



NAMES OF ISLANDS IN THE BOTHNIAN ARCHIPELAGO

Island names often originate from old dialects and their meanings are not so obvious today. Plant and animal life, names of people and specific characteristics have given the islands their respective names. Because of the land uplift, there are places called islands on the mainland and some of the larger islands have multiple names. Here are some common elements in the names of places in the Bothnian archipelago.

AVA - Bulging stretch of water
BASTA - Simple fishing cabin
BRÄNNA, BRÄND - Forest was burned to create arable land, this was known as a 'bränna'
BÅDAN - warn of shallows
BÖRST - Birch
ESP, ÅSP - Aspen tree
GRÄSJÄL, SJÄL - Grey seal
GRÖNNÄ - Shallows
HARE, HARUN - Shallows on the water's edge, rocky islet
HUVUD - High, hilly terrain
KALLE - Bare rock sticking out of the water
KLUBB, KLOBB - Small, high islet
KUNO - Woman
MJO, MUJ - Narrow
NÖRD - North
REFT - Long gravel ridge
REV, REVEL - Rock and gravel ridge by the waterline
SKATA - Cape
SLADA - Very shallow water
VARP - A place for dragnet fishing. A large net is dragged through the water and hauled onto the beach or onto a boat
ÖR - Sand, gravel, gravel ridge

Sources: 'Från Abborstenen till Östreklassen' Else-Britt Lindblom, 'Gårdar och namn i Nederluleå socken' Else-Britt Lindblom, 'Ortnamnen i Norrbottens län' de 9, Gunnar Pellejef

5. THE OUTER ARCHIPELAGO • 4 days, approx. 83 km



A challenging route spread over several days to the outer archipelago.
Difficulty: **DIFFICULT**

If you're an experienced kayaker, we recommend a route to Brändskär and Småskär amongst other places in Luleå's outer archipelago. The route is an extension of route no. 4, meaning that the first and last day-stages are identical to those of that route. The day stages are only about 20 km to give you ample time to look around.

DAY 1. The same as day 1 of route no. 4.

DAY 2. After the first overnight stay at Gemrundet you go around the cape and paddle towards the three small islands, Trötoren, Lågören and Strömmingsören. From there on you will have a crossing of nearly 5 km. However, it is relatively well protected from the usual southern, south-westerly winds. Set a course for Bullerskäret, go south of the small band of islands and into the strait between Saxskäret and Estersön. It is shallow and rocky to begin with but it gets better when you close on Uddskäret, go around Uddskäret and paddle south. You are now on the edge of the Luleå archipelago, exposed to strong currents from the Gulf of Bothnia.

Paddle into the bay between Persgrundet and Brändskäret. Here is a picturesque old fishing village - a myriad of small cottages that are now summer houses. Go ashore

at the inner end of the bathing bay. Here, the local council has built a sauna that is open to everyone. There is also a guest harbour, fresh water and dry toilets, as well as boat tours during high season. Take a look around cabins, shacks and cliffs and visit the old chapel from 1774, which is still in use. The next stage goes south via Hällgrundet. The statue of Christ on the island was erected by artist Erik Marklund in 1957. Hällgrundet and Brändskäret are part of a nature reserve and disembarkation is prohibited on Hällgrundet between May 1 and July 31. The crossing to Finnskär is 5 km, highly exposed and very beautiful. Finnskär's northern bays are popular bathing spots but in the evening you may well be left alone to put up your tent and enjoy the evening sun from the cliffs.

DAY 3. Paddle south in the strait between Finnskär and Småskär. At Kyrkviken, you will find the Småskär Chapel, the oldest in the archipelago, built in the 1720's. The fishing village has probably been around since the 16th century and the cottages are now, because of the land uplift, way up on dry land.

When you have passed the strait, turn west and head for Långöhällorna via Smulterskäret. Långöhällorna is a nature reserve and a bird habitat consisting of four rocky little islets. The northernmost, Höghällan, is a bird protection area and disembarkation is prohibited there between May 1 and July 31. Birds, such as black guillemots also breed on the other islets. It is nice to stop and rest at Bredhällan, but please be careful and disturb as little as possible. Go north alongside Långön. On the northern side is Storsanden, a kilometre long sandy beach and a suitable lunching spot. Sikören lies just north of Storsanden. Go north on the western side, up to Klemmesten and Orsskäret. The last night's camp on the route is found at Strömmingsören or Lågören. Both are real gems with nice beaches, rocks, shingle fields and old forest. You could also paddle into Ostisund and treat yourself to sauna, dinner and a nice bed at Jopikgården.

