



Berghamn. Photo: Martti Komulainen

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Kimitoön, Pargas and Archipelago National Park

Island hopping

– Explore the Southwest Coast and Archipelago of Finland

Island hopping is an engaging way to experience the world's most beautiful archipelago. There are nearly two hundred inhabited islands in the Archipelago Sea, and ferries transport residents and tourists free of charge on ten different routes all year round. In addition to various types of ferry services, there are also scheduled and charter boat services available, particularly during the summer.

In the spring, autumn and winter, you'll discover the tranquil village life of the island. Outside the summer season, the sea offers island hoppers constantly changing, even dramatic weather and

light shows. Gentle summer breezes are replaced by unforgettable winter waves, the autumn migration of birds or, in the spring, their nesting rituals. Autumn and winter in the archipelago is also the ideal time for stargazing thanks to the complete darkness.

Come for a round of island hopping during the cooler months!

- > [Explore the route with the virtual guide \(arcg.is\)](#)
- > [The route video \(youtube.com\)](#)

Adventure in the Outer Archipelago

Head out on a real adventure aboard the M/S Baldur. It will take you to the outer islands of the Archipelago City of Pargas and all the way out to Finland's southernmost island that is inhabited year round. While cruising on the Baldur, you'll pass through the lush islands of the inner archipelago on your way out to the scattered, bare islets of the outer archipelago and the open sea.

Photo: Visit Kemijärvi



The ferry M/S Baldur departs from Pärnäs (Nagu) and serves Berghamn (Nagu), Nötö, Aspö, Jurmo and Utö. These islands fall within the Archipelago Sea Area Biosphere Reserve. This is a designation issued by UNESCO to an area in which the balance between human activity and nature is especially delicate.

Each of the islands on the route is unique, so be sure to make enough time to visit as many of them as you can on your trip. The retreat of the continental ice sheet at the end of the Ice Age shaped the nature of the Archipelago Sea, creating a mosaic unlike anything in the world. The archipelago locals know the labyrinth of islands and islets and will gladly show visitors the way and tell them about local customs and history.

You can easily reach Pärnäs in Nagu by bus, car and bike. You can take the ferry M/S Baldur for a one-day island hop to Nötö and Berghamn (Nagu), to which you will also take a second ferry, the M/S Cheri. After just a few days of island hopping and sea crossings, you'll have a real thirst for adventure. Unless you'll be camping out, be sure to book accommodations in advance.

M/S Baldur stops at some of the islands on its route only as needed. Check the ferry timetable for stops at different islands and, if necessary, notify the ferry crew on which island you want to land and the date you will need the ferry to return for a pick-up.

In the winter, any stops to be made at most of the islands on M/S Baldur's route must be ordered by phone a half an hour before. Remember to check the timetable at Ferry.fi and the daily route information on the same site before setting out on your archipelago adventure.



Photo: Martti Komulainen

1 Pärnäs

The harbour for ferry M/S Baldur is at Pärnäs in Nagu. There is a parking area and dry toilet at the harbour. You can reach Pärnäs from Turku and Pargas on the Archipelago Bus.



Photo: Martti Komulainen

2 Berghamn

The first stop made by ferry M/S Baldur after departing from Pärnäs is Berghamn.

The north shore of Berghamn (Nagu), Pargas is part of the Archipelago National Park. The grounds of the Västerby fisherman's farm and traditional island landscapes are lovely no matter what the season.

In the spring, you can bask in the floral beauty of a sun-dappled wooded meadow and listen to the honking of common eider. In the autumn, Berghamn is an outstanding spot to watch the migration of birds along the nature path on the high rocky vista, overlooking an autumn landscape.

In the winter, the archipelago's unparalleled peace and unimpeded view of the night sky leave an indelible impression. The island's Nature Information Hut and its "Fishing in the Archipelago" exhibition are open all year round.

The only overnight accommodations available to visitors to Berghamn is camping out on the Västerby farm grounds. Bring along your own food supplies to the island. In addition to the Baldur, the ferry M/S Cheri also serves Berghamn from Kirjais (Nagu) and can be taken for a day trip to the island.



Photo: Jarina Leskinen

3 Nötö

The second island on the M/S Baldur's route is Nötö, to which the crossing from Pärnäs takes roughly one and a half hours.

Thanks to its central location, Nötö has always been a transportation and trading hub in the outer Pargas archipelago. The name of the island likely comes from the walnut shrubs which still grow on the neighbouring island of Mjoö. Roughly a dozen people live on the island all year round, but when the cottage residents arrive the island population reaches several hundred.

