

Pre –conference tour to the Kvarken Archipelago World Heritage site

Departure at 12.00 from hotels Radisson Blu, Astor and Vaakuna, by bus.

During this tour you can get acquainted with Vaasa and surroundings, but above all with the Kvarken Archipelago World Heritage site. It is a natural heritage, approved on geological grounds. You will experience the landscape and spectacular moraine formations created by several ice ages (glaciations) and the results of the isostatic land uplift, which has been going on for thousands of years and is still continuing. Because of the resulting constant change in landscape and nature, man and society also have to adapt and change all the time.

During the bus drive guides present the region of Vaasa and its geology. We will make a short photo stop at the longest bridge in Finland, the Replot Bridge, with a spectacular view.

Arrival in Svedjehamn is at 13.15. The group is divided into smaller groups, if necessary. One group goes by boat along the “slalom route” between rising moraine ridges to the Långgrundet camp fire, where there is a coffee break with local specialties. After that follows a guided walk (2,5 km) back to Svedjehamn through a representative part of the geological natural heritage site. In the end there will be a stop at the observation tower Saltkaret, where you can enjoy the scenery. The other group will do this the other way round. The buss will be back at the hotel by 17.15.



The “slalom” boat route between and through De Geer –moraines off Svedjehamn.
Photo: Seppo Lammi.

The observation tower Saltkaret

The impressive, tar-coloured Saltkaret rises 20 meters above the Kvarken Archipelago World Heritage site. The tower, located close to the fishing harbour Svedjehamn, offers a beautiful view over the De Geer-moraines. This unique moraine archipelago affirms the enormous power of the last ice age and the ongoing land uplift in the Kvarken Archipelago.



Saltkaret. Photo: Teuvo Herranen



Bodback, the old harbour. Photo: Tuija Waren

The visible area from the tower is a perfect example of the De Geer -areas in Finland. The tower also pleases many bird-watchers, as many of the typical bird species of the island can be spotted in the area, such as black coots, terns and sea eagles.



Svedjehamn, the present harbour. Photo: Teuvo Herranen.

De Geer -moraines

The De Geer -moraines occurs in clusters in lowland areas. They are also called washboard moraines, and are till ridges up to 5 m high, 10-50 m wide, and in some cases 1000 m or more in length. The moraines occur in large groups at 40-300 m intervals, mostly in low-lying landscape areas. The Kvarken Archipelago has the highest number of De Geer -moraines and they occur in compact clusters. In the northern and eastern parts of the area, the moraines seem to be related to, or deposited on the top of, drumlins and other moraine formations.



Guiding on and in front of the boulders of a De Geer -moraine ridge. Photo: Peter Edén.

According to the current moraine genesis theory, the moraine ridges were formed beneath the melting and retreating ice close to the ice margin. In the Kvarken Archipelago, the water depth during deglaciation was 250-280 m. Huge icebergs were released from the ice front and the De Geer -moraines reflect the probable position of the retreating ice margin.

Learn more about the Kvarken World heritage site:
<http://www.kvarkenworldheritage.fi/visit-kvarken/>



White-tailed eagle and fishing crane in Kvarken. Photo: Ari Valkola.