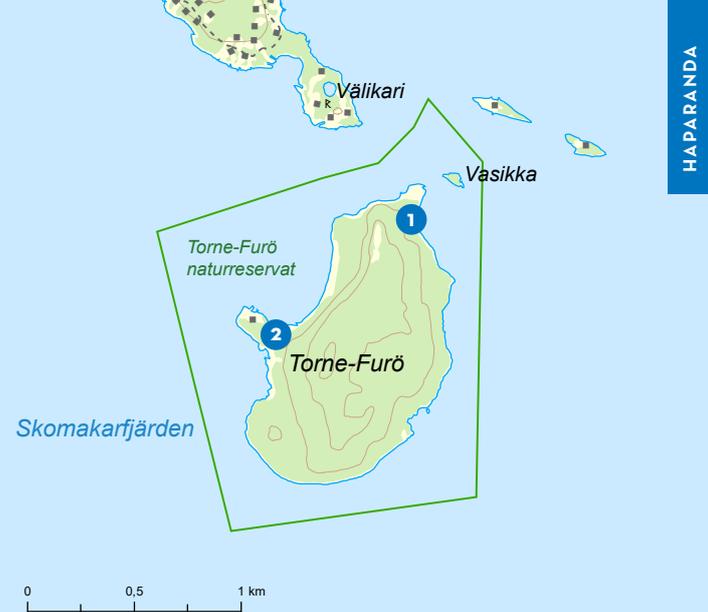


Juniper berries. Photo: Göran Wallin

1 Border between Sweden and Finland. Sweden's easternmost point.



View across Välikari. Photo: Lisa Lundstedt



Torne-Furö

NATURE AND BATHING Torne-Furö has slow-growing pine forests and species that are rare in the Haparanda archipelago, which is why the island has been made a nature reserve and a Natura 2000 area. The island is popular with boating enthusiasts. Due to its proximity to both Haparanda and Finnish Tornio, it's popular among bathers during the sunny summer months. Blueberries, raspberries, lingonberries and mushrooms grow in profusion here. On the island's north-east point is a sandy beach whose good depth makes it easily accessible for boats. However, swimmers here should be aware that the shallow water along the beaches becomes deep suddenly. There is a fishing settlement on the north west of the island. There are plenty of reindeer and moose on Torne-Furö all year round.



Photo: P. S. Lindström, Last name

Photo: Lisa Lundstedt



Dwarf cornel, Photo: Lisa Lundstedt

- 1 Beach, jetties, shelter from the wind and dry toilet.
- 2 Fishing settlement.



Photo: Lisa Lundstedt



Photo: Lisa Lundstedt

Hanhinkari

COTTAGE LIFE Hanhinkari is the most built up island of them all around Haparanda and enjoys a wealth of leisure activities with summer cottage owners and many visitors. Haparanda's boat club clubhouse is located on Hanhinkari and open to all visitors during the summer. So too is the sauna, which is frequently used by visitors to the island. There is a barbecue area next to the clubhouse. There is a floating jetty below the club house and a little further away is the main quay, where visiting boaters usually put in for overnight stays. There is a freshwater well on the island. There are also two stone labyrinths.



- 1 Guest harbour with small floating jetty.
- 2 Haparanda Boat Club's clubhouse, open to the public during the summer. Barbecue area.
- 3 Haparanda Boat Club's sauna, open to the public during the summer.
- 4 Main quay. Wheelchair accessible guest harbour, shelter from the wind, dry toilet and barbecue area.
- 5 Labyrinths.
- 6 Freshwater well.

Torne-Furö



Photo: Tina Nilsson

Hepokari

LABYRINTHS AND CAIRNS FROM DRYING RACKS Around five kilometres from the Finnish border, in the outer Haparanda archipelago, lies Hepokari. On the western shore there are inlets with landings for small boats. The inlets provide good shelter against the wind. Hepokari is home to one of the Nordic region's richest sources of ancient remains in an archipelago setting. You can see the remains of an entire village complex together with the boat landings, a well-preserved labyrinth and cairns from drying racks. The remains are thought to date from medieval times or a little later. The island boasts interesting flora, including a species of the Siberian primrose, and it has been listed as a Natura 2000 area thanks to beaches rich in species, pristine land uplift woodlands and valuable marine environments.



- 1 Suitable landing for boats. Barbecue area.
- 2 Ancient village complex with settlements.
- 3 Well-preserved labyrinth, settlements and cairns from drying racks.



Siberian primrose.
Photo: Petra Domela



Photo: Tina Nilsson

Skomakaren/Suutari

RICH IN ANCIENT REMAINS In Nikkala, just over five nautical miles from Haparanda Harbour, is the island of Skomakaren (the shoemaker). The island is called Suutari by the locals, which also means shoemaker in Finnish. This island is rich in ancient remains. A short walk will soon reveal drying yards, dwelling sites, compass roses, a labyrinth, a tar kiln and a few stone ovens. The island is popular thanks to its long sandy beaches, but people also come here for its berries and mushrooms. Boaters like visiting Norrviken, which provides good shelter from most winds. However, when northerly winds blow, you will need to anchor in the lee of Norrviksgrundet.



Photo: Lëna Harila

- 1 Norrviken's beach. Barbeque area and dry toilets.
- 2 Beach. Barbeque areas and dry toilets.
- 3 Fishing settlement.

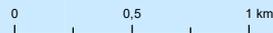




Photo: Tina Nilsson

Seskar–Furö

LONG SANDY BEACHES Seskar–Furö is part of the Haparanda Archipelago National Park and Natura 2000 area and is popular with boaters. Nature here has hardly been influenced by man and it boasts fascinating diversity. There are young and old-growth coniferous woods, uncultivated beach woodlands, mixed forest, wooded meadows and lush water meadows. There are major sand dunes inland of the northern headland's western shore. There are fantastic beaches on either side of the headland. However, the waters are shallow and landing is difficult. There are ancient remains, including a labyrinth, to the east of the fishing cottages. From here, a path leads down to the inlet on the southern shore.



Haparanda skärgårds nationalpark



Beach pea. Photo: Lisa Lundstedt

- 1 A beach with dry toilets, information board, and barbecue area.
- 2 Fishing village.

0 0,5 1 Kilometer

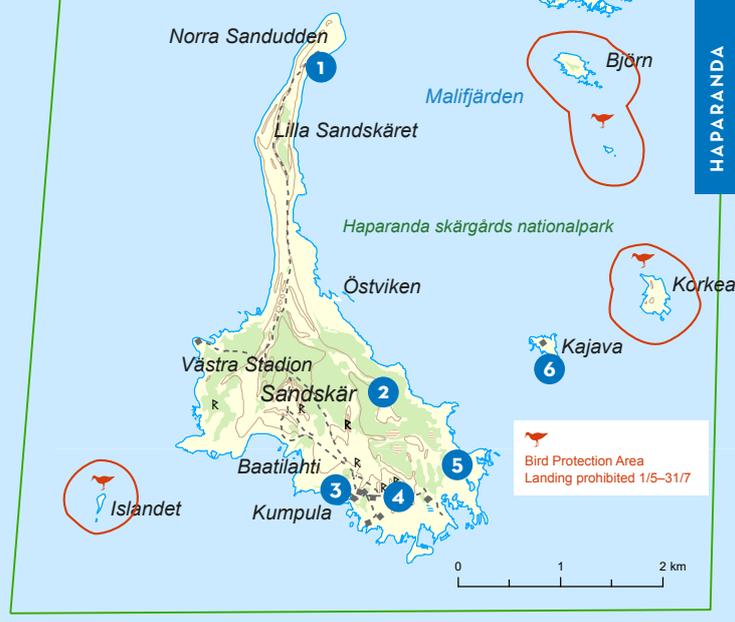




Harbour in Kumpula. Photo: Alf-Arne Harjo

Haparanda Sandskär

AN ISLAND OF CONTRASTS Farthest seaward is Sandskär, the largest island in the Haparanda Archipelago National Park. The area's land and marine environments have great natural value. Sandskär is a major attraction and also a Natura 2000 area. Due to its location, the island attracts many species of birds during the spring and autumn migrations, and there are also plenty of moose. Sandskär has an exciting history with documented events from the 1500s when the Baltic herring fishery attracted a coastal population. The many ancient remains testify to times past, such as the wreckage from a shipwrecked vessel and a small cemetery. The island is well-visited by cottage owners as well as boat tourists. Berry and mushroom picking are popular during the summer and autumn.



- 1** Norra Sandudden. Barbecue area, dry toilet, bathing beach, designated camping area. Boat service stops here during the summer.
- 2** Untouched virgin aspen woodlands.
- 3** Kumpula. Sheltered harbour with guest jetties, rental cabins, conference room and 'The Council Cottage', which can be rented. Sauna, freshwater well, wheelchair accessible dry toilet and barbecue areas. Boat service stops here during the summer. Barbeque area. Defibrillator.
- 4** Sandskär Chapel was built in the late 1700s. The building was shipped in from Tornio, where it had served as a granary. Next

to the chapel is a small cemetery with a stone marking the grave of Ölandish sailor Olof Viktor Andersson, who died when the brig Elvine was shipwrecked outside Sandskär in the autumn of 1886. The chapel sometimes celebrates the sacraments of baptism and marriage.

- 5** Ornithology field station. Haparanda Sandskär is home to Sweden's most northerly and easterly ornithology field station. There are huts used by ornithologists when ringing birds. The field stations are manned from mid-July to mid-October and receive visitors, time permitting.
- 6** Fishing settlement on the island of Kajava.



Sekarö Bridge. Photo: Lisa Lundstedt

Sekarö

ARCHIPELAGO COMMUNITY Sekarö is the largest and only island in the Bothnian Bay with a year-round population and a land connection via a road bridge. The island has a time-honoured sawmill history. Much of the older built-up area is preserved, creating a picturesque impression. It offers all the comforts of an archipelago community and great day trips. There are also many smaller inlets with great bathing beaches. Visit Sekarö Havsbud with its modern cabins and a camping area beautifully situated in Tromsö inlet with its shallow-water bathing beach. Sorttisviken is a popular inlet with excellent sand beaches, also for boats with deeper draughts. There are five wind turbines here, and they give the island a characteristic silhouette when seen from the sea. On the north side is Leppäniemi quay, which these days serves as a guest harbour, and the village centre is not far from here.

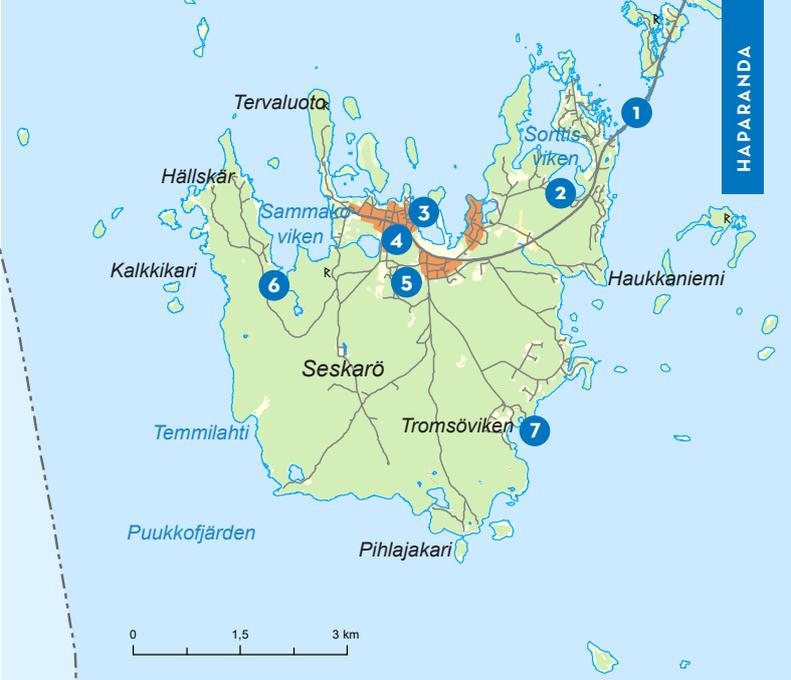


Photo: Lisa Lundstedt

- 1 Sekarö Bridge. Bridge to the mainland.
- 2 Sorttisviken. Natural harbour, guest jetty, barbecue areas, swimming and dry toilet.

3 Leppäniemikajen. Guest harbour, electricity, WC and sauna.

4 Sekarö village amenities include a school, a shop, a petrol station and a cafeteria.

5 Sekarö Church, built 1929.

6 Sammakoviiken is a beautiful natural harbour sheltered from winds from any direction where you put in directly to the sandy beach.

7 Tromsöviiken and Sekarö Havsbud. Wheelchair accessible bathing beach, cabins, caravans and tents, barbecue areas.



HOME OF KALIX LÖJROM

Kalix

COAST AND ARCHIPELAGO

Tucked away at the very top of the Bothnian Bay is a mix of rocky islands and low-lying sandy beaches. It's where you'll find the highest peaks of the Bothnian Bay and the most northerly point of the Baltic Sea. On its own far out to sea is Malören, a fishing settlement dating back to the Middle Ages. The Kalix archipelago produces an exclusive delicacy - Kalix löjrom PDO (Protected Designation of Origin).

