



Sundsvedja. Photo: Sanna-Mari Kunttu

Salo, Kimitoön, Pargas, Teijo and Archipelago National Park

Spectacular silence

– Explore the Southwest Coast and Archipelago of Finland

Take some time for yourself and come savour the season of silence at the wonderful sights of Salo, Kimitoön and Pargas as well as and the unique nature of Teijo and the Archipelago National Park.

Many visitors come to the coast and archipelago to find peace and quiet in the summer, but the best time to experience true silence begins in the autumn and continues through the winter right up to the threshold of summer. Silence does not just mean the absence of noise. It can also be found in the low whispering of wind through the treetops, the soft fluttering of falling snow, the swish of a fishtail in the water or the distant hoot of an owl. To hear these, you have to stop and let your senses sharpen. Silence is best savoured at dusk and in the dark. Indeed, when you're out on the coastline and in the archipelago, you will find yourself far from the glow of light pollution.

In this guide, we'll give you the best tips on where to find silence. The season of silence is the very best remedy for noise and light pollution.

► Explore the route with the [virtual guide](https://storymaps.arcgis.com)
(storymaps.arcgis.com)

► The route video (youtube.com)



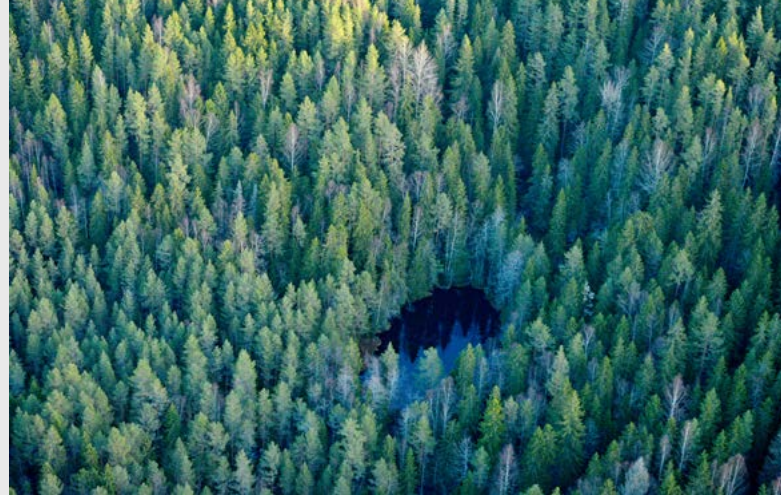
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1. Kultalähde spring in Salo

Kultalähde spring is a little gem hidden away in the protected Hyypärä ridge area in Kiikala, Salo. Glittering in the heart of the forest, the crystal clear Kultalähde spring is two to three metres deep and one of the most important springs in Southern Finland.

Photo: Jarmo Markkanen



A nature trail in the ridge area leads to Kultalähde. The two alternative trail routes (2.7 km and 1.8 km) are demanding due to the differences in elevation and suitable for fit people of every age.

Nighttime visitors to the spring can see the starry sky reflected in the calm water of the spring. When hiking the trail in the autumn, the deep green colours of the ridgeline forest are breathtaking. In the spring, hikers will be treated to a blue sea of liverwort.

One of the highest points in Southwest Finland, which rises 140 metres above sea level, is found in Hyypärä.

Please keep in mind that endangered plant species grow on the banks of Kultalähde spring and the banks are vulnerable to wear. Do not circle the spring along its banks. Fishing in the spring is not allowed. There is no winter maintenance at the site.

Sights and services

- [Hyypärä-Kultalähde nature trail map \(visitsalo.fi\)](#)
- [Visit Salo \(visitsalo.fi\)](#)

Location and connections

- Oinasjärventie 366, Salo (parking lot)
- No public transport, nor specific roads for cycling. Drive carefully on small roads.

2. Teijo National Park

In Teijo National Park, spring, autumn and winter are the best times for visitors wanting peace and quiet. The park's diverse nature and numerous trails, activities and services offer hikers arriving alone or with their family invigorating and relaxing experiences.

