



BLÅ JUNGFRUN
MYTHICAL ISLAND
IN KALMAR SOUND





THOUGHTS FROM THE TOP

I'm on a real mythical island, I'm quite sure. From the highest point, I'm looking out over the sea. The wind ripples the water's surface and the crests of the waves glitter in the sun. The walk up here has been full of wonders to meditate upon. A walk over warm, reddish cliffs; sometimes right by the sea, at other times dizzily high above the water. Past peculiar stone formations, giant's kettles and caves, and thousands and thousands of smooth stones in endless colours and patterns. Through a magic forest; a forest with gnarled, old deciduous trees, whose distorted branches have been denied their right to stretch towards the sky by the unceasing wind.

After the last strenuous ascent, I'm finally sitting here at the top. I run my hand over some rough carvings in the rock next to me. A greeting from one of the many people who worked with stone quarrying at the beginning of the last century. A white-tailed eagle circles above my head. Blå Jungfrun is a magical place, in every way.



THE NATIONAL PARK IN BRIEF

- AREA: 198 HA
- ESTABLISHED: 1926
- NEAREST TOWN: OSKARSHAMN
- COUNTY: KALMAR
- PROVINCE: SMÅLAND
- HABITAT TYPES: SEA, CONIFEROUS FOREST, DECIDUOUS FOREST AND ROCK/BOULDER FIELD

MAGIC, RED GRANITE AND DECIDUOUS FOREST

Blå Jungfrun is an isolated island with a striking silhouette. The grey-blue granite dome rises 86 metres above sea level in Kalmar Sound. Considering its solitary location and the colour of its contours, it's not strange that Blå Jungfrun has become associated with the mythical Blåkulla where, according to folklore, witches gather during Easter. The island has been surrounded by magical beliefs about witches and witchcraft since the 15th century.

There is a diversity of plants and animals on the magic island. The lush broad-leaved forest to the south of the summit has an abundant flora and rare lichens. The forest is also home to a number of rare beetles. The island has a rich birdlife with species such as white-tailed eagle, rock pipit and black guillemot. Not only witches thrive on Blå Jungfrun!

Alongside all living things, the bedrock itself is a reason for protecting the island as a national park. Granite dominates, but there are also other rock species of scientific interest. The rounded profile and softly sculptured cliffs are the work of the inland ice. The many giant's kettles on the island were also formed during the Ice Age.

ENTRANCES AND POINTS OF INTEREST

There are three mooring areas on the island; the wind direction determines where the tour boats stop. The walking trail around the island goes past all harbours.



LERVIK

Lervik offers the best protection from south-westerly and westerly winds.



SIKHAMN

Ledges in the cliffs at Sikhamn make it easy to disembark.



NEDRE VÄSTRA STENBROTTET

Mooring area on the south-western point of the island.

CONTACT/GETTING HERE

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Telephone to guards on Blå jungfrun: +46-(0)70-215 08 61
and +46-(0)70-215 08 62

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

There is no food or drink for sale on the island. Sturdy footwear is recommended, as the terrain is rough in places. If you arrive in your own boat, make sure that you contact the national park wardens for advice on the best mooring places. The swell from the Gotland ferry can cause great problems for moored boats.

JUNGFRU-KAMMAREN

Caves on Blå Jungfrun have fascinated people at all times. Are they entrances to the trolls' abode?



GIANT'S KETTLES

It was once thought that the holes in the rock were the work of giants. Actually, they were formed by water movement.



KYRKAN

The cave "Kyrkan" is not very deep, but the ceiling height is impressive!



TROJEBORG

"Trojeborg" is one of the largest and most impressive stone labyrinths in Scandinavia. The origins of the "Troy" labyrinth are unknown, but it was here already in Linnaeus' time.



DECIDUOUS FOREST

The broad-leaved deciduous forest is surprisingly luxuriant. The many centuries old, short and gnarled trees form a fabulous arbour with low ceiling height.



