

## 7. THE NORTHERN ARCHIPELAGO

1 day, approx. 18 km, extension possible



This day tour can be extended if you continue from Sandkäret according to route 5. Route 5 can be extended with route 6.

A day route to what may well be the most beautiful island of the inner archipelago. If you would like a longer route you can easily connect to routes 5 and 6. Difficulty of the day route: **EASY**

Brändön is a village with medieval history. The earliest settlement was located in what is now the northwestern part of Brändön, near the water. Fishing and seal hunting were important trades. Herring and vendace fishing still are. The harbour is a genuine fishing harbour with boat sheds and "shaking piers" - getting their name from the fact that fishermen would stand on them and shake herring out of nets. At Brändön Lodge, about 27 km north of Luleå, you will find kayaks for hire (see also route 8). If you are bringing your own equipment, you can just drive out, unload and then park at the visitors' parking above the facility. Launch from the bathing beach below the main building and paddle south. The first island you will pass is Biskopsholmen. It probably got its name from one of the bishops, Benzelius, who came from Bensbyn on the mainland side. Continue south towards Björkö, now separated from the mainland only by a narrow stream. You can paddle through this stream if you would like a challenge and if the water is reasonably high. The route however, goes on the eastern side of Björkö and about 4 km



Degerberg granite, Haparanda granite and gneiss are common types of rock found in the archipelago.

from Biskopsholmen is a small beach, should you wish to stretch your legs. If not, turn east towards the beautiful Sandkäret and take a proper break on the northern or eastern lake. Here is bare rock, sandy beaches and pine heaths. The land uplift has merged Sandkäret and Skogsskäret into one island and the narrow ridge between them is called a reef in Swedish. Terns, gulls, ducks, greylag geese and Canada geese breed here. Disembarking is prohibited between May 1 and July 31, on the reef, but we recommend a walk on the other parts of the island. From Sandkäret the route can be extended to last two or more days. If that's what you want, continue according to route 5 and maybe route 6 too. The day route continues north towards Svartön. The island has mostly block stone beaches but to the south is a neat little place to rest, with a sandy beach and a simple campfire site, framed by a large rock to the east. Now, only 3 km left back to Brändön. Hopefully, you'll have a light sea breeze behind you, helping you on the last leg of the journey.

**TIPS:** The above describes a day route, but the route can be continued from Sandkäret according to route 5 or 6 to make it two days or longer. Book the sauna at Brändön and round your day off there. **REST STOPS:** The bay at southern Svartön has a sandy beach and a campfire site by a tall rock. Sandkäret has inviting cliffs and beaches on its northern and northeastern sides. A small beach at Gloholmarna offers the possibility for an additional break. Biskopsholmen has nice beaches too, but these are close to people's summer homes, so be sure to show respect.

## 8. AROUND BRÄNDÖN • 1 day, approx 25 km



Day route with cosy channels, idyllic cottages, boatsheds and bathing. Difficulty: **EASY - MEDIUM**

At Brändön Lodge you can hire kayaks and canoes, there is a nice bathing beach, a cottage village and a summer café. Kayak hire is found on the beach, from where you can also launch.

Start by paddling south past Kvarnhällorna where the bird life is rich - there are colonies of black-headed gulls and little gulls - but please keep your distance so as not to alarm them. Then follow Brändölandet south along the shore and pass the Lillvarpet small boat harbour. Turn right towards Biskopsholmen. On the inner side of Biskopsholmen and in the Furufjärden inlet there are plenty of pike if you would like to fish. After Biskopsholmen, keep right again through the Stråpsundet strait. Look for the osprey in the sky. It has its hunting waters in Bergnäsudden and lavish nests at Bergnäsudden.

Below Flakaberget you can stop by the cliffs to take a break and stretch your legs. Here you will find nice walking trails and clearly visible remnants from the ice age such as moraine and sheepbacks, rocks rounded by passing inland ice.

Then follow the beach northwest, aiming for Örnabben and continue through the Kråknsundet strait. As June turns into July you can see water lilies blossoming here. Paddle on underneath the Kråknsundbron bridge, a popular fishing spot and Brändön's

connection to the mainland since the 1950's. You will now pass the Örnarna samvill, where many of the Brändön residents work.

As you come into Furufjärden you will have paddled almost half the route. At the passage towards Storviken is a place suitable to stop and rest, with a campfire site and benches. Here, you can enjoy your well-earned lunch.

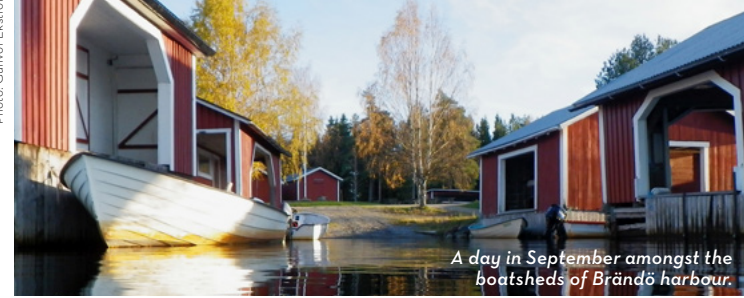
Continue through the channel to Storviken. Here you will paddle through a tunnel of metre-high reeds and water lilies out into Storviken. At its northwestern end you will find the channel out to Brändöfjärden. Now you will come out into more open water again, be prepared for stronger winds. Keep right again, going south along Brändölandet to the Brändö harbour.

