



Mathildedal. Photo: Jasmin Yuchun

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Kimitoön, Pargas, Salo, Teijo National Park and Archipelago National Park

Unique coastal villages

– Explore the Southwest Coast and Archipelago of Finland

The themed route Unique coastal villages presents eight villages along the southwest coast on which you can set your wandering sights all year round. In these unique villages, you'll be immersed in history, living village culture and spectacular coastal and archipelago nature of the Teijo and Archipelago national parks the whole year round.

While these villages make for a pleasant day trip, destinations on the outermost islands require more time for your visit. A majority of the villages offer accommodations all year round, and the easygoing rhythm of village life beyond the summer season, during the cooler parts of the year, is certainly worth experiencing.

Each village has its very own, individual history, giving it a truly unique flavour as a tourist destination. The coastal and archipelago nature has always played a key role in the villagers' livelihoods, culture and communities. Villages hold a wide variety of interesting events, whose roots

can be traced back into the history of the regions. The authentic atmosphere of annual events, such as Christmas markets, should not be missed.

On a village visit, you can also enjoy the splendid natural beauty of the Teijo and Archipelago National Parks. The two national parks are within walking or biking distance or a short ferry ride from the villages.

Teijo and Mathildedal, which are part of the City of Salo, and Dalsbruk on Kimito island, can be easily reached on public transportation. If you are coming by bike or car, you can take ferries to Högsåra and the villages of Hitis and Rosala, which are part of Kimito. Or, you can take several days to do an island-hopping tour with public ferries or your own boat, visiting villages on the outer islands of the Archipelago City of Pargas, i.e. Iniö, Aspö and Utö.

► [Explore the route with the virtual guide \(storymaps.arcgis.com\)](#)

► [The route video \(youtube.com\)](#)



1. Teijo

Teijo ironworks village in Salo has one of Finland's most beautiful Rococo manor houses, Finland's smallest stone church and several other cultural-historically important buildings. The over 100-year-old linden alley leading from the Teijo manor house down to the seashore completes the village milieu. It takes visitors to the graves of former ironmasters.

Photo: Jasmin Yuchun



The village history is overwhelmingly present. The Teijo ironworks began its operations in 1686. In the next century, an ore washing plant, industrial trip hammer and worker residences were built at the ironworks. The ironworks really began to grow in the mid-1800s with the construction of new coal-fired blast furnaces.

Teijo ironworks village is located between the Teijo National Park and the sea. The village has much to see and do for the whole family all year round. The beautiful trails of Teijo National Park can be easily reached from the village. Unique plant and tree species grow around Lake Sahajärvi, and the Kalasuntti rope-pull ferry is a fun experience, especially for kids.

Teijo's other ironworks village, Kirjakkala, is a wonderful historical sight, with its old buildings and parks. Kirjakkala is located just adjacent to the trail network of Teijo National Park and is the perfect spot for nature activities.

Sights and services

- [Teijo and Kirjakkala ironworks villages \(visitsalo.fi\)](https://visitsalo.fi)
- [Teijo National Park \(nationalparks.fi\)](https://nationalparks.fi)

Location and connections

- [Teijo and Teijo National Park \(nationalparks.fi\)](https://nationalparks.fi)
- [Cycling route and rentals \(rannikkoreitti.fi\)](https://rannikkoreitti.fi)
- Teijo village has a small guest harbour for visitors arriving in their own boat.

2. Mathildedal

Located in Salo on the shore of the Archipelago Sea, Mathildedal ironworks village is filled with a genuine, good-natured village vibe. You'll find old ironworks buildings, long oak alleys, charming little shops and one-of-a-kind products hand-made by local artisans. Enjoy seasonal taste sensations in the village cafés and restaurants, and experience the spectacular coastal nature of Teijo National Park.

Photo: Visit Salo



This lively village hosts Christmas markets, concerts, theatre and musical performances and a wide variety of other events. The village is an outstanding destination for day trips or longer stays for anyone wanting to holiday in an idyllic village setting, learn about the life of artisans and enjoy nature.

Mathildedal is located next to the sea and Lake Matildanjärvi. In Mathildedal, you can participate in a variety of water activities, such as swimming, fishing, paddling, rowing and Nordic skating the whole year round. Cyclists will love the bike routes in Teijo

National Park and the wide range of other cycling services available in the area. The popular Coastal Route cycling route passes through Mathildedal.

