

# EXPLORE THE COASTAL PAST

The archipelagos of Stockholm, Åland and Turku form a labyrinth of nearly 80,000 islands and islets.

This trip will lead you along the footprints of defenders and conquerors, enchant you with thrilling stories and show you the magnificent nature in the archipelago.



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## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

In this guide, we present 11 tourist destinations in the largest archipelago in the world, situated between Finland and Sweden. Experience both the diverse nature of the archipelago as well as the rich cultural heritage at these sites. At the same time, you will discover how valuable and worthy of protection the shipping lanes were in the previous centuries, when the sea was the main route for both commercial goods and cultural influences.

Depending on the duration of your stay and your preferred modes of transport, you can either visit one destination at a time or plan various types of combined trips.

This brochure first presents the attractions included in the DefenceArch development project, the Gålö seal station, the Bomarsund fortress area, Korpoström and the southern tip of Örö. Additionally, we have selected seven other outstanding sites related to defense history from the coasts of Sweden and Finland.

Learn more about the destinations by downloading the Coastal Past application from the App Store or Google Play.



## TOUR SUGGESTIONS

### Start your adventure in the archipelago with one or two destinations...

From the heart of Stockholm, you can take a ferry to Vaxholm and Siarö, for example, and even to Arholma by combining ferry routes (see [Vaxholmsbolaget](#)). From Turku, you can travel to the fortress island of Örö by taking a [bus](#) and a ferry or by taking a bus from Turku to Korpoström and then an [Aspö Charter](#) ferry to Örö.





## ...or plan a longer trip featuring the pearls of the Stockholm, Åland and Turku archipelago



a) By bus and/or taxi, for example:

Day 1: Pack a lunch and take the bus from Stockholm to the Gålö seal station, return to Stockholm and, at 4:30 p.m., take the [Viking Line](#) ferry to Mariehamn, Åland, where you will arrive at your accommodation around midnight.

Day 2: Take a bus or a taxi from Mariehamn to Bomarsund via Godby. After exploring the fortress and its surroundings and enjoying a lunch, take a bus to Långnäs via Mariehamn or go directly by taxi. From Långnäs you can take the 4 p.m. [ferry](#) via Kökar to Galtby in Korpo. Take a taxi to your accommodation at Archipelago Centre Korpoström.

Day 3: In the morning, take an Aspö Charter ferry from Korpoström to Örö through the Archipelago National Park. After lunch and getting to know the area, take a [ferry](#) from Örö to Kasnäs and a bus to Turku in the evening. From Turku, the Viking Line ferry will take you back to Stockholm.

The schedule above is quite packed and requires thorough planning around the bus and ferry schedules and the running days of Aspö Charter. There are many more destinations along the route, so we recommend a more relaxed schedule.



b) The route can also be completed by bicycle; however, we recommend reserving double the scheduled time for a bicycle trip.



c) The route can be completed by passenger car by taking a round trip with the Korpoström–Örö–Korpoström ferry on day 3 and driving from Korpoström to Turku via the centre of Pargas.



d) Sailors and boaters can combine the destinations in the guide within the limitations of the available time and weather. The guide includes the coordinates and services of guest harbours.



## SYMBOLS



Vessel



Fueling station



Ferry



Camping



Guest harbour



Artilleries



Accommodation



Fortress



Restaurant



Lighthouse



Parking



Other attraction







6

227

SWEDEN

# GÅLÖ

Stockholm  
36km

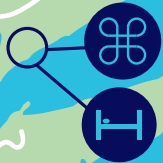
227

Björnö

227

Dalarö

Ornö



Ferry



1Km



# SEAL STATION ON GÅLÖ ISLAND

Gålö seal station reveals interesting secrets from Swedish defence history. Gålö has an interesting history: in the 1940s, during World War II, the military had a seal station here where seals were trained to spot foreign submarines, a project that was kept secret for many years. But now all of this is open to the public for visitors and tourists to discover.

## GÅLÖ ISLAND

Gålö features the longest sand beach in the Stockholm archipelago at Skälåker as well as beautiful outdoor routes. A 30 km trail leads all the way a round Gålö through some fantastic countryside where you can spot many wild animals. During the summer season, you can go berry and mushroom picking in the forests or even go fishing.