Nötö has been inhabited since the High Middle Ages. The island was also likely inhabited by the Vikings, whose sea route passed right by the island. In addition to farming, the occupational mainstays of the islanders have been hunting, fishing and seafaring.

The village centre on Nötö is culturally and historically important. The Cultural Path (2 km) starts at the harbour and runs along village roads between the old farmhouses. The path passes by a windmill, village house and church. The Landscape Path (3.5 km) starts out on the road to Nötö's famous "Singing Rock" and prehistoric graves. The path then climbs up to a rocky summit, which offers spectacular views of the sea.

Nötö's landscape ranges from pine forests to wide open fields, from backwoods to high, rocky shorelines. Part of the island belongs to the Archipelago National Park.

Check the ferry timetables when planning your trip to Nötö. Day trips to the island can also be made on some weekdays, which vary depending on the time of year and ferry timetable. Bring along your own food supplies.



Photo: Jarina Leskinen

4 Aspö

The third stop made on the M/S Baldur route to Utö is Aspö island. Aspö is a small island, whose harbour has played a key role since the Viking Age.

Island villagers enjoy welcoming visitors to the island at the harbour. Indeed, Aspö is known for its friendly atmosphere, which is also apparent in the island's unique music tradition.

There has been a chapel on the island since the 1600s. The current chapel was built in 1956 to replace the previous one, which was destroyed in an autumn storm.

The Aspö nature path runs from the guest harbour up Storberget hill, which offers marvellous views of the village and out across the islet-studded sea to Nötö island.

Outside the summer season, visitors to Aspö should bring along their own food supplies. Island accommodations include an inn and a cottage with a sauna all year round.



Photo: Jarina Leskinen

5 Jurmo

Jurmo is the last terrestrial stretch of the Salpausselkä ridgeline, which cuts across the width of Finland. The island is the second-to-last stop made by M/S Baldur.

The nature of Jurmo island is enchanting. When you step off the ferry and walk to middle of an almost treeless heather meadow, it feels very much like you're in a foreign country.

In times past, cattle grazed on the island meadows. Today, you'll find a herd of alpaca there in addition to the ordinary livestock. The island's traditional landscape is managed by grazing and controlled burns. The east and west tips of the island are part of the Archipelago National Park. The national park's Nature Information Hut exhibition presents the history, archaeological finds and unique nature of Jurmo. The Nature Information Hut is open all year round.

Jurmo's long history can also be seen on the island today 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.

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. In the winter, you can savour both complete silence and stormy seas. When visiting the island outside the summer season, bring along your own food supplies. Visitors can stay overnight in an inn or a cottage.



Photo: Jasmin Yuchun

6 Utö

Well done! You've now arrived at the last island on M/S Baldur's route. Utö, Finland's southernmost inhabited island, is approximately 80 kilometres from the mainland.

Built in the early 1800s, the Utö lighthouse is the island's most important landmark. The Utö Local History Museum presents the life of lighthouse keepers and soldiers as well as the stories of dramatic shipwrecks that occurred in the dangerous waters off of Utö.

The Finnish military moved off the island in 2005, and today there is a tourist hotel on the garrison grounds. The vibrant little community of nearly fifty residents has a school, shop and guest harbour. A walking tour presents the island's most important buildings. Accommodations on the island range from the hotel to rental cottages.

A winter crossing far out to Utö is an exciting experience. Ferry crossings and life on the island are at the mercy of the weather. In the spring and autumn, the traditional times for bird watching, thousands of migratory birds stop at Utö.

On your way back to Pärnäs from Utö, you can stop and stay overnight at the other islands along the route. Remember to book accommodations in advance and notify the M/S Baldur crew that you want to stop at an island.

Tips and links

- [Ferry traffic \(ferry.fi\)](https://www.ferry.fi)
- [Bus, car and ferry traffic \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://www.visitpargas.fi)
- [Berghamn and Jurmo in the Archipelago National Park \(nationalparks.fi\)](https://www.nationalparks.fi)
- [Nötö, Aspö, Jurmo and Utö \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://www.visitpargas.fi)
- [Nature and cultural paths \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://www.visitpargas.fi)

A day on Viking islands

If you are travelling by car, bike or motorcycle, you can easily launch your island hopping trip from Kasnäs. To the islands of Rosala and Hitis. Even though you can easily take in many of the islands' sights in just a single day, you can also stay overnight in a cottage, a tent suspended between the trees or Viking style.

Photo: Jasmin Yuchun



Rosala and Hitis offer a wide variety of things to see, and you'll be able to follow in the footsteps of the Vikings or even experience Viking life.

