

Mariehamn

Åland · Finland

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Mariehamn is the only town on the Åland Islands, a self-governing group of islands between Sweden and mainland Finland. The town was founded in 1861 and sits on a narrow peninsula between two harbours. It is small, green and easy to walk. People call it the town of a thousand linden trees.

Åland is Swedish-speaking. Swedish is the only official language, and most people in Mariehamn speak it as their first language. English is widely understood. The islands use the euro but have their own flag and stamps. The town suits a short trip built around sailing-ship history, the sea and easy cycling.

When to visit

Summer is the main season. Days are long, swimming is possible, and the museum ship and island attractions are open. Late spring and early autumn are quiet and still pleasant for walks and cycling. Winter is dark and cold, and some sights close.

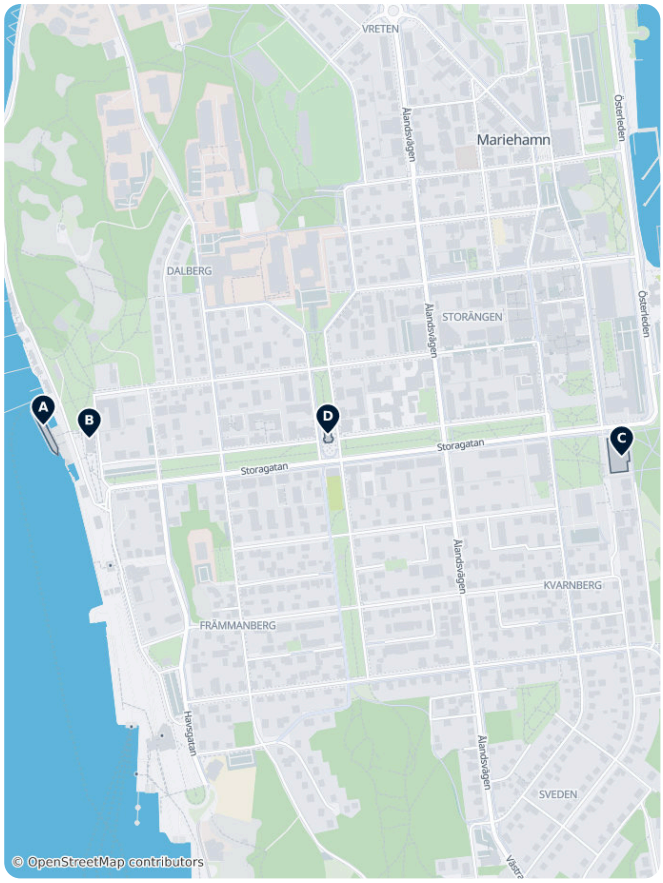
The biggest event of the year is Midsummer in June. Nearly every village on Åland raises and decorates a midsummer pole, and visitors can join in.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 5° Feels like -7°	-2° / -8°	13 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	0° / 5° Feels like -7°	-3° / -11°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 6° Feels like -5°	-2° / -8°	Dry air
April	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 9° Feels like -1°	2° / -2°	Dry air
May	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 14° Feels like 5°	6° / 2°	Dry air
June	Great Great for cycling	15° / 19° Feels like 11°	11° / 8°	Dry air
July	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 23°	15° / 12°	
August	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 22°	16° / 12°	12 rainy days
September	Good Good for cycling	15° / 18° Feels like 10°	12° / 8°	Dry air
October	Poor Poor for cycling	9° / 13° Feels like 3°	7° / 3°	14 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 10° Feels like -1°	3° / -2°	15 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 7° Feels like -5°	0° / -5°	16 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: July

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Pommern is a four-masted barque built in 1903. She is the symbol of Mariehamn and is moored in the Western Harbour. She is open from May to September and closed from October to April.
- The B Åland Maritime Museum stands next to the ship. It tells the story of Åland's merchant sailing fleet with ship models, figureheads and sailors' souvenirs. It is open all year, with shorter winter hours.
- C Ålands museum is one building with two museums: cultural history and local art. It is a good rainy-day stop near the town centre.
- D S:t Görans kyrka is the main parish church. *Lars Sonck* designed it, and it opened in 1927. Look for the glass mosaic altarpiece and the painted ceiling.
- Esplanaden is a wide avenue lined with linden trees. It runs between the Western Harbour and the Eastern Harbour and is the best place for a slow walk.
- Sjökvarteret, the maritime quarter, is a small area of boatbuilding and crafts. It has a cafe.

