# Kimitoön365

TRAVEL AND LEISURE

Visit Bengtskär, the tallest lighthouse in the Nordics THE UNESCO ARCHIPELAGO SEA BIOSPHERE RESERVE

> UNIQUE PLACES TO VISIT: Söderlångvik, Rosala & Hitis islands Örö Fortress island

**ARCHIPELAGO CULTURE AND ACTIVITIES ALL YEAR ROUND** 



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# Island of opportunity

A vibrant archipelago, soothing nature and lush countryside. That's my general description of Kimitoön. These are the factors that, along with a vibrant community, make the municipality attractive to all. It's easy to feel at home on Kimitoön, whether you are a permanent resident, a parttime resident or a visitor.

I am looking forward to the next few years on Kimitoön with great excitement and anticipation. Our businesses, associations and inhabitants are all developing well. Our residents also include our active part-time residents, who are an important engine for the vitality of our villages and our rich community life.

The local community on Kimitoön is our trump card and the golden thread in our everyday life, and it is through it that we succeed in creating an active and inclusive life for all. Engagement also requires cooperation and dialogue. This is something we already take into account and are constantly striving to develop. Through joint investments in Kimitoön's unique history and built heritage – in a community environment where the countryside and archipelago meet – we have become one of the country's most attractive destinations for visitors. I therefore have great faith in an equally positive future for us, if only we dare to be curious and challenge each other to think in new ways.

On Kimitoön, you can enjoy yourself all year round, both at work (on-site or remotely) and in your free time. The island offers opportunities for everyone who wants to create, enjoy, experience and develop in a safe environment.

#### A warm welcome to Kimitoön!

Erika Strandberg Municipal Director















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In 2016, Tuomo Meretniemi and his family weighed anchor and set off on a circumnavigation of the globe, which continued until the Covid-19 pandemic closed national borders. Now the family are happy with their new life in Dalsbruk and can enjoy the sea again.

ho has not admired the view on holiday and sighed out loud: this is the place to live! For **Tuomo Meretniemi**, this wish came true two years ago. After a weekend trip to Dalsbruk with his wife **Riikka**, the couple found themselves buying a home on the Kimitoön islands. The family of three had recently returned to Finland from their circumnavigation of the globe and were living in Helsinki for the time being.

- It was especially important to us to live near the sea. We had looked at the housing available along the south coast, but didn't really know what we were looking for. When Riikka came here to spend the weekend with a friend, she thought the place seemed nice. Two weeks passed and then we came here together. Two weeks later we decided to move, Tuomo recalls.

Their new home is a house built in the 1890s in the centre of Dalsbruk. Both the shop and the sea are a 2-minute walk away.

- I travel a lot for work and every time I return to the island I feel like I've come home. I haven't missed city life once. If we want to go to the theatre or cinema, we can get to Turku in about an hour.

The leisure opportunities offered by the island have also been a positive surprise.

- The children have leisure options almost every day. For example, they have been involved in the dance groups at the Kimitoön Music Institute and in the Sea Scouts. Sometimes they have gone swimming and last year they took singing and piano lessons. Riikka and I have volunteered for the Norpas Festival and the Kimitoön Lifeboat Service, among other things.

### Collaboration and help

During the interview, Tuomo mentions several times that many jobs can now be done from anywhere, as long as the internet connection works.

- We can both do our jobs remotely. It gives us more freedom and we can live close to nature. The primary school, with 35 pupils, has also been fantastic and the health service has worked well. It has also been nice to be able to improve my Swedish here, says Tuomo with a smile.

The family's positive expectations of living on Kimitoön have been met, and everyday life has also offered some pleasant surprises.

- We have received a very friendly welcome and this is a place where people help each other. When we were redecorating our living room, we found a great sofa in a local freecycle group. I asked for a trailer in another local group and within five minutes we were able to borrow a free trailer. There is also trust here, which is rarer in cities.

Tuomo sees similarities between the inhabitants of a small town and the sailing community.

- Life is easier if you work together and help each other, he concludes.



### Dalsbruk

Dalsbruk-Taalintehdas is an inspiring and creative place. Its history and beautiful sea milieu are adored by its residents as well as visitors. Residents enjoy the comprehensive services, cozy cafes as well as lovely restaurants. Lively culture-oriented life beside the sea ensures that there are always plenty of events and things to do for residents! *Dalsbruk -Taalintehdas lots from 1,410*  $\epsilon$ 

### Dragsfjärd

Dragsfjärd offers an authentic archipelago lifestyle. It is surrounded by the lakes and sea. You can find many services in the atmospheric Kärra's convenience stores and restaurants as well as cafes and other places in Taalintehdas which you can reach in just 15 minutes. *Dragsfjärd lots from: 2,625 €* 

### Kimito

Residents of the city center of Kemiö combine the good aspects of urban and archipelago life in one package. There is plenty to do and play in the center for every day of the week and good, functional transport connections ensure that you can easily reach Turku, Salo or the outer archipelago in an instant. *Kimito lots from 5,600* €

### Strömma

The archipelago starts from Strömma! The Strömma area offers its inhabitants a scenic living environment right at the gates of the archipelago. The location guarantees smooth transport connections to Salo and Turku. Actually, the Strömma Canal is a unique attraction as it is the only place in Finland to observe the tidal phenomenon. *Strömma Aurinkoranta lots with sea view from: 20,000 €. Strömma Hiekkaharju lots from 8,000 €* 

### Västanfjärd

Västanfjärd was declared Southwest Finland's 'Village of the year in 2019' due to its charming archipelago atmosphere as well as many activities for the inhabitants. The beautiful landscapes tell about the long history of building sailboats and the operations of lime mines. Also the tourists enjoy the maritime atmosphere. *Västanfjärd lots from: 5,160*  $\epsilon$ 

#### All the residental areas and lots: Hoods.fi

# REMOTE WORKING WITH A VIEW OF THE SEA

## Work from home, your holiday home, or your office – remote work opens up new opportunities.

The interest in remote working is increasing, opening up the opportunity to stay longer in the archipelago. Online meetings right from your terrace, with a cup of coffee in hand, is the new normal! Sometimes, it is more convenient to work in an office, so we offer a drop-in working space for our remote workers. You can book an office for free a couple days a week in the DIT centre in Dalsbruk. If you are interested, please contact us! We would be more than happy to assist you.

### We have space for your business

Kimitoön islands is a popular area to have a holiday home, thanks to its location in the Archipelago Sea. Trade, construction, tourism, and the boating industry are therefore on the rise. Our area has a strong entrepreneurial spirit, and a good climate for business. Small and micro enterprises are the cornerstones of the local business community. We are located close to some of the biggest cities in Southern Finland, and have a port in Dalsbruk with eight meters of fairway depth, which ensures good opportunities for export.

We provide free services for both aspiring and established entrepreneurs. We will help you find the right facility for your company and, if necessary, employees. Through our networks you can easily find contacts and partners in your particular industry.

For more information, please contact:

Erik Lund, Director of Economic Development of Kimitoön Municipality, *erik.lund@kimitoon.fi* 

### Good to know

Population 2021:	6,617
Swedish-speaking:	67.5%
Finnish-speaking:	28.7%
Other languages:	3.8%
Area:	2,801 km <sup>2</sup> (land and sea
Dwellings:	4,537
Summer cottages:	4,865
Municipal tax rate:	7.11%

Enterprises: **about 700** active enterprises, of which **about 95%** are micro-enterprises

- 3,000 islands
- Bengtskär, the tallest lighthouse in the Nordic countries
- Archipelago National Park
- Archipelago Sea Biosphere reserve (UNESCO)



# **KIMITOÖN AND SAN FRANCISCO:** The dream of a life in two places

Irene and Joonas Hjelt and their two young children live permanently in San Francisco, but spend as much time as possible at their summer cottage in Kasnäs on Kimitoön. The couple work in the technology sector and can also do so remotely from Kimitoön. The Hjelts dream of one day spending half their time on Kimitoön and half in San Francisco.

he sea, the archipelago and nature are very important to our family. We all love our cottage in Kasnäs, say **Irene** and **Joonas Hjelt**, who moved from Finland in 2015, in a video interview.

Joonas has deep ties to Kimitoön and Kasnäs. He has been sailing on the Archipelago Sea since he was a child, and a few years ago he inherited the summer cottage from his father.

- Even though we live far away, we have never thought about selling the place. We go to the cottage a few times a year. Last summer we spent a couple of months there while working remote-ly. When we are not there, we rent the cottage out via Airbnb. It's nice to be able to give others the chance to enjoy the place too, Joonas explains.

Joonas works at his startup, and Irene at Meta. Both can work from virtually anywhere thanks to the nature of the work and global teams. The couple have invested in internet connections at their Kasnäs home, which makes it easy to work remotely.

- The ten-hour time difference means that we hold our meetings late in the evening. The evenings are so light in Finland that we don't get tired. Since our working days don't start until the afternoon, we have plenty of time to go on excursions and enjoy some family time during the day, say the couple happily.

