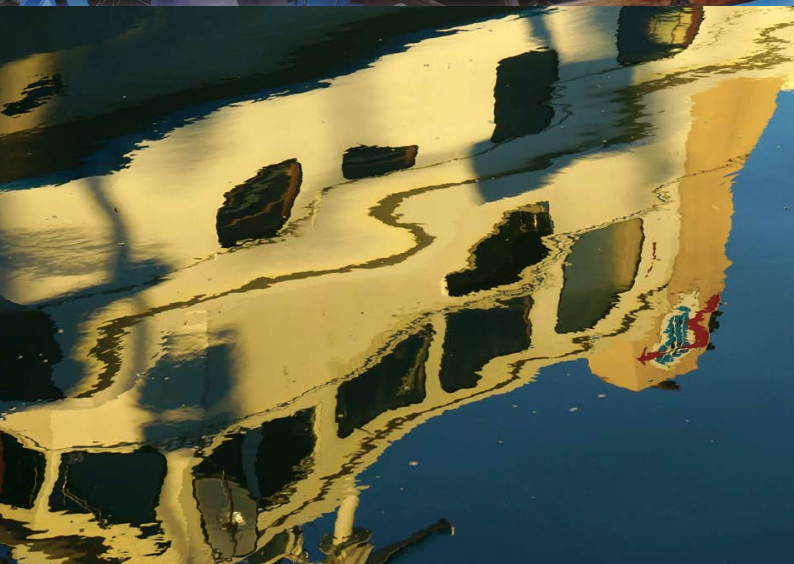




WELCOME TO GOTHENBURG'S SOUTHERN ARCHIPELAGO



STYRSÖBOLAGET



västtrafik

WELCOME OUT TO DISCOVER!



THE SOUTHERN ARCHIPELAGO or Södra Skärgård is a sizeable group of islands and skerries situated very close to the City of Gothenburg.

These are vibrant communities offering an unrivalled spectrum of scenic environments. Moreover, they can be easily accessed by cheap, frequent and comfortable ferries.

A memorable day outing for a picnic, swim or amazing walks using your normal travelcard – right from the city centre.

As a living year-round island community without any conventional car traffic, the Gothenburg southern archipelago is quite unique. Here there are about 4500 permanent residents. During the summer this number is more than doubled. Ferry services to the mainland are also more frequent, and a whole range of summer events take place.

The ferries are operated by Styröbolaget, and are commissioned by the Regional Public Transport Authority (Västrafrak) and the City of Gothenburg. Transportation on the islands is mainly by means of cycles, mopeds and adapted golf buggies. There are no buses, but walking distances between the ferry stations are



Vrängö.

generally short. The island environment has a human scale, and it is easy to enjoy the surroundings and converse when walking the tranquil country lanes.

With the aid of this guide and the current pocket timetable you can wander across the different islands, discover beaches and nature trails, cafes and shops. You can also hop on and off different ferry services. Since 2016 there is a day return trip from Stenpiren in the city centre. The usual Västrafrak ticket is valid.

Tips for visitors – in this brochure and on the homepage

On pages 6–15 you can read about what the southern archipelago has to offer and more details on pages 16–31.

The homepage: www.goteborgsskargard.com. and www.goteborg.com

Fast ferries to Vrängö – café boats at calmer speeds

The fast catamaran ferries Rivö and Valö operate most of the services on the long route between Salholmén and Vrängö via Styrö Skäret and Donsö. These boats are built of carbon fibre, which provides a lightweight and strong construction. This means that fuel consumption and backwash is minimised. Maximum speed is 28 knots and their seating capacity is 163 passengers. A further six ferries serve the islands – three of these have cafes with uninterrupted sea views! Read more about these vessels on www.styrsobolaget.se



RIVÖ one of the swift carbon-fibre boats and two of the traditional café boats.



List of contents

The largest islands, map with tips	6-7
Island and ferry history	8
The island experience	10
Island service	14
◀ A closer look at each island	16-31

All maps: © Stadsbyggnadskontoret 2017
Produced by Melica 2017

ALWAYS REMEMBER:

The Swedish right of public access allows one to roam freely across the countryside. However, on these islands there are some special considerations to be taken into account.

Nature reserves cover most of Vargö, Galterö and Vrångö with surroundings. Here special regulations for the protection of plants and animal life apply – see the notice boards.

Bird sanctuary zones apply to the skerries around Vrångö. Here no access is allowed from April to July.

Bathing spots and public toilets are mostly maintained by voluntary organisations. Please show appreciation for their efforts and help keep the environment clean and tidy!

Grazing animals, mostly sheep are to be found on several islands – do not leave any gates open!

Fishing with a rod is allowed taking into account the permitted fishing seasons and minimum sizes.

Camping is prohibited throughout the entire archipelago.

Grilling or lighting fires on the rocks is not allowed – please use the authorized grill places.

Cars are not allowed on any of the islands, but there is limited commercial traffic. At certain peak times there may be an intensive stream of cycles, mopeds and electric buggies. Be cautious along the narrow lanes!

