

Sea kayaking and camping in Bohuslän

Part B

from Lysekil
to Grebbestad

Route descriptions

from Lysekil to Grebbestad (page 4)

Sites suited for free camping
overview maps, detail maps, lat/long
coordinates, short evaluation of each
camp site

Hostels, "vandrarhem"
shown in the overview map, phone
numbers in list (page 5)

Weather forecasts
time and frequencies (page 5)

Drinking water
where to find it (page 2)

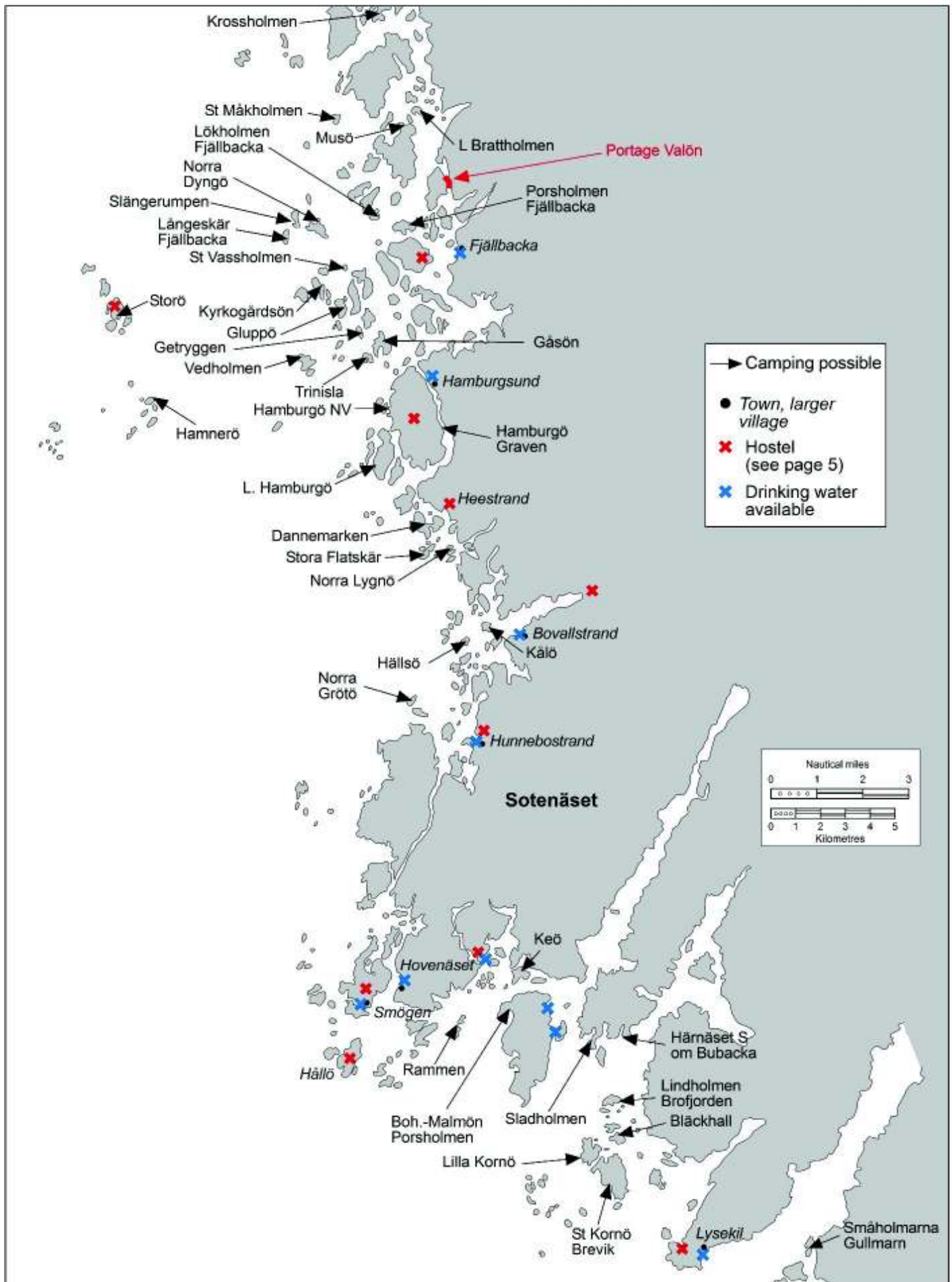
Right of Public Access
a summary, with detailed directions
for kayakers (page 15)



The area Lysekil - Grebbestad

See the following list and detail maps.

NB: The detail maps are not to scale



Sites for free camping in the area Lysekil - Grebbestad

(in alphabetical order)

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The camping sites selected are all outside the wildlife protection areas as well as nature reserves with camping bans. Further, they are mostly in uninhabited areas. Free camping is therefore possible with reference to Sweden's Right of Public Access, **but also with the limitations imposed by this Right**. Many of the sites are on private land, meaning the limitations must be strictly considered. **Please read about the Right of Public Access on page 15.**

Most sites give wind shelter only for some wind directions. Choose site according to existing and expected wind conditions. See the detail site maps for wind shelter symbols.

Legend:



Suitable landing zone,
position in lat/long according
to WGS 84



Wind shelter indicator

Dark grey zone = Good shelter
Light grey zone = Some shelter

This example gives shelter for winds from south, southwest and west. Limited shelter for southeast and northwest, no shelter for other winds

TC

Dry toilet and garbage disposal station

Lysekil to Grebbestad: The heart of the "Rock Kingdom"

Lysekil to Smögen

On the northern shore of the fjord **Gullmarn** lies **Lysekil**. West of **Lysekil** is a deep and beautiful archipelago, with large islands as well as countless islets. You can use the shelter of the **Stora and Lilla Kornö** and other islands east of them, but if the weather permits also go to the **Brandskär** islands in the west. East or west of **Bohus Malmön** is a matter of weather and taste, but if you choose the east route, you can use the lovely channels north of the **Björnholmen** and the **Keö**. Further you come to the towns south of the **Sote** peninsula; **Smögen** and **Kungshamn**. Here is again a choice of inner or outer routes. On **Hällö** and the west side of **Smögen** are Sweden's perhaps most famous sun bathing rocks, but it is very open and unsheltered. The inner fairway passing **Kungshamn** and **Väjern** makes the safest passage. If the yacht traffic is too intense, take the loophole through **Hasselösund**. The shallow water and sharp turn makes it a very efficient speed reducer.

Smögen to Hamburgsund

The **Sote canal** is almost a matter of course. It is a nice and beautiful canal, and the waters west of the **Sote** peninsula are unsheltered and full of unpredictable strong currents and irregular wave patterns. It is infamous for its many ship wrecks. The interesting islands out there, the **Soteskär** and others, are bird sanctuaries with "No Admittance" all year around.

The **Sote canal** is much used in the summer, you must count on intense boat traffic. North thereof the fairway widens and divides again, giving you more peace and quiet. Here is the town **Hunnebostrand** and by the **Bottna fjord Bovallstrand**, here is among other islands **Alvön**, famous for its "Giant's kettles" (a glacial formation). Around the **Vike fjord**

there are many nice islands and coves, accessible only to shallow-draught vessels such as kayaks.

North of the **Bottna fjord** is an short unsheltered passage, west of the **Valö**. For about a nautical mile you have irregular and disturbed waves even at moderate wind speeds. You must wait for suitable weather, or bypass the worst by making a 600 metre portage in reasonable terrain, across the low spit of land east of the **Valö**. This "island" (in fact a peninsula) is a beautiful nature reserve, with fields of flat rock and other formations, unique even in the "Rock Kingdom" Bohuslän. After this open passage you are in shelter again, in the beautiful channels inside the **Ulö**, the **Hornö** and the two **Hamburgös**.

Hamburgsund to Grebbestad

No matter if you choose the inner route through the **Hamburgsund** or one of the passages west of the **Hamburgös**, you then enter the most singular **Fjällbacka** archipelago. Here is an area with high and steep islands, separated by deep water but also with many narrow, beautiful channels and protected coves. Of particular beauty are the passages between the **Hästvam**, the **Florö**, the **Fläskö** och and the **Dyngö**. The **Fjällbacka** area is in holiday season one of the most popular, but the sheer number of islands and coves still gives you a chance of some privacy.

Due west of the sheltering archipelago are the legendary **Väderöarna**, very interesting and worth a visit. However they give very little shelter, and to get there, you must cross a couple of miles of open water with strong currents. Steady calm weather is highly recommended!

Hostels ("vandrарhem")

and similar lodging houses
in alphabetical order

Name	Phone
Bovallstrand	+46523-518 25
Fjällbacka-Valöns	+46525-312 34
Grebbestads vandrarhem	+46525-614 14
Hamburgö Gamla skola	+46525-345 00
Heestrand	+46523-530 43
Hunnebostrands v-hem.	+46523-587 30
Hovenäsets vandrarhem	+46523-374 63
Hållö	+46523-303 17
Lysekil Dive in Dykcenter	+46523-152 33
Lysekil Strand	+46523-797 51
Smögen Makrillen	+46523-315 65
Väderöarna Storö	+46525-183 80
Väderöbod	+46704-985 936

Drinking water

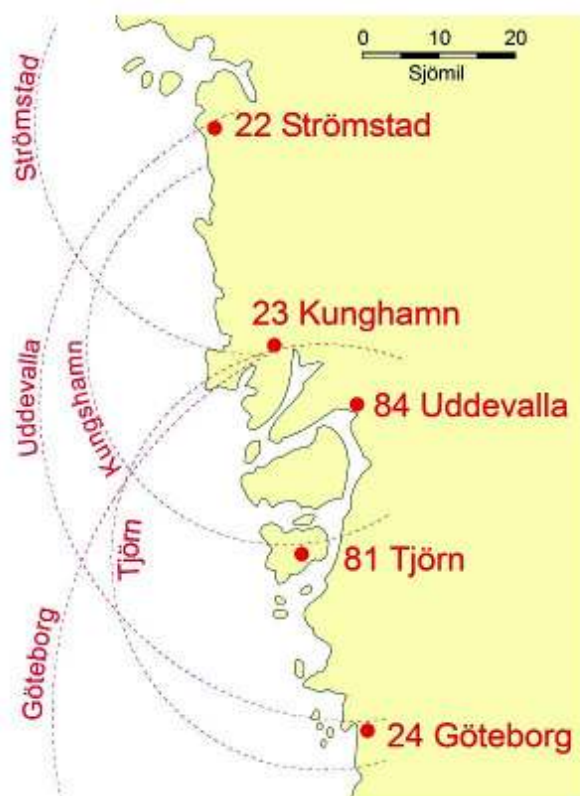
The places indicated in the map on page 2 are yacht guest harbours. Their water taps are primary for paying guests, but limited quantities can normally be had for free.

Weather forecasts

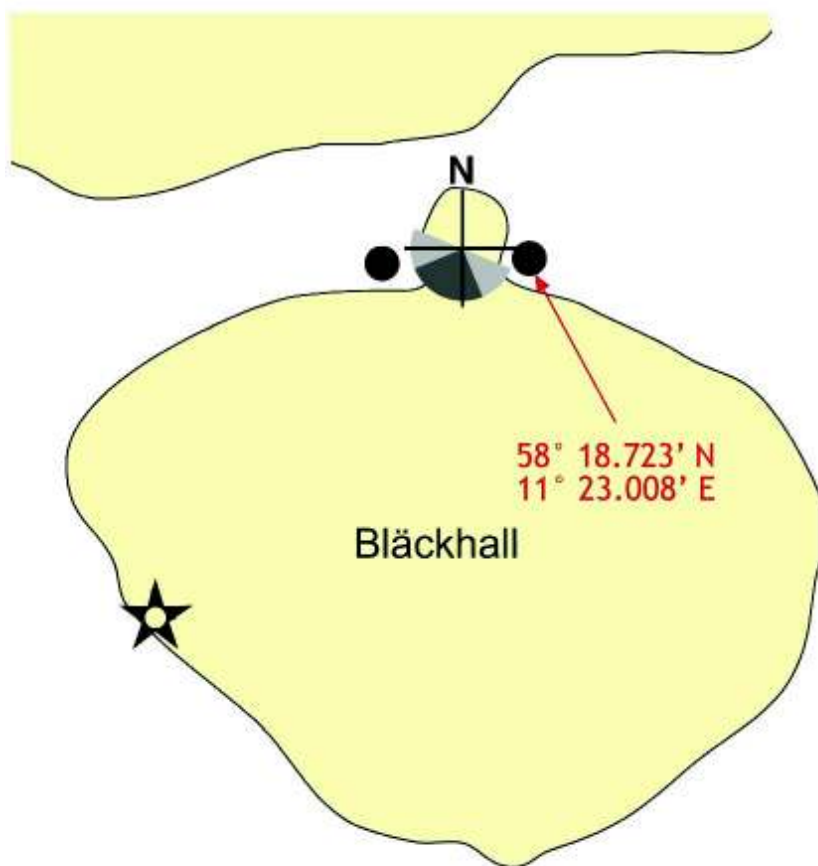
On the Marine VHF radio you can get a sea weather forecast twice a day, at 0733 and 1933 UTC (Local time is in summer UTC +2, in winter UTC +1).

The weather forecast is announced on channel 16 a few minutes prior to the actual reading of the forecast.

Map shows Stockholm Radio substations and their respective channels. Coverage is very good, but as VHF signals require almost line-of-sight connection, blind spots exist. If reception is bad, try higher ground, normally a few metres is enough.



Bläckhall



The dramatic southwest wall of this island may seem unfriendly, but on the northern side is a nice spot.