## ACCESSIBILITY

From the archipelago, Gålö can be reached by your own boat or public boat transport. It can also be reached from Stockholm by car or bus. Check the timetable at [sl.se](https://sl.se). Gålö is located 22 kilometres from Södertörn and 40 kilometres from Stockholm.



### Cottages at the Seal station

- 12 beds
- self-catering kitchen
- jetty for boaters

### SERVICES ON GÅLÖ ISLAND

#### Gålö Havsbad

- cottages with 2-6 beds
- hostel with 8 double rooms and self-catering kitchen
- camping with caravan, camper or tent
- restaurant

#### The bistro Gålö Havsbad

- coffee, lunch, dinner
- Swedish traditional food, pub food, specialities

#### Ekuddens Hostel

- 16 beds
- shared bathrooms and a fully equipped kitchen

### Stegsholms gårdscafé

- café and bakery, meat from the farm available for purchase

### Gålö Gårdsmejeri, Frönäs gård

- café and shop featuring home-made goat cheese

### Gålö lanthandel

- shop with spices, fruits and vegetables, smoked fish

### To do & to see

- hiking, cycling, swimming, paddling
- family friendly outdoor and indoor activities
- beach, board games, miniature golf, paddleboats, rowboats, fishing gear, etc. can be rented at Gålö Havsbad

[Read more about Gålö...](#)

[Read more about the Seal station...](#)



N 59°5'29"  
E 18°16'53"

ÅLAND

# BOMARSUND

Mariehamn  
33 km



Prästö



Ferry



500m



## BOMARSUND

**The Fortress of Bomarsund** is located in the Åland Islands and was built by the Russian army in 1832. Around it grew the community of Skarpans. The building project was never finished and the uncompleted fortress was destroyed during the Crimean War in 1854. Nowadays, the ruins of the fortress are an ancient monumental site.

**In the old pilot house on Prästö** is a small museum that describes the history of the fortress. The museum features miniature models of the fortress and Skarpans, among other things.

**Djävulsberget (Devil's Mountain)** was one of the outposts of the Fortress of Bomarsund. The mountain is 62 metres high and from its top it is possible to see the beautiful archipelago of the Åland Islands.

## ACCESSIBILITY

From Mariehamn you can reach Bomarsund with your car or by bus. Bomarsund can be reached from Kustavi by your own boat or by ship and ferry. Bomarsund is located approximately 30 kilometres from Mariehamn.



N 60°12'43"  
E 20°14'28"



### Puttes Camping

- over five hectares of camping area
- guest harbour: 30 boat spaces and fueling station
- seaside sauna, beach and barbecue places
- 3 cottages for 4-6 persons with shower and kitchen
- boat and bicycle rental
- walking trails

### Furulundsgården

- restaurant and cafeteria
- alcoholic beverages
- large terrace, decorated and built in the old style
- room for 100 persons

### Smakbyn

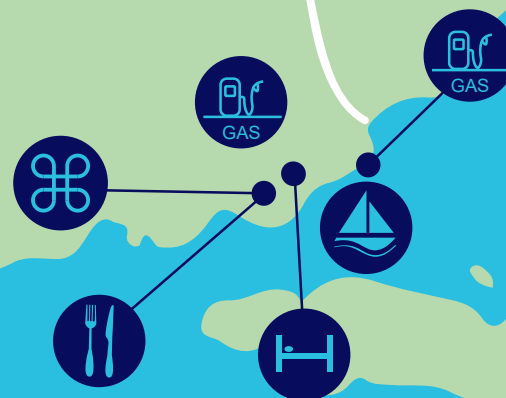
- restaurant and café
- approximately 10 kilometres to Bomarsund
- shop with local products and produce

### NybondsKeramik Kurscentrum & Pensionat

- possible to take part in a variety of different courses and activities
- the boarding house offers 3 rooms and a total of 10 beds
- the kitchen serves homemade meals made from ecological and locally produced products
- courses include pottery, baking, watercolour painting, yoga and massage courses
- guided tours around Åland
- approximately 9 kilometres to Bomarsund

[Read more about Bomarsund...](#)

# KORPOSTRÖM



Hjortö

Hässlö

Granö

500m



## KORPOSTRÖM

The Korpoström area has been a strategically significant route for merchants. Korpoström was an important stronghold of warships in the 1700s and 1800s. Korpoström was the site of a marine battle between Russia and Sweden in 1743, and today the site features a wrought iron monument to the war.