Ferry information

The terminal at Saltholmen sells tickets and looks after lost property. **Open** Mon-Fri 08:55-18.30 Saturday, and Sunday approx. 09:15-15.30. Tel 031-29 75 99.

More on our homepage

www.styrsobolaget.se

Information about other public transport in the region tel 0771-41 43 00 or www.vasttrafik.se



Take the ferry to the islands direct from Stenpiren in the city centre during the summer period. See the timetable.

How do I get there?

The ferries to the archipelago operate from the **Saltholmen terminal**. This is served by **tram route 11** from the city centre, and during the summer period also **route 9**.

Please use public transport – the trams run every 7-8 minutes daytime during the summer! During peak periods Mon-Fri, and mid-day on Saturdays **bus route 114** operates from the city centre.

There is a shortage of **car parking space** at Saltholmen. Normally it is easier to park by **Långedrag tramstop** and walk or take the tram to the ferry terminal. (The distance is 1,3 km.) **Parking charges** (2017) are 8 SEK per hour or 50 SEK for 24 hours.

How do I get a ticket?

The travelcard (Västrafikkort) is valid on board. Please do not forget to show it up for the card reader on both your outward and return trips, even if you chose to remain on the ferry. **Single tickets** can also be bought at Saltholmen terminal or from the deckperson on board – card payments only! **Fares** (2017) adults 29 SEK, youth 22 SEK. This applies only to single-day trips.

Cycles are carried free of charge if there is sufficient space. When there are many passengers – fine weather – it may be difficult to provide space for cycles. This even applies to return trips.

Service on the islands

The detail maps of the islands show shops, cafes, museums and other services. The shops on the larger islands also have post facilities and sell pharmaceuticals. Most is open for a large part of the year. Cafes and eating places are open to a lesser extent during the off-season. Telephone numbers and homepage information is provided on the maps.

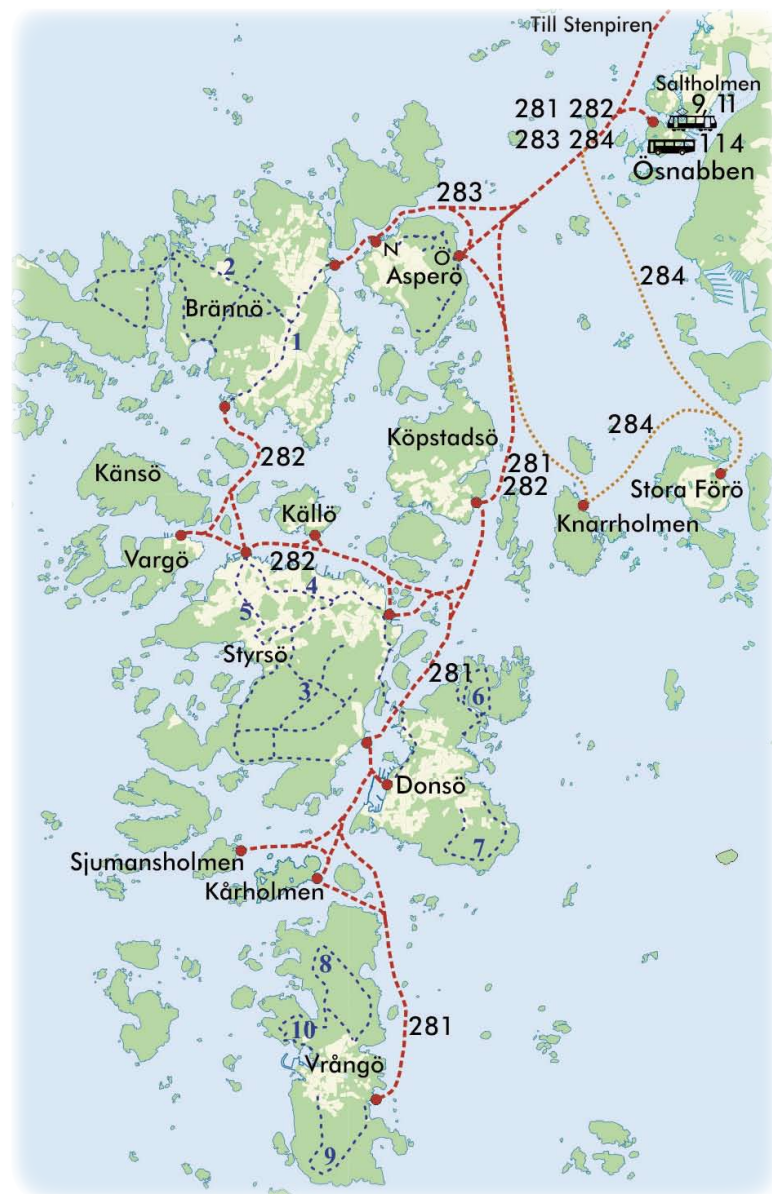
The nearest **ATM cash dispenser** is at Saltholmen.

Taxi on Styrsö and Donsö 031-757 99 70, on Brännö 031-757 99 80. Vrångö tel 0706-97 15 05. For further information see: www.goteborgsskargard.com.

