



Teijo National Park. Photo: Jasmin Yuchun

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

Colour therapy – a glorious autumn journey

– Explore the Southwest Coast and Archipelago of Finland

Come watch autumn slowly daub the coastline and archipelago with its rich colours, bathing nature in a glorious glow before the long winter sets in. The Colour therapy theme route will take you through the cultural spaces of Salo, Kimito and Pargas to see the splendid autumn colour show in their parks and heritage landscapes. Village roads, manor estates and church parks are charming destinations at this time of year.

Attend nature's own art exhibition in the Teijo and Archipelago National Parks, where the green of summer gives way to the warm hues of autumn. While hiking the wide variety of trails in the national parks, you'll feel how nature is preparing herself for the coming winter. Indeed, the best time for a colour therapy session is from the end of September to mid-October. You can also enjoy the abundant harvest of coastal and archipelago forests, their berries and mushrooms.

Along the way, the blue sky, glittering green sea and mossy rocks create an intense contrast with the wash of warm yellows, oranges and reds before the monochrome of winter settles over the land.

You can enjoy the showcase of colours on the Colour therapy route in your own car, on a motorcycle or by bike. Set up base at a small village along the route and take day trips of varying length at destinations or stay in a different village each night as you go. You can also reach the destinations on the route by bus. Nearly all the destinations on the route have a guest or service harbour or a guest pier, except for Kimito centre.

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

1. Salo parks and riverfront

In September, the lush city of Salo is dressed in autumn colours. The city, located on the coast of Southwest Finland, is the right place for strolls in beautiful parks and in an attractive riverfront on a crisp autumn day.

Photo: Visit Salo



Saló is known for venerable cultural landscapes with traditional scenery, parks, wide open farm country and old buildings. Take a relaxed walk in the riverfront lined with large trees and in the charming parks to see how the autumn is gradually taking over the landscape with its flashing colours. Saló boasts a total of 800 hectares of well-kept parks and the cityscape is also characterised by beautiful private gardens.

The Rantapuisto (riverfront park) on the shores of the Uskelanjoki river is at its most impressive in autumn when tree species glow in competition with glimmering water. In addition to natural beauty, the parks in Saló are also home to interesting sights, such as the Vapauden liekki (Flame of Liberty) monument by Seppo Manninen in the Sibelius Park and the monument commemorating Fjalar Nordell by Jarkko Roth in the St. Anthony Park.

In the park-like surroundings of the railway station, you will note the early 20th century buildings, an air raid shelter from the 1940s and the railway bridge. Located next to the marketplace, the Horninpuisto park is home to maritime archaeological attractions.

Old buildings, nature glowing in different shades of red and yellow and the Uskelanjoki river provide a nice setting for an autumn day out in Saló.

Sights and services

- [Visit Salo \(visitsalo.fi\)](https://visitsalo.fi)

Location and connections

- Saló marketplace address: Horninkatu 11, Saló.

2. Wiurila Manor Park

The golden yellow buildings of the Wiurila Manor designed by C. L. Engel glow in the autumn park landscape. The manor and its lands are owned by the Armfelt family and they provide an excellent choice for a cultural and nature outing on an autumn day. Wiurila – a place where the past and the present meet.

Photo: Wiurila Manor



The lands of the Wiurila Manor consist of rich natural landscape and a park glowing in autumn colours. You can relax at the site by admiring the beautiful sea view and the rolling landscape opening before your eyes. You will be amazed by the fascinating birdlife at Halikonlahti bay as the flocks are preparing for autumn migration. The area is home to such species as the white-tailed eagle, and the call

of the eagle owl can be heard at night. The manor is also known for its stables, which means that you can spot horses in the property.

One of Finland's most important manors and most impressive cultural landscapes offers unique opportunities to experience manor life, enjoy autumn nature and seek inspiration in history, arts

and culture. The manor boasts a guesthouse, a golf course, a museum displaying carriages, clothing and household items (with guided tours for groups) and the restaurant offering a delicious menu made of local ingredients in an artisan way.

