Sea kayaking and camping in Bohuslän

Part C from Grebbestad to the Norwegian border

Route descriptions from Grebbestad to the Norwegian border (page 4)

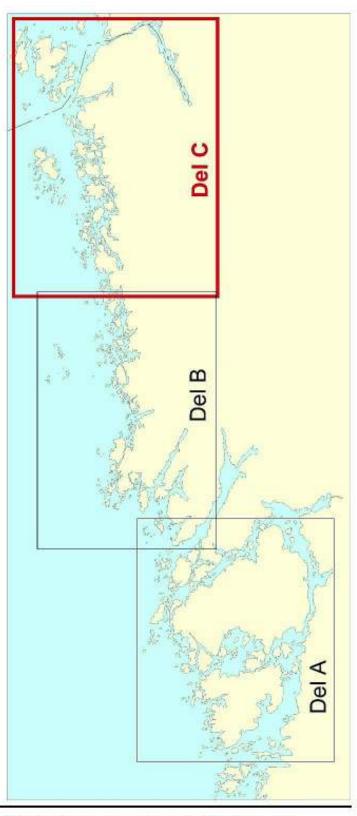
Sites suited for free camping overview maps, detail maps, lat/long coordinates, short evaluation of each camp site

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

Weather forecasts time and frequences (page 5)

Drinking water where to find it (page 2)

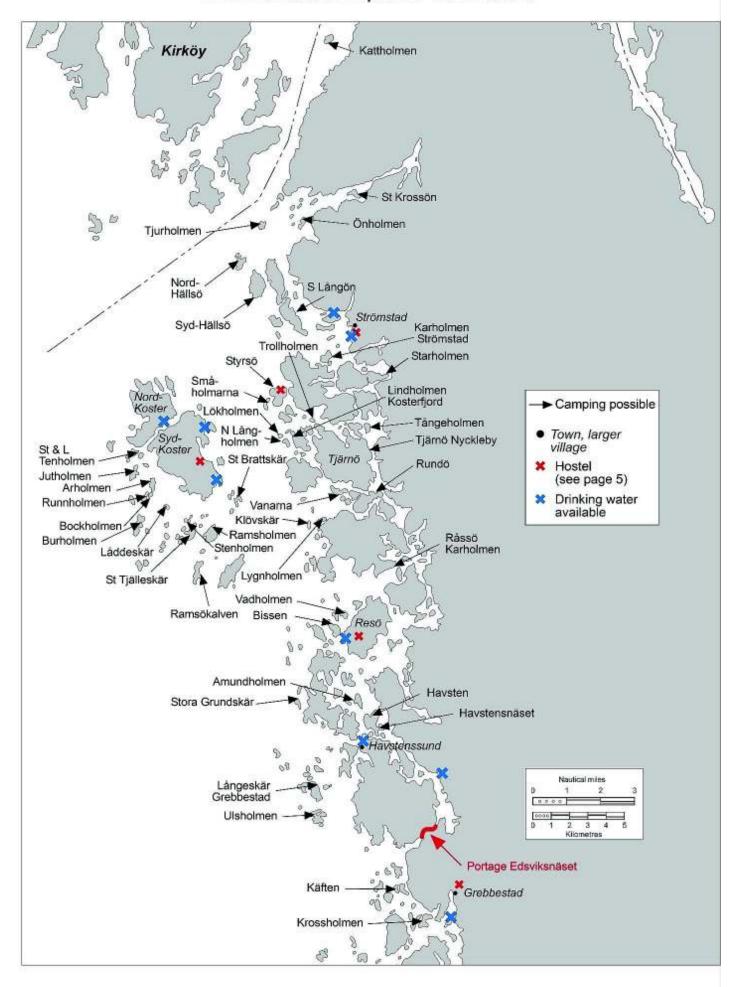
Right of Public Access a summary, with detailed directions for kayakers (page 15)



Published 2015 av Jens Marklund, Båtsmansvägen 7, 444 31 Stenungsund, kajaken@yahoo.com Distribution is free, if the material is not distorted and the source is declared

The area Grebbestad - the Norwegian border

See the following list and detail maps. NB: The detail maps are not to scale



Sites for free camping in the area Grebbestad - the Norwegian border (in alphabetical order)

Name of the site	Page	Name of the site	Page
Amundholmen	6	Rundö	20
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Norra Långholmen Kosterfjord	17	Vadholmen	30
Ramsholmen	18	Vanarna	31
Ramsökalven	18	Önholmen	
		Portage Edsviksnäset	32

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

The camping sites selected are all outside the wildlife protection areas as well as nature reserves with camping bans. Further, they are mostly in uninhabitated 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.

Grebbestad - the Norwegian border: Borderline country

Grebbestad to Havstenssund

Around Grebbestad, the Fjällbacka archipelago becomes more narrow, with fewer islands. There is good shelter in the inner fairway and passages, until you are about to pass the so called Tjurpannan ("Bull's forehead"), the waters near the lighthouse Väcker. Here you have a 2 mile stretch of irregular wave patterns and reflecting waves, quite uncomfortable even at moderate winds. If it is too bad for you, there is the possibility to make a portage across the 1 km wide spit of land Edsviksnäset. There is a good firm road to use, but admittedly the launching in the Sannäsfjord is somewhat muddy.

There has been plans for a canal through the **Edsviksnäset**, but they died with the decline of the coastal shipping. In later years the plans have been mentioned again, this time to service the pleasure craft. But for now you will have to carry your kayak.

Havstenssund to Strömstad

Havstenssund is the small village just north of Tjurpannan, you can get there even if you made the portage into Sannäsfjorden. Here is a most singular area, with the islands Lindö och Kalvö. These are large, green island, with lush groves and a good road without cars. The inner routes provide good shelter, especially the innermost. From here you can, east of Resö, Råssö and Tjärnö, go all the way to Strömstad in absolute shelter. These passages are narrow and meandering, partly as if going on a river. Shallow draught is necessary, which means you will not be troubled by fast powerboats. At low water, the area Älgöleran ("the Älgö mud") east of Råssö is too shallow even for kayaks.

If you choose the outer fariway, you are soon on the **Kosterfjord**, an area which, just

as **Soten** and **Väderöfjorden**, must be shown respect. But once out in the **Koster archipelago** you can find at least wave shelter for all winds. The **Koster archipelago** is particular, concerning navigation, geology and biology. It is filled with shallow rocks and very difficult for ordinary craft. But the daring and those with shallow draught will find many exciting coves and islands to visit The large islands **Sydkoster** and **Nordkoster** house communities, where traditional life centered around fishing is mixed with a growing tourist industry and a large summer house population.