DAY 4. See day 2 of route no. 4.



TIPS: Part of the route goes outside the archipelago and this can mean high seas. There are three cottages at Brändskäret that can be rented via the Tourist office. Jopikgården's harbour service (fresh water, showers, cafe, restaurant and lodgings) can be reached from Norrisund, Ostisund and Björkögårdsviken.

REST STOPS: The bathing bay at Brändskäret has fresh water, campfire sites and dry toilets. Bullerviken at Småskär has cottages to rent, refuse facilities and dry toilets. The sandy beach at Långön. Ostisund at Hindersön is near Jopikgården's harbour service. The beaches of Strömmingsören and Lågören.

6. THE RÅNEÅ ARCHIPELAGO • 2 days, approx. 45 km



DAY 2. Head west, past the northern side of Båtön. Then follows a crossing of about 3 km to Degerö-Börtskär. Go south of the island and follow the beach northeast. At Hamngrundet is a pier, a rest cabin, a campfire site and dry toilets. Using a kayak it is normally possible to enter through a narrow, shallow passage south of Hamngrundet. The regular route goes north of there.

Northwest of Degerö-Börtskär lies Rövaren with a nice, sheltered bathing bay to the west, popular with boating people. To the north, an impressive granite rock arches out into the sea. West of Rövaren is Fjukösön with several hospitable bays. Both Storstrandsviken on the western side and Fjukösklubben to the northwest are inviting.

The 4 km crossing over to Tistersöarna begins at Fjukösön's northern cape. 'Tister' means 'redcurrant'. Seals can often be seen in these waters, especially in late summer and autumn. The water is shallow between Särön, Husören and Lövören - the kayak is perfect for exploring the shallow lagoons. Keep going towards Norr-Tistersöarna, the starting point for the next crossing: 5 km north to the western side of Bockön. At Husön or Brändören you can stop and rest before the last leg back to Rörbäck.



TIPS: An option is to go north of Bergön after Siksundsön. The stretch between Siksundsön and Bergön offers nice paddling between many small islets. If you pick this route, don't miss Kohamm and Naverön. Do remember to check the wind forecast and keep an alternative plan handy.

REST STOPS: Siksundsön and Stora Båtklippan have campfire sites and dry toilets. Degerö-Börtskär offers a pier, a rest cabin, a campfire site and dry toilets, as well as nice bays to the northwest. The sheltered western bay at Rövaren. Storstrandsviken and Fjukösklubben at Fjukösön. The beaches of Strömmingsören and Lågören.

Beaches, seals and boating life at the top of the Gulf of Bothnia.
Difficulty: **DIFFICULT**

DAY 1. The launch site is Rörbäck, a small village 50 km outside of Luleå. There is a campsite and a sea bath. The beach where you will launch lies next to the guest pier. Begin by paddling southwest to Bockön. The island has beautiful pine heaths and a popular beach. Continue to Siksundsön peninsula without roads or trails. Pass the small islets Mittigrundet and Yttre Västgrundet. By a little bay down to the southwest, Klippan, is a large, open sandy heath with campfire sites, dry toilets and lots of tent pitches. The environment is extraordinary and deserves a visit.

Maintaining your southeastern course, head to Bergön. At Brändövan, there is a deep bay providing good protection if you would like a break. The south side of Bergön (The Mountain Island) lives up to its name with 30 metre cliffs at Rödergsudden. Hällhamnsgrynnan in the Båtöfjärden nature reserve is a bird islet, home to black guillemots and herring gulls, amongst others. Paddle past to reach your goal for the day: Lilla and Stora Båtklippan. Barren beauty and beautiful views are offered along with a campfire site, dry toilets and a couple of nice tent pitches at the northern bay of Stora Båtklippan.

7B. BATHING AT ALSKÄR

1 day, approx. 16km

Difficulty: **EASY**



If you prefer a shorter outing, we recommend paddling to the lovely bathing beach at Alskär. It's a good idea to get started early before the southern winds get going. Follow route no. 7 "Around Rånefjärden" to Alskär. On your way back, if you feel comfortable with a 2-3 km crossing, you can aim for Hällholmen and Långgrunden. Then paddle due north towards Lögstén and you may have the chance to spot seals sunbathing on the rocks (bring binoculars). Then turn west towards Furuholmen and Kångsö harbour.



OTHER LAUNCHING SPOTS...