THE SIX LARGEST RESIDENTIAL ISLANDS

Each island has a character in its own right

The map shows the different islands, the ferry routes, and the various nature trails and footpaths.



Asperö

A small fishing village with a scenic sound with beautiful footpaths and nature trails.

Brännö

Preserved village street with local history museum. Vantage point, guesthouse and cafe.

Walks:

1. The village way from Husvik to Rödsten (approx. 2,5 km).
2. A network of nature trails leading west towards Galterö.

Köpstadsö

This is a smaller island with narrow lanes and houses related to former shipping activities.

Styrö

Here there is a mixture of island and city culture: farming community with parish church, the fishing village of Tången, the shipping community of Halsvik, the former seaside resort of Bratten. Styrö also has a guesthouse, cafes and a restaurant. There are large areas of untouched nature along the coast with a network of nature trails.

Walks:

3. Styrö nature trails to Stora Rös vantage point and Brännholmsviken.
4. From Styrö Tången the shortest way to Bratten (approx 2 km).
5. From Styrö Tången via Halsvik to Styrö Bratten (approx 3 km).

Donsö

Fishing village and shipping-line community clustered around a busy harbour. Fine village core with a restaurant, cafe and shops.

Walks:

6. Northern nature trail (approx. 2 km).
7. Southern nature trail (approx. 2 km).

Vrångö

Fishing village surrounded by large areas of untouched nature. Large harbour and plenty of places to bathe. There is also a vantage point, restaurant and cafe.

Walks:

8. Vrångö northern nature trail (approx 3-4 km).
9. Vrångö southern nature trail including the Storerös vantage point (approx. 2 km).
10. Tärnstigen – north of the harbour. Suitable for wheelchair users (approx. 1,5 km).



The northerly trail on Vrångö.

THE HISTORY OF THE ISLANDS AND BOAT TRAFFIC

The islands at the mouth of the river Göta were mentioned as early as the Viking era. The ships waited in the shelter of islands like Käsö before starting out on their voyages. Viking markets around the sheltered sound are also referred to. During the continual Nordic wars throughout the Middle Ages these islands changed sovereignty. First during the 16th Century is there any evidence that the islands had permanent residents.

During the 18th Century, the islanders became involved in organised piracy, and later herring fishing provided a great lift for the islands. They became a base for fishing fleets, salting and processing fish oil. From then on Donsö, Styrö Tången and Vrångö developed into successful fishing communities. Shipping companies operated from Donsö, Styrö Halsvik and Köpstadö.

The small farming and fishing community on Asperö started to specialise in fish trading activities. Brännö became primarily a farming community, but like Vrångö also became a base for pilot ships. With the sea as a source of income, the population doubled during the 19th Century, from 1000 to over 2000 inhabitants. The free church movements developed a strong footing throughout the islands.

The first steamboats

In the middle of the 19th Century, the islands started to arouse the interest of wealthy Gothenburg residents in search of healthy hot and cold bathing facilities. A seaside community evolved at Styrö Bratten during the 1850s, soon to be followed by Vargö. In 1867, the first steamboat services were inaugurated from the centre of Gothenburg



Styrö Bratten, 1929

to the bathing communities on the islands. This proved to be the first step towards linking the city with the islands. As early as 1874 steamboats became responsible for post to the islands, and sporadic winter services were introduced – two a week. During the following decades, traffic expanded considerably to more

islands with larger boats. In 1922, Styröbolaget was formed, and improved all-year services were initiated. At the same time, another company started a service from Långedrag to Asperö, which had not previously had any services.

Holiday legislation and new summer traffic

During the 1930s, major changes took place on the islands. Seine and trawler fishing developed, with Donsö at the forefront. Here, as at Styrö Tången and Vrångö, modern fishing harbours were built.

At the same time, the new state holiday legislation took effect, and interest in summer residencies increased considerably. Boating associations and trade unions leased or bought islands, which became complete and intensely lively chalet communities during the summers – Stora Förö, Kårholmen, Sjumansholmen and Knarrholmen.

Post-war expansion

During the Second World War, artillery positions and coastal defences were constructed in the archipelago. Most of the archipelago was closed off to all non-Swedes, until as late as 1997.

With the expanding international cargo traffic, Donsö evolved as an administrative base for successful tanker fleets.

The number of summer residencies increased still further. A major step forward was the inauguration of a bridge between Styrö and Donsö in 1973.

The following year Styrö District Council was incorporated into Gothenburg. Today there is a high level of service with public library, secondary school, health centre and a modern fire station.

Ferry traffic today

Styröbolaget operates passenger traffic in the southern archipelago on behalf of the regional public transport body, Västtrafik. 2.2 million passengers are carried annually on these ferries. Styröbolaget has a total of 16 vessels some of which are used for goods traffic and cross-river services.

The islands are served by the following ferries: Silvertärnan, Skarven and Vipan, fast ferries Rivö and Valö, in addition to Fröja, Vesta and Ylva, which are specially built to withstand ice. For more detailed information refer to www.styrsobolaget.se

Quality and environment.

