Kvarken Archipelago

The rocky Kvarken Archipelago, which is constantly on the rise, is Finland’s only natural heritage site on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

You can experience this kingdom of rocks by wandering along the nature trails, canoeing, boating, fishing, watching birds, picking berries or mushrooms, or by joining a guided tour. The Kvarken Archipelago retains a feel and the peace of the wilderness, as well as memorable places waiting to be discovered.

The Saltkaret observation tower (1) is located near the Svedjehamn fishing harbour and along the Bodvattnet nature trail. Magnificent views over the rocky archipelago, which was formed by the ice age, open up from the tower, which reaches a height of slightly over 20 metres. The tower is also a good place for spotting birds. Disabled persons who have assistance and visitors with a wheelchair can access the lower level of the observation tower using a ramp. Along the Bodvattnet nature trail stands Bodback, the former fishing harbour of the village of Björkö, which is currently a museum area with numerous boat-houses and boat havens. In the summer, Highland cattle graze on the meadows on the shore. The Saltkaret observation tower has a campfire place and composting dry toilets available.

The views and varied nature of the Sommarö nature trail (2) are worth enjoying with the entire family. In addition to the nature trail there are unpaved roads in the area that are suitable for prams. At rest areas there are lean-tos and campfire place as well as composting dry toilets. The Sommarö guardhouse can be rentet year-round (www.eraluvat.fi).

Overnight camping is allowed near the piers from August to the end of April. In the summer months there are guided boat tours.

Mickelslårarna (4) offers many things to do and experience. A nature trail brings the visitor to shoreline affected by glacio-isostatic uplift, and acquaint the visitor with the geology and nature of the Kvarken World Heritage Site. Along the trail there are several foundations of fish huts and boat havens from the 16th century. A small café operates in the summer at a former Coast Guard station and overnight accommodation is also possible in the building. The yard by the pier has a lean-to, a campfire place, and a composting dry toilet as well as a sauna that can be booked. There are good fishing waters in the surroundings of the island. You can reach the island either by taking your own boat or chartered transport.

Fälskär on Rönnskäret (5), is a stopover especially favoured by boaters. The island’s daymark is the oldest in the Gulf of Bothnia. The former pilots’ quarters and the boatyard building “Dochet” have been refurbished for use as accommodation. They can be rented during the boating season (www.solrutten.fi). On the shore there is a lean-to, a campfire place, as well as a composting dry toilet.

On the Öjön nature trail (6) in Sundom the forest landscape varies from dense beach groves to rugged pine forest on top of the cliffs. The oldest trees are nearly 200 years old. There are signs along the nature path with interesting facts about the nature, medicinal plants and folk tales of the area. The rest area has a campfire place, a composting dry toilet and firewood.

The services of the Björkören rental cabin (7) and the Vargis open wilderness hut can be rented year-round (eraluvat.fi) and the Vargis open wilderness hut can be used without advance reservation. The Vargis wilderness hut also has a lean-to, a campfire place and a composting dry toilet.

Molpehallorna (10) is waiting for visitors who enjoy the peace of the outer archipelago of Kvarken. A nature trail that starts at the yard has signs along the way that describe specialties of the area. At the end of the trail there is a reconstruction of the old Molpehallorna daymark, a monument to the first daymark in the Gulf of Bothnia. Next to the pier there is a campfire place and a composting dry toilet.

World Heritage Gateway (11) offers you information on the World Heritage and gives tips on the places to visit in the Kvarken archipelago. World Heritage Exhibition, Art Gallery and Restaurant and Café are located in the same premises with the Gateway. Companies working in cooperation with the World Heritage Site organise cruises, offer guide services, lodging, and food services.

www.nationalparks.fi/en/kvarken/services/partners

Enjoy the outdoors while conserving nature

- Respect nature and show consideration to other hikers and campers.
- Keep in mind that there is plenty of privately owned land and residents in the World Heritage area.
- Light fires only in ‘campfire place. Open fires are prohibited when a forest fire warning is in force.
- Leave no trace. There are no litter containers in Kvarken, so pack your food so that no waste is left behind. You may take burning waste that is suitable for burning in camp fires - all other waste must be taken away.
- You may pick berries and mushrooms, but no stones or plants.
- Remember that moving around in the Valsörarna islands is permitted only along the roads 1.5-31.7.
- Keep pets on a leash.
- Fishing under the Fishing Act (www.eraluvat.fi). Angling and ice fishing are allowed with Everyone’s right.
- Camping is allowed in the Kvarken Archipelago by the Everyman’s right, except for Valsörarna, where camping is allowed only in the special areas marked 1.8.-30.4.
- Use of motor vehicles outside official roads is not permitted.

Instructions and rules in the Kvarken Archipelago: www.nationalparks.fi/en/kvarken/instructionsandrules

EMERGENCY NUMBER 112 - KNOW WHERE YOU ARE CALLING FROM. NOT ALL AREAS IN THE KVARKEN ARCHIPELAGO HAVE MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE!
Observation tower in Klobbskatt
Ostrobothnianmuseum
World Heritage Site
Kvarken Archipelago