At the harbour you will find beautiful, traditional, old and new boatsheds that are still in frequent use. At Solvik, where local company, Ferrurform has recreational facilities for their staff, there is a nice bathing beach if you would like to stop for a dip.

If you were not ready to go bathing at Solvik you will get another chance in the next bay, known as Sundet. It is shallow and in certain wind conditions, when water levels are low, long sandy banks stretch out into the bay - you will feel like a child again, walking along the dunes.

Now, only a short distance remains before you are back at Brändö Lodge. If you book in advance you can round the day off with a relaxing sauna and enjoy the feeling of solid ground beneath your feet with a cold drink in your hand.

Text: Sofia Johansson



A day in September amongst the boatsheds of Brändö harbour.

**TIPS:** You can also begin this route from Brändö harbour. With a southern wind, you can paddle counter-clockwise so that you get the wind on your back on the more open Sjuffjärdensfjärden. The route is about 5 km too long to be classified as easy according to our definition. In other respects, it qualifies as an easy route. **REST STOPS:** The cliffs below Flakaberget with walking trails and traces of the inland ice. The campfire site by the channel just before Storviken, Brändö's harbour and Sundet bay.

## 9. THE RÅNEÅ ARCHIPELAGO • 2 days, approx. 45 km



Sunset in late August at Stora Båtklippan.

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

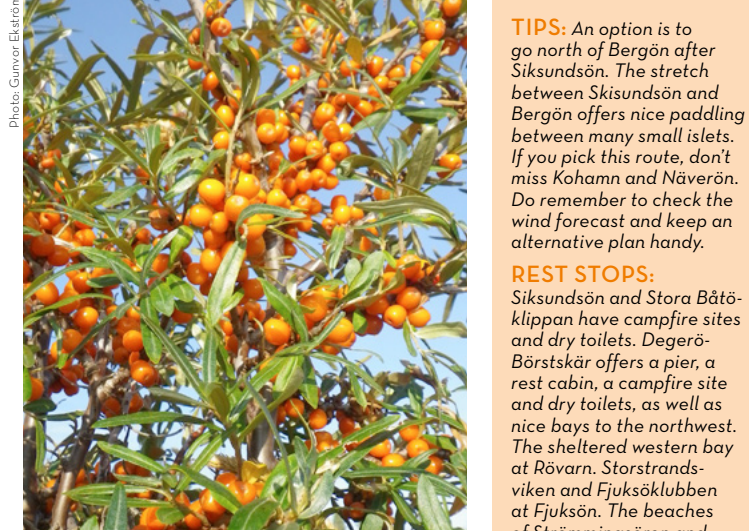
**DAY 1.** The launch site is Rörbäck, a small village 50 km outside of Luleå. There is a campsite and a sea bath. The beach where you will launch lies next to the guest pier. Begin by paddling southwest to Bockön. The island has beautiful pine heaths and a popular beach. Continue to Siksundön, a peninsula without roads or trails. Pass the small islets Mittgrundet and Yttra Västantillgrundet. By a little bay down to the southwest, Klippan, is a large, open sandy beach 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 Brändö, 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 Rödersudden. Hällhamngrynan in the Båtofjärden 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.

**DAY 2.** Head west, past the northern side of Båttön. Then follows a crossing of about 3 km to Degerö-Börstskär. 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.