Photo: Jasmin Yuchun



Enjoy the soothing aroma of sphagnum in the mire. Hike around lakes and take a daring dip in rejuvenating natural water. On snowshoes in a peaceful winter landscape.

Hikers can immerse themselves in the solitude of nature or the modern-day life of historic ironworks. The Coastal Route for cyclists runs from Salo to the ironworks village of Kirjakkala, from which trails into the deep forests of the national park start.

See a star-studded sky by overnighting in a hut, tent or Tentsile Tree Tent. After a day outdoors, you'll

sleep like a baby in one of the accommodations in the ironworks villages of Kirjakkala, Teijo and Mathildedal.

Sights and services

- [Teijo National Park \(nationalparks.fi\)](#)
- [Teijo ironworks villages \(visitsalo.fi\)](#)

Location and connections

- Teijo Nature Centre address: Matildanjärventie 84, 25660 Mathildedal (Salo)
- [By bus and car \(nationalparks.fi\)](#)
- [Cycling route and rentals \(rannikkoreitti.fi\)](#)

3. Senatsberget Hill in Dalsbruk

Senatsberget hill in Dalsbruk is a stately mound, which offers a breathtaking view of Kimito's forests and the Archipelago Sea. The wellness trail leading to the Senatsberget observation tower and lean-to shelter is one of the longest, most diverse nature trails on the island.

Photo: Sanna-Mari Kunttu



Information boards along the wellness trail explain how hikers can energise themselves and relax on the trail as well as how spending time in nature and biodiversity affect human health.

A firewood shelter can be found at the foot of Senatsberget. You can carry firewood up to the summit, where you can make a campfire in the log lean-to shelter fire pit. Marked by yellow trail markers, the length of the circle trail is 6.3 km. Hikers should walk the trail in a clockwise direction. Read more about the trail route and well-being tips on the Senatsberget Wellness Trail [Story Map \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://www.visitkimitoon.fi).

Sights and services

- Wide range of services in Dalsbruk village approximately 3 km from the start of the [wellness trail \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://www.visitkimitoon.fi).

Location and connections

- Address for the start of the Senatsberget Wellness Trail: Tullinmäentie 5, 25900 Dalsbruk (Kimito). There is car and motorcycle parking on Hertsbölenie near the lean-to shelter.
- [Bus, car, ferry and ship traffic \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://www.visitkimitoon.fi)
- [Bike rentals and cycling route \(rannikkoreitti.fi\)](https://www.visitkimitoon.fi)
- [Dalsbruk service and guest harbours \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://www.visitkimitoon.fi) – approx. 400 m from the start of the wellness trail and 3 km to the lean-to shelter.

4. Sundsvedja in Söderlångvik

The trail leading to the Sundsvedja lean-to shelter offers magnificent views of the Purunpää Nature Reserve and Archipelago Sea. The nature trail is located in Kimitoön on the land of Söderlångvik Manor. The other nature trails on the manor land also take hikers to charming local buildings, Bronze Age graves and a wartime airfield.

Photo: Sanna-Mari Kunttu



Hike from the manor to the seashore through apple orchards. Take the trail up to the rocks of Långviksudden, where there is a log lean-to shelter and campfire sites. It is an approximately 2.5 km hike from the manor to the lean-to shelter. The trail is clearly marked and the lean-to shelter is ideal for stargazing.

Söderlångvik is located on the popular Coastal Route. While on a cycling tour, you can stop by the

manor to take in its charming milieu and have a lunch break at the Sundsvedja lean-to shelter.

From May to September, you can also visit the Söderlångvik Museum to learn more about the life of important patron of the arts, Amos Anderson, and see his art collection. Have lunch at the manor café-restaurant and purchase local delicacies all year round.

Sights and services

- [Söderlångvik Manor \(soderlangvik.fi\)](https://soderlangvik.fi)

5. Vänö

Vänö is a genuine paradise island for anyone seeking peace and quiet. Only around fifteen people live on the island – during the colder months, life on the island is extraordinarily quiet.

