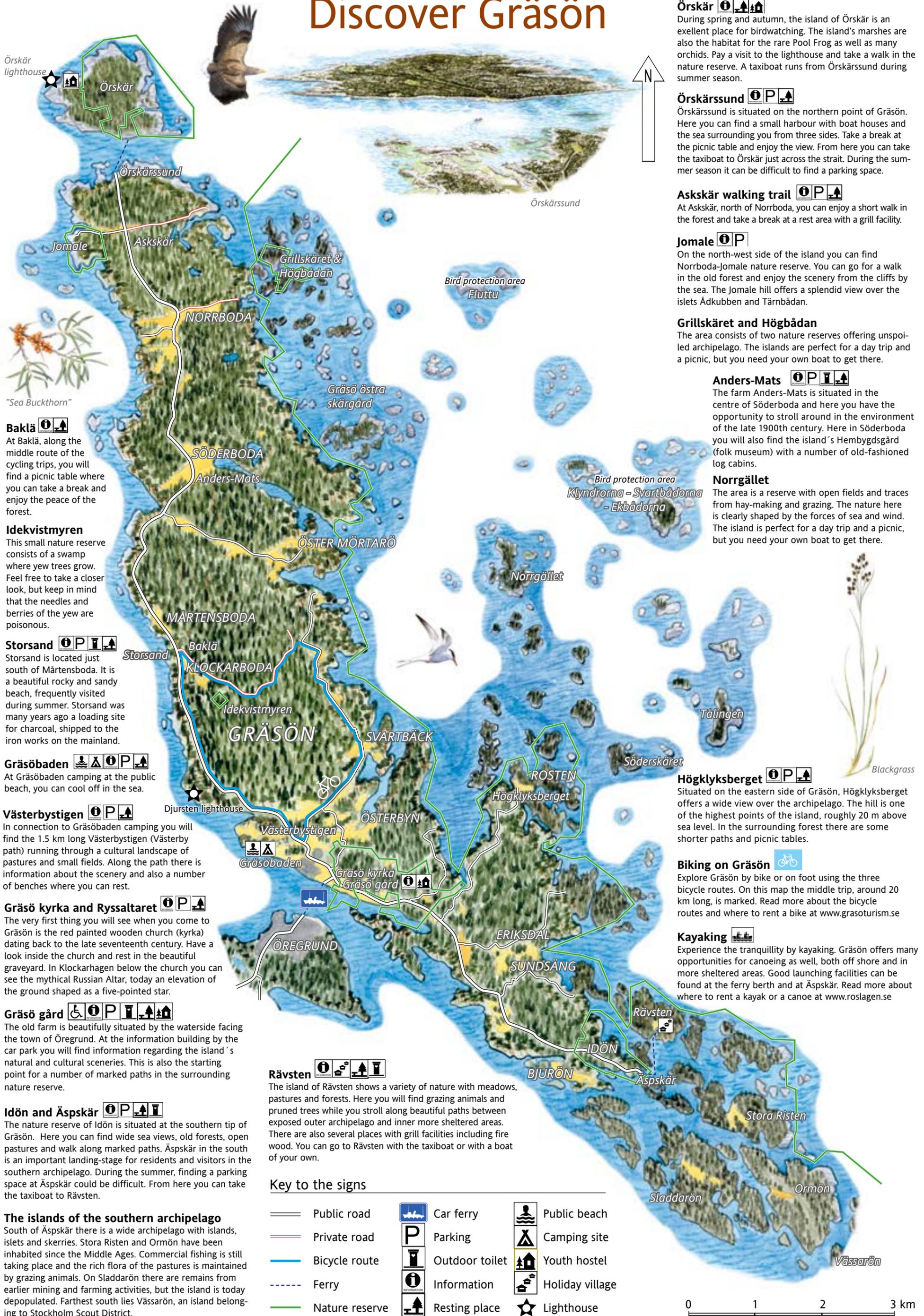


# Discover Gräsön



## Örskär

During spring and autumn, the island of Örskär is an excellent place for birdwatching. The island's marshes are also the habitat for the rare Pool Frog as well as many orchids. Pay a visit to the lighthouse and take a walk in the nature reserve. A taxiboat runs from Örskärssund during summer season.

## Örskärssund

Örskärssund is situated on the northern point of Gräsön. Here you can find a small harbour with boat houses and the sea surrounding you from three sides. Take a break at the picnic table and enjoy the view. From here you can take the taxiboat to Örskär just across the strait. During the summer season it can be difficult to find a parking space.