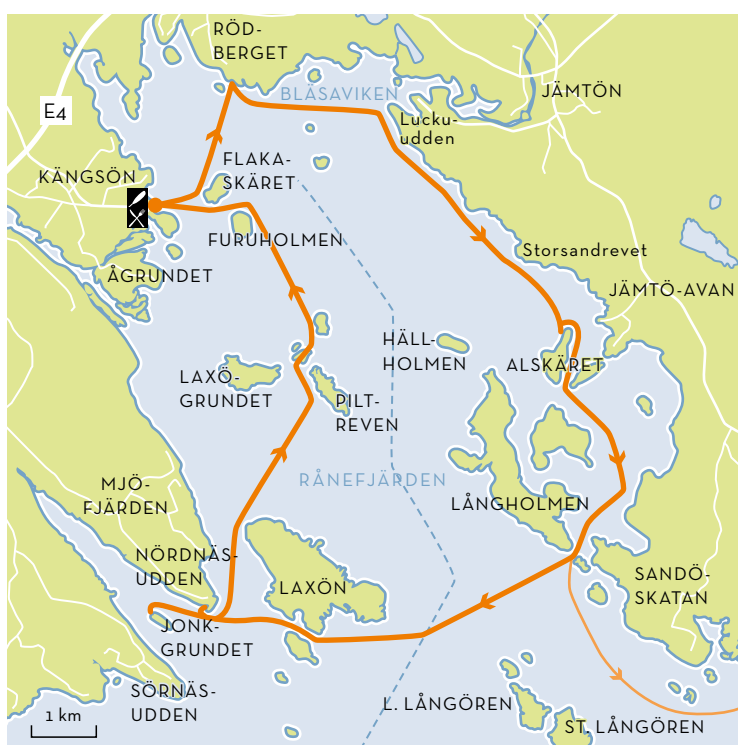
Northwest of Degerö-Börstskär lies Rövåren with a nice, sheltered bathing bay to the west, popular with boating people. To the north, an impressive granite rock arches out into the sea. West of Rövåren is Fjuksön with several hospitable bays. Both Storastrandsviken and Fjuksönklubben to the northwest are inviting. The 4 km crossing over to Tistersöarna begins at Fjuksön's northern cape. "Tister" means "recurrent". Seals can often be seen in these waters, especially in late summer and autumn. The water is shallow between Särön, Husören and Lovören - the kayak is perfect for exploring the shallow lagoons. Keep going towards Norr-Tistersön, 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 Siksundön. The stretch between Siksundön and Bergön offers nice paddling between many small islets. If you pick this route, don't miss Kohamn and Näverön. Do remember to check the wind forecast and keep an alternative plan handy. **REST STOPS:** Siksundön and Stora Båtklippan have campfire sites and dry toilets. Degerö-Börstskär 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 Rövåren, Storastrandsviken and Fjuksönklubben at Fjuksön. The beaches of Strömmingsören and Lågören.



Sea-buckthorn, full of vitamin C, grows on the outer islands and is easiest to pick after the first frost.

## 10. AROUND RÅNEFJÄRDEN • 1 day, approx. 28 km



From the forest river outlet to the old shipping harbour. Difficulty: **MEDIUM**

Kängsön is reached by a 35 km drive north along route E4. Kängsö harbour is a combined fishing and small boat harbour that was finished in 1939. It has since been rebuilt in stages and during the 1990's a number of boathouses were built, a nice, eye-catching feature. The Råne River, northern Sweden's longest forest river (210 km), has not been used for hydropower and has its outlet in the

Gulf of Bothnia just south of Kängsön. The harbour also has kayaks and canoes available to hire or purchase, as well as an outdoor equipment shop. A landing-stage and a trailer ramp is available for launching kayaks. The Råneå Boating Association clubhouse has a summer café in July and near the clubhouse there is a lovely bathing beach. There used to be a sawmill at Nordånberg. Remains of wastewater docks can be seen on the beach.

Begin by paddling east towards Flakaskäret, then turn north towards Rödbergsgrundet and Rödberget on the mainland. Here is a nice little beach, suitable for a first break. Then follow the beach to the east towards Sandviksreven and turn southeast towards Jämtönsudd and Luckuddan. Keep heading southeast for about 4.5 km to Alskär. The narrow, northern part has a nice sandy beach perfect for swimming and a lunch break, partly shallow, partly precipitous. Now paddle south to Avasladan. It's shallow here, only about 1.5 m and partly rocky - especially by the beaches of Käpmanholmen and Långholmen. As a reward, there are many seabirds to spot, sometimes even sea eagles. Turn west in the strait between Långholmen and Sandöskatan. The crossing to Flottgrundet is about 3 km long and exposed to southern winds.

Go in between Laxön and Grangrundet and keep going west to Mjöfjärden. In the middle of the inlet lies Jonkgrundet. Its northwestern cape has a perfect rest stop with sandy beaches and cliffs, a shelter, a campfire site and dry toilets. In the early 1900's, feldspar was shipped to Jonkgrundet from mainland mines. In the summer, the rock was collected by cargo sailboats that shipped it on to porcelain factories in Germany, the UK and Russia.

Nördnäsudden also offers a nice, sheltered rest stop. Just south of its southern tip is a small bay with a landing-stage. A trail leads to the rest cabin on the other side of the cape. The cabin is open to anyone and has a fireplace, tables, benches and a campfire site. Paddle north from Nördnäsudden. From the northern cape of Laxön, aim northeast towards Piltreven. The crossing is about 3 km. The cottages here are now summer houses but they were built for a fishing village. The three little islets north of Piltreven with their steep beaches are rather rare in the archipelago and it's nice to paddle in the small straits between them.

Now, only about 4 km remains of the route around Rånefjärden. Paddle north to the beautiful Furuholmen, try rounding it from the east to get a nice finish between Furuholmen and Flakaskäret on your way back to Kängsön.