STONE POLISHING

The sea creates its own art from the reddish granite and light-brown sandstone. Remember that the stones look best left where they are – you are not permitted to take stones away with you.





BROAD-LEAVED DECIDUOUS FOREST
The southern slopes on the island are clad in lush broad-leaved deciduous forest of oak, lime, maple and aspen. The largest oaks are several centuries old. More than 200 species of plants have been found in the forest.



BLACK GUILLEMOT
Black guillemots often rest on the cliffs on the southern part of the island. They belong to the auk family, the “penguins of the northern hemisphere”, and are skilled divers.

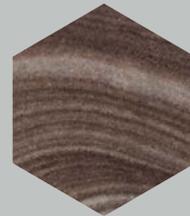


WHITE-TAILED EAGLE
Haliaeetus albicilla

GIANT AMONG BIRDS
White-tailed eagle is Sweden’s largest bird of prey. With a little luck, you may see it soaring on its broad wings.



STORA JÄTTEGRYTAN 2



SMALL WORKS OF ART
The “Sea Gallery” exhibits its works of art on the shores. The “display of stones” presents rounded shapes and an infinite variation of patterns; every piece is unique!

0 200m



SYMBOLS

- ENTRANCE
- POINT OF INTEREST
- INFORMATION AREA
- DRY PRIVY
- NATURAL HARBOUR
- OUTLOOK
- WASTEBIN
- OVERNIGHT WIND SHELTER

WALKING TRAIL

- BLÅ JUNGFRUN CIRCULAR ROUTE (approx. 3.3 km / 2,5 hours)
- CHALLENGING PART OF ROUTE

BLÅKULLA IN FOLKLORE

Blå Jungfrun has not always enjoyed a good reputation. Already in the 15th century, the island was shrouded in mystery and superstition about witches and witchcraft. Linnaeus described the island as one of the most

frightful in the world. Someone who appreciated the beauty of Blå Jungfrun was the Swedish poet and novelist Verner von Heidenstam. In 1896, he married Olga Wiberg on the cliffs at Lervik; a wedding that attracted enormous attention.



GRANITE CLIFFS

The softly rounded cliffs are the work of the inland ice and waves from the sea. The red colour comes from potassium feldspar mineral.



STONE QUARRYING

In 1904, stone quarrying started on the island, despite the isolated location and lack of permanent population. The beautiful light red granite was exported mainly to Germany. The entire island may have been ruined, but thanks to a donation from the Swedish industrialist



Torsten Kreuger the island was redeemed and protected as a national park in 1926.

CORALROOT
Cardamine bulbifera



WOODRUFF
Galium odoratum



NATURA 2000
Blå Jungfrun is part of Natura 2000, an EU-wide network of nature protection areas. The aim of the network is to stop the extinction of species and habitats.

Blå Jungfrun National Park

BUGLIFE

Old, decaying and hollow trees are a haven for beetles and other bugs. Here, different species find their own nooks. Some live in the greenery of the canopy, others in the bark, the wood or on the roots. Many insects thrive in wood mould – the sawdust-like material from borings, excrement and dead insects formed in hollow trunks.

Capricorn beetle is one of many rare beetles found on Blå Jungfrun. Its larvae live in and from dead wood, mainly oak. With luck, you may spot the splendid almost three-centimetre-long beetle sitting in a flower in June.