Strömstad to the Norwegian border

Strömstad is for many the end station on their journey through the county of Bohuslän, but the journey need not stop there. North of Strömstad are nice archipelagos and sheltered fjords. The first of the latter is Dynekilen, a fjord of moderate depth and with beautiful nature on it's shores and on the numerous islands in the fjord's mouth. Then comes Säcken, Singlefjorden and Idefjorden, our border waters with Norway. Säcken is not well sheltered and can be rather choppy, especially on outgoing tides. The water in these fjords have recovered well from the pollution they earlier were exposed to, now it is clear and nice. At the bottom of Idefjorden is Krokstrand, an old custom station, nowdays mostly a summer village. A piece of Sweden away from the main routes, but well worth seeing.

Or why not carry in to the Haldenvassdraget and Dalslands canal, over the lake Vänern and back to Bohuslän? We have done it, and can assure you it can be an exciting tour!

Hostels ("vandrarhem")

and similair lodging houses in alphabetical order

Name	Phone				
Grebbestads v-hem	+46525-614 14				
Resö gamla skola	+46525-259 00				
Strömstad Roddaren	+46526-602 01				
Strömstads vandrarhem	+46526-101 93				
Styrsö vandrarhem	+46526-108 70				
Sydkosters vandrarhem	+46526-201 25				
Valbäcks vandrarhem	+46526-312 09				

Drinking water

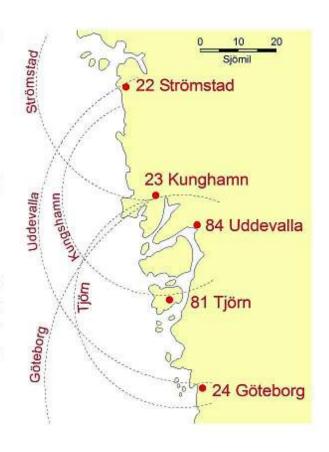
The places indicated in the map on page 2 are yacht guest harbours. Their water taps are primary for paying guests, but limited quantities can normally be had for free.

Weather forecasts

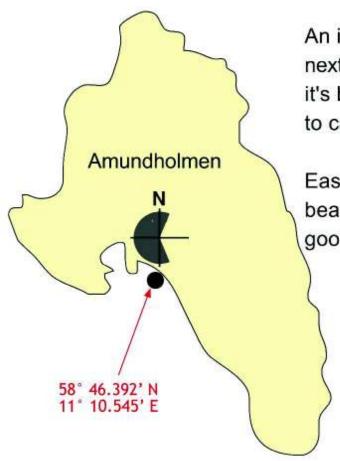
On the Marine VHF radio you can get a sea weather forecast twice a day, at 0733 and 1933 UTC (Local time is in summer UTC +2, in winter UTC +1).

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.



Amundholmen



An island with a very varied terrain. Lies next to a large nature reserve, but is outside it's boundaries, meaning you are allowed to camp here.

Easy landin on good sand and gravel beach. Dry and level camping ground in good shelter.

Arholmen

Arholmen is much used by other pleasure craft, but that means advantages too, for example the dry toilet with garbage cans. Ususally you can find privacy here anyway..

Landing on sand and gravel beach, camping on reasonably level and dry ground.

58° 52.159' N 11° 00. 010' E

Camping according to the Right of Public Access

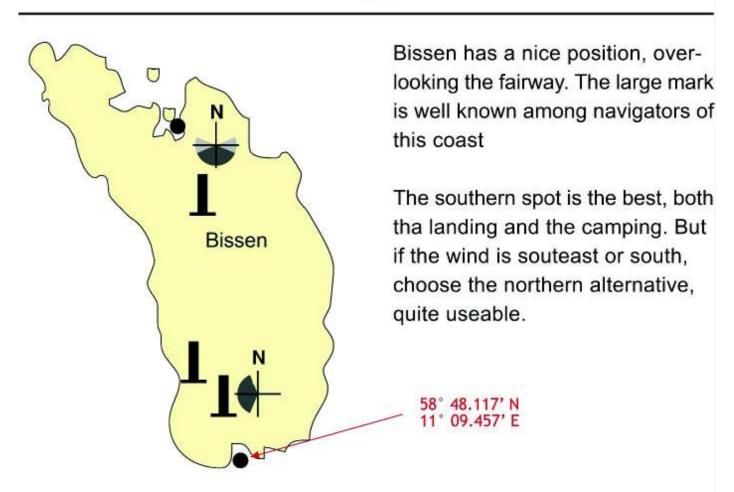
You can camp for one night, even on private land, providing it is not cultivated land or a house garden.

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.

Bissen

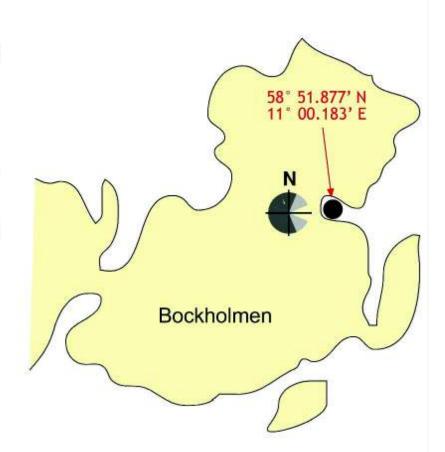


Bockholmen Koster

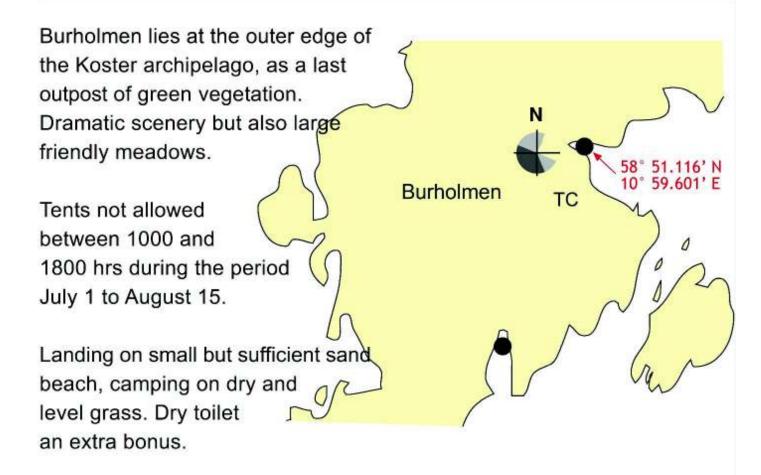
Tents not allowed between 1000 and 1800 hrs during the period July 1 to August 15.