Joonas once attended a meeting while he was in the sauna. "His colleagues thought it was really exotic to see sauna steam on the screen," continues Irene with a laugh.

- We think it's great that Kimitoön has developed and become more vibrant.

Their colleagues have also shown great interest in the Hjelts' summer home. Joonas jokingly says that they constant-



ly work to promote brand Finland while they are in the country.

### "We think it's great that Kimitoön has developed and become more vibrant."

- When our colleagues look at where we are on Google Maps, they wonder how it's possible to work in such a place. It doesn't seem obvious to someone from California, for example. Here too, there are remote cabins that are not connected at all, says Joonas, sipping coffee from a Finnish Taika mug.

The Hjelts also think that Kasnäs is nice from the perspective of a family with children.

- Kasnäs has a good village shop and the restaurants serve lunch. Our favour-

ites are Farmors Café, Källarvinden, Kasnäs pavilion and of course Söderlångvik manor. Kimitoön has many villages, eateries and attractions. It's important to get out among people from time to time. We think it's great that Kimitoön has developed and become more vibrant over the years. Örö is a good example of this. They have found the right way to market this unique environment, say the couple.

The family will next visit Finland in the summer. With them will be their Colombian au pair Valentina, who is eagerly awaiting her first trip to Europe.

In the future, the Hjelts would like to spend half the year on Kimitoön.

- Our dream is to live half the year in Finland and half here. Of course, there are many nice things here too, but in Finland we have family, wonderful friends and our summer home. Entrepreneurship and flexible working mean that this dream can become a reality, conclude the Hjelts.

## Services and amenities in the guest harbours

Whether you're looking for extensive harbour services or a quiet berth surrounded by nature, you'll find a suitable guest harbour on Kimitoön. Full-service harbours are located on the south coast of the island and, if you want to go further out, there are wellequipped guest harbours in the outer archipelago as well. There is plenty to see, making a longer stay worthwhile – the archipelago offers great opportunities for island hopping!



# Sea Eagle trail by boat or canoe

he White-tailed eagle is the signature animal of the Archipelago National Park. Experience the scenery of the White-tailed eagle in the Finnish Archipelago National Landscapes. The waterway around Kimitoön, the second largest island in Finland's sea areas, can be made by boat, kayak, sup-board paddling, or even rowing.

The Sea Eagle Trail is divided into eight stages. You can start from any of the harbours along the route. Experience the magnificent National Parks with their beautiful islands, idyllic villages, the historic Strömma canal and guest harbours, that offer seafarers everything needed at sea.

More information: kimitoon.fi



# The villages and culture of the archipelago

Our scenic archipelago has idyllic villages, the best of what the sea has to offer, and unique products by artisans and craftsmen. The atmosphere on Kimitoön is a mix of cosiness, seaside experiences, countryside idyll, the ambiance of a mill town, and history.

Kimitoön is charming regardless of the season. You can relax in the peace and quiet, or enjoy the hustle and bustle of crowds and concerts. You can get to Kimitoön both by land and by sea.

Vänö



# Dalsbruk

Ironworks village history and cultural events

Dalsbruk offers a lot of events and activities for the whole family. The village is also suitable for longer stays thanks to its nature trails, scenic viewing points and its diverse cultural opportunities. You can also shop for local delicacies or, for example, visit the local craftsman workshop Glashyttan where you can watch glass blowing.

### Culture & ironworks history

The inhabitants of Dalsbruk have lived alongside the ironworks for over 330 years. This coexistence has given rise to millions of tons of iron, a beautiful ironworks environment and a rich history. Anyone visiting Dalsbruk can sense the traces of the ironworks everywhere in the village.

In the summer, you can visit the Dalsbruk Ironworks Museum where you can learn about the history of the ironworks and the past working life of the village. The culture-historical museum consists of six buildings and 11 charcoal ovens which presents the history of the ironworks from the 18th to the 20th century.

### Sea and lakes

Salty sea breeze or magical lake environments - the village's location between the sea and two lakes provides opportunities for many memorable excursions.

If you want to go out on the sea, you can hop on one of the free ferry connections, reserve a place on a coastal cruise, or rent a sailing boat in the harbor.

Canoeing along the channels in the marshlands of the Stora Masugnsträsket together with the many stunning wilderness views is a fascinating experience. Between May and October you can rent a canoe at the guest harbor office.

# Reasons to visit Dalsbruk

- Easy to get here by bus from Turku, Salo or Helsinki
- Market days every Wednesday and Saturday
- Festivals: Baltic Jazz, Festival Norpas and September Open
- Cafeterias and restaurants in the harbor, park and by the square
- See a glassblower at work in Glashyttan craftman's workshop
- Hiking trails for for all ages and Senatsberget lookout tower
- Canoe rental at Stora Masugnsträsket
- Accommodation options: hotel, hostel, B&B, camping, Airbnb, and Skytent Ecocamp tents

visitkimitoon.fi/en/dalsbruk dalsbruk.fi





Vänö is an island in the outer archipelago of Kimitoön. The Vänö archipelago consists of about 150 islands, many of which are inhabited in the summer. Summer is the most active time on Vänö, but the quiet winter also has its own charm. A free ferry operates between Kasnäs and Vänö. The 'Strandhugget' cafe and shop is open in summer. The Kulturhuset cultural centre can be booked for parties, meetings and courses. Vänö Chapel can be booked for weddings and other church events. In Västerby, there is a private beach sauna about 1 km from the harbour. The sauna can also be booked outside the summer season. Take the opportunity to walk the 2.5-kilometre nature trail and enjoy the beach when you are on Vänö. Read more: **vano.fi**.







<sup>'</sup>Dragsfjärd – where the sea meets the land' was Dragsfjärd's slogan for a long time. Dragsfjärd is rich in history and nature. The top attractions include the historic church and village of Dragsfjärd, Ölmos sandy beach, Söderlångvik manor and a day trip to Purunpää nature reserve (19 km).



The underground smoke sauna at Storfinnhova estate is one of the most memorable experiences for many visitors to Kimitoön. The sauna is regularly open to the public. Björkboda also offers many other experiences and activities. You can play golf in Bjärkas, enjoy art and events at the KuBu cultural centre, visit the local lock museum and ironworks, take a guided canoe trip at Björkboda marsh and relax at the beach shelter.





Kimito is one of the most active places on Kimitoön and has much to offer to everyone in the family. For example, you can exercise in Amos Park, play footgolf in Uppgårds at Finland's only 18-hole footgolf course, walk or run on nature trails, visit Sagalund's popular open-air museum and S:t Andreaskyrkan (St Andrew's Church), and take part in events at the Villa Lande cultural centre. When you visit Villa Lande, Cake My Way is definitely worth a visit. This is where the winner of the Koko Suomi leipoo (Finnish Bake Off) programme bakes a variety of tasty pastries. If you need to do some shopping, Närboden is a clear winner with its award-winning delicacies. Another place worth a visit is Sagalund's museum shop, where the items on sale include local products and newly produced old-fashioned toys.







Västanfjärd focuses on quiet tourism, offering a genuine archipelago atmosphere and peaceful village roads, plus many activities and events. Although the village's attractions and services are within a 10-kilometre radius, it is a good idea to set aside a few days for your visit. The history of Västanfjärd is characterised by sailing ships, shipbuilding and limestone quarrying. Along the cultural trail, signs draw attention to many culturally and historically significant buildings. Cows and sheep graze on the nearby meadows. The open-air mines and maritime memorials are also suitable for excursions. The beautiful viewpoint on the Lammala nature trail is the right place to relax with a snack from the village shop. The other Västanfjärd nature trail leads to a stone labyrinth, also known as a Troy Town. Boaters can moor at Kalkholmen guest harbour, where the services include a restaurant. There is also a stage for summer theatre, concerts, festivals and voga classes. In Västanfjärd vou can play tennis, golf, frisbee golf, boule and padel.



Hitis and Rosala are two beautiful islands in the outer archipelago, linked by a small bridge and a shared history. The Vikings sailed east to here, and nowadays you can reach the Viking trading post by car. Hitis Church is one of the oldest, most beautiful wooden churches in Finland and is definitely worth a visit. The Viking Centre in Rosala presents the Iron Age in the Archipelago in a multifaceted way and offers unforgettable experiences for those who want to find out what life was like in the Viking Age. Hitis' primary school is more than 100 years old and houses a charming library, an information point and a craft shop. Gröndalen's scenic sandy beach is a hidden gem for those who love beach life. Hitis' Backom Café and pub is open from Easter to late autumn. The village's local shop, Holmströms lanthandel, serves tourists and residents all year round. Rosala Bagaren bakery is famous for its bread. Rosala is also home to the Rousal Brygghus microbrewery, which brews local beer.