The island has two marked trails. The longer trail makes a partial loop past sheep paddocks, through a black alder grove and over bare rock. The other nature trail runs to the southeast part of the island along a cart path to a tar-scented chapel and a swimming beach. The current chapel was built in 1975, but historical records tell that a chapel stood here in the 1600s.

Visitors to the island should set aside a day or two and book a cottage stay in advance. Visitors should bring along their own food, as the little general store

Photo: Sanna-Mari Kunttu



on the island is only open during the summer. If you are looking for a little extra excitement, you can take the guided Vänö ghost tour, which tells about folk traditions and suspenseful tales.

Sights and services

- [Vänö \(vano.fi\)](https://vano.fi)

Location and connections

- [Ferry service to Vänö \(ferry.fi\)](https://ferry.fi)
- [Bus, car and ferry traffic \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://visitkimitoon.fi)
- [Guest harbour \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://visitkimitoon.fi)

6. Örö

The most diverse island in the Archipelago National Park is a popular tourist attraction in the summer. During the cooler part of the year, Örö is different, quiet and tranquil, and you can experience its nature in complete silence.

In the spring and autumn, the fortunate visitor will be able to see a wide variety of Arctic bird species along the shoreline and on islets - perhaps even a seal or two. Örö's trails are easy to hike and bike, even in the winter. You can explore old-growth forests, meadows and rocky shorelines.

Photo: Jarmo Vehkakoski



Walk the island's cobblestone roads in the footsteps of soldiers from a bygone time and learn about the history of the coastal fortifications from the era of Russian czars to the present day. The buildings of the old garrison area, the mighty Obuhov cannons and the fortification structures have been marvellously

preserved. The legendary Bengtskär lighthouse, whose fate on Örö played a decisive role, can be seen out on the distant horizon.

Because there are many endangered plant species and biotopes as well as valuable cultural heritage sites on the island, visitors are expected to comply with the national park rules and regulations when walking about on the island or boating on the surrounding water.

7. Jurmo

Jurima Ultima – the southernmost and nearest sea. This old name for Jurmo dates back to the Middle Ages, when the island most likely had a permanent settlement. Winter visitors to the island can enjoy the season of complete silence.

Jurmo's long history is also evident on the island today, such as in its mystical stone rings, chapel ruins, fishing structures and airfield remains. The Jurmo cultural path takes the visitor on a journey into the island's fascinating past. The island nature makes an impression with its traditional landscape, its nearly treeless heather meadows and its broad rock shorelines. In times past, cattle grazed on the meadows. Today, you'll also find a herd of alpaca there. On Jurmo, you'll encounter other animals too: seals and countless different bird and owl species. A large number of visitors come to the island during the summer boating and holiday season as well as during the spring and autumn bird migrations. Jurmo island is the last terrestrial stretch of the Salpausselkä ridgeline, which cuts across the entire width of Finland.

The eastern and western tip of the island are part of the Archipelago National Park, and visitors to the park Nature Information Hut will find a wealth of information on plants, animals and environmental change. When visiting Jurmo, please keep the island's vulnerable nature in mind and stay on the trails.

Sights and services

- [Accommodations, saunas, restaurant, shop, guided excursions and guest harbour prebooking \(visitoro.fi\)](#)
- [Campground, trail network and exhibitions \(nationalparks.fi\)](#)

Location and connections

- [Scheduled ferry service from Kasnäs \(Kimitoön\) and other transport services \(nationalparks.fi\)](#)
- [Bus, car and ferry traffic \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](#)
- [Guest harbour \(nationalparks.fi\)](#)

Photo: Sampo Kiviniemi



Ferry to Jurmo leaves from Pärnäs harbour in Nagu, which can be reached from Turku and Parais by Archipelago Bus. Scheduled ferry service runs all year round and the trip takes about three hours.