Mariehamn – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play

Scan to download the app

What to experience

- Join a midsummer pole raising in June. Villagers and summer guests decorate the pole with greenery and raise it together.
- Check the Sjökvarteret site for markets and events in the maritime quarter through the year.
- Swim in summer from the town beaches.
- Hop between islands on the archipelago ferries with a bike. Distances are short.

Day trips

These sights are in Sund, northeast of town. Go by car or check bus times first, because buses are limited.

- Kastelholm Castle is about 25 km from Mariehamn. Work started on this medieval castle in the 1380s. It is the only medieval castle on Åland and has a summer season (May to September), so check current hours.
- Jan Karlsgården is an open-air museum with old farm buildings. It stands a short walk from the castle. Vita Björn, an old prison museum, is nearby.
- Bomarsunds fästning lies northeast of town. Russia began this fortress in the 1830s, and British and French forces destroyed it in 1854. Ruins and monuments remain.

Where to explore

Mariehamn is the main town of Åland. Ferries link the town with Stockholm and Turku.

Getting there

- **By ferry**: this is the usual way to arrive. Viking Line and Tallink Silja sail to the Western Harbour from Stockholm, Kapellskär, Turku and Helsinki. Viking Line also sails from Kapellskär, a shorter crossing than from Stockholm. Some Turku sailings call at Långnäs, about 30 km from town, so check which port your ticket uses. Check timetables, because they change by season. Ferries that call at Åland sell tax-free goods, because the islands are outside the EU VAT area.
- **Eckerö Linjen**: this line sails between Grisslehamn in Sweden and Berghamn in Eckerö, about two hours. Eckerö is on the west of the main island, not in Mariehamn. Plan a transfer by car or bus.
- **By air**: Mariehamn Airport is about 3 km northwest of the centre, so a short taxi ride. Finnair flies to Helsinki. Other regional flights to Stockholm and Turku are limited, so check current routes.
- For planning, see Visit Åland, getting there.

Getting around

- **On foot**: the centre is small and flat. Most sights are within a 20-minute walk.
- **By bike**: distances are short and the land is flat. Cycling is a good way to see the town and the nearby islands.
- **By bus**: city and island buses are run by Ålandstrafiken. Buy the ticket from the driver, and carry some cash in case. A ticket is valid for two hours, and you can change between buses in that time. Town buses are not free.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The town centre is compact and flat. Most sights are a short walk apart.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The land is flat and distances are short, so a bike is a good way to see the town and nearby islands.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** In town, no. The centre is small and walkable. A car or bike is useful for Sund, Bomarsund and the west coast.
- **Parking**: central streets often have time limits. See the town's parking map for limits and car parks.

Food & drink

The local dish to try is Åland pancake, Ålandspannkaka. It is a baked pancake made with semolina and cardamom. People eat it warm or cold with prune jam and whipped cream.

Most cafes and restaurants are in the compact centre between the two harbours. Near Kastelholm, Smakbyn has a restaurant, a pottery shop and a candy factory. Åland Distillery is also on site.

What to eat & drink

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Karjalanpiirakka
Thin rye pastry filled with rice porridge, traditionally topped with egg butter.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Salmiakki
Salty liquorice candy that divides visitors — Finns are devoted to it.

Leipäjuusto
Mild, squeaky "bread cheese", usually served warm with cloudberry jam.