Styröbolaget is certified in terms of quality and environment according to ISO standards; 9001 and 14001 and also with regard to workplace environment statute AFS 2001:1

The vessels are operated on environmental class 1 diesel, mixed with 5 % RME – Rapeseed-oil Methyl Ester – which is a replenishable fuel. When engines are replaced, those with the best environmental performance are installed. Toilet waste is stored in tanks onboard and pumped into the city's sewage system for purification.

THE ISLAND EXPERIENCE

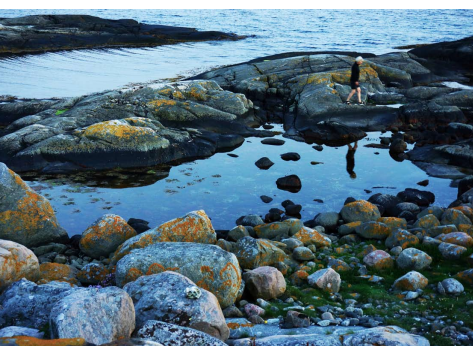
In simplified terms, the west coast of Sweden may be described as comprising of low sandy beaches along the southern half, and a landscape of granite rocks and skerries along the northern half.

Gothenburg and its archipelagos are located in the region where these contrasting landscape types overlap. These islands thereby came under the influence of the conflicts and cultures between the southerly kingdom of Denmark and the northerly kingdom of Norway, as well as shifts of power within Sweden itself. In some little way these diverse physical and historical factors may have contributed to the sense of independence that may be sensed on these islands even today.

Hard rocks and soft sands

Among the bare rocks there are sheltered coves and undisturbed beaches. On every island the salty sea is close by. On Vrångö, Vargö and the westerly parts of Styrösö and Galterö, paths and nature trails lead to the rocks and cosy beaches.

In the nature reserves, flowers to be seen include the protected species *eryngium*, *herpatica* and several varieties of orchids. Vargö is a good place to experience bird-life in the archipelago, the most common species being gulls and eiders – guested sometimes by the razor-billed auk.



Getting around on foot

Due to the Right of Public Access, everyone is free to roam the rocks, beaches and uncultivated land. Easily walked nature trails have been laid out on Vrångö, Styrösö, Donsö, Asperö and Brännö-Galterö. On Styrösö, a

network of similar paths along the south of the island leads to some beautiful beaches and vantage points.

On Brännö, paths extend as far out as the coast at Galterö headland. Vrångö's footpaths lead to popular bathing spots, places for angling and vantage points. On Donsö, there is a path in the south-west, which takes in a viewing point from the site of a former military radar facility. In addition, there is a recently laid out footpath on the northern part of the island.

The archipelago is a good place for canoeing. Between Galterö and Brännö a special channel for canoes has been created. Styrösö-Donsö och Brännö are ideal for cycling. Cycles are taken



free of charge on board the ferries, (if there is sufficient space) and cycles can also be rented on the islands.

Please refer to home-page www.brannocy-keluthyrning.com

The island communities

The archipelago is a cultural landscape with ancient remains and preserved villages. Here there are fishing villages, maritime communities and farming hamlets. The elegant seaside holiday residences, dating from the 1800s, became superseded by enclaves of rudimentary chalets for summer use. However, thanks to the absence of car traffic, the intimate scale of the buildings and lanes has been retained. This makes it easy to feel at home and really experience this island environment.

Burial mounds on Styrösö and Vrångö survive as a reminder of the bronze age. However, it was not until the advent of the herring era that more permanent villages and fishing communities evolved. Dating from the late 1700s, farmsteads still survive in the village clustered around the Styrösö parish church. Also in Brännö village, many small houses survive along lanes, such as Husviksvägen and Faggeliden. At Styrösö Bratten, there was formerly a herring salting and fish oil factory, which became a modest bathing resort.

Maritime heritage environment

The earlier fishing gear for sustenance communities developed into successful fishing villages. These are very well preserved on Donsö, Styrösö Tången and Vrångö. On Köpstadsö, the former captains' houses provide a reminder of the importance of shipping.

Similar dwellings are preserved at Halsvik on Styrösö. Asperö is characterized by houses built for fishermen spread out along narrow alleys. On the southern part of Brännö, large houses were built for shipping pilots, and their observation post survives; as does the one on Vrångö.



Local history museums

On Styrösö, a voluntary society, runs a compact local history museum situated near the parish church.

On Brännö, there is an active museum at Brännö Lagård.

The island of Asperö also has a small local history museum.



Welcome out to the archipelago
with the boat of discovery.

SERVICE ON THE ISLANDS

This section provides some suggestions as to where you can stay, eat, shop, entertain yourself and find more information about the islands. The maps on pages 16-31 show the locations of the larger shops and service facilities, with telephone numbers.

Staying overnight

Today if one wants to stay overnight there are several options. Bed & breakfast is now available on the larger islands of Styrösö, Donsö, Brännö and Vrångö.

On Vrångö, there is Kajkanten, which rents out quayside flats; on Brännö, there is the guesthouse Brännö Vårdshus; and on Styrösö, there is the guesthouse Pensionat Styrösö Skäret. For tourists with their own boats, there are six harbours with marina facilities.