Sights and services

- [Archipelago National Park nature trails, Nature Information Hut and campground \(nationalparks.fi\)](#)
- [Jurmo Inn \(jurmoinn.fi\)](#)
- [Jurmo Huts \(jurmo.com, in Finnish\)](#)
- [Jurmo Cultural Path \(outdooractive.com\)](#)
- [Visit Jurmo on a virtual tour \(earth.app.goo.gl\)](#)

Location and connections

- [Ferry from Pärnäs Nagu \(ferry.fi\)](#)
- [Bus, car and ferry traffic \(visitpargas.fi\)](#)
- [Guest harbour \(visitpargas.fi\)](#)

8. Brännskär

When darkness falls on the archipelago, a stunning blanket of stars spreads out over Brännskär. You can also enjoy the breathtaking archipelago nature, sea and silence under the night sky.

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Brännskär island has an old fisherman's farm, whose beautiful buildings and traditional setting are also open to visitors. The café at the small visitor's harbour serves freshly baked bread and smoked fish. In the summer, the café is open every day. In May and September it is open on weekends.

On the nature trail you can see the diverse island nature, with everything from lush, fast-growing forests to old, lichen-rich forests, from rocky shores to sand and pebble beaches.

Brännskär offers accommodations and services all year round. Children and adults alike love the island trails, local food and even fishing excursions. In the summer, musical and theatre events are held on the island. Two families live on Brännskär year

round. The families provide services to tourists in co-operation with Åboland Archipelago Foundation, which is one of the island's owners.

Belonging to the Archipelago City of Pargas, Brännskär is located approximately four kilometres from the island of Kirjais in Nagu. A ferry from Kirjais serves the island all year round. The trip takes approximately twenty minutes.

Sights and services

- [Brännskär on a virtual tour \(earth.app.goo.gl\)](https://earth.app.goo.gl)

Location and connections

- [Ferry from Pärnäs Nagu \(ferry.fi\)](https://ferry.fi)
- [Bus, car and ferry traffic \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://visitpargas.fi)
- [Guest harbour \(brannskar.fi\)](https://brannskar.fi)

9. Nagu

Nagu is a charming archipelago community with a bustling daily life, especially in the summer. At other times of the year, Nagu has plenty of space, peace and quiet and is the ideal place for a leisurely stroll, watching bird migrations and stargazing.

Photo: Katri Lehtola



Nagu's nature and cultural paths can be easily reached from the guest harbour and marketplace. Along the paths, you'll find a host of fascinating sights, such as a stone labyrinth, a Bronze Age grave, the childhood landscapes of Finnish painter Victor Westerholm and the old village of Ernholm.

Nature in Nagu ranges from the lush vegetation of the inner archipelago to the bare rocky islets of

the outer archipelago, from the buildings of an old parish village to wide open fields.

The popular Archipelago Harvest Festival is held in Nagu each autumn, when the Nagu marketplace and the south harbour of Nagu village are filled with tasty local delicacies, market stands and visitors.

A ferry serving other islands, including Seili, departs from Nagu harbour all year round. In the summer, the ferry also serves Turku and Gullkrona from Nagu harbour. The ferry from Pärnäs harbour runs as far as Utö Island.

Kirjais harbour has a service harbour, café, village shop and nature path. The ferry departing from Kirjais harbour serves, among others, Berghamn in the Archipelago National Park.

10. Korpo

Vistors coming to Korpo outside of the summer months will be amazed by the stormy autumn sea and the silence of winter. It's easy to reach Korpo all year round – just two ferries away from Pargas. Korpo's main island, Kyrklandet offers a full range of services all year round.

Photo: Katri Lehtola



Korpo enjoys an active social life, a big selling point for families with children, artists and entrepreneurs wanting to move here. The Barefoot Path in Österretais exhibits the work of Finnish and foreign artists which portray the human relationship with nature and nature's influence on humankind.