DRINKS

Koskenkorva · Koskenkorva Viina
Finland's best-known grain vodka, often mixed into long drinks like the Lonkero.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Ruisleipä
Dense, dark sourdough rye bread eaten with almost every meal.

Poronkäristys
Sautéed reindeer served with mashed potatoes and lingonberry jam, a Lapland classic.

Kalakukko
Fish and pork baked inside a thick rye-bread crust, a specialty of the Savonia region.

Mariehamn – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · **4.6 stars** · **15 years of trip planning**
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

Safety & health

Mariehamn is a safe town, and normal city care is enough. Tap water is safe to drink. In an emergency, call 112.

History

Mariehamn was founded in 1861 and named after the Russian empress Maria Alexandrovna. At that time Åland belonged to the Russian Empire. In the 1830s Russia started a large fortress at Bomarsund, and Bomarsunds fästning was destroyed in the Crimean War in 1854. After that war, the islands were demilitarised in 1856, and they still are today.

In the early 20th century, shipowners from Åland ran large sailing ships. *Gustaf Erikson* of Mariehamn bought Pommern in 1923. She carried grain between Australia and Europe. Today she is a museum ship, and the Åland Maritime Museum tells the wider story.

Åland received self-rule within Finland in 1920. In 1921 the League of Nations confirmed Finnish sovereignty and autonomy for the islands. Medieval Kastelholm Castle recalls the earlier Swedish period.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Finland at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



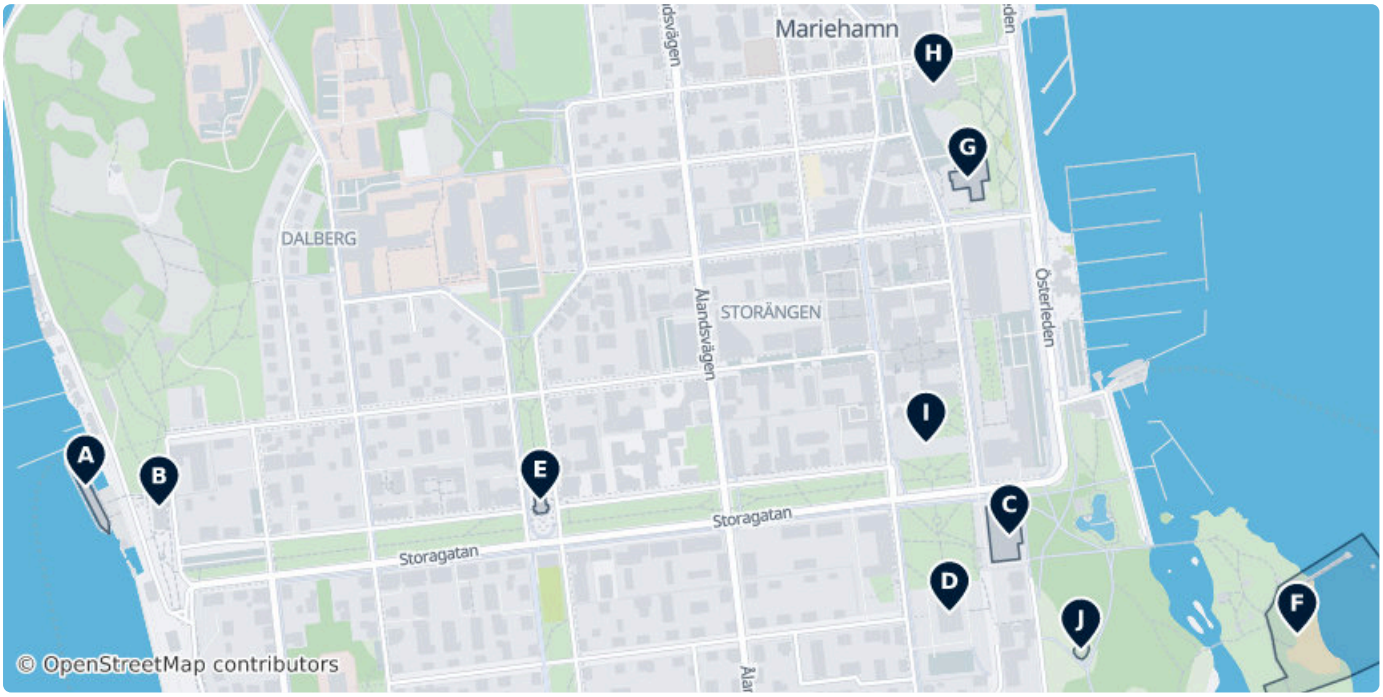
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