IN A NUTSHELL

NUMBER OF ISLANDS	792
LENGTH OF MAINLAND COAST	329 km
LARGEST ISLAND	Rånön (24.5 km ²)
LAND UPLIFT	8.85 mm/year
LONGEST DAYLIGHT	24h
SHORTEST DAYLIGHT	2h 54m

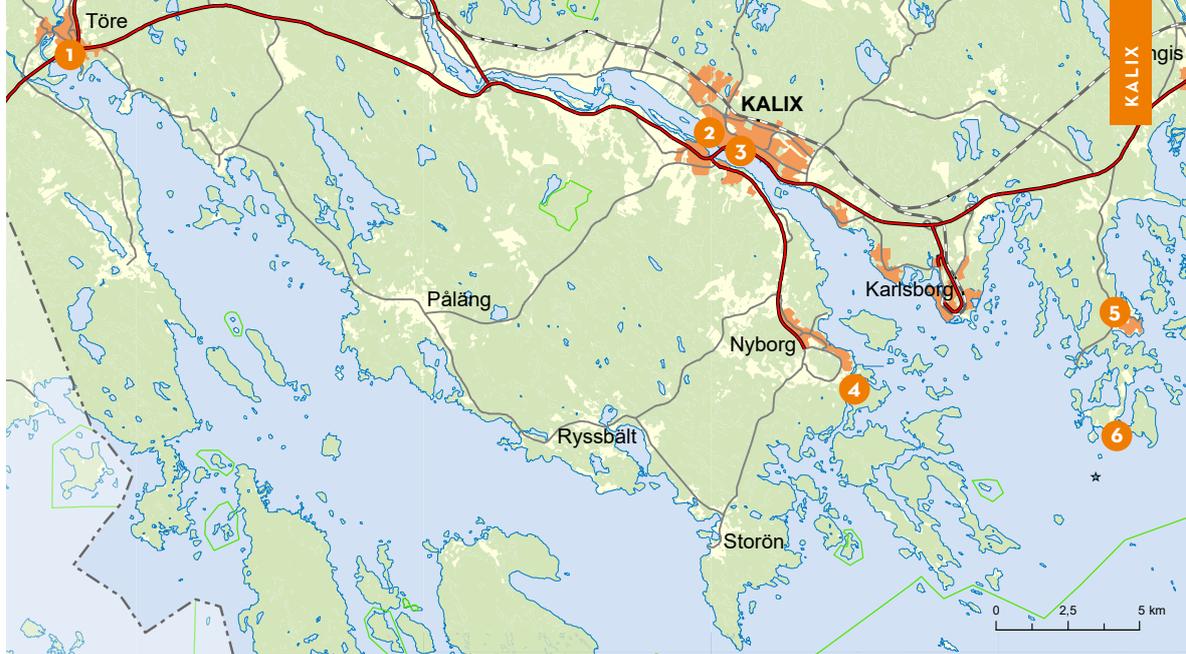
The Coast

1 Töre Hamn. The northernmost point of the Baltic Sea is marked with a yellow buoy in the bay at Töre. Every summer, the Töre harbour festival coincides with the end of the Midsummer Sail regatta, which starts in Wismar, Germany, the most southerly point of the Baltic Sea. Töre Hamn is the Töre boat club's home harbour, close to the Töre campsite.

2 Vassholmen is an island in the Kalix River, and an old timber sorting area from the days of timber floating. Today, the island is a popular place to visit with many cultural events. The island is reached via a wheelchair accessible bridge. The island also has a café and a timber floating museum open in summer.

3 Standängarna is picturesquely situated on the banks of the Kalix River close to the centre of Kalix. Kalix camp site is here, as is the popular Strandäng bath with with temperate pools and and a guest harbour with 12 guest berths and a boat service stop.

4 Marahamn is Kalix municipality's biggest marina with about 450 berths and a number of guest berths. The harbour has two approaches, one from the south-west and the other from the south-east, both with fairway markers.



5 Båtskärsnäs is an old sawmill community with three marinas. During the autumn, the village is one of many centres for vendace fishing and the preparation of Kalix vendace roe. The archipelago outside Båtskärsnäs offers excellent fishing. Båtskärsnäs is home to Norrkust Marina and a guest harbour with excellent service.

6 There is a scenic year-round camp site with activities and a restaurant in **Frevisören**. The amenity has a long beach and sea in three directions.



The most northerly point of the Baltic Sea.
Photo: Agora direct Midsummer Sail



Photo: Kalix municipality

Malören

JEWEL IN THE CROWN Furthest out in the Kalix archipelago is Malören. Malören means 'round stone', which is thought to refer to the round boulders the island consists of. People began settling the island in the 1600s, but its heyday was during the second half of the 1700s, when Baltic herring fishing was especially good. Fisherfolk came from Tornio and Karlö in Ostrobothnia, and in the summers as many as 200 people lived on the island. In 1809, when Sweden lost Finland to Russia, Malören became Swedish. Shipping grew in the early 1800s, ships got bigger and sailings more frequent. This made pilotage necessary from Malören to the coast. In 1932, Malören's pilot station was merged with Erikören's, and no pilot has lived on the island since then. Malören is an important resting place for migratory birds and seabirds of various kinds. The Malören Nature Reserve and Natura 2000 area were set up to protect the island's quality as a breeding site and resting place for birds and to conserve its typical topography.

1 Malören's fishing settlement with chapel, lighthouse and pilot station. The fishing settlement, which dates back to early medieval times, has been very important for Swedish and Finnish fisherfolk alike. In the 1700s and 1800s there were no quays on the island, so the boats were pulled up on land. The characteristic jetty that exists today was built in the 1940s. Today it is a jetty for visiting boats. **Malören's lighthouse** was built in 1851 and is 17.5 metres high. It is the first lighthouse designed by Gustav von Heidenstam. It was electrified and made automatic in 1910. There is a labyrinth next to the lighthouse. Today **the pilot's cottage** is a hostel with magnificent views. **The chapel** is often called the Cathedral of the archipelago as it is the only maritime church with a cathedral's spire. The timber building is octagonal and was consecrated in 1770. The

chapel served as a landmark for sailors before the lighthouse was built. At the end of the 1700s there was an observatory close to the chapel from which Kalix-born Professor Jöns Jacob Svanberg took measurements to determine the shape of the earth.

2 Derelict pilot harbour. Possible to put in to in calm weather.

3 Seaman's grave from 1845 commemorating a captain who died when his vessel capsized in a heavy storm. There are several labyrinths next to it.

4 The remains of a navigational aid erected in 1725 - a simple pole marker that was converted into a beacon 10 years later.

5 Here lies wreckage from the vessel 'Jenoline' from Åland, shipwrecked in 1935.

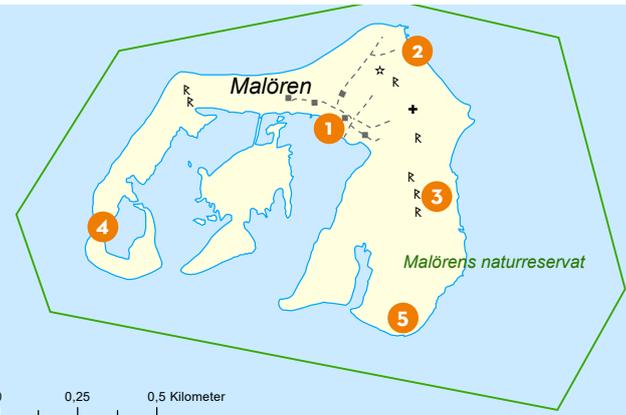




Photo: Patrik Fredriksson

Halsön and Kallskär

VELVETY BEACH Far out in the Kalix archipelago lies Halsön, with only a few small skerries beyond before the open sea begins. It is sparsely built on and consists mostly of mixed forests, rocky water meadows and pebble beaches. Along the narrow isthmus leading out to the southern tip of Halsö known as Kallskär, there is a nice beach with pale, velvety sand. On the other side of the isthmus on the west of the island, there is another sandy beach to discover. Its location allows wind and wave to create the impressive sand dunes at Kallskär's swimming area.



Photo: Linnea Isaksson

1 Kallskär with its beautiful beaches either side of the isthmus. Barbecue areas, wood store and dry toilets.



Photo: Alf Arne Harjo

Stora Trutskär

RENDEZVOUS FOR BOATING ENTHUSIASTS Stora Trutskär, in the heart of the Kalix archipelago, is home to the Kalix Yachting and Motor Boat Club's clubhouse, known as Sjöborgen. Boating enthusiasts from all over the Bothnian Bay meet up here to relax, share experiences and socialise. In addition to the club house and guest house, there is also a sauna, a barbecue hut, outdoor barbecue area, dry toilet and a children's playground. Stora Trutskär has sandy beaches and good bathing. You can borrow canoes and Optimist dinghies. For visitors wishing to stay overnight, there is a four-bed rental cabin.



Photo: Alf Arne Harjo

1 Sjöborgen. Kalix Yachting and Motor Boat Club's clubhouse. It has jetties with guest berths, a rental cabin, sauna, playhouse; there are canoes and dinghies to borrow. There are also beaches and sandy dunes.



Photo: Kalix municipality image archive

Nordanskär

BATHING AND SPA The island of Nordanskär is located in the mouth of the Kalix River. In 1886, J. August Bergman founded the northernmost spa and bathing resort on Nordanskär. That same year, stone-cutters, construction workers, masons, painters, smiths and sheet-metal workers began building. When they had finished, there was a church, twelve villas for visitors, a servant's cabin, a bath house with hot and cold water, a hotel, banqueting room, a games room, tennis court, boats, a telephone and electricity. Guests were offered baths, mud baths and massages. Visitors to the spa, some of whom came all the way from Stockholm, arrived with one of the steamboats that sailed daily from Haparanda or Luleå. People came to Nordanskär to relax or take a cure. Among others, Selma Lagerlöf was a visitor to the island. In 1918, everything was auctioned off. Many of the villas ended up in Luleå, and the church was moved to Björkfors. Today, all that remains of the place are the foundations.



Stone ship. Photo: Kalix municipality

- 1 Military bunker, labyrinth and stone ship.
- 2 Bathing area and barbecue area
- 3 Rambling trail with relics from the spa period.
- 4 The old steamboat jetty was here. Bathing area, guest jetty, barbecue area, dry toilet. Boat service stops here during the summer.



Likskär. Photo: Per Pettersson

Renskär was an important meeting point for fishermen and seal hunters. The island bears traces of simple homes, perhaps built by seal hunters when the islands were only small skerries. The foundations of more recent fishing cottages, together with the cairns from the stands used to dry fishing nets. There are labyrinths built from small boulders on the islands. Renskär also houses the remains of an archipelago chapel built in the 1700s but which was left to decay.

There are guest jetties in Getskärsviken along with a municipal four-bed rental cabin, a sauna, dry toilet and barbecue area.

Likskär is a sparse, dry island. It has the character of a boulder ridge, and a small part of it is wooded. There is rich ground vegetation, and rich animal and bird life. There is an old fishing settlement and a colony of breeding house martins. The pine crossbeak is a characteristic bird, and you can sometimes see the magnificent swallowtail butterfly on the island.

Getskär, Renskär and Likskär



Photo: Per Pettersson

BRING YOUR BINOCULARS, GO BIRD-WATCHING Likskär Nature Reserve, which is also a Natura 2000 area, is a living archipelago landscape and a typical example of nature in the northern Bothnian Bay. People come here for hiking, bird watching and enjoying a summer dip at the beach. The nature reserve comprises 25 islands and smaller skerries. Getskär, Renskär and Likskär are the largest islands, where land uplift has caused the first two to merge.



Getskär. Photo: Alf Arne Harjo



1 Stone jetty, floating jetty with guest berths. There is a Swedish Cruising Association mooring buoy in the inlet. Rental cabin, sauna, dry toilet, barbecue area and a beach.

2 Remains of an old archipelago chapel dating from the 1700s.

3 Labyrinth.

4 On the southernmost part of Renskäret is a small, typical fishing settlement from the late 1700s.

5 There is an observation tower on the southern point.

6 Fishing settlement. Guest harbour, dry toilet and barbecue area.

7 Labyrinth.

8 Beacon / navigational aid.

9 Highest point on Likskär. There are some ancient remains here.

10 Labyrinths and fishing settlement remains.



Prayer house. Photo: Alf-Arne Harjo

Rånön

KALIX'S LARGEST ISLAND Rånön has a long history of hunting, fishing and farming. The island was used as a fishing settlement as early as the 1600s, and in the 1700s there was a permanent population here. Much of the forest was felled during the 1800s for the production of charcoal as fuel for the ironworks in Töre and Strömsund. Wood tar was also produced here, and the remains of tar kilns can still be seen today. In 1867, Rånön got its first school with 18 pupils. The last resident left the island at the end of the 1960s. Today, the island is a paradise for summer cottagers and outdoor activities. Around the farms on the north side of the island are traces of the past such as old hay barns, pastures and meadows. The old school, marina with guest berths and the renovated prayer house, which holds services during the summer, are also found here. The island boasts many small roads ideal for rambling.