Sights and services

- [Mathildedal ironworks village \(visitmathildedal.fi\)](https://visitmathildedal.fi)
- [Teijo National Park \(nationalparks.fi\)](https://nationalparks.fi)

Location and connections

- [Bus and car traffic \(visitmathildedal.fi\)](https://visitmathildedal.fi)
- [Cycling route and rentals \(rannikkoreitti.fi\)](https://rannikkoreitti.fi)
- [Guest harbour \(mathildanmarina.fi\)](https://mathildanmarina.fi)

3. Dalsbruk

The history of the ironworks has shaped the unique atmosphere of Dalsbruk in Kimitoön. The village ironworks was founded in 1686 and remained in operation for centuries, finally closing in 2012. The Dalsbruk village centre was named a nationally significant built cultural heritage site by the Finnish Heritage Agency.

Photo: Sanna-Mari Kunttu



The Ironworks Museum and Dalsbruk Village Walk present the history of Dalsbruk. The village is renowned for its amusing building names: In Dalsbruk, you can walk from Siberia to Hollywood via Honolulu.

Probably the best way to experience Dalsbruk's atmosphere is on market days, which are held every Wednesday in the summer, when everyone in the area gathers at the village marketplace. Or, for a different kind of experience, you can come during the quiet of winter to see a unique drama play out: fishing nets are traditionally cast in the sea ice and golden eagles flock to the area in hopes of making their own catch.

For autumn visitors wanting to see the fall colour show, the village maples do not disappoint. In the spring, Dalsbruk is often where Finland's first liverworts blossom as early as the beginning of March.

The best way to really take in Dalsbruk's cultural environment and diverse nature is on foot or by bike. You can easily find your way out into the peace and quiet of nature by taking one of the nature paths starting from the old blast furnace. Popular with cyclists, the Coastal Route passes through the village.

Three major events are held in the village each year: Baltic Jazz, the multi-arts Festival Norpas and September Open, with its medieval market.

Sights and services

- [Visit Kimitoön \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](http://visitkimitoon.fi)
- [Dalsbruk village walk \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](http://visitkimitoon.fi)

Location and connections

- [Bus, car and ferry traffic \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](http://visitkimitoon.fi)
- [Cycling route and rentals \(rannikkoreitti.fi\)](http://rannikkoreitti.fi)
- [Service and guest harbours \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](http://visitkimitoon.fi)

4. Högsåra

Located in Kimito, Högsåra is an idyllic old village and island on the edge of the Archipelago National Park. The island became a key pilot station in the 1500s due to its central location. The island has also long been a summer retreat for people from the city – indeed, providing summer visitors with hospitality services was a source of additional income for the pilot families, along with fishing. Today, some forty people live year-round on Högsåra. Summer visitors of all ages enjoy the island's

Photo: Sanna-Mari Kunttu



beaches and are served by a bar, café and the Jungfrusund Museum. Visitors looking for a more peaceful getaway should come to Högsåra outside the summer season, even though not all the island services are open for business.

In the spring, the cry of long-tailed ducks and common eider drift in from the sea. In the crisp air of the autumn, there's nothing finer than taking a brisk, peaceful walk up a village road. In the winter, visitors to Högsåra can admire the thick winter coats of the cattle, which enjoy grazing outdoors all year long.

Visitors should not miss the opportunity to pack a lunch and head out to the west side of the island and make a campfire on the sand beach at Sandvik in the Archipelago National Park. This beautiful beach has a campfire site and firewood. Visitors can set up camp here and admire the magnificent sunsets.

Sights and services

- [Visit Kimitoön \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](#)
- [Sandvik, The Archipelago National Park \(nationalparks.fi\)](#)

Location and connections

- [Bus, car and ferry traffic \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](#)
- [Cycling routes and rentals \(rannikkoreitti.fi\)](#)
- [Service and guest harbours \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](#)

5. Hitis–Rosala

Hitis and Rosala comprise an island duo, which positively ooze history. The villages have seen their fair share of Vikings, moonshiners and smugglers over the centuries.

In the villages of Hitis and Rosala, history, archipelago nature, community and authentic archipelago living offer families with children, couples and groups an escape from the workaday world. Today, roughly one hundred people call Rosala and Hitis islands home all year round, and the distance between them is approximately ten kilometres over bridge and road. The islands are two of the southernmost inhabited islands in Finland. Visitors can reach them by car or bike using the wide range of ferry and boat services available.

Walking along the old village roads in Hitis gives you the feeling of being in an authentic, ancient little village. Finland's only rune stone was found in Hitis, and the island also saw the discovery of other important archaeological finds from the Viking Age. The village has two summer cafés, one of which also stays open long into the autumn. An authentic village general store is open all year round.

Rosala is home to the active Rosala Viking Centre, where visitors can have a comprehensive Viking experience, with Viking-style accommodations and dining. The Viking Centre is especially appealing to kids - who wouldn't want to dress up like a Viking and try axe throwing, among other things!