The Öbergsska café, Styrösö

Places to eat

More and more places to eat are opening up on the islands – ranging from elegant restaurants to take-aways.

On Styrösö, Pensionat Skäret is a high-class restaurant. Båtebackens café at Tången harbour is open throughout the summer, offering evening sunshine and music events. Out west, at Sandvik harbour, there is Café Seaside. Brattens Vårdshus at Styrösö Bratten offers open-air dining at the quayside, home-baked pizzas, and often stages music events summertime. Adjacent is the Öbergsska café, with its own herbal garden.

On Donsö, there is Isbolaget, which is housed in the former fishermen's ice store. Here there is a fully-licensed restaurant during the summers, which also serves delicious home-made lunches during the off-season. Also on Donsö is Noretis Pizzeria.

Brännö Vårdshus is open all the year round, and serves

everything from coffee to three-course meals à-la-carte.

Brännö varv has a café in a boatyard environment.

On Vrångö, at the quayside, there is the newly-opened and fully-licensed Skärgårdens café and restaurant, as well as Fiskeboa, which sells smoked fish and shellfish summertime.

Picnicking

Is there anything better than a seaside picnic on the rocks with broad views far out to the horizon? There are also summeropen kiosks at Brännö Husvik, Styrösö Bratten, Styrösö Sandvik and Vrångö quayside. Provisions can be bought at the food stores on the five largest islands.

Shopping

There are a number of independent shops with personal service, as well as art galleries and craft shops. These are mainly situated within easy reach of the ferry stations.

On Donsö, there is a small shopping centre where one can buy fresh fish and other food, boating accessories and clothing, ironware and flowers. On Styrösö, there are food stores, in the village and at Tången; also opticians, toy shop and some clothing stores. Brännö has a shop situated in the middle of the island. Vrångö has a small shopping centre by the harbour – with fishsellers, Fiskeboa and Burfiskarna; foodstore, Måsens livs; in addition to some kiosks.

There are no ATM cash dispensers – the most convenient is on the mainland at the Saltholmen terminal.

Cultural activities

Throughout the summer – and periodically during the rest of the year – a variety of music and dance events are staged.

Renowned in Swedish folklore are the dances at Brännö Brygga, every Saturday in July and August. On Styrösö, Brattens Vårdshus arranges quayside concerts. On Vrångö, Skärgårdens café has music evenings throughout the year. Then there are annual events. Donsö harbour festival takes place during the first-week-end in August, and Brännö village market takes place during the first week-end of July. Several islands have major celebrations on Midsummer Eve (A very traditional festival, more or less unique to Sweden)

There are many artists and craft workshops on the islands. Some of these have open-house for visitors where their works can be purchased. Round tours of studios on the bridge-connected islands of Styrösö and Donsö are organized during various weekends in the summer season. Similar tours are arranged on Brännö during August, where there is also a Christmas arts and crafts market around the advent period.

A recently-started event is Ö-loppet, *The Island Race*, which takes place on the first Saturday in August. In teams of two, the participants run across and swim between the islands included in the competition course. Styrösö Bratten is the starting point.

BRÄNNÖ

Brännö is renowned in Sweden for its association with folk music and traditional dance. Since almost having become depopulated, summer visitors began to settle on the island during the 1930s – but today commuters make up a clear majority of the inhabitants.

At the Brännö Rödsten ferry station, one is confronted by a maze of cycles and transport mopeds – this island is noticeably free from vehicles. Here one can also rent cycles. A short distance to the SW of the ferry station, the lane Faggeliden leads up to the old shipping pilots' look-out post, which offers majestic views as far out as Vinga lighthouse in the west.

On Brännö farming has been more important than fishing. Sheep graze in the fields at the middle of the island, a remnant of the arable land that had earlier supported the community here. The small cottages and the narrow lanes give an impression of older times. One of these houses is Brännö lagård, a living local history museum. With the 1935 holiday legislation, which gave workers the right to two weeks vacation, the smallholder farmers could enhance their incomes by selling plots for summer chalets. Thus early on, Brännö became a well-known summer island

for the people of Gothenburg. In the middle of Brännö is an inn, which is open all the year round. Immediately behind this is the guesthouse, Baggen.

To the south, along Husviksvägen, there are several sizeable houses specially built for the shipping pilots. At Husvik, there is the renowned Brännö brygga, the famous venue for dancing on the quayside. There is still dancing here most Saturday evenings. From here there are panoramic views over the skerries to the horizon.

Galterö

A long walk to the west takes you to Galterö, which is a nature reserve. This island is linked to Brännö via a recently constructed footbridge. Here sheep still graze on the ancient pastures, and here is a rich bird life along the rocks and around the sheltered coves. Under the bridge there is a canoe channel facilitating paddle tours right round these islands.

Brännö has two quays for ferry traffic:

Brännö Rödsten has the most frequent traffic, in principle once an hour Mondays to Saturdays, and somewhat less on Sundays.

Journey time to Saltholmen approx 20 min.