Högsåra is known as Jungfrusund's pilot station, which was first mentioned in the context of pilotage in 1490. Högsåra is a well-preserved idyllic archipelago village, where the oldest buildings date from the 18th century. The village uniquely combines its long history of pilotage and imperial visits with the modern world. The menu at Farmors Café is based on local ingredients and homemade pastries. Enjoy the pleasant atmosphere in the charming village setting. The Rumpan Bar beach bar at Lillbacka Brygga serves refreshing drinks in a relaxed atmosphere. Jungfrusund's museum in the guest harbour of Kejsarhamn provides an insight into the village's history. ATTRACTIONS

## Gems from artisans and local producers

Delight your loved ones with local products! You can buy products directly from the artisans or local producers, or, for example, from museum shops.





Emma Hagman Designs dishcloths for Sagalund Museum are decorated with motifs from Kimitoön. **Sagalund's museum shop** 



Henna Renfors/ OwnDesign both designs and makes beautiful silver jewellery inspired by the local history of the island. Part of the jewellery is designed by Leif Ström. **Sagalund's museum shop** 



Närboden's jams are available in many different delicious flavours. **Närboden** 



You can find apples and apple delicacies straight from

Söderlångvik estate's very

own garden.





Beautiful cards designed and made by the design duo neme. **KUBU shop** 



# Sagahınd Museum brings history to life

Sagalund Museum near the centre of Kimito is a living museum of local history, a children's cultural centre and a garden. The core of the activities is diverse, child-oriented cultural heritage education and environmental education. inland's first open-air museum, Sagalund, was founded in 1910 by **Nils Oskar Jansson** in Kimito. With **Adèle Weman**, he was a teacher at Vreta primary school on the museum site. Jansson drew his inspiration from Skansen in Stockholm. Over the years, more than twenty buildings have been moved to the area from different parts of Kimitoön, including a courthouse, a croft, a farm, a villa and two schools. In addition, many inspiring play environments for children have been created.

**Amos Anderson**, patron of the arts, began his schooling at Vreta primary school. Perhaps it was here that his interest in art and culture began? Tjuda pedagogi, one of the Sagalund school buildings, was built in the late 18th century and moved to the area in 1914.

The entire museum site is open in summer and the main museum building, Sagalundgården, is open all year round with its lunch café and museum shop. In the main building, for example, visitors can experience the work of a midwife.

#### Much to see in the garden

Nils Oskar Jansson was a great admirer of Carl Linnaeus and he often dreamed of expanding the open-air museum with a botanical garden. The staff continue to look after the species that Jansson planted in Sagalund over a hundred years ago. There is also a lovely rose garden, which was created later. Sagalund's children's cultural activities are supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture and include gardening. The teaching starts with spring sowing and ends with a harvest festival in the autumn.

### Caring for cultural heritage

According to Sagalund's museum director, **John Björkman**, looking after the museum buildings is an interesting, if demanding, task.

- As museum director, I have wanted to invest in renovating the buildings. In recent summers we have repaired many roofs and some renovation work has also been done during an international volunteer camp. In this way, we contribute to carrying on the tradition of building and renovation.

A School Day in the Past is one of the most popular programmes at Sagalund. During this journey back in time, students practice writing with an ink pen, for example, under the watchful eye of a strict teacher, of course! Teddybears' picnics are organised for the youngest members of the family and journeys back in time for the older ones, where they perform tasks from the past.

- We want to bring history to life. The School Day in the Past is our most popular activity. Although our main target group is children and school groups, we are now also focusing on adults by offering a series of traditional workshops once a month on Saturdays, says John.

During your museum visit, you can enjoy lunch and pastries in the atmospheric Café Adèle, which is open all year



round. Sagalund's nationally famous museum shop has a diverse, interesting range of products – there are even the special sweets known as knäckklubbor (butterscotch lollipops).

#### Read more at sagalund.fi

### Other museums on Kimitoön

- Dalsbruk Ironworks Museum presents the history of the ironworks and includes eight buildings, eleven charcoal furnaces and a blast furnace from 1686. The museum is part of the Sagalund Children's Cultural Centre.
- Björkboda Lock Museum is a cultural and historical museum that opened in 1979. The museum is located in a worker's dwelling from the 1840s and presents the history of lock making. The museum displays various locks and fittings and what a worker's dwelling looked like in the 1970s.
- Jungfrusund Museum in Kejsarhamnen in Högsåra presents the history of the village with a focus on pilotage and imperial visits.

- Söderlångvik Manor presents the life and art collection of patron Amos Anderson in a magnificent setting. The barn, renovated in 1930s style, houses a café and temporary art exhibitions.
- Bengtskär lighthouse is a majestic, historically significant building in the outer archipelago. In the lighthouse, built in 1906, you can learn about the Battle of Bengtskär, which took place in 1941, and explore a post-war bunker.
- Örö fortress island is a unique place that can be compared to an open-air museum. The whole island radiates military history with its well-preserved barracks, cobblestone roads and Obukhovskii guns.



– nature experiences and personal history in Amos Anderson's summer residence Söderlångvik Manor tells the story of the parliamentarian, businessman and patron of the arts Amos Anderson. The magnificent house contains a museum of art and personal history. The estate also has extensive apple orchards, large wooded areas and nature trails. Söderlångvik's country house environment offers a variety of experiences for the whole family.

he main character in the story of Söderlångvik, the owner of the newspaper Hufvudstadsbladet and member of parliament for the Swedish People's Party of Finland, **Amos Anderson**, was born in Kimito in 1878. Anderson bought Söderlångvik manor as his summer residence in 1927. The estate has been open to the public as a museum of art and personal history since 1965.

The museum in the great white house tells the story of how the boy from Brokärr became a media mogul in Helsinki, while at the same time pursuing a career as a Member of Parliament and a major investor. Visitors also learn about Anderson's great interest in culture and the factors that led to the founding of the Föreningen Konstsamfundet art society.

The art exhibition in the great house is renewed every year before the summer. The exhibition includes over a hundred works from the Amos Rex art museum collections. The art exhibitions continue with contemporary art in the estate buildings and Café Söderlångvik.

### Experiences for the whole family – and for businesses

Söderlångvik estate is more than a museum of art and personal history. The exhibitions are supplemented by concerts, local food events and other cultural activities. The programme includes theatre, classical music, pop and jazz music, and workshops.

The main event, Apple Day, is held at the end of September, when huge numbers of apples have been harvested from the orchards. At the harvest festival, visitors can buy different varieties of apples and apple products from the estate and enjoy music and cultural activities for the whole family.

Söderlångvik is located by the sea and is also accessible by sea. M/S Alva runs

a service between Söderlångvik and Dalsbruk in the summer. There are several nature trails around the estate and the Söderlångvik apple orchard is also worth a visit. Söderlångvik offers accommodation and meeting rooms for companies, groups and individuals.

### Local delicacies

Café Söderlångvik's pastries and lunches are made largely from the estate's own produce and that of nearby producers. Lunch is served daily during the summer season. Picnic baskets are available for sale for those who want to enjoy their coffee in the open air – the nature trail shelter and the estate's welltrimmed lawns are some of the favourite spots for picnicking. The café also sells the estate's own products, such as apple juice, apple jam, apple bread and honey. A craft stall is located next to the café.

Read more: VisitKimitoon.fi Soderlangvik.fi



### THE UNESCO ARCHIPELAGO SEA BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Our archipelago lies in the middle of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. It is one of the most diverse and species rich areas in the whole of Finland and one of the most island rich areas in the whole world.

The area was declared a biosphere reserve in 1994 due to the incredible biodiversity of the cultural landscapes and was considered particularly valuable and important. For the biosphere reserve, the connection between man and nature is important. Everyone's efforts are important for the sustainable development of a viable archipelago. The archipelago's biosphere reserve strives with all its activities to promote both sustainable tourism and a living archipelago.

biosfar.fi

### Island expedition

For families with their own boat in the Archipelago Sea, the island expedition is an environmentally friendly adventure. Visit up to 15 marinas in the archipelago for fun activities at each marina, and stamps to collect. You can get your expedition passport from one of the participating islands.

Look out for the information boards and go exploring on your island adventure!

### The Archipelago National Park

The Archipelago National Park has an abundance of nature paths, camping places and mooring jetties. You can reach the national park by ferry and passenger boat – on your own or as part of a guided tour. During the summer, the area is popular with sailors and kayakers.

Good to know

- You can only camp and make fires at designated sites. Firemaking is prohibited when a forest fire warning has been issued. Landing is not permitted on some islands during the bird-nesting season. Landing is prohibited all year round on the seal conservation areas.
- Only parts of the area inside the national park borders belong to the park itself, and you will encounter living archipelago culture and island villages as well as vast wilderness areas.

For more information about the national park, visit *nationalparks.fi/archipelagonp* 



# THE ARCHIPELAGO NATIONAL PARK



### Services and activities in the Archipelago National Park

- History: Burial mounds, mysterious monk rings and traditional landscapes
- Trails: Fourteen nature trails on land and two underwater nature trails
- Services: Excursion harbours, camping sites and campfire sites
- Read more: Excursionmap.fi





Örö, located southwest of Hitis, was closed to the public for over a hundred years. Now the coastal fortress is one of the most popular destinations in the Archipelago Sea.