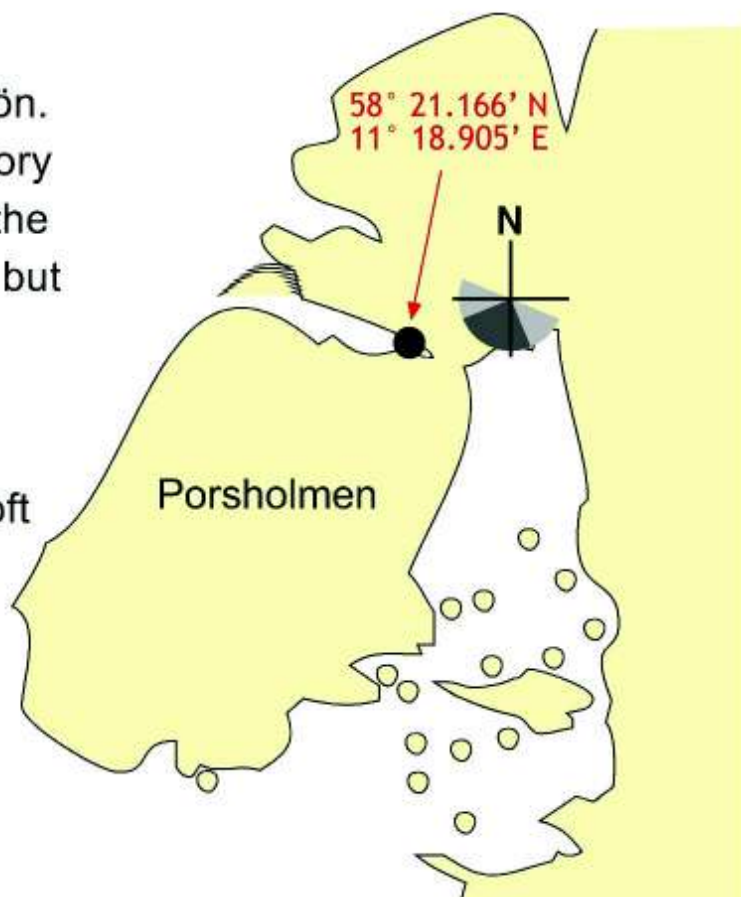
Do take a walk to the top of the island, it is not that hard, and the view is spectacular.

Easy landing on sand beach. Camping on level and soft ground.

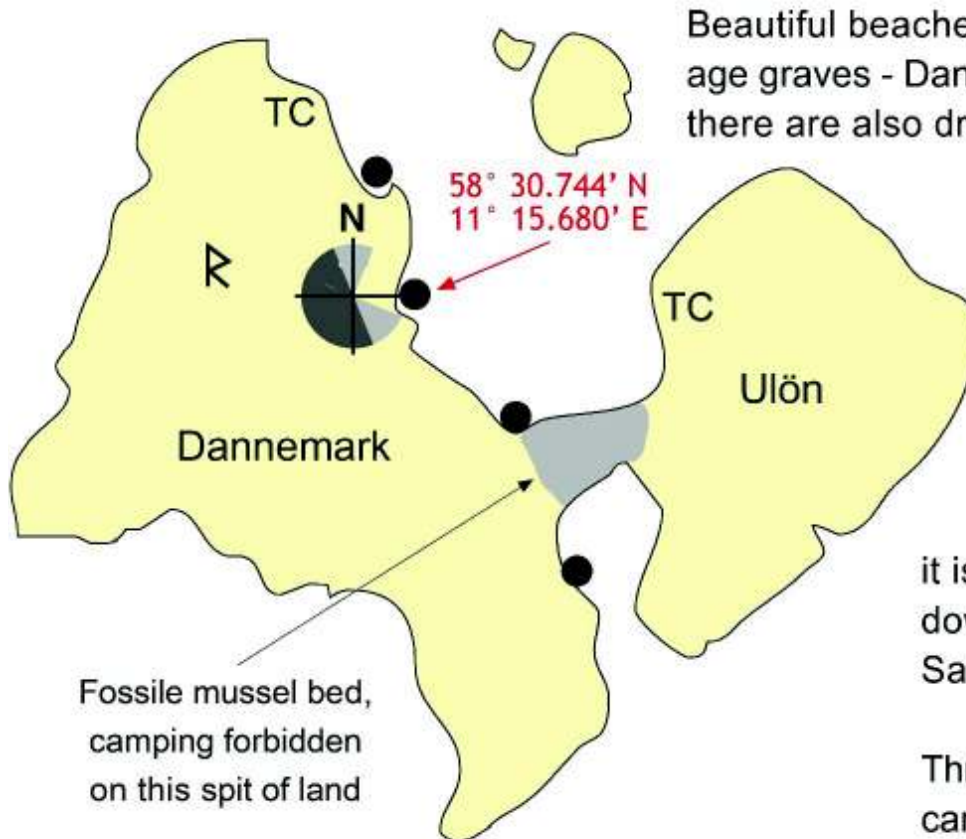
Bohus Malmön Porsholmen

A nice and secluded cove on the otherwise populated Bohus Malmön. The island has lots of cultural history to be explored. You can not miss the traces of the extensive quarrying, but the village is also worth a visit.

Easy landing on sand and gravel beach. Camping on reasonably soft and level ground.



Dannemark



Beautiful beaches, easy camping, bronze age graves - Dannemark is a good one, but there are also drawbacks:

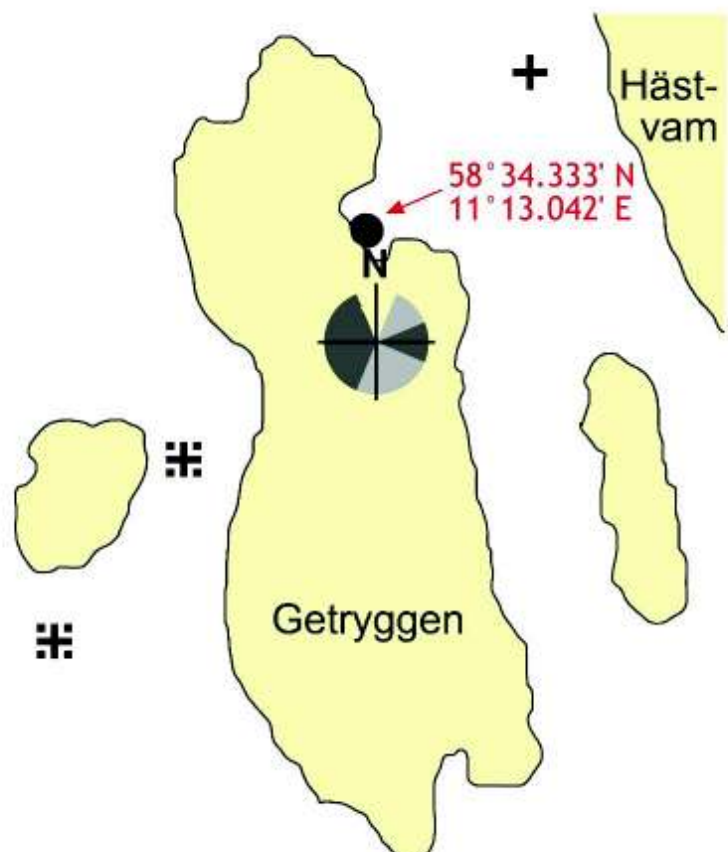
The quarrying has left ugly wounds, it is bad enough to make you sad. And the island is extremely popular among other boaters; during holiday season, it is about as quiet as a downtown bar street on a Saturday night...

Three dry toilets with garbage cans.

Getryggen

A very popular site, with pleasant landing and easy camping in good shelter. On the downside only the fact that it is popular and a bit worn.

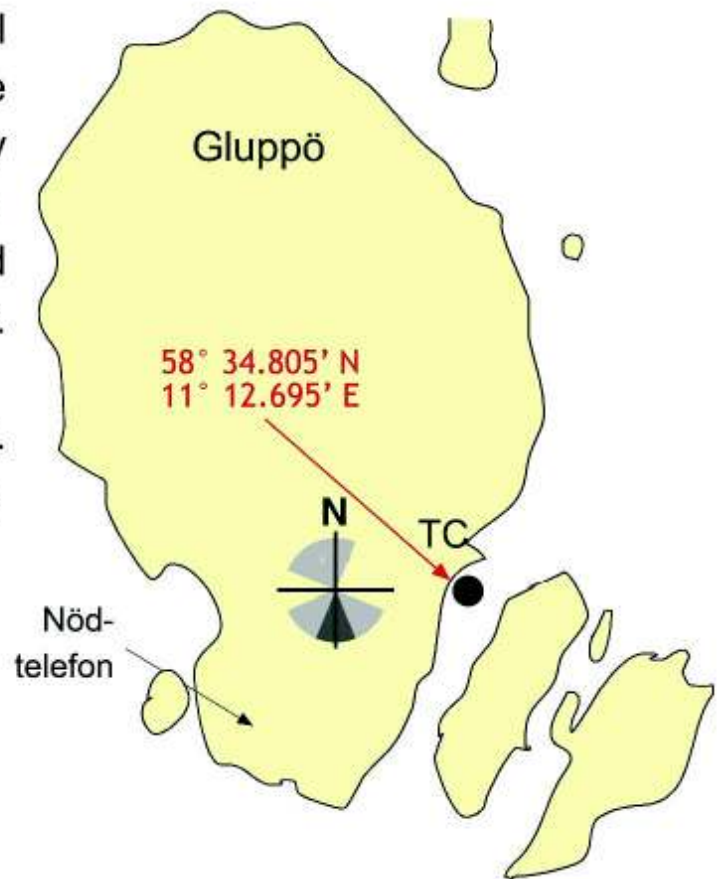
Close to Gluppö, where there are dry toilets and garbage bins



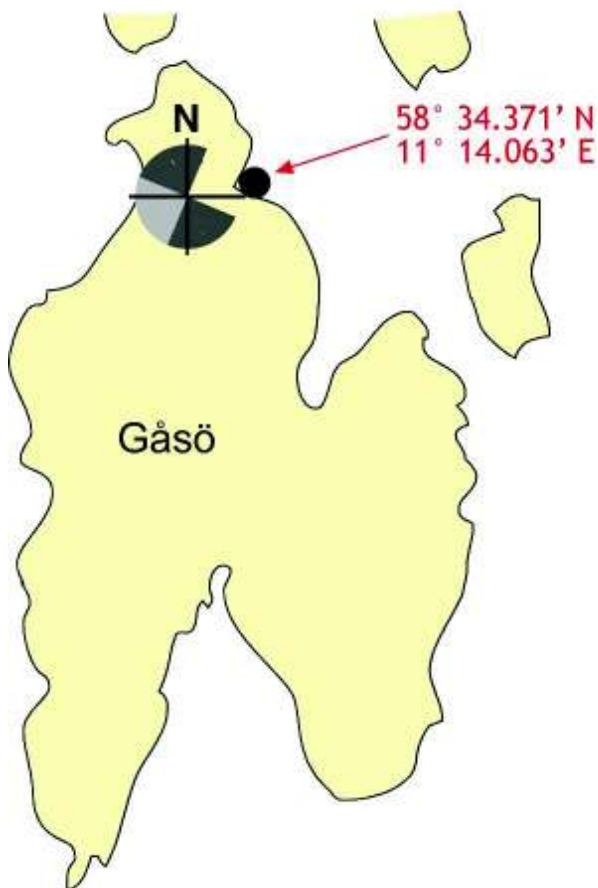
Gluppö

Gluppö is a very nice island, beautiful and situated right in the middle of the Fjällbacka archipelago. During holiday season it is a very popular mooring place and anchorage for yachts, and hardly a place to find peace and quiet.

Easy landing on friendly sand beach. Camping ground somewhat bumpy, but all in all quite alright.



Gåsön



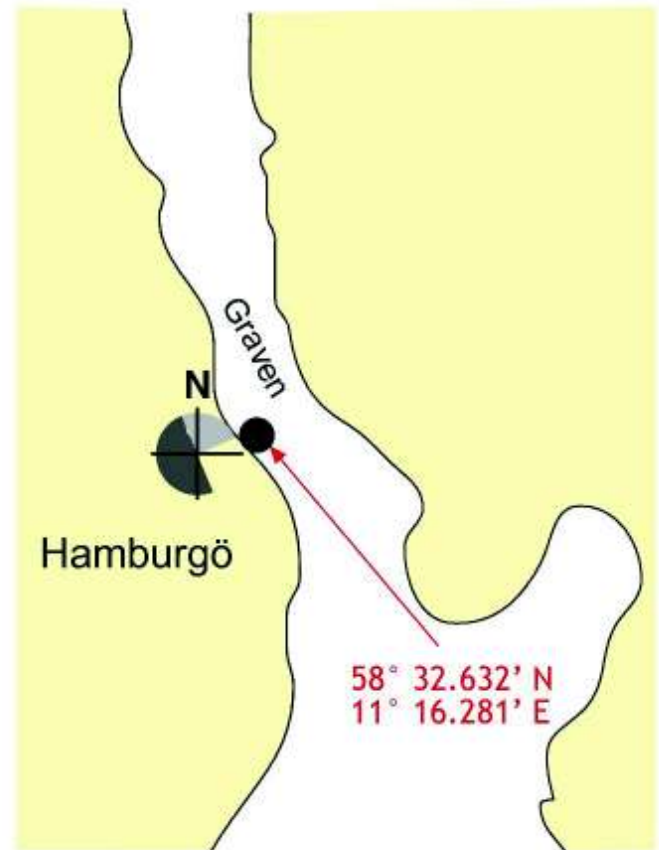
There are lots of barren rocks and steep walls here in the Fjällbacka archipelago, but still there are spots where landing and camping is possible.