Brännö Husvik is served on weekdays at peak periods with some services on Saturdays and Sundays. *Journey time to Saltholmen approx 45 min.*



Cycling is a good way to explore the islands.



Go and see the renowned folk-dance on Brännö quayside.



ASPERÖ

Asperö has an intimate village atmosphere.

Here net fishing was initiated during the 18th Century herring era, but it proved difficult to build a suitable harbour on the island. Instead, the fishermen of Asperö went over to trading with fish, and still today Asperö residents are involved in both wholesale and retail fish trading.



Alongside the sound there is the old harbour with its small wooden sheds. Around this there is a well-preserved village core, with narrow alleys and old farmsteads. The island has a small local history museum by the harbour. During the 18th Century, the village was moved here from its original location.

During the early 20th Century a crisis evolved. The limited land for growing crops and the fluctuations in fishing could not provide sustenance for the islanders. Passenger ferry traffic was started in 1922. However, due to land legislation issues, it was

first 1959 that the islanders were able to sell building plots to Gothenburg residents.

On the north side of the island is Musta, a bird lake. Above this lies Valen, offering splendid views towards the port of Gothenburg. Past the bathing place at Kvistevik is Albert's jetty – Asperö Östra.



In the approach to Asperö Norra.

Rivö

Opposite Asperösund lies Rivö, which has lent its name to the fjord beyond. Owned by people on Asperö, this building-free island is used for sheep and cattle grazing. Asperö has a host that acts as a guide for the ancient monuments on Rivö.



Asperö has two quays for ferry traffic: **Asperö Norra (North)**, central point in the community with the most traffic, in principle once an hour Mondays to Saturdays, and somewhat less on Sundays. *Journey time to Saltholmen approx 14 min.*

Asperö Östra (East) with infrequent traffic. This stop is primarily intended for southward traffic towards Styrso (also from the ferry to Brännö, which one can change from here) *Journey time to Saltholmen approx 9 min.*

KÖPSTADSÖ

Köpstadsö is often called Kössö. It is a small island with narrow footpaths – not even transport mopeds are allowed here, wheelbarrows and hand-carts being used for transport.

Around the sheltered sound on the south side of the island, there are many large houses dating from the time when the island was a centre for shipping.

A small clubhouse, 'Smutten', is preserved and this is a reminder of the island's history as a bathing resort. Today, there are about 100 year-round residents.

Köpstadsö has frequent traffic with services once an hour Mondays to Saturdays, and somewhat less on Sundays.

Journey time to Saltholmen approx 15 min.



Legend for maps see p 16-17



Wheelbarrows – useful on the narrow lanes on some islands.



STYRSÖ

Styrsö is a meeting place between island culture and city culture. Here there is a farming village with parish church; the fishing village at Tången, the shipping community at Halsvik, the old holiday resort at Bratten, as well as large areas of untouched nature with footpaths along the coastline.

By the present day ferry station at Styrsö Bratten there was once a smelly factory for salting and processing herrings – sufficiently far enough away from the communities further west. During the 1830s, a guesthouse was established on the site. This marked the

start of what was to become a bathing resort, which expanded rapidly with the start of the steam ferries in 1867. Parks, large summer villas and the implanted trees are a reminder of this resort period. Here there was a restaurant, hot bath facilities and two hotels – that even hosted the occasional royal visitor.

Today, a modern nursery school rests on the foundation walls of the bathhouse restaurant. The former restaurant has been refurbished by the local history society. The licensed cafe is open from Spring to Autumn. One can drink coffee in the sweet-smelling herbal garden, see art exhibitions and visit the local history museum. Along the rock-face, a footpath leads to the family-friendly beach at Brattenbadet.

Around the church lies the old village with its dwellings compactly located along its narrow alleyways. The church runs a

Styrsö and Donsö are the two largest islands, connected via a bridge since 1973. Styrsö is an old parish and administrative centre with traditions of being both a resort and a fishing community. Donsö is a large fishing community, which has also developed as an important centre for ship-owning companies. The old ice plant at Donsö has been refurbished for offices and a restaurant offering sea views.



Legend for maps
see p 16-17



Styrsö Tången, traditional fishermen's village. Kånsö in the background.

series of concerts throughout the summer. The co-op store here is open throughout the year. Just north of the church, there is the local parish museum, which is open during the summer. To the west lies Styrsö Tången, which has been one of the biggest fishing communities in the archipelago.

Here there is a marina and cafe Båtebackan. Further out west, at Sandvik, is the modern fishing harbour, which dates from the 1950s. Here there is also a marina and cafe in addition to bathing facilities. From Sandvik there are footpaths, lined with blackthorn and blackberries, across the salty rocks to the bathing spot at Uttervik. Here there are opportunities for snorkelling.

Immediately east of Uttervik lies Halsvik; with its small storage huts and sizeable houses as a reminder of its heyday as a seamen's community. From the football field, volunteer-maintained nature trails lead towards the outlying land to the south, with its sheep pastures, shallow waters, sea-lavender and orchids. Stone walls provide a reminder of the herring epoch and Styrsö's first chapel at Brännholmsviken.

