



Molpehällorna

Molpehällorna, or the island of Moikipää is made up of several smaller islands that have grown together. The island is composed of young leaf forests, reeds, and overgrown maze-like formations that are made up of a number of different gulfs. There is an ancient coastguard station on the island that currently functions as a wildlife center. It is a one-storey building with a watch tower that rises above the tree tops and which has spectacular views of the sea and across the island. The island has a roughly one kilometer long highly diverse nature trail. In the yard of the wildlife center there is an outhouse and a campfire site, amongst other services.



PHOTO: JOUNI KANNONLAHTI / VAASAN YLIOPISTO

Nesting species

The region's nesting species include more than 60 leaf- and mixed forest species as well as others common in inner- and outer archipelagos. Of waterbirds the most common are the Mute Swan, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Merganser, Tufted Duck, Velvet Scoter, Mallard, Common Eider and the Common Goldeneye. The strongly reduced Greater Scaup has its largest nesting spot of Merenkurkku in this region. The Black-headed Gull, Mew- and European Herring Gull and the Arctic Tern are common in this area. Of passerines especially those that are most common in outer archipelagos, such as the Meadow Pipit, White Wag-

tail, Northern Wheatear, Fieldfare and the Lesser White-throat as well as the Hooded Crow, Common Chaffinch and the Common Reed Bunting are typically found in the area. More detailed information about the nesting species can be found in the third Finnish bird atlas: <http://atlas3.lintu-atlas.fi/tulokset/ruutu/699:319>

Migratory species

Molpehällorna is in a good location with regards to birds' coastal migratory routes. Towards the east the route gets thinner and transforms into a line that goes almost parallel with the islandless coastal line.

Municipality Korsnäs

Coordinators 69902:31999

Driving directions

From Rantatie (673) turn right towards Bergö at the village of Molpe. Drive along Sjövägen (6732) for about 10,1 km until there is a left turn onto Hamnvägen. Drive about 450 meters to the end of the road. From here one can continue either by private boat or by a previously ordered boat lift to Molpehällorna to which there is roughly a 6 km long well marked boat passage towards the southwest.

Services

Guest boat harbour, campfire site, nature trail. The closest grocery stores, banks and other basic services can be found in the Molpe and Bergö villages.

Best time for excursions

In open water season, but mainly between April and October.

Rarities

Yellow-browed Warbler, Golden Eagle, Hoopoe.

Towards the north, however, bigger islands, such as Bergö and Raippaluoto, widen the route into one that spreads over almost the entire Merenkurkku area. Due to the close coastal proximity and diverse biotopes there is a good chance to observe the large variety of migratory bird species.

Many waterbird-flocks fly over the sea whereas passerines pass over the island. In the autumn there is a good chance of discovering rare bird species in the island's bushes, even a Boreal Owl that might have stopped to have a rest on its journey.