Landing on sand and gravel beach. Camping on soft and level ground.

Hamburgö Graven

In the channel between Hamburgö and the mainland the shores are very busy, but there is space for campers, too... Here is such a little pocket, with perfect shelter for a westerly storm. If you take the trouble to walk the island (the terrain is a bit rough) you will find a nice landscape and an interesting ancient grave.

Landing on sand with some rocks. The camping ground also has some rocks, but apart from that it is quite good.

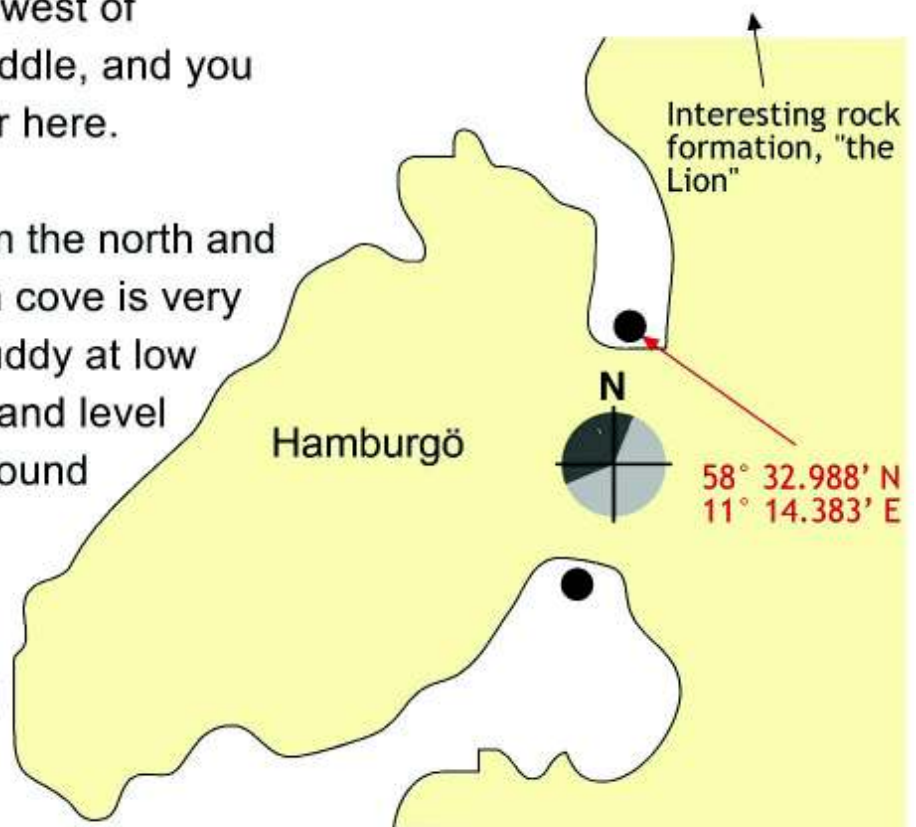


Hamburgö NW

In the beautiful channels west of Hamburgö it is nice to paddle, and you can also find night shelter here.

Landing can be done from the north and from the south. The north cove is very shallow and becomes muddy at low waters. Camping on soft and level grounds, shelter can be found for most wind directions.

Just northeast of the site there is an interesting and beautiful rock formation - don't miss "the Lion"!

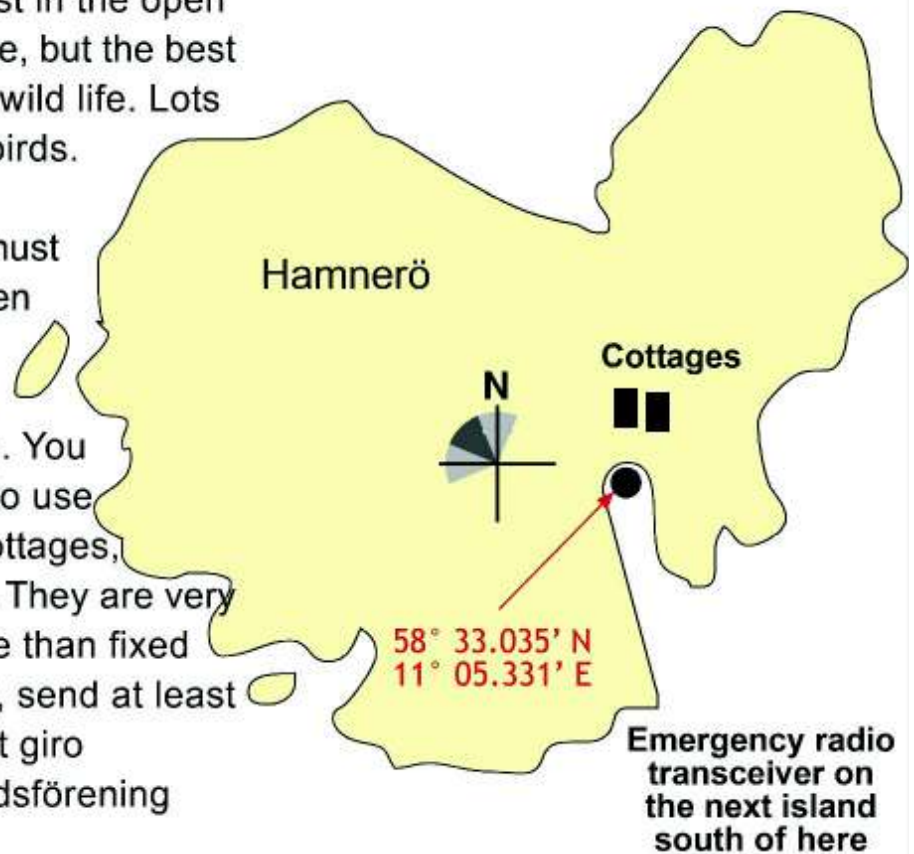


Hamnerö

Magnificently situated, almost in the open ocean. The island itself is nice, but the best thing is the position and the wild life. Lots of seals and many kinds of birds.

Warning: To get here, you must cross a couple of miles of open water with strong currents.

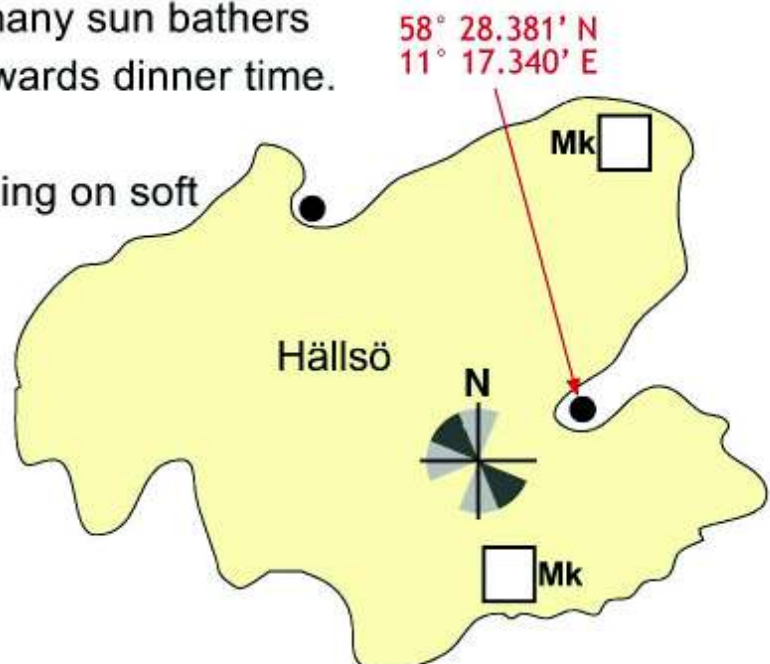
Easy landing on sand beach. You can pitch a tent, but best is to use to two unique fishermen's cottages, in which you are free to stay. They are very simple, see them as no more than fixed tents. Payment is voluntarily, send at least some money to Swedish post giro 627 59 33-7, Kville Hembygdsförening



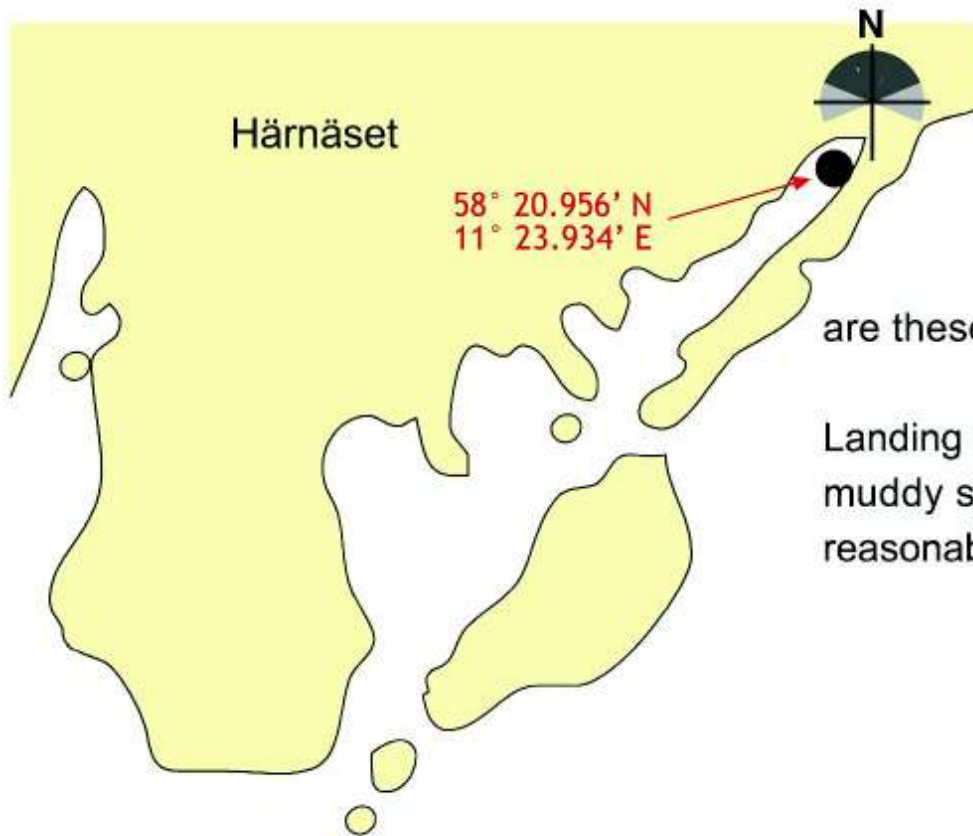
Hällsö

A nice and inviting little island, where you can camp on the narrow spit of land between two steep rocks. Warm summer days you find many sun bathers here, but they usually leave towards dinner time.

Landing on good beach. Camping on soft and level ground.



Härnäset S om Bubacka



In the beautiful Härnäset nature reserve, camping is not allowed, but just outside the reserve are these coves, also quite nice.

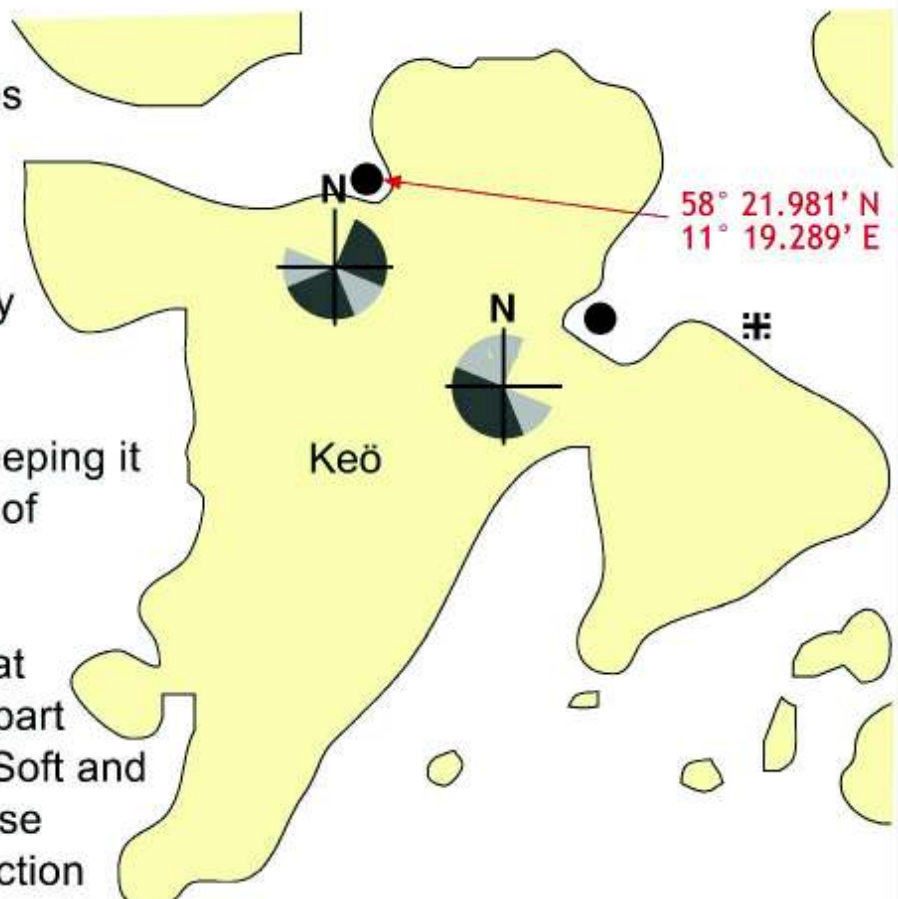
Landing on sand, there are some muddy spots. Camping on reasonably soft and level ground.