Photo: Alf-Arne Harjo

- 1 Guest harbour, barbecue area, dry toilet. Prayer house with outdoor services in the summer.
- 2 Bodövikens (inlet) has a good depth.
- 3 There are great views from Rörmrberget. There are ravines and a small cave.
- 4 Långviken. There is an old tar kiln here.
- 5 Stabbsandsberget offers views across Stora Huvön.
- 6 Stabbsanden, small inlet with long beach.
- 7 Compass rose on Dödmanvikberget.



Photo: Per Petterson

Photo: Per Petterson

Stora Huvön

ONE OF SWEDEN'S MOST BEAUTIFUL ISLANDS Stora Huvön was voted one of Sweden's most beautiful islands. It has a magnificent natural harbour, sea bathing and steep cliffs that drop straight into the sea. The natural harbour is well protected in a deep inlet on the north-east side of the island and has a water depth that allows sailing boats to put in. There is a small beach next to the natural harbour. To the north, the dunes give way to a cobblestone field that stretches across the island. If you follow the path that crosses the stony field you will pass a small stone labyrinth. On the north of the island there is a large beach and great places to pitch a tent. The west shore has a dramatic landscape with vertical rock cliffs and views across both the Kalix and Luleå archipelagos. A deep, wide ravine with steep sides runs through the rock. There are smaller ravines nearby, so you need to watch your step. There is a small beach at the south end of the western shore. An opening between the rocks in the water makes the place accessible by boat.



Photo: Per Petterson

- 1 High, steep cliffs with great views.
- 2 Beach.
- 3 A broad, very deep ravine cuts right through the rock. At its deepest point, the rock walls drop 25-30 metres to the bottom of the ravine. There are also many smaller ravines nearby, so you need to watch your step carefully if you take a walk in the area.
- 4 Roughly in the middle of the cobblestone field, which stretches across the whole island from the north-west to the south-east, there is a small labyrinth that can be a little difficult to find.
- 5 Natural harbour.

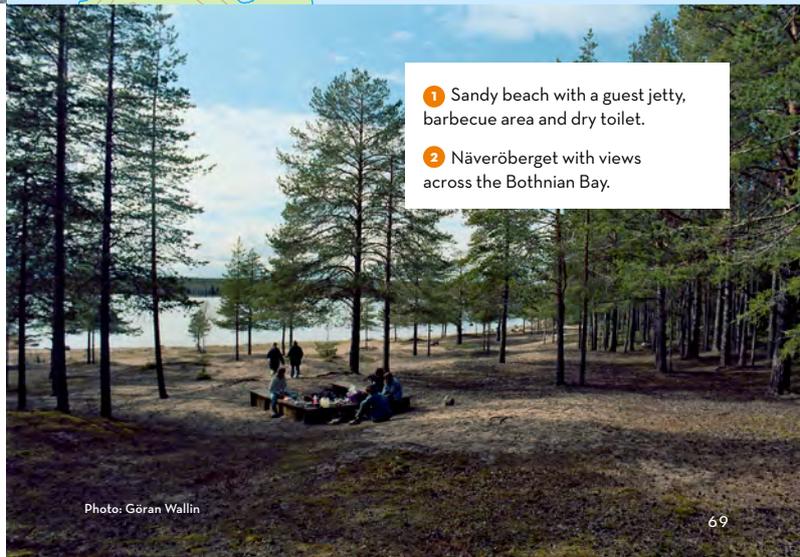


Photo: Per Petterson



Näverön

POPULAR BEACH Näverön is a nature reserve located between Rånön and Bergön in the southern part of the Kalix archipelago. The top of Näverön began rising from the sea around 5,000 years ago. Today, land uplift has raised the highest point of the island, Näveröberget, to 40 metres above sea level. There are steep cliffs and ravines in the rock, and there is a glorious view from the top. The island's nature varies with rocky pine forest, spruce forests and small areas of marsh forest. On the west of the island there is a rest area with a guest jetty, barbecue area, dry toilet and a varied coastline. There is everything from smooth rocky outcrops to a small inlet with fine sand, partly reeded. A beach with sandy dunes and sparse pine forest extends all the way to Näveröberget.



- 1 Sandy beach with a guest jetty, barbecue area and dry toilet.
- 2 Näveröberget with views across the Bothnian Bay.

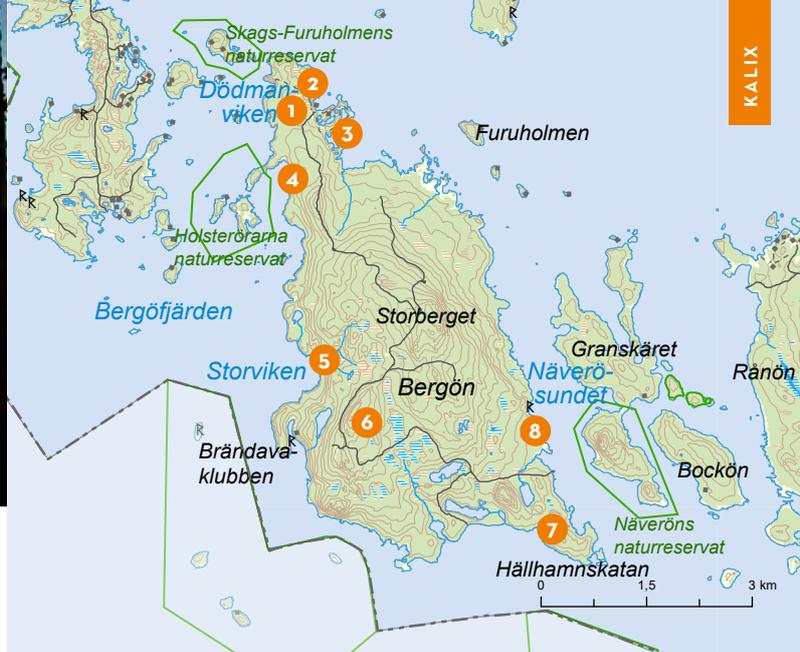
Photo: Göran Wallin



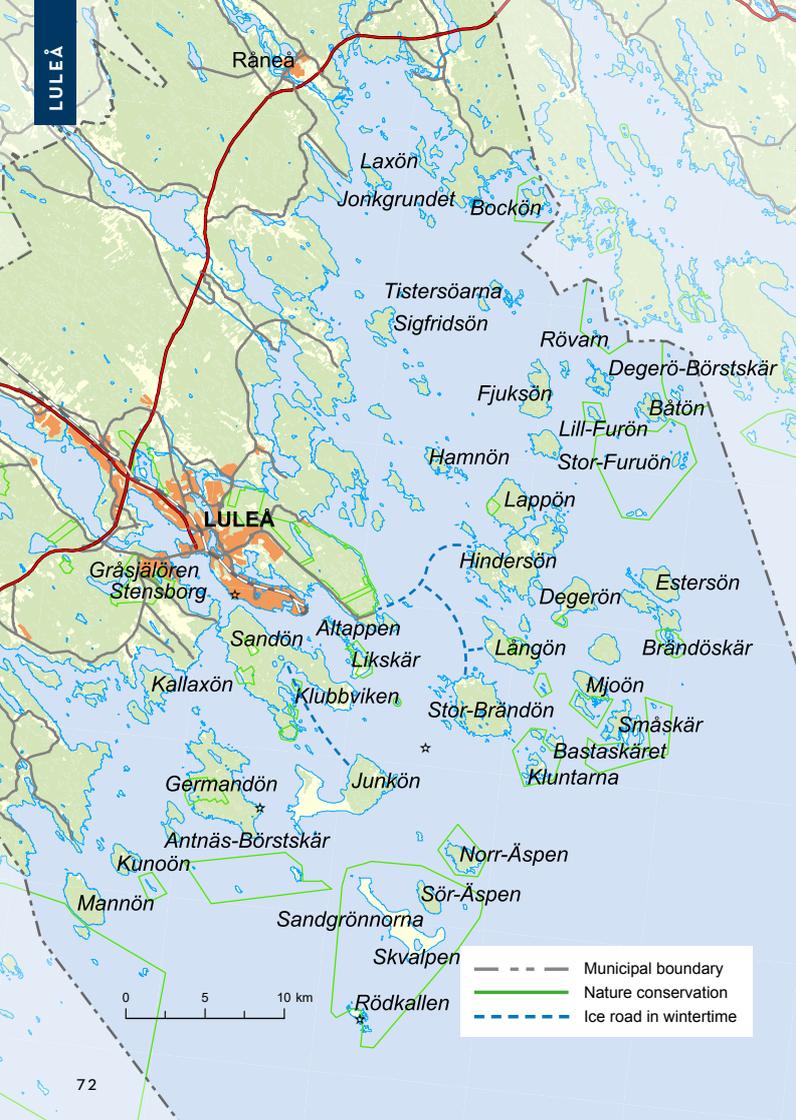
Photo: Per Pettersson

Bergön

THE HIGHEST TOP OF BOTHNIAN BAY Bergön consists largely of hilly terrain with old pine forest, and forestry has long been predominant on the island. There was also a shipyard on Bergön in the 1700s, as the wood from the slow-growing pine forest was extremely well suited to boatbuilding. There were permanent residents on the island from the middle of the 1600s to the middle of the 1900s. Today, the island is an important place for boating and outdoor activities. Many of the old hiking trails remain. Along them the remains of house foundations, tar kilns, charcoal kilns and an old fishing settlement can be seen. Bergön has three harbours on its north-east shore; Gårdsviken, Harabolviken and Kohamn. Kohamn (cow harbour) was so named as farmers used to release their cows here for summer grazing. A small part of the island is included in the Holsteröarna Nature Reserve, which is also a Natura 2000 area.



- 1 Site of old farm.
- 2 Gårdsviken, where Töre Boat Club has its facilities, can accommodate both large and small boats. There is a guest jetty, barbecue areas, shelter from the wind and a dry toilet. The main building is open to the public during the summer and there is a rental cabin. The hexagonal sauna is considered to be one of the best in the entire archipelago. Defibrillators.
- 3 Kohamn. Guest jetty, barbecue areas, dry toilet. Accommodates larger boats. Harabolviken is suitable for small boats and has a guest jetty, barbecue area and dry toilet.
- 4 Holsterviken. Bathing area.
- 5 Storviken. Swimming area.
- 6 Outlook.
- 7 Bathing cove.
- 8 Shipyard memorial dating from the 1700s. Wreckage found on Bergön is believed to come from a large sailing ship that was wrecked in 1776 just 13 hours after leaving the shipyard.

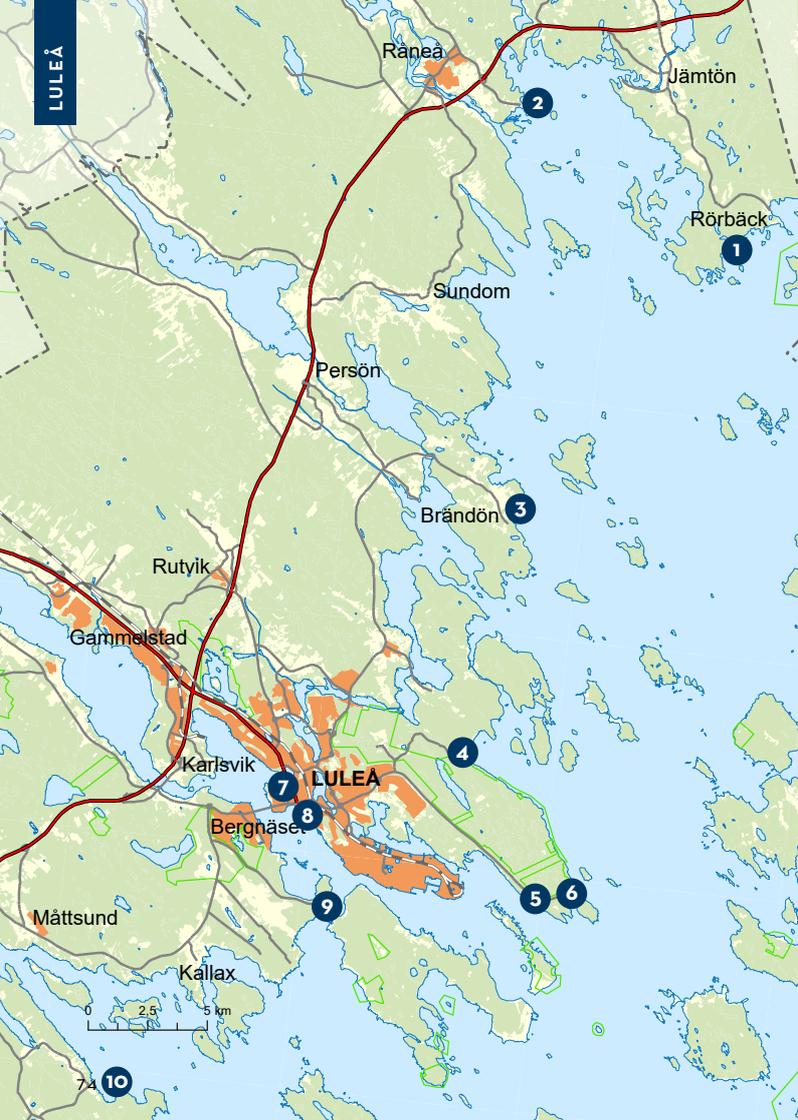


Luleå

COAST AND ARCHIPELAGO

Every year, this archipelago grows by around 2.25 km² thanks to land uplift. The land uplift is also the reason Luleå was moved 10 km out toward the sea from Gammelstad in 1649. You're sure to find your very own favourite among the 1,312 wonderful islands, islets and skerries. Encounter exciting natural settings, well-preserved cultural history and especially the unique fauna and flora.