Did you know that the Wiurila Manor was first mentioned in documents way back in the 15th century? A unique manor area and a serene environment invite you to take a holiday from daily routines. An autumn journey into the manor life of the past is a treat for all ages.

Sights and services

- [Wiurila manor, in Finnish \(wiurila.org\)](#)

Location and connections

- Viurilantie 126, 24910 Halikko, Salo
- [Visit Salo \(visitsalo.fi\)](#)

3. Teijo National Park

Smell the subtle aroma of the autumn wetlands on the easy-going trails of the national park and wonder at the explosion of colours in the ironworks villages of Teijo, Kirjakkala and Mathildedal.

Photo: Jasmin Yuchun



Teijo National Park is a top spot for autumn hikes. For shorter hikes, the easy Punassuo Mire Trail (2.1 km) and Nenusta Circle Trail (3.6 km) are the way to go. At Punassuo, you'll find brilliant red sundew. At Nenustannokka, you'll see the national park's largest lake, Lake Hamarinjärvi ringed by colourful trees.

On longer trails, you'll delve deeper into the park and see a wider range of colours on the land and in the forests. You might even spot a Grey-headed woodpecker, the park emblem, on the trunk of a hardwood tree or plucking rowan-berries.

History buffs should set their sights on the ancient seashore of Jeturkasti and Kirjakkala ironworks park, where the old timber buildings create a perfectly charming setting for an autumn stroll. Paddling on Kirjakkala's Lake Hamarinjärvi will surround you in nature's colourful embrace.

Don't forget Finland's smallest stone church in Teijo – its beautiful setting is an idyllic spot for a picnic under the autumn

You'll find a wide range of accommodations and other services for day trips and overnight stays in the national park and Teijo, Kirjakkala and Mathildedal ironworks villages. The closest guest harbour is located 2.5 km away in Mathildedal.

Sights and services

- [Teijo National Park \(nationalparks.fi\)](#)
- [Teijo Nature Centre \(nationalparks.fi\)](#)

Location and connections

- Teijo Nature Centre, Matildanjärventie 86, 25660 Mathildedal (Salo).
- Kirjakkala ironworks village, Hamarinjärventie 62, Teijo (Salo).
- [Visit Salo \(visitsalo.fi\)](#)

4. Kimito's autumn destinations and the wonderland of Sagalund

The walls of Kimito Church are festooned with deep red Virginia creeper. The Sagalund open-air museum is dressed in its finest autumn garb. Whether it's a cultural excursion or a nature getaway, there's plenty to see in Kimito centre in the autumn.

Photo: Vesa Aaltonen



The horse-chestnut and maple trees in the churchyard and the nearby Rectory grounds provide a bright splash of colour against the stately greystone church. Consecrated to St. Andreas, the church was built in the early 1400s. Kimito's medieval stone church and rectory comprise a built cultural heritage site of national significance.

If you're inclined to take a hike on the nearby Norrskogen forest trails, you can pick up something to eat at one of the shops in the Kimito village centre. You can stop to eat at the lean-to shelter in the middle of the forest. You'll need to bring along your own firewood if you want to make a campfire at the shelter. The trail can be accessed from several directions, but the shortest route from the village centre to the lean-to shelter starts from Fullmäktigevägen. The trail is clearly marked. The main trail is indicated by white paint markings and shortcuts are indicated by paint markings in other colours.

You'll find even more autumn colours at the fabulous Sagalund open-air museum, which is located less than two kilometres from the church. During the harvest

season, Sagalund's fields and garden are ablaze with the warm tones of autumn. The buildings of the open-air museum are ensconced under a bright autumn canopy of maple and birch trees. You can savour the flavours of autumn at the Sagalund café.

Sagalund is one of Finland's oldest and largest open-air museums, with its 27 historic buildings. The museum was founded in 1900 by Nils Oskar Jansson, who said that Sagalund is "a piece of poetry come true". Stockholm's Skansen served as the model for founding Sagalund. Sagalund is also home to a Children's Cultural Center.