Keö

The nice channel north of the Bohus Malmön takes you inside the Keö. The island is perhaps a bit too popular during holiday season, but otherwise very good.

Cattle graze the island, keeping it open but also leaving lots of droppings.

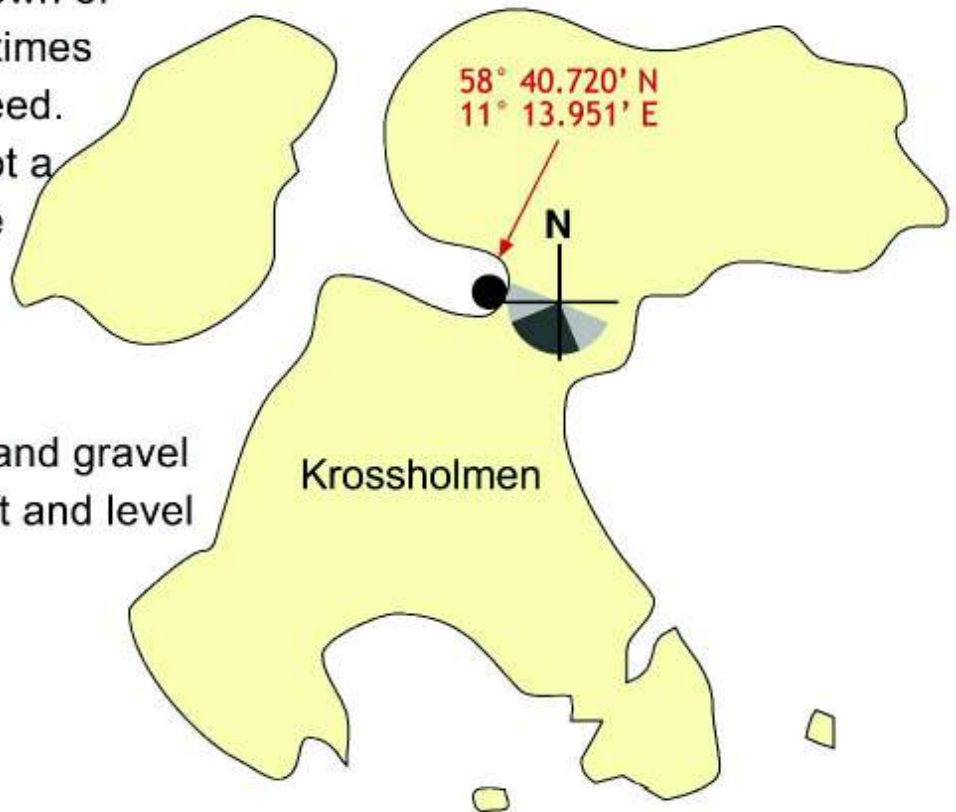
Landings can be somewhat muddy at low water, but apart from that good and easy. Soft and level camping spots, choose according to the wind direction



Krossholmen

Yes, it is close to the town of Grebbestad, but sometimes that is just what you need. The Krossholmen is not a sensational wild nature experience, but more of a practical stop.

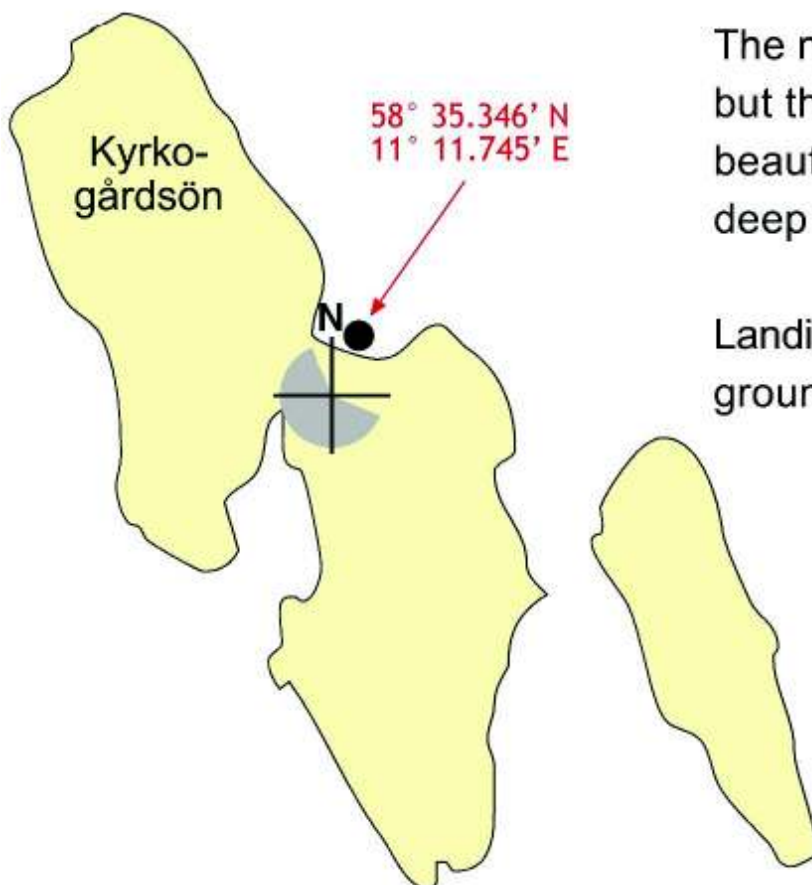
Easy landing on sand and gravel beach, camping on soft and level ground



Kyrkogårdsön

The name means "Cemetery island", but there is no cemetery here. Very beautiful island. You must see the deep cove on the west side.

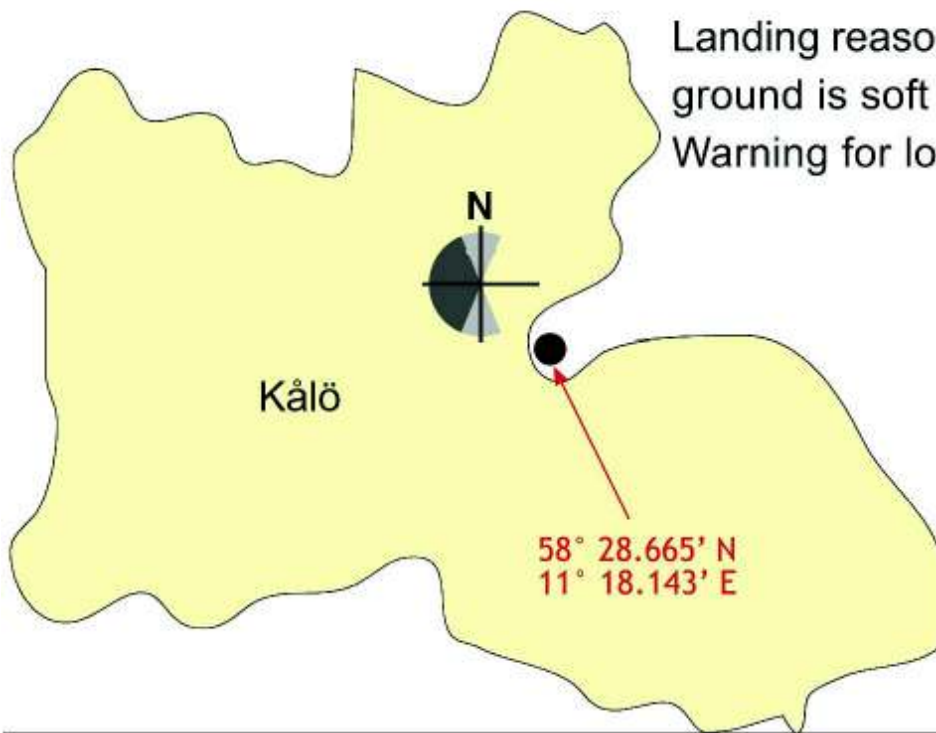
Landing is rocky but OK. The camping ground is soft but with a gradient - still fully useable.



Kålö

A bit of an emergency site, but included because of where it is situated.

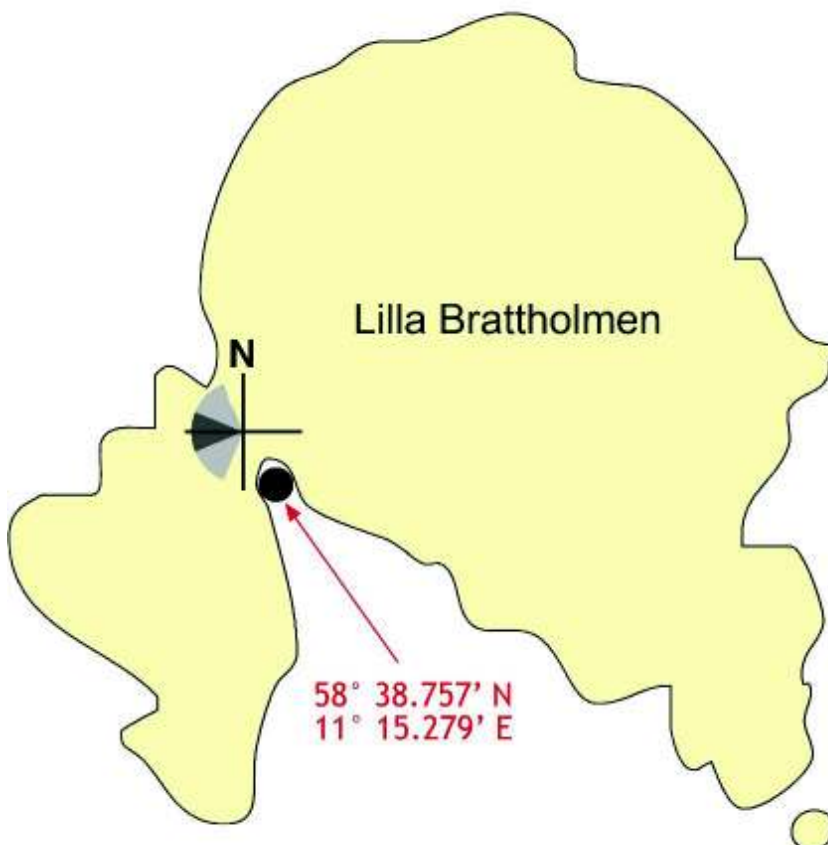
Landing reasonably easy. The camping ground is soft but with a gradient. Warning for lots of thorny copses!



Lilla Brattholmen

This is a bit of a plain island, but it is nicely situated, and sometimes that is most important.

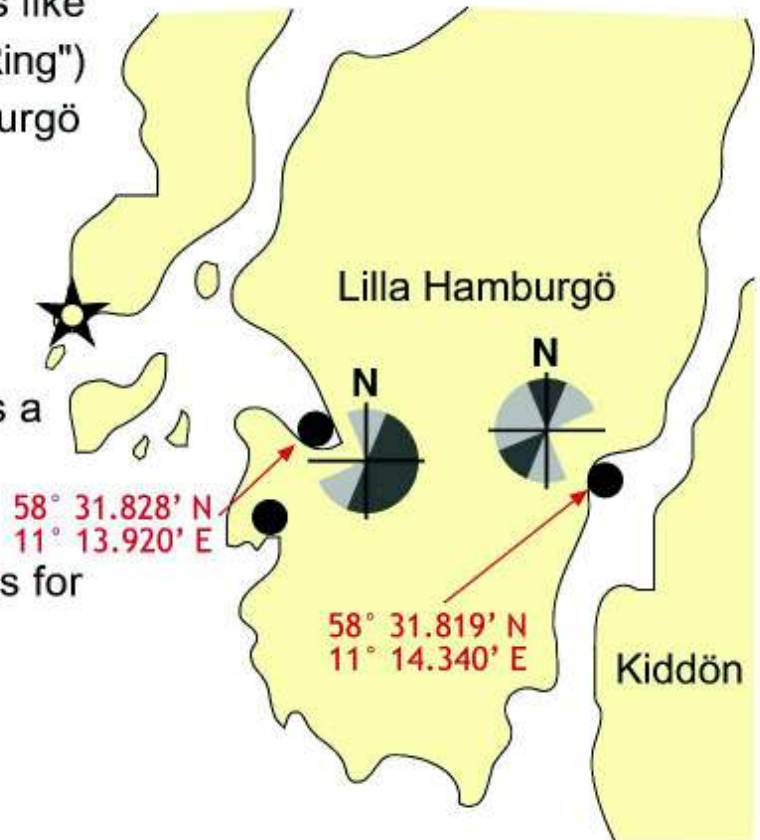
Landing is easy on a good beach. Camping on reasonably soft and level ground.



Lilla Hamburgö

Just by the impressive inlet (looks like something out of "The Lord of the Ring") to the passage west of the Hamburgö lies these sheltered coves.