NUMBER OF ISLANDS	1,312
LENGTH OF MAINLAND COAST	405 km
LARGEST ISLAND	Sandön (25.5 km ²)
ICE ROADS	approx 30 km
LAND UPLIFT	9.08 mm/year
LONGEST DAYLIGHT	23h 7m
SHORTEST DAYLIGHT	3h 7m



The Coast

1 In **Rörbäck**, there is a great beach and campsite. Guest harbour, WC, freshwater and sauna.

2 **Kängsön** is located at the mouth of the Råne River. There are great beaches nearby on the Nordanborg headland. The harbour has guest berths, dry toilets, launching ramp, boat parking and storage.

3 In **Brändön** there is an old fishing harbour with boathouses for professional fisherman and small boat owners. Further out on the headland at Kvarnviken there are conference facilities, a restaurant, cottages, a guest harbour, bathing, freshwater and a WC.

4 **Hagaviken**. The marina has some guest berths next to the stone jetty.

5 **Lövsjär** is lively in the summer and has a guest harbour, petrol, freshwater, dry toilet and black water vacuum flushing and a restaurant.

6 **Hindersöstallarna**. 'Stallarna' (the stables) are Luleå's most important hub between the mainland and the northern archipelago. In winter, the ice roads from the 'stables' connect the mainland to the islands Storbrändön, Långön and Hindersön.

7 **Norra Hamn**. Ever since the City of Luleå was moved from Gammelstad until the beginning of the 1900s, boat

traffic set out from Norra Hamn in Stadsviken. Today, the area is much quieter and you can enjoy visits to the Norrbotten Theatre or a meal in one of the restaurants. There is a guest jetty and boat service stop. Luleå City centre is but a stone's throw away.

8 **Södra Hamn**. In the beginning of the 1900s, port activities were moved here from Norra Hamn. The harbour crane, which remains to this day, was erected at that time. Today, it is an area for homes, shops and restaurants. There is a car park at Södra hamnplan and a wheelchair accessible Luleå boat service stop. You'll find most things you need in the guest harbour 'Ettans Båthamn'.

9 **Tjuvholmssundet**. Until 1998, the narrow sound between Sandön and the mainland was the main fairway into the Port of Luleå. There is a beach on the mainland side of the sound. You can rent rowing dinghies at the Luleå tourist center to take you across to Sandön.

10 **Möron**. Möron's marina is located in Ernsäsfjärden. There are a few guest berths, a launching ramp, beach, barbecue area and dry toilet. There is a seal hunting museum open by appointment. Mörofjärden is a great place for birdwatching and there are two observation towers.



Photo: Helena Holm

Degerö–Börstskär

BLUEBERRY WOODS ISLAND In the northern part of the Luleå archipelago is the heavily forested island of Degerö–Börstskär. The islands in Luleå archipelago are usually low, but Degerö–Börstskär has quite a high hill in the south west that gives the island a slightly different character. On the west side of the island there is a pleasant inlet with a sandy beach furthest in. To the south west is the sheltered inlet's guest harbour with jetty, barbecue area and a public hut. Among the pine and blueberry-rich spruce forests on Degerö–Börstskär there are also several small ponds with breeding seabirds. The island has a rich bird life and among others, spotted redshanks have been seen here. The northern tip of the island, Börstskärklubben, is a bird sanctuary.



- 1 Guest harbour, public hut, barbecue area and dry toilet.
- 2 Börstskärsberget is worth hiking to just for the view.
- 3 The pond to the north of the hill is well worth a visit.
- 4 Börstskärklubben. Bird Protection Area.



0 0,5 1 km





Photo: Alf-Arne Harjo

Hindersön

MINE PIT, GUEST HARBOUR AND HOSTEL Hindersön is one of the larger islands in the Luleå archipelago and the only island with agriculture north of Gräsö in Roslagen. People made their living here on fishing, agriculture and seal hunting as early as the 1500s. Historically, it was the most populous island in the Luleå archipelago. Hindersön offers a great deal to discover and experience. There are plenty of roads and rambling paths. Why not take a walk or bike ride and experience the village archipelago homestead and also take in the fishing settlement and seal museum in Norrisund. The island's old mine entrance and the preserved powder house on Oxgrundet bear witness to the iron ore mining of the 1800s. There are secluded beaches for swimming on the northern tip of Holmberget and in Hannosviken. Most of Hindersön is covered by spruce forest but there are also pine forests in sandy areas. The usual archipelago wildlife and birdlife are found on the island and there are plenty of hare, as well as forest birds and seabirds.



- 1** Björköfjärdsviken. Guest harbour, boat service stop, sauna and barbeque area.
- 2** Ostisundet. Guest harbour, dry toilet.
- 3** Norrisund. Guest harbour.
- 4** Jopikgården on Hindersön is a beautiful old Norrbotten farmhouse that has been converted to provide accommodation, conference facilities and a restaurant. Both hotel and hostel standard rooms are available for rent.
- 5** The powder house, built at the end of the 1800s, is the only building left from the mining era.
- 6** Mine and lime kiln. Barbecue area and dry toilet.
- 7** If you visit Hindersön, take a walk through the island's beautiful village centre with its old archipelago homestead.
- 8** In winter, when the ice is thick enough, the ice road from Hindersöstallarna comes ashore here.



Photo: Elin Aunes



Photo: Alf-Arne Harjo



Photo: Lisa Lundstedt



Photo: Alf-Arne Harjo

Brändöskär

THE SEA IS ITS NEIGHBOUR Brändöskär is beautifully situated among the outermost islands. It's greatly exposed to wind and weather. No wonder the island has the truest character of a genuine archipelago setting. Brändöskär gets its name from the people of Norrbrändö, closer to the mainland, who built a fishing settlement here. Brändöskär/Uddskär used to be Luleå archipelago's biggest fishing settlement and comprised around 30 crews in 1820. The chapel from 1774 is well worth a visit, as is the stone labyrinth on Uddskäret. Brändöskär consists mostly of rocks, ice-polished moraine, stone and sand. Its exposed position affects plant and animal life. The landscape has the same barren properties found in the mountains: rocks with lichens and mosses, heaths with low vegetation and trees deformed by the wind. Brändöskär has been a municipal nature reserve since 2005.



1 Brändöskär's fishing settlement is located in a sheltered inlet.

The old timbered boathouses are typical. Guest harbour, barbecue area, dry toilet.

2 Boat service stop. Boat service stops here daily during the summer.

3 Rental cabins. Cabin host during summer high season.

4 Sauna, dry toilet.

5 The artist Erik Marklund lived and worked on Brändöskär. In 1957 he erected a statue of Christ on Hällgrundet, next to Brändöskär.

6 The Brändöskär Chapel was built in 1774 by Brändö's farmers. The altarpiece represents the great fish catch and on the Chapel wall there is a story of a dramatic event when two fishermen drowned off of the island.

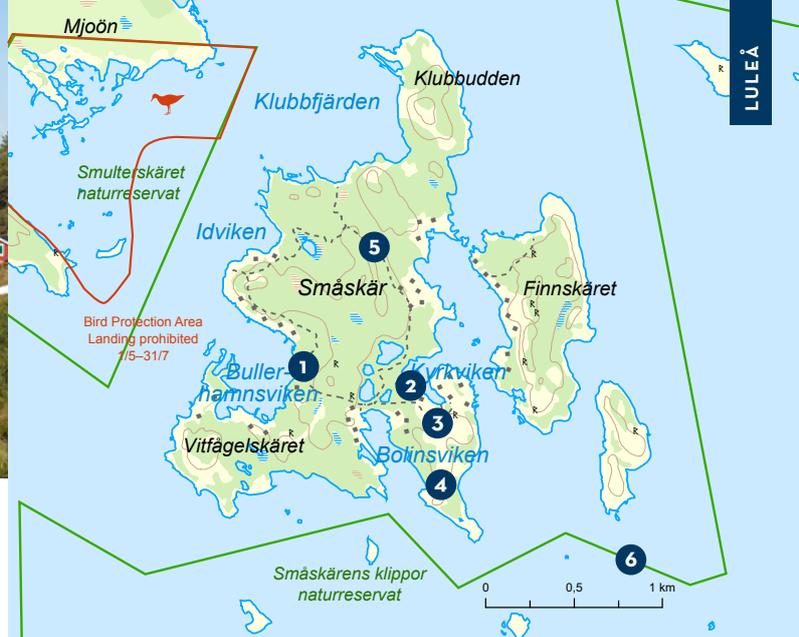
7 Labyrinth on Uddskär's south-east headland, about 150 metres into the forest.



Kyrkviken. Photo: Alf-Arne Harjo

Småskär

LEISURE ISLAND, COTTAGES AND UNTOUCHED NATURE Småskär was donated to the town's burgers by Queen Kristina in 1652. Småskär served as an important fishing settlement well into the 1900s. The name Småskär (little skerries) derives from the many islets that land uplift brought together to form a single island. With around 120 cottages, Småskär is one of the Luleå archipelago's most important leisure islands. Despite the many cottages, Småskär's natural surroundings are largely unspoiled and it is a popular destination for boat explorers from near and afar. Old-growth Siberian spruce forest covers Småskär and there are interesting water meadows. Småskär and Finnskär are home to many fine bird biotopes, with ponds, shallow inlets and old growth natural forests. There are around 40 species of breeding birds. Småskär and Finnskär are part of a protected area where hunting for ducks and wading birds is prohibited.



- 1** Bullerhamnsviken with guest harbour and rental cabins. Cabin hosts during summer high season. Sauna with relaxation room. Barbecue areas, dry toilet, bathing, rambling trail. Daily boat service during the summer.
- 2** The fishing settlement in Kyrkviken has probably been here since the 1500s and its beautiful boathouses were built in the 1700s.
- 3** Småskär Chapel is the oldest in the Luleå archipelago. It was built back in the early 1720s and paid for by donations from the residents of Luleå.

The pulp from that time remains. Services are held here two Sundays in July every summer.

- 4** Cobblestone fields.
- 5** The 6-kilometre nature trail runs through old spruce forests and is well worth the walk. There is a lot to see and learn about nature and culture alike.
- 6** In the waters south and east of the island is the Småskär rock nature reserve, Luleå archipelago's most certain seal observation area. Landing is forbidden on the Månshällorna and Bjässhällan rocks all year round.



Stensborg with Gråsjälören and Luleå in the background. Photo: Alf-Arne Harjo

Stensborg and Gråsjälören

CLOSE TO THE CITY Gråsjälören and Stensborg are two destinations close to the city popular with Luleå residents. Gråsjälören's history began in 1898 when it was leased to Luleå Fabriks- & Hantverksförening, a trade association. The stony shallows were filled in and transformed into a park-like day-trip destination where the Hantverkshyttan was erected, a meeting hall that resembled a hunting tower. An open-air dance floor was built, and a bathing area organised. This made Gråsjälören a much appreciated place for partying. Skiing races were organised in the winter, and long distance swimming in the summer. Eventually, all of the activities were closed down. Today, the island is a popular winter destination once the ice track has been ploughed. Stensborg with its steep, deep inlets is frequently visited by boating enthusiasts during the summer. The island consists of old ballast and scrap wood. A sawmill was built here at the end of the 1800s and remained in operation until the 1920s. Around 70 people worked here, mainly producing wood for herring barrels exported to Norway. Remains from this period can still be found today. Stensborg is a leafy day trip destination with several beautiful inlets and moorings.



Gråsjälören. Photo: Alf-Arne Harjo

- 1 Gråsjälören. Café open during weekends in winter. Barbecue areas and dry toilet.
- 2 Ice track connection from Luleå city centre in the winter.
- 3 Stensborg. Guest harbour, barbecue areas, dry toilet.
- 4 There are great views of Luleå's skyline.





Klubbviken's Havsbad. Photo: Alf-Arne Harjo



Photo: Camilla Carlsson

Photo: Elin Aunes

Sandön and Klubbviken

SEA BATHING, SAND DUNES AND ANCIENT PINES Sandön is Luleå's and the Bothnian Bay's largest island and has an area of 25.5 km² and many permanent residents. The island begins inside the Port of Luleå and Tjuvholmssundet's outer shore and extends all the way to Klubbviken's Havsbad, where the inner archipelago ends. As its name suggests, the island consists of sand, gravel and other sediments from the Lule River. The island is relatively flat with attractive pine heaths and shallow-water beaches. There are many cobblestone fields of varying sizes in the island's interior. There are also several nature reserves, including Stenäkern, Furuholmen and Hästholmen, which are also Natura 2000 areas.