#### Nature

Örö is part of the Salpausselkä II ridge, and its soil consists mainly of sand and gravel. The island's primeval forests, heaths and sandy and pebbly beaches have much to offer to all lovers of the outdoors and nature.

#### Walk:

The northern marked trail is just over five kilometres long and the southern one slightly shorter. Nature guides can be hired. There is a bathing beach near the southern tip of the island.

#### Hire:

Bikes, canoes, kayaks and SUP boards can be hired from the harbour office. By bike it is easier to get a first impression of the rather large island.

#### Birdwatching:

Migratory birds pass through Örö in both the spring and autumn. Even in the summer, the varied habitats can attract rare birds.

#### Plants and butterflies:

There are rare shoreline plants and over 250 rare or endangered butterfly species. In total, around 1,600 species of butterflies have been found on Örö.



### Visit Örö in your own boat

The guest harbour on Örö has room for 80 boats. The harbour was named 'Guest harbour of the year' in 2017.

### Military history

Örö served as a naval base for the Swedish high seas fleet during the 1808–1809 war. When Finland was part of the Russian Empire, Örö belonged to the Örö-Russarö-Utö-Ösel line of fortification, which controlled the approach to Saint Petersburg. During this time, the fortress was equipped with eleven guns of various sizes, a narrow-gauge railway, cobbled roads and a number of barracks and other buildings. The railway has now been demolished, but the cobbled roads and buildings remain.

Örö was an important part of the Finnish coastal defences from the Interim Peace in World War II onwards. The gun batteries on Örö provided fire support during the Battle of Bengtskär in 1941. The island was handed over to Metsähallitus (the Finnish Forest Administration) by the Finnish Defence Forces in 2015, when it became part of the Archipelago Sea National Park.

### Board and lodging

The tsarist era dining room of Ravintola 12" offers diners a lunch buffet during the day and an à la carte menu in the evening. Microbrewery Kimito Brewing's Skärilager beer is one of the restaurant's specialities. StrandBistro offer lighter café fare.

There are many places to stay. You can stay in a cabin, hotel or hostel, or camp at the camp site.



# Some of what you can experience here:

- 12-inch guns and barracks. Bengtskär lighthouse is about 13 kilometres to the south.
- The enchanting scent of the heaths. The midsummer heat brings out the scent of the heather and wild thyme. How to find it: Walk along the Pitkä Ikävä road. You'll know when you're there.
- The long sandy beach of the western shore and its landscape.





Far out in the outer Hitis archipelago lies Bengtskär, the southernmost inhabited island in our country, with its 52-metre high lighthouse, the highest in the Nordic region. After ascending the 252 steps of the spiral staircase and climbing two ladders, visitors enter the lighthouse's lantern room. The view of the Archipelago Sea is unparalleled from here. There are many ways to describe the atmosphere of the lighthouse island, but you need to experience Bengtskär for yourself. On the one-and-a-half-hectare barren island, the senses come alive, and you will never forget the sounds and smells of the sea.

engtskär lighthouse was designed by architect Florentin Granholm in the late 19th century. Construction began in the early spring of 1906 and was completed in the same year, a real achievement given the inaccessible location and the construction techniques of the time. The granite for the foundations and the facades was quarried on the spot. The lighthouse was maintained by a senior lighthouse keeper, an engineer and three lighthouse keepers and their families, a total of 15 people. The population peaked in the late 1930s, when 32 adults and children lived on the skerry.

### Dramatic history

The lighthouse was attacked for the first time during World War I, when the Russian cruisers Magdeburg and Augsburg hit it with some thirty shells. The next incident took place during World War II, during the Battle of Bengtskär on 26–27 July 1941. This time the damage and losses were much greater. The guided tour briefly covers the events of the Battle of Bengtskär, and visitors can also learn more about the subject in the exhibition on the ground floor of the lighthouse.

### Services

Day visitors are served delicious butter buns, salty and sweet snacks and drinks. The cafe sells souvenirs. Postcards sent from the island are stamped with Bengtskär's own postmark.

It is also possible to spend an unforgettable night on Bengtskär in one of the seven popular hotel rooms. There are 25 beds in total. In the evening, overnight guests can enjoy delicious archipelago food and a gentle steam in the sauna, which is over a century old.

### From disrepair to new glory

The lighthouse's gas lantern was automated in 1968, after which the building was left cold and uninhabited for decades. Damage and a lack of heating led to the lighthouse falling into disrepair until the Finnish Maritime Administration leased the building to the Centre for Continuing Education at Åbo Akademi University in 1992. The lighthouse was restored to its original glory under the leadership of **Paula** and **Per Wilson**, and in 2000 it was sold to the Åbo Akademi University Foundation. The Wilsons managed the lighthouse and the services until 2022, when responsibility began to pass to Paula's and Per's daughter **Nora Wilson** and her husband **Henrik Wilson**.

- No major changes will be made at Bengtskär, but our vision is to provide more information about the everyday life of the lighthouse keeper families. We are also considering various digital experiences both on the lighthouse island and online, says Nora Wilson.

The main changes concern the lighthouse's electricity and heat supply.

- A long power cable has been laid on the seabed from the mainland to Bengtskär. We are also considering geothermal energy and solar panels. They would help us improve the operational reliability of the lighthouse and avoid our current dependence on oil, says Nora.

Passenger boats serve Bengtskär between May and September from Kasnäs, Örö, Rosala, Hanko and Turku.





Raising the double-edged axe above your head is like moving a thousand years back in time. In the new reality, you are a Viking, one of the inhabitants of the Viking village, and you have a competition to win, in axe throwing of course. A powerful throw and the axe flies off and hits the target with a bang. The guide and your friends cheer. You close your eyes and fill your lungs with archipelago air.

osala Viking Centre is a popular destination that enchants school classes and other visitors with its powerful tale of the Viking age. Visitors can choose from a variety of activities – even weddings have been arranged for modern-day Viking couples.

- The Viking Centre's activities are divided into different packages. 'A day as a Viking' is the most popular theme for school classes. We dress up in Viking clothes, bake and fry field bread, visit a Viking ship next to the centre and try out different fighting techniques, says **Paul Wilson** at the Viking Centre.

The centre's guides talk about the lives of the Vikings, supported by historical facts.

- What plants did Viking farmers grow? How far did the Vikings sail? What goods did the Vikings trade? On a social level, we talk about how the chiefs gave way to the kings over time, and how the ancient Norse Asatro religion was replaced by Christianity, says Paul.

### Practical information about archaeology

Were there really Vikings on Rosala? Answer: yes. To date, 1,400 archaeological finds have been made in the Hitis and Rosala area, most of them dating back to the Viking Age. The most significant finds have been made during archaeological excavations around Kyrksundet, which lies between Rosala and Hitis. Kyrksundet was an important port and trading centre for the Vikings as they travelled east towards the major trading centres of Novgorod, Constantinople and Baghdad.

Visitors to the Viking Centre have the opportunity to take part in an archaeological test excavation led by a guide. The guide talks about the excavations at Kyrksundet, which form the basis for the Viking Centre, and shows how archaeological excavations are carried



out. Participants can also try their hand at using metal detectors in the field.

- The pupils of Vaunukankaan koulu found an almost 300-year-old Swedish coin, says Paul.

### Eat and sleep like a Viking

The gable of the Rodeborg chieftain's hall has been decorated with a winding dragon pattern. The museum's jewellery is an exact replica of the originals. The Viking village buildings are also hand-built in the old way using original models. These are some of the details that contribute to the ancient atmosphere.

A dinner in the chieftain's hall enhances the experience. For those who like beer, the centre's own sea buckthorn Rosala Viking Wheat Beer, brewed in Rosala, is recommended.

Rodeborg also offers accommodation in alcoves or in individual rooms next to the hall.

- After a day in the Viking village, relaxing on a hand-hewn timber bunk can make today's world feel very, very distant, Paul says.



# Activities on Kimitoön

Other than its unique environment, Kimitoön offers unforgettable experiences and activities.

There are over 40,000 islands and islets in the Archipelago Sea, of which 3,000 are in the archipelago of Kimitoön. Experience the world's most magnificent archipelago from your own boat, on a boat cruise, or in a kayak. The town also has several well-marked nature and cultural trails, which take anywhere from half an hour to half a day to hike. There are plenty of opportunities for those seeking relaxation: you can, for example, enjoy a sauna bath and treatments.