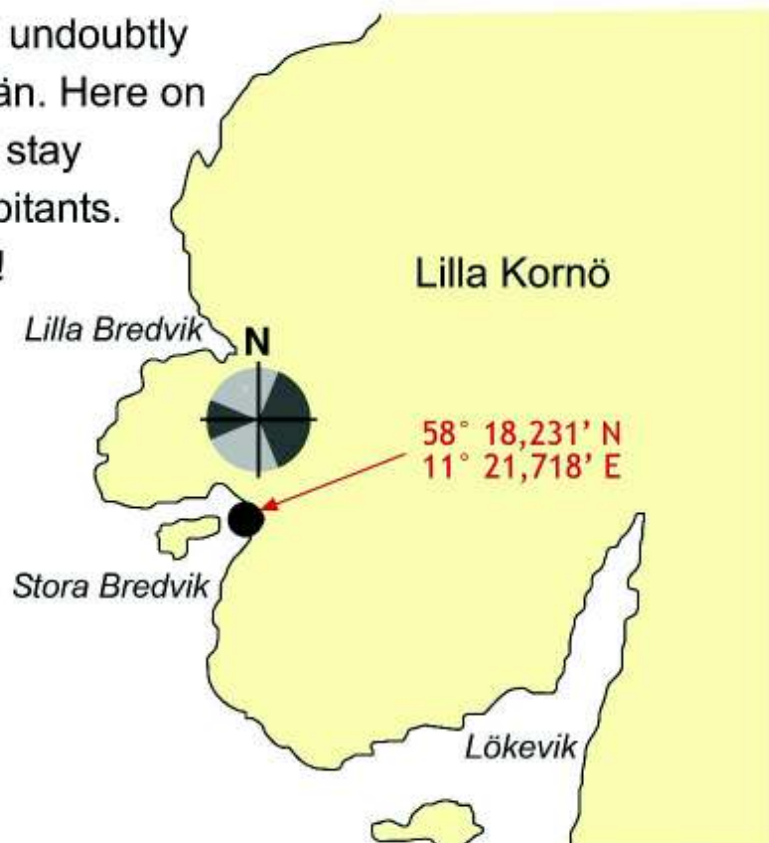
Landing is reasonably easy on a gravel beach (sand on the east side). The west camping spot has a gradient and some rocks, but is quite useable. The east spot has little grass, but good flat rocks for a freestanding tent.



Lilla Kornö

The beautiful Lilla Kornö is undoubtedly one of the gems of Bohuslän. Here on the western shore you can stay without disturbing the inhabitants. The rocks are magnificent!

Landing on small spot of gravel in the southern part of Stora Bredvik. Camping on level, dry and reasonably smooth grass.



The Right of Public Access

Sweden's traditional Right of Public Access means that you can freely be in the forests, on waters, islands and other non-cultivated land, even when it is privately owned, as long as you cause no damage or disturbance to people, animals or plants. There are, however, rules and limitations you must obey.

Innocent passage

You can walk in the forest, on an island or other non-cultivated land, but not on cultivated and or someones garden. You can travel on all lakes and the open sea, you can swim in the water unless the opposite is clearly stated.

Wild berries

You can pick wild berries, but not cultivated crops, cultivated fruit or protected species.

Camp fires

Fires are allowed in principle, but you must be very careful. You are always **fully responsible** for the consequences of your fire.

You can use driftwood, dead fallen trees and dead branches on the ground as fire wood. **You must not harm standing trees in any way.** During summer draughts there is often a general fire ban. See information at our station.

If there is no fire ban and the conditions are right, use existing fire rings or make your fire on the beach, below the high water line. Never make fires on solid rock or on grass.

Camping

You can camp for one night, even on private land, providing it is not cultivated land or a house garden. Note that groups larger than a normal family also should have the landowner's permission. The campers must keep out of sight from the landowner's house. Roads/paths used by the landowner must not be blocked.

Grass needs to recover after being compressed by a tent. Avoid spots where a tent stood the previous night. Camp as far away from other campers as possible.

Toilets

Use public toilets (f.ex. in the guest harbours) when possible. Use the dry closets you find on many islands (ask us!). If there is no such facility at hand, dig catholes or cover your fecals with rocks.

Consider the **Foot Rule**: Another person should be able to put his/her foot where you just dug a hole, without even noticing. To avoid bad odours at frequently used sites, urinate directly into the sea or below the high water line.

Garbage

Bring back what you brought out! Sort your garbage and leave it at the Recycling Stations, for example at Stockens Camping.

Wild life reserves

Respect the rules in protected areas. N.B. there are bird and seal reserves, which you are not allowed to visit at all during specified seasons (some the entire year), and that this ban include the nearest surrounding waters.

Birds and seals

Watch their behaviour. If they seem aggressive, you are too close.

Stay clear of birds with young chicks, make a distinct detour so they can see you intentions. Some birds, for example swans, get very nervous if you do not leave them a free escape upwind.

If you scare a nesting bird, leave the site immediately, so the bird can return to nest the eggs.

Seals need their hours in the sun, stay well clear and do not paddle straight towards them, avoid sudden moves and loud noise. The harbour seals (the kind we have here) get their pups during the summer, then be even more careful.

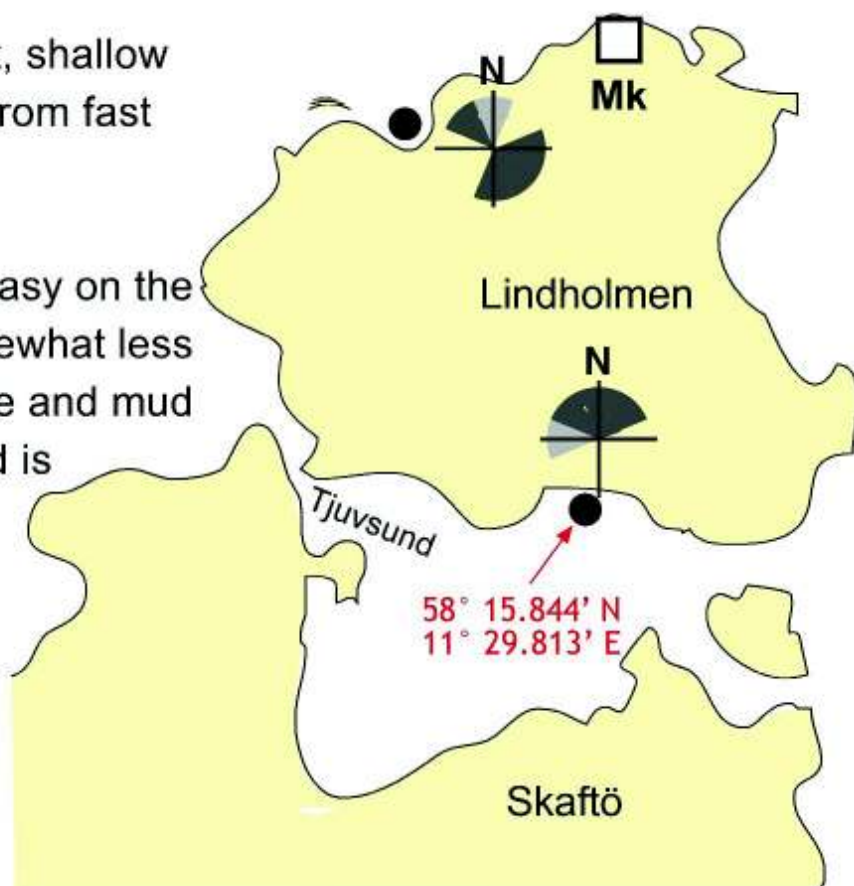
Show the animals this consideration even outside their reserves.

Lindholmen Gullmarn

Tjuvsund is a good shortcut, shallow waters also keep you safe from fast power boats.

Landing on Lindholmen is easy on the northern sandy beach, somewhat less easy on the southern pebble and mud beach. The camping ground is level and dry on both locations.

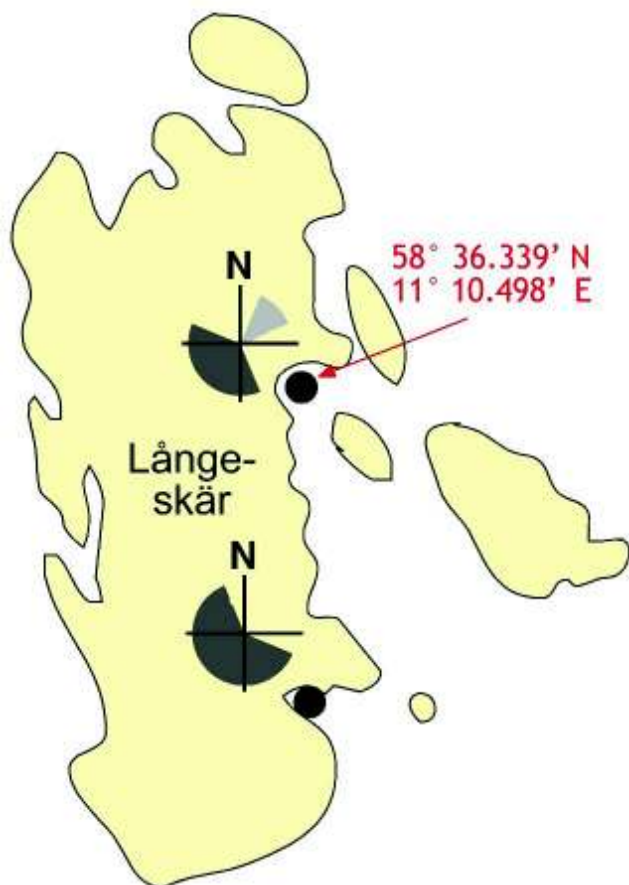
There is a house on Lindholmen, make sure you stay out of sight.



Långeskär Fjällbacka

Beautiful island on the western edge of the Fjällbacka archipelago. Nice beaches and interesting vegetation. Lots of coves and channels to explore by kayak.

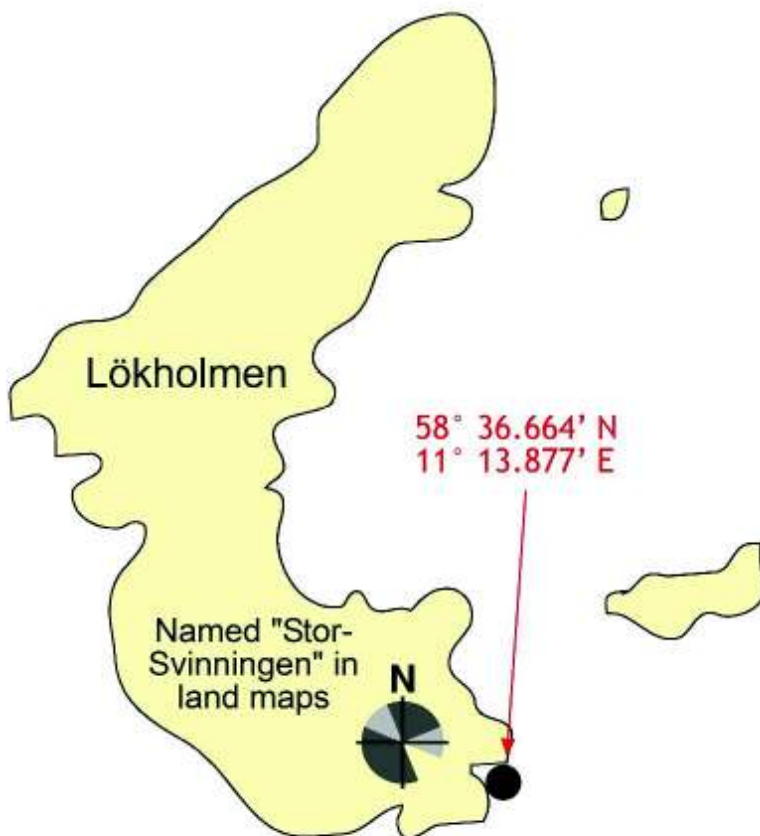
Landing on sand beach, camping on soft and level grounds. Wind shelter not all that good, if the wind is very strong use the nearby Norra Dyngön instead.



Lökholmen Fjällbacka

Beautiful and inviting island in the northern, open part of the Fjällbacka archipelago.

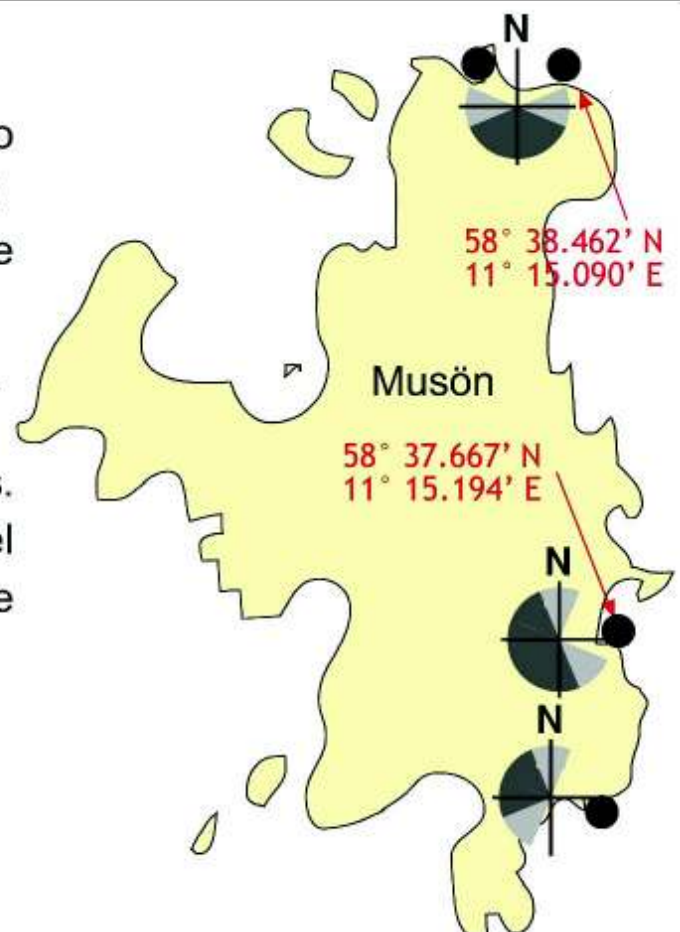
Landing on sand and gravel beach. One small camping spot some 25 metres from the beach, with soft and level ground. Walk another 100 metres, and there is room for several tents on equally good grounds.