- 1** Klubbviken. Guest harbour and sea bathing. Klubbviken Havsbad has excellent bathing facilities and service in the form of rental cabins, a restaurant, sauna, freshwater and many activities. Boat services operate between central Luleå and Klubbviken several times per day during the summer high season. Defibrillator.
- 2** Sandöklubben. Shallow-water beaches and sand dunes invite you for a dip and sunbathing. If you're looking, you're bound to find your very own sand dune. A nature reserve for the Sandöklubben area is under development.
- 3** In winter, there is an ice road connection from here to the mainland.
- 4** In winter, an ice road is ploughed out to Junkön.



Photo: Peter Rydstrom



Photo: Alf-Arne Harjo

Kallaxön

FELDSPAR AND NEPTUNE There are many summer cottages on Kallaxön, a guest harbour and an old mine. In the early 1900s, feldspar was mined here, mainly for porcelain manufacturing. The deep, narrow mine pit is partly water-filled and runs from the beach up to the top of Strömmingsvarpberget. On 14 January 1940, Russian aircraft dropped bombs west of the island, in the inlet and on the shoreline south of Biskopsgrönnan. The bombs only caused minor property damage and no one was injured. The probable intention was to bomb a different target. The Neptune boat club has a facility on Granholmen where visitors can put in. There are no roads on the island, only a few short tractor tracks. In the winter, a private-initiative ice road is ploughed from the harbour in Kallax village out to Kallaxön and Bergön.



- 1** Neptune boat club facility. Guest harbour, barbecue areas, WC, electricity and shower. Summer café.
- 2** The old feldspar mine. There is a jetty and a rest area on the beach.



Photo: Lisa Lundstedt

Antnäs/Börstskär

EXCELLENT NIGHT MOORING Antnäs-Börstskär borders on the outer archipelago. In good weather, you can make out the silhouette of Rödkaullen in the distance, far to the south east. The northern part of the island is reminiscent of the archipelago's innermost islands, while Sörskäret has the character of the outer archipelago. This part has uplands, is sparsely wooded and has rock formations and rocky outcrops that plunge down to the sea. Norrskäret – the northern part of the island – is dominated by spruce forest. Most of the island's summer cottages are here. The western bay is the island's most visited area and boasts good bathing.



- 1 Guest harbour. Sauna, public hut, barbecue areas and dry toilet.
- 2 Sörskäret's heights provide great views and an outlook toward the mainland and Kunoön to the south.
- 3 Old feldspar mine.



Photo: Alf-Arne Harjo

Rödskallen

LIGHTHOUSE AND PILOT STATION Rödskallen is an outpost toward Finland in the extreme outer archipelago. Finish fisherman visited the waters surrounding Rödskallen as early as the Middle Ages. Rödskallen is both a fishing settlement and an old pilot station. In 1814, pilots were posted to Rödskallen, as shipping was so intense at that time. The waters into Luleå were very difficult to navigate without a pilot. In 1872, a 21.4 metre high Heidenstam lighthouse was erected. In 1972, the lighthouse was decommissioned after precisely 100 years of service. Today, it is a cultural heritage site. The Rödskallen lighthouse is one of the few remaining Heidenstam lighthouses in Sweden. Parts of Rödskallen are included in the Rödskallen-Söråspen nature reserve, which is also a designated Natura 2000 area. Nature here is characteristically barren with a rich bird life. Among other seabirds, black guillemots breed in the stone jetty in the old pilot harbour.

- 1 Cottage owners' harbour with guest berths for two visiting boats.
- 2 Old pilot harbour.
- 3 Rödskallen's old pilot lookout. The lighthouse on the pilot lookout roof replaced the Heidenstam lighthouse in 1972 and is still in operation, but is now fully automated.
- 4 The Rödskallen Chapel was built around 1800, but was not only used as a church building. It also served as a navigational marker and storage space for fishing gear such as large hoop nets. There is graffiti inside the chapel dating back hundreds of years.

- 5 Heidenstam lighthouse. Also be sure to see the very well-preserved labyrinth at the foot of the lighthouse and the old lightkeeper's house.



Photos: Lisa Lundstedt



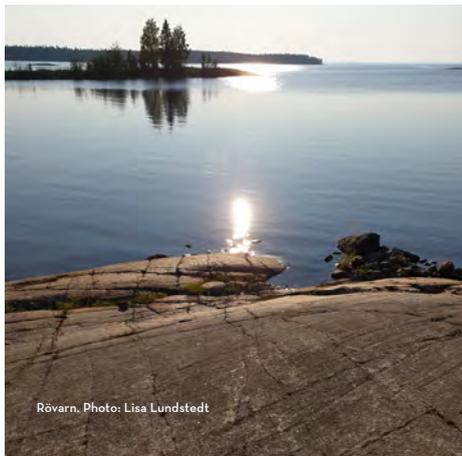
More day trip ideas

BOCKÖN The Bockön nature reserve outside Rörbäck is a popular destination. It has woods and great beaches. The eastern and western sides of the island differ in that the east is low-lying, flatter and very sandy, while the western part is much more rocky. There are remains of an old habitation in Bockövikén.

JONKGRUNDET is located in Mjöfjärden in the northern part of the Luleå archipelago. Feldspar and quartz were shipped from Jonkgrundet and the mines around Mjöfjärd. At the base of the headland is a little, shallow-water beach set between smooth rocky outcrops. There is a jetty, shelter from the wind and a dry toilet.

LILL-FURUÖN may be small but it is rich in natural beauty! A nature reserve that is easily recognised by its high, smooth rocks. There is a beautiful natural forest with an exciting history and a beach to the west.

RÖVARN Situated north west of Degerö-Börstskär, Rövarn has a fine, sheltered bathing inlet to the west, popular among boaters. An impressive granite rock arches up out of the sea to the north. The inlet at Rövarn is sheltered from all winds except westerly.



Rövarn. Photo: Lisa Lundstedt



Skvalpen. Photo Helena Holm

SANDGRÖNNORNA-SKVALPEN

With their long sandy beaches, Sandögrönnorna are veritable gems. Land uplift is constantly building new sand dunes and at low water, Sandögrönnorna, Skvalpen and Nyvallen form a single island. The island is a paradise for seabirds, and between 1 May and 31 July, there is a landing ban in major parts of the islands. It's also forbidden to stay within 200 meters of the islands during this period. Sandögrönnorna are located in the Rödkallen-Söräspen nature reserve. Sandögrönnorna and Skvalpen form part of the Rödkallen-Söräspens nature reserve and Natura 2000 area.



Sandögrönnorna. Photo: Helena Holm

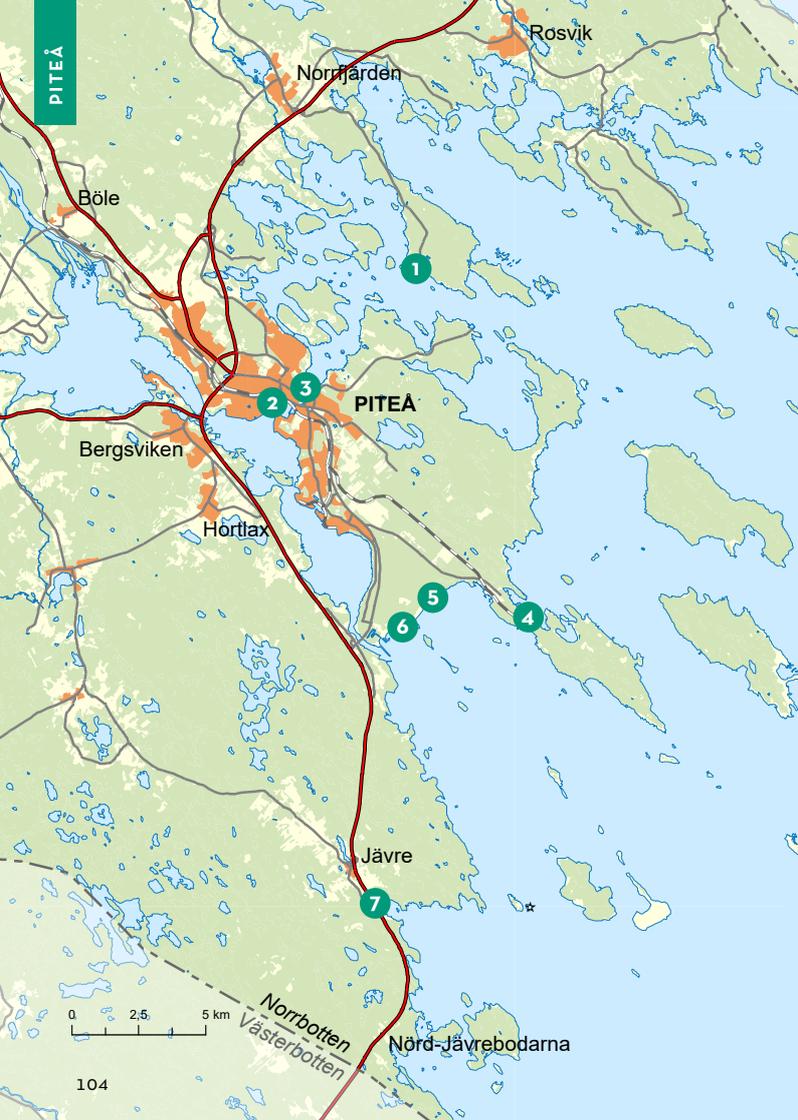
Piteå

COAST AND ARCHIPELAGO

Enjoy the unique flora, authentic cultural settings, great beaches and many ancient remains. There are picturesque fishing settlements, stone labyrinths, old-growth forests and sandy, shallow-water beaches. The longest unspoiled beach is 13 kilometres long. Sometimes, the country's highest water temperature is measured at Pite Havsbad just months after the archipelago offered endless white expenses for skiers and snowmobile riders. If you lack a boat, there are many attractions that can be reached by land.

NUMBER OF ISLANDS	550
LENGTH OF MAINLAND COAST	380 km
LARGEST ISLAND	Vargön (12.2 km ²)
LAND UPLIFT	9.28 mm/year
LONGEST DAYLIGHT	22h 30m
SHORTEST DAYLIGHT	3h 20m





The Coast

- 1 **Borgarudden.** Camp site with guest jetty, mini shop, restaurant, beach.
- 2 **Södra Hamn / Västra Kajen.** Guest harbour, WC, service building, café, caravan site and rooms to rent. Walking distance to Piteå city centre.
- 3 **Norra Hamn.** Guest berths, WC, café, petrol and diesel. Walking distance to Piteå city centre.
- 4 **Bondökanalen.** Outside Haraholmen is a canal that allows passage on the mainland end of Bondön. Marina with guest berths, barbecue areas, archipelago information.
- 5 **Gläntan.** Nature reserve and popular destination summer and winter. Beach, café, barbecue areas, WC, rambling trails and archipelago information.
- 6 **Pite Havsbad.** Celebrated sandy beach. Hotels, camping, restaurants, cafés and shops, adventure baths and guest jetty.
- 7 **Jävre.** Guest jetty, well sheltered from all winds. Drinking water, barbecue area and café. Within walking distance of the harbour there is a petrol station, grocery store, a restaurant and a summer tourist centre with a 1960s theme.

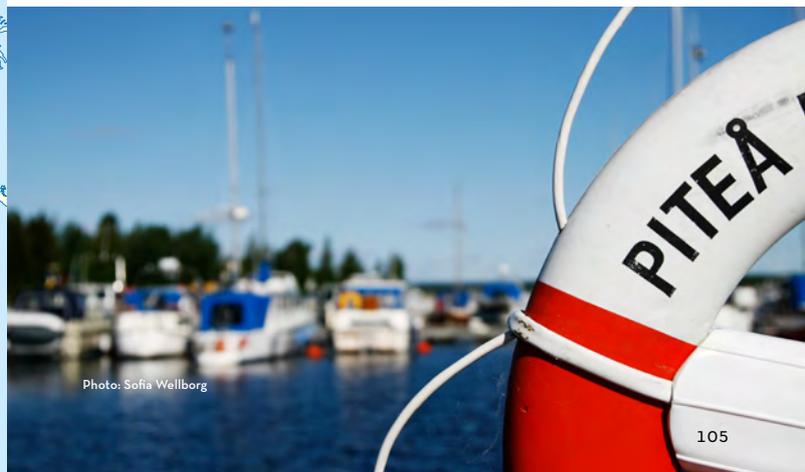


Photo: Sofia Wellborg



Photo: Sofia Wellborg

Baggen

NATURAL WATER PARK Nature's contrasts are seldom as clear as they are in the archipelago, and Baggen is no exception. Baggen is a large island with high, steep rocks with interspersed sandy inlets that are especially good for swimming – nature's own water park! It's a very popular destination and one of Piteå's biggest islands. The island has many rambling trails that invite you to go exploring. If you like picking berries, then you've come to the right place – you'll soon fill your bucket. Baggen is also interesting historically. There are clear traces of the mining attempts made by the Reverend Carl Solander in the 1700s. That a clergyman attempted mining is less surprising given that the church – Piteå County parish – owns the island.