The camping site benefits from the height of the island.

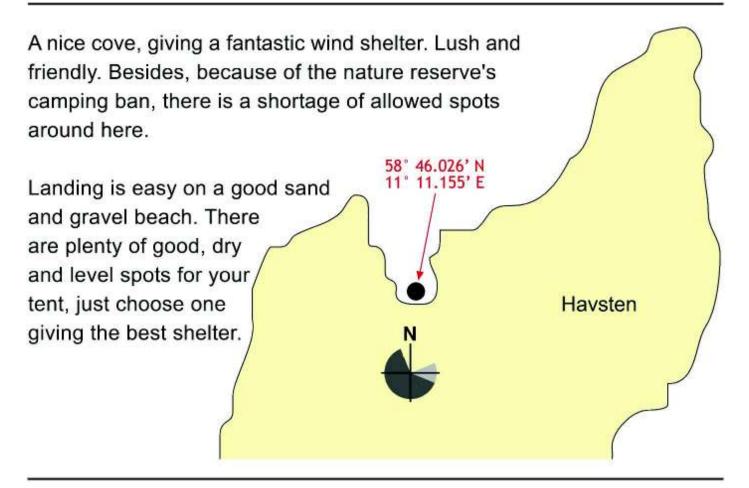
Good sand beach for landing. Dry, level and inviting camping ground. Shelter for all winds except easterly.



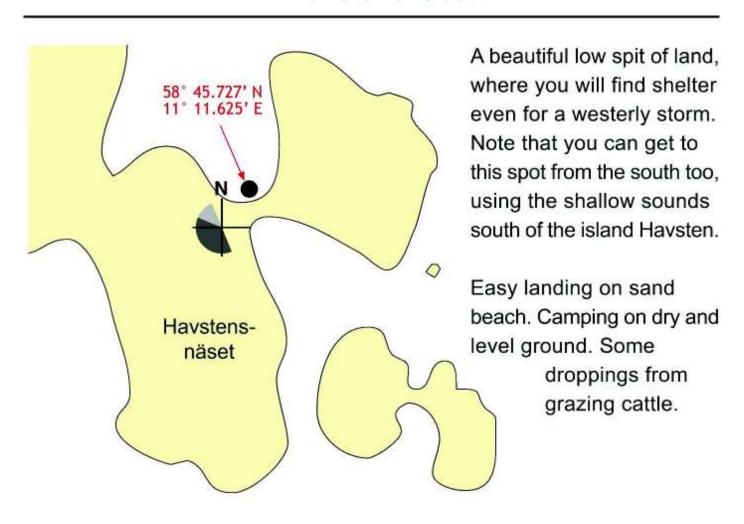
Burholmen



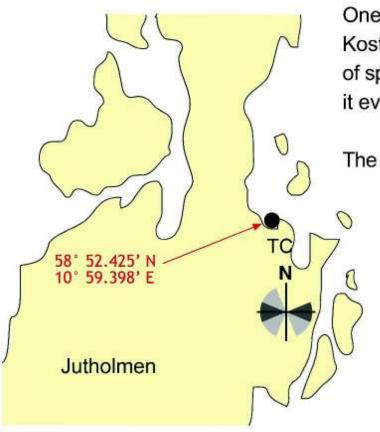
Havsten



Havstensnäset



Jutholmen



One of the most popular islands in the Koster archipelago, but there is planty of space, so kayakers can normally use it even during holiday season.

The most westerly camp site in our book!

Landing is OK or easy, depending on the water level. Camping ground is reasonably good, level but with some rocks. Smoother spot (but with a gradient) just west of the dry closet, near the landing spot.

Karholmen Strömstad

The steep terrain around the town
Strömstad means you can find
secluded camping sites in spite of the
nearness to the town. Here is such a
good and quiet spot.

Landing on sand and gravel beach, camping on soft, dry and level ground, although not space for more than one 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 consequencens 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.

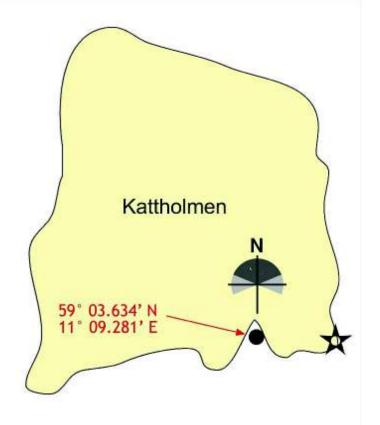
If there is no fire ban and the conditions are right, use existing fire rings or make your fire on the beach, below the high water line. Never make fires on solid rock or on grass.

Kattholmen

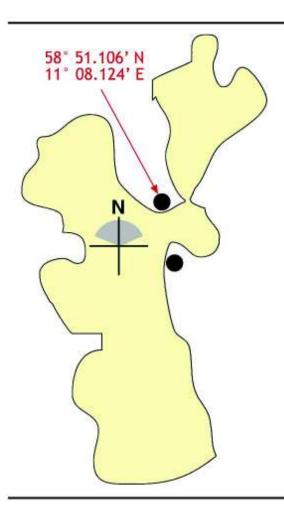
As close to Norway as you can get while still being in Sweden. Nicely situated island.

Landing on beach with some rubble. The camping ground is somewhat uneven and does have a gradient, but all in all it is OK.

Warning: Risk of heavy swells from passing freighters and tugboats.



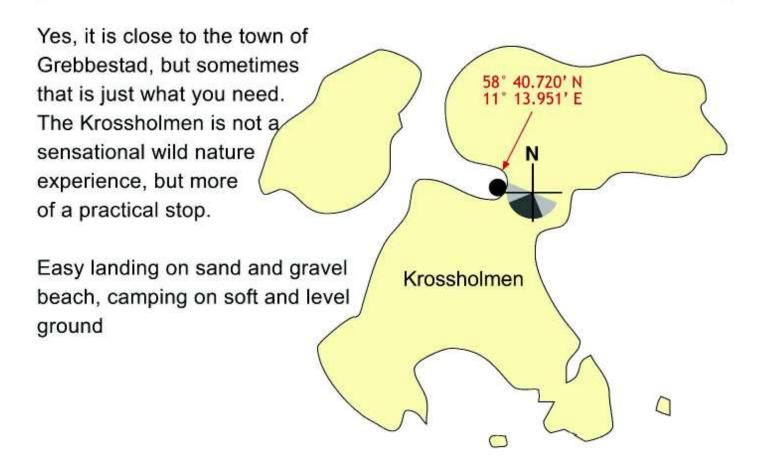
Klövskär



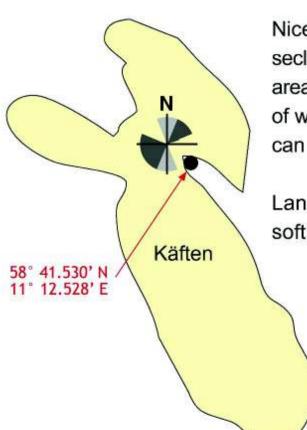
Very beautiful little island, right on the edge of the open Koster fjord. The softly curved cove in the north is very inviting, so is the flower-strewn grass spot. The shelter is lousy, but all nights are not storm nights.