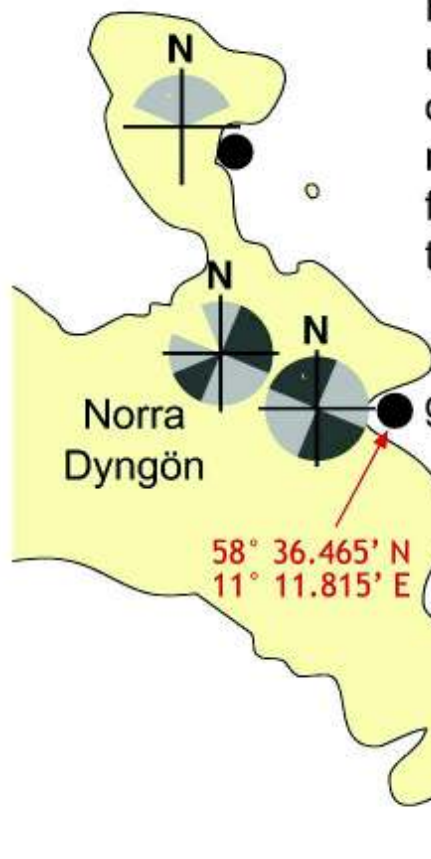
Musön

The Musön is a large island, most beautiful on the east side. That is also where the inner fairway runs, in good shelter of the wooded island. There are some houses, but still not difficult to find spots where you are out of sight.

Landing on sand and/or gravel beaches. Comfortable camping on soft and level grounds, choose spot according to the wind direction.



Norra Dyngön



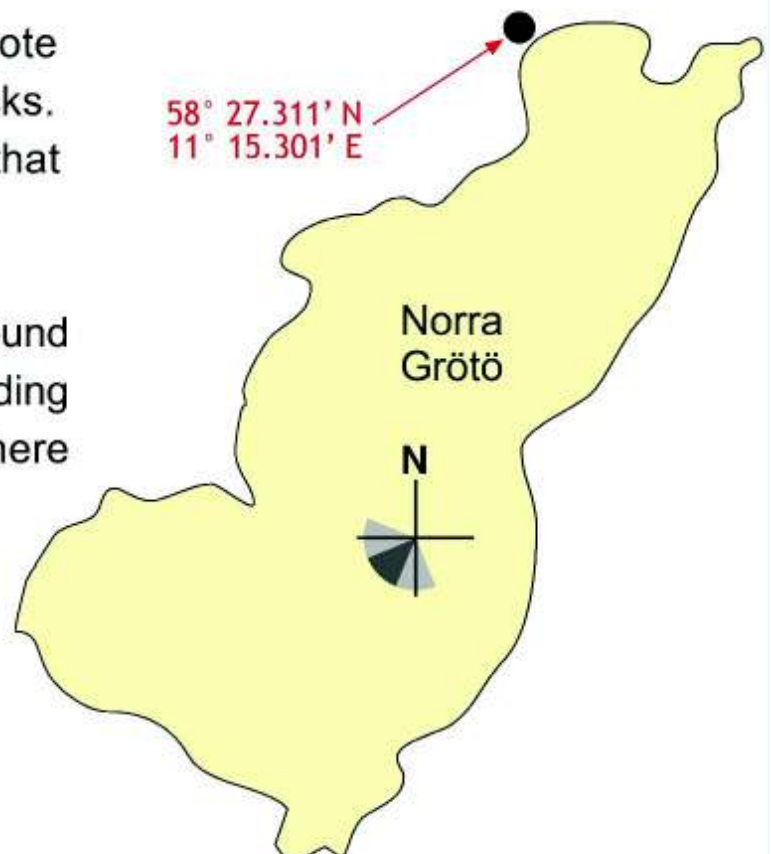
From the west the Norra Dyngön looks brutal and uninviting... However, that is wrong, the east side offers good landings and shelter. But don't miss the mighty west side, which besides impressive rock formations offer bath spots and sunbathing shelves of the very best kind.

Landing is easy on either shown spot, sand and gravel. Camping on reasonably soft and level ground. The north camping spot is the smoothest, but gives the least shelter. Of the two south spots, the one nearest the water is the smoothest. But the inner one, in among the rocks, gives complementary wind shelter. Shelter can actually be found for all wind directions.

Norra Grötö

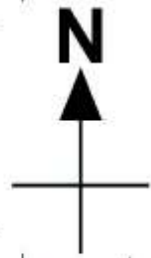
Irresistible location north of the Sote peninsula, with lovely smooth rocks. Not much wind shelter here, but that is not always necessary.

Landing on flat rocks. Camping ground soft but with a gradient. A freestanding tent gives more alternatives, as there are several good flat rocks here.



Your own site

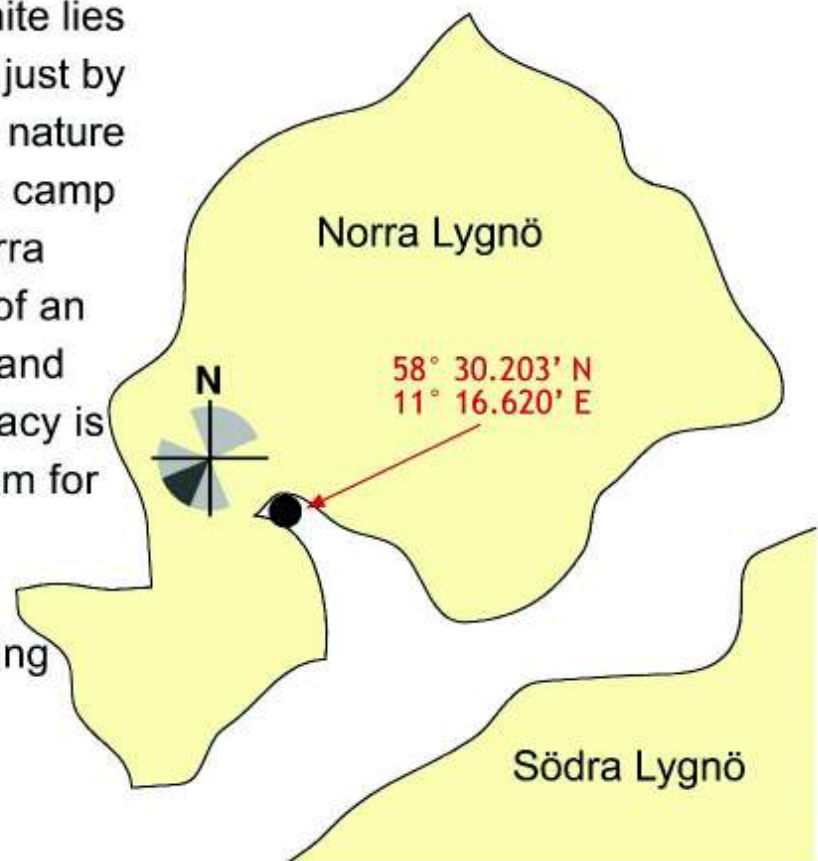
Please let us know if you find a good place. Every published new spot is awarded.



Norra Lygnö

A couple of lumps of red granite lies as if thrown there at random, just by the fairway, near the beautiful nature reserve Valö. Admittedly, the camp site on one of the lumps, Norra Lygnö, is primitive and a bit of an emergency site, but it is fun and offers great views. And privacy is guaranteed - there is not room for more than one tent.

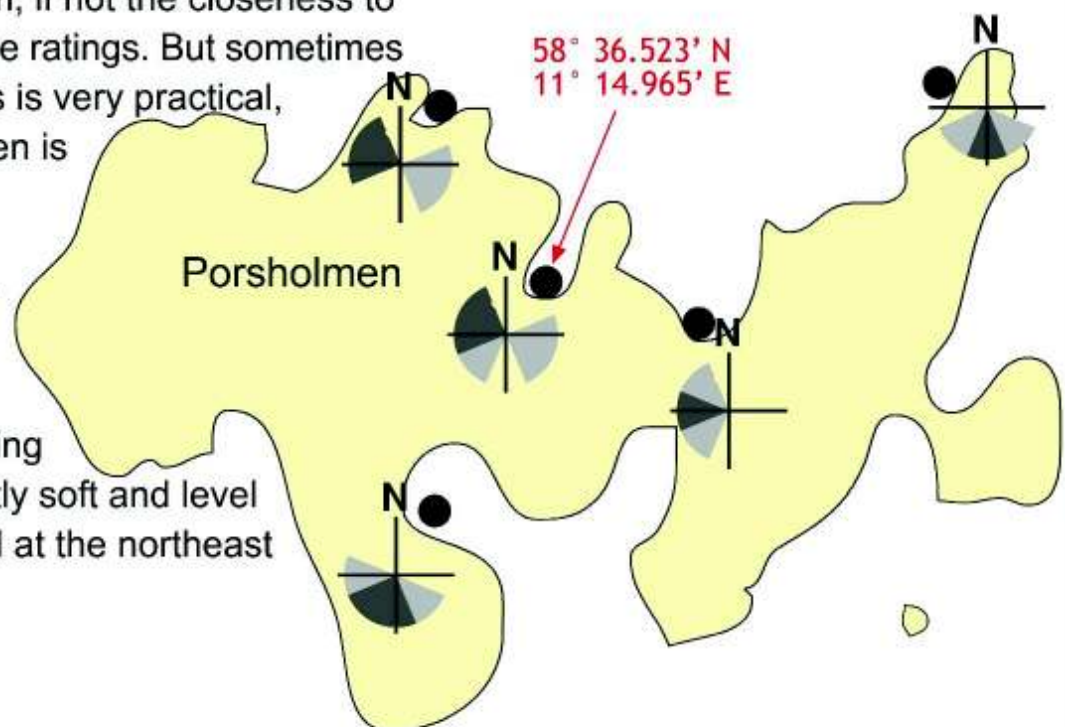
Landing on flat rocks. Camping on reasonably soft and level grass.



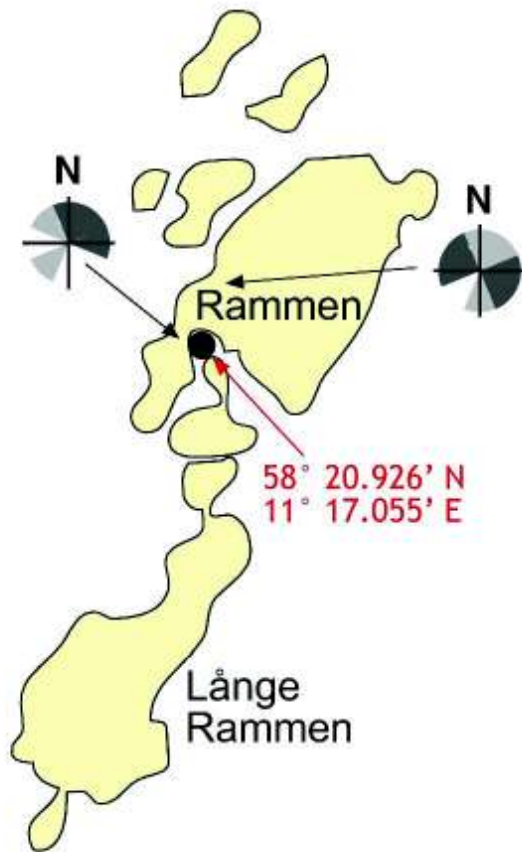
Porsholmen Fjällbacka

Just near Fjällbacka lies this nice island, which would be a true gem, if not the closeness to the town reduced the ratings. But sometimes the same closeness is very practical, and then Porsholmen is perfect.

Landing on sand or gravel, at some spots a bit muddy at low water. Camping on varying but mostly soft and level grounds, least good at the northeast spot.



Rammen



A well hidden spot, on a well placed island with a splendid view. The nearby Långe Rammen is nice too, but without good camping spots.

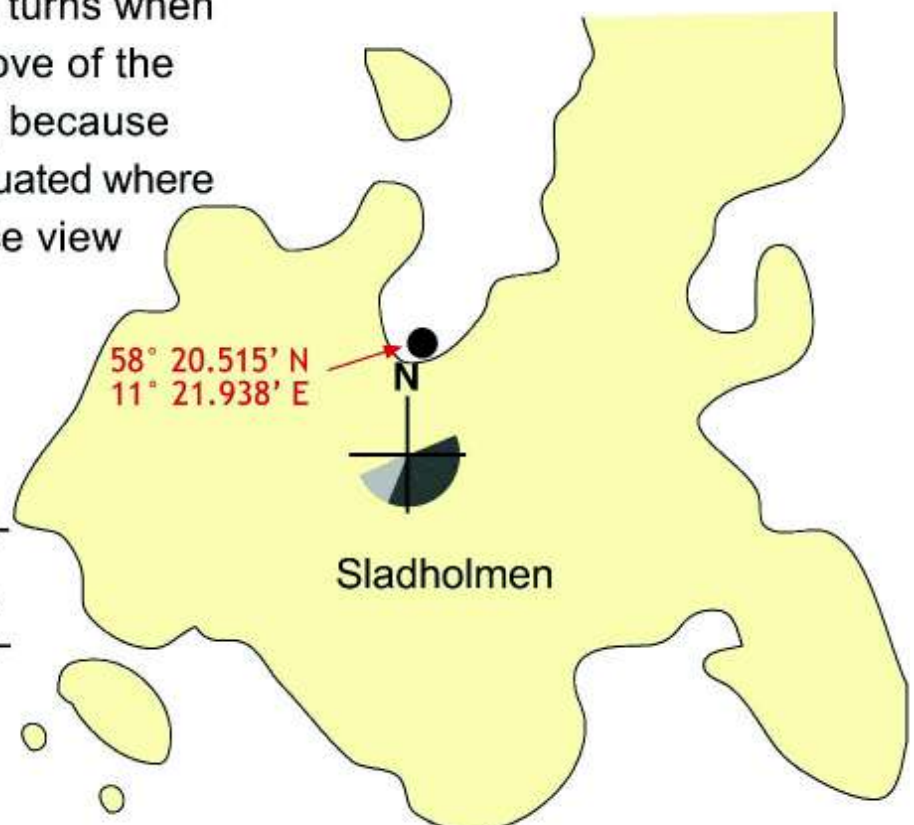
Landing on a good gravel beach. Camping on soft and level grass. The best spot is the northern one, but the south spot is closer to the landing and quite fun, situated very, very close to the water.