> Vänö • Disc Golf

### Eknäs

- Nature trails, 3-5,5 km
- Lean-to shelter, campfire site and a look out tower
- Eknäs holiday village
- Beach, playground and sauna

### Dragsfjärd

Labbnäs Vacation Home Labbnäsvägen 66

 Sauna (reservation) and winter swimming

#### Söderlångvik Purunpää hiking route 18 km

 Lean-to shelter, campfire site

### Villkärr

Footgolf at Uppgårds Villkärrsvägen 147

Footgolf
Sauna (reservation)

### Björkboda

**Storfinnhova gård** Finnhovavägen 163

Sauna (reservation)

#### **Björkboda beach** Bodängsvägen 353

 Lean-to shelter, campfire site

#### Amosparken

Kemiö

- Edvin Widevägen • Sport playground
- Small basketball court
- Beach volleyball court
- Roller skate track and ramps
- Athletics court
  Fitness stairs for stair
- Fitness stairs for climbing
   Disc Golf
- Disc Golf
  Norrskogen hiking trail
- Horseback riding
   Karlskogavägen 26
- Pegasus-talli
   Horseback riding
   Stapelgränd 16

### Nivelax

**Bjärkas Golf** Västanfjärdsvägen 655

- Golf
- Boules
- Table tennis
- Tennis
- Sauna

### Västanfjärd

- Disc Golf Park Sirnäsvägen 12
- Kalkholmen Marina Kalkholmsvägen 43
  - Padel
  - PlaygroundSauna (reservation)
  - Beach

### Dalsbruk

- Disc Golf Park Dalsbruksvägen 578
- Masugnens gamla bastu
   Public sauna shifts and winter swimming
- Senatsberget
   Wellness trail 6,3 km
- Lean-to shelter, campfire site and a look out tower
- Dalsbruk sports and athletics park Olavi Hjellmans väg
  - Basketball court
  - Tennis court
  - Nature trails and hiking routes
  - Outdoor gym
  - Ice skating rink (in Winter)
  - Cross-country skiing trail (in Winter)

### Örö

Sauna (reservation)
Nature trails
Biking
SUP-boarding

### Kasnäs <sub>Kasnäs</sub> Spa

Kasnas Spa Kasnäsvägen 1294

- Indoor and outdoor
- pools • Saunas
- Gym
- Mini Golf
- Boules and petanque
- Padel and tennis
- Beach
- Nature trails




Kasnäs is where the road ends and the sea begins. In the summer, the headland is filled with guests staying at the spa hotel, boats in the guest harbour and other visitors to Kimitoön. Kasnäs offers activities and experiences all year round. You can enjoy a sumptuous Christmas dinner, a great Mother's Day lunch or the outdoor pools, which are always warm.

here is something for visitors of all ages. Adults can play padel, attend a yoga session or relax in the sauna. Children can splash around in the pools, play mini golf or climb at the beach playground. Kasnäs is also a popular venue for conferences and events throughout the year. You can also rent a beach sauna with a hot tub and enjoy the warmth even when it's freezing cold outside.

## Kasnäs spa hotel & services at the newly built Kasnäs Pavilion

The spa hotel and Kasnäs Pavilion are certified with the Nordic Ecolabel for the company's efforts to develop sustainable tourism. To meet the strict certification criteria, services must take the environment as a whole into account.

The hotel's spiral buildings have private balconies and sea views. At Kasnäs Marina you can rent a high-quality, modern holiday apartment with all amenities. Events are organised throughout the year in Kasnäs. See the calendar of events at kasnas.com.

The swimming pool's wellness services and archipelago views guarantee a relaxing, invigorating winter holiday. Swim in the sea or in the pool and relax in the saunas.





Kasnäs Pavilion was completed in 2022. Here you can enjoy the popular fish buffet, lunch or an à la carte dinner in a highclass, modern restaurant with a sea view. On the ground floor there is a convenience store with a post office, a café, a fish counter and the jewellery shop Silver Fish Pärlan.

#### Guest harbour and caravan site

The sheltered harbour can accommodate around 100 boats. The hotel and all services are located a few hundred metres from the shore. Kasnäs Caravan has 32 year-round pitches for caravans and motorhomes and offers all the usual services for a caravan site.

#### Activities

In Kasnäs you can play padel, tennis, mini golf and boule, practice yoga and walk on nature trails. You can also hire sailing boats, motorboats and bikes.

#### Other services in the area

The idyllic summer café Källarvinden is located in the village of Kasnäs and serves gourmet dishes made from hyperlocal ingredients. A goldsmith's factory store is located approximately 300 m from the harbour.

## AN IDYLLIC Golf Course

At Bjärkas Golf's 18-hole course you play golf in a unique archipelago landscape. The par 57 course counts towards your handicap and is open to all.

The World Golf Awards have crowned Bjärkas Golf Finland's Best Golf Hotel several times. Bjärkas Golf also has Preferred Partner status on Booking.com.

You can stay at the country club even if you are not playing golf. Bjärkas Golf offers accommodation in apartments for 2–4 people, in a grandma's cottage or in the Villa, which can accommodate ten people.





## CONSCIOUS Presence at Hilda's stables

**Kristina Österberg's** stables in Kimito is named after her late Fjord horse, Hilda. There are four horses, two dogs, chickens and rabbits. Hilda's 12-year-old foal Skrållan now works as a riding horse in the stables.

- Our activities are very suitable for families with children. I want to offer a calm environment in which children can get to know the animals and ride. We also have child-friendly dogs, chickens and rabbits in the same enclosure that you can look in on. Sometimes the environment in riding schools can be a bit noisy, and we want to offer peace and quiet, says Kristina.

The stables also offers neuropsychiatric coaching at a reasonable price. Many children tend to be calmed by the horses.

- It's great to see parents enjoying their children having a good time and being proud of them. Many parents want to try riding themselves, and they can, says Kristina with a smile.

## THE COASTAL ROUTE FOR CYCLISTS - IRON WORKS VILLAGES, ARCHIPELAGO VIEWS AND THREE NATIONAL PARKS

The coastal route is a signposted cycle route of over 200 kilometers that winds through rural and archipelago landscapes. In summer, part of the route includes travelling by boat through Finland's beautiful Archipelago.

A considerable part of the route goes through Kimitoön, Salo, Hanko and Raseborg along small, quiet, asphalt surfaced roads. During summertime, you can take the tour boat from Hanko to Kasnäs, and on the way visit Bengtskär's lighthouse and Örö fortress island. Off-season, the route works well as a tour of Kimitoön Island including the archipelago, Mathildedal ironworks village and Tykö National Park.

The route offers a lot to see and do, and it pays to reserve a full week in order to experience the whole route. During the journey, you will pass through idyllic old factory villages and traditional archipelago villages, three national parks, and a large number of unique places offering experiences of both the nature and culture. Also along the route are plenty of cafes, breweries and restaurants offering elements of the Archipelago culinary style. The accommodation along the route consists of everything from cottages and tree houses to tent sites and a lighthouse hotel. If you want to sleep in a tent, you can choose between designated tent areas or the four campsites along the route.

There is a printed map of the Coastal Route that can be ordered free of charge. In addition, on the route's own web pages you will find tips about the daily stages of the journey and the services available. *coastalroute.fi* 





## LABBNÄS IS IDEAL FOR COURSES AND RETREATS

Labbnäs vacation home by Dragsfjärden lake, a beautiful place close to nature, is ideal for weekend courses and retreats. It is located five kilometres from Dalsbruk and just under 20 kilometres from the centre of Kimito.

The history of Labbnäs began in the late 17th century, when it served as a rectory. In the 1950s, the patron of the arts **Amos Anderson** (1878-1961) bought the estate and donated it to the Martha organisation in memory of his mother. A sustainable lifestyle with organic choices is at the heart of the Martha movement.

#### Food from the own kitchen

Today Labbnäs mostly organises courses, retreats and group events. Labbnäs is known for its tranquil location and good local food.

- We bake bread and biscuits and even peel the potatoes ourselves. The rhubarb pie we bake in the summer is very popular. We can also prepare vegetarian or vegan food if our customers want it, says **Eva Magnusson-Tamminen**, director of Labbnäs.

### Relaxation in the beach sauna and flea markets in the shed

Groups who book Labbnäs can enjoy the tranquillity, nature and food, as well as a large 20-person sauna with the option of a dip in the lake. Group weekends usually start with dinner and a sauna on Friday. On Saturday there will be a programme of events and meals. On Sunday, the guests have lunch before going home.

- We also have a large shed where you can hold yoga or painting classes and wedding parties in the summer. We also organise a very popular annual flea market and sing-alongs in the shed, says **Ina Tamminen**, a long-time employee at Labbnäs.

Individual travellers can book rooms at Labbnäs via booking.com. This is accommodation without full board, i.e. you prepare the food yourself in your own kitchen. Breakfast is served more regularly in the summer, when individual overnight guests can have breakfast at the vacation home.

### Read more about Labbnäs and the courses and retreats held there at labbnas.fi.



In the middle of the forest in Björkboda perhaps the most unique sauna in Finland is found: the smoke sauna at Storfinnhova Estate. In addition to the sauna, the estate offers accommodation, conference and party services.

It takes 1.5-2 days to heat up the huge but very atmospheric underground granite sauna. The sauna can accommodate almost 50 people. The temperature stays around 63-66 degrees Celcius, making the sauna mild and comfortable. Approximately 160 tea lights are placed along the soot-black walls. A stream runs into the sauna and down into a rocky pool of water, which is kept at a pleasant temperature by the ambient heat – so you can take a dip in water at about 20 degrees while you're in the sauna. The outdoor forest streams are more refreshing. The water temperature is generally around 6-10 degrees. In the middle of winter, the temperature drops close to zero.

