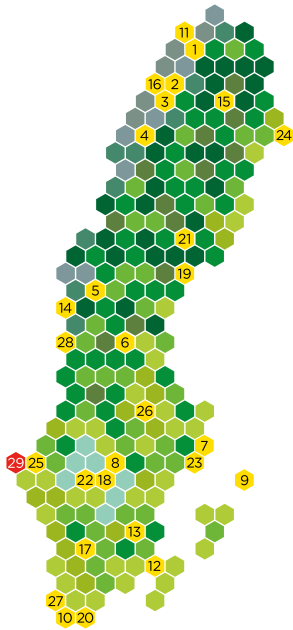




# NATIONAL PARKS OF SWEDEN



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. GÄRPHYTTAN - Old agricultural landscape that is a sanctuary for the dormouse and spotted nutcracker.
9. GOTSKA SANDÖN - Unique, beautiful island with miles of sandy beaches.
10. DALBY SÖDESKOG - 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.

**CONTACT**  
 kosterhavet.vastragotaland@lansstyrelsen.se  
 Tel: +46 (0) 10 - 224 40 00

naturvardsverket.se  
 Responsible for Sweden's national parks.



# KOSTERHAVET NATIONAL PARK

## *KELP FORESTS, SEAGRASS BEDS AND CORAL REEFS*



Produced by: Susanne Liljenström & Karin Björk. Photo: Martin Almqvist, Karin Björk. Photo: Martin Almqvist, Heidi Tuohimäki, Anders Tullrot, Anders Tullrot, Ingela Sörqvist, Anna Tuohimäki, Anders Tullrot, Anders Tullrot. Illustrators: Nils Forsblad, Håpöy FB, Waj Persson, Heris Spjaren, Pål Thomas Sundbøll. Translator: Jon Havenland. Print: Ribbring, 2013. 10 000 copies.



The sea poppy brightens up rocky beaches. It's a rare flower that thrives in Kosterhavet.



Hermit crabs don't have a hard protective shell to cover their abdomen, so they live in abandoned snail shells.



## UNDER THE SURFACE

Kosterhavet is Sweden's first marine national park. Forests of kelp and meadows of swaying seagrass wait beneath the surface. Crabs and lobsters crawl along the sea floor, and shoals of mackerel dart through the salty water. In the dark depths, stony corals, brachiopods and sea-pens hide.



## THE NATIONAL PARK - QUICK FACTS

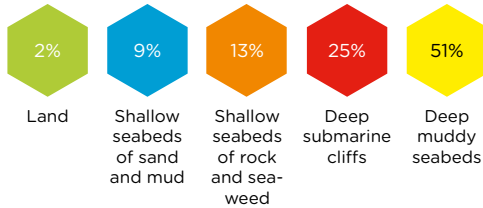
AREA: Approx. 38 900 hectares

ESTABLISHED: 2009

NEAREST TOWNS: Strömstad, Grebbestad, Tanumshede

COUNTY: Bohuslän

REGION: Västra Götaland



## SWEDEN'S MOST SPECIES-RICH SEA

With over 6000 different marine seaweeds and animals, Kosterhavet is the most species-rich marine environment in Sweden. All the species that typify the West Coast are here, plus many others that have their main, or only known distribution here.

**Many of the rare** and unique species live in the deep trench of the Koster Fjord, which runs north to south through the park, and has a maximum depth of 247 meters. The trench continues all the way out to the North Atlantic continental slope. From there, cold, salty, oceanic water flows into Koster Fjord, making it possible for many deep-sea animals to live so close to the coast.

**In addition to a large area of sea** the national park also includes parts of the island of Rossö and many small islets and skerries, particularly in the archipelago south-west of Koster. All of the island of North Koster, and most of South Koster, are outside the national park: the rich natural history of the Koster islands has been protected by a nature reserve for a long time.

## FIVE ENTRANCES

You can reach the main entrance to the national park, on South Koster, by one of the Västtrafik ferries from Strömstad. The trip takes about 45 minutes. On the way you'll travel through beautiful island scenery and cross the deep trench of the Koster Fjord. The other entrances can be reached by car or by Västtrafik bus.