Among all the rocks there are plenty of vantage points and picnic places. The highest point in the archipelago is Stora Rös, a Bronze Age cairn. During the First World War, this was used as a gun emplacement and look-out post.

Paths lead further SE towards Styrsö Skäret. Located in the former sanatorium staff lodgings is the guesthouse Pensionat Skäret with its own restaurant. From here there are fine views across the water to Donsö.



Styrsö has three stations for ferry traffic:

Styrsö Bratten has the most frequent traffic with services once an hour Mondays to Saturdays, and somewhat less on Sundays. Sometimes one has to change boat here for Styrsö Tången. *Journey time to Saltholmen approx 30 min.*

Styrsö Tången is served on weekdays at peak periods and on Saturdays and Sundays at 2-4 hourly intervals. *Journey time to Saltholmen approx 25 min.*

Styrsö Skäret is almost as frequently served as Bratten, many of the services going directly to/from Saltholmen.

Journey time to Saltholmen approx 13-32 min. Depends on boat-type and route.

DONSÖ

Donsö is an important fishing and ship-owning and business community. The harbour is the heart of the island. It is surrounded by 20th Century fishing facilities and dwellings with weatherproof cladding for protection against the salty sea winds.



Donsö harbour is situated right at the heart of the village, which has a large food store as well as other shops. At Fiskeboa one can buy freshly smoked salmon and eat shellfish baguettes.

Donsö has about 50 businesses and is Sweden's third largest ship-owning community after Göteborg and Stockholm. Among other things, these ship-owners have invested in environmentally-friendly tankers with double hulls. Several of their head offices are located in the southern part of the harbour.

The information board by the sculpture on the quayside provides a proud presentation of the island's ship-owners and larger fishing vessels. A bit further on is Willys Bowling – a place where the islanders meet. The old ice plant has been refurbished for offices and a restaurant offering sea views.

On the eastern side of the island; lies the church, a few chalets and some newly-built dwellings, as well as Lökholmen beach – which is the one that has the best facilities. From the church, local residents have created a nature trail around Donsö headland. The former military zone has been turned into fine picnic places – and from the radar position there are splendid views.

Inland from the harbour, the road winds its way between white fencing and densely-built wooden dwellings. Here there is a large mission church. This church became rooted on the island 100 years ago after its founder had survived a disaster at sea. Further north is the athletics' facility, which is used by schools and clubs, as well as being a venue for music and other events.



A living archipelago all year round.

Donsö is served once an hour Mondays to Saturdays, and somewhat less on Sundays. *Journey time to Saltholmen approx 18-37 min. Depends on boat-type and route.*





Welcome out to the archipelago
with the all year boat.

VARGÖ



Vargö, situated far out west, has been a nature reserve since 1986. The island is rocky with many inlets, and offers varied walks. Its windswept location has created rocks and bare heathland, but there are also sheltered ravines and a cove for bathing at Bälvik.

The varied sea landscape offers a diversity of flora. Around the jetty, capropholia grows amongst the partially non-native parkland trees. At Bälviken and along the rocky shoreline, sea kale and sea rocket, thrift and sea-campion and sea mayweed grow – plants that are truly characteristic for the Swedish west coast. Slightly more unusual is the common scurvy grass and the tall yellow marsh spurge. At the sheltered cove at Minkviken on the north side there was previously a mink farm. Here large expanses of sea lavender colour the shorelines blue-violet in July and August. Another plant species is the silver grey absinthium – the spice used in aquavit.

Vargö is also a good place to experience the archipelago's bird-life, which although dominated by species of gulls and eiders is sometimes visited by razorbills as well as various woodland birds. During the short period when herring was plentiful, there were both fish salting and fish-oil processing facilities on Vargö. From 1866, some of the closed factory was refurbished as indoor baths and a leisure resort evolved. Regular ferry traffic was introduced. However a devastating fire in 1916 took an end to this epoch.



Vargö is served roughly every other hour during the summer period and by certain services during the winter. Journey time to Saltholmen approx 35 min.

KÄNSÖ

Känsö is one of the most remarkable heritage sites on the Swedish west coast. In 1771, a quarantine station was established here with the task of taking care of seamen arriving from disease ridden countries.

The risk of spreading disease caused the hospital to be established in such an isolated place. However, this facility saw little use, as better hygiene and medicines and vaccinations led to a radical reduction in the risk of spreading disease. In 1936, it was closed down and taken over by the military that have had control over the island ever since. This building may be clearly seen from the ferry between Styrso Tången and Brännö Husvik.

Authorised guides do conduct tours of this interesting environment for organised groups. Tel: 031 692280.



KÄLLÖ

In earlier times farming was carried out on the island of Källö, which also served as a base for small cargo boats. During the 1930s, a motorboat club purchased a quarter of the island for leisure time use. About 1960, another part of the island was sold off for plots for building summer chalets.

Källö is served several times daily during the summer with certain services during the winter period. Journey time to Saltholmen approx 25 min.



VRÅNGÖ

Vrångö is the most southerly island, and has a long tradition as a fishing community. The island was a station for shipping pilots from the 1600s to the 1930s.

