

## SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SITES ON HALLANDS VÄDERÖ in alphabetical order

English translation: Gertrud Rees

Torekov parish owns Hallands Väderö since medieval times. The island is situated off the West coast of Sweden between Halmstad and Helsingborg, and close to the seaside resort and old fishing village of Torekov. From here the journey to Hallands Väderö takes 20 minutes by boat.

The island is just 3,1 square kilometres in area, yet on this small island there is a great variety of wild life, rare plants, bird colonies and seals. There are beech and oak forests, as well as open grassland where sheep and cattle graze. Visitors to the island can bathe in the clear waters of the many sandy coves.

The island, including the surrounding skerries and waters, form a nature reserve. It is therefore forbidden to pick plants, disturb birds and animals, camp and light fires. Do not enter the bird sanctuaries between April 1 and July 15. Please check the areas "Fågelskydd" and "Fågelhänsyn" marked in red on the map and information boards on the island.

The illustration at the top of this page is the silhouette of Vinga Skär and Hallands Väderö seen from Torekov.

### HALLANDS VÄDERÖ

"Halland" is the county north of the island. "Väder" means "weather" and "ö" means "island". The word "väder" could also derive from words meaning "watch", "beacon" or "fishing area".

It is possible that in the old days during unsettled times people kept watch here and lit fires when they saw enemy ships, thus warning people on the mainland and in Halland County.

People have also fished and traded herring here since ancient times.

**EGERSTRÖMDAMMEN** (near **Lilla Sandhamns-hallarna**) is a pond that rarely dries out. West of the pond are two Bronze Age stone piles.

**FYRPLATSEN** (The Lighthouse). The lighthouse and four dwellings for lighthouse keepers were built in 1884 at **Bagganäsan** on the extreme North-West of the island. Lighthouse keepers and their families lived there until 1965, when the lighthouse was fully automated. An automatic weather station was placed there later. Torekov parish now runs the lighthouse dwellings. Apartments can be rented during the summer.

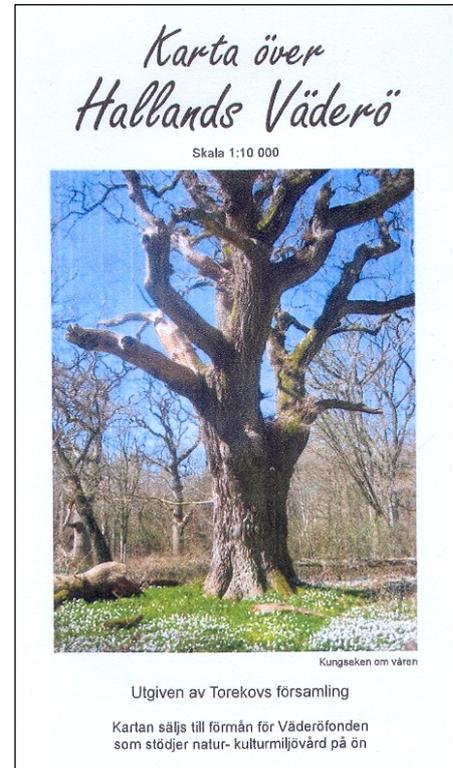
**GALGBERGET** (Gallows Ridge) at the narrow "waist" of the island, runs between Oa-dammen, "Oa-pond", and Oa-kärret, "Oa-marsh", in the North to Ulagapskärret, "Ulagap-marsh", in the South with steep cliffs nearby.

**HAGEN** is where centuries old dry-stone walls forming a "V" are found. These were used when rounding up sheep.

**HANNELUND** (Hanne's Glade) is in Nörreskog (the Northern Forest). Hanne was a teacher at the lighthouse school in the 19th century. Tradition says she used to meet her fiancé in the glade. The school was closed in 1923.

**HÄLLEDAMMEN** (Hälle Pond) is usually filled with water in the spring, but often dries out during the summer. Together with the surrounding leafy, deciduous forest of ancient oak, beech, lime, birch, alder trees etc, it is a genuine idyll within the Southern Forest. In the summer it glows with golden yellow loosestrife and purple loosestrife.

**INNÄSET** is the most southern point of the main island. It is 3 km from there to **Stora Tånge** in the far North. Traces still remain here from the quarrying that took place in various parts of the island from the mid 19th century until 1917. Macadam was shipped overseas. In 1925 the house called **Hied** replaced a barracks for quarrymen. To the West there are a couple of cairns, probably aids to navigation. There is a tremendous view in all directions.



On the home page ([www.hallandsvadero.se](http://www.hallandsvadero.se)) you will find pictures and additional cartographic material that you can use together with the list of names.

The Swedish map illustrated here can be bought at the ferry and the island café and used together with this guide.

**KAPPELHAMN** (Chapel Harbour). During the 18th century this was an important anchorage for vessels, since the water is comparatively deep. There is shelter from northerly and westerly winds and the harbour in Torekov was too small at that time. The name could derive from the fact that fees for anchoring at Hallands Väderö were paid to the church.

