



# UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Lake Vänern Archipelago and mount Kinnekulle



## Lake Vänern Archipelago and mount Kinnekulle

Our Biosphere Reserve covers Mariestad, Götene and Lidköping, along the glistening southeastern coast of Lake Vänern. Here, you can experience Kinnekulle, its orchids and the mile-wide view of Sweden's historical birthplace. By hiking or cycling along the Biosphere Trail, you can get a closer look at the mountain plateaus that have been formed over millions of years. The cultural heritage here is rich and there are many natural experiences that are important to preserve. People, organisations and companies are also involved in creating a more ecologically, socially and economically sustainable future. Do visit the "Big Five" of the Biosphere Reserve where you will get to experience an amazing cultural heritage, people working hard to create a sustainable future as well as a breathtakingly beautiful natural environment: Läckö Castle, Spiken, Kinnekulle and Hellekis, the Qvarnstensgruvan Mine and Norrqvarn by the Göta Canal.



## UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in Sweden and Around the World

There are approximately 680 Biosphere Reserves around the world, five of them in Sweden (2018). In order to be designated a Biosphere Reserve, an area must have a unique environment, a rich cultural heritage and high levels of biodiversity. The Biosphere Reserves are intended as model communities for sustainable development. Activities at the Biosphere Reserves include everything from research, education and preservation, to various efforts for ecological, social and economic sustainability. Work in the model community is carried out by local stakeholders in collaboration and may consist of innovation, infrastructure, working methods and much more.



## Agenda 2030 and the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals

Our planet is in a dire position, not least because of climate change. World leaders have agreed upon 17 Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, to help us create a better world, together. With small means and little formal power the Swedish biosphere reserves have achieved a range of results by connecting local initiatives to national and international strategies, by connecting people and nature, and by stimulating new knowledge development as well as education for sustainable development. The biosphere reserves, thorough experience of integrated work with sustainable development in practice in a Swedish context, make them strategic regions to learn from, support and invest in when implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in Sweden.



[www.vanerkulle.org](http://www.vanerkulle.org)