**TIPS:** If you want to be out for several days you can combine this route with the previous one, no. 6. After Avasladan, round Skatuddan and paddle north to Bockön. The northeastern cape of the island, Dalören, has beautiful pine heaths and is very nice for tent pitching. Another option is to paddle straight towards Siksundön but that crossing is 7 km long and exposed to southern winds. To extend the route by a few hours, paddle up to the Råne River outlet. By the small Ågrundet delta, you can spot fishing ospreys. **REST STOPS:** Rödbergsstranden, Alskär, Jonkgrundet, Nördnäsudden.

## 11. BATHING AT ALSKÄR • 1 day, approx. 16 km

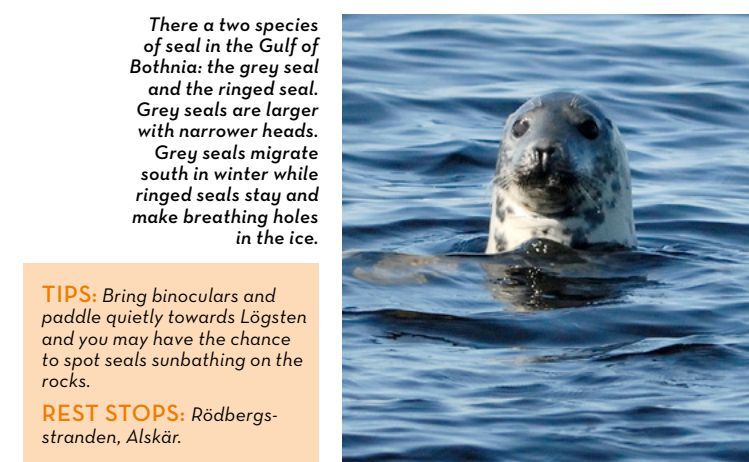


Difficulty: **EASY**

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. 10 "Around Rånefjärden" to Alskär.

Facing Alskär (east) is Jämtöavans småbåtshamn. Jämtöåvan is a small village that used to have no less than four boatbuilder's yards.

The beaches of Alskär invites you to a swim on a warm day. The northeast point is tvärdjup, around it it's more or less shallow. On your way back, if you feel comfortable with a 2-3 km crossing, you can aim for Hällholmen and Långgrundet. Then paddle due north towards Lögsten and you may have the chance to spot seals sunbathing on the rocks (bring binoculars). Then turn west towards Furuholmen and Kängsö harbour.



There are two species of seal in the Gulf of Bothnia: the grey seal and the ringed seal. Grey seals are larger with narrower heads. Grey seals migrate south in winter while ringed seals stay and make breathing holes in the ice.

**TIPS:** Bring binoculars and paddle quietly towards Lögsten and you may have the chance to spot seals sunbathing on the rocks. **REST STOPS:** Rödbergsstranden, Alskär.



Bright colours at Alskär.

### 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 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.

**TJUJHOLMSUNDET:** Sandy beach and small boat harbour for cottage and home owners on Sandön. A fairway passes through the strait so look out when you head out. Limited number of parking spaces but fine for smaller groups.

### ...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. There are other nice spots not in the route descriptions.

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

**LIKSÄR:** 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.

**SANDÖN:** So much more than just Klubbviken: the shingle field in the Stenåkers nature reserve, old growth forest, beaches, pine heath, thick carpets of reindeer lichen and shifting sand dunes.

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

**STORA & LILLA HINDERSÖHARUN:** Two relatively high, very windy, rocky islands. You will need calm weather to disembark here. If you do, try the northwestern cape at Stora Hindersöharun.

**STORFURUÖN:** Nice beaches on the north and south sides.



Morgonsolen bruter igenom sensommarkimman.

### FOOD AND LODGING IN THE ARCHIPELAGO

**BRÄNDÖN LODGE:** Cottages with well-equipped cottages each accommodating up to 4 guests. Choose between hotel standard and self-catering. Sauna for hire. Summer café. Lunch/dinner for groups booked in advance. [www.brandokonferens.se](http://www.brandokonferens.se)

**GÜLTZAUDDENS SOMMARCAFÉ:** A lush park with a bathing beach, on the edge of the city peninsula. A café is hosted inside a replica of Luleå's old City Hall.

**HAMNKÖKET:** Family owned summer restaurant, bar and café at the Lövsjärn harbour. Here, they cook gourmet food with local, organic ingredients and plenty of passion. [www.hamnkoket.com](http://www.hamnkoket.com)

**KALLAX GÅRDSBUTIK:** Apartment for hire in one of the houses at the farm. Farm café and store featuring local delicacies and handicraft. [www.kallaxgardsbutik.se](http://www.kallaxgardsbutik.se)

**KLUBBVIKEN:** Luleå's sea bath is found at Sandön, near the city. Here are five well-equipped cottages each accommodating up to 4 guests, as well as 13 small, simple cabins by the fairway, with room for 2 guests each. Restaurant by the guest harbour with two large patios. [www.klubbviken.se](http://www.klubbviken.se)

**KOLARENS CAFÉ:** Summer café in the old manor at Niprona. Beautiful view of the river. Everything on the menu is homemade.