The islands are two of the southernmost inhabited islands in Finland and are today home to just over a hundred permanent residents. Each island has its own charming archipelago village, which are connected by a bridge and a roughly 10 kilometre long road. The trip from Kasnäs to both villages is approximately 20 kilometres in total. The twin villages on Rosala and Hitis are also the perfect cycling destination.

The islands are served by a ferry, which makes runs several times each day. Remember to book your accommodations at all destinations in advance and check the M/S Aurora ferry timetable at Ferry.fi.



Photo: Petri Järvinen

1 Kasnäs

Hop aboard the free ferry M/S Aurora at Kasnäs and enjoy the crossing to Långnäs at the halfway point to the villages of Hitis and Rosala.

Your island hop starts at Kasnäs, where there is plenty to see and do. If you are staying overnight at Kasnäs before setting out for your day trip to Hitis and Rosala, you'll have enough time to visit the Geological Nature Trail and other nature paths as well as enjoy the services on offer in the archipelago village.

The M/S Aurora route passes through spectacular archipelago scenery - if you have a sharp eye, you might even catch a glimpse of a golden eagle gliding high above the sea. After an approximately 25 minutes ferry crossing, you'll arrive at Långnäs.

On the crossing, you can almost hear the sea breeze whispering tales of the past in your ear. People have been sailing these waters since time immemorial on trading runs, courtship visits and raids.

From Långnäs, head first over to Hitis village by taking a left at the crossroads.



Photo: Jasmin Yuchun

2 Hitis

On your way from the ferry landing to Hitis, you'll cross the Kyrksundet Bridge, which joins the two islands.

The stone ring of a chapel built in the 1200s and memorial are found on the north shore of Kyrksundet. This was the site of a busy harbour and trading post possibly dating back as far as the 800s. Finland's only rune stone, probably from the Viking Age, was also found here.

Surrounded by wooden houses, the Hitis village road will take you to the wooden church, which was built at the end of the 1600s. The village also has

summer cafés, a genuine village general store and an information point at the library, where you can find more information on village services.



Photo: Jasmin Yuchun

3 Rosala

Drive from Hitis to Rosala on the same road you took from the ferry landing.

Along the way, take an invigorating break on the beautiful sand beach at Gröndalen. This is the ideal spot for a picnic!

From there, follow the signs from the crossroads leading to the ferry landing straight to the village of Rosala. Rosala is a genuine fishing village, whose most prominent feature is the rank of red ochre boathouses lining the waterfront. While here, you can visit the Rosala Viking Centre, where you'll learn about the history and life of Vikings – you can even experience being a Viking yourself!

Heading out from Rosala, continue along Norrlandsvägen to see Nötholmen's kettle holes, which were ground into the bedrock during the Ice Age. Further up Norrlandsvägen, you'll also come across Rosala's very own microbrewery.

Before heading back to the ferry landing for the trip back to Långnäs and Kasnäs, check the M/S Aurora timetable.

Tips and links

- [Ferry traffic \(ferry.fi\)](https://ferry.fi)
- [Bus, car and ferry traffic \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://visitkimitoon.fi)
- [Hitis and Rosala villages \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://visitkimitoon.fi)

Spring in the outer archipelago

Head out to the outer Kimito archipelago to usher in spring. You'll be welcomed into the realm of birds with a fanfare of honking common eider. On an island hop to the Örö fortress island and Bengtskär lighthouse, you'll likely be able to see all kinds of other waterfowl as well as golden eagles and seals. In addition to a good pair of binoculars, remember to bring along a pair of sunglasses, as the May sunlight in the outer archipelago is blindingly bright.

Photo: Petri Järvinen



Serving as a transportation hub for archipelago traffic, Kasnäs is the jumping-off point for excursions out to both of these unique destinations for visitors without their own boat. Up-to-date water taxi and cruise boat timetables. For service to Örö and Bengtskär can be found on Visit Kimitoön website.



Photo: Jaska Poikonen

1 Kasnäs

Start your trip at Kasnäs, where there is plenty of things to see and do for several days.

When staying overnight at Kasnäs, you'll have time to visit the Geological Nature Trail and other nature paths in Kasnäs village.

After spending time outdoors in the bracing spring air, there's nothing quite like taking a steamy sauna and heated pools of the Kasnäs Archipelago Spa.



Photo: Visit Kimitoön

2 From Kasnäs to Örö

The most wide-ranging island in the Archipelago National Park, Örorö is the perfect destination for a spring outing.

Regularly scheduled ferry service, charters and water taxis run between Kasnäs and Örorö. Check the vessel timetables on the Nationalparks.fi and Visit Örorö websites. If necessary, book a place on a boat or order transport in advance.

