



Öland's hidden treasures

Fill your lungs with the Öland air and feel a warm welcome to the island of sun and wind.



"We had barely touched Öland's beach when we already noticed that this was a landscape unlike any other in Sweden."

Carl Linnaeus, 1741

Öland is **137** km long and 16 km at its widest point

The Öland bridge is **6072** metres long

Province flower: alpine rockrose (*Helianthemum oelandicum*)

Province animal: nightingale

Province food: kroppkakor (potato dumplings) and lufsa (potato and pork oven dish)

 #thisisöland

Welcome to Öland

You have probably just travelled across the Öland bridge. Your visit to us has maybe just started. Many visitors say that this six-kilometre journey between land and island, surrounded by glittering water, brings a certain peace of mind. Relax, fill your lungs with the Öland air and feel a warm welcome to the island of sun and wind. It does not matter whether you are a first-time or frequent visitor, a resident or just generally crazy about Öland - here you will be able to seize the day, enjoy life, experience nature and culture, have an active holiday or just listen to the waves hitting the beach.

Are you looking forward to adventure and excitement? On Öland you can do anything from wreck diving, mountain biking, wave surfing, horse riding across the Great Alvar or wind surfing, to playing tennis or padel tennis, swimming, playing golf or rock climbing in a stone quarry.

Do you want to try something new? Öland offers camel riding, pottery courses, yoga retreats and handmade sweets. Do you want some time to enjoy

life? Rent a cottage by the shore, read a book by the light of an open fire, visit a museum, take a dip in the winter sea or book a table at one of the top gourmet restaurants. Enrich your life with a visit to one of our ancient fortresses, join a guided nature walk, go up a lighthouse and look out over the world, go to a jazz concert or help band birds.

Or do you just want to feel free without demands? Öland offers a wide-open landscape, mystical forests and endless ways to enjoy spontaneous activities. Hike across the Great Alvar and marvel at the beautiful and exotic orchids. Experience the sharp contrasts between the stone coast, the midland forest and the fertile agricultural landscape. Turn into a side road and discover a linear village or follow a row of traditional windmills along the island's sloping ridge. Head for the horizon and take a swim at the nearest beach.

Whatever you choose, we guarantee that you will cherish your Öland memories for life.



Spring

To enjoy the spring on Öland is something very special. Enjoy the light, the air and the colours! The pale and cold winter days are softened by the warm sunbeams. Blue anemones, white wood anemones and blue bulbous perennials spread joyfully across the fields and paths. Öland Spirar is an annual springtime festival that marks the start of an eventful season on our beautiful island. Various activities related to the spring season can be enjoyed across the island, such as open gardens, concerts, food, handicraft and open studios and art galleries. Get inspired by all things blooming!



Summer

For many people, a summer spent on Öland is the ultimate dream holiday. You are warmly welcome to share yours with us. Your summer holiday on Öland can be just as comfortable as you wish with the large variety of accommodations on offer. You may find that perfect hammock inviting you to relax and read a book. A summer's day on Öland offers crystal-clear waters, shallow bays, sun-drenched beaches and the feeling of sand between your toes. Seeing the sun sink into the Kalmar Strait and the swells hitting the shore is all but pure magic. A summer on Öland is everything you can wish for.



Autumn

Autumn on Öland is not as intense but still offers much to enjoy. Golf courses are open, as are many of the restaurants. Now is the time to have the island's favourite spots all to yourself. Farm shops will welcome you with the season's local produce. Did you know that you can buy most of the ingredients you may need for a splendid meal directly from local producers? The highlight of the autumn season is undoubtedly Öland's Harvest Festival. During the last weekend in September, this festival encompasses the entire island from north to south. A large variety of cultural events is combined with flea markets, farm shops and food markets, offering pumpkins, potatoes, beans, onions and more. In short, everything Öland's pantry has to offer.



Winter

Winter on Öland means time for thought and reflection. Indulge yourself with a spa treatment, some shopping and good food. A number of establishments offer both accommodation and events during the winter season. Some golf courses are open all year round. Winter on Öland soothes the soul. A landscape without leafy trees provides wide-open views. The sea is thundering and even further away from the shores you can sense the murmuring waters at the stone coast. Put on some extra socks and cover your head as this is the perfect time to experience how nature shifts between icy blue and steel grey, and perhaps even white.



Nature and adventure

The further south you travel on Öland, the more breathtaking the panoramic views become. Take a moment and be amazed by the island's southern tip, where the land meets the endless sea. From the island's gently sloping ridge along the coastline you have a fantastic view over the Kalmar Strait. The barren Great Alvar is part of UNESCO's world heritage site and makes an interesting starting point for extensive walks. But perhaps you are more interested in whistling pine trees and mossy rocks? Many have been

fascinated by Böda forest in the north, where hiking trails and old tractor roads intermingle. The outstretched Böda bay with its white sandy beach and turquoise-dappled sea is as beautiful as anything you have ever seen. Nature on Öland is ever-present. When the strong winds blow and the winter evening turns to night, you can find yourself in the middle of the island surrounded by a stormy darkness and hear the waves roaring in the distance. Come as you are and let Öland's nature take you by storm.