Baggholmsdraget



Photo: Sofia Wellborg

1 Själähällan. Guest harbour, boat service stop, rental cabins, try toilet, barbecue areas and shelter from the wind. With its steep rocky cliffs interspersed with nice beaches, Själähällan also offers excellent bathing. There are traces of the priest's mining attempts.

2 Outdoor chapel.

Kallfjärdens naturreservat

Bergskäret





Photo: Sten Olsson

Svinöra

THE BOAT CLUB'S HOME HARBOUR A large guest harbour provides shelter against most winds. There are many guest berths with access to freshwater and electricity. There is also a wide range of activities and amenities. Piteå Boat Club's home harbour at Stora Svinören, known locally as Svinöra, is a popular, must-see attraction for many boat owners. From June to August, the facility is usually staffed by a weekend host or harbour master. There is excellent bathing between Stora Svinöra and Lilla Svinöra in a bay with a glorious sandy seabed. There are also many hiking trails around the island. Next to the clubhouse and jetty are a sauna, a barbecue hut and barbecue areas, a dry toilet and shower. During the summer season, activities are organised that are open to the public. Svinöra is wheelchair accessible and boat transport from Renöhamn can be arranged.

Dwarf cornel.
Photo: Lisa Lundstedt

1 Piteå yacht club's home harbour. Guest harbour with approx 80 berths, electricity, drinking water and a boat service stop. Clubhouse with meeting hall for rent, open-air dance floor, kiosk, canoe rental and more. Shower, sauna, dry toilet, barbecue areas, bathing area and camping area. Wheelchair accessible.

2 Sandbanken beach.



View from Vallsvik. Photo: Olle Lundmark

Mosesholmen and Hällskär

SHELTERED INLET Just north of Hällskär in Haraholmsfjärden is Mosesholmen. The small island has a deep natural harbour in Vallsviken bay on the southern part of the island. Because the southern shore provides excellent protection for all winds, Mosesholmen has become a popular boating destination. Nearby Hällskär is a rocky peninsula. The waters around Hällskär are around three metres deep and large boats can easily moor alongside the cliffs. Hällskär is also accessible by car. People go there to relish life on hot summer days. There are high cliffs and low that invite you to swim and relax. However, it's not so suitable for children due to the deep water and high cliffs.



- 1 Mosesholmen. Guest jetty, barbecue area and dry toilet.
- 2 Hällskäret. Barbecue area and seating.
- 3 Vallsviken. Café and barbecue area. Old tar making site.



Photo: Jenny Axelsson



Fingermanholmen

ARCHIPELAGO ON THE DOORSTEP Close to Piteå city centre is Fingermanholmen, an island that rises 30 metres between the Inrefjärden and Yttrefjärden sounds. The island is covered by pine forest of varying ages, a predominantly Rowan broad leaf beach forest, ponds and wetlands. An extensive network of paths, excellent beaches and barbecue areas make the island a popular destination for excursions. In the early 1890s, there was a steam sawmill on the north-west tip of the island, providing timber for building and sawn timber for export. The sawmill was closed in 1912 and business moved to the sawmills in Munksund, Storfors and Bergsviken. Fingermanholmen is nearby and easily accessible by boat or kayak during the summer. It's within easy winter skiing distance, and when the ice is bare you can skate here or take your kick sled. But take great care, strong currents make the ice treacherous.



Photo: Susan Marklund



Lingonberries. Photo: Lisa Lundstedt

- 1 Guest jetty. Sauna, public hut, barbecue area and dry toilet. Wheelchair accessible.
- 2 Bathing area.
- 3 Guest jetty. Barbecue area.
- 4 Observation tower.



Photo: Piteå municipality

Vargön

BIGGEST AND HIGHEST Vargön is Pite archipelago's biggest, highest island. It's a place for swimming, strolling, mushroom and berry picking and long hikes along the many trails and forest tracks. Most of Vargön is a protected nature reserve and Natura 2000 area managed by the Piteå municipality, which also keeps up the sauna, heated shelter, dry toilet, barbecue areas, wood, duckboards and marked trails. In the winter, there is a marked snowmobile trail between Koskäret and Per-Stålsviken. There are also marked hiking trails between Koskäret, Per-Stålsviken, and Laxskäret. Koskär and Koskärshalsen are popular for forest walks and the sandy, shallow-water beach is perfect for swimming. In the heated shelter open to the public is an exhibition on nature and culture in the Piteå archipelago. Next to it is a wheelchair accessible dry toilet.



- 1 Koskärsviken. Public jetty with guest berths, boat service stop, wheelchair accessible, two rental cabins, public hut, sauna, barbecue area, dry toilet and bathing. Koskäret and Koskärshalsen are popular destinations.
- 2 Hiking trail from Koskäret to Höjers Udde.
- 3 Hiking trail from Koskäret to Per-Stålsviken and on to Laxskäret.
- 4 Per-Stålsviken. Recreational area, guest jetty, dry toilet and bathing. The popular island destination of Hällskäret is located in the bay.
- 5 There is an old fishing cottage on Laxskär which serves as a public hut and is open to the public.
- 6 There is a labyrinth about 150 metres south east of Laxskäret. The labyrinth probably has eight sides.



Photo: Sofia Wellberg



Photo: Lisa Lundstedt

Mellerstön

SHELTERED NIGHT HARBOUR One of the biggest islands in Piteå. It is largely covered by coniferous forest, but there are also bogs, deciduous woods, marshland woods and small pools of water. The island has a rich bird life and extensive water meadows with a wealth of species. Together with the connected islands of Lill-Räbben and Stor-Räbben, parts of the island are a designated nature reserve and Natura 2000 area. Mellerstön is the only island in Piteå that once had a permanent population, the Stenberg and Lönnberg families who lived there from the middle of the 1800s. Life was hard and the families probably survived the first years of hardship thanks to abundant small game. Fishing was another important source of income. In 1880, the families each built a fishing cabin and bothies on nearby Stor-Räbben. In Djupgrundsviken, also known as Stenbergsviken, there is a jetty with guest berths sheltered from all winds except northerly. The depth of the inlet allows boats large and small to put in. Next to the jetty there is bathing, a sauna, a barbecue area and dry toilet, a rental cabin and fine rambling trails. There are also the remains of an old fishing settlement.



Sea buckthorn. Photo: Goran Wallin

- 1** Stenbergsviken. Good natural harbour with guest jetty, boat service stop. There is a small beach, rental cabin, sauna, dry toilet (wheelchair accessible) and a barbecue area.



Photo: Boris Ersson



Photo: Boris Ersson



Stor-Räbben

HISTORY AND ORCHIDS Together with Lill-Räbben, Bondökallarna, Olsvenskallen and parts of Mellerstön, Stor-Räbben makes up the Stor-Räbben nature reserve and Natura 2000 area. The island has an open, barren nature, which in some ways is reminiscent of the mountains. Land uplift, wave and wind action have shaped and characterised nature here. The dark, black bedrock visible in many places consists of solidified lava. The island's flora represents vegetation from the mountains to the coast. Many types of orchids grow here, among them the Virgin Mary orchid, butterfly orchid and the distinctive longleaf speedwell. Stor-Räbben is one of the highest islands in the Piteå Archipelago and one of the earliest to be used by fishermen and trappers. Seal hunters were using the island as early as the 6th century. Their simple dwellings were in the cobblestone fields, and the foundations are now visible as round, square or rectangular remains. There are also several labyrinths on the island, some dating as far back as circa 500 AD.

- 1 There is an old fishing settlement whose cottages are now used as holiday homes. In the 1600s, the fishing settlement was the biggest in Norrbotten. Guest jetty, boat service stop, rental cabin, barbecue area, dry toilet, information board, defibrillator, beach.
- 2 Nature and culture trail that takes you around the island and to sights and ancient remains. Posted along the path is information about the different places you pass. There is also an informative trail guide to pick up at the information board near the guest jetty or at Piteå Tourist Centre.
- 3 Stor-Räbbens beacon, 15 metres high. Erected in the 1860s, designed by Gustav von Heidenstam and renovated in 2005.

There are also traces of dwelling foundations left by seal hunters and fishermen in former times.

- 4 Labyrinths and dwelling sites.
- 5 Nummerhällan, a vertical rock cliff into which water level markers were hewn from the 1750s to 1884.
- 6 Spothålet. The name (spit hole) probably comes from the local fishermen from the 1700 and 1800s. When it was blowing a gale from the south, this was a dramatic place with howling winds, crashing waves and foaming seas.
- 7 Svarthällan. Old fishing settlement, these days holiday homes.



Photo: Tommy Loreus

Stenskär

BATHING PARADISE The shape of Stenskär has created the natural lagoon, Stenskärsviken. Stenskär forms part of Bondöfjärden's nature reserve and Natura 2000 areas set aside to preserve the area's magnificent, undisturbed character. The long beach, a natural harbour reminiscent of a lagoon, ancient labyrinths and charming fishing cottages all add to Stenskär's character. The island also has a rich bird life and some unusual plants such as the white bluebell, beach pea and bothnian wormwood. A number of stone labyrinths and compass roses can be found on the island. It is also rich in relics from the fishermen of the 1500s, and remains include dwelling sites, carins from drying racks, boat landings and pebble sun dials. The extensive sandy heath, between the carins from drying racks and the ridge comprised of boulders and sand dunes, is an old sand reef now exposed due to land uplift.

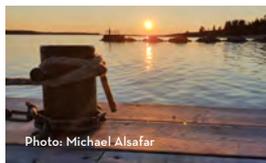


Photo: Michael Alsafar

- 1** Guest jetty. Barbecue area, boat service stop, wheelchair accessible, sauna, woodshed, shelter from the wind, dry toilet and an information board. Starting point for the path to Stenskär's fishing settlement.
- 2** Stenskärsviken. Bathing beach, dry toilet.
- 3** Fishing settlement. There is documentary evidence of a fishery on Stenskär dating back to the 1500s.
- 4** Observation tower, labyrinths and a stone memorial for a fisherman who perished in 1862. There is a stone compass rose 30 metres to the south of the memorial. Preserved boathouse fully equipped by the last active fisherman, Per Andersson.
- 5** A long beach. Very popular with boaters and other visitors.



Skellefteå

COAST AND ARCHIPELAGO

High cliffs and deep bays characterise this part of the Bothnian Bay. In several places there is a sense of being in the outer archipelago even while still on the mainland. Skellefteå municipality has the longest stretch of coast in the country and, because several rivers run into the sea, there are many natural small beaches and harbours along the shore. Which means many exciting places to visit.

IN A NUTSHELL

NUMBER OF ISLANDS	695
LENGTH OF MAINLAND COAST	531 km
LARGEST ISLAND	Buskön-Kringön (7 km ²)
LAND UPLIFT	9.47 mm/year
LONGEST DAYLIGHT	21h 43m
SHORTEST DAYLIGHT	3h 44m



The Coast

NORTH

- 1 **Kinnbäck.** There is a marina at the base of Kinnbäcksfjärden inlet. Water taxis run from the harbour to Pite-Rönnskär.
- 2 **Renholmen.** At the beginning of the 1900s Renholmen had one of Europe's largest and most modern sawmills. But the operation was short-lived and in 1930 the sawmill fell silent for good. The sawmill industry has left behind clear evidence that can be seen on hikes along the culture trail. There's a caravan park, sauna, barbecue area and dry toilet.

3 **Båtvik** (128).

4 **Byske Havsbad.** All year-round camping with a nice beach, guest jetty, barbecue area and a WC. Wheelchair accessible.

5 **Furuögrund** (see page 130).

6 **Käge Hamn** (see page 136).

7 **Bovikens Havsbad.** There is a beach, campsite, barbecue area and a WC on the south side of Boviksfjärden.



Kurjoviken. Photo: Per Petterson

The Coast

SOUTH

- 1 **Skellefteälven** (see page 138).
- 2 **Kollostranden** (see page 142).
- 3 **Burehällorna** (see page 142).
- 4 **Bäckfjärden** (see page 144).
- 5 **Bjuröklubb** (see page 146).
- 6 **Munkvikens Läbergård.** In summer you can visit the café and the beach. Or why not try the climbing wall or go canoeing in the sea?