Easy landing on sand beach. Camping on soft, dry and level grass, but with little shelter, if any.

Krossholmen



Käften



Nicely situated island, giving a chance to secluded camping in the middle of a very popular area. The island is much visited and shows signs of wear, but it is still very good. And the view can niot be worn out...

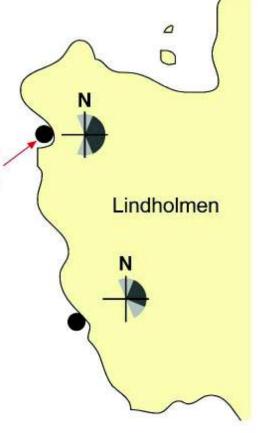
Landing on good sand beach. Camping on soft, dry and level ground.

Lindholmen Kosterfjord

The Koster area is characterized by strong contrasts, Lindholmen is a good example. Right by the barren and open, you find these coves, with friendly smooth beaches and green meadows.

58° 53.366' N 11° 07.219' E

Landing on sand and gravel beaches. Camping on soft, dry and level ground in shelter for easterly winds. You can find shelter for other wind directions as well, by going a bit further east on the island.



Lygnholmen Kosterfjord

Right off Råssö is this friendly and inviting island, with beautiful beaches and steep rocks. The island is very popular among bathers, but towards the evening, not many remain...

Landing on good beaches, camping on dry and smooth grass. The easterly site does have a bit of a gradient.

Lygnholmen

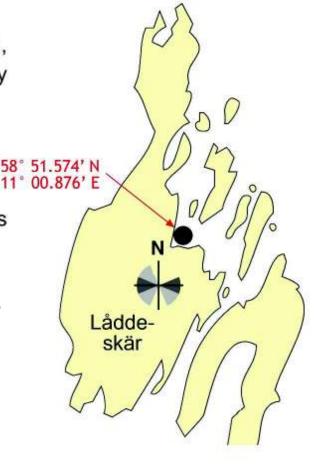
Shallow

Låddeskär

In the centre of the south of the Koster archipelago is Låddeskär, a barren island, at first not easily liked. But that keeps many other boaters away, so we kayakers can have the island to ourselves.

You must paddle through the curved sound just east of the camp site, the rocks are unbelievable!

The rock landing is not without complications, but quite possible. The camping ground is OK if is has not rained much lately - in such case it can be a bit wet.



The Right of Public Acess

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.

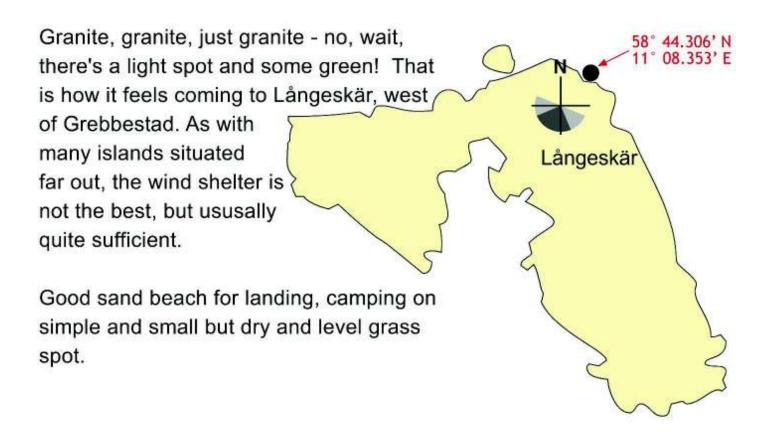
Stay clear of birds with young chicks, make a distinct detour so they can see you intentions. Some birds, for example swans, get very nervous if you do not leave them a free escape upwind.

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

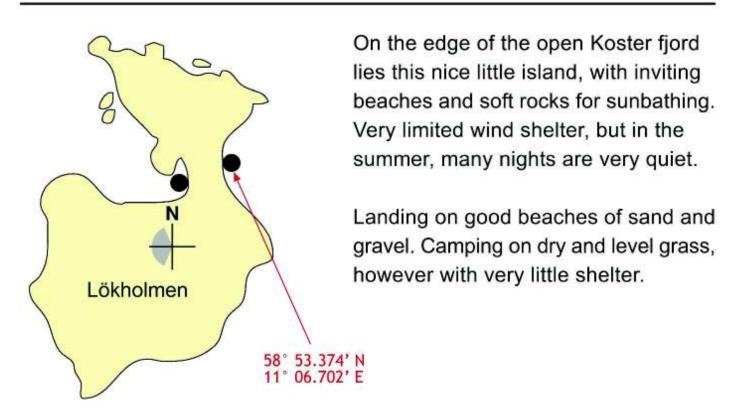
Seals need their hours in the sun, stay well clear and do not paddle straight towards them, avoid sudden moves and loud noice. The harbour seals (the kind we have here) get their pups during the summer, then be even more careful.

Show the animals this consideration even outside their reserves.