The Archipelago Centre Korpoström is a gateway to the Archipelago National Park.

## ACCESSIBILITY

From the mainland you can reach Korpoström with your own car or by bus from Turku. From Långnäs on Åland Islands or Houtskär you can reach Korpoström by taking the ferry/ship to Galtby. Korpoström is located 64 kilometres from Pargas and 87 kilometres from Turku.



N 60°6'38''  
E 21°35'55''

### Hotel Korpoström

- modern amenities
- 16 twin rooms
- WC, shower, TV, internet connection
- the price includes a delicious breakfast and saunas

### Guest Harbour

- 70 boat spaces
- service house offers saunas, showers, WC and laundry facilities
- fueling station, accepts debit and credit cards as well as cash

### Minimarket - Korpo Handel

- fresh groceries produced in the archipelago
- bread, vegetables, berries, fish, meat and beverages

### Restaurant Korpoström - Archipelago Center

- located by the seaside with an open view over the marina
- coffee, sweet treats, lunch, dinner
- the menu showcases the surrounding archipelago and Nordic cuisine with a Mediterranean twist

### Crafts Shop

- souvenirs and crafts made by locals

[Read more about Korpoström...](#)



## ÖRÖ



500m



Vessel





# ÖRÖ



The island of Örö was first a fortress of the Baltic Sea defence chain under Tsarist Russian rule and later a base for the Finnish coastal artillery. The fortress includes the barracks and heavy artillery battery, fortifications on the northern tip of the island, the grenade launcher hill, the ruins of a 120 mm artillery battery and the cobbled road known as Pitkä Ikävä (long and dreary).

After Finland's declaration of independence, the island was completely expropriated from the locals and Örö was handed over to the Finnish Defence Forces. The battery areas can be visited with a guide, and the southern cape of Örö also with a mobile guide.

## ACCESSIBILITY

There are several connecting vessels operating routes to Örö. The same tickets cannot be used to transfer from one vessel to another. Water taxis and charter vessels also offer routes to Örö. Örö is located 13 kilometres from Kasnäs and 45 kilometres from Kimito.



### Hotel Örö

- online booking
- 12" barracks area
- breakfast and sauna included in the price
  - comfortable twin rooms (can be combined with the next room as a family room)
  - lounge, lobby area and conference room

### Apartments, hostel beds and cottages

- suitable for year-round use
- ideal for families, couples and groups
- near the 12" barracks area except for one cottage, which is located approximately two kilometres from it

### 12" Restaurant

- unique atmosphere of the garrisons' former canteen
- built during the Tsarist era in the early 1900s
- the menu showcases the surrounding archipelago and Nordic cuisine with a Mediterranean twist
- the guest harbour café and Harbour Bistro serve smaller portions
- open from June to August
- possibility to make reservations in advance

### Guest Harbour

- 70 boat spaces
- the marina fee also includes amenities such as toilet, shower, sauna, electricity and barbecue place
- possibility for pre-booking

N 59°48'40"  
E 22°19'38"

[Read more about Örö...](#)

# HAMN MUSEUM

Fisksätra holme

Fisksätra

Stockholm  
18 km

50m



N 59°17'43"  
E 18°15'35"



The battle of Södra Stäket took place about 15 kilometres to the east of Stockholm. The Russian fleet reached the eastern coast of Stockholm in August 1719. The Russian fleet conducted an amphibious operation at Södra Stäket, where the waterway is narrow and shallow. According to Swedish tradition, the battle has been known as a firm victory. From the Russian point of view, it was naturally seen as a great success. The written sources are full of contradictions, which makes it difficult to interpret the actual course of events at Södra Stäket.