Today, it has just over 400 inhabitants. Here there are good opportunities for bathing and a large marina. Vrångö, together with the skerries around it, has been a nature reserve since 1979. The beautiful nature out here is a sight to experience all year round.

The ferry station is at Mittvik, where there is a cafe and restaurant. It is popular to head south towards the large beach. Close by is the island's community centre, Vrångöhuset, which includes a school, kindergarten, laundry and toilet facilities and a sports' hall. Vrångö is a child-friendly island with a playground right in the middle of the village.

On the west side of the island lies the quaint old fishing village, with its typical white-painted huts for boat equipment. The lively harbour is shared between leisure and fishing boats. Fresh fish can be bought directly from the boats here. Apart from a beach, there are also shops, Kajkantens lägenhetshotell – where holiday apartments can be rented, and a fish stand with a restaurant.

On the rocks, to the west of the village is the look-out post formerly used by the shipping pilots, where there are expansive views towards the Vinga lighthouse.



The sandy beach at Nötholmen.

There are several marked trails through the nature reserve, which also take in some ancient remains. The northerly path passes Brevik, where plants such as hemp-agrimony, sea aster and sedge are to be found on the damp meadowland. Young broad-leaf trees including hazel trees grow on other former meadows. On the eastern side, a footpath passes the old cemetery and a



labyrinth from pre-Christian times. A shorter path just to the north of the village, known as Tärnstigen, has been adapted for the use of the disabled and persons with prams.

The southerly path leads past the popular beach at Nötholmen, and many good angling spots. There is also a suitable place for snorkelling. At Stora Röddholmen, there is a rocky shoreline

with typical plants such as sea-kale, sea-wormwood and lymegrass. Several species in the nature reserve are protected, such as sea-holly, oysterplant, liverleaf and several species of orchid. From the Bronze Age cairn at Storerös there are panoramic views across the entire Vrångö archipelago.

The Vrångö archipelago has a rich bird life. More than 60 species breed there, sea-birds, birds of prey and songbirds.

One can see eiders and seagulls, sparrowhawks and horned-owls, nightingales and skylarks. In addition, many migrant birds stop over. Several of the skerries are bird protection zones where going on land is prohibited between April and July. Here is also the part of the archipelago where seals are most commonplace.



Vrångö is served once an hour Mondays to Saturdays, and somewhat less on Sundays. Journey time to Saltholmen approx 25-45 min, and via Bratten approx 35-55 min

KÅRHOLMEN AND SJUMANS HOLMEN

Both **Kårholmen** and **Sjumansholmen** are summerchalet islands. After the introduction of holiday legislation during the 1930s, there became time over to spend holidays by the seaside. Political organisations and trade unions rented or bought up small islands that soon were to become close-knit summertime communities. The organisation that was founded to develop Kårholmen was entitled 'Workers to the sea'.

On Kårholmen there are several chalets and a dance arena that still retain their simple 1930s appearance.



Kårholmen has frequent connections during the summer, every hour/every other hour, less frequent at other times. Journey time to Saltholmen approx 35 min.

Sjumansholmen has a limited number of connections during the summer, occasional services during the winters. Journey time to Saltholmen approx 35 min.

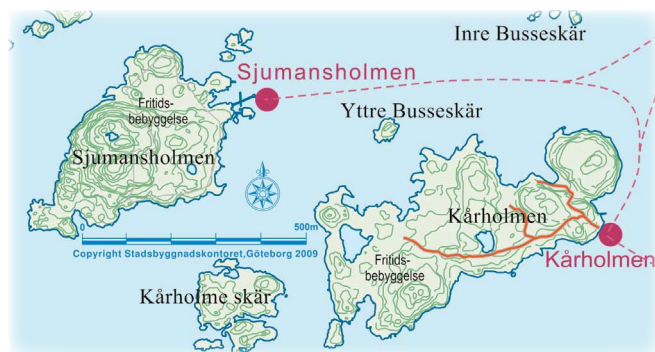
KNARRHOLMEN AND STORA FÖRÖ

Knarrholmen and Stora Förö are two predominantly summer islands, but with different histories.

Knarrholmen was bought up by a ship-owner in 1940 and donated to the workers of the Götaverken shipyard. This was a plain but popular holiday facility. Accommodation was provided in rented apartments or in special tent-like chalets built of hardboard. The latter were previously disassembled during the winters, but now in private ownership they stand all the year round. After a period of trade union ownership, the island was sold to a developer that is building 67 new chalets on the old plots. A new restaurant is situated by the ferry station, and the child-friendly beach is on the north of the island.



Kårholmen – summer huts from the 1930s.



Legend for maps see p 16-17



Stora Förö was first developed by a motorboat club. A plan was drawn up with 100 building plots encircled by a beach path around the island, guaranteeing sea access for everybody. First to be built, in 1932, was a dance floor and the meeting house, Förögården, both of which still function today. People own their own houses and participate in the club activities. The Paviljongen cafe and shop are open during the summer period.

Stora Förö och Knarrholmen. Both islands are served by 4-5 services daily during the summer period and occasional services during the winter period. Journey time to Saltholmen approx 20 min.



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