**1 MAIN ENTRANCE.** The national park's main information centre - "naturum" - in Ekenäs on South Koster, offers expert help and has displays about the natural history of Kosterhavet.



**2 STRÖMSTAD.** The Strömstad Information Centre is at the North Harbour, close to the Koster ferries (Kosterbåtarna). The centre has information about boat tours, places to stay and events in Kosterhavet.



**3 SALTÖ.** Gentle forest paths lead down to the beach. Wander over the rocks and gaze out toward the open sea. There's an underwater nature trail for snorkellers at the bathing beach.



**4 ROSSÖ.** Once Rossö harbour was the hub of an extensive lobster market in Kosterhavet. In the warehouse there's information about the national park and an exhibition about lobsters and lobster fishing.



**5 RESÖ.** In the small fishing port of Resö you can get up close to the commercial fishing fleet in Kosterhavet. This is the home port for several prawn trawlers.





A porpoise! This small whale is often seen in Kosterhavet hunting for herring and mackerel.

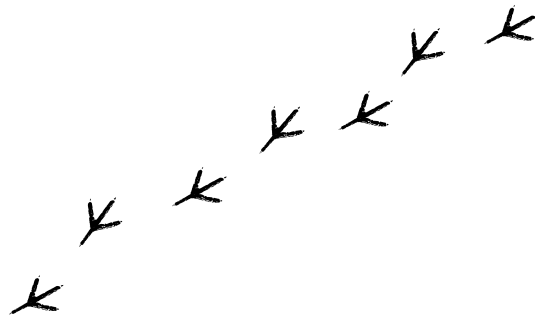


Oystercatchers feed on periwinkles at the water's edge. Their long, narrow bills help to pull the snails out of their shells.



## BOUNDLESS NATURE

**Kosterhavet's unique** underwater world extends north of the border into Ytre Hvaler national park in Norway. Ytre Hvaler has many reefs of cold-water corals, notably at Tisler – one of the largest coastal coral reefs in the Atlantic. South of Kosterhavet, the Väderö Islands marine nature reserve is also rich in marine life, and the old pilot station on Storö-Ramnö includes several important cultural artefacts.



## GNEISS AND GRANITE

**The wave-washed rocks** of Kosterhavet's islands and skerries tell the story of how different bedrocks have been formed during the region's long geological history. The Koster islands and the archipelago west of Koster Fjord, are made of ancient gneiss. Closer to the mainland, the bedrock is more likely to be the much younger "Bohus granite". Impressive boulder fields and "giants kettle" potholes are found in several places.

# ENJOY THE OUTDOORS ALL YEAR ROUND



## RULES

To avoid disturbing sensitive wildlife and to ensure the enjoyment of visitors there are special rules for the national park. A complete list can be found on the information signs around the national park.

- You may not dig up plants, collect oysters, move or remove stones.
- All dogs must be on a lead.
- You may only start a fire in designated places.
- You may not cycle or operate a motor vehicle other than on roads.
- In general camping is only allowed for a maximum of two days at the same place. Camping is not allowed on North or South Koster except at the campgrounds. From the 1st July to the 15th August, it's not permitted to camp between 10.00 am and 6.00 pm on the islands of Tenholmarna, Burholmen, Bockholmen and Store Bror.
- You may moor, or anchor, a boat in the same place for a maximum of two days in a row.
- You may not moor, anchor, or pull up a boat within 50 meters of sandy beaches. Canoes and kayaks may be pulled up onto the beach if they do not block the swimming areas.
- You are not allowed to let engines idle or use motorised generators.
- From the 15th May to the 31st August you may not drive motorised vessels faster than 5 knots in parts of the national park.
- Observe the seal and bird protection areas. Keep at least 100m away!
- In areas where the sea bed is protected, you may not anchor, or use a trawl or other equipment that may harm the seabed.