Most small harbours can be used, there is often a beach stretch or launching ramp where you can launch your kayak. The route descriptions contain good launching spots but there are other options:

BRÄNDÖ LODGE: A conference centre with a nice sandy beach, also offering kayak rental. You can drive out, unload and park at the guest parking above the islet.

BRÄNDÖ HARBOUR: A fishing harbour, boathouses and a fairground with an outdoor dance floor. Swedish Midsummer celebrations are big here. The harbour was renovated in 2011. A boat ramp is available, as well as beach stretches between the boathouses.

LÖVSKÄR: One of the largest small boat harbours in Luleå. It is also the main harbour for professional fishermen, with a café and restaurant in the summer. The best launching spot for kayakers is a little beach on the eastern end of the parking lot.

...AND MORE BEAUTIFUL ISLANDS

There are lots of nice beaches for rests and overnight camping but there are also plenty of alder shrubbery and rocky beaches which are unattractive to kayakers. Here are other nice spots not in the route descriptions.

STORFURÖN: Nice beaches on the north and south sides.

SMÅLSÖN: Beautiful pine heath and more than 2 km of sandy beach to the west and northwest.

NORR-ÄSPEN: Nature reserve in the southern outer archipelago with bare rock, shingle fields and old forest. A nice bay to the northwest.

SANDGRÖNNORA: A part of the Rödkallen-Sör-Aspen nature reserve. Shifting sand dunes and a bird paradise. The southern part, Skvalpen, is a bird protection area between May 1 and July 31.

LÄKSKÄR: Nice beaches around the southern part. The Luleå Sailing Society is based here and on the northern part, Altappen, there is a small museum of the island's history.

KLUNTARNA: Beautiful, popular island with rental cottages, 2 saunas and boat tours. Scenic hiking trails, labyrinths, nature information and a small fishing village.



CONTACT

GUIDED TOURS AND RENTALS

Take a tour with a skilled instructor - options for beginners and experienced kayakers alike. Also rentals for unguided tours.

CREATIVE ADVENTURE
Översbyn 234, Gunnarsbyn +46 (0)70-207 37 51
www.creative-adventure.se

CANOE ADVENTURE NORTH
Kayak shop/sales at Kångsö Harbour, Lövören 63, Råneå. +46 (0)70-542 51 10
www.canoeadventure.eu

TOURIST INFORMATION

LULEÅ TOURIST CENTRE
Kulturen Hus +46 (0)920-45 70 00
www.lulea.nu/turistinfo

RENT A COTTAGE

On the islands of Junkön, Småskär, Brändskär, Kluntarna and Klubbviken (Sandön) there are simple cottages to rent for staying overnight. Read more and book at: www.lulea.nu/bokastuga



Kluntarna

THE BOTHNIAN ARCHIPELAGO

SWEDEN'S NORTHERNMOST DESTINATION



READ MORE ABOUT LULEÅ AND THE BOTHNIAN ARCHIPELAGO:
www.swedishlapland.com | www.lulea.nu | www.lulea.se | www.bottenviken.se

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Source: Naturvårdsverket, Obig and www.vattenståndslagstiftelsen.se and swedishlapland.se and swedishlapland.com

Photo: Gunnar Ekström

LULEÅ – RÅNEÅ

THE BOTHNIAN ARCHIPELAGO

ANTNÄS BÖRSTSKÄR-LULEÅ-RÅNEÅ

This guide describes paddling routes around Luleå and Råneå. The routes are varied in difficulty but they all lead to beautiful, exciting islands.

The Bothnian archipelago is the northernmost brackish water archipelago in the world. The water is neither fresh nor salt and this has affected plants and animals. The northern location with light summer nights means that you don't have to hurry for your night harbour, you can enjoy paddling around the clock.

The archipelago between Skellefteå and Haparanda is beautiful and varied with many islands – exactly 4,001 of them. Service is also great, on some islands there are saunas, restaurants and cottages. If you would rather experience solitude, there are many islands and beaches without piers, cottages or other facilities.