Sights and services

- [Kimito Church \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://www.visitkimitoon.fi)
- [Sagalund museum \(sagalund.fi\)](https://www.sagalund.fi)

Location and connections

- Kimito Church address: Finnuddsvägen 13, 25700 Kimito.
- Sagalund museum: Museivägen 7, 25700 Kimito.
- [Visit Kimitoön \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://www.visitkimitoon.fi)

5. Västanfjärd churches and nature paths

In Västanfjärd, the greystone church offers a beautiful contrast to the golden birch leaves and red maple leaves, which compete with the red ochre of the old wood church. In addition to the two churches, there are also two nature paths near the village of Lammala.

Photo: Sanna-Mari Kunttu



Västanfjärd's red ochre old wood church and church bell tower were built in the mid-1700s. At the beginning of the last century, the old church was considered to be too small, so a decision was made to build a larger church right next to it. The greystone edifice of Västanfjärd's new church was consecrated in 1910.

The nature paths near the church are infused with even more autumn colour and are perfect for a brisk hike in the crisp autumn air. The Lammala nature path (2 km) will take you into the depths of spruce stands and moist, moss-covered woods. The path also leads up to a high rocky outlook, which offers marvellous views of the bay and you might even be able to spy the steeple of the new church.

The forest path, lined by reddish blueberry scrub, climbs up to the rocky summit, where you'll find the Jarlsgård "Maiden's Dance", a large stone labyrinth. It is said that the pupils of the Kälkestad folk school built the labyrinth under the direction of their teacher in 1910. A stone labyrinth may have also been on this spot before the pupils built theirs.

The Jarlsgård stone labyrinth can be reached on two different paths, which can be combined into a loop (approx. 2 km) by walking part of the overall route along a road and the other part along a forest path. The red and violet autumn ground cover in the rocky pine forests can be enjoyed along the path. A sign showing the way to the stone labyrinth can be found on Sirnäsvägen, right next to the old church.

You can delve deeper into the local history and landscape by taking a long bike tour on the History of sailing vessels and limestone mines by bicycle route (25 km). The popular cycling route, Coastal Route, also passes through the village of Västanfjärd. The service and guests harbours serve visitors arriving by boat.

Sights and services

- [Västanfjärd churches \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://www.visitkimitoon.fi)
- [Lammala trail and Jarlsgård "Maiden's Dance" \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://www.visitkimitoon.fi)

Location and connections

- Västanfjärd churches: Kyrksvängen 12, Västanfjärd. 17 km south of Kimito centre.
- [Visit Kimitoön \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://www.visitkimitoon.fi)

6. Dalsbruk ironworks village

The historic maritime ironworks village of Dalsbruk really shines in the autumn, when its countless maples break out in a symphony of colour.

Photo: Visit Kimitoön



In Dalsbruk village, the warmth of summer tends to linger well into the autumn thanks to the sea and the rocks surrounding the village. The blue flowers of the viper's bugloss, which grow by the side of the road, bloom all the way up to the first frost.

On a clear day, the shimmering blue sea and old coal furnaces made of dark slag provide a stark contrast to the warm colours of autumn. Starting from the heart of the village, next to the old blast furnaces, nature and cultural paths pass through a mosaic landscape of lakes, forests and mires.

Nature-lovers should rent a canoe and paddle to Lake Iso Masuunijärvi, which is ringed by expanses of peat moss.

The village of Dalsbruk is located along the popular cycling route, the Coastal Route. Boaters can easily find moorings at the Dalsbruk guest harbour.

Sights and services

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

Location and connections

- Address: Stallbacksvägen 1, Dalsbruk. 25 km south of Kimito centre.
- [Visit Kimitoön \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](http://visitkimitoon.fi)
- [Ferry traffic \(ferry.fi\)](http://ferry.fi)

7. Dragsfjärd parish village

The parish village of Dragsfjärd, with its yellow churches, is situated on an isthmus between a lake and the sea.

Photo: Vesa Aaltonen



Darkening autumn evenings give the church grounds a magical atmosphere. The area surrounding the church, with its stately buildings, is a remarkably well preserved parish village from the early 20th century that has been granted the status of built cultural heritage site of national significance.