During seven years of archaeological surveys on the battlefield around Baggensstäket in Nacka, more than 1,300 finds were uncovered. The HAMN museum was opened 2014. It is Sweden's first battlefield museum and consists of nearly a thousand square metres of captivating history told through unique objects, images, documents, audio and film.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Take the [bus](#) from Slussen in the city center of Stockholm to Henriksdals station and change to the Saltsjöbanan train. Get off at Fisksätra stop. The HAMN museum is located 300 metres from the local bus stop and the Saltsjöbanan railway station.

In the summertime there is also a 30-minute boat ride from Nybrokajen in the Stockholm city centre to Fisksätra. HAMN is located 18 kilometres from Stockholm.

## HAMN museum

- open in winter from Thursday to Sunday, in summer from Tuesday to Sunday
- also features a museum shop

## Restaurang Saltsjö Pir

- located in the same building as the HAMN museum
- open all year, beautiful sea view
- dock parking available for seafaring guest
- lunch every day, also open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings until 10 p.m.

[Read more about HAMN...](#)

[Read more about HAMN museum...](#)

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# VAXHOLM

N 59°24'11"  
E 18°19'34"

The history of the Vaxholm Fortress begins early in the 16th century with the construction of a blockhouse.

King Gustav Vasa instructed the governor of Stockholm to replace the blockhouse with a stone tower and to fill the narrow passage of Oxidjupet with rocks. In the 1870s, the defensive emphasis shifted from Vaxholm Fortress to the Oxidjupet strait. In 1876, Oxidjupet was opened to traffic and a new fort – Oscar-Fredriksborg – was built.

The Vaxholm Fortress Museum's indoor department occupies thirty beautiful rooms and halls on both floors of the west section. Visitors see the fortress as it was in 1854, and can enter one of the Citadel's bombproof vaults and see how things were during the Crimean War.

## ACCESSIBILITY

From May to September there is a ferry service between the centre of Vaxholm and Vaxholm fortress. From Stockholm, you can reach Vaxholm by [bus](#) or ferry. Vaxholm is located 34 kilometres from Stockholm.



### Vaxholms Hotell

- 42 rooms
- open all year round
- breakfast, lunch, dinner available
- luxurious, vintage-styled atmosphere

### Kastellet Bed&Breakfast

- 27 rooms
- shared bathrooms
- breakfast included

### To do & to see

- fortress museum
- beautiful centre of Vaxholm
- Kullö nature reserve

### Bistro Kastellet

- traditional grill and seafoods
- exclusive ingredients
- Bistro Magasinet
- island-style homemade foods
- salad buffet with a wide range of options

### Guest Harbour

- 130 guest berths
- electricity, water, showers, free wifi and washing machines available for use

[Read more about Vaxholm...](#)

[Read more about the Vaxholm Fortress Museum...](#)

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Stockholm  
36km

Vaxholm

274

200m



# SIARÖ

N 59°33'32"  
E 18°39'20"

Siaröfortet got its name because the fortress was first planned to be built on Siarö Island. Eventually, however, it was actually built on the island next to it, Kyrkogårdsön. Construction of Siaröfortet began 1916, during World War I. Nonetheless, the fortress was not completed until 1924, despite the fact that the war had already ended in 1918. In the 1990s, the fort began to be used as a military museum and tourist destination. Today, both the barracks and the fort are in good condition.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Siarö can be reached by your own boat and by sea taxi from Åkersberg and Dandersyn, (cars allowed, booking in advance). You can also get there with M/S Sjögull and M/S Sjöbris from Stockholm or by [bus](#). Siarö is located 58 kilometres from Stockholm and 85 kilometres from Åkersberga.