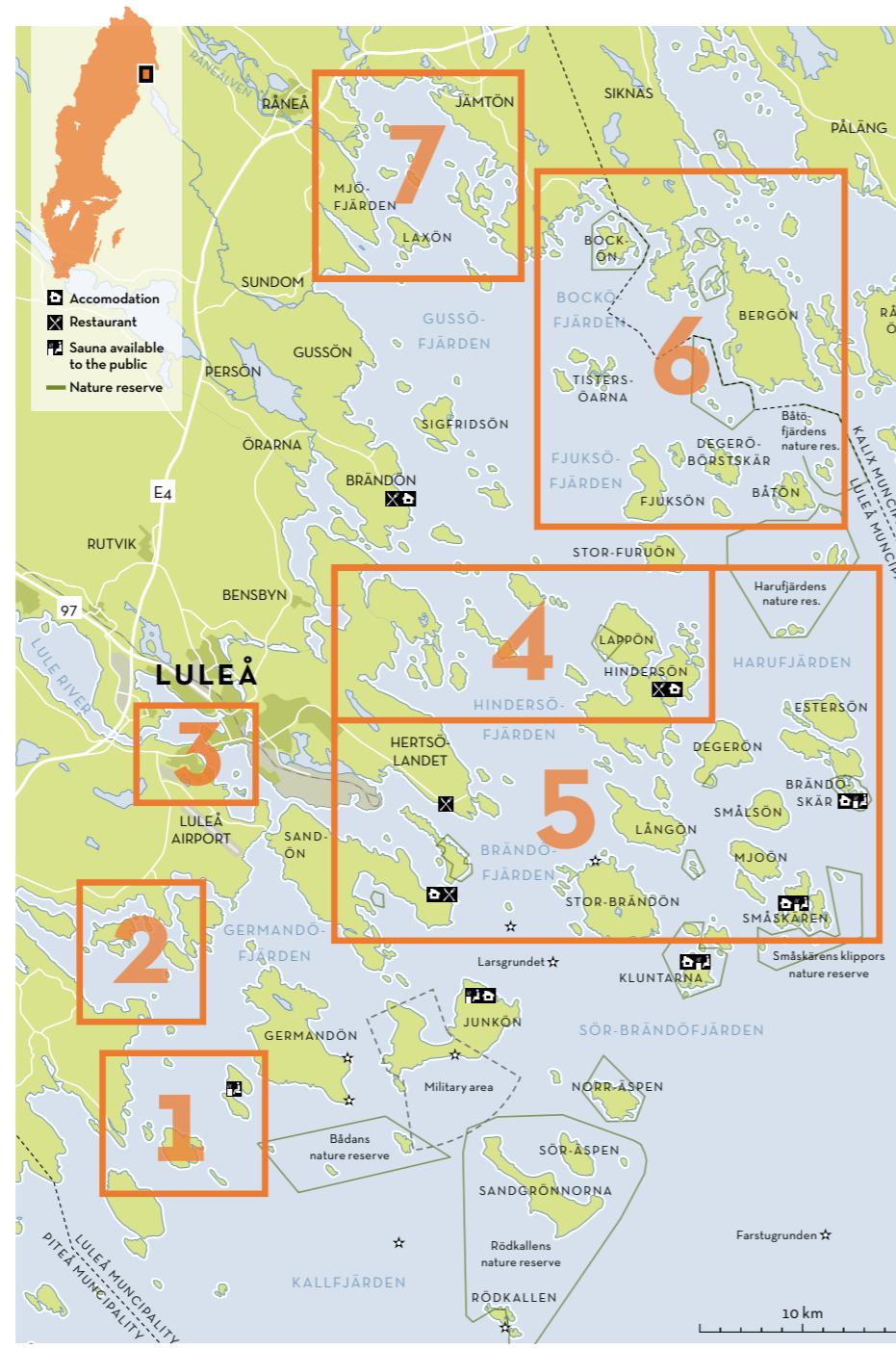
There is much to discover amongst all the islands. Man has lived in the archipelago for centuries and the traces are still there. Artefacts of cultural history, labyrinths, fishnet drying racks, boat landings and foundation remains show the existence of hunting and fishing since the 14th century. The fishing villages were once used by the locals for summer fishing, today they are populated by summer guests.

Those interested in plants and geology have a lot to see. You can find unique specimens such as Haparanda monzonite rock at Brändöskär or the small, Euphrasia bottnica at Hindersön, not found anywhere else in the world.

In late summer you can find berries, mushrooms and maybe a grayling to eat. The grayling is easiest to catch by the rocky shallows in the outer archipelago.

As you can see, there is a lot to do and discover in the Bothnian archipelago.

Welcome!



IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- The archipelago is relatively shallow with an average of only 10 m. This means short, steep waves when the wind blows. It also means that shallows and rocks can be found in the middle of a large inlet.
- The water level is heavily affected by winds and air pressure. Low and high water can differ as much as 2 metres
- Southern and south-western winds are the most common in summer and all crossings in the archipelago are more or less affected by these winds. The nights are light and usually calm, on a windy day you can go paddling at night instead.

