



NATURE RESERVE IN ÖREBRO COUNTY

# Norra Vätterns skärgård



Photo: Bergslagsbild AB

Much of the archipelago in the north of Lake Vättern is a nature reserve. The purpose of the nature reserve is to protect a freshwater archipelago from building or other forms of exploitation. Anyone taken blindfolded to the nature reserve might think they were in the Stockholm archipelago. Just within the nature reserve there are no less than around fifty islands. Apart from two crofters' cottages on the islands of Stora and Lilla Aspön, the archipelago has never been inhabited.

The rock in the area consists of granite. Typical vegetation on the islands is pine forest, heather and reindeer lichen. Trees and scrub vegetation grow in cracks where soil has accumulated through the centuries. The larger islands are covered with more fertile moraine and clay, so spruce, aspen and birch are more common. On some of the larger islands there is also grove vegetation with hazel, common toothwort, baneberry, coralroot and Alpine Enchanter's nightshade. Some of the more fertile land has previously been used for pasture.

There is abundant birdlife with breeding species that include red-breasted merganser, common tern, osprey, red-throated loon and other seabirds.

Please be observant on the islands – if you see birds that seem agitated or that are pretending to be injured, this usually indicates there are eggs or chicks in the vicinity. Leave the area immediately! Dogs must be on leads all year round. There are many fish, mainly pike,

perch and zander. In the past twenty years the numbers of signal crayfish has increased significantly. Fishing with handheld equipment is permitted.

The nature reserve can only be accessed by boat. There are service facilities (waste disposal and chemical toilets) on many of the islands, but please take your rubbish home with you. Camping is permitted on some of the islands, including Kungsholmen, Björkholmen and Stora Krokholmen. This is only in the designated areas, however, and for a maximum of two nights. There is facilities on the island of Grönön to facilitate access by disabled people who can travel out to the archipelago, for example on a large passenger ferry.

## FACTS

Established: 1973, expanded 1974, 1986 and 2008

Area: 2 544 hektar (of which 679 land, 1 865 water)

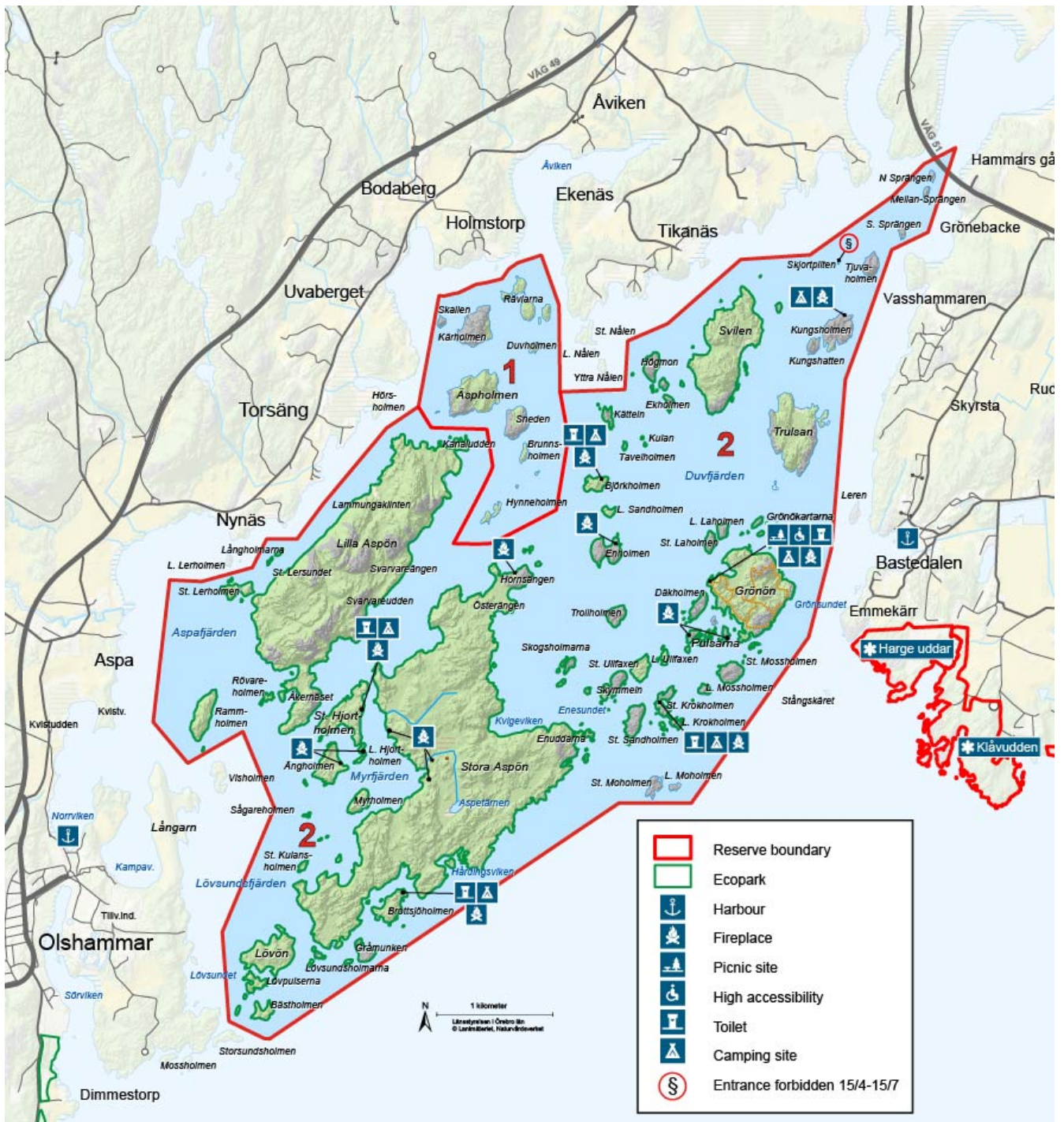
Landowner: Sveaskog AB and private ownership

Natura 2000: The nature reserve is part of the EU network

Managed by: County Administrative Board  
(Länsstyrelsen i Örebro län)



Länsstyrelsen  
Örebro län



**In the nature reserve it is forbidden to:**

*In the north part of the reserve (1):*

- Remove or damage dead trees or wooden parts

*In the south part of the reserve (2)*

- Damage the ground
- Damage living or dead trees and bushes
- Disturb animals
- Bring unleashed dogs
- Light fires except at designated place between 1/5-1/10
- Enter the island Skjortpilten during the period 15/4-15/7

- Put up a board, sign, notice or similar
- Construct a wall, plank, fence, jetty or similar
- Camp, except on the islands Kungsholmen, Björkholmen, Grönön, Stora Krokholmen, Brottsholmen and Stora Hjortholmen, but no longer than 2 nights.

For information about fish, fishing and fishing regulations, see the website of the Lake Vättern Society of Water Conservation ([www.vattern.org](http://www.vattern.org)).

**How to get there**

There are harbours for small boats in Bastedalen, Grönebacke and Olshammar and in central Askersund.