**KÄNGSÖN:** Summer café in Råneå Båtklubb (Boating Association's) cottage at Nordånberg, from midsummer until early August.

### RENT A CABIN

On the islands Junkön, Småskär, Brändöskär and Kluntarna you will find simple yet fully functional cabins for hire. Book at [www.lulea.nu/bokastuga](http://www.lulea.nu/bokastuga).

**BRÄNDÖSKÄR:** Five cabins available for hire. Laxen, Strömningen, Öringen, Harren and Låjan. The cabins have propane stoves, wood-burning stoves and outdoors. There is a well on the island. There is also a wood-burning sauna.

**JUNKÖN:** Two four-bed cabins are found near the fishing harbour and the archipelago museum. Wood-burning stove, electrical stove, refrigerator and lighting. The cabins have running water and a small bathroom with a toilet and shower.

**KLUNTERNÄ:** Three cabins available, two 4-bed and one 10-bed cabin. Here you will also find two saunas and a nature centre. The cabins have propane stoves, wood-burning stoves and outdoors. During high season, the cabins are maintained by hosts, during that time drinking water is available. Visiting outside high season? Please bring your own water.

**SMÅSKÄREN:** At the Bullerhamnen harbour you will find two cabins for hire with four beds each, one host cabin and a sauna with a relax room. The cabins have propane stoves, wood-burning stoves and outdoors.

## 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**  
Övertbyn 234, Gunnarsbyn  
+46 (0)70-207 37 51  
[www.creative-adventure.se](http://www.creative-adventure.se)

**CANOE ADVENTURE NORTH**  
Kayak shop/sales at Kängsön Harbour, Lovören 63, Råneå.  
+46 (0)70-542 51 10  
[www.canoeadventure.nu](http://www.canoeadventure.nu)

**EXPLORE LULEÅ**  
070-325 70 80  
[www.explorelulea.com](http://www.explorelulea.com)

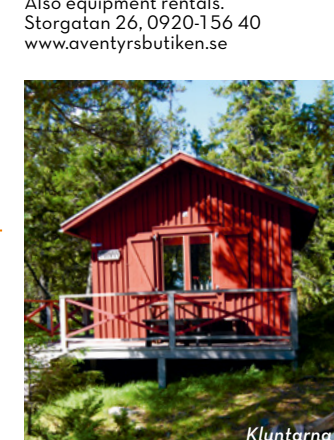
**TOURIST INFORMATION**  
LULEÅ TOURIST CENTRE  
Kulturs Hus  
+46 (0)920-45 70 00  
[www.lulea.nu/turistinfor](http://www.lulea.nu/turistinfor)

### KAYAK RENTAL

**BRÄNDÖN LODGE**  
Brändö kvarnväg 133, 0920-741 00  
[www.brandokonferens.se](http://www.brandokonferens.se)

**LULEÅ KAJAKKLUBB, KANOTCENTRAL**  
Kanotvägen 14, 0920-22 24 32  
[www.luleakajakklubb.bds.se](http://www.luleakajakklubb.bds.se)

**ÄVENTYRSBUTIKEN HÄGGLUUDS**  
Also equipment rentals.  
Storgatan 26, 0920-156 40  
[www.aeventyrsbutiken.se](http://www.aeventyrsbutiken.se)



Kluntarna



READ MORE ABOUT LULEÅ AND THE BOTHNIAN ARCHIPELAGO:  
[www.swedishlapland.com](http://www.swedishlapland.com) | [www.lulea.nu](http://www.lulea.nu) | [www.bottentviken.se](http://www.bottentviken.se)  
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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 Skelleftea 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.

