



## Sommarö Fortress

Ängesholm's Natura 2000 area is a highly diverse and valuable forest-and coastal area in which one can find boggy areas, rocky outcrops, sandy beaches as well as different types of forests. Between 1940 and 2000 the area functioned as an army depot and a coastal artillery fortress. Due to the area having been used by the army there is a road and path network, several demolished building bases, a harbour as well as cannon bases and bunkers. The only buildings left that are in good shape are the guard hut and its outbuildings. There is a nature trail, lean-to shelter, a campfire spot and a good natural beach for swimming in the area. There is also a 3,5 km long nature trail that leaves from the fortress and ends in the Sommarö Sund beach.



PHOTO: JOUNI KANNONLAHTI / VAASAN YLIOPISTO

### Nesting Species

There are about 100 different species nesting in this region. These mainly include species common in archipelagos and in coniferous-and mixed forests. The waterbirds most commonly seen on the beaches are the Mute Swan, Common Goldeneye, Mallard, Great Crested Grebe, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser and the Velvet Scoter. In addition, Horned Grebes come to nest by the memorial at the Ängsholm potten lake. Still, the diverse biotopes create an interesting landscape, and even a Wood Warbler can be spotted in parts with more leaf trees or a Common Redstart in the rocky pine areas. Also several Woodpecker species are spotted annually in the area. The sound of ravens creates a feeling of wilderness. More detailed informa-

tion about the nesting species can be found in the third Finnish bird atlas: <http://atlas3.lintuatlas.fi/tulokset/ruutu/701:321>

### Migratory species

Migratory routes mainly pass by rather far away from Sömmarö and therefore the place is not especially opportune for migratory bird observation. Still, close to Sömmarö one can often find resting waterbirds, such as the Common Goldeneye, Common Scoter, Velvet Scoter, Great Crested Grebe, Mute Swan, etc. On the other hand Alder groves on the shore are good places for spotting small birds. Behind the memorial at the Ängsholm potten lake one can also find several resting anseriformes.

### Municipality

Mustasaari

### Coordinators

70194:32134

### Driving directions

From Vaasa drive about 20 km along Alskatintie (724) to Raip-paluoto, then turn left at Vallgrund onto the 7242 road. Drive about 9,5 km and turn left at a sudden bend onto Sommaröntie (Sign: Fort-lin-nake). After about 500 meters the road branches out and you should turn right following the signs. Continue another 2,3 km until you get to an open yard where the guard hut is visible on the left and the fire-making place and the sign-boards on the right side of the road. If you want you can drive all the way to the beach and harbour.

### Services

Rented flat, campfire place, nature trail network, natural beach, harbour, outhouse.

### Best time for excursions

From April to November. In theory waterbird-watching is most interesting in the early spring when the ice is melting and on the other hand in the late autumn before the water freezes. However, for walking in the woods in order to spot a number of different species the most interesting time is in the spring between April and June when the bird singing-season is at its busiest.

### Rarities

Yellow-browed Warbler, Little Grebe, Common Moorhen.

