



World Heritage Site

Kvarken Archipelago



English |

Mikkelinsaaret

Mikkelinsaaret is a grouping of about 300 forest-rich islands located in the northern part of Merenkurkku on the northeastern side of Raippaluoto. Some of the islands are state owned and others private wildlife protection sites. The islands' terrain is very rocky. In the region one can visit ancient monuments, such as stone mazes ('jatulintarha'), compass roses as well as fishing camp-and harbour relics, for example.

The ancient coastguard station of Mikkelinsaaret in Kummelskär presently functions as a wildlife center that offers services to Merenkurkku's boaters as well as entrepreneur -travel guides and their groups. The entire Mikkelinsaaret belong to a World Heritage Site and numerous cruises are organized there in the summer.



PHOTO: JOUNI KANNONLAHTI / VAASAN YLIOPOSTO

Municipality

Mustasaari, Vöyri

Coordinators

70505:32396

Driving directions

Possible harbours to start the journey from are, for example, Norrskat, Fjärdskär, Svedjehamn, Vikarskat, etc. For more specific driving directions check the web pages of these places. For example, there is a well marked route that passes by the Norrskatan harbour in direction north-northeast (NNE), going straight through the Mikkelinsaaret archipelago all the way to the wildlife center.

Best time for excursions

From April to October

Nesting Species

There is a diverse selection of about 70 species on the islands, with a mix of typical forest species and others that are common in inner and outer archipelagos.

Of waterbirds especially the Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Tufted Duck and Velvet Scoter are common. Of gulls the most common are the Mew Gull, European Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull and the Black-headed Gull and of terns the Arctic Tern are most easily spotted. A number of Razorbills and Black Guillemots also nest in the islets close by. Of birds of prey at least the White-tailed Eagle and the Eurasian Hobby

belong to the region's nesting species. Of grouses the Black Grouse is the most common and of shorebirds the Common Redshank, the Common Sandpiper and the Eurasian Oystercatcher. There is also a great variety of passerines. Many Barn Swallows and Common House Martin couples nest inside the buildings in Kummelskär. In the shore area the most common species are the White Wagtail and the Northern Wheatear.

On the other hand in the woods the most common are the Common Chaffinch and the Willow Warbler. Still, some Thrushes, Flycatchers, as well as

Warblers can be seen and even spotting an Icky is possible.

More detailed information about the nesting species can be found in the third Finnish bird atlas: <http://atlas3.lintuatlas.fi/tulokset/ruutu/704:324>

Migratory species

Because of its location Mikkelinsaaret is part of a coastal migratory route. However, the sporadic nature of the islands means that the migration is spread over a large area. Maybe this is the reason why monitoring bird migration has apparently never been practiced much in the region.