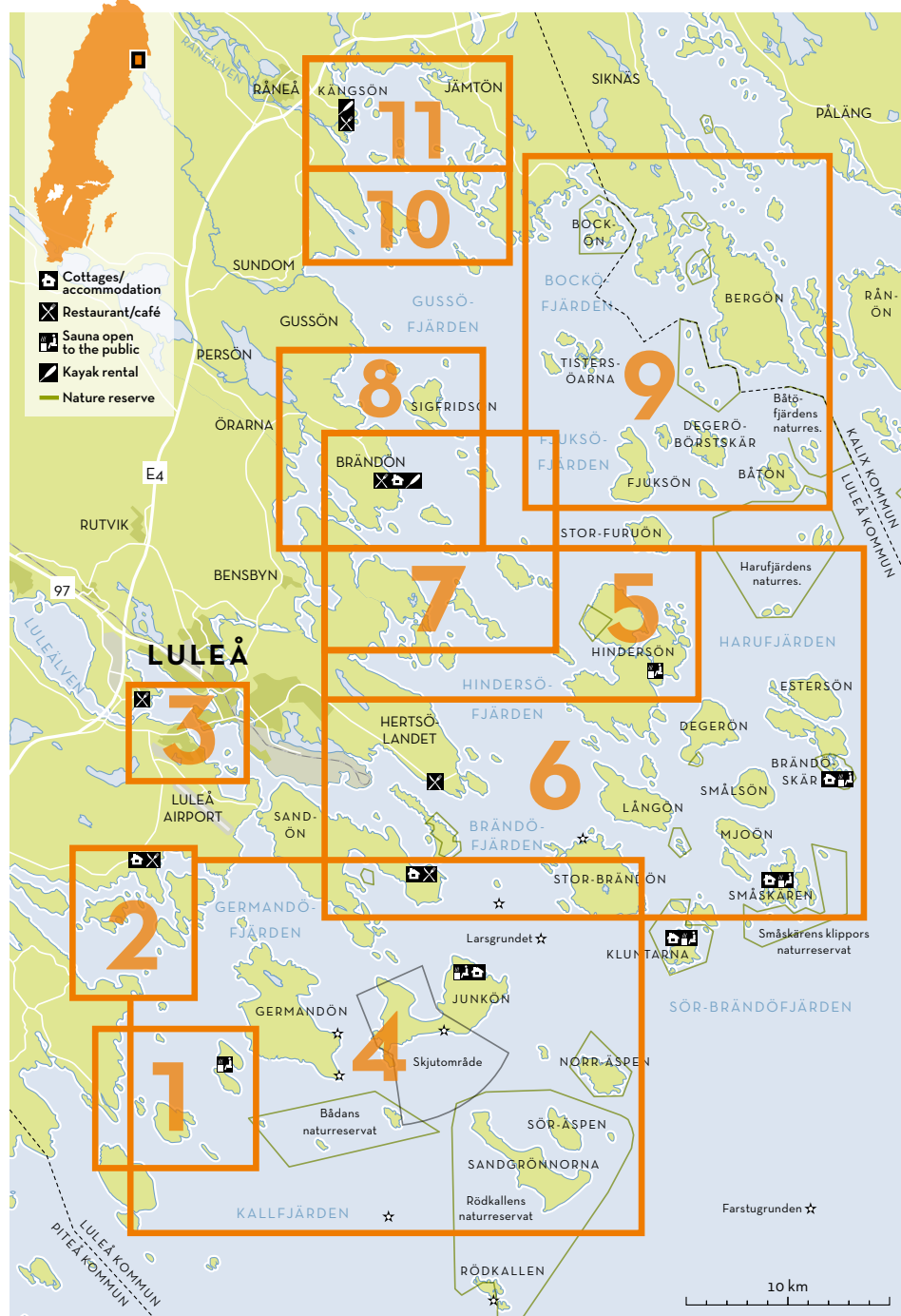
There is much to discover amongst all the islands. Man has lived in the archipelago for centuries and the traces are still there. Artefacts of cultural history, labyrinths, fishnet drying racks, boat landings and foundation remains show the existence of hunting and fishing since the 14th century. The 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 botnica 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 with 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.bottenvikensskargard.se](http://www.bottenvikensskargard.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 Kulturens Hus.



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

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



A route to the gem of the southern archipelago  
Difficulty: **MEDIUM**

Launch at Alhamn, Luleå's southernmost coastal village and one of the oldest. The village lies on a long, narrow cape by an equally long and narrow bay. South of the pier is a small beach where the route begins.

Follow the cape to the southeast and aim for Kunoön. After about 2 km, you will be crossing a waterway, so stay alert. Keep going southeast along the southern beach of Kunoön and then make the short crossing of about a kilometre, to Kunoöhallan. Birds such as the black guillemot, velvet scoter, skua and ruddy turnstone like the cliffs.

Next head due north towards Antnäs-Börstskär, about 4 km. The island consists of Norrskäret, Sörskäret and the ridge that binds these two together. On the western

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 Kunoön, facing northwest. It's slightly hidden behind Rödhällan. Now you're within reach of the mountain, Störberget, 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 kayakers.

The last stage follows Kunoön to the northwest. Go around Stora and Lilla Kunoögrunden on the northern side - again crossing the waterway - head for Norrskäret and paddle back to the pier in Alhamn.

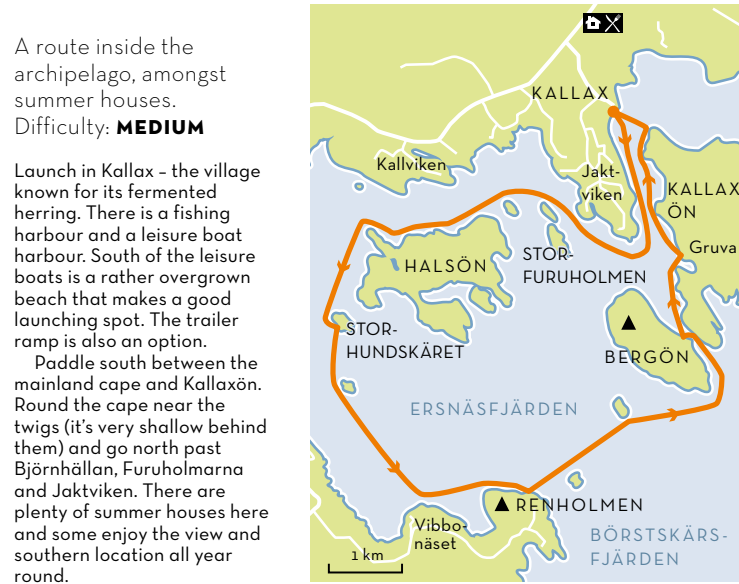
**TIPS:** Faced with fresh southern and southeastern winds it's best to stay north of Kunoön both ways, there and back.