Family fun

When the children are happy, so are the parents. Most parents live by this assertion during the holidays. It is easy to keep your children satisfied on Öland, and simple enough to enjoy the sun and do fun things together. Do your children enjoy swimming? On Öland, you are never far away from a fantastic beach with white sand and a turquoise sea, or some stone slabs with a view across to the island of Blå Jungfrun. New and modern playgrounds and activity parks offer challenges for all ages and can be found

in the main towns and villages. Öland is full of opportunities to experience unique nature or historic attractions, which is particularly appreciated by children who do not wish to spend the holiday in the backseat of a car. It really is only your own sense of adventure that sets the boundaries. Öland gives you an opportunity to meet camel farmers, glassblowers, candy makers, lighthouse keepers, wreck divers and kings and princesses. Your adventure starts here!



Culture and history

On Öland you can always feel the presence of history. Ancient fortresses, burial fields, the agricultural landscape, various building styles and not least the windmills, which are perhaps Öland's most characteristic cultural heritage. Various types of historical heritage are presented as more or less organised experiences all around the island. Eketorp fortress and Borgholm Castle

offer guided tours, special children's activities and staff dressed in period clothing. But there are also local heritage centres and village communities where volunteers maintain local windmills and small museums. Perhaps you would like to take a trip to all of Öland's open churches? If your aim is a holiday with historical and cultural overtones you have definitely come to the right place.



Art and design

Öland has a long tradition as a place for artists, authors and designers. This cultural heritage has been consolidated and preserved over time and today the island is home to many practising artists, craftsmen, artisans and authors. It is easy to understand why artists are inspired by the unique and famous light that can be experienced on Öland. A number of annual art festivals are arranged by local artist collectives and other cultural associations. At local

bookstores and country shops you will find novels, collections of poetry, children's books and non-fiction by current authors from Öland. Local design is mostly prevalent at the many potters and ceramists that work on the island. You may find anything from small-scale productions to internationally established brands. What they have in common is that Öland's nature serves as the inspiration for the forms, colours and functions of their work.



A taste of Öland

Agriculture and its products have shaped Öland and its people since ancient times. Working the land is not always easy on Öland as the rocky soil and close proximity to the limestone bedrock sometimes puts farmers to the test. Potatoes and many other vegetables are cultivated on Öland and the island is well-known for its production of beans, both traditional varieties and new ones. You will find ramson (wood garlic) and a variety of berries in the wild, and Öland

is widely known for its wild herbs. The overall interest in locally-produced food is growing and Öland's producers are happy to cater for this trend. Farm shops, butchers, small farm dairies and other food producers take good care of the local resources and offer a wide product range of the highest quality.

Sunsets

6 experiences

Not many things in life beat a colourful sunset on Öland. In fact, many come to the island just to enjoy seeing the sun slowly sinking into the Kalmar Strait. We asked our followers on Öland's official Facebook and Instagram accounts where they enjoy sunsets the most and we received many tips. Below we list some of the favourites, from north to south.

1. At Neptuni åkrar just north of Byxelkrok, the wide-open rubble-stone fields on almost barren beach banks create a magic light in the sunset.
2. Along Öland's so-called stone coast we can enjoy captivating views and a sunset that can only be described as magical. Travel along the entire stone coast or pause at one of the villages along the route.
3. There is a formation of cliffs in Köpingsvik called Köpings klint, which offers a fantastic view over Köpingsvik and the sea. When you turn the other way, you can enjoy flowering grazing pastures and alvar plains.
4. Travelling south from Borgholm, you will pass many nice views along road 136. Stop at the resting area in Glömminge or Eriksöre and enjoy Öland's agricultural landscape and the glittering strait with the majestic Öland bridge in the background.
5. The elevated ridge at Sandbergen, west of Stora Frö, is a perfect vantage point from which to look out over the strait. There are steps leading down to the water if you fancy a swim in the sea while the sun slowly sets.
6. Wherever you may be on the Great Alvar plains, we promise you a magical sunset. In this flat and barren landscape, surrounded by grazing cattle and low juniper bushes, you will enjoy the day's final rays of sunshine in an unforgettable way

DAY TRIP TREASURES

#1 The Northern Tip



- 1. Långe Erik lighthouse
- 2. Trollskogen
- 3. Naturum
- 4. Neptuni åkrar
- 5. Byxelkrok
- 6. Blå Jungfrun
- > Hiking trails at Trollskogen
- 🚲 Ekoparksleden
- ☺ Blueberry picking & beach fun

Barren cliffs, an enchanted forest & magnificent sunsets

1. Långe Erik lighthouse

There has been a lighthouse at Öland's northern tip and its shallow waters since the 17th century. The current lighthouse, called Långe Erik, was built in 1844-1845. It is 32 metres tall and constructed of limestone. During parts of the summer, visitors can go into the lighthouse and take the steps up to the balcony to enjoy the magnificent view.

2. Trollskogen, the enchanted forest

At the north-eastern headland opposite Långe Erik lies Trollskogen, the enchanted forest. This is an old, grazed coniferous forest which really deserves its name. Narrow, winding paths take you through sprawling ancient oak trees and windswept pine trees. Deep inside the forest you may find Trolleken (the troll oak) which is believed to be about 900 years old.

3. Naturum Trollskogen

Explore family-friendly exhibitions in the newly-built Naturum, where the borders between indoors and outdoors are blurred. The entire family will learn more about Öland's geology, flora, fauna and history.

4. Neptuni Åkrar

The area was named after the Roman sea god Neptune by Carl Linnaeus when he visited Öland in 1741. The almost completely barren beach banks covered with rubble-stones is full of flowering viper's bugloss during the summer.