View from Bjuröklubb. Photo: Visit Skellefteå



Memories on the chapel wall. Photo: Lisa Lundstedt

Pite-Rönnskär

LIGHTHOUSE, FISHING SETTLEMENT AND WEATHER STATION

Pite-Rönnskär is a former lighthouse and pilot station, these days famous from radio weather forecasts. Its name reveals that it primarily served shipping to Piteå. For the past century, the 37-metre-high Heidenstam lighthouse, known as the Queen of the Lighthouses, has stood watch here. The location has also served as a fishing settlement. Queen Kristina bestowed the island's fishing rights on the City of Piteå's fishermen in the 1600s. Some 30 fishing cottages still exist today and are now summer cottages. There are two former pilot cottages, the newer of which is now a hostel and café. Water taxis run from Kinnbäck on the mainland to Pite-Rönnskär. To see more of its nature, take a hiking trail across to the other side of the island. The island is home to the following tall story: Deep inside the spruce forest in the north-east of the island is a mythical rock block known as the Clock Stone. Every time the church bells ring to call the congregation to worship, the mighty, moss-covered boulder is said to turn 90 degrees clockwise.



Photo: Visit Skellefteå

1 Marina. Guest jetty, boat service stop, barbecue area, shelter from the wind, sauna and dry toilet.

2 Pite-Rönnskär's former fishing settlement. There are also drying racks used by fishermen. Café, hostel and lighthouse. Defibrillator.

3 The fisherman's chapel on Kyrkudden was erected in 1771. The painting in the chapel depicts the crucifixion with Maria, Martha and Maria Magdalena, and the walls are decked with memories from visitors in former times. The chapel bell is from the 1840s. There is a beacon next to the chapel that was used to guide ships and vessels in the dark before the lighthouse was built.

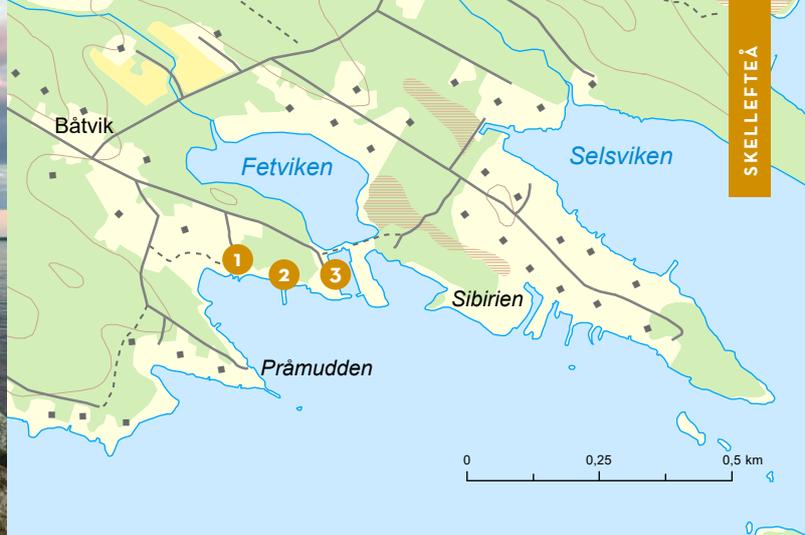
4 Barbecue area and bathing.



Photo: Peter Lilja

Båtvik

SCRAP WOOD JETTIES AND SAWMILL ERA In the middle of the 1500s, Båtvik was used for summer pasture by Byske's landowning farmers and it would be another 100 years before Båtvik had its first permanent homestead. In the beginning of the 1870s, a sawmill was built in Båtvik, which closed as soon as 1892. At its peak, 100 people worked in the Båtvik sawmill and many remains survive from this era, including scrap wood jetties, made from offcuts from the production of wooden products. There is an open air dance floor known as 'The Place' with a view across the Bothnian Bay. There are guest berths on the jetty and Båtvik's marina is nearby.



- 1 The Place. Barbecue areas, dry toilet, open air dance floor and playground.
- 2 Guest jetties, sauna, barbecue area and bathing.
- 3 Marina.

Arctic Terns Photo: Helena Holm



Photo: Lisa Lundstedt

Furuögrund

MEMORIES FROM THE SAWMILL ERA The village of Furuögrund is located 5 km from Byske. Long ago, shipping and fishing dominated the community. The village's glory days are linked strongly to the period 1874 to 1925 when the sawmill was in operation. Furuögrund has a fine harbour that is well protected from winds, and the guest jetties have a good depth, even for yachts. The old harbour warehouse has a summer café. Housed in a beautiful building on the beach just north of the harbour, is a tide gauge from 1914. Water taxis run from Furuögrund out to Halsön and Hamnskär.



- 1 Bathing area.
- 2 Tide gauge.
- 3 Byske boat club marina, guest jetties, barbecue area, WC, café, defibrillator, exhibition and water taxi.
- 4 Campsite.
- 5 Kolviken. Starting point for the Furuögrund trail.

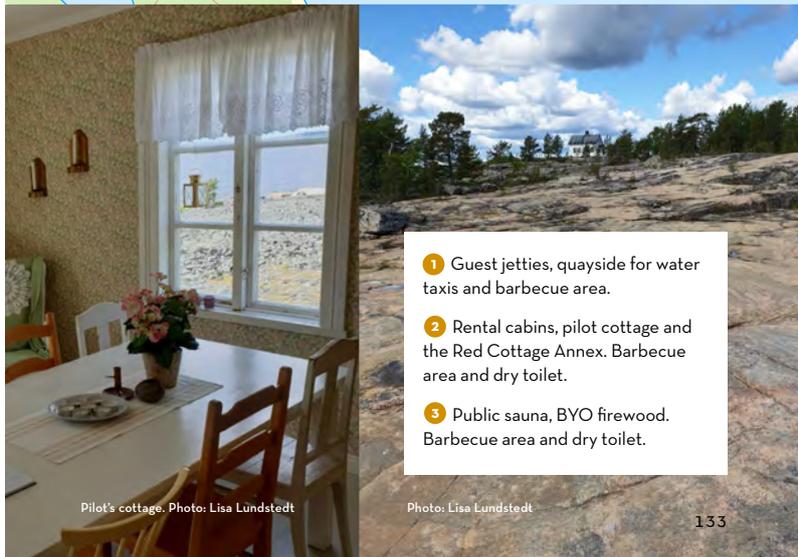


Photo: Jonas Westling

Hamnskär

LOTSSKÄRET

SMOOTH ROCKS AND SEA VIEWS Hamnskär is a popular destination thanks to its fantastic location with clear views across the Bothnian Bay. The barren island to the east of Romelsön consists of bare cliffs, cobblestone fields, a bathing beach and a small, windswept woodland. Hamnskär was formerly a pilot station when Romelsö pilots moved here in 1852. Pilot operations ceased in the beginning of the 1960s. Today, one half of the old pilot cottage is open to the public and serves as a public hut. The other half and the 'Red Cottage' annex can be booked for overnight stays. The Red Cottage used to belong to the Swedish Armed Forces, when Hamnskär formed part of the Swedish coastal defences. Hamnskär has a sauna with a wooden deck that faces the sea and the evening sun. Visitors bring their own wood and drinking water. The island's lack of electricity lets visitors enjoy the way natural light changes with the seasons and, toward autumn, the flicker of candlelight. There are water taxis to the island from Furuögrund.



Pilot's cottage. Photo: Lisa Lundstedt

- 1 Guest jetties, quayside for water taxis and barbecue area.
- 2 Rental cabins, pilot cottage and the Red Cottage Annex. Barbecue area and dry toilet.
- 3 Public sauna, BYO firewood. Barbecue area and dry toilet.

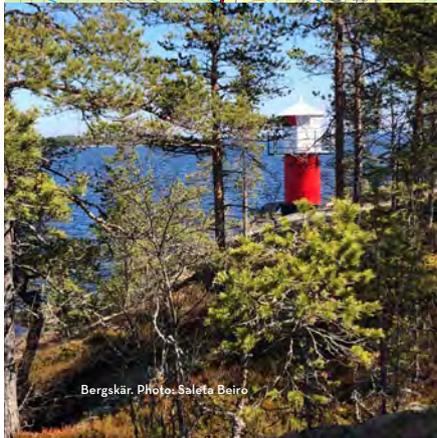
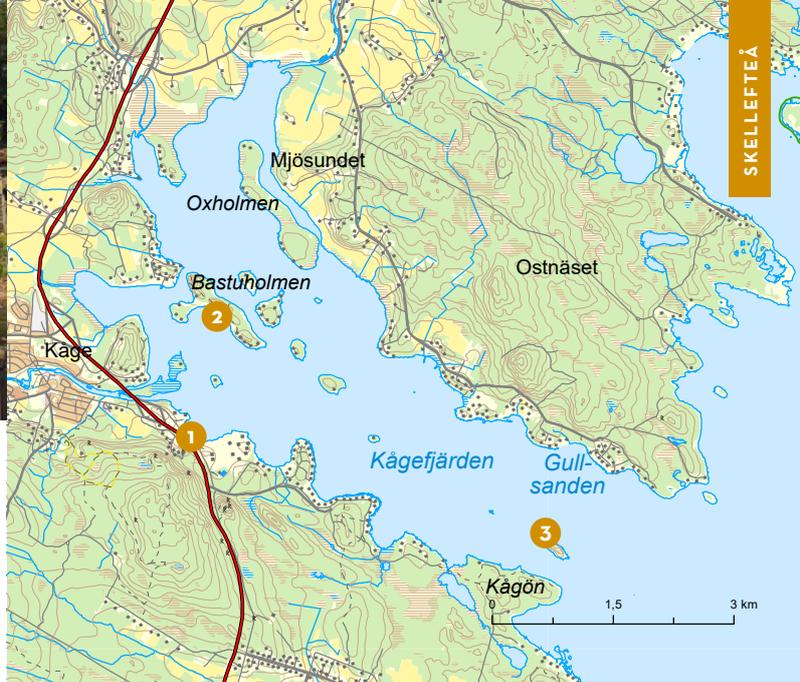
Photo: Lisa Lundstedt



Lillhällan Photo: Ida Lindqvist

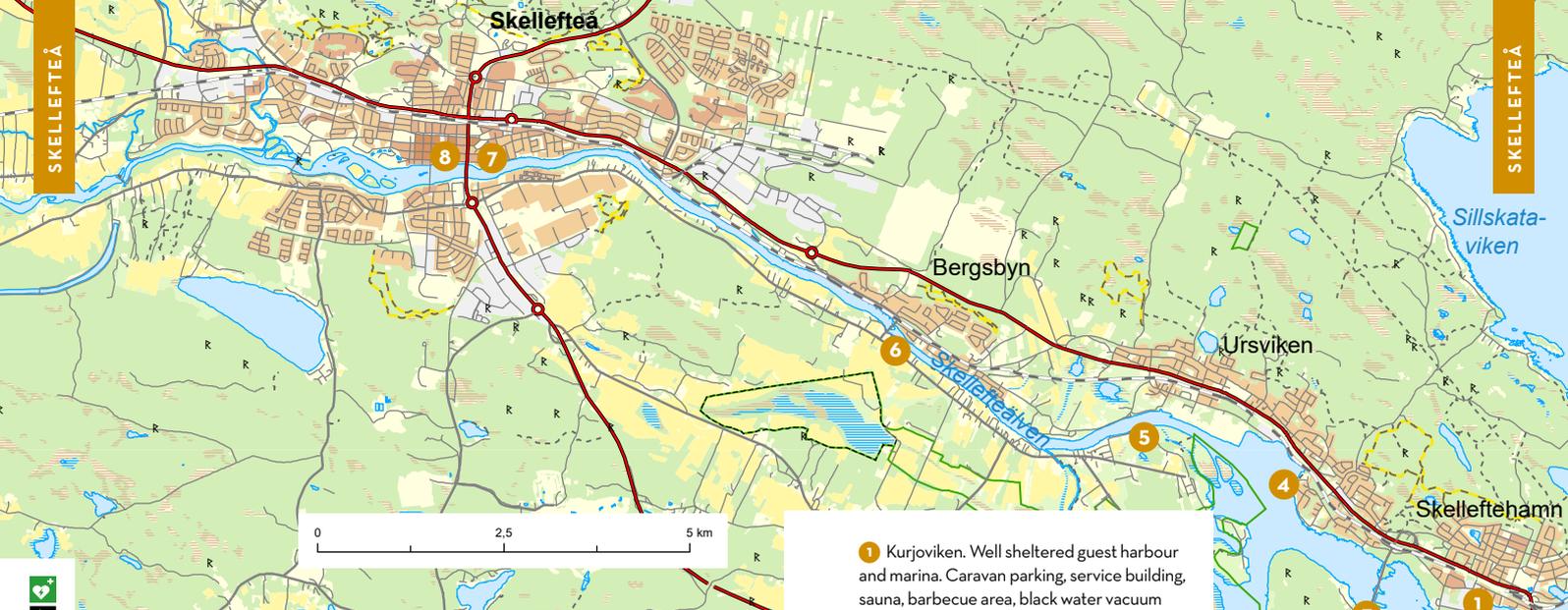
Kåge Marina, Lillhällan and Bergskär

BOATING, BATHING AND CLIFFS Kåge marina is Skellefteå's biggest guest harbour, located inside Kågefjärden with a harbour café that is open during the summer. Just outside Kåge marina is the island of Bastuholmen with the much visited Lillhällan, which is wheelchair accessible. Lillhällan's smooth rocks reach almost down to the water and are excellent for bathing. There is also a rambling trail from Lillhällan to Storhällan on Bastuholmen's westernmost point which has a high observation rock with barbecue area. The hilly island of Bergskär at the entrance of Kågefjärden, was once important for the defence of Kåge harbour. Today, Bergskär is a popular day trip destination. The island is characterised by its lighthouse, which began operating in 1893. Its nature, as its name indicates, consists mainly of rocks and sparse woods. The island invites you to explore military remains or enjoy a picnic on the cliffs.