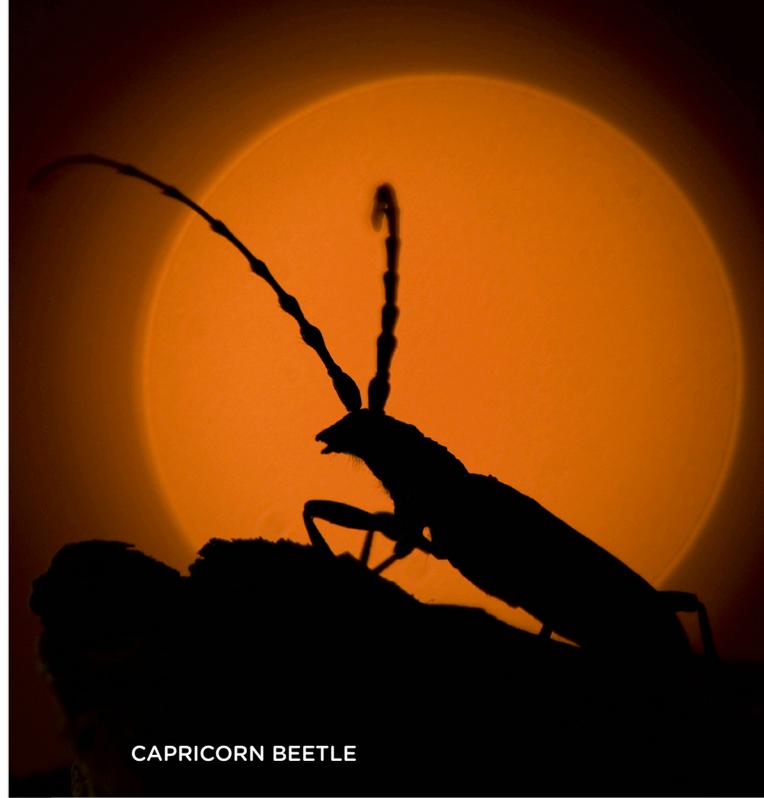
VARIABLE CHAFER
Gnorimus variabilis

COMPOSITE ORGANISM

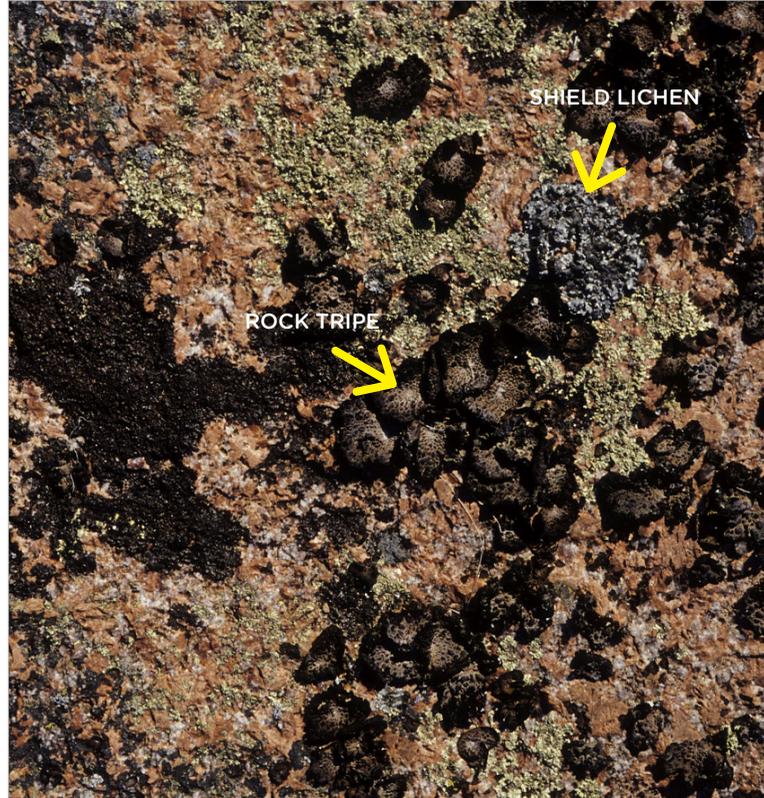
Lichen is actually a small ecosystem consisting of different organisms, usually a green alga and a fungus. The alga absorbs energy from the sun and converts it into carbohydrates, which the fungus needs to grow. In return, the alga receives protection against drought, wind and extreme cold. This collaboration makes lichens survivors, which can grow almost anywhere on the planet.