5. Byxelkrok

This coastal village is a popular tourist destination during the summer season. Along the sea front at the marina, the former fishing huts stand side-by-side, today serving as restaurants and shops. This creates a characteristic pedestrian

street at the quayside where the leisure boats are moored. During the summer months, the ferry MS Solsund takes passengers across the Kalmar Strait between Byxelkrok and Oskarshamn. You can also take a day trip by boat to the island of Blå Jungfrun.

6. Blå Jungfrun

This mythical island - one of Sweden's 30 national parks - lies in the Kalmar Strait between Oskarshamn and Öland. Visitors can enjoy windswept pine trees, a lush broadleaf forest and imposing granite cliffs eroded into exciting shapes by the sea. The highest point on the island lies at 86 metres above sea level and can be reached via a hiking trail. This trail is 3.3 km long and takes about an hour to complete in a leisurely pace. There are some interesting and exciting places along the route, such as two caves called "Kyrkan" (the church) and "Jungfrukammaren" (the virgin's chamber). At various places along the coastline, you can see traces of stone quarrying that took place before the island became a national park.

➤ Discover on foot

Starting at Naturum Trollskogen, there are three different hiking paths in a fairy-tale setting, all colour-marked and suitable for both young and old. The 2.7 km trail is suitable for a baby buggy and the 1 km trail is wheelchair accessible.

🚲 Cycle route

Långe Erik, 38 km: Långe Erik - Byrum - Grankullavik. Read more about this route on oland.se/cykla.

😊 Tips for children

Go on an adventure in the enchanted forest and look for bugs and insects, or play amongst the magical trees.

DAY TRIP TREASURES

#2 Böda



- 1. Skäftekärr
- 2. Rosendal
- 3. Böda Marina
- 4. The Böda bay
- > Lindreservatet
- 🚲 Ekoparksleden
- © Blueberry picking & beach fun

The Böda bay

White sandy beaches, pine-scented forest trails & traces of the Iron Age

1. Skäftekärr

The area around Skäftekärr is very rich in archaeological findings. Here you will find the remains of a chieftain's long-house from the Iron Age, which was reconstructed in 1999. During the summer months, there is a café and guided tours at the former forester's homestead from the 1860s. The museum next door has a fossil exhibition which is open during high season. Enjoy a stroll in the park that surrounds the estate. There are about 140 exotic species of trees in the botanical garden.

2. Rosendal

Rosendal lies a few kilometres north of Skäftekärr and is Öland's best-preserved Iron Age village, with the foundations of 14 houses and defensive walls that are over one metre tall. Rosendal was abandoned 1,300 years ago. When the village was rediscovered in the 1980s, the excavation director called the area "an agricultural Pompeii", unlike anything else in Europe. There are also three contemporary burial fields around the village.

3. Böda marina

A small and cosy marina. This was once a large and important fishing harbour. Today it is mostly a popular tourist destination with its restaurants, pub and stopover spots for campervans. Enjoy a stroll down the pier and feel the fresh sea breeze.

4. The Böda bay

The bathing areas at Fagerör, Homrevet, Lyckesand and Böda Sand together make up the Böda bay. The almost 20 km long sandy beach is sometimes called Öland's Riviera and is one of Sweden's most popular beaches. It attracts many visitors, but there is plenty of space for everyone along this outstretched beach. And there

is no risk that the white sand runs out. The northbound currents constantly replenish the bay with sand. The area north of the beach is best enjoyed following the trails and paths which will lead you through a pine tree landscape with an almost magical touch.

> Discover on foot

Lindreservatet is considered to be one of Öland's finest nature reserves. Follow a marked hiking trail and enjoy broad-leaf forests, pine forest, open pastures, alvar, marshland and hay meadows full of wild herbs. The area is characterised by an abundance of lime trees, which is unusual, bursts of wild flowers and traces of ancient Iron Age villages. The reserve lies 2 km east of Byxelkrok. Follow the "Lindreservatet" road signs to this nature reserve.

🚲 Cycle route

Ekoparksleden, 39 km: You cycle on the Ecopark trail's meandering paths and straight logging roads alongside the coastal road with its magnificent views. This will take you right across the island, from coast to coast. You can of course cycle the entire route, or choose a shorter stretch. Read more about this route on oland.se/cykla.

☺ Tips for children

If the summer has not been too dry, you can find loads of blueberries in the Böda forest. Bring a jar and start picking! In the autumn, you will instead find lingonberries. This is also a great time to bring a picnic basket and enjoy the forest's peace and quiet. A visit to one of the many beaches at the Böda bay always makes for a perfect day trip.

DAY TRIP TREASURES

#3 The Stone Coast



- 1. Horn's costal road & Horns udde
- 2. Byrum's sea-stacks
- 3. Alvedsjö bodar
- 4. Jordhamn
- 5. Gillberga village & quarry
- 6. Sandvik
- 7. Djupvik - Äleklinta
- > Knisa mosse
- 🚲 Djupvik route
- © Byrum's sea-stacks

Fascinating sea-stacks, picturesque fishing villages & unique windmills

1. Horn's costal road & Horns udde

The road leading from Byrum via Alvedsjö bodar and down to Äleklinta is generally known as the Stone Coast. It winds past a number of stone quarries from a former industrial era and provides a superb view over the Kalmar Strait. Stone has been quarried at Horns udde since medieval times.

2. Byrum's sea-stacks

Byrum boasts Öland's finest stretch of sea-stacks, consisting of about 100 pieces along a 600-metre shoreline. The largest sea-stacks can be found in the southern part of the area and can be up to 4 metres tall. There is a beautiful sandy beach just north of the sea-stacks.

