



The Åland Islands

- A Nordic Boating Gem in the Baltic Sea
Discover Peaceful Guest Harbours and Authentic Archipelago Life

Nestled among thousands of islands with red granite cliffs, clear waters, and tranquil bays, the Åland Islands form a boater's paradise in the heart of the Baltic Sea. With more than 20 000 islands and skerries – many untouched and uninhabited – and 20 eco-friendly guest harbours, Åland is the perfect destination to drop anchor. Set sail for a genuine Nordic archipelago, where time slows down and tranquility reigns.

A Boater's Paradise Between Sweden and Finland
Scattered across the sea between Sweden and Finland, the Åland Islands comprise over 20,000 islands and skerries, of which 6,700 are named and only 60 inhabited. Åland is an autonomous region in Finland, but Swedish is the official language. The largest island, known simply as the Main Island, is surrounded by smaller communities, each with a few hundred year-round residents. The capital, Mariehamn, is a vibrant city with 12 000 inhabitants. Here, the sea has shaped a fascinating culture and a history in a maritime setting, that you can feel all over the islands.

Stunning Nature and a Calm Nordic Atmosphere
Åland combines the authenticity of small-scale living with clean, unspoilt nature. Here you'll find everything from rugged red-granite islets to sheltered sandy beaches. The climate is pleasantly mild throughout the summer, making May to September ideal for boating. July and early August are the liveliest months, but the early-summer light and late-summer golden glow are perhaps the most magical times to explore – offering peaceful waters and nature at its most spectacular.

Outdoor Adventures for Nature Lovers
Åland's beauty is best experienced by boat, but also on foot, by bike or by kayak. Åland offers 40 marked nature trails, hundreds of kilometres of cycling paths, and countless islets to explore by kayak. Distances are short, and many activities are within easy reach of the guest harbours. Despite being just a short journey from Sweden and Finland, Åland feels wonderfully remote – the perfect place to enjoy tranquillity and even find an island or bay entirely to yourself.

Maritime Mariehamn – Åland's Charming Capital
Mariehamn lies on a narrow peninsula and blends lively events with a small-town calm. The city has two spacious guest harbours – **MSF** in the east and **ÅSS** in the west – both just a short stroll from shops, restaurants, and museums. A third and slightly smaller guest harbour lies in the **Maritime Quarter**, just a stone's throw away.

The award-winning Åland Maritime Museum and the majestic four-masted sailing ship *Pommern* are must-sees, as are the Åland Cultural and Art Museum. Cosy restaurants serve locally sourced food, and summer evenings offer the perfect opportunity to unwind after a day on the water. Late summer is especially delightful, with warm seas, calm winds and musical events such as Åland Sea Jazz

A Network of Guest Harbours with Great Service
Åland's 20 guest harbours are located at comfortable sailing distances from each other. The mooring fee includes sauna, fresh water and electricity. Environmental sustainability is a priority, and facilities for waste and septic water are available in harbours. Drop-in is common, but you can also secure a berth through Dockspot.

Wherever you dock, Åland's guest harbours offer more than just moorings. With scenic nature trails, cosy museums, and welcoming locals, the archipelago promises an unforgettable boating escape





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| 1. ÅSS Marina | 8. Seglinge | 15. Rödhamn |
| 2. Käringsund | 9. Glada Laxen | 16. Degerby |
| 3. Havsvidden | 10. Lappo | 17. Hellsö |
| 4. Hamnsundet | 11. Brändö | 18. Sandvik |
| 5. Vargata | 12. Jurmo | 19. Brudhäll |
| 6. Marina Melina | 13. MSF | |
| 7. Kumlinge | 14. Maritime Quarter | |

First Stops – Rödhamn and Käringsund

Approaching from the Stockholm archipelago, many sailors make their first stop in **Rödhamn**, a cluster of three islands 10 NM south of Mariehamn. This sheltered spot has welcomed sailors for centuries and has been named the best guest harbour in Finland.

If you're heading to the northern Åland archipelago, set sail to picturesque **Käringsund** in Eckerö. With its charming boathouses, sandy beaches, and local attractions, it's an idyllic retreat where you unwind with a delicious meal at one of the waterfront restaurants.

Explore the Eastern Archipelago

Beyond the Main Island lies a world of peaceful villages and traditional island culture. Highlights include **Degerby** on **Föglö**, the islands of **Sottunga**, **Kumlinge**, **Seglinge**, **Lappo** and **Brändö**, and the dramatic outer-archipelago island group of **Kökar**, home to three guest harbours and a fascinating history. The small but charming **Jurmo** is the last guest harbour before you enter the Finnish archipelago.

Sailing around the Main Island takes you through pristine waters and past uninhabited skerries perfect for picnics or short hikes. Don't miss **Vargata** on **Vårdö**, known for its literary heritage and the home of Stormskerry Maja. Continue towards the Slottsviken bay, and you'll arrive at the cosy **Marina Melina**, close to the medieval Kastelholm Castle and Finland's highest-ranked golf course **Slottsbanan**.

Northern Highlights – Hamnsundet and Havsvidden

Northern Åland features dramatic red-granite coastlines glowing beautifully in the evening sun. Popular places to stay include **Hamnsundet** and **Havsvidden**, both offering peaceful guest harbours with sauna access. Be sure to make a stop by the Boxö island filled with history and a magnificent cave, iconic

Sälskär Lighthouse, rising 44 meters above the sea, and Märket Lighthouse, a unique beacon straddling the border between Finland and Sweden.

Local Flavours and Island Craftsmanship

The islands are largely self-sufficient in food, with potato and onion among the main crops. The surrounding waters are among the best fishing grounds in the Baltic Sea. Summertime, you'll find excellent restaurants at the guest harbours, and many more when you explore the islands. Seasonal dishes to look out for include butterfried perch fillets with fresh potatoes, and the famous black bread, making a perfect match with handcrafted beers from the local **Stallhagen** brewery.

Set your course for Åland this season—your perfect Baltic Sea escape.



Read more about boating in the Åland archipelago and plan your trip at <http://visitaland.com/en/experience/outdoor/by-private-boat-to-aland/>