## Askskär walking trail

At Askskär, north of Norrboda, you can enjoy a short walk in the forest and take a break at a rest area with a grill facility.

## Jomale

On the north-west side of the island you can find Norrboda-Jomale nature reserve. You can go for a walk in the old forest and enjoy the scenery from the cliffs by the sea. The Jomale hill offers a splendid view over the islets Ådkubben and Tärnbådan.

## Grillskäret and Högbådan

The area consists of two nature reserves offering unspoiled archipelago. The islands are perfect for a day trip and a picnic, but you need your own boat to get there.

## Anders-Mats

The farm Anders-Mats is situated in the centre of Söderboda and here you have the opportunity to stroll around in the environment of the late 1900th century. Here in Söderboda you will also find the island's Hembygdsgränd (folk museum) with a number of old-fashioned log cabins.

## Norrgället

The area is a reserve with open fields and traces from hay-making and grazing. The nature here is clearly shaped by the forces of sea and wind. The island is perfect for a day trip and a picnic, but you need your own boat to get there.



Blackgrass

## Högklyksberget

Situated on the eastern side of Gräsön, Högklyksberget offers a wide view over the archipelago. The hill is one of the highest points of the island, roughly 20 m above sea level. In the surrounding forest there are some shorter paths and picnic tables.

## Biking on Gräsön

Explore Gräsön by bike or on foot using the three bicycle routes. On this map the middle trip, around 20 km long, is marked. Read more about the bicycle routes and where to rent a bike at [www.grasoturism.se](http://www.grasoturism.se)

## Kayaking

Experience the tranquility by kayaking. Gräsön offers many opportunities for canoeing as well, both off shore and in more sheltered areas. Good launching facilities can be found at the ferry berth and at Åpskär. Read more about where to rent a kayak or a canoe at [www.roslagen.se](http://www.roslagen.se)

## Baklä

At Baklä, along the middle route of the cycling trips, you will find a picnic table where you can take a break and enjoy the peace of the forest.

## Idekvistmyren

This small nature reserve consists of a swamp where yew trees grow. Feel free to take a closer look, but keep in mind that the needles and berries of the yew are poisonous.

## Storsand

Storsand is located just south of Mårtensboda. It is a beautiful rocky and sandy beach, frequently visited during summer. Storsand was many years ago a loading site for charcoal, shipped to the iron works on the mainland.

## Gräsöbaden

At Gräsöbaden camping at the public beach, you can cool off in the sea.

## Västerbystigen

In connection to Gräsöbaden camping you will find the 1.5 km long Västerbystigen (Västerby path) running through a cultural landscape of pastures and small fields. Along the path there is information about the scenery and also a number of benches where you can rest.

## Gräsö kyrka and Ryssaltaret

The very first thing you will see when you come to Gräsön is the red painted wooden church (kyrka) dating back to the late seventeenth century. Have a look inside the church and rest in the beautiful graveyard. In Klockarhagen below the church you can see the mythical Russian Altar, today an elevation of the ground shaped as a five-pointed star.

## Gräsö gård

The old farm is beautifully situated by the waterside facing the town of Öregrund. At the information building by the car park you will find information regarding the island's natural and cultural sceneries. This is also the starting point for a number of marked paths in the surrounding nature reserve.

## Idön and Åpskär

The nature reserve of Idön is situated at the southern tip of Gräsön. Here you can find wide sea views, old forests, open pastures and walk along marked paths. Åpskär in the south is an important landing-stage for residents and visitors in the southern archipelago. During the summer, finding a parking space at Åpskär could be difficult. From here you can take the taxiboat to Rävsten.

## The islands of the southern archipelago

South of Åpskär there is a wide archipelago with islands, islets and skerries. Stora Risten and Örmön have been inhabited since the Middle Ages. Commercial fishing is still taking place and the rich flora of the pastures is maintained by grazing animals. On Sladdarön there are remains from earlier mining and farming activities, but the island is today depopulated. Farthest south lies Vässarön, an island belonging to Stockholm Scout District.

## Rävsten

The island of Rävsten shows a variety of nature with meadows, pastures and forests. Here you will find grazing animals and pruned trees while you stroll along beautiful paths between exposed outer archipelago and inner more sheltered areas. There are also several places with grill facilities including fire wood. You can go to Rävsten with the taxiboat or with a boat of your own.