3. Alvedsjö bodar

A small harbour with a number of wooden fishing huts. These are post-and-plank huts with a thatched roof. During the 20th century, this area along the coastal road became the summer residence of many authors and other artists.

4. Jordhamn

One of Öland's most beautiful and iconic sights at any time of the year is looking south down onto Jordhamn's scouring mill and small fishing huts. The wind-driven mill was built in 1905 for scouring limestone slabs. This scouring mill is the only one of its kind left in Sweden today. Next to the windmill lies its predecessor, a scouring mill that was driven by oxen.

5. Gillberga village & quarry

Almost all buildings in the village of Gillberga are built with limestone. It is understandable that limestone was used as a building material as the local

quarry lies just south of the village. The stone quarry's walls are up to 17 metres high and allow you to look 17 million years back in time, because each millimetre of limestone rock took 1,000 years to form.

6. Sandvik

An old fishing community which for a long time was the centre of Öland's stone industry. Today, Sandvik has a lovely marina which makes it a popular tourist destination. Here are restaurants, cafés and a supermarket. Sandvik's windmill is a well-known landmark in the harbour's skyline. It was built in 1856 and is one of the world's largest windmills.

7. Djupvik - Äleklinta

The narrow road between Djupvik and Äleklinta meanders along the edge of the island's ridge, with the alvar on one side and the coastline on the other. Djupvik and Äleklinta are both old fishing communities surrounded by pebble beaches. Today they are popular day-trip destinations with beautiful bathing beaches.

> Discover on foot

There is a 5-km hiking trail around Knisa mosse, well-known for its glorious orchids and rich bird life. This wetland is one of the few undrained marshes on Öland. It lies 400 metres west of the village of Knisa.

🚲 Cycle route

The Djupvik route, 17 km: Sandvik - Djupvik - Föra - Södsvik. Read more about this route on oland.se/cykla.

☺ Tips for children

Visit Byrum's sea-stacks and play amongst these spectacular formations.

DAY TRIP TREASURES

#4 The East Coast



- 1. Källa old church
- 2. Södra Greda forest meadows
- 3. Kårehamn
- 4. Kapelludden, Bredsättra
- > Högenäs orde
- 🚲 Sandvik tour
- ☺ Kapelludden

Scenic harbours, historic chapels & lush forest meadows

1. Källa old church

Construction started in the 13th century and this abandoned church is today referred to as Källa old church. It is unusual in that it was originally built in two stories in order to serve as a defence building. The ground floor was used as a church and the top floor was used to store food but it also had embrasures for defence purposes.

2. Södra Greda forest meadows

Södra Greda is one of the few remaining hay meadows on Öland. This popular place has an abundance of wild flowers during the spring and early summer months. You may find orchids, common rock-rose and bird's-eye primrose. On a fine spring day, the words of Evert Taube's Änglamark aptly apply to Södra Gredas forest meadows. Take the footpath out to the seaside pastures where you will find the remains of a larger Iron Age settlement.

3. Kårehamn

Kårehamn is a quiet fishing harbour on the east coast of Northern Öland. The harbour has a seafood shop and restaurant and a small, cosy beach nearby. A bit longer inland lies the wetlands of Petgårde, a nature reserve with a rich bird life.

4. Kapelludden, Bredsättra

About 4 km east of Bredsättra's church lies Kapelludden. It is popular with visitors due to its fishing huts, interesting archaeological findings and rich bird life.

St Bridget's chapel

Today just a ruin, the chapel was built sometime in the 13th century. It is unknown which saint originally gave name to the chapel. One theory is that when the holy

Bridget of Sweden died in Rome in 1373, her remains were brought ashore at Kapelludden to be transported on to Vadstena. Saint Bridget became the chapel's patron saint at the end of the 15th century.

The stone cross

Between the chapel and the beach stands a stone cross of about three metres tall with clover-shaped cross ends. There is a hole on one side in the cross where once an offer box was attached. Like the chapel, the cross was probably also erected during the 13th century.

Kapelludden lighthouse

At the tip of the headland stands the Kapelludden lighthouse. It was constructed in 1871-1872 and designed by A.T. Gellerstedt. The so-called Heidenstam type lighthouse consists of a 32-metre cast-iron skeletal tower with a lantern.

➤ Discover on foot

With an extraordinary view over a glittering Baltic Sea, the Högenäs orde headland is the perfect day-trip destination. Take a walk across the open pastures and enjoy the wild flowers and the birds. Follow road 136 to Källa. Turn right and follow the signs to Högenäs orde nature reserve.

🚲 Cycle route

The Sandvik tour, 19 km: Sandvik - Persnäs - Hörlösa. Read more about this route on [oland.se/cykla](#). Here you can also find 32 other digital cycle routes.

☺ Tips for children

The area of Kapelludden is perfect for a family day-trip. There is a bathing jetty, picturesque fishing huts and sandbanks. Take a scoop net, make drawings in the sand or see what you can discover at the beach.