The local ironworks history can be seen in the numerous wrought and cast iron funerary monuments in the churchyard, some of which are still in their original places.

If you'll be arriving outside the summer months there is a shop, where you can pick up a picnic lunch and head out to Furulund beach to take in the gorgeous view of Dragsfjärd lake. Beautiful fall hues are reflected in the lake water: a bluebird sky and the golden yellow leaves of birches.

Also located close to the lake is a vacation home, where you can partake of a delicious buffet meal or even spend a relaxing evening in the sauna.

The village also has a hotel and rental cottages. Dragsfjärd is located along the popular cycling route in summer, the Coastal Route.

Sights and services

- [Visit Kimitoön \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://www.visitkimitoon.fi)
- [A cultural bike ride around lake Dragsfjärd \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](#)

8. Söderlångvik Manor

Head out to Söderlångvik Manor, which is surrounded by apple orchards and maple trees dressed in their autumn finery. Here, you'll be able to discover fascinating museum exhibits, taste the rich apple cider from the Manor's own apples, and savour local delicacies in the café.

Photo: Vesa Aaltonen



Perched atop a hill, the white edifice of Söderlångvik Manor rises majestically above the canopy of colourful maple trees. The sea glitters at the foot of the hill and thousands of apple trees laden with their blushing red harvest are arrayed across the valley floor.

Söderlångvik Manor has a long history – its first mention appears in records dating from 1511.

Amos Anderson, the editor-in-chief of Swedish-language newspaper Hufvudstadsbladet and one of the most important industrialists and art patrons of his time, purchased the manor in 1927 as his summer residence. The main building of Söderlångvik now serves as a museum dedicated to the life of Amos Anderson and his personal art collection. The manor also hosts travelling exhibitions and a carriage museum in the old carriage house.

Söderlångvik is surrounded by apple orchards, charming manor grounds with hardwood trees and a seaside promenade. On the last Saturday of September, Söderlångvik celebrates Apple Day to ring in the harvest. With a wide variety of apple tastings and products on offer. You can also pick up some treats from the café and take one of the nature paths on the manor grounds for a picnic.

Sights and services

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

Location and connections

- Amos Andersonvägen 2, Dragsfjärd. 25 km from Kimito centre.
- [Visit Kimitoön \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://www.visitkimitoon.fi)

9. Örö Fortress

Enjoy the colourful beauty of autumn and bracing sea air on the most diverse island in the Archipelago National Park. Örö's cultural history and nature will enchant you.

Photo: Jarmo Vehkakoski



On Örö's trail network you'll see the military history of the fortress island and its unique nature. In the autumn, the natural bounty of Örö, with its rare plants, is awash in countless different colours. The old hardwood trees on the garrison grounds compete for attention with the wild thyme growing there.

Because Örö faces out to the open sea, you'll also be able to experience the power of stormy autumn seas and watch birds depart on their southerly migration.

The 6" Circle Trail (5.3 km) takes you to the southern tip of the island for a breathtaking view of the open sea. You can see the stately profile of the Bengtsär lighthouse out on the horizon. On the 120 mm Trail (5.6 km) runs across the northern part of the island, passing through coastal meadows and old-growth forests on its way out to the wide open west coast. The island is easy to get around on foot and by bike,

using the old cobblestone roads, Lyhyt and Pitkä Ikkävä, while enjoying the lovely autumn scenery.

After a brisk walk or bike ride outside, there's nothing quite like a relaxing sauna, delicious meal and going to sleep in complete silence.

Sights and services

- [Örö Fortress \(nationalparks.fi\)](https://nationalparks.fi)
- [Visit Örö \(visitoro.fi\)](https://visitoro.fi)

Location and connections

- Off the coast of Kimito, approximately 30 minutes by boat from Kasnäs, which is the departure harbour for scheduled boat transport. The island can also be reached by water taxi.
- [Visit Kimitoön \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://visitkimitoon.fi)
- [Örö \(nationalparks.fi\)](https://nationalparks.fi)
- [Ferry traffic \(ferry.fi\)](https://ferry.fi)

10. Old Town Malmen in Pargas

Once home to local artisans and mariners, Pargas' historic centre, Old Town Malmen, is a remarkably well preserved timber house quarter from the 1700–1800s.