## Key to the signs

	Public road		Car ferry		Public beach
	Private road		Parking		Camping site
	Bicycle route		Outdoor toilet		Youth hostel
	Ferry		Information		Holiday village
	Nature reserve		Resting place		Lighthouse

0 1 2 3 km



## Find your way to Gräsön

Gräsön is situated on the northern coast of Uppland. You can take the car ferry from Öregrund over to the island. The ferry is free of charge and runs basically every half hour all year round.

## Gräsö information building

The information building is located at the hostel by Gräsö gård. Here you will find information regarding what to see and the experiences available on Gräsön, and how to get to some of the places worth visiting for their natural or cultural beauty, or both! Next to the building there is a car park, a picnic table and a toilet. The area is accessible for the disabled.

## Where to eat and where to stay

Bring your own picnic basket on your excursions around Gräsön. At all the sites of interest mentioned in this folder, there are picnic tables, benches or a spot for your picnic blanket. During the summer season it is possible to have coffee or lunch on the island. There are also a number of possibilities for accommodation available. Find updated information at [www.roslagen.se](http://www.roslagen.se) or at ICA grocery on Gräsön. The grocery store is open all year round.



Elder flowered Orchid

Gräsön is a real gem at the northern coast of Roslagen. Here you will find a beautiful landscape, a pristine archipelago, vacationers and privacy. Explore the island by foot, bike or kayak to experience more. If you are traveling by car, make sure to leave the vehicle in an appropriate place. Show consideration and you will be met by consideration!

With this folder we want to guide you as visitors to some of the places on the island worth visiting. Places where you can discover the island's unique landscape and historical monuments.

More information about Gräsön at [www.grasofonden.se](http://www.grasofonden.se)



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# Discover Gräsön

Archipelago and beautiful artefacts



Great Black-backed Gull and Herring Gull

Who or what would you like to encounter on Gräsön?

Through history the islanders have experienced many unexpected meetings in the outer archipelago; not only a large amount of shipwrecked sailors but also Russian galleys pillaging the coast of Roslagen. The islanders also encountered seal hunters from Åland and Finland coming adrift on ice floes and ending up on the eastern shores of Gräsön. Not too many decades ago you could find in Gräsön both smugglers and the customs officers hunting them.

Yet one of the strangest encounters must be the one Martin Nilis Alner writes about in his Gräsö narrative of 1780 when some islanders ran into a bear in the archipelago: "...and when you aimed at killing such a bold enemy with what you had at hand he escaped swimming to some islets in the distance, but when he returned four days later he was met by four fishermen who quickly treated him with lead and gunpowder and joyfully pulled him into their boat, assuming he was dead. But before they reached shore, he rouses, rises to his feet and roars so powerful that the men swore they feared for their lives. However, the bear did no harm, but through himself backwards and died."



The landscape a Gräsön is covered with wooded flat rocks and heights surrounding cultivated depressions. The soil on the island is highly calcareous, which, in addition to the geographical location and the small scale farming, provides good conditions for numerous plants and animals. The limy soil makes orchids thrive particularly well on Gräsön and you may find many of Sweden's almost 40 species here.

Gräs means grass in English and the name Gräsön suggests the island has been looked upon as a place where meadows and pastures yielded good quantities of forage.

Gräsön has long since been known for its old-fashioned and unique culture and old-time traditions regarding trade, manners and customs. The environment and the small-scale structure of the landscape forced man for long time to adapt to nature instead of the other way around. This makes the landscape remarkably valuable from a cultural and historical point of view: something to safeguard.

For more than 100,000 years Scandinavia was covered by an icecap as thick as 3,000 meters. The ice started to melt some 15,000 years ago and around 1,000 to 2,000 BC Gräsön, little by little, emerged from the Baltic Sea. The elevation is a continuous process, slow but still ongoing. The uplift produced larger and larger areas for possible cultivation. The first settlers on the island were probably fishermen and seal hunters, living off what nature could provide.

As the cultivable areas increased, the possibility of raising cattle as a complement to hunting and fishing also increased. The Iron Age grave field at Gräsö gård indicates that during the Viking Age, (approximately 800 to 1050 AD) a more permanent population became established. The population slowly increased and in the beginning of the 20th century it numbered more than 1,300 people.

Today some 700 people are permanent residents on Gräsön and when all the holiday visitors arrive during the summer season the population multiplies. Gräsön has a grocery shop open all the year round, hostels, a camping site, a large number of small businesses and thriving associations.

## Encounters on Gräsön



## Nature on the island of Gräsön



## Gräsön Then and Now