DAY TRIP TREASURES

#5 Borgholm



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- 1. Borgholm Castle
- 2. Solliden Palace
- 3. Drottning Victorias vilohem
- 🚲 Borgholm tour
- ☺ Playgrounds & skateparks

Solliden Palace

Charming and idyllic small town, summer seaside resort & royal splendour

A trip to Borgholm can offer both town life, forest, alvar, castles and the sea. Start your tour along Strandvägen, with Kallbadhuset at the marina. You will see the grand seaside mansions from the former resort era before the road continues into the Slottsskogen forest along the seashore. Strandvägen will lead you past Borgholm's lighthouse and the bomb crater from the Second World War. Follow the signs towards the Kaffetorpet café and Solliden Palace. The palace park is open to visitors from May-September. Your tour continues across the alvar to Borgholm Castle. Take time to peer out over the Kalmar Strait. The castle is open to visitors from April-September. Return via the Garderobstrappan, a set of steep steps leading down through the Slottsskogen forest to Borgholm.

The town's range of small niche shops in combination with cosy cafés and quality restaurants make Borgholm a popular destination through much of the year. The marina is full of leisure boats during the summer and offers easily accessible quays and piers to stroll along. Borgholm also has a few central beaches, such as the ones at Kapelludden and Sjöstugan. Kallbadhuset - the open-air swimming baths at the marina - is open during the summer months and the indoor swimming pool at Kapelludden is open all year round.

Borgholm's history as a popular bath and spa resort started as early as 1864. The fresh Öland air was considered to be particularly wholesome. Guests came from all over Sweden, usually on one of the steamboats that operated between Stockholm and

Borgholm.

When the Öland bridge opened in 1972, tourism on the island practically exploded. Since then, Borgholm has been a busy summer town with many activities, concerts and events such as the public celebration of Crown Princess Victoria's birthday on 14 July.

➤ Discover on foot – 3 royal tips

1. Borgholm Castle Scandinavia's most beautiful castle ruins, as it is sometimes called, dates back to the 12th century and was a strategically important defence facility until the Treaty of Roskilde in 1658.

2. Solliden Palace This Italian-inspired estate has been the Swedish royal family's summer residence since Queen Victoria moved into the palace in 1906.

3. Drottning Victorias vilohem* Queen Victoria acquired the royal demesne's former manor house in 1922 and the rest home received its first guests two years later. The beautiful park garden was created in the mid-19th century.

🚲 Cycle route

The Borgholm Castle tour, 4 km: Solliden Palace - Borge hage - Borgholm Castle. Read more about this route on oland.se/cykla.

☺ Tips for children

Don't miss a visit to one of Borgholm's new playgrounds and the new concrete skatepark. They offer many exciting adventures such as a pirate ship, musical instruments and a 25-metre ropeway.

DAY TRIP TREASURES

#6 Fortress to Fortress



- 1. Mittlandsskogen
- 2. Ismantorp fortress
- 3. Himmelsberga Öland Museum
- 4. Gråborg
- 5. St Knut's chapel
- > The heart of the midland forest
- 🚲 Midland forest trail
- ☺ Hide and seek at Ismanstorp fortress

Well-preserved linear villages, diverse broad-leaf forests & unique fortresses

1. Mittlandsskogen

Welcome to the midland forest, one of Europe's largest continuous deciduous forests that offers many fine hiking trails and great natural values. It is a large mosaic landscape with cultural and natural values that is unparalleled in Europe. There are thousands of archaeological remains from Iron Age farming. House foundations that form entire estates, but also loosely grouped villages, mile-long enclosures, cattle paths, wells and graves. The midland area is also home to a rich flora and fauna with hundreds of endangered species.

Enjoy the midland's treasures along its meandering hiking trails, surrounded by old oak trees, lush hazel bushes and ruins that testify to ancient times. Take a moment to fantasize about what life was like around here hundreds of years ago.

2. Ismantorp fortress

The fortress at Ismantorp is the best-preserved ancient fortress on Öland with its 95 house foundations. It has a 127-metre diameter and is 2.5 metres tall. The fortress has nine portals, which must have been a disadvantage from a defence perspective as portals are the weakest points in the outer wall. An explanation may lie in Norse mythology where the number nine plays an important role.

3. Himmelsberga Öland Museum

Himmelsberga is a double linear village with enclosed courtyards on both sides of the road. The estates on either side of the village road are enclosed by barns, with a dwelling house sheltered at the far end of the yard. In 1957, Öland's local history associations bought two of

these well-preserved archaic estates in Himmelsberga in order to save a linear village for posterity and to create the open-air museum at Himmelsberga. Since then, Himmelsberga has further developed with more farm buildings, an art hall, gallery, shop and café with bakery.

4. Gråborg

Öland's largest ancient fortress - and one of Sweden's largest fortifications of its kind - measures 210 x 160 metres with a wall height of 4-7 metres. It was constructed during the Iron Age and used as a defence facility until as late as 1677 in the war against the Danish.

5. St Knut's chapel

This chapel, which is located 200 metres north of Gråborg fortress, indicates the great significance of the fortress during the Middle Ages. The chapel was built in the 12th century and abandoned some time during the 16th century.

➤ Discover on foot

Discover the heart of the midland forest and walk amongst the archaeological sites, following the route Odens Flisor - Ismantorp fortress - Rönnerums ancient village. There is a parking area at Odens Flisor.

🚲 Cycle route

The midland forest trail, 63 km: Stora Rör - Algutsrum - Runsten - Långlöt - Sättra. Read more about this route on oland.se/cykla.

☺ Tips for children

Play hide and seek amongst the ancient house remnants at Ismantorp fortress and enjoy a little picnic on a blanket in one of the house foundations.