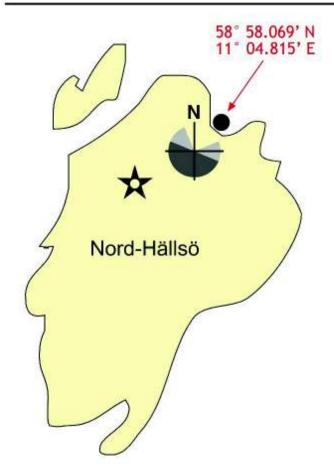
Långeskär Grebbestad



Lökholmen Kosterfjord



Nord-Hällsö

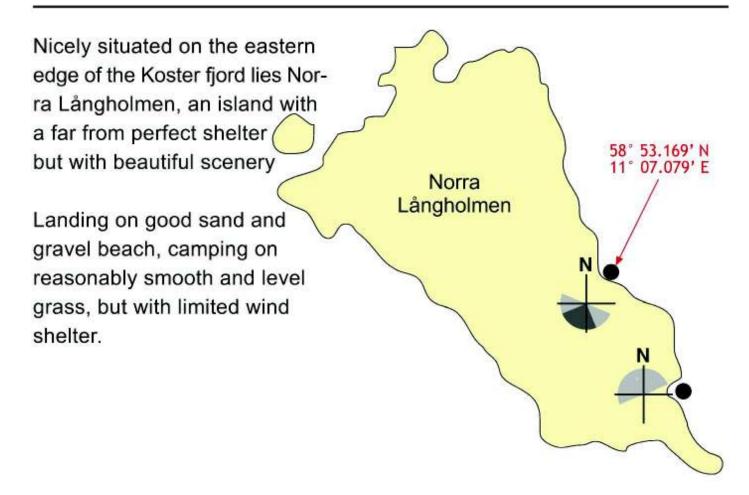


Sweden and the Koster islands on one side, Norge and the Hvaler islands on the other, the whole ocean staright ahead... Nord-Hällsö lies very close to the national border and gives you a fantastic view from it's summit.

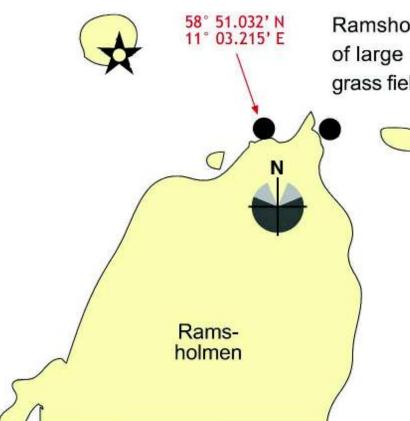
Landing on a lovely beach with white sand. Camping ground just near by, dry, soft and level.

Nord-Hällsö is a gem, simply one of our most beautiful islands!

Norra Långholmen



Ramsholmen

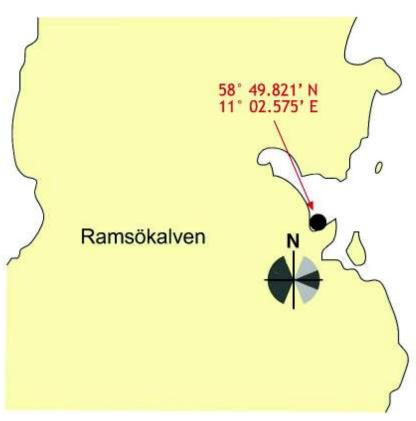


Ramsholmen's northern part consists of large rubble fields, but also large grass fields suited for camping. Choose

location according to the wind and you can get shelter for any wind except straight north.

Landing on sand and gravel beaches, camping on dry and level ground. Space for many tents.

Ramsökalven



This large impressive island in the southeast corner of the Koster archipelago offers good shelter, interesting views and wildlife.

Note that the islets south of Ramsökalven are a seal reserve between May 15 and July 15. You must keep well clear.

Landing on good sand and gravel beach. Camping on soft and level grass sheltered by steep cliffs.

Your own site

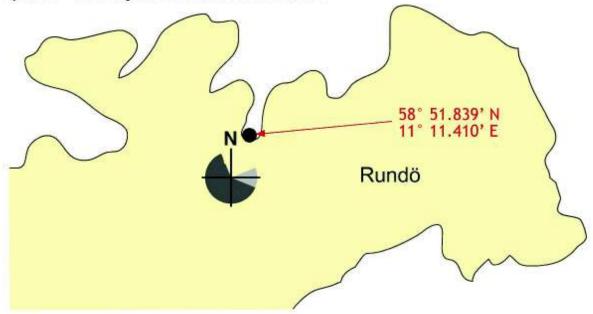
Please let us know if you find a good place. Every published new spot is awarded.

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Rundö

The beautiful and protected inner fairway to Strömstad is dense with summer cottages, not easy to find an avaiable spot - but here is one!

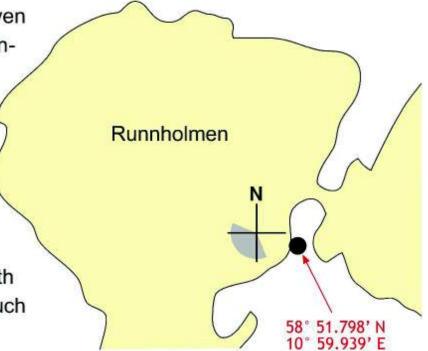
Easy landing on smooth beach. Camping on soft and level ground, although limited space - hardly more than one tent.



Runnholmen

Runnholmen is connected to Bockholmen, which has an even better camping site. But Runnholmen is fine too, with its position very close to the open sea.

Landing on good smooth beach, although a bit too shallow at low water. The camping ground is strewn with pebbles and does not offer much shelter.



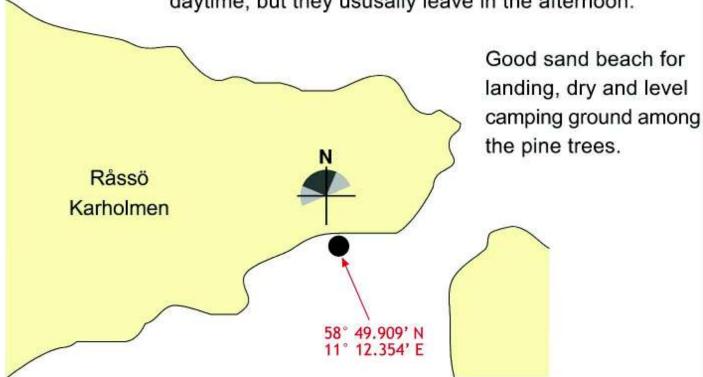
Go to the toilet

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.

