

# All of us can be sailing in the north of – It is not so hard

When we bought our house in the north part of the Virgin coast we were sailing between Stockholm and Stocka every summer. Than we noticed there were things that were different from other parts along the coast.

We have been sailing almost the whole coast of Sweden, even Göta kanal, and some harbors in Danmark. In some harbors the yachts are remarkable big. When we married we bought an OE 36, built in 1984. It's 1.80 draught. In some harbors this boat, 11m (36foot), has felt like a dinghy among all big yacht. And how crowded it is in some of the harbors than all boats are so big!

When we began to sail north of Öregrund we experienced the opposite. The yachts are smaller and not so many and there is plenty of space in the harbors. Along the Virgin coast you don't need to book a place for your boat or come to the harbor before 11 PM. To get a place for the night. Instead you have the opportunity to have nice and wonderful daytrips as long as you want and manage. And even nightsailings in the beautiful, lovely and bright summernights.

To control longitude and latitude we had nautical charts, compass and a simple handhaded GPS. As we only are two persons on board the autopilot is an extra crew. But obvious we booth are good in navigation, handle the sails, drive the engine and mooring. To find all nice harbors and to have inspiration in our choise of routs we bought books describing the routs and harbors of the Virgin coast. We also are members of Svenska Kryssarklubben, SXX, so we can have the chans to be at their buoys, they are strategical placed.

Now we have the luxury not to visit all places at the same trip. Now we can sail any time. But for you who don't sail ( it's called sailing even with engineboats) along the coast we want to describe some of our nicest memories and tell you about beautiful creeks.

The first time we were sailing up to the north we were told that the sea outside Gävle was terrible bumpy and rouge. And yes, it can be, like in other part of the baltic sea. It can be rouge if it's blowing hard or if it's old high sea. But it will be fine! We will manage it!

When you left the Archipelago of Stockholm you can have the experience that there is a longer distance between the harbors and the islands. But if you make up plans, there are nice islands in quite good distance. Nature harbors along the Virgin coast often are arranged with bridges and buoys and even places there you can grill your food. Often it is not cliffs without arrange-



*Nice coffee break. Foto: Mats Widoff*

ments for mooring like in the south Archipelago.

There are a lot of guestharbors and if you think they are too far or if you have to mooring earlier than you have planed there are SXX:s buoys in good creeks.

Some times we have been added at the bridge in the harbor of Eggegrund. But later than 2008 we couldn't because of the land elevation. But the weather was calm and we drooped two anchors, one in the stem and one in the stern and than we went to bed. In the early morning we noticed that the wind had turned and the ancor had released. But no danger, we did it and had breakfast in the sunrice! In an later occasion we were mooring at SXX:s buoy, south of Eggegrund, and we were joined by a seaeagle. Eggegrund is an island outsider Gävle.



Another nice memory is our sailing trip to Prästgrund. It's a little pearl with a very narrow entrance channel. The draught of the boat can't be more than 1,70m depending on the sea level. It had been mist that day and we were rounding that little island and went along the land of the west side. There are grounds on the starboard side and the wather fired and we knew that we must go with high speed not to drift down the ground. Suddenly we saw the narrow opening and inside the logoon it was calm. There were nice boathouses and a big field of shingle. In Prästgrundet you are mooring at the little pier in the guest harbor. And although we came after dinner there were a mooring for us. And, well, we had two small runagrounds, one on the way in to the lagoon and one on the way out. We sailed to close to land! Prästgrund is outside Söderhamn

We have met so many nice people during our sailingtrips. When we arrived at the little guestharbor in Kråknäs we got very nice contact with a couple who had one of the nice houses in the bay. They recomended us to go for an expeditionen on the island and to go to the little museum ( is it the smallest in Sweden?) and to the little library, that even is used as a cafe when something happens. And ofcourse the mangle cottage, We visited their house and they had caffee in our boat. So wonderful people there are! Kråkskär is outside Hudiksvall.

A fun memory is when we were enter the harbor of Kusökalv.

We had heard that one of the ports was too basis for sailingboats, but there are other ports on the island. We took help of the book " Norrlandskusten " and sailed in to the port using singel lines. In the book there is a gig on the right side and the bridge you can add to is located straight ahead. Of course the gig was in the same place! We had to show the owner that they were in a picture in the book. Kusökalv is just south of Söderhamn. From there is a line, route, inside the belt of islands to Skärså, we will try it next time.

Once we had to find a shipstore. We were outside of Söderhamn and we were looking for information about the depths of the inlet and the harbor. The information was about 1,60m! But we had no choise! We must try. And it turned out to be over 3m all the way and 2,5m in the center of the harbor. We knew that there would be a storm so we would be as safe as possible. The storm was terrible. We lay same boats next to each other moored with bouys. The rain increased and the water well was turned into funtains. The foresail of the neighbors boat blew, they had no cover. And all the boats bowed in the harbor at every gust. But we were safe! And we got what we needed.

Gran is one of the most notherly island along the Virgin coast and well worth a visit. In the north of the island there is a seal-colony and there are watchingwalks to go there. The wole harbor is made up of bridges, most people only go there during the day.



Kråkskär guest harbour. Foto: Mats Widoff



*Kusökalv. Foto: Mats Widoff*

Gran is best suited for boats not deeper than 1,70m. On the island there is also a cabin for rent and a lighthouse. Gran is outside Sörfjärden.

Stocka is our homeharbor, an old sawmill where timber and logs were transported when it took place. Big cargoships were outside the harbor and was waiting for loading and unloading and the pilot was in place. In the entrance to the harbor is nowadays the pilot museum where you can follow how life looked like before the master and his staff.

Today life is much easier and if you want it's super easy, you can eat at the restaurant. You can buy more food and sweets in the shop or buy boat petrol. Here it's plenty of space and good depths, squadron and big groups can fit.

Welcome to the Virgin coast! We are coming with more memories next year!



*Rönnskär fishing village, Stocka. Foto: Mats Widoff*