Stockholm  
62km

Sillingon

200m

## STF Hostel Siaröfortet

- renovated barracks, 14 available rooms, 42 beds
- shared toilets, showers and a self-catering kitchen
- sauna, beach located 20m from hostel, free Wi-Fi, bike and canoe rental

## Siaröfortets Kafé & Matsal

- was built in 1916 and is located along the route of Furusund
- breakfast, lunch and dinner
- traditional Scandinavian kitchen
- special serving available for bigger groups

## To do & to see

- Siaröfortet Museum features the national defence history with equipment from World War I
- real war-time atmosphere, 100-year-old kitchen and bunks
- museum open every day during summer season
- Ängsön national park

## Guest Harbour

- guest harbour, café and sauna open every day from May until September
- small and bigger boats are welcome

[Read more about Siarö...](#)

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# ARHOLMA

Simpnäs

N 59°51'11"  
E 19°7'34"

During the 1930s, Arholma became part of Havsbandslinjen (the Marine Band Line), a chain of fortifications constructed to protect the sea approaches to Stockholm. A 4" coastal battery was constructed on the north end of the island. The Arholma norra fort, which housed the battery, was completed in 1968 and could accommodate a garrison of 110 men. It operated in conjunction with another battery on the nearby island of Ovenskär, collectively comprising the Arholma battery. It was decommissioned in the 1990s and opened to the public in 2008 as a museum and national monument under the management of three local associations. Arholma Lighthouse was built in 1768. The lighthouse served as a signal station during World War II, and before that as an Optical telegraph. Nowadays it's open for visitors.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Arholma can be reached by public boat transport or your own boat. You can also take the [bus](#) from Stockholm. Arholma is located 56 kilometres from Norrtälje and 106 kilometres from Uppsala.

### Arholma Nord

- accommodation
- seaside restaurant
- activity center
- open every day from the 22th of June to the 19th of August from 09:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

### Bryggcafé

- coffee and refreshments

### Arholma Dansbana – Krog & Café

- archipelago menu, seasonal ingredients
- open every day from the 21st of June to the 19th of August from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

### Bullaugust gård:

- cottage village with three rental cabins
- for small and large groups
- shared bathrooms and kitchen

### Accommodation

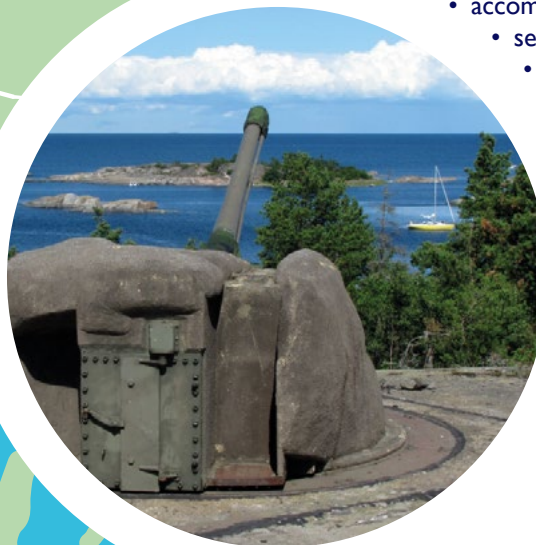
- Arholma Nord Archipelago Lodge
- 24 rooms
- shared bathrooms and kitchen
- breakfast included

### To do & to see

- guided tour of old military facilities
- combat boat ride
- zip line, kayak swing, mountain bike, SUP-boards
- sauna, swimming, hiking

[Read more about Arholma...](#)

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500m

# KATANPÄÄ



Katkuru

**Uusikaupunki**  
52km



Katanpää is a fortress located on Lyyrti Island in the Kustavi archipelago and its valuable cultural historical site is highly valued by boaters. The fortress was built during the First World War in 1915-1917, but Katanpää was already a harbour during the Finnish War in 1808. There is also a quarry in the area that was a working area for prisoners in 1930s. Katanpää was bombed only once during the Continuation War so even today its barrack area, including artillery roads, cannon artilleries and an observation tower, is in good condition for visitors.

## ACCESSIBILITY

In the summer Katanpää can be reached by Galeas Olga from Uusikaupunki. Additionally groups can book waterbus transfer for Kustavi. Katanpää is located 30 kilometres from Uusikaupunki and 10 kilometres from Kustavi.