Even though the lichens on the flat cliffs on the island are exposed to the elements, they thrive and create beautiful patterns on the barren rock.

In the broad-leaved forest, on the rough bark of the deciduous trees, you find rare lichens such as *Lobaria virens*, *Degelia plumbea* and *Lobaria pulmonaria* – species which thrive in humid climates.



CAPRICORN BEETLE



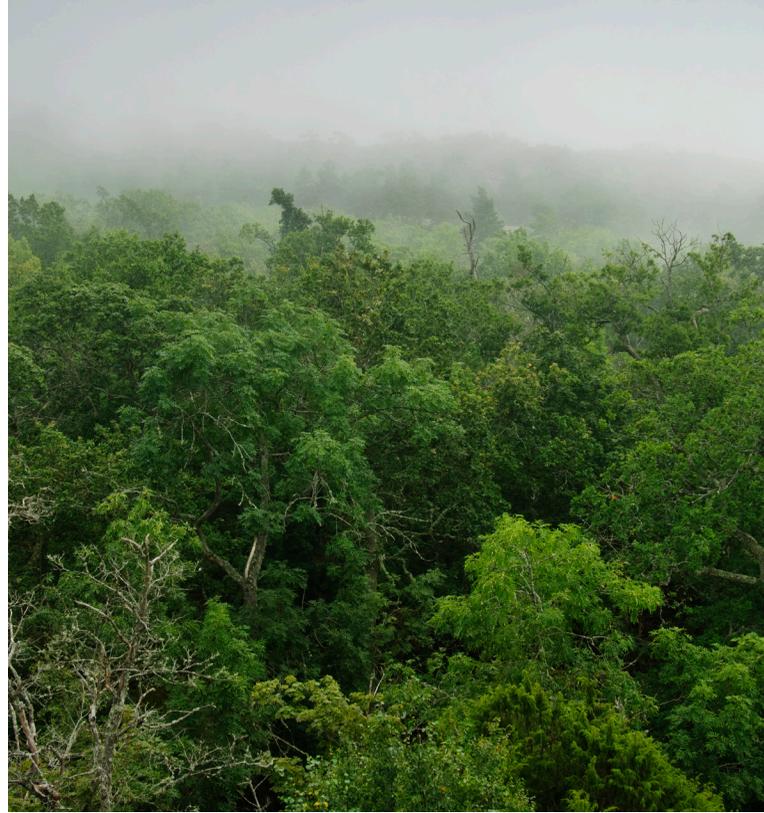
SHORE PLANTS

Valerian is a tall herb with pink and white flowers spreading its strong, sweetish scent along the shores. Perhaps due to its heavy fragrance, valerian was used in love potions. The roots were also used to protect against trolls and witchcraft, among other things.



Purple loosestrife certainly lives up to its name. The magnificent plant really lights up the shores with its crimson flowers. Both the root and leaves contain astringent substances. For this reason, the plant was used to treat stomach complaints.

Sea garden angelica is a real giant among the shore plants, and stands unmistakably tall and robust amidst boulders and stones. The generic name Angelica comes from the Latin word for angel. According to a Catholic legend, an angel revealed that the plant could be used as a remedy for the plague.