Photo: Jasmin Yuchun



While walking through the village of Rosala, the harbour and its red waterfront storehouses are sure to catch your eye - indeed, Rosala was once a real fishing village. To the north of the village there is plenty to see for anyone interested glacial potholes, as the sea has carved several potholes into the bedrock. Rosala also has a bakery which makes traditional archipelago rye bread and a microbrewery with its own lineup of beers. You'll taste the real flavour of the archipelago.

Sights and services

- [Visit Kimitoön \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](#)

Location and connections

- [Ferry service \(ferry.fi\)](#)
- [Bus, car and ferry traffic \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](#)
- [Cycling routes and rentals \(rannikkoreitti.fi\)](#)
- [Coastal Route \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](#)
- [Service and guest harbours \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](#)

6. Iniö

In Iniö, located in the Archipelago City of Pargas, everything is small except nature. There are over a thousand islands and islets and over 700 kilometres of shoreline. Just over two hundred people live on Iniö's ten islands all year round. Summer residents increase the number of inhabited islands and number of people living in Iniö.

Photo: Jarina Leskinen



The popular Archipelago Trail passes through Iniö, which ensures that visitors have excellent connections in every direction during the summer and even into the autumn. The archipelago also offers visitors unforgettable experiences in the spring and long into autumn and winter, when Iniö is reached through Kustavi.

The Norrby nature path (2.5 km) in showcases the varying terrain of the island. The nature path ends at Kasberget, the highest point in Iniö, which is forty metres above sea level. In Norrby, visitors are served by a guest harbour and campground. Holiday cottages are also available to rent.

The beautiful rural landscape at Keistiö, the most expansive of Iniö's villages, can be admired from the road, four kilometres of which pass through the village. Along the picturesque village road, visitors can learn about the history of farms and villagers on fourteen posted information boards. The village's own school museum also presents the village history.

Sights and services

- [Visit Pargas \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://visitpargas.fi)
- [Map of the sights and services in Iniö \(citynomadi.com\)](https://citynomadi.com)

Location and connections

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

7. Aspö

This small island on the east-west shipping lanes has been an important port of call since the Viking Age. Now part of the Archipelago City of Pargas and located in the outer archipelago of Korpo, the village of Aspö is particularly known for its venerable music tradition, its chapel and its nature path.

Photo: Lena Nykänen



The heart of the Aspö village is the harbour, where villagers hang out to welcome visitors to their island. In the summer, the guest harbour has a café and fish smokery, where locally caught fish are transformed into mouthwatering archipelago delicacies.

The island has an interesting nature path, which was originally made by cows freely wandering around the island. The nature path winds from the guest harbour up to Storberget rock, which offers

breathtaking views of the sea, a picturesque view of the guest harbour and a view of Nötö island across the sea to the west.

A summer highlight is the Aspö Music Day, when the island's very own troubadours put on unforgettable musical performances in an authentic archipelago village. When summer has passed, the island is a haven for peace and quiet.

Visitors arriving in the autumn, winter or spring should bring their own food supplies. Aspö can be reached on a free ferry from Pärnäs on Nagu all year round. Visitors can stay in the inn or cottage with its own sauna all year round.

Sights and services

- [Visit Aspö, in Finnish \(sites.google.com\)](https://sites.google.com)

- [Virtual tour to Aspö Harbour \(earth.app.goo.gl\)](https://earth.app.goo.gl)

Location and connections

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

8. Utö

Finland's southernmost inhabited island. The village of Utö is located approximately 80 kilometres from the mainland. Now part of the Archipelago City of Pargas, Utö has been known as an important anchorage since the 1600s. Even earlier than this, fishermen were sent to the island to light fires as a way to prevent ships from running aground.

Photo: Jasmin Yuchun



Utö village is best known for its lighthouse and fortress as well as its bird population. The Finnish military moved off the island in 2005, and today there is now a tourist hotel on the garrison grounds. Built in the early 1800s, the lighthouse is the island's most important landmark. The stories about the lives of lighthouse keepers and soldiers are brought to life in the Stenhuset local museum, which also presents the history of Utö's many dramatic shipwrecks.

The vibrant little community of forty residents also has a school, shop and guest harbour. In addition to a hotel and hostel, Utö also offers cottage rentals. You can visit the village all year round by ferry, which departs from Pärnäs in Nagu (Pargas).

Located far out to sea, Utö is exposed to storms. In the winter, the conditions in the village are harsh. In the spring and autumn, thousands of migratory birds stop at Utö, making the island an exciting spot for birdwatching.

Sights and services

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

Location and connections

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

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



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Unique coastal villages