- Many people think this place is like something out of Game of Thrones or The Hobbit, says Mats Grönblom, CEO of Storfinnhova Estate.

Group bookings are accepted, but individual customers and families can also use the sauna when it is open to the public a few times a month.

The sauna was designed by the former owner **Martin Andersen**. One day, as he was walking in the area where the forest village is now located, he had the idea for an experience centre, where you can spend the night in forest cabins and enjoy a fantastic smoke sauna. Dinners are organised for groups in the Forest Hall, or in the main house of Storfinnhova Estate, where accommodation is also available.

- The food we serve has increasingly become local. For example, we buy the potatoes and vegetables from our neighbour Oskar, says Mats.

### Read more about the forest village and Storfinnhova Estate: storfinnhova.com



# Kayaking across the sea

Kayaking is an excellent way to experience the beautiful archipelago. It looks so enviably harmonious as kayakers paddle along level with the sea. But how does a kayak suit an office worker who suffers from claustrophobia and prefers not to get wet?



h, paddling and kayaks! What could be cosier than slowly gliding through the landscape while the waves lap against the kayak? The thought of brewing coffee on archipelago rocks triggers a landlubber's longing for the great outdoors. This was roughly how I decided to try a kayaking trip in Kimitoön with kayaking and climbing guide **Niklas Hollsten** and photographer **Jaska Poikonen**.

My own experience of kayaking is limited to a paddling trip on the Aura river on a flat-bottomed two-person craft, which could just as easily have been a rowing boat. I start to realise that there are many different kinds of kayak as Niklas struggles to get ours down from the trailer. Our kayaks are narrow and v-bottomed and the kind you slip into, like poached eggs plopping into vinegar water. Before that, you have to pull on neoprene shoes and a skirt-like sheet, and go through the safety equipment.

- The spare paddle is the most important thing, our guide tells us.

And a paddle float is a cushion-like thing that you pull over your paddle if you end up in the water. The float floats so well that it helps you get back into the kayak. In addition, you need a towline and a pump to empty the kayak. Niklas shows us how to put on the sheet. Then it's time to get up close and personal with the kayak. My first thought is that it is really narrow. The midwife once praised me for the fact that my pelvis is of the right model (i.e. wide) for childbirth, but it's not to my advantage now. What if our trip ends before it even begins because the writer simply can't fit in the kayak? 'Too fat to paddle', I can already hear my colleagues sighing. "Sit on the seat, then swing one leg at a time into the kayak," are the instructions.

I fit! Knees slightly outwards and feet on the footrests. Somewhere in there should also be a pair of rudder pedals, to steer the kayak.



### \*

A gentle push and the kayak floats off the beach. A clump of reeds approaches surprisingly quickly before I have time to remind myself how to hold the paddle. Now it occurs to me that it has been ten years since my last rowing trip. Behind the cockpit is a small ball on a string. When you pull the ball, the rudder splashes down into the water. I try steering the kayak with my toes. The left pedal is easy to find, the right one is a bit more difficult. You can't lean too far to one side or the kayak tilts. Balance is key, as we will soon learn.

#### Seal safari and capsize

We paddle further out. After a few minutes I hear enthusiastic noises from the other kayaks.

- Seal! Straight ahead of us!

Unfortunately, my kayak is side on to the seal at the moment, as I'm trying to remember which foot is left and which is right. I've been practising that for a paltry 35 years. When you're surrounded by water, it's interesting to notice that your foot stubbornly presses the left pedal when you need to go right.

Niklas Hollsten is Kimitoön's own climbing guru and a former professional snowboarder who won the Nordic freestyle championships. He knows Kimitoön's beaches, sounds and shallows like the back of his hand. We paddle past a beautiful archipelago home and Niklas tells us that the house is his grandmother's farm.

Everywhere is peaceful and the autumn colours shine in the trees. Most of the beach huts seem to be empty, but on some islands the pennants are still hoisted. Jaska, the photographer, becomes interested in the landscape and paddles off quickly. The light is perfect and so is everything else. He has time to take a few pictures before we hear a startled cry as he falls into the water. Everything happens literally in an instant. Niklas calmly paddles up to the capsized kayak, lifts it on top of his own kayak and helps the photographer up. The whole operation takes a few minutes. I wondered how on earth our guide could sit in his kayak and lift another person out of the water at the same time. I myself hardly dare move my head to one side, lest the kayak tips over.

A third of the expedition is soaked and the sea water has a strong cooling effect, even though it is unusually warm for the time of year. What do we do now? A quick check of the situation and a decision: we continue. Spare clothes are in the other kayak, the coffee is warming and the pocket camera takes over.

"The kayak glides silently towards the shore and it feels as if we have arrived at a secret place."

#### Coffee on a skerry

We head for the beach and turn right at a marker. The wind changes and the waves, so small a moment ago, rise higher and take on white crests. This is hard! The others disappear from sight for a while and I find myself cheering myself on out loud among the growing waves. For a while I have to get serious to make the kayak obey. How is our wet travel companion doing? Now I need the toilet as well. Just as suddenly as the waves grew, I enter a shallow, calm sound. Jellyfish in candyfloss colours dance beautifully in the clear water. The kayak glides silently towards the shore and it feels as if we have arrived at a secret place. We go ashore on the small skerry so the photographer can change into dry clothes. Niklas makes coffee and we admire the landscape.

- There you can see the highest point in the Archipelago Sea and the port of Pargas, Niklas points out.

A jack of all trades who has enjoyed snowboarding, climbing and wilderness life as both a job and a hobby, Niklas returned to these parts a few years ago after living in Austria and Norway. In the summers, he always returned to his roots, but in 2019 he decided to settle on Kimitoön permanently with his family. Through his company Nordic Activities & Solutions, Niklas organises climbing, kayaking and walking trips during the summer season, and in-between he paints houses and maintains holiday homes.

- Maybe I'm a bit restless. I always need to have something to do. Snowboarding and kayaking have a calming effect on me, because they require so much focus and peace of mind.

Niklas became interested in snowboarding when he was nine, and has been kayaking for about a decade. Most trips are day trips, but it is also possible to do overnight kayak trips. Tents, clothes, water and food can all be stored in the watertight compartments in the hull.

#### Room for thoughts

Niklas' partner runs the outdoor shop Utestugan in the centre of Kimito, where you can buy Lemmel coffee, which the couple imports. The coffee comes from Gällivare in Sweden and has a small bag of salt attached to the packaging. An old way of drinking coffee, Niklas explains. In the past, the bitter taste of coffee was softened with salt.

We pack the kayaks and head back. Now we have a tailwind and the paddling is much easier. At some point I notice that I am paddling without the others between the islands. My shoulders start to feel tired and my paddling is sometimes a bit haphazard. - You're a long way off course, I hear Niklas calling from across the sound.

Oops. A slight change of course and then I see the home beach. At the last moment, I even experience a situation that I had been dreading, when I hear the sound of a motorboat in the channel. However, the boat makes way for us and the waves are not very big either. I survived! Back on shore we change into dry clothes and lift the kayaks back onto the trailer. In the car, the photographer and I laugh about the day's events and note that you rarely experience and think about so many different things in half a day. What a trip!

Text: Sanna-Maria Sarelius

# Nordic Activities & Solutions

Tour operator on Kimitoön, founded in 2020. Specialises in wilderness walks, climbing, kayak hire and kayak tours. Plus holiday home maintenance and painting work.

Niklas Hollsten is a former professional snowboarder, climber and wilderness walker from Kimitoön.

nordicactivities.fi Instagram: nordic\_activities

# TOP SITES For outdoor People

Kimitoön's own outdoor guru, snowboarding champion **Nicke Hollsten**, is full of praise for the climbing, mountain biking and walking opportunities on the island. We asked Nicke to tell us where the best outdoor destinations are. The sites can be explored on your own or with a guide.

#### Mountain biking

#### Gentle:

- The Purunpää-Söderlångvik-Ölmos area has a scenic road network. Start at Ölmos beach and continue south along Ölmos Långsida. Follow the road to Glasberget in Purunpää. Take a break at Söderlångvik Estate's superb shelter.

#### Less gentle:

- The nature trails in Dalsbruk's hilly terrain are well suited for a slightly harder ride. Head up Senatsberget or stick to the paths around Stora and Lilla Masugnsträsket. Note the footbridge that crosses Lilla Masugnsträsket.

The nature trails in the Långdalen area of Kimito (Västeruddsvägen 101) are also good.

#### Rock climbing

– The 14-metre-high Oxhagaberg cliff in Kimito is suitable for top rope climbing, and for traditional and sport climbing. The grade of difficulty is between 3 and 7.

Senatsberget in Dalsbruk has a few nice routes in grades
 4–6b (traditional climbing).