Photo: Robert Seger



Strolling along narrow lanes amid the old timber houses and under the canopy of their fall-coloured trees is an experience unto itself. Old Town Malmen borders the Kyrksundet strait, which flows through the city. Along the waterfront, you can take it easy, watch the boats go by and admire the beautiful autumn colours. Just next to the strait, the

churchyard of the medieval greystone church is also dressed in its finest autumn garb. Together with the church, Old Town Malmen comprises a built cultural heritage site of national significance.

Just a stone's throw from the Kyrksundet strait is pedestrian street Köpmansgatan. Here and on

Strandvägen you'll find several charming shops, restaurants and cafés. If you need an additional dose of colour, head over to the Art Bank art gallery to see the art of Salvador Dalí and learn about his colourful life.

Limestone has been quarried at Pargas since the 1400s, and today the Pargas limestone quarry is one of the largest in the Nordic countries. The quarry is located right next to the Pargas city centre. You can view the massive quarry pit from a vantage point unlike anywhere else in the world. Visit also the Local History museum, which is located nearby the vantage point.

11. Lenholmen island grove

Lenholm island's old oak grove, heritage landscape, reed beds and birdwatching tower are an ideal spot for an autumn day trip. While hiking the nature path, admire the autumn colours in the trees, the various shades of green in the moss and the golden brown reed stalks against the steel-coloured sea.

Lenholm's coastal meadows have been used for grazing livestock and mowing since the end of the Middle Ages. The eastern paddock has been grazed for centuries. Livestock still grazes here to preserve the rare oak paddocks, hardwood groves and coastal meadows as well as their plant and animal species.

The roughly two-kilometre nature path winds its way through the oaks and heads down to the birdwatching tower at the seashore. The nature path is easy to hike. There is a table and bench and a dry toilet available along the path. Please note that visitors are prohibited from leaving the path from 15 April to 30 June.

Roughly ten kilometres outside the Pargas city centre is the Sattmark nature path. You can easily combine autumn cycling and hiking on the nature path with a delicious meal prepared with local food and visits to historic sites

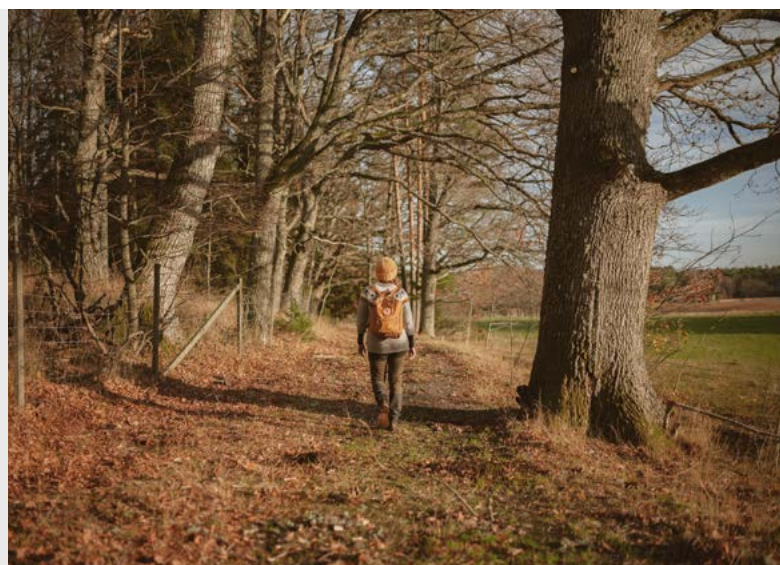
Sights and services

- [Visit Pargas \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://visitpargas.fi)
- [Sattmark nature trails \(outdooractive.com\)](https://outdooractive.com)

Location and connections

- Old Town Malmen address: Runebergsstrand, Pargas
- Church address: Kyrkoesplanaden 4, Pargas
- Quarry viewing point address: Pajbackavägen 1, Pargas
- Sattmark nature trail address: Sattmark 1, Pargas
- [Visit Pargas \(visitpargas.fi\)](https://visitpargas.fi)

Photo: Jasmin Yuchun



Lenholm island is an outstanding day trip destination, and it's located along the popular cycling route, the Coatsal Route. The nearest guest harbour is located 2.5 km away at Sattmark.