Rent a bike on the island and you can spend a day getting to know the Örorö trail network. For visitors staying on Örorö bit longer, there is a variety of accommodations available.

The nature paths pass through the military history, archipelago forests and pastures of the island. Örorö in May is an excellent time to see the beautiful but extremely rare western and southern pasqueflowers in their full glory. Watching the spring migration of geese and passerines on Örorö is already something of an established tradition.



Photo: Visit Kimitoön

3 From Kasnäs to Bengtskär

That fact that common eider safaris to the Bengtskär lighthouse are popular is no wonder – just making the crossing to the outer archipelago in May is an experience in itself.

Bengtskär island is home to hundreds of common eider females and hatchlings. The presence of people keeps predators at bay and provides the birds with a safe place to nest. Watching the nesting activity of common eider at close range is unforgettable.

A visit to the historic lighthouse, the tales of life on the lighthouse island told by a guide, and the spectacular seascapes make this a very special excursion.

Common eider safaris are offered in May on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays as well as to larger groups with a reservation.

Tips and links

- [Ferry traffic \(ferry.fi\)](https://www.ferry.fi/)
- [Bus, car and ferry traffic \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://www.visitkimitoon.fi/)
- [Tour boats, charter boats and taxi boats \(bengtskar.fi\)](https://www.bengtskar.fi/)
- [Örorö National Park \(nationalparks.fi\)](https://www.nationalparks.fi/)
- [Kasnäs services \(kasnas.com\)](https://www.kasnas.com/)
- [Örorö services \(visitoro.fi\)](https://www.visitoro.fi/)
- [Bengtskär \(bengtskar.fi\)](https://www.bengtskar.fi/)

From an ironworks village to a grazing island

Take a three or five-day island hopping adventure on ferries, starting from Dalsbruk and passing through Kasnäs on your way out to the island of Vänö. On your way through the Kimito archipelago, you'll be able to admire the spring awakening of archipelago nature.

Photo: Sanna-Mari Kunttu



The first waterfowl arrive in areas where the ice has melted, followed by many other migratory birds coming in from the south and southwest. The first plants of the season are also brought to life by the heat stored in the bedrock. Nature is slowly waking up from her long winter slumber.

So, don't miss your chance to ring in the arrival of spring with a three or five-day island hopping jaunt! You don't need a car, boat or even a bike to make this trip and you'll be able to visit any time of the year. You can come from Helsinki, Salo and Turku by bus to the seaside ironworks village of Dalsbruk all year round. Stay overnight in Dalsbruk for one or two nights and see its sights before or after your island hopping.

Remember to book accommodations at all destinations in advance, and check the ferry timetables for M/S Stella (Hitis route) at Ferry.fi. If you need help reading the timetable, contact the Kimitoön Tourism Unit.



Photo: Camilla Moberg-Nordgren

1 Dalsbruk-Kasnäs

On Wednesday, take the 12:30 p.m. ferry M/S Stella (summer timetable) and the 12:00 p.m. ferry (winter timetable) from Dalsbruk. The ferry departs from the intersection of Stallbacksvägen, Malmvägen and Strandvägen next to the guest harbour. The

nearly three-hour ferry crossing is free and offers passengers spectacular views of the beautiful archipelago scenery.

You'll arrive at Kasnäs at around 3:00 p.m. and spend your first two nights here. You can book accommodations at Kasnäs Archipelago Spa or stay overnight in a Tentsile skytent. You'll also have time to enjoy the Spa's services or take a hike on the nature paths.



Photo: Visit Kimitoön

2 Kasnäs

On Thursday, you'll have plenty of time to take a bike ride around Kasnäs. Rent a bike and set out for the islands of Högsåra or Hitis and Rosala.

Or you can hike the Geological Nature Trail, which runs along the shoreline on the roche moutonnée, which is bedrock worn smooth by sea and ice. Spend your second night in Kasnäs and take advantage of the services it has to offer.

Remember to bring along enough food and other supplies when visiting Vänö. You can stay for two nights at a rental cottage on Vänö.

On Friday, the ferry M/S Stella departs from Kasnäs at 12:00 p.m. And arrives at Vänö island after a one-hour crossing. Let the ferry crew know that you will be returning on Sunday.



Photo: Sanna-Mari Kunttu

3 Vänö

Stay on Vänö from Friday to Sunday and hike its nature paths. Please keep in mind that there are no restaurant or shop services on Vänö outside the summer season. A daily needs kiosk is open at the guest harbour in the summer.