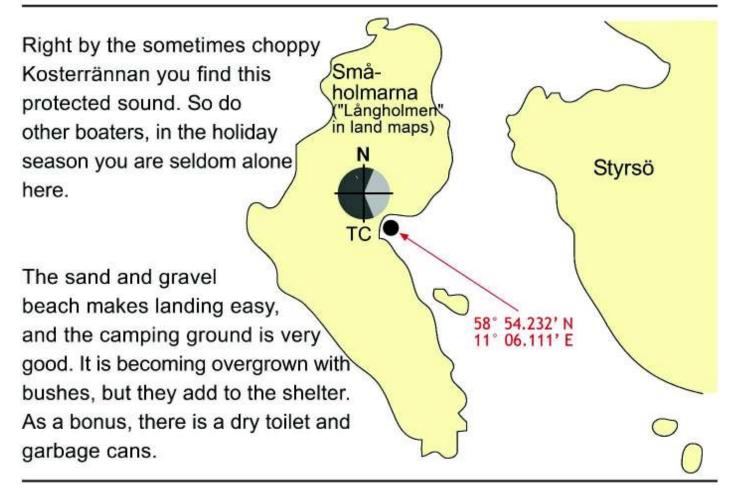
Consider the **Foot Rule**: Another person should be able to put his/her foot where you just dug a hole, without even noticing. To avoid bad odours at frequently used sites, urinate directly into the sea or below the high water line.

Råssö Karholmen

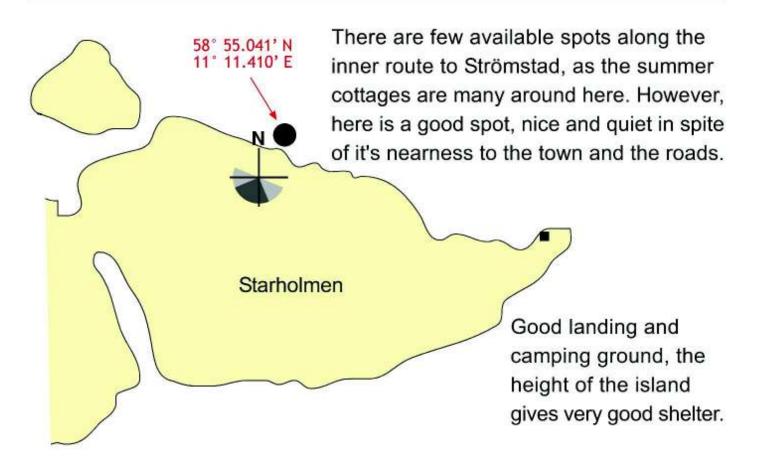
Råssö has many houses, but here and there you can find a free spot. Here is such a possibilty. Many bathers in the daytime, but they ususally leave in the afternoon.



Småholmarna Kosterfjord



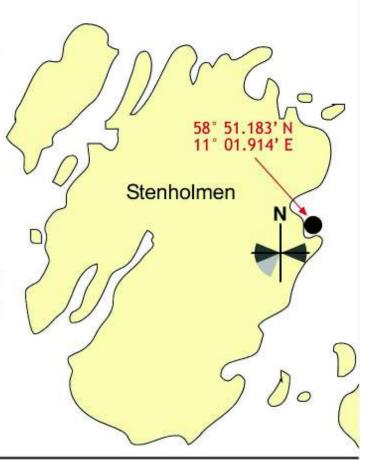
Starholmen



Stenholmen

Around Tjälleskären is a fantastic maze of island, it must be quite unique. Here are several mini camp sites, small spots of grass very near the water, some of them too low at high water. But during summer high pressures and around the half moon you can use spots like this one

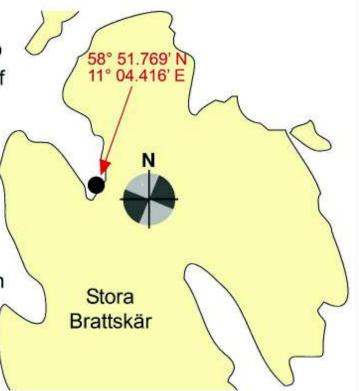
Landing on reasonably firm beach of sand and mud. Camping on very small but soft and usually dry grass.



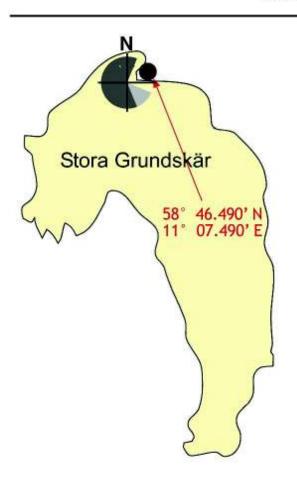
Stora Brattskär

After crossing the Koster fjord, you often make first contact with the two Brattskären. Go up on the summit of Stora Brattskär and enjoy the view, you can see the entire Koster archipelago laid out in front of you.

Uncomplicated landing on good sand beach, at low water you may have to carry a bit. Pitch your tent on one of the largest grass sites in the Koster archipelago, in good shelter for most winds.



Stora Grundskär



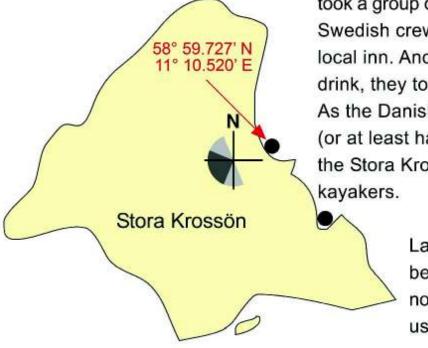
The large nature reserve Kalvö-Lindö-Trossö is beautiful and worth many visits, but admittedly the camping ban does complicate things for us kayakers. Here is an island outside the reserve boundries, with a magnificient position as well, at the southern edge of the Koster fjord.

Landing on mini-beach, sand and gravel.

Camping on reasonably smooth and level grass. Also several flat rocks suited for freestanding tents.

Stora Krossön

Don't miss the little fjord north of Strömstad. Here the "Debacle of Dynekilen", one of the most ignominious events in Swedish naval history, took place in 1716. A Danish squadron, under the command of none less than Peder Tordenskiöld,



took a group of Swedish ships by surprise. The Swedish crews were ashore, drinking at the local inn. And you know when the Swedes drink, they to it thoroughly...

As the Danish navy has stopped raiding us (or at least has taken a break), the fjord and the Stora Krossön can be used by peaceful kayakers.