Sights and services

Nature path, table-bench, birdwatching tower, dry toilet and parking area.

Location and connections

- From Pargas city centre, 9 km on Archipelago Road (no. 180) towards Nagu; when coming from Pargas, look for the black road signs 300 m before the turnoff and at the turnoff leading to the parking area.
- [Map, in Finnish \(luontoon.fi\)](https://luontoon.fi)

12. Nagu

Maples bring a multitude of colours to the greystone setting of Nagu Church. In the autumn, there is plenty of space and tranquillity in the village after its busy summer season. You can also enjoy the archipelago nature in the autumn on the nature and landscape paths that start from the village centre.

Photo: Robert Seger



When in Nagu, you'll find yourself in a cultural landscape of national significance. It consists of lush forests, bare expanses of weather-worn rock, old farmsteads and fields, and the village centre, with its harbours and old buildings.

Nagu Church is consecrated to St. Olav, the namesake of the St. Olav Waterway pilgrim path. A milestone for the Waterway is located next to the church.

Dedicated to landscape painter Victor Westerholm, the Westerholm Trail (3 km) starts from the south harbour and runs to the Jiturstadberget hill observation point and the old village of Ernholm. The Maiden's Dance Trail (4-6 km) starts from Nagu harbour to a stone labyrinth at Finby. On both trails, you will be enchanted by the grasses and meadows turned a soft yellow in the autumn.

This charming, vibrant archipelago community offers the visitor a variety of services in the autumn and other, cooler parts of the year. In September,

Nagu's south harbour hosts the popular Archipelago Harvest Festival, where you can sample a variety of local delicacies.

Although Nagu harbour sees fewer and fewer pleasure boaters in the autumn, regularly scheduled ferry service continues running all year round. The ferry leaving from Pärnäs runs all the way out to Utö. The ferry from Kirjais stops at Brännskär, Gullkrona, Nötö, Stenskär and Pensar. In addition to the harbour, Kirjais also has a village general store, nature path and observation tower. A restaurant and guest harbour are open here in the summer.

Sights and services

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

Location and connections

- 34 km from the Pargas city centre, 2 ferry crossings.
- [Ferry traffic \(ferry.fi\)](http://ferry.fi)
- [St. Olav Waterway in Nagu \(outdooractive.com\)](http://outdooractive.com)

13. Berghamn heritage landscape

This idyllic island in the Archipelago National Park welcomes the autumn visitor with its colourful heritage landscape.

Photo: Martti Komulainen



The large hardwood trees, pastures and coastal meadows of the Västerby fisherman's farm are straight out of the archipelago landscape of yesteryear.

Berghamn island has been inhabited since the 1500s, and the island's still thriving grazing culture dates all the way back to that time. Even late into the autumn, you can find livestock busy maintaining the heritage landscape.

While hiking the island's nature paths, you'll be able to savour the crisp autumn sea air, the island colours and spectacular views out over the sea. The nature paths are generally around 2 km long and start from the grounds of Västerby farm.

Berghamn (Nagu, Pargas) is served by a free ferry all year round. The national park service harbour is only open for day use. If you would like to moor your boat overnight, you will need to go to the guest pier on the east side of the island.

If you are considering doing more than a day trip, keep in mind that visitors may only stay overnight on the island in tents.