**REST STOPS:** Antnäs-Börstskär has a pier, sauna, rest cabin, campfire sites. Kunoön 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 leisure boats is a rather overgrown beach that makes a good launching spot. The trailer ramp is also an option.

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

Go south past Lill-Hundsöskäret and then southeast towards Vibbonäset. 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-Bergsgrundet and after about another kilometre, the southern tip of Bergön. Paddle into the strait between Bergön and Kallax. At Bergön, where the strait begins widening, there is another beach with tables and benches.

If you then paddle north towards Kallax, you will arrive after about a kilometre, at a larger pier by Strömmingsvarberget. 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 of clothing you can start the season before the ice has melted.

**TIPS:** The southern wind picks up speed over Bärstskärsfjärden, 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-Hundsöskäret 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. 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 Gultzaudden, named after Christian Gultzau 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 ones at high water, don't go too close if you're inexperienced. These are popular salmon and trout fishing waters.

Directly opposite Niporna is Gäddvik. Paddle over there and follow the beach towards Bergnäsö. When the Bergnäsö 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 Gräsälören. 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 Bergnäsö Bridge. Paddle via Oskarsvarv and the Bergnäsö Bridge and back to Gamla färjeläget again.



View of central Luleå from the Gräsälören beach.

**TIPS:** There is a sauna raft in Stensborgsviken that can be rented for saunas and dining ([www.rivverfrakter.se](http://www.rivverfrakter.se)). On Wednesday nights in June and August, regattas are held in Gräsäljärden. 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 Gräsälören.

## 4. SANDGRÖNNORNA • 3 days, approx. 65 km



When you would like a kilometre-long beach all to yourself.  
Difficulty: **DIFFICULT**

This tour offers challenges and archipelago culture in an amazing natural environment. You must be an experienced kayaker and use your best judgement. The second day stage is long and exposed. You can of course add another day, for instance by staying overnight at Norr-Åspen.

**DAY 1.** Start at the Kallax harbour, either from the ramp or the small, rather overgrown beach south of the stone pier. Course: southeast towards Klyvgrunden about 3 km away. Here you will find a narrow gravel ridge to the mainland and if you need to sort out any onboard equipment, this is a good place to do it as you will be paddling nearly 10 km before your next landing. Continue to the southeast, past Fjärdgrundet and the next island, carrying almost the same name: Fjärdgrundet. Then you will pass the northern beach of the island, Germandön. Germandön has played an important role in both farming and shipping. There are two lighthouses on the southern side of the island. The Lilejuddet lighthouse has been restored, with a new harbour cottage with sauna, shower and toilet. There is a large area of old growth forest and several

areas where orchids naturally occur on Germandön - despite extensive logging. After Båstaholmen comes a 3 km crossing over to Junkön. When you reach the northwestern cape, it will be a good time for lunch. A large part of Junkön is a designated firing range and regardless of how inviting the beach may look, access is prohibited. Maps and nautical charts show the boundaries of the firing range. Ornudden at the other end of the island, however, is accessible and suitable as an overnight camp. A trail goes from here to the village and the harbour. This is the home port of many commercial fishers. Vendace is fished and vendace roe is prepared here. There is also a museum of the archipelago, a gallery, a cafe, a sauna and drinking water. An old windmill - a truly uncommon sight on the Swedish Lapland coast - is also found here.

**DAY 2.** Go around Ornudden and paddle past the fishing harbour, after Orrskärsudden, go southwest towards Norr-Åspen. The northwestern harbour is suitable for a break. Then go southeast, via Sör-Åspen to Sandgrönnorna. You can disembark anywhere at Bäckgrönnan or Mittisandgrönnan (on the east side too) and then it's time to go discovering! South of Mittisandgrönnan is a bird protection area, where access is prohibited between May 1 and July 31. The southern part is called Skvalpen and has now merged with Sandgrönnorna. The island is so young that no proper forest has grown here. Bushes, small holts of rowan and solitary pines are found to the north and at Skvalpen there is mostly just sand. The rest of this day's paddling is highly exposed. From Bäckgrönnan you go east, towards the northern cape of Gräsäljärden. Here, it's very rocky and shallow, quite some way out, so keep going east for about 4 km and you will reach the smooth cliffs of Germandöhallan. The last stage of this day is approximately 6 km and goes to Antnäs-Börstskär. Set up camp on the ridge, enjoy a sauna and sleep well!