- Kyrkskär is located near Högsåra on Gullkrona bay. To get there you need a boat, taxi boat or kayak. There are about ten routes graded between 3 and 7 (traditional climbing).

#### Walking

- The smooth rocks of Daladanten and Pellasklinten are ideal for walking (turn off from Mjösundsvägen to Degerdalsvägen towards Gräsböle). The area is also suitable for mountain biking and bouldering. Did you know that Kimitoön is one of the coolest climbing spots in Finland? There are two nice cliffs on the mainland, and a third in the Archipelago. Several cliffs are suitable for bouldering.



### **Everyman's Right**

The cliffs of Oxhagaberget, Senatsberget and Kyrkskär are on private land. The principles of Everyman's Right – the right of public access – must be respected here without exception. It is forbidden to light fires or leave litter. Always respect the delicate natural environment of the island.

Read more about Everyman's Right: VisitKimitoon.fi. On the same site you will find 12 marked nature trails and walking trails on Kimitoön. All of Kimitoön's climbing destinations are also shown at VisitKimitoon.fi.

## You can find all Kimitoön's activities on:

## VISITKIMITOON.FI





Kimitoön offers unique events all year round. Enjoy free cultural events and performances, or buy a ticket to an exciting festival. You find more information and all the events in our events calendar at visitkimitoon.fi.

### Baltic Jazz

Organised annually in the historical ironworks environment of Dalsbruk, this swinging festival offering a balanced mix of classic jazz, blues and rock music for the whole family. Finnish jazz-legend Antti Sarpila has been Creative Director since 2002.

#### September Open

#### septemberopen.fi

September Open is a festival of Medieval program and live music combined with local culture and a farmers market.

#### **Festival Norpas**

#### norpas.fi

Norpas is a quirky cultural festival for everyday people! Here you can enjoy live music, cinema, art exhibitions, sound installations, performances, circus and workshops.

### Kimito Island Music Festival *kimitomusicfestival.fi*

This yearly festival offers the finest chamber music by firstclass artists – from both the Finnish and the international scene. The concerts are organised in picturesque and uniquely beautiful venues – in churches and manors.

#### mÖrkö festival

#### morkofestival.fi

The festival of darkness! The name mÖrkö is a combination of the Swedish words Mörk (dark) and Ö (island). Unsurprisingly, this event celebrates the darkness through fun programmes and activities and is held annually in different locations.

### The Night of Ancient Bonfires

Back in the day, bonfires used to lead seamen home safely. Still today, on the last Saturday of August, the bonfires are lit to mark the end of the summer. Take part in the celebration at some of our events arranged by local communities!

### The Winter Viking Games rosala.fi

Enjoy an exciting winter day in Rosala – in the Viking spirit! The competition programme includes axe throwing, archery, spear throwing and knife throwing. The competitions are suitable for adults and kids alike.

#### The Apple Day in Söderlångvik Manor soderlangvik.fi

We celebrate the Finnish apple and the harvest time every year on the last Saturday of September. Visit the museum and enjoy local tastes at the Farmers market!

## Christmas dinner & picturesque Christmas Markets *visitkimitoon.fi*

Places that serve Finnish traditional Christmas dinner: Labbnäs vacation home, Kasnäs Pavilion, Rosala Viking Centre, Örö.

Traditional Christmas Markets: Oskarsmarknad in Sagalund, Lillajulsmarknad at Kalkholmen, Julmarknad in Dalsbruk, Julmarknad in Kimito.

#### Nordic Gravel Series

#### nordicgravel.com

The Finnish archipelago is a gravel paradise. The event starts and finishes at the unique Söderlångvik Manor in Dragsfjärd. The longest route is 150 km long, and goes around the southern part of Kimitoön Island – passing historical landmarks, like Dalsbruk and Västanfjärd, Kimito and Dragsfjärd churches.

#### New Year's Eve at the Örö fortress island visitoro.fi

Spend a relaxing New Year's Eve in the Archipelago Sea National Park, accompanied by tasty food. Enjoy the season of silence and winter landscapes.













# Joie de vivre on the beach

A picnic basket with local food on one of Kimitoön's scenic beaches is pure joie de vivre. We list the six most popular beaches and tell you where you can fill your basket.

#### Gräggnäs in Västanfjärd Gräggnäsvägen 81

(follow the road down to the beach)

Toilet and bathing hut. 5 m diving tower. Faces west.

Where to fill your picnic basket: Grocery store: K-Extra Knallis. Distance: 2.5 km. Restaurants: B&B and restaurant Kansakoulu, Restaurang Terrassn Café: Café Anna

> Distance from Västanfjärd: 3 km.

#### Västerbukten in Ölmos Ölmosvägen 469

Kimitoön's largest beach has a playground, a toilet, bathing huts and a 25-metre swimming lane. The water is shallow and suitable for small children. Faces northwest.

Where to fill your picnic basket: Road Café Yttis, K-Kärra Butik (grocery store).

Distance from Västanfjärd: 6 km.

#### Kila beach Granviksvägen 61b

Playground, toilet, bathing huts and a 25-metre swimming lane. The water is shallow and suitable for small children. Faces west.

#### Where to fill your picnic basket:

Cafés: Café Cake my way, Konditori Mazarin, Café Adéle, Café DaCapo. Restaurants: Mac Daniel's Grill, Pizzeria-Kebab Kimito. Grocery stores: S-Market, K-Supermarket Kompass.

Distance: 15 km from the centre of Kimito

Solbad Gammelby in Kimito, Bjärnåvägen 615

Toilet, bathing hut and jetty with diving tower. Faces southeast.

#### Where to fill your picnic basket: *Cafés:* Café Cake my way, Konditori

Mazarin, Café Adéle, Café DaCapo. *Restaurants:* Mac Daniel's Grill, Pizzeria-Kebab Kimito. *Grocery stores:* S-Market, K-Supermarket Kompass.

Distance from the centre of Kimito: 6 km.

### If it rains:

At Kasnäs spa you can swim and enjoy the Archipelago scenery all year round. There are heated outdoor pools and hot tubs. The pool area has a children's pool, an exercise pool, a hot tub, two 25 m lanes and a cold pool. Read more about Kasnäs on page 36.

#### Sandudden in Dalsbruk Grophagsvägen 55

Toilet, bathing hut and jetty with diving tower. 25 m swimming lane. Faces south.

#### Where to fill your picnic basket: Cafés: Holmbergs Fisk & Café 4C

Restaurants: Ravintola Portside, Strandhotellet, Stall's Bar & Food, DB Bistro & Butik, Ullman's Villa. Grocery stores: Sale and K-Market Kompis

Distance from the centre of Dalsbruk: about 1 km.

#### Eknäs holiday village, Kimito <sub>Campingvägen 27</sub>

Playground, toilet, bathing huts and jetty with 3 m diving tower. Winter bathing is also possible.

> About 12 km from the centre of Kimito



## PRACTICAL TIPS FOR TRIPS TO THE ARCHIPELAGO

Without ferries, life on the islands would be impossible for most inhabitants. For the visitor, however, understanding the seemingly complicated ferry timetables can be troublesome. Thus some helpful advice in order to make travelling easy!

Finnish ferries, apart from those commuting to and between the Åland islands, can be used without charge. Commercial cruises to tourism destinations are of course an exception.

Ferry timetables are easily found on *ferry.fi* as long as you know your departure or arrival harbour, or the names of the islands. On *saaristolautat.fi* you are able to get an even better geographical overview of the routes as well as the timetables.

#### Roads, traffic and ferries:

Roads are narrower than you are perhaps used to so allow more time for driving. Cyclists and motorists share the road, please respect all road users, check your speed and drive with care.

When on ferries, follow the rules and directions of both crew and traffic signals, don't leave your car before departure and remember to put on your handbrake. Park as close to the car in front as possible so that as many cars as possible can be loaded onto the ferry.

#### Timetables

Ferry timetables: **ferry.fi** Routes and timetables on a map: **saaristolautat.fi** Busses: **matkahuolto.fi** and **vainionliikenne.fi** Taxi, taxiboats and charter: **visitkimitoon.fi** 

## **HIRE EQUIPMENT & GUIDE SERVICES**

An action-packed holiday requires good gear. On Kimitoön you can hire boats, cars, SUP boards, kayaks, canoes and bikes. Here is some information about companies that hire out equipment.



#### **DB** Marina

- SUP boards
- Canoes (Masugnsträsket in Dalsbruk)
- Bikes
- Buster Rent boat hire
- Car hire
- Seedo jet skis

dbmarina.fi/vuokraus/

## Seapoint boat hire in Dalsbruk seapoint.fi

#### Nordic Activities

Kayak and canoeing equipment *nordicactivities.fi* 

#### Carfield bike hire

Carfield hires out bikes at over 30 locations around the archipelago. You can hire a bike from one place and return it to another. *carfield.fi* 

#### NaturEffect

- Bike hire and bike trailers
- Accommodation in Tentsile tents

Finlandia sailing

Sailing boat hire *finlandiasailing.fi* 

#### Midnight sun sailing Sailing boat hire *midnightsunsailing.fi*

#### Örö

Bikes
SUP boards
visitoro.fi

# Excursions with knowledgeable guides

An easy way to have a great trip and enjoy the sights is to join a guided group tour or a sightseeing tour. The guides will take you to the best places on Kimitoön, and you will hear interesting stories and learn about local history.

