



## The Bothnian Bay Coastal Inter-Municipal Cooperation



## The Bothnian Bay 2021-2030

- municipal cooperation for those who live, visit and work at the coast and in the archipelago

The coast and archipelago of the Bothnian Bay form the northernmost part of the Baltic Sea. In Sweden it includes the municipalities from Haparanda in the north to Skellefteå in the south and it is the world's northernmost brackish water archipelago. The coastline is almost 180 km long and with its over 4,000 islands, the coast and archipelago of the Bothnian Bay is a unique part of the country. In the summer, the midnight sun shines and when it gets darker, the northern lights light up the sky with crackling spectacle. In the summers the islands are reached by boat and kayak and in the winter by ski, skates, snowmobile, car, bicycle.... the options are many.



### Aiming towards 2030

The **Bothnian Bay coastal inter-municipal cooperation** (*Bottenvikens skärgård kommunsamverkan*) is a collaboration between Haparanda, Kalix, Luleå, Piteå and Skellefteå municipalities. The cooperation began in 2006 and is based on a common strategy and an inter-municipal agreement.

The work carried out by a strategic coordinator together with a working group and is financed jointly by the municipalities, whose funding are used by applying for external project funds. Since 2019, Luleå municipality is the principal for the collaboration.

The current strategy was launched in 2021 and aims at the period up to 2030. The strategy was developed by the municipalities in dialogue with the regions, the county administrative boards, Swedish Lapland and the local destination companies.



The aim is to, through joint municipal resources, develop a cohesive coast and archipelago that provides opportunities for well-being, a rich outdoor life and unique experiences for both residents in the municipalities and visitors. The aim is also to create good conditions for an innovative tourist industry and promote a development towards achieving set global goals.

### Together we can go further

Fundamental to the work is a common view of the coast and archipelago as an important resource for the municipalities' development and attractiveness and that you can achieve more if you cooperate. The basis is a development that is characterized by ecological, social and economic sustainability.

The efforts made so far have given more people the opportunity to enjoy the coast and archipelago. The municipalities are investing in infrastructure to increase accessibility and provide homogeneity. The cooperation has its own design for the fireplaces and saunas installed throughout the area. Similarly designed information signs tell about the specific places in the coast and archipelago. Accessibility of places of interest for those who are disabled is a priority.

Overall the cooperation has been a positive experience for the municipalities involved. Much has been done and the ambition to create more resources for projects has been successful. For example, a large infrastructure project comprising SEK 65 million has been carried out, which included the construction of rental cottages and dredging of critical passages for small boat traffic. The municipalities' efforts in the coast and archipelago receive many positive comments and long-distance sailors have stated that the area is perceived as cohesive and well thought out.

Working together creates many benefits such as the exchange of good ideas, coordination gains and synergy effects. Having an ongoing dialogue with actors in the area provides valuable input to the progress.

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