



World Heritage Site

# Kvarken Archipelago Nature Reserve



English |

## Svedjehamn ja Bodvattnet

Svedjehamn is a fishing harbour within a landscape dominated by the washboard-like De Geer moraine formations. Due to land uplifting the multifaceted wildlife in the area is constantly changing and producing different types of wetlands, such as flads, glo-lakes, ponds and bogs. Merenkurkku's highest and most impressive observation tower (Saltkaret) is located here, on an isthmus between the sea and Bodvatten.

There is a 3,8 km long nature trail (Bodvattnet runt) that goes in a circle around Bodvatten and which is located next to Svedjehamn. There is also a 12 km long trail from Svedjehamn to Panike, along which there are two straits that can be crossed by boat.



VIEW FROM SALTKARET- OBSERVATION TOWER.  
PHOTO: JOUNI KANNONLAHTI / VAASAN YLIOPISTO

From the Svedjehamn harbour there is a sand track going northeast towards the Vikarskat fishing harbour. After a short distance the road branches out in two directions and by taking the left turn you will arrive at the beach. The beach is a good bird watching spot especially in December when further away the sea is still open, although the dock will most probably still be covered in ice.

### Municipality

Mustasaari

### Coordinators

70411:32147

### Driving Directions

Coming from Vaasa drive about 20 km along Alskatintie (724) to Raippaluoto. From the Raippaluoto village continue to the end of Björköntie (7240). The road ends at the Svedjehamn fishing harbour, where there is a relatively large parking place behind the boat-houses. At the parking place there are signs with directions to the nature trail and the bird watching tower.

### Services

Campfire site, nature walk, hiking trail, bird watching tower, beach, guest boat harbour, boat launching ramp, café and exhibition. A shop and other basic services can be found in the villages of Björkö and Raippaluoto.

### Best time for excursions

This is a good place to visit in almost all seasons. Still, it is rather quiet after the sea has frozen, especially between January and March. Individual and species' numbers are the highest between April and June during spring migration and nesting.

### Rarities

Great Northern Loon, Eurasian Bittern, White Stork, Eurasian Golden Oriole.





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## Nesting Species

The nesting species include more than a hundred different types of birds. There is a diverse selection of inner-and outer archipelago as well as leaf-and mixed forest species. The observation tower is an excellent place from which to observe especially the diverse selection of water-birds. The most exceptional and at the same time rarest nesting species in the region are, for example, the Gadwall, White-tailed Eagle and the White-backed Woodpecker. All of the typical gull-and tern species in Finland are well represented in this area.

Of water birds the Tufted Duck, Common Merganser, Great Crested Grebe and the Mallard are the most common. Also the Northern Shoveler and Velvet Scoter are typical in the area. Of the island's shorebirds the Common Redshank and the Eurasian Oystercatcher are both the most seen and heard species.

Of passerines the Chaffinch and Willow Warbler are the most common nesting species in the region's woods. Still, the most common species to find in the bleakest coastal parts is especially the White Wagtail and in the parts with the most vegetation the Reed Bunting. More detailed information about the nesting species can be found in the third Finnish bird atlas:

<http://atlas3.lintuatlas.fi/tulokset/ruutu/704:321>

## Migratory species

In Svedjehamn there is a particularly diverse selection of bird species during migration. This is backed up by the results from the bird watching competition, Tornien taisto ('the battle of towers'), organized by BirdLife Finland, in which Svedjehamn appears in the top ten places for bird watching in the whole country. In the first days of May one can spot up to a hundred different bird species from the Saltkaret watchtower. Still, the numbers for individual birds for each species often remain low, as the migratory routes are spread out widely over the whole southern part of Merenkurkku. A recommended season for visiting is especially the spring migration season of Buzzards, which reaches its peak in mid-April. Their migratory route mainly crosses over the western side of the tower and continues over the narrowest part of Merenkurkku all the way to Sweden. At a similar time many Black-headed Gulls, Common Wood Pigeons, Northern Lapwings, Fieldfares, Mistle Thrushes and Chaffinches among some others also migrate.



SALTKARET - OBSERVATION TOWER  
PHOTO: JOUNI KANNONLAHTI  
/ VAASAN YLIOPISTO



BODVATTNET. PHOTO: JOUNI KANNONLAHTI / VAASAN YLIOPISTO

## Kvarken Archipelago

- The Kvarkens archipelago was inscribed on the World Heritage list in July 2006.
- Total area 194 400 ha of which 85 % is sea.
- Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services is responsible for most of the maintenance of hiking trails and facilities in the area.