DAY TRIP TREASURES


#7 Mörbylånga Valley

1 2

4 3

5

- 1. Färjestaden
- 2. Kvarnkungen
- 3. Vickleby
- 4. Beijershamn
- 5. Mörbylånga
- > Great Alvar route
- 🚲 Alvar tour
- 😊 Fun & games in the Färjeparken



Fertile soil, creative villages & historic ferry routes

1. Färjestaden

Färjestaden is the largest town on Öland. There are a number of restaurants and cafés in the charming marina. While the sun sets over the strait you can jump off the quayside for an evening dip, with the bridge as a beautiful backdrop.

Located right across from Kalmar, Färjestaden has always been the natural centre for ferries over the Kalmar Strait. The first recorded traffic dates back to the 13th century. When the Öland bridge was completed in 1972 and the ferry service ended, the Kalmarsundsbolaget had been operating across the strait for 106 years. Today, cyclists and pedestrians can cross the strait with the Dessi ferry service during the summer months.

2. Kvarnkungen

At the top of the hill in Björnhovda is a row of three windmills. The largest is called Kvarnkungen (the king mill) and is Europe's biggest post mill. Just north of it stands a Dutch windmill called Drottningen (the queen). And further north is a smaller post mill called Prinsen (the prince).

3. Vickleby

The village road leading through Vickleby has often been described as one of the most beautiful on Öland. Vickleby has a long history as a stronghold for artists, centered around Bo Pensionat and Capellagården. Here are restaurants, cafés and galleries.

4. Beijershamn

This is one of the most important bird locales

on Öland. Here are some wonderful walking trails and a large bird watching tower that provides a view over the entire area.

5. Mörbylånga

The Mörbylånga valley is one of Sweden's most fertile farming areas. The valley, a former sea bed, provides farmers with the natural conditions for growing cereals and other crops such as potatoes, onions and strawberries.

The market town of Mörbylånga was founded in 1820 and has a number of beautiful small streets with a late 19th and early 20th century atmosphere. The buildings between the sea and the square are wooden houses with idyllic gardens that are typical of the time. Being near the water and the harbour characterizes this market town, as do the many artists and artisans who live and work here.

➤ Discover on foot

Discover the Great Alvar route (or parts of it) as it leads you along an old road across the alvar from Karlevi to Resmo.

🚲 Cycle route

The Alvar tour, 51 km: Mörbylånga - Stenåsa - Skärlöv - Kastlösa. Read more about this route on oland.se/cykla.

😊 Tips for children

The Färjeparken in Färjestaden is an activity park where young and old can play and exercise. There is a playground, skatepark, boules court, multi-purpose court and parkour area. The park also has a barbecue area with seats and tables so don't forget to bring a picnic basket.

DAY TRIP TREASURES

#8 The Bird Route



- 1. The bird route
- 2. Deserted village of Dröstorp
- 3. Prästgropen
- 4. Torrör
- 5. Sandby fortress
- Ekelunda route
- 🚲 Gårdby 8:an
- 😊 Goldfish & wild strawberries

Gräsgårds harbour

Exciting deserted village, gruesome history & a hidden stone mound

1. The bird route

This route called Fågelvägen is a 50-km coastal road which has been designated as tourist road due to its unique attractive nature. It runs through the heart of the World Heritage Site of Southern Öland, from Gårdby in the north to Ottenby in the south. Along this scenic route you will find a wide range of ancient fortresses, bird locales, rune stones, windmills, churches, linear villages, hiking trails, nature reserves and much more.

2. Deserted village of Drörestorp

A beautiful, meandering road runs across the alvar from Skarpa Alby, before it splits after a kilometre or so. To the left, a road will lead to Prästgropen and Torrör, while the road to the right continues to the deserted village of Drörestorp. Öland's population increased so dramatically during the 18th century that the farmland could no longer support everyone. Many people left Öland and when the last inhabitants left Drörestorp at the end of the 19th century, the wooden houses were moved to another village. The farm buildings made of stone were left behind and their ruins can still be found here. Today, the deserted village of Drörestorp is an exciting day-trip destination throughout the year, but perhaps mostly during the spring when the orchids flower on the alvar and the skylark's bubbling warble fills the air.

3. Prästgropen (priest hollow)

Out on Drörestorp's alvar lies Prästgropen. It is a popular picnic spot, protecting visitors from the winds that blow across the alvar. The hollow was probably formed when the roof of a prehistoric cave collapsed.

4. Torrör

Also called Tornrör, this is the largest and

most impressive Bronze Age mound of stone on the Drörestorp alvar. It is about 10 metres in diameter with a dry-stone edge of three layers of limestone slabs around it.

5. Sandby fortress

There are 15 ancient Iron Age fortresses on Öland. Excavations at Sandby fortress indicate that this place has a gruesome history. About 1,500 years ago, the inhabitants of the fortress were the victims of a brutal massacre. The place was abandoned and all human remains were left behind. The incident was forgotten until only a few years ago, when excavations began. At a glance, there is not more to see than just the crumbled wall. If you want to experience what the fortress may have looked like, you can visit the reconstructed Eketorp fortress which existed at the same time as Sandby fortress and had a similar appearance and layout. The archaeological findings from Sandby fortress are exhibited at the Kalmar County Museum.

> Discover on foot

The Ekelunda route is a bicycle-friendly hiking trail of 1.7 km.

🚲 Cycle route

Gårdby 8:an, 23 km: Gårdby - Sandby - Skarpa Alby - Ekelunda. Read more about this route on oland.se/cykla.


☺️ Tipps für die Kinder

Looking for goldfish on the alvar. A few hundred metres from Prästgropen is a watering hole. A population of goldfish has lived here for the past 25 years. Someone has probably emptied their aquarium here, but the fish appear to thrive against all odds. If you cannot find them you can look for wild strawberries instead, or fly a kite on the alvar.