Bergskär. Photos: Salete Beiro

- 1** Kåge Marina. Guest jetty, café and barbecue area. Defibrillator.
- 2** Lillhällan. Guest jetty with boat service stop, electricity, wheelchair accessible, dry toilet, fresh water, sauna and shower. Defibrillator, summer season.
- 3** Bergskär. Guest jetty, barbecue area, dry toilet.



Skellefteälven

FROM SEA TO CITY Tucked away in the Skellefte River estuary, in Skelleftehamn, is Kurjoviken. A trip along the Skellefte River will take you from the open sea to restaurants and shopping in Skellefteå. On your way you pass under Sundgrundsbron and past Kanotudden in Ursviken, Stackgrönnan's boat museum and the locks at Bergsbydammen. From here, smaller boats can make their way into central Skellefteå. There is detailed information, in Swedish, about the boat trail in a folder on boating along Skellefteå river available at the skelleftea.se/batliv.

- 1 Kurjoviken. Well sheltered guest harbour and marina. Caravan parking, service building, sauna, barbecue area, black water vacuum flushing and petrol. Defibrillator. Home harbour for Ursviken's sailing association.
- 2 Örvisken boathouse. Boat service stop. Guest jetties, barbecue area, dry toilet, exhibitions and flea market.
- 3 Sundgrundsbron. Vertical clearance 9 metres.
- 4 Kanotudden. Location of the Skellefteå canoe club, possible mooring at a jetty or a vacant berth in the marina about 100 meters away. Summer café.
- 5 The Stackgrönnan Boat Museum has a large collection of commercial boats and is a popular day trip destination. Campsite, café and guest jetty.

- 6 Lock at Bergsbydammen. Vertical clearance 4 metres.
- 7 Manhem's quay in central Skellefteå. Marina and guest jetty.
- 8 Bryggarbacken in central Skellefteå. Public floating jetty for mooring.





Photo: Visit Skellefteå

Gåsören

CONSERVED CULTURAL HISTORY The lighthouse on the island of Gåsören outside Skelleftehamn has guided sailors since 1881. The 11-metre lighthouse is built of wood and the lighthouse tower is combined with a residence for the lighthouse keeper and his family. It was designed by lighthouse engineer Nils Gustaf von Heidenstam. A new, automated, concrete lighthouse was built in 1921 and the old lighthouse was decommissioned. The lighthouse mechanism was dismantled and the building was taken over by the pilots. In 1904, Gåsören also became a pilot station. The pilot station was closed in 1968, but Gåsören has been given new life as a popular day trip destination, and the pilot house can be booked for overnight accommodation. Today, the buildings and the surrounding area, including the harbour, form part of an area of especially important cultural historical value. There is an island history exhibition in one of the boathouses. The harbour area and parts of the island are wheelchair accessible.



0 0,25 0,5 km



Photo: Ulrika Rönnlund

- 1 Swedish Cruising Association guest harbour. Boat service stop, dry toilet, barbecue areas, island history exhibition.
- 2 The lighthouse. Built 1921.
- 3 Sauna and former pilot house. Barbecue area.
- 4 Old lighthouse with light keeper's cottage. Barbecue area.



Photo: Per Petterson



Photo: Göran Wallin

Burehällorna, Sarasand and Kollostranden

MESSAGES FROM YESTERYEAR The Burehällorna nature reserve can be reached by boat or on foot. A little out to sea are smooth, exposed rocks. The outermost of them is known as Trappman's rock. The soldier Trappman from Uttersjön sailed on to the rock one stormy autumn night in 1863. The boat sank, but the man made it ashore. But he froze to death and was found on his knees with his hands clasped in prayer. The many carvings on Burehällorna bear witness to its popularity as a destination going back to the 1920s. The rocks are often used for bathing and sunbathing, and there is also a small beach. Sarasand to the south west of Burehällorna is a fine bay that is well worth a visit. Kollostranden is also here. The place earned its name from a children's summer camp in Burvik that operated between 1938 and 2010. These days, the children's summer camp is closed. But the idyllic area with its beautiful, beaches, reed beds and sparse pine heaths remains a popular destination and meeting place with boaters and motorists alike.





Photo: Ulrika Rönnlund



Photo: Petra Pohjola

Bäckfjärden

ON THE WAY TO FÄBODEN Bäckfjärden has an inner archipelago comprising many islands and islets. The bay is rich in aquatic plant species. Part of the sound is included in the Natura 2000 network and is especially important to protect and conserve. At the end of the 1700s, ships were built on Bergskäret for e.g. the merchant navy. The village of Risböle had pasture lands out on Storön and they took their cows there for autumn grazing. The Risböle pasture trail begins in Bäckån village and passes through woodlands along the seashore to end at Risböle pasture. On the way, rambblers can take a dip as they pass by the beach in Storsand. As its name suggests, Kalashällan (party rock) in Bäckfjärden is a popular destination for boating. Everything from Church services to classic Swedish Midsummer celebrations have been held here.

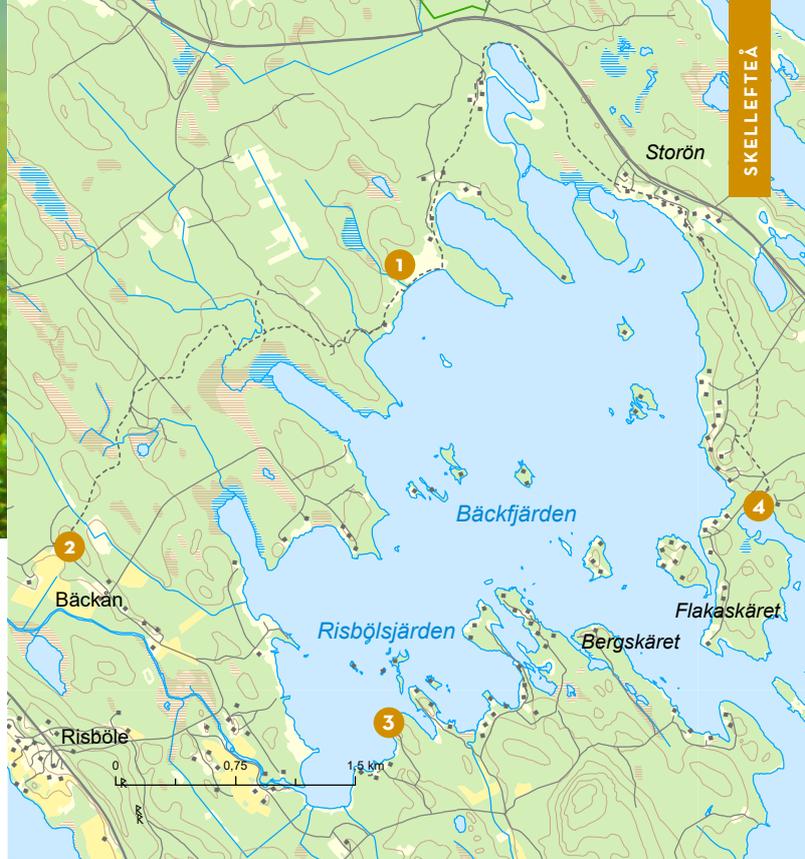


Photo: Ulrika Rönnlund

- 1** Storsand. Shelter from the wind and dry toilet.
- 2** Risböle pasture trail, 9-kilometre hiking trail.
- 3** Kalashällan. Accessible by boat. Barbecue area, dry toilet and guest jetties.
- 4** Pasture. End of Risböle pasture trail.



Photo: Visit Skellefteå



Photo: Visit Skellefteå

Bjuröklubb

LIGHTHOUSE WITH MAGNIFICENT VIEWS 'Klubb' is an old Swedish word for rock or island, indicating that Bjuröklubb once was surrounded by water. The history of Bjuröklubben goes back a long way. As early as the Bronze Age, when the sea level was around 30 metres higher than today, there were temporary dwellings here. Few places along the Norrland coast have as many remains from fishing and hunting. Dating shows them to be from the 6th to the 19th centuries. Many of them can be seen along the archaeology trail that runs across exposed rocks and cobblestone fields. During the 1200s, Bjuröklubb was a harbour for shipping in the Bothnian Bay. In 1518, Olaus Magnus was surprised by how capricious nature is, which he expresses in his 'History of the Northern Peoples'. The lighthouse, which still burns today, was built in 1859. From the top of the lighthouse there are fabulous vistas across the Bothnian Bay. Bjuröklubb is both a nature reserve and Natura 2000 area, with a great many attractions in the area. The area around the lighthouse has good wheelchair accessibility.

- 1** The Bjuröklubb lighthouse. Hostel, summer café, drinking water, WC, wheelchair accessible.
- 2** Guest harbour Barbecue area and sauna, dry toilet, black water vacuum flushing.
- 3** Chapel and former fishing settlement. The first chapel was built in 1658 when Bjuröklubb was still an island. The current chapel was built in 1864. The fishing settlement was located by the sound that separated the island from the mainland and was one of Västerbotten's biggest in the 1800s.
- 4** Bathing inlet with parking, dry toilet and barbecue area.
- 5** Start of hiking trails to Sillhällorna, Jungfrugraven and Grundskatan.
- 6** Sillhällorna. A kilometre-long cliff facing directly to sea. Historically, the name probably derives from the drying of herring here. It's well known as an excellent place for whitefish jig fishing.
- 7** Jungfrugraven. Ancient remains of a stone wall that was probably part of a protective wall surrounding a chapel in Roman Catholic times (before the 1500s). It may also have been a temporary burial site.
- 8** Grundskatan. A 700-metre long stone reef that runs straight out to sea. In May, it's a great place to see



migratory birds. There is also a beach, barbecue area and shelter from the wind.

- 9** Storsanden. Västerbotten's longest sandy sea beach.
- 10** Parking and a footpath out to Näsudden.



Photo: Lisa Lundstedt

Juvikskäret

SMALL BAYS BETWEEN SMOOTH ROCKS Juvikskäret is the furthest south on Skellefteå municipality's coast. It's a little island with sandy beaches interspersed between exposed rocks. The open sea lies beyond the island. There are exposed rocks, cobblestone fields and untouched pine, spruce and rowan woods on Juvikskäret. The forests' lichens are much deserving of protection, with several threatened species. The island is well-visited in both summer and winter.



Photo: Lisa Lundstedt

- 1 Guest jetty, beach, barbecue area and shelter from the wind.
- 2 Barbecue area, beach and dry toilet.
- 3 Shelter from the wind.

CONTACT US



Here are a few tips on where to find information about boat services, cabin rentals, cosy cafés and anything else you might need to know.

HaparandaTornio Tourists Office

Phone +46 922-262 00
info@haparandatornio.com
www.haparandatornio.com

Kalix Tourist Information

Kalix Folkets Hus
Köpannagatan 25, Kalix
Phone +46 923-65300
visit@kalix.se
www.kalix.se/turism

Heart of Lapland

www.heartoflapland.com

Luleå Tourist Center

Kulturens hus, Luleå
Phone +46 920-45 70 00
turistcenter@lulea.se
www.lulea.se/skargard
www.visitlulea.se

Piteå Tourist Center

Bryggargatan 14, Piteå
Phone +46 911-933 90
turistcenter@pitea.se
www.visitpitea.se

Jävre Tourist Information

(summertime only)
Jävrevägen 186, Jävrebbyn
Phone +46 911-933 98
javreinfo@pitea.se
www.visitpitea.se

Skellefteå Tourist Center

Trädgårdsgatan 7, Skellefteå
Phone +46 910-45 25 10
info@visitskelleftea.se
www.visitskelleftea.se

Web pages and Facebook

On Facebook - [Bottenvikens skärgård](https://www.facebook.com/Bottenvikens-skargard) we tell about developments in the archipelago and other issues related to the natural and cultural environments along the Bothnian Bay coast and in the archipelago.

The County Administrative Boards' websites describe all nature reserves and national parks. Search for 'places to visit'.

The website www.bottenviken.se has a lot of information. This page is also available on Facebook - www.facebook.com/bottenviken

The Bothnian Bay Coastal Inter-Municipal Cooperation

Haparanda, Kalix, Luleå, Piteå and Skellefteå municipalities work together for a sustainable coastal development in the Bothnian Bay. The aim is to create an attractive, accessible area so that people who live, visit and work on the coast and in the archipelago will enjoy better conditions for outdoor activities, well-being and entrepreneurship. The work will be carried out with great regard to the unique and sensitive natural and cultural environments.

For more information about the municipal coastal cooperation in the Bothnian Bay, visit www.bottenvikensskargard.se



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KALIX KOMMUN



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