STRANDKVANNE

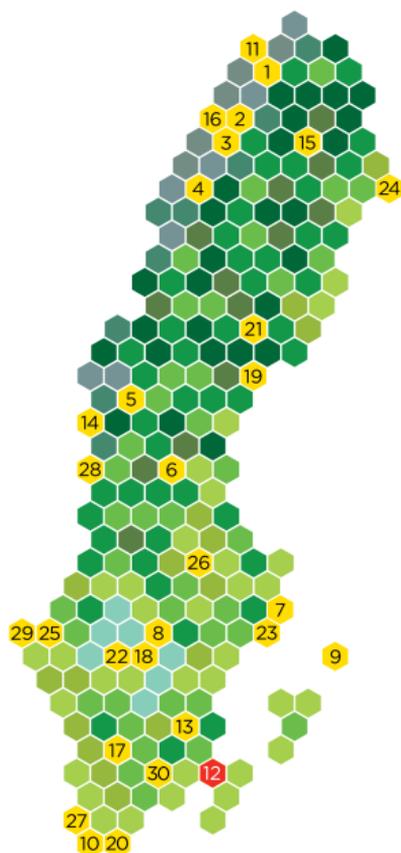
REGULATIONS

Special rules apply within the national park. The complete regulations regarding your rights to travel through and visit the national park can be found on separate signs at each entrance.

- Follow the marked trails.
- Don't damage the flat rocks or the moss and lichen cover.
- Don't remove any stones from the island.
- Leave flowers and plants untouched.
- Respect animal life. For example, do not go near bird nests.
- Dogs must be on a leash.
- Don't camp or light fires.
- Don't leave cigarette butts in the countryside, they may cause a fire.



NATIONAL PARKS OF SWEDEN



1. ABISKO - An easily accessible mountain valley with unusually rich flora.
2. STORA SJÖFALLET / STUOR MUORKKE - Impressive peaks, glaciers and ancient pine woodlands.
3. SAREK - Magnificent, demanding wilderness in a unique mountainous landscape.
4. PIELJEKAISE - Expansive, pristine woodlands of mountain birch.
5. SONFJÄLLET - A low mountain with natural woodland and plenty of bears.
6. HAMRA - A rare complex of natural woodland, wetland and watercourses.
7. ÄNGSÖ - Genuine agricultural landscape with grazing animals and haymaking.
8. GARPHYTTAN - This old agricultural landscape is a sanctuary for many songbirds.
9. GOTSKA SANDÖN - Unique, beautiful island with miles of sandy beaches.
10. DALBY SÖDERSKOG - Leafy woodland on the plains of Skåne.
11. VADVETJÄKKA - Sweden's northernmost national park is a mountain with deep caves.

12. BLÅ JUNGFRUN - An island of legends, with smooth rocks, deciduous trees and beautiful views.
13. NORRA KVILL - One of the few old growth type woodlands in southern Sweden.
14. TÖFSINGDALEN - Valley with ancient pine woodlands, rich in boulders and rushing waters.
15. MUDDUS / MUTTOS - The land of vast wetlands and old growth woodlands.
16. PADJELANTA / BADJELÄNDA - Rolling mountain heaths and big lakes, far from the nearest road.
17. STORE MOSSE - The largest wetland area in Sweden south of Lapland.
18. TIVEDEN - A wooded landscape with a sense of wilderness.
19. SKULESKOGEN - Coast with magnificent views and the world's highest isostatic lift.
20. STENSHUVUD - Coastal hills, broadleaved woodlands, inviting heathlands and beaches.
21. BJÖRNLANDET - Mountains, cliffs and woodlands with traces of old woodland fires.
22. DJURÖ - Archipelago in western Europe's biggest inland sea.
23. TYRESTA - Pristine woodland just south of Stockholm.
24. HAPARANDA SKÄRGÅRD - Archipelago with sandy beaches and shallow waters.
25. TRESTICKLAN - Roadless wilderness with expansive views from pine-covered ridges.
26. FÄRNEBOFJÄRDEN - A mosaic of broadleaved woodlands and water in Nedre Dalälven.
27. SÖDERÅSEN - Deciduous woodland, scree slopes, running water and a rich flora and fauna.
28. FULUFJÄLLET - By Sweden's highest waterfall, old growth woodland meets mountainside that is white with lichen.
29. KOSTERHAVET - Species-rich area of sea and archipelago with Sweden's only coral reef.
30. ÄSNEN - Archipelago with hundreds of islands and old beech- and pineforests.

CONTACT

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