DAY TRIP TREASURES

#9 The Great Alvar



- 1. World Heritage Site of Southern Öland
- 2. Road between Resmo & Stenåsa
- 3. Öland's test field
- 4. Kartmuren
- 5. Gettlinge burial field
- > Penåsa trail
-  World heritage route
- ☺ Looking for orchids

Beautiful world heritage, secret test field & colourful orchids

1. World Heritage Site of Southern Öland

From Karlevi in the west to Gårdby in the east, and all the way down to the southern tip, a wondrous landscape and a unique cultural heritage presents itself. The Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland, a World Heritage Site, consists of linear villages, cultivated farmland, seaside pastures and the Great Alvar.

Agriculture on Öland dates back thousands of years. The specific conditions on the island mean that only part of the land can be cultivated. The Great Alvar and the seaside pastures along the Baltic Sea are not suitable for farming and have mostly been used as grazing fields. This has created the unique medieval agricultural landscape we see today, which is farmed with modern equipment. Much of Southern Öland which today may be regarded as nature's untouched beauty, is actually the result of a successful interplay between man and nature. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000, this agricultural landscape is considered to be one of the world's most unique places.

2. Road between Resmo & Stenåsa

Along the road between Resmo and Stenåsa, the flat and majestic alvar plains spread out into the vastness of the world's biggest alvar - the Great Alvar. Halfway between the villages lies Möckelmossen, the alvar's biggest lake, a breeding place for many species of birds. Here you will find a parking area, information displays and a toilet.

3. Öland's test field

In the 1950-60s, 184 pieces of white-painted concrete were laid out across the Great Alvar. The locations were not random: seen from above, the objects

form a clear pattern. In 1955, work began to test the accuracy of cameras used in aerial photography. Before then, such cameras had only been tested in laboratories. The results became internationally renowned and, as a consequence, camera manufacturers were forced to make adjustments to their products. Most of these concrete slabs can still be found today. Why not go out on a hiking trip or run on the alvar and see how many you can discover? Möckelmossen's resting area is a good starting point.

4. Gettlinge burial field

The field stretches almost 2 km, which makes this one of the largest burial fields on Öland. Of the original 250 graves, about 200 remain today. At the northern end of the burial field stands an impressive 30-metre long ship tumulus (stone ship) consisting of 23 upright blocks of granite with 20 or so cup marks.

➤ Discover on foot

The Penåsa trail along the old railway embankment across the entire alvar will take you from Kastlösa in the west to Skärlöv's old station in the east. You will pass various types of nature that together form the alvar landscape. Starting from the west you can set off at Kastlösa or at the Penåsa resting area. There is also a hiking trail from Penåsa to Tingstad Flisor.

🚲 Cycle route

World heritage route, 54 km: Mörbylånga - Lilla Frö - Stenåsa - Kastlösa. Read more about this route on oland.se/cykla.

☺ Tips for children

Go out and look for orchids together during the spring and summer season. How many different types can you spot?

DAY TRIP TREASURES

#10 The Southern Tip



- 1. Ottenby
- 2. Schäferi meadows
- 3. Lighthouse & Naturum Ottenby
- 4. Långe Jan lighthouse
- 5. Eketorp fortress
- 6. Grönhögen
- > Ottenby nature reserve
- 🚲 Eketorp tour
- ☺ Ottenby grove bird watching tower

6 5

1 2 3 4

Ottenby

Wide open spaces, rare birds & a reconstructed fortress

1. Ottenby

The road down to the southern tip, with the Långe Jan lighthouse on the horizon, is one of the most spectacular on Öland. Cows and sheep graze by the roadside during parts of the year. At Öland's southern tip, which is one of Sweden's best bird locales, lies Ottenby nature reserve. Each year, ornithologists from around the world gather here to spot the migrating birds that are leaving or arriving in Sweden. Birds have been researched here since the 1940s. Many birds are banded, which provides valuable knowledge on how the different populations develop and the effect of climate change.

2. Schäferi meadows

Walking across these meadows, you may feel you have come to the African savanna. This is one of the largest areas of hay meadows in Northern Europe and includes outstretched grazing pastures with interesting geological formations. Visitors are not allowed access during the spring and summer months but you may follow the marked trail, Ängsvaktarstigen, which leads from the grove to a vantage point near the beach.

3. Lighthouse & Naturum Ottenby

The small village near the lighthouse has a bookshop and a small lighthouse museum. Next to the lighthouse are the Ottenby Bird Observatory and a restaurant. You will often find common seals sunbathing on the rocks just off the eastern beach. The Ottenby Naturum visitor centre is also located in the lighthouse village. Free admittance to the interesting exhibition about migrating birds and a choice of guided tours await visitors.

4. Långe Jan lighthouse

Långe Jan was first employed in 1785, which makes it one of Sweden's oldest lighthouses. Measuring 42 metres, it is also Sweden's tallest lighthouse. The lighthouse is open to visitors during the summer. From the top, the views across Öland's southern point are magnificent.

5. Eketorp fortress

The fortress at Eketorp was used during three different periods between 300 and 1240 and is today Sweden's only fully excavated and then reconstructed ancient fortress. Eketorp is an interesting tourist destination with loads of activities for both young and old.

6. Grönhögen

Öland's most southern settlement is the charming village of Grönhögen, dominated by the large Dutch windmill and the marina where you will find a café.