Tailored travel and group tours on Kimitoön and in the archipelago: *launokorpi.com* 

Guided tours and bus trips on Kimitoön: Salon oppaat Kimitoön: **salonoppaatkemionsaari.fi** 

Guided tours, bus trips and Archipelago cruises on Kimitoön: Kimitoöns Guider rf *kemionsaarenoppaat.fi* 

## THE ARCHIPELAGO TASTES GOOD!

In the archipelago travellers find a wide range of restaurants and cafés and many of them use local and locally produced ingredients. The market squares, the direct sales model REKO, together with the charming shops at the local farms' direct sales points make it easy to buy locally produced delicacies and fresh ingredients.

Read more about local food, farm shops, markets and events at: *VisitKimitoon.fi* 





## THE FLAVOURS OF The Archipelago In Your Beer Glass

Two microbreweries operate on Kimitoön. **Kimito Brewing's** and **Rousal Brygghus**' innovative range of beers can surprise even the most experienced beer sommelier!

Rousal Brygghus is an archipelago brewery in Rosala. The brewery's philosophy is based on local flavours, local history and experimentation. In addition to a delicious beer, in the summer you can enjoy delicious BBQ food straight from a smoker.

Kimito Brewing's philosophy is to brew 'the best possible Kimito beer'. The emphasis is on easily accessible, clean, stylish products, which are perfect to be enjoyed, for example, on a jetty on Kimito's shore in the summer. Kimito Brewing opened its online store in 2020.

*Rousal Tap Room & Smoke House* Norrlandsvägen 210, 25950 Rosala

*Kimito Brewing* Hallvägen 8, 25710 Kimito

## JAMS, DELICACIES AND A DOWN-TO-EARTH ATMOSPHERE – THAT'S NÄRBODEN IN A NUTSHELL

Did you know that some of possibly the best jams in Finland are found in Kimito? Sabina Ekholm at Närboden makes the award-winning products and her shop also sells many other delicacies.

n intoxicating, spicy aroma greets visitors to the production kitchen of horticulturist and artisan foodmaker **Sabina Ekholm**. Glögg is being prepared for Christmas. Cereals, strawberries, beans, dill and peas are grown on Sabina's husband **Torsten's** family farm. Sabina opened Närboden ten years ago. Currently, it includes both her own products, including jam, juice, honey and pastries, and other locally grown foods.

- I want to know exactly where the products come from so that I can also tell our customers about them. Nowadays, customers want to know more about the production and origin of products. Ecology and high quality are also important to me. On Kimitoön, local business owners collaborate with each other a lot, and the community is our greatest strength. I'm open to taking other people's products to sell and others sell my products, says Sabina.

#### 4,000-5,000 jars of jam a year

Summer is the busiest time at Närboden. On Fridays, fish is smoked first thing in the morning in collaboration with another business owner. Cold-smoked and gravad fish is also available. Some sheep, rabbits, cockerels and hens are kept on the farm for the enjoyment of customers.

Sabina has her own bakery, where she bakes bread, archipelago loaves, Danish pastries and berry pies all year round. She also cooks, bottles and preserves berries in the same premises.

– I freeze berries in the summer and only make juice and jam from them in the autumn and winter, she says.

The jams, which Sabina has developed herself and which have won prizes at several food craft competitions, are the pride of Närboden. She says she makes 4,000-5,000 jars of jam a year. But what is the secret?

- Production is in small batches. I use only berries, sugar and pectin in the jam, no additives or water. I also try out different spices, for example the Raspberry Joy jam, which is made from wild raspberries, contains a little liquorice root, Sabina says with a smile. KIMITOÖN365



#### **MICROBREWERIES**

**Kimito Brewing** Hallvägen 8, Kemiö

Rousal Brygghus Norrlandsvägen 216, Rosala

## FARMSHOPS AND DIRECT SALES

Närboden Kvarnbackavägen 5, Kimito

**Kinos, Björknäs trädgård** Söderlångviksvägen 120, Dragsfjärd

Rosendalen Rosendal Östra 50 A, Björkboda

**Kullas gård** Dragsfjärdsvägen 1092, Kimito

**Söderlångviks gård** Amos Andersons väg 2, Dragsfjärd

**Kieloniemen luomutila** Nordviksvägen 550 A, Mjösund

Lammala-Boden Lammalavägen 105 Nyhems trädgård Söderlångviksvägen 400

**Rosala Bagaren** Norrlandsvägen 216, Rosala

Wilson FOODS -Rosala Artisan Bread&Meats Rosalavägen 2, Rosala

Westankärr Mjösundsvägen 726

Vestalax Mellangård Vestlaxvägen 1219

#### ACCOMMODATION

Labbnäs vacation home Labbnäsvägen 66, Dragsfjärd

**By Villan** Byvägen 87, Högsåra

**Örö Hotel, hostel, cottages and tent site** Örö, 25930 Kasnäs

**Airbnb** airbnb.fi

**Cottage rental** Where to find: lomarengas.fi, saaristovaraus.fi, visitkemionsaari.fi Skytent Ecocamp Rosala, Kasnäs, Dalsbruk, natureffect.fi

**B&B Villa Ekbladh** Vestanviksvägen 95, Västanfjärd

Sebbholmen Ecocamp Sebbholmsvägen 34, Rosala

Saaristohotelli Merikruunu Pensionatvägen 6, Dragsfjärd

Hotel Kasnäs Kasnäsvägen 1294, Kasnäs

Strandhotellet Dalsbruksvägen 694, Dalsbruk

**DB Dals Inn** Dalsbrukvägen 709, Dalsbruk

**Ullman's Villa** Villavägen 1, Dalsbruk

Ravintola ja majatalo Kansakoulu Brännbodavägen 71, Västanfjärd

**Ceracon Inn** Sabbelsvägen 8, Dalsbruk

Hotel Bjärkas Golf Västanfjärdsvägen 655, Nivelax

Hotel Galaxy Arkadiavägen 11, Kimito







Rosala Viking Centre Reimarsvägen 5, 25950 Rosala

**Storfinnhova gård** Finnhovavägen 163

#### **RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS**

Holmbergs Fisk & Cafe Four C - local food - open all year round Hertsbölevägen 1, Dalsbruk

DB Bistro & Butik Strandvägen, Dalsbruk

Kasnäs Paviljong - local food - open all year round Kasnäsvägen 1294, Kasnäs

Kasnäs Café & Fiskdisk - local food - open all year round Kasnäsvägen 1294, Kasnäs

Källarvinden - local food - open summertime Kasnäs byväg 10, Kasnäs

**Café Adéle** - local food - open all year round Museivägen 7, Kimito

Kansakoulu ja Majatalo - open all year round Brännbodavägen 71, Västanfjärd



Roadcafé Yttis - open summertime and weekends Ytterkullavägen 1, Dragsfjärd

**Restaurang Terrassn** Kalkholmsvägen 43, Västanfjärd

**Restaurang Portside** Stallbackavägen 8, Dalsbruk

Stall's Bar & Food - open all year round Stallbackavägen 6, Dalsbruk

Ravintola Merikruunu - open all year round Pensionatvägen 6, Dragsfjärd

**Strandhotellet** - open all year round Dalsbruksvägen 694, Dalsbruk

Ullman's Villa - local food - open all year round Villavägen 1, Dalsbruk

Mac Daniel's Grill - open all year round Arkadiavägen 11, Kimito

Café Cake My Way - local food - open all year round Engelsbyvägen, Kimito

Konditori Mazarin - local food - open all year round Engelsbyvägen 3, Kimito Rousal Brygghus Taproom Smokehouse - local food - open summertime Norrlandsvägen 216, Rosala

Farmors Café - local food - open summertime Högsåra

Vindrosen - local food - open from Spring to Autumn Reimarsvägen 5, Rosala

Backom Café Hitisvägen 19

Café Kardemumma, catering Österuddsvägen 1, Hitis

Café Söderlångvik - local food - open summertime Amos Anderson vägen 2

**Strandhugget** Vänö

**Utestugan, kafé** Vretavägen 6

Vuorovetten kioski Pernåvägen 791

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**DEPARTURES FROM KASNÄS APRIL-OCTOBER 2023** INFO. SCHEDULES. ONLINE BOOKING: www.wilsoncharter.fi



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T E R R A S S ſ

Restaurant: +358 2 42 7575, pete@terrassn.fi Marina: +358 50 374 0098, kalkholmen@venekeskus.com Kalkholmsvägen 43, Västanfjärd / 60°02,6', 22°40,1' www.kalkholmenmarina.fi restaurant





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