The ferry departs Vänö on Sunday at approximately 2:40 p.m., thus giving you the entire morning to enjoy the island. Remember to notify the ferry crew that you will be returning on this run, as the ferry only stops at Vänö on Sundays when necessary. The ferry M/S Stella stops first at Kasnäs and then continues to Dalsbruk, arriving at approximately 7:00 p.m. Check ferry schedules at Ferry.fi.

Tips and links

- [Ferry traffic \(ferry.fi\)](http://Ferry.fi)
- [Bus, car and ferry traffic \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](http://visitkimitoon.fi)
- [Dalsbuk services \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](http://visitkimitoon.fi)
- [Kasnäs services \(kasnas.com\)](http://kasnas.com)
- [Vänö services \(vano.fi\)](http://vano.fi)
- [Kimitoön paths and trails \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](http://visitkimitoon.fi)

Fascinating Sjalö

Located on the north side of Nagu, Sjalö is part of the Archipelago City of Pargas and is known for its dark history. Today, Sjalö is a diverse meeting place for tourism and science. Start your island hop to Sjalö from Nagu, which is a charming, vibrant archipelago community located approximately one hour from Pargas.

Photo: Visit Seili



Beginning in the 1600s, people suffering from leprosy and mental illness were sent to live in isolation on Sjalö, which is located thirty kilometres from Turku as the crow flies. The church's red crucifix reminds today's visitors of the 663 leprosy patients who lived on the island. The last patient died in 1785.

Sjalö offers a variety of accommodations even outside the summer season, not to mention yoga retreats and excursions. In the summer, Sjalö has a café, restaurant and guest harbour as well as daily needs shop and information point. In the summer, Nagu and Sjalö are popular destinations on the Small Archipelago Trail for cycling and driving. Sjalö boasts excellent connections by sea.

The free ferry M/S Kokkomaa runs to Sjalö from Nagu harbour every day all year round. Visitors travelling by car must leave their cars at the Nagu harbour parking area. In the summer, the M/S Östern serves the Nagu–Sjalö–Hanka (Rymättylä) route on the Small Archipelago Trail. In addition to this,

the M/S Nörrskär runs from May to September on the Turku–Sjalö–Nagu route and the M/S Hamskär runs between Sjalö and Röölä. On Ferry.fi, you can find information on routes and summer/winter timetables by doing a search by vessel or destination or a route search.



Photo: Jarina Leskinen

1 Nagu

In the summer, Nagu is a bustling boating hub and an Archipelago Trail destination, but when the temperatures drop the pace of life in Nagu slows down to a peaceful crawl.

Stay overnight in Nagu, which offers a variety of accommodations and go for a hike on the nature and cultural paths starting from the harbour and marketplace. The paths will take you to, among other things, a stone labyrinth and the old village of Ernholm.

In the autumn, the Archipelago Harvest Festival is held in Nagu, whose marketplace and the south harbour of Nagu village are full of tasty local delicacies, market stands and visitors.

The ferry M/S Kokkomaa serves the Nagu–Själö–Nagu route all year round. Check the current timetables and up-to-date ferry news at Ferry.fi. In the summer, the ferry also serves Turku via Själö from Nagu harbour.



Photo: Visit Seili

2 Själö

A majority of the island is a nature reserve, where human traces can be clearly seen. Själö's important heritage landscapes, such as meadows, pasturages and rocky grasslands are cared for by mowing, controlled burns and grazing. Many threatened and near-threatened plant and animal species live on the island. On Själö, the magnificent archipelago nature is inextricably intertwined with the island's old buildings and dark past.

A short walking trail (1.3 km) with information boards take hikers to important spots on Själö, such as the Museum Church. The trail follows a gravel road and is hilly, but otherwise easy.

A large stone building that served as a mental asylum for women until 1962 now houses the Archipelago Research Institute, Centre for Environmental Research of the University of Turku.

In the summer, guided tours will introduce visitors to the island's past as a leprosy hospital and mental asylum as well as its present as a marine biology research station. Visitors can experience the cultural landscape of the island on an audio guided walking tour and the nature path with its information boards.

Tips and links

- [Ferry traffic \(ferry.fi\)](http://Ferry.fi)
- [Bus, car and ferry traffic \(visitpargas.fi\)](http://visitpargas.fi)
- [The Small Archipelago Trail \(visitpargas.fi\)](http://visitpargas.fi)
- [Nagu services \(visitpargas.fi\)](http://visitpargas.fi)
- [Seili services \(visitseili.fi\)](http://visitseili.fi)
- [Seili Island Nature Reserve \(nationalparks.fi\)](http://nationalparks.fi)

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



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Island hopping