Adjacent to the national park, there are areas which are also nature reserves, including the Koster Islands. Other regulations may apply for visitors to these areas - see the information signs in each of the reserves.

**WINTER:** Beachcomb for mussel shells, skate eggs, and other flotsam cast up by the storms.



**SPRING:** Go bird-watching for oyster-catchers and listen to the "aouh" call of eider duck as they gather in the inlets and bays.



**AUTUMN:** The sea is still warm. Kayak, or just enjoy the tranquility after a busy summer.

**SUMMER:** Swim and snorkel, fish for crabs from the jetty.

## DON'T MISS THESE THINGS

Hiking trails that take you to lovely views on Koster.



A wet starfish in the "naturum" visitor centre touch-tank.



A taste of history at Ursholmen Lighthouse.



A sun-warmed strip of black diabase bedrock.



Underwater Nature Trails beneath the surface.

Contact Strömstad's Information Centre, or one of Tanum's Tourist Centres for tips on guided nature tours, kayak rentals, seal safaris, fishing trips, and boat trips. They also have information about places to stay.



### 1 LÄNGEGÄRDESHOLMEN

One of several areas in the national park that have been cleared to improve biodiversity. The six-spot burnet moth is now common here.



Mackerel swim fast in large shoals. It's one of Bohuslän's iconic species. Good fishing in summer!

Cold-water coral. Sweden's only living coral reef is in the most northerly part of the national park, at 85 m depth.



### 6 RÖRVIK BEACH

You can try one of Kosterhavets snorkel trails here. Follow the rope on the seabed to find information about plants and animals beneath the surface.



### 2 JUTHOLMEN

Don't be surprised if you meet this chap when you go ashore. Goats are some of Kosterhavets best conservationists. Their grazing improves floral diversity.



### 3 SOMMARSHAMNEN

The rock outcrops at Brevik reveal traces of dramatic geological history. Look for the big bright crystals of feldspar scattered in the granite.



### 4 URSHOLMEN LIGHTHOUSE

Kosterhavets western outpost. Follow the path from the harbour up to the lighthouses. In clear weather you can see the Väderö Islands far to the south. On the west side of the island is a large rock pool - it's wonderful to swim in!