## Harbour Cafeteria (Captain's Table)

- coffee and refreshments
- breakfast and lunch
- small items and souvenirs
- small playground for children
- open from the middle of March until the middle of October every day from 9 a.m. till 8 p.m.
- local food with a modern twist

## Guest Harbour

- deep harbour, plenty of pier space and quay for bigger boats
- barbecue place with a shelter

## Accommodation

- B&B accommodation in the barrack
- rooms for bigger and smaller groups
- possibility to rent or bring your own sheets or sleeping bags
- shower and sauna
- breakfast in the harbour cafeteria

N 60°36'50"  
E 21°10'11"

[Read more about Katanpää...](#)

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500m



# UTÖ

Ormskär



The southernmost inhabited island in Finland. Since the 1700s, Utö has been a venue for lighthouse guards, pilots, soldiers and customs officers.

In Utö you can enjoy the bald and beautiful archipelago and sense the real mother nature in her habitat.

Utö is also known as the ship graveyard because over the years, many boats and ships have shipwrecked in the nearby waters. Though the island's nature fascinates visitors, it is its vivid history that enthralls the most.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Utö can be reached by the free ferry M/S Eivor from Nagu or by the ferry M/S Kökar from Turku. Utö is located 88 kilometres from Turku and 90 kilometres from Hanko.

N 59°46'45"  
E 21°22'40"

### Utö Havshotel

- 15 rooms
- fully licensed restaurant
  - 4 saunas
  - taxi boat service, rowboat rental
  - guest dock with electricity, waste disposal, bathrooms; sauna and shower on request

### Hannas Horisont

- Bed&Breakfast
- 10-14 beds
- sheets, towel, breakfast and cleaning included
- possibility for prebooked dining

### Utö handel

- minimarket

### To do & to see

- Utö village
- Österängen
- Utö cemetery
- the first lighthouse in Finland

### Utö Havshotel -restaurant

- lunch, buffet, à la carte

### Guest Harbour

- payment at Hannas Horisont
- electricity, waste management and toilet
- no fuel sales

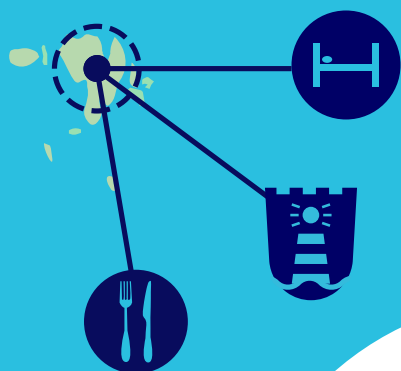
[Read more about Utö...](#)

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500m

# BENGTSKÄR



Bengtskär is located close to the archipelago of Turku. Bengtskär is best known for its 48,5 metre high lighthouse, which was built in 1906. In the beginning of the Continuation War, Bengtskär's lighthouse went through dramatic times when the Soviet Union tried to conquer and blow it up. Luckily, however, they were not successful. Even though nature in Bengtskär is very barren and arid you can still find some vegetation and for example rock pools that are home to various species of fish.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Bengtskär can be reached by charters and cruises from Kasnäs, Rosala, Hanko and by your own boat (only during good and calm weather conditions, no actual guest harbour). Bengtskär is located 25 kilometres from Hanko.



### Bengtskär Lighthouse

- 6 lighthouse- and sea-themed rooms
- breakfast and evening sauna are included
- booking in advance, can be crowded during the summer season
- lighthouse open from May to September

### To do & to see

- Bengtskär lighthouse and amazing sea view
- maritime exhibition
- lighthouse post office
- giftshop
- the restaurant, chapel and restored lighthouse keeper's room are located on the first floor of the lighthouse

### Bengtskär lighthouse restaurant

- breakfast, lunch, dinner (booking in advance)
- coffee, snacks, sweets
- archipelago-themed menu

N 59°43'23"  
E 22°29'56"

[Read more about Bengtskär...](#)

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## More information and other interesting places to visit:

[Visit Åland](#)

[Visit Kimitoön](#)

[Visit Turku](#)

[Stockholm Archipelago](#)

[Visit Stockholm](#)

[Turku Archipelago](#)

[DefenceArch](#)





EUROPEAN UNION  
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VARSINAIS-SUOMEN LIITTO  
EGENTLIGA FINLANDS FÖRBUND  
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF SOUTHWEST FINLAND



Ålands  
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Visit Åland



METSÄHALLITUS

2018