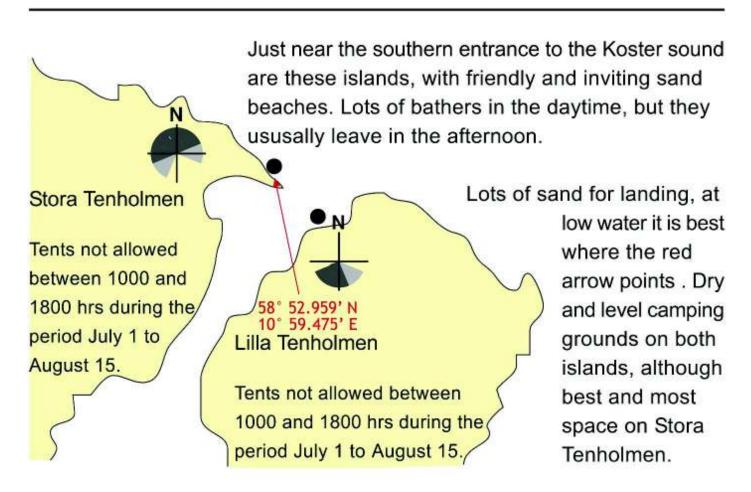
> Landing on good sand and gravel beach. Camping on a small and not entirely level spot, but it is quite useable.

Bring your garbage back

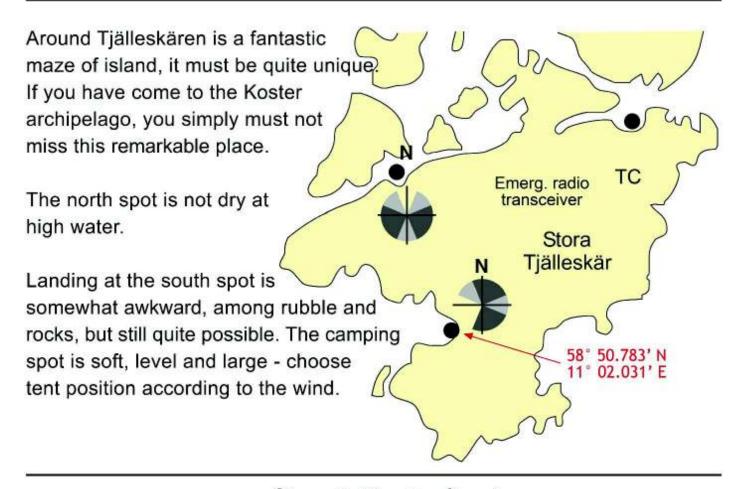
Bring back what you carried out! Leave your garbage at public disposal stations, for example in the guest harbours along the coast.

A good idea is to pack in a "garbagelean" way: Move your foodstuffs to your own reuseable containers

Stora & Lilla Tenholmen



Stora Tjälleskär



Styrsö Kosterfjord

A quiet position in spite of all the houses on the rest of the island. If you are tired of the Spartan camping life, try getting a shower at the pay camping site. They will surely sell you an icecream, anyway.

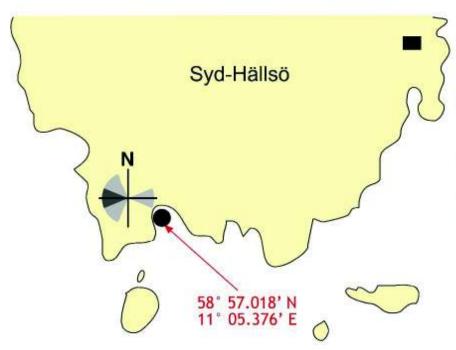
Landing on good gravel beach. Camping on soft and level ground in the pine forest, with shelter for all winds.

A good storm spot.

Styrsö

Styrsö

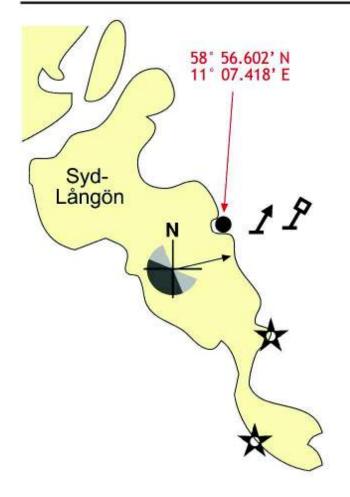
Syd-Hällsö



There are houses on the east side of this island, but on the south part you can find spots for camping. If you take a walk on the island, do not forget to close the many cattle gates after passing them

Landing on sand and gravel beach. Camping on reasonably level grass in the shelter of a well defined steep rock.

Syd-Långön



Good shelter and a suitable position makes Syd-Långön an attractice alternative.

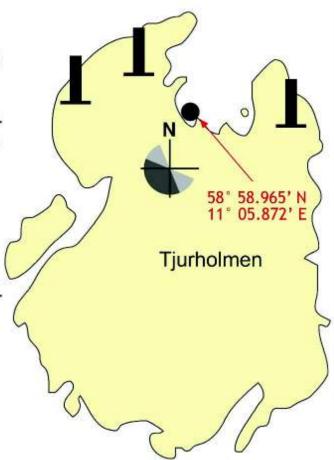
The words goes that the landowner is not too happy about campers. Probably there has been many noisy groups of beer-drinking and garbage-leaving people using the site. Maybe an unbroken chain of well-behaved kayakers can make the landowner happy again?

Landing on very nice sand beach, camping on dry, smooth and level ground.

Tjurholmen

An absolutley irresistible island, especially when you catch sight of the white sand beach. The view from the top of the island is well worth the walk. Many bathers in the daytime, but they normally leave during the afternoon.

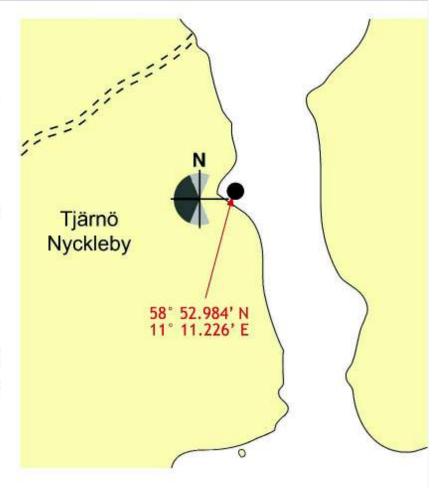
The island and the beach are so nice you easily forgive the camping spot for not being entirely smooth and level.



Tjärnö Nyckleby

Along the inner route to Strömstad is this minicampsite, where you will be entirely on your own. There is no space for others!