**DAY 3.** Go around Norrskäret and paddle north towards Germandön. At Brännstrandsviken is a beach suitable for a stop, other than that, there are plenty of block stone beaches. At Högstengrundet you turn northeast, into the strait between Kallax and Bergön. From here, you will enjoy 4 km of idyllic archipelago on your way back to Kallax harbour.

**TIPS:** Seabirds love the aquatic environment at Skvalpen, many species breed here and others stop here during migration - bring binoculars. After visiting Sandgrönnorna you can of course turn around and go back the same, more protected route. Read about Kallax and Bergön in route 2 and about Antnäs-Börstskär in route 1. At [www.forsvarsmakt.se](http://www.forsvarsmakt.se) you will find information on events related to the firing range.

**REST STOPS:** Klyvgrunden, the northwestern cape of Junkön. Ornudden, Norr-Åspen, Sör-Åspen, Sandgrönnorna, Germandöhallan, Antnäs-Börstskär, Brännstrandsviken, Bergön.

## 5. THE CENTRAL ARCHIPELAGO • 2 days, approx. 40 km



A two-day route with a taste of the outer archipelago  
Difficulty: **MEDIUM**

**DAY 1.** Hagaviken lies on the north part of Hertsölandet. There are many summer houses and a small boat harbour. A little sandy beach at the southern end of the harbour is a good launching spot.

Begin by paddling across the bay towards Hagaviksskatan and then towards the next cape to the northeast, Tallholmskatan. Turn east and paddle in between Stor-Risöholm and Lill-Risöholm and head north along Risön. The strait between Björkören and Risön has rocky shallows in the middle. Go north of this and follow the buoys between Kätholmen and Gloholmarna. The buoys mark a dredged channel in the strait that otherwise wouldn't have been passable.

Here is the first crossing. Paddle in a north-eastern direction towards the northern part of Sandöskäret, about 2 km. There are beautiful cliffs on the north cape and there are both cliffs and a beach on the north-eastern side.

The next crossing is directly eastward, about 2 km to Hamnön. Keep going east along by the three little islands east of Hamnön. A three kilometre crossing to Lappön begins at Enagrundet. Lappön got its name from being grazing land for reindeer in the winter. There is an old forest nature reserve here. In the middle of the island are meadows and haymaking shacks used in the past by the residents of Hindersön.

Paddle on along the northern beach of Lappön. A large, shallow bay to the northeast has both a sandy beach and cliffs. From here you can see Båthöruan, Hindersöharun and Estersön, all on the outer rim of the archipelago.

Now go south and paddle into the strait between Björkören (the northern part of Hindersön) and Lappön. In the bay behind Gemgrundet is a sandy beach, Gemgrundssanden, suitable for overnight camping.

**DAY 2.** 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 small seal boat exhibit with stories about seal hunting in the old days. Hindersön village, located between Norrisund and Ostisund has neat old farm houses. In Björkörgårdsviken there is a tour boat pier and a nice, big sauna. However the shore here is quite muddy. 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 Kortsjögrundet 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 Skogsskäret. 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 Skogsskäret. There are rocks here and there right under the surface, keep a look out.

Go in between Lövern 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-Risöholm again, on the south side this time. Risögrundet is a bird protection area and disembarkation is prohibited between May 1 and July 31.



Maybe you will find your very own chanterelle spot on one of the islands.

**TIPS:** As is often the case, you have to have respect for the southern winds. The Hindersöfjärden crossings are exposed. The old school house at Hindersön is for rent. See [www.hindersonhembygd.se](http://www.hindersonhembygd.se).

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

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

## 6. 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 Brändöskär 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 Gemgrundet you go around the cape and paddle towards the three small islands, Trutören, 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 in 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 Brändöskär. 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 Hallgrundet. The statue of Christ on the island was erected by artist Erik Marklund in 1957. Hallgrundet and Brändöskär are part of a nature reserve and disembarkation is prohibited on Hallgrundet between May 1 and July 31. The crossing to Finkskär is 5 km, highly exposed and very beautiful. Finkskär'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 Finkskär and Småskär. At Kyrkviken, you will find the Småskär Chapel, the oldest in the archipelago, built in the 1720's. The 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.

When you have passed the strait, turn west and head for Långshällarna via Smulterskäret. Långshällarna 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 launching spot. Sikören lies just north of Storsanden. Go north on the western side, to Klensenskäret and Orrskäret. 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.

**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 four 4-bed cottages at Brändöskär that can be rented via the Tourist office. Sometimes there is an art show in one of the boat houses.

**REST STOPS:** The bathing bay at Brändöskär has fresh water, campfire sites and outhouse. Bullerviken at Småskär has cottages to rent, refuse facilities and dry toilets. The sandy beach at Långön. At Hindersön there is a sauna next to the pier in Björkörgårdsviken (muddy beach) and a little shack in Ostisund. The beaches of Strömmingsören and Lågören.



Well, suppose this will do...