Fire rings are here, do not make camp fires anywhere else.

Sladholmen

The path really twists and turns when you go to the sheltered cove of the Sladholmen. It is worth it, because here is a friendly island, situated where you need it and with a nice view over the Brofjorden.

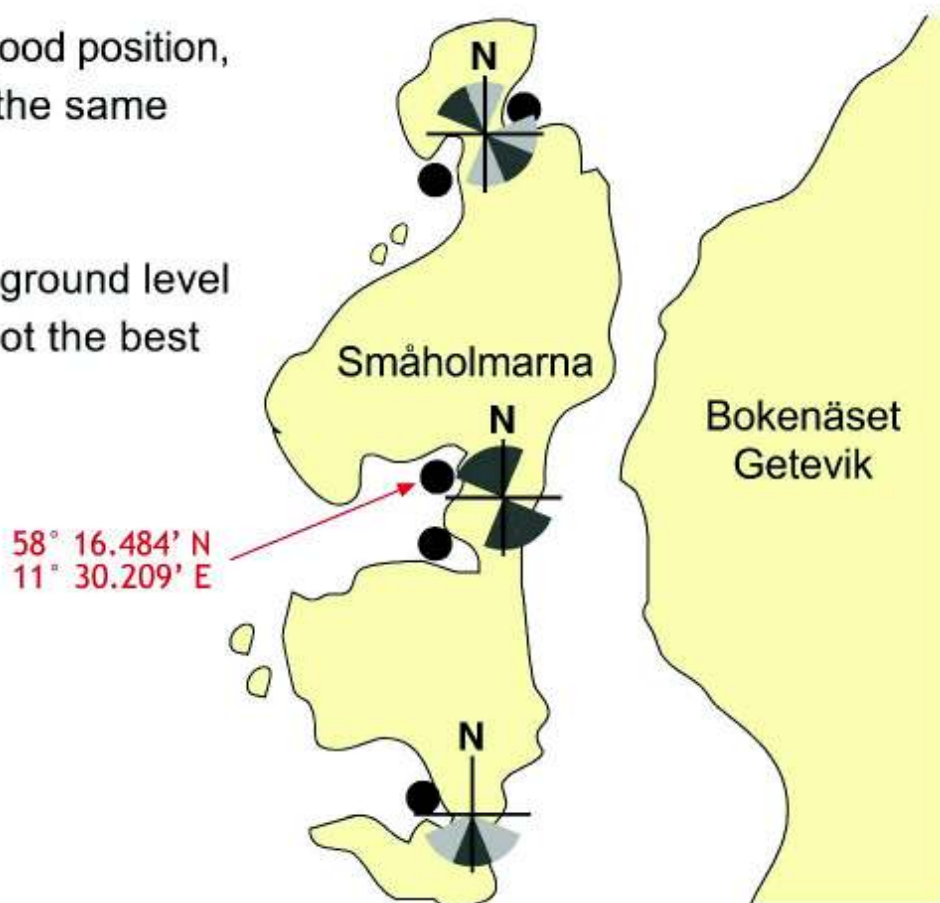
The landing can be somewhat muddy at low water, otherwise it is good. Camping on soft and reasonably level ground.



Småholmarna Gullmarn

Tempting island with a good position, sunrise and sunset on the same spots.

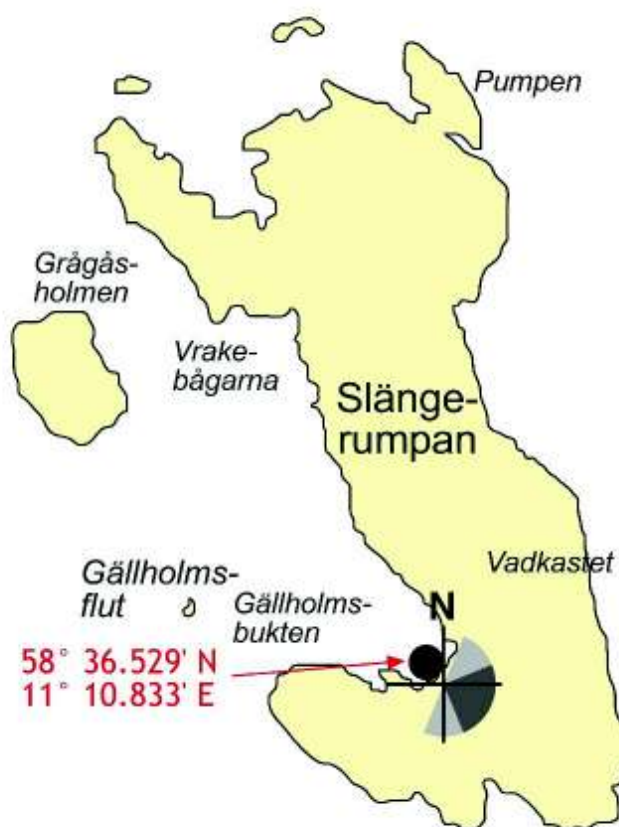
Easy landing, camping ground level and soft. Windshelter not the best but usually sufficient.



Slängerrumpan

Now it's getting really exciting... Slängerrumpan looks dramatic och barren, and that is exactly what it is. But there are days with calm weather, and then you will find beautiful rocks here, and lots of fun kayak-passages.

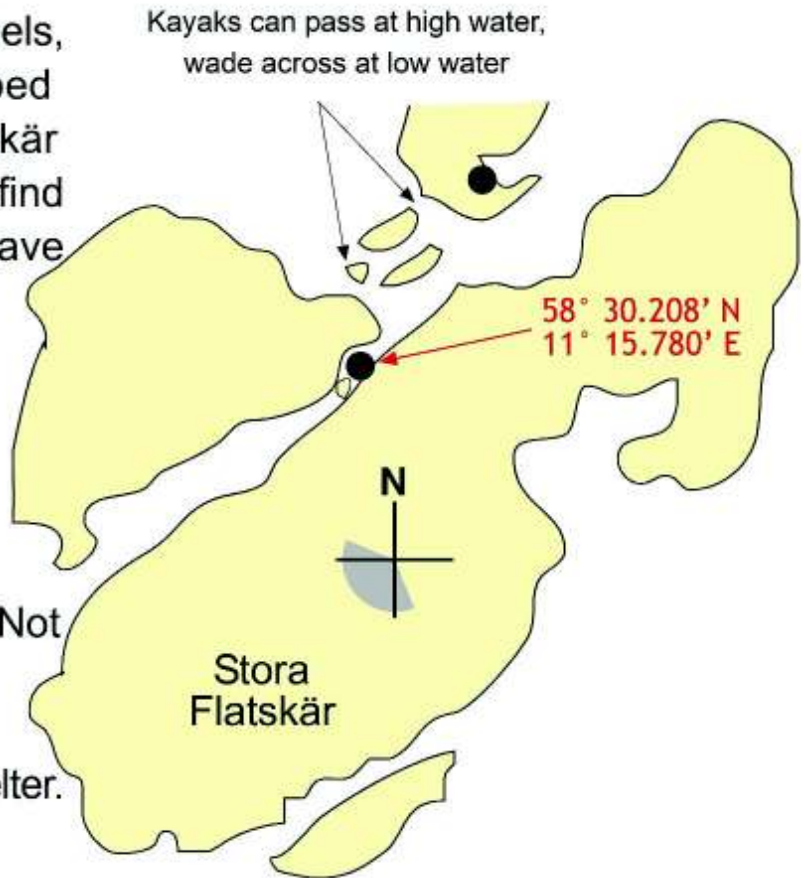
Landing on gravel or rubble, carry up the kayak a bit - large swells can occur suddenly. Camping on dry and reasonably smooth grass, but with very little shelter



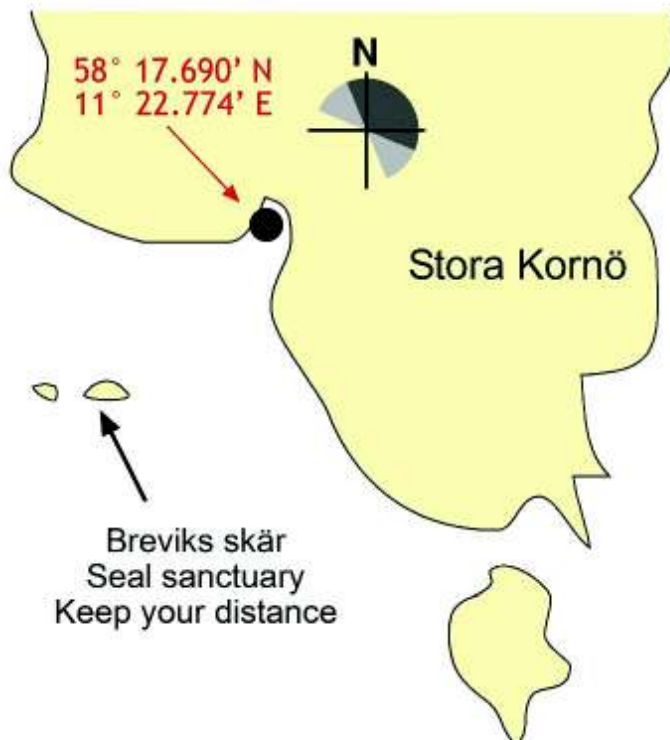
Stora Flatskär by Ulön

Magnificent rocks, exciting channels, camping on an fossile mussel bed with lots of flowers... Yes, Flatskär is a true gem. It is not difficult to find the flat rock fields which must have the island its name.

Landing on gravel (the north spot) or a rock shelf (the south spot). If you use the north landing spot, you must wade across to the camping ground. Not entirely uncomplicated, but possible. The camping ground is lovely, but offers only very little shelter.



Stora Kornö Brevik



What an island! It has it all, sheltered and green areas as well as barren rocks and rubble fields. Early summer nights, you can hear the nightingales. Unusual rock formations just north of the landing spot, see if you can find the "Great Rock Snake".

Easy landing on gravel beach, camping on level and dry ground. A bit of a walk between the landing and most sheltered camping.

Seal sanctuary on the neighbouring islets. Take a look, but don't come close.

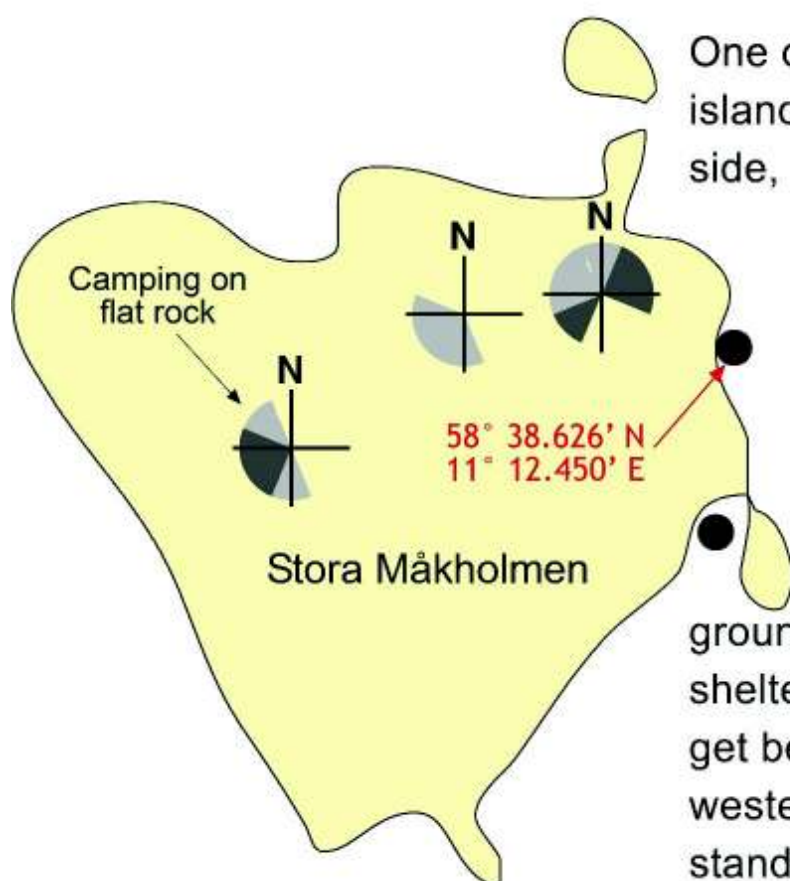
Camping according to the Right of Public Access

You can camp for one night, even on private land, providing it is not cultivated land or a house garden. Note that groups larger than a normal family should have the landowner's permission.