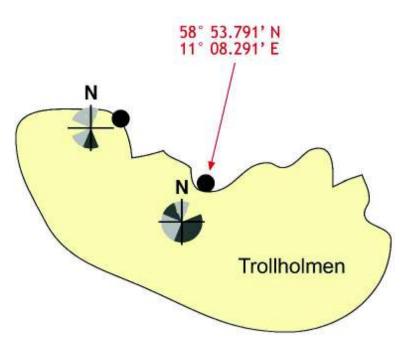
Good beach for landing. The camping spot is small, as mentioned, and not entirely smooth and level. On the other hand the shelter for indicated winds is perfect, this is a spot to sit out a westerly storm



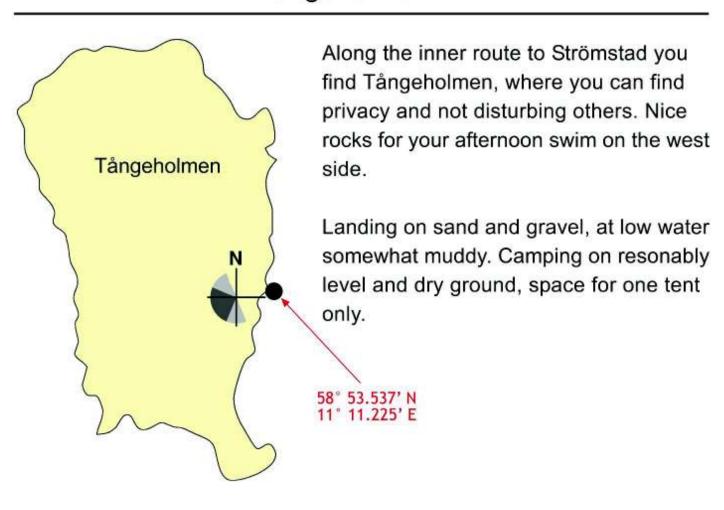
Trollholmen

The trolls have apparently left, the island is nice and inviting in spite of it's unfriendly name. Lovely smooth rocks.

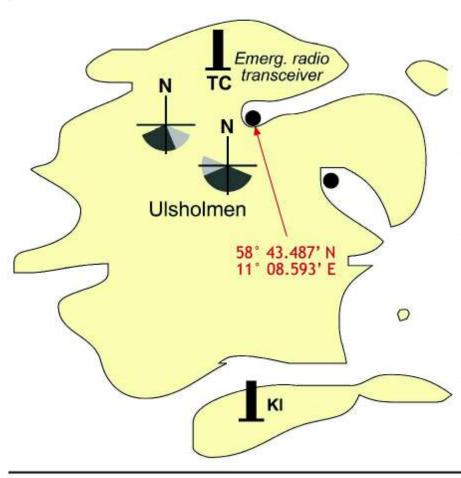
Landing at the east spot on good sand beach, camping there on large, dry and level ground. The west spot is very small, one tent only, and landing with only one kayak.



Tångeholmen



Ulsholmen



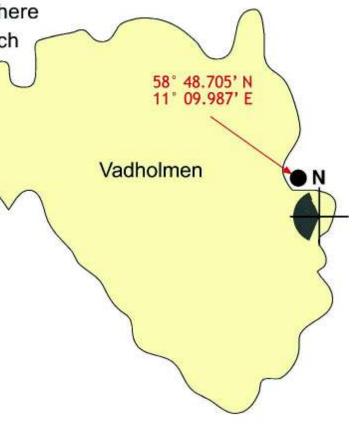
After crossing the infamous passage "Tjurpannan" (or if you are about to cross it...) it is perfect to rest on the friendly and inviting Ulsholmen. Lots of rocks, of course, but suprisingly large fields of grass in between.

Landing on smooth sand beach, camping on level and soft ground.

Vadholmen

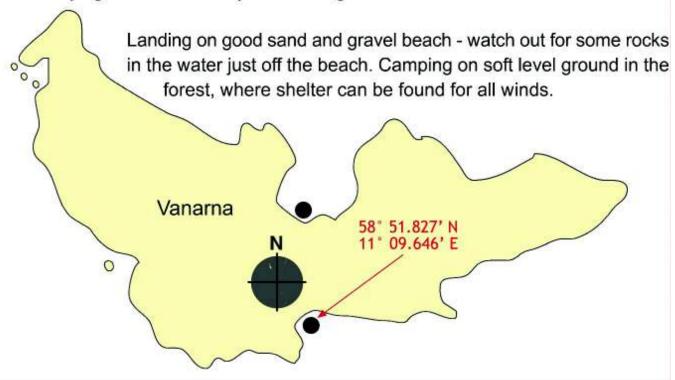
Sometimes you find a useable spot where you least expect it... Vadholmen is such a surprise place, with an inviting position and good views.

Landing on good sand and gravel beach, camping on level and soft ground. Limited space, one tent will use it all.



Vanarna

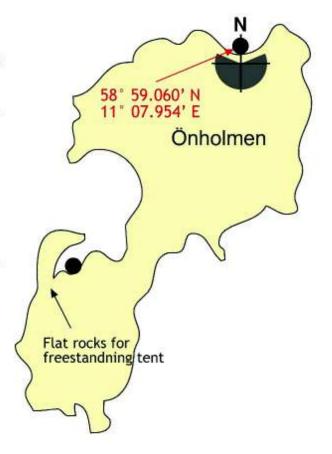
This island does not seem inviting at first glance. But that is wrong, the island has a beautiful forest with good shelter. On top of that lovely flat rocks for drying in the sun after your morning swim....



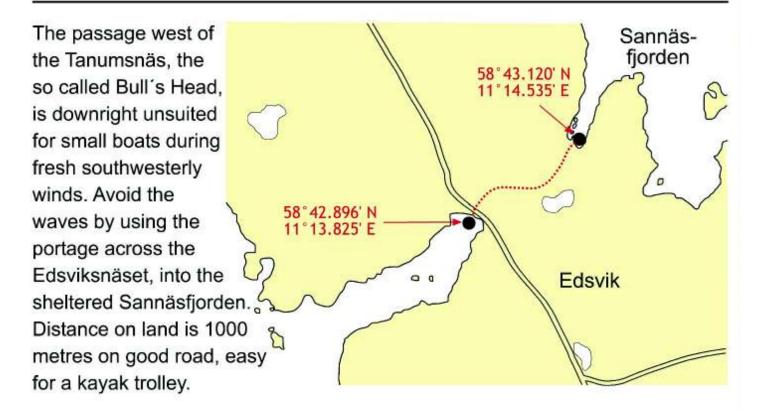
Önholmen

In the mouth of the fjord Dynekilen there are several nice islands, but not many with good camping grounds. Here is one, though, not large but very nice.

Landing on sand and gravel beach, camping on soft and level grass. On the southwest part of the islands there are some nice flat rocks where you can pitch a freestanding tent.



Portage over the Edsviksnäset isthmus



Make camp fires with great caution

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