



The Weather Islands



The Koster Islands

# The Koster Islands and Väderöarna (Weather Islands)

## The Weather Islands:

The Weather Islands, or to give them their correct spelling, Väderöarna, boasts some of the most unspoiled landscapes in Sweden and are the westernmost point of the country. Accessed by boat from Fjällbacka, these picturesque islands (365 in total) have only one island where development is evident, the island of Ramna, and are rugged, barren, and truly beautiful.

Although small in size, Ramna warrants a day excursion. Visitors can climb to the top of the pilot's look out point for a great view across the island and the surrounding archipelago; scramble across the rocky landscape and admire the reflections of the red wooden houses in the crystal clear water; take a boat trip to one of the seal colonies; don a pair binoculars and search for some of the 44 species of birds spotted locally; or watch the dramatic every-changing weather conditions from the comfort of the warm café at Väderöarnas Vardshus.

The islands are a hot spot for Sweden's sailing fraternity in the summer months and you will often find them enjoying the rays of the sun on the rocks. Follow in their footsteps... Find your own corner of the island to have a picnic and relax and absorb the scene. During the evening, enjoy dinner and drinks on the water front terrace.



Crayfish



Seal colony



Sea Hut

## The Koster Islands:

Comprising of two inhabited islands, South Koster and North Koster, and a scattering of smooth bedrock islets and skerries, the Koster archipelago is a wonderful day excursion for any visitor to the West Coast of Sweden. Unspoiled natural scenery, bathing opportunities and a lively summer scene of waterfront restaurants await those taking the 45-minute ferry from Strömstad.

Inaugurated in 2009, as Sweden's first Marine National Park, the Koster Islands are virtually car-free and as such are a haven for cyclists and walkers.

The largest island, South Koster measuring 8km<sup>2</sup>, has a gentle terrain of lush green countryside, waterfalls and woodland crossed by winding roads and paths. Hire a bicycle from the harbour in Ekenas and explore the beach at Kilesand, the communities of Langagarde and Breviks and enjoying wonderful panoramas over the surrounding skerries and islets en route. A favourite viewpoint of the Sunvil team is from Valfjäll.

The tranquil North Koster Island is wilder in its appearance than the neighbouring South Island. Its dramatic landscape of heather-clad moors and woods are best explored on foot from the harbour at Vastra Bryggan – from here a small boat connects the North and South Island, and also links North Koster to the mainland. A highlight of this 4km<sup>2</sup> island are the ancient lighthouses that have laid dormant for over 100 years but have now been restored and are back in operation.



Butterfly, Koster Islands