The campers must keep out of sight from the landowner's house. Roads/paths used by the landowner must not be blocked.

Grass needs to recover after being compressed by a tent. Avoid spots where a tent stood the previous night. Camp as far away from other campers as possible.

Stora Måholmen



One of the coast's most beautiful islands, high and mighty on the west side, low and green on the east side.

Inviting meadows, several ancient paved labyrinths, rubble fields... It is easy to forgive this island its limited wind shelter

Easy landing on gravel beach. Camping on soft and level ground, however with limited wind shelter. In a strong SW-W wind, you get better shelter on a flat rock at the westerly spot, but it requires a free standing tent.

Make camp fires with great caution

Fires are allowed in principle, but you must be very careful. You are always **fully responsible** for the consequences of your fire.

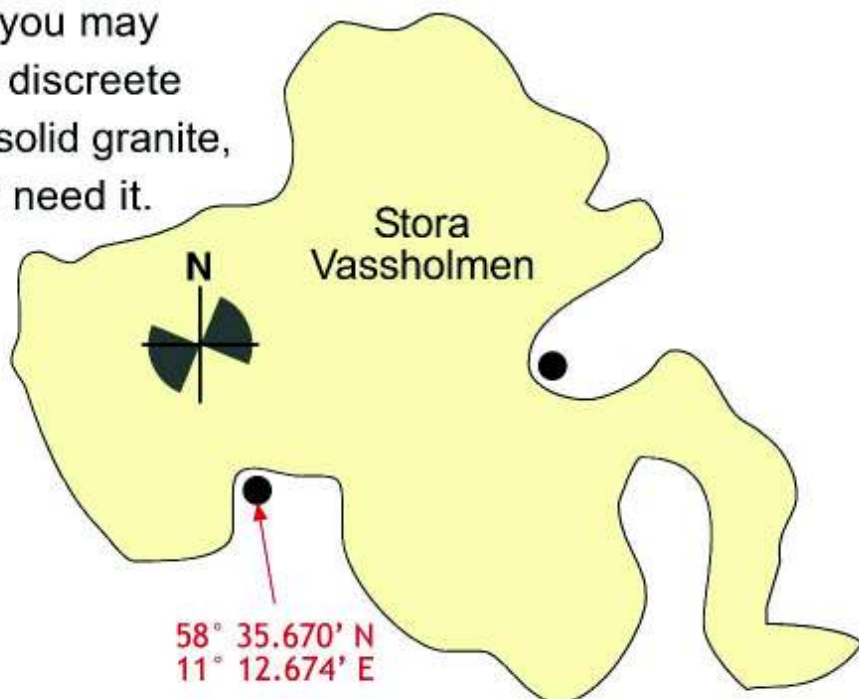
You can use driftwood, dead fallen trees and dead branches on the ground as fire wood. **You must not harm standing trees** in any way. During summer draughts there is often a general **fire ban**.

If there is no fire ban and the conditions are right, use existing fire rings or make your fire on the beach, below the high water line. Never make fires on solid rock or on grass.

Stora Vassholmen

Stora Vassholmen does not look much to the world, but when it is crowded in the nearby Gluppö lagoon, you may appreciate this little islands discrete charm. No luxury, but good solid granite, located just where you may need it.

Landing easy in the west, somewhat rocky but not impossible in the east. Camping on reasonably soft and level ground - not perfect, but not miserable either.

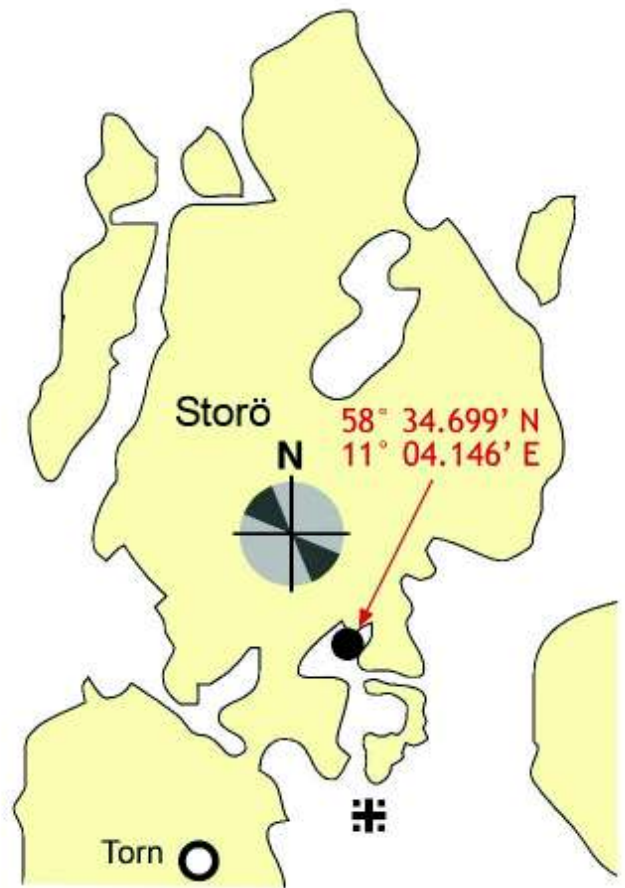


Storö

The main island of the Väderöarna, together with Hamnerö the closest you can get to be out at sea while still being on land.

Warning: To get here, you must cross a couple of miles of open water with strong currents. Steady calm weather is recommended.

Landing is reasonably easy in the small coves inside the boat harbour. Camp on soft and level ground on the large meadow, or use the hostel (although often fully booked).



Söö

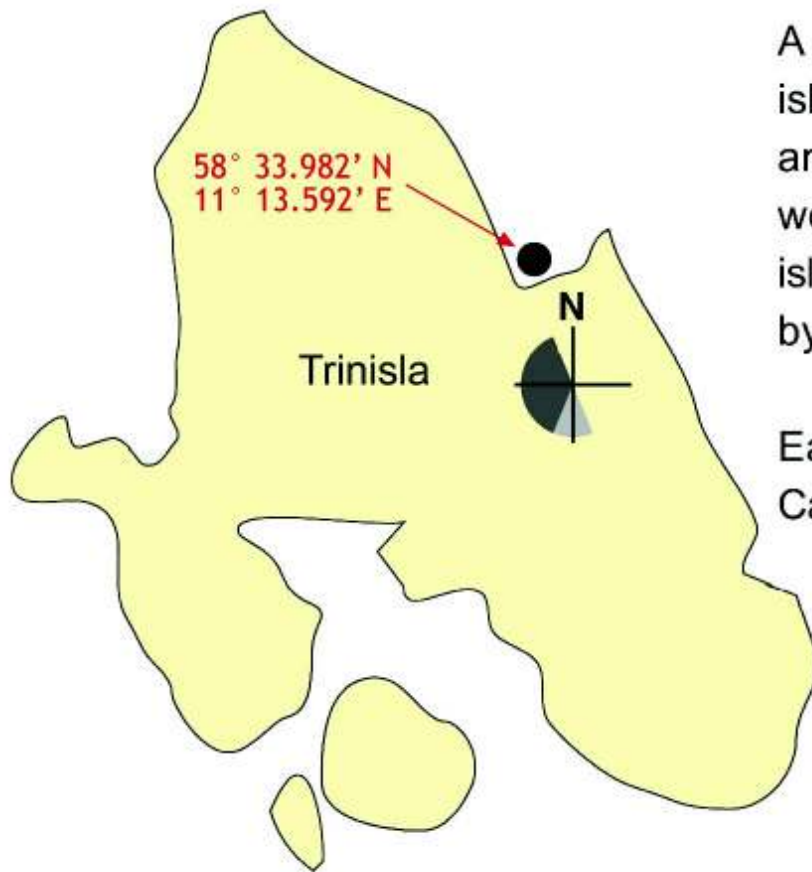


A beautiful and friendly island. It lies just where a kayaker wants it, at the northern entrance of the Sote canal. And the view is very nice, especially towards sunset.

Easy landing on sand or gravel beach. Camping on soft and level ground with lots of space.

Because of the extension of a nature reserve, camping here is no longer allowed. We keep the description, as the island can be used as an emergency landing when needed.

Trinisola



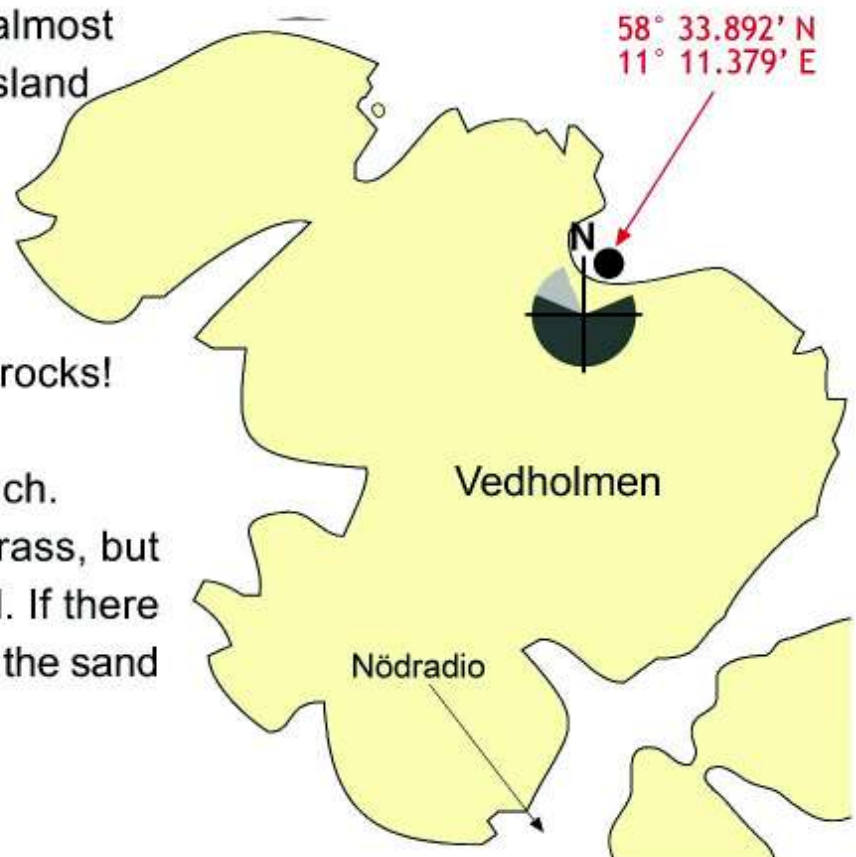
A good camping site is this island's main asset. The channels and coves on the west side are worth a visit, but for the rest, the island's terrain is rough and ruined by quarrying.

Easy landing on gravel beach.
Camping on soft and level ground.

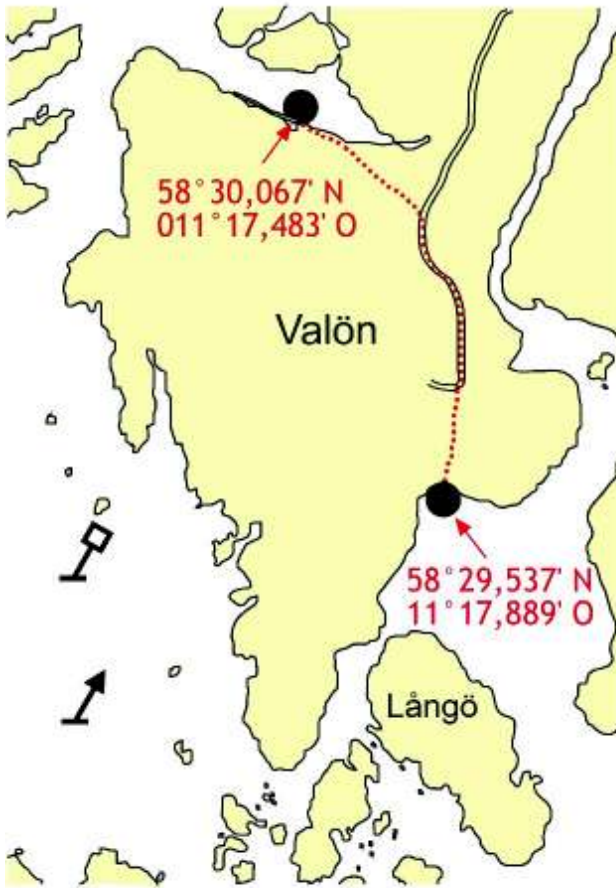
Vedholmen

The beach is a dream, with almost white sand. The rest of the island is nice, too. Don't miss the neighbouring island Hamnholmen, used as a small ship harbour for centuries - see the inscriptions on the rocks!

Easy landing on the fine beach.
Camping on soft and even grass, but the grass spot is rather small. If there are many tents, you must use the sand as well.



Portage by the Valön



When the wind is westerly and strong, the passage outside the Valön can be choppy and difficult. You can carry/roll your kayak across this peninsula, thus avoiding the open stretch of water. Distance on land is 1120 metres on good path/road, easy for a kayak trolley.

NB: You will pass through enclosed pastures. Show the grazing cattle respect and, whatever else you do, don't forget to close the cattle gates behind you.

Make camp fires with great caution

Fires are allowed in principle, but you must be very careful. You are always **fully responsible** for the consequences of your fire.

You can use driftwood, dead fallen trees and dead branches on the ground as fire wood. **You must not harm standing trees** in any way. During summer draughts there is often a general **fire ban**.

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