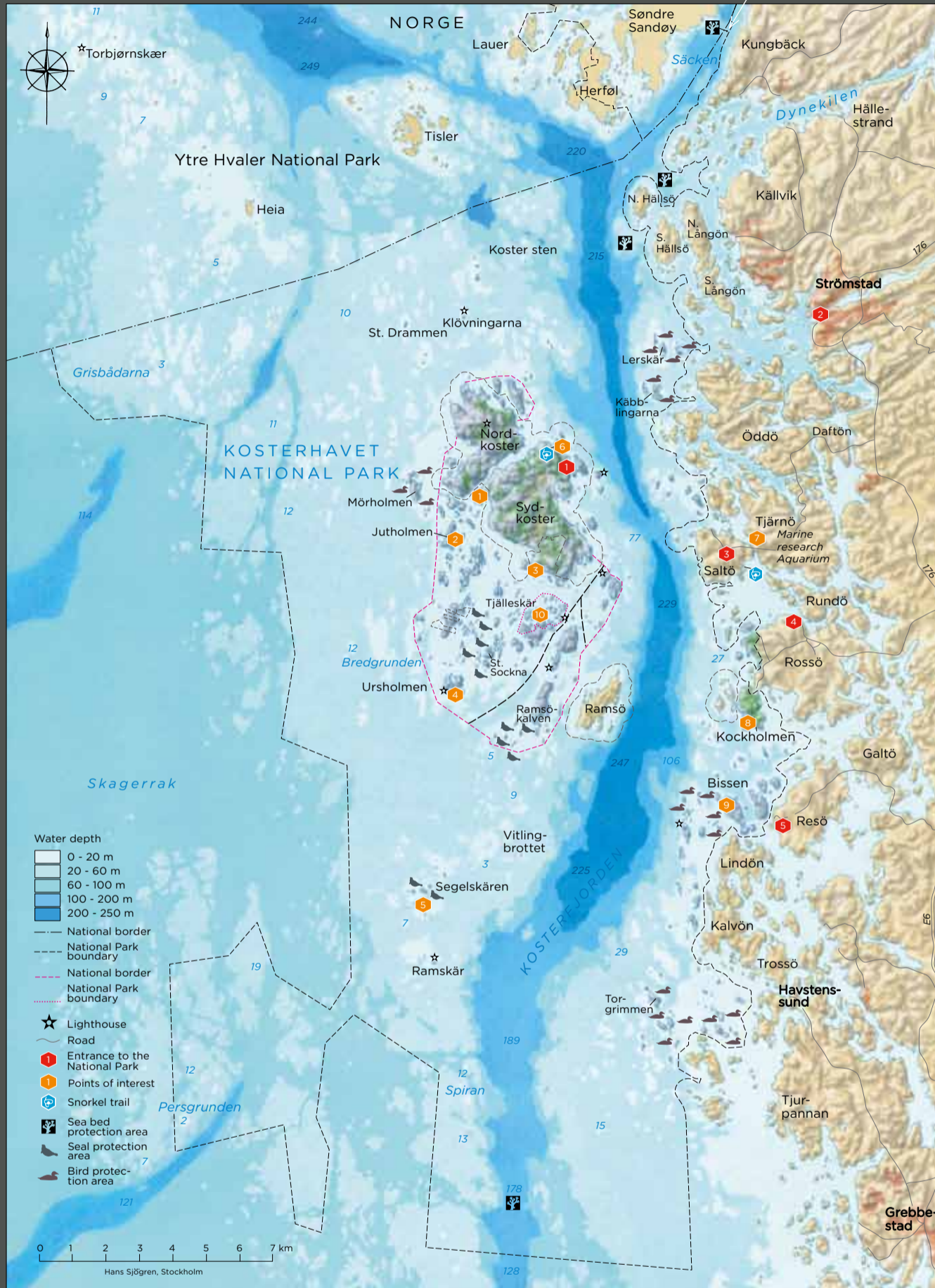


### 5 SEGELSKÄREN

Kingdom of the cormorant and the seal. Remember to keep your distance. From the 15th May to 15th June you're not allowed within 100m of the shore - the seals are giving birth and are especially vulnerable.



Along the cliffs, bright orange Caloplaca and Xanthoria lichens thrive in the rich fertilizer of bird droppings.



### 7 TJÄRNÖ AQUARIUM

Sweden's most species-rich aquarium is at the Lovén Centre Tjärnö. You can get up close to jellyfish, fish, and many of Kosterhavets other residents.



### 8 KOCKHOLMEN

Follow the path through the woods and out onto the rocks. There are excellent places for bird watching. The beaches are covered with boulders.



### 9 BISSEN

Many fishermen lived out here during the "herring periods". There are plenty of stone ruins on the island - all that remains of old stores and huts.

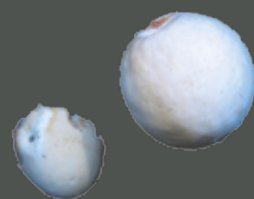


### 10 TJÄLLESKÄREN

Consideration area. Enjoy the tranquility among the seabirds and seals. Through-traffic of motorboats isn't allowed. There's a small natural harbour.



Large sea pens and football sponges live in the deep trench of Koster Fjord. These two unusual species are found nowhere else on the Swedish coast.



Early purple orchids grow in open meadows and pastures. Remember all orchids are protected - enjoy them where they are!



### CONTACT / HOW TO GET HERE

www.kosterhavet.se  
County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland  
tel +46 (0) 10 224 40 00

Kosterhavet national park is located in northern Bohuslän and can be reached from a number of coastal towns. Take the "Bohusbanan" train, or follow the E6 north toward the Norwegian border. Ferries to the Koster islands (with "Västtrafik") leave Strömstad year-round, passing through the national park. The islands of Resö, Rossö and Saltö all offer excellent views out over Kosterhavet - you can find more information here too.