DIFFICULTY LEVELS

- We have given the routes three different difficulty levels: **EASY**, **MEDIUM** and **DIFFICULT**. View these as recommendations. The estimated times assume good weather and an experienced kayaker. A route that is simple one day can be really difficult the next if the wind starts blowing. Check the sea weather reports and use your best judgement.
- EASY:** The route is close to the shore, no crossings longer than 2 km, day-stages no longer than 20 km.
- MEDIUM:** Paddling on wider inlets. Crossings no longer than 4 km, day-stages no longer than 30 km.
- DIFFICULT:** Contains paddling outside the archipelago, crossings longer than 4 km and day-stages longer than 30 km.

MAPS/NAUTICAL CHARTS

Use the terrain map, scale 1:50,000 or a nautical chart with more extensive information about shallows, markings, waterways etc. 'Båtsportkortet för Bottenviken' is a nautical chart of a very manageable size, also available laminated and waterproof. The website www.bottenvikenkortet.se has paddling information and tips on nice spots to visit or stay overnight. The book "Din egen lots till Luleå skärgård" is available for purchase at Luleå Tourist Information Centre in Kulturen Hus.



Paddling together is an easy way to increase safety – and it's more fun too!

3. NEAR CENTRAL LULEÅ • 3 hours incl. breaks, approx. 13 km



See the city from the water and experience Luleå's history
Difficulty: **EASY**

The route begins at Gamla färjeläget, a small harbour on the edge of the city peninsula. Just north of the harbour is a sandy beach. First, paddle north past Gützau-udden, named after Christian Gützau who founded a shipyard here in 1830.

Turn northwest towards Stenarmen in Karlsvik. This was the site of Luleå's first ironworks between 1906 and 1925. There are information signs and remains of old buildings and docks. Paddle past the campsite and out into the Lule River. Niporna is a very popular bathing beach. In the summer, you will find Kolarens café with a beautiful view above Niporna. There are rapids by the island of Granden, strong tides at high water, don't go too close if you're inexperienced. These are popular salmon and trout fishing waters.

Directly opposite Niporna is Gädvik. Paddle over there and follow the beach towards Bergnäset. When the Bergnäset Bridge was built in 1954 it was Sweden's

longest at 896 metres. Keep going south along the beach to Granudden, 500 metres due east is the cultural conservation area at Stensborg. The island provides a great excursion with piers and campfire sites. In the past there was a sawmill here that received logs driven down the river. The sawmill was closed in the 1920's but there are remains and information signs.

A kilometre north of Stensborg is Gråsjälören. There was a steamboat pier and a restaurant here up until 1940. After being abandoned and left to dilapidate, the building was demolished in the sixties. Now there is a lovely bathing beach, a pier and campfire sites with a view of Luleå's South Harbour and the Bergnäset Bridge. Paddle via Oskarsvarv and the Bergnäset Bridge and back to Gamla färjeläget again.



View of central Luleå from the Gråsjälören beach.

TIPS: There is a sauna raft in Stensborgsviken that can be rented for saunas and dining. (www.riverrafter.se) On Wednesday nights in June and August, regattas are held in Gråsjälöfjärden. The boats sail pretty fast, so pick a safe route close to the shore if you're out alongside them.

REST STOPS: Beaches at Stenarmen and the Karlsvik banks. Piers, campfire sites, dry toilets and information signs at Stensborg. Sandy beach, dry toilet and rest cabin at Gråsjälören.

1. ALHAMN-ANTNÄS-BÖRSTSKÄR • 1 day, approx. 20 km



side of the ridge there is a guest harbour, a campfire site and a sauna that is free to use. Sauna and swimming in the evening sun is quite an experience.

The island is nice to walk, and there are several trails. Sörskäret has a hilly moraine ridge and in the south there are beautiful cliffs with a view. There is also an old quarry where feldspar was mined 1907–1909. Norrskäret has a nice beach with moss covered sand and sparse pine forest to the northeast. If you wish to stay overnight, there are great tent pitches both here and on the ridge.

Leaving Antnäs-Börstskär, paddle south again towards the bay on the northern side of Kunöön, facing northwest. It's slightly hidden behind Rödhällan. Now you're within reach of the mountain, Storberget, 43.7 m above sea level – this is high for Luleå! There is a nice beach on the western side of the island but it's a bit shallow even for kayaks.