While visiting Archipelago Centre Korpoström, you can also see a memorial commemorating the sea battle at Korpoström, which was fought between Sweden and Russia in 1743. You can also see cultural artefacts from Korpo's more distant past in the 15th century greystone church and Korpo Local Museum on Kyrklandet.

Korpo's guest harbours are well-known among boaters. In addition to these, Korpo offers a wide range of accommodations in charming, idyllic hotels, B&Bs and rental cottages. In the summer, the Archipelago Trail runs right across Kyrklandet.

Sights and services

- [Visit Pargas \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://visitpargas.fi)
- [Nature and cultural paths \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://visitpargas.fi)
- [Visit the stone labyrinth in Finby village \(Nagu\) on a virtual tour \(earth.app.goo.gl\)](https://earth.app.goo.gl)

Location and connections

- [Ferry traffic \(ferry.fi\)](https://ferry.fi)
- [Bus, car and ferry traffic \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://visitpargas.fi)
- [Nagu The Archipelago and Small Archipelago Trail \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://visitpargas.fi)
- [St Olav Waterway route \(outdooractive.com\)](https://outdooractive.com)
- [Guest harbours \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://visitpargas.fi)

Sights and services

- [Visit Pargas \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://visitpargas.fi)
- [The Barefoot Path \(barfotastigen.com\)](https://barfotastigen.com)
- [Archipelago Centre Korpoström \(skargardscentrum.fi\)](https://skargardscentrum.fi)

Location and connections

- [Ferry traffic \(ferry.fi\)](https://ferry.fi)
- [Bus, car and ferry traffic \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://visitpargas.fi)
- [The Archipelago Trail \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://visitpargas.fi)
- [St Olav Waterway route \(outdooractive.com\)](https://outdooractive.com)
- [Guest harbours \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://visitpargas.fi)

11. Houtskär

Body and soul need a break? Houtskär is the place for you. Come take in the silence, nature and lovely village landscapes.

Photo: Katri Lehtola



Houtskär has many charming little villages, such as Hypeis and Brändö, both of which are renowned for their beautiful boathouses. Brändö is also known for its sheep. Houtskär enjoys great natural diversity - the abundance of plant species and rare flowers will surprise and enchant you, especially in the spring. Houtskär's lush forests are chock full of berries and mushrooms. Indeed, when you go out picking in the autumn, you are sure to come home with a full basket.

Admire the spectacular view of Åland from the Borgberget observation tower. The observation tower is a popular spot for watching migratory birds and ideal for stargazing when night falls.

Today, roughly two hundred permanent residents live in Houtskär. During holidays, its population swells with a large number of holiday residents. There were likely Swedish settlements in Houtskär as far back as the 1200s. Indeed, many of the present-day villages can trace their roots back to the Middle Ages.

In Houtskär, visitors can indulge themselves with sauna and yoga all year round. You can choose to stay in a B&B, rental cottage or hotel, or even take a holiday on a sheep farm. In Mossala, you can stay in a campground or caravan park and take the ferry to Iniö from there. The popular Archipelago Trail, which can be done by bike, bus or car, passes through Houtskär in the summer.

Sights and services

- [Visit Houtskar \(visithoutskar.fi\)](https://www.visithoutskar.fi)
- [Visit Pargas \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://www.visitpargas.fi)

Location and connections

- [Ferry traffic \(ferry.fi\)](https://www.ferry.fi)
- [Bus, car and ferry traffic \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://www.visitpargas.fi)
- [The Archipelago Trail \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://www.visitpargas.fi)
- [Guest harbours \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://www.visitpargas.fi)

- [Explore more the Southwest Coast and Archipelago of Finland \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://www.visitkimitoon.fi)
- [Watch a video of the new routes in the area \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com)
- [Visit Salo \(visitsalo.fi\)](https://www.visitsalo.fi)
- [Visit Kimitoön \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://www.visitkimitoon.fi)
- [Visit Pargas \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://www.visitpargas.fi)
- [National Parks \(nationalparks.fi\)](https://www.nationalparks.fi)



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