**KOHALLEN** (Cattle Cliff) is the most easterly promontory, and the view is beautiful. It is a nesting ground for eider ducks in particular. In times gone by cattle were probably landed here, since it is the closest point to the mainland. In the summer it is particularly popular among visitors to the island with boats of their own.

**KUNGSEKEN** (The King's Oak) deserves its name twice over. Not only would King Oscar II often wait by the oak while hunting hares on the island, but this impressive sessile oak may also be the largest in Sweden.

**KYRKOGRÅRDEN** (The Cemetery) is the last resting place of dead sailors washed ashore and possibly also a plague cemetery. There is a wooden cross, and church services are sometimes held here.

**LOTSSTUGAN** (The Pilot's Cottage) is the oldest house on the island and was built in 1844. It was initially for the use of pilots. During the early 20th century quarrymen and fishermen lived there, and it was subsequently used by summer guests. The house has now been renovated and is a museum.

**NÖRRE SKOG** (The Northern Forest). 200 years ago this was a continuous area of forest but was divided up by felling. The central part of the forest is called **Ravnahult** after the Danish name for raven, but is now grassland. To the South solitary 300 year-old beech trees and even older oak trees are remnants of the forest's former glories. To the left of the path towards the lighthouse, after the old nursery (**Fd plantskola**), "the recumbent lime-tree" can be seen.

**OADAMMEN** (The Oa-pond) is at the narrowest point of the island where it is only 600 metres wide. It is one of the island's most beautiful marshy areas and is usually water logged in the spring. There is a wealth of bird life and interesting flora. The yellow iris is particularly striking in the spring. Small salamanders breed in the pond in the late spring. Flint tools from the Stone Age have been found to the East of the pond.

**SANDHAMN** (Sand Harbour) is where boats from Torekov land tourists on the island. There are information boards, a summer café, toilets and drinking water. When strong northerly or easterly winds are blowing, the jetty in **Kappelhamn** is used instead. Both **Sandhamn** and **Lilla Sandhamn** are excellent places to bathe. There are sandy beaches, rocks and crystal-clear water. Harbour seals are often found on the skerries in Sandhamn bay during the winter.

**SKOGVAKTARGÅRDEN** (the forest warden's residence) was built in the 1860's, when the first forest ranger was stationed on the island. The last resident left in 1959. It was then rented out by the church in Torekov. In the future it will be used by the church for such purposes as confirmation courses and retreats.

**SKÄPPESKÄREN**. These skerries are north of **Kohallen** on the east side of the island. A narrow and shallow straight separates the largest skerry from the main island. There is dense and variegated vegetation where there is sufficient soil. Various sea birds nest there, including the razorbill. It is therefore a bird sanctuary and access is prohibited between April 1 and July 15.

**SLÄPPEKISTAN** and **HENRIKS FLASKA** (Henrik's bottle). There is an old story that Henrik was fishing here one day. His lunch consisted of a herring, which he ate with one hand, and a bottle of aquavit, which he held in the other. When he had finished the herring, he accidentally threw the bottle instead of the herring-bone in the water. The people of Torekov mourned along with him and named the narrow straight **Henriks flaska**

**STORA GRÖNING** is between the Northern Forest and the Southern Forest. It is the largest continuous area of grassland on the island, but has been reduced in area by encroaching juniper bushes and other shrubs. By removing them and allowing animals to graze there, the grassland is being reclaimed.

**SÖNDRE SKOG** (The Southern Forest) is the largest continuous area of forest on the island. From 1860 to 1880 a stone wall was built around the forest, and no animals have grazed there since then. In the beautiful beech forest, where the trees resemble colonnades, all the trees are three centuries old. During the great Nordic wars farmers did not dare to let animals graze on the island, and the trees were able to grow undisturbed.

**ULAGAPET** (The Wolf's Jaw) is a narrow bay in the southwest of the island. It cuts into the island at Ulagapskärret (Wolf's Jaw Marsh), thus giving its name to the area. Seaweed collects and then rots deep in the bay. The area is part of the seal sanctuary.

**ULAGAPSKÄRRET** (The Wolf's Jaw Marsh). The alders growing here make this one of the most interesting marshes on the island. Especially in the spring it resembles primeval forest in a fascinating way. The marsh comprises on outer

and an inner section of a curved embankment about five metres above sea level. The path through the marsh goes along the embankment and a broad boardwalk.

**VINGA SKÄR** (Vinga Skerry) is the largest of the skerries around the island. On the southwest promontory there is a small lighthouse. The flora is particularly variegated and interesting. Auk, razorbill and foolish guillemot nest on the skerry, which is a bird sanctuary. There is no access between April 1 and July 15.

**VRENEN.** **Stora Vrenen** and **Lilla Vrenen** lie 500 m East of **Kohallen**. The area is a bird sanctuary. From the boat from Torekov to Sandhamn, Vrenen is the firsts of the island's skerries to be seen. An old navigation marker indicates that the north-south navigable channel lies to the east of the skerry. The marker is maintained by the Torekov Maritime Museum.

**Welcome to Hallands Väderö!**

**Svenska kyrkan**   
TOREKOV'S FÖRSAMLING