➤ Discover on foot

Enjoy a walk in the Ottenby nature reserve. There are four different routes of varying lengths between 1.5 and 5.7 km. Two of the paths are accessible for wheelchairs. Start at the parking area at Södra lund and follow the signs.

🚲 Cycle route

Eketorp tour, 20 km: Grönhögen - Eketorp - Össby - Ottenby. Read more about this route on oland.se/cykla.

☺ Tips for children

There is a large bird watching tower in the southern part of Ottenby lund. The views from above are always captivating. The tower is the perfect destination for a day-trip whatever the season. Just lay out a picnic and enjoy the fantastic view.

Love Öland with care

It is a privilege to be able to enjoy the various types of nature on Öland. However, we need to realise that our nature is fragile and that many areas are crucial to the island's ecosystem. That is why we need to love Öland carefully, so that we can continue to enjoy all the things that make Öland so unique.

Welcome to the outdoors!

You exercise your right of public access when you roam in the countryside, go kayaking or set up your tent in the forest. This right allows us all to move freely out in the nature. But it is important to also take responsibility for the flora and fauna around us and to show consideration for both landowners and other visitors. A good rule of thumb is "do not disturb or damage".

- Respect those who live or work in a particular place. Am I disturbing? Please ask whenever you are unsure!
- Do not enter crop fields.
- Close the gate behind you when passing through a grazing field.

Cycling

You may cycle in the countryside and on private roads. Please avoid wet surfaces that may easily be damaged. It is sometimes allowed to cycle on jogging tracks and hiking trails but you must be considerate of others.

Do not leave any waste behind!

All littering is prohibited. Broken glass, cans, plastic, cigarette butts, fishing lines and other waste can damage both people and animals.

Making fire

You may light a fire out in the countryside if conditions are safe. Preferably use a secure fireplace. In dry conditions, a fire ban may be in place. It is your own responsibility to find out about any restrictions.

Bringing your dog

In order to protect wild mammals and birds you need to have full control over your dog. In practice, this often means leashing. This is particularly important during the spring and summer when animals have young.

Picking flowers, berries and mushrooms

You are free to pick flowers, berries and mushrooms in the countryside, but keep in mind that some plants are protected and may therefore not be picked, for example all types of orchids on Öland. You may not break off branches from growing trees and bushes.

Driving in the countryside

The right of public access does not include driving a car off road as this may damage nature. Minor roads on Öland tend to lie near vulnerable natural environments and it is therefore important not to drive off road or park outside the designated areas.

The right of public access does not apply equally everywhere

In national parks, nature reserves, parks and on golf courses public access is often limited. There are 75 nature reserves on Öland where consideration is required. You need to find out what restrictions apply in the place you are visiting.



6 sustainable tips

1. Discover your local area by bicycle

Öland is best enjoyed by bike. Feel the wind in your hair, smell the alvar and the sea and take the time to look around you. This way, you also help reduce the strain on Öland's vulnerable nature along the minor roads.

2. Save water

It is often dry on Öland. The annual precipitation is limited, particularly during summer. It is therefore very important to use water sparingly, so there is enough for everyone. An irrigation ban is in place during the summer.

3. Environmental consciousness

Take your every-day environmental awareness with you on holiday. Save water, recycle waste, turn off the light and eat what is in season.

4. Buy locally produced and locally grown products

Make sure to choose the local alternatives that are available. This way you support the small local producers and their products.

5. Sustainable businesses

Show companies that you value their sustainable efforts. You can for example ask the restaurant if the meat they serve is Swedish.

6. Litter picking on the beach

There is a lot of plastic in our nature. More and more families have noticed this and are now bringing an extra bag when they are out, for example on a beach. Why not take an extra bag with you and make a difference for our seas and beaches?

Production

Publisher

Ölands Turismorganisation, 2021

Production

Ölands Turismorganisation

Graphic form

Ölands Turismorganisation

Text

Karolina Sörman och Ölands

Turismorganisation

Photo

Alexander Hall, UpZone Studios, Helena Elm

Print

Lenanders Grafiska, Kalmar



EUROPEISKA UNIONEN
Europeiska regionala
utvecklingsfonden

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Vilken är din öländska pärla?

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Öland

Ölands Turismorganisation

Turismorganisationen drivs av de båda Ölandskommunerna genom Ölands Kommunalförbund. Vårt mål är att få fler att uppleva ön och att upptäcka det många av oss redan vet – att Öland är en unik plats på jorden. För att lyckas med det samverkar vi bland annat med kommunerna, regionen och företagen i regionen.

Ölands Turistbyrå

Vid brofästet i Färjestaden och vid hamnen i Borgholm finns två året runt-öppna turistbyråer. Med tips och information kring allt från mysiga boenden till avkopplande eller energifyllda upplevelser vill vi göra ert besök på Öland ännu bättre. Vi hjälper dig att hitta dina öländska pärlor.

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You have probably just travelled across the Öland bridge. Your visit to us has maybe just started. It does not matter whether you are a first-time or frequent visitor, a resident or just generally crazy about Öland - here you will be able to seize the day, enjoy life, experience nature and culture, have an active holiday or just listen to the waves hitting the beach.

Öland offers a wide open landscape, mystical forests and endless ways to enjoy spontaneous activities. Windmills or water slides, pottery course or diving boat, nightclub or nightingale, stone coast or sun lounger, playground or farm, full speed ahead or a slow start? Whatever you choose, we guarantee that you will cherish your Öland memories for life.