The last stage follows Kunöön to the northwest. Go around Stora and Lilla Kunöögrundens on the northern side – again crossing the waterway – head for Nördskatan and paddle back to the pier in Alhamn.

TIPS: Faced with fresh southern and southeastern winds it's best to stay north of Kunöön both ways, there and back.

REST STOPS: Antnäs-Börstskär has a pier, sauna, rest cabin, campfire sites. Kunöön has a sheltered bay to the north and a nice but shallow sandy beach to the west.

Time for rest in Antnäs-Börstskär.



2. KALLAX-ERSNÄSFJÄRDEN • 1 day, approx. 22 km



A route inside the archipelago, amongst summer houses.
Difficulty: **MEDIUM**

Launch in Kallax – the village known for its fermented herring. There is a fishing harbour and a leisure boat harbour. South of the pier the leisure boats is a rather overgrown beach that makes a good launching spot. The trailer ramp is also an option.

Paddle south between the mainland cape and Kallaxön. Round the cape near the twigs (it's very shallow behind them) and go north past Björnhällan, Furuholmarna and Jaktviken. There are plenty of summer houses here and some enjoy the view and southern location all year round.

Turn west, past Björkören and follow the northern beach of Halsön. Then go south in the strait between Halsön and Granö. The strait is shallow and rocky, especially on the Granö side. You will soon reach Stor-Hundskäret, a lovely, unpopulated excursion destination. The southern beach has a pleasant rest stop.

Go south past Lill-Hundskäret and then southeast towards Vibbönäset. Paddle across the bay towards Renholmen. To your north is a big, sandy beach, well suited for a lunch break.

Now the journey back to Kallax begins. About 2 km northwest is Stor-Berggrändet and after about another kilometre, the southern tip of Bergön. Paddle into the strait between Bergön and Kallaxön. At Bergön, where the strait begins widening, there is another beach with tables and benches.

If you then paddle north towards Kallaxön, you will arrive after about a kilometre, at a larger pier by Strömmingsvarpberget. We recommend disembarking here (watch out for sharp rocks) and walking up to the old quarry where feldspar was mined 1905–1938. The quarry is now a water filled ravine with steep walls. Information signs tell an interesting story.

With the right kind clothing you can start the season before the ice has melted.



TIPS: The southern wind picks up speed over Börstskärfjärden, meaning that the Renholmen-Bergön route can be exposed. Jaktviken and Kallviken are famous summer house areas. There are vantage points on Renholmsberget and Bergön.

REST STOPS: Stor-Hundskäret has a nice little beach with a campfire site. There are sandy beaches on Renholmen and Bergön. There is also a small rest stop on the southern beach of Halsön.



3. THE NORTHERN ARCHIPELAGO • 2 days, approx. 40 km



DAY 1. The paddling continues in the strait between Lappön and Hindersön. Hindersön has been inhabited since the 16th century and people still live here. Do paddle into the Norrisundet strait. There is a seal boat and a small fishing museum there. Take a walk, it's about 500 m to the inn. Here you will find a diner, rooms to rent and activities such as art exhibitions and music nights, read more at www.jopik.nu.

The route continues along Hindersön. The next rest stop is Carlsgruvan, 3 km from Norrisundet. This was the site of an unsuccessful iron ore mine in the 19th century. There are mining pits and information signs. At nearby Kortspelargrundet there is an old powder magazine used by the mine. Head west towards Knivören and follow the beach to the northern cape. Here follows a three kilometre exposed crossing westwards towards Skogskäret. To the south is a beautiful sandy beach and a pine heath where you can rest. The final crossing is 2 km, directly westward from Skogskäret. There are rocks here and there right under the surface, keep a look out.

Go in between Lövren and Ytterstön and turn south. On the western beach of Ytterstön is another nice bay for a rest. Go around Risön and up towards Stor-Risöholmen again, on the south side this time. Risögrundet is a bird protection area and disembarkation is prohibited between May 1 and July 31.



TIPS: As is often the case, you have to have respect for the southern winds. The Hindersöfjärden crossings are exposed. If you don't want to camp there are several accommodation options available in Hindersön. See www.hindersonhembygd.se

WORTH A VISIT: The Lappön nature reserve, Rennmåberget Mountain, shingle fields and old forest. The archipelagic environment at Norrisund.

REST STOPS: Skogskäret's beaches to the north and east. Lappön's beach to the northeast. Gemgrundssanden nature reserve. Norrisund, Carlsgruvan, Skogskäret's southern beach. Ytterstön's north-western bay.