Sights and services

- [Berghamn Island in Archipelago National Park \(nationalparks.fi\)](#)

Location and connections

- South of the main island of Nagu in the municipality of Pargas. Ferry landings are located at Pärnäs and Kirjais on Nagu. The excursion harbour coordinates are 60° 03.4131' N 21° 47.6305' E.
- [Ferry traffic \(ferry.fi\)](#)
- [Visit Kimitoön \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](#)

14. Korpo

An autumn visit to Korpo is unforgettable. A parish village milieu, environmental art path and archipelago centre, with its coastal setting make for a colourful experience.

Photo: Robert Seger



Even though the archipelago falls quiet after the busy summer season, Korpo still offers visitors a wide range of services well into the autumn.

Korpo's main island of Kyrklandet has two built cultural heritage sites of national significance, Korpo Manor and Korpo Church, which are both at their most magnificent in the autumn. The stone church is one of the finest examples of medieval church architecture in Finland. It "conveys the prosperity and maritime connections of early permanent settlements in the outer archipelago."

As its name might suggest, the Barefoot Path doesn't require you to walk it barefoot, but rather invites you to experience art in nature all year round. In the autumn, brightly coloured maples and stately oaks line the gravel road leading to the paths. Environmental artwork is installed in the middle of a deep green, moss-covered coniferous forest, awaiting visitors.

Archipelago Centre Korpoström on the south shore of Kyrklandet offers the visitor a full range of art, science and culture associated with marine nature and archipelago life. Korpoström also serves as a marine biology research station and a base for the Archipelago National Park.

Korpo consists of some two thousand islands and islets as well as numerous villages. You can enjoy the autumn atmosphere in the archipelago by walking and biking from village to village. Pick up the best tips on backpacking by checking the St. Olav Waterway news.

Sights and services

- [Visit Pargas \(visitpargas.fi\)](#)

Location and connections

- 59 km from the Pargas city centre, 2 ferry crossings.
- [Ferry traffic \(ferry.fi\)](#)
- [Visit Kimitoön \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](#)
- [St. Olav Waterway in Korpo \(outdooractive.com\)](#)

15. Houtskär

Are you looking for somewhere to kick back, relax and immerse yourself in the rejuvenating effect of bright, autumn colours? Then, look no further than Houtskär, which is a marvellous place for savouring the beauty of autumn, a refuge of complete silence far from the mainland, right on the Åland border.

Photo: Robert Seger



Consisting of some 700 islands and islets, Houtskär is dotted with picturesque villages across its heritage landscape. In the later summer and autumn, Houtskär's lush forests fill with mushrooms and berries, just waiting to be picked.

Visitors can experience village life in Näsby, whose wood church from 1702 and the Archipelago Museum buildings and collections should not be missed. The old boathouses on the waterfront of Hypeis village and the flocks of sheep grazing the pastures of Björkö village are a pleasure to behold.

On Houtskär, the locals are proud of their own: farms sell their own produce and restaurants serve local delicacies. At the Matglädje (Joy of Food) event in August, visitors can sample a variety of traditional archipelago foods.

On the west side of Houtskär, on Borgberget hill at Jervis, there is an observation tower that offers magnificent views of the Åland Islands. Watching birds heading out on their southern migration in the autumn is a truly unforgettable experience.

Autumn on Houtskär is the perfect time to do yoga, take a sauna and plunge into the sea for an invigorating dip. You can stay in a hotel or B&B or rent your own cottage. In the summer, Mossala also has a campground and caravan park.

Open from mid-May to the end of August, the popular Archipelago Trail passes through Houtskär and, from Mossala, visitors can take a ferry to the island of Iniö.

Sights and services

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

Location and connections

- 75 km from the Pargas city centre and 3 ferry crossings.
- [Ferry traffic \(ferry.fi\)](https://www.ferry.fi)
- [Visit Kimitoön \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](https://www.visitkimitoon.fi)

Popular cycling routes in the summer

- [The Coastal Route \(i.a. Salo–Kimito–Dalsbruk\)](#)
- [The Archipelago Trail \(i.a. Pargas–Lenholmen–Nagu–Korpo–Houtskär\)](#)

- [Explore more the Southwest Coast and Archipelago of Finland \(visitkimitoon.fi\)](#)
- [Watch a video of the new routes in the area \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [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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