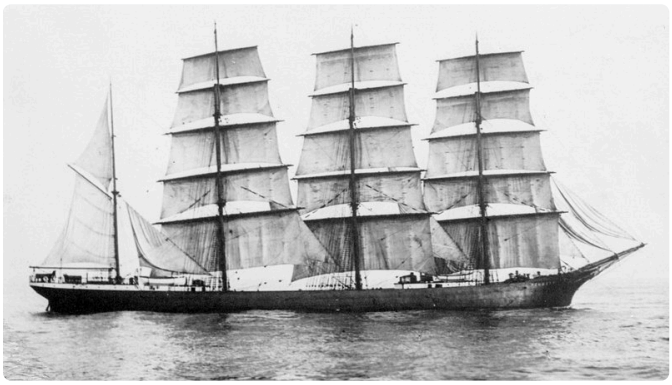
LANGUAGES
Finnish, Swedish

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Mariehamn Essentials

Mariehamn, the capital of the Åland Islands, is defined by its seafaring heritage and strategic location between the East and West Harbors. This selection focuses on the town's maritime history, anchored by the 1903 museum ship Pommern and the Åland Maritime Museum. The list also highlights civic architecture designed by Lars Sonck, including the town hall and St. George's Church, alongside key cultural sites like the Alandica center and the historic Jungfrudansen stone labyrinth.





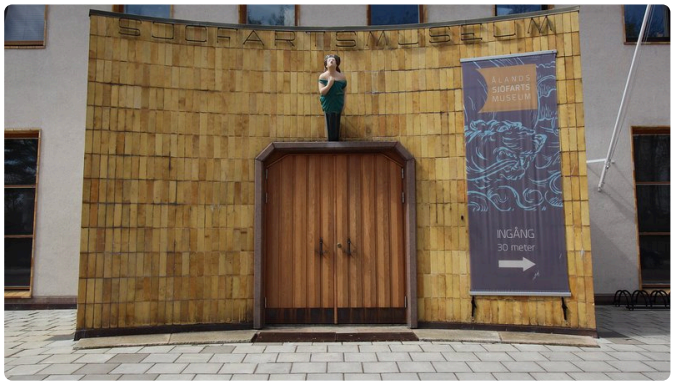
A Pommern

Pommern, formerly Mneme, is an iron-hulled sailing ship. It is a four-masted barque that was built in 1903 at the J.

Mariehamn, AX (60.09747, 19.92493)

May Mo–Su	11:00–16:00
Jun-Aug Mo–Su	10:00–17:00

pommern.ax



B Åland Maritime Museum

Maritime history museum featuring ship models, nautical instruments, and one of the world's few surviving 18th-century pirate flags. It is directly connected to the museum ship Pommern.

Hamngatan 2, Mariehamn (60.09725, 19.92653)

Jun-Aug Mo–Su	10:00–17:00
Sep-May Mo–Su	11:00–16:00

sjofartsmuseum.ax, +358 (0)18 19 930



C Åland Museum

The Cultural History Museum of Åland and Åland Islands Art Museum are two museums under the same roof in Mariehamn in Åland.

Storagatan, 22100 Mariehamn (60.09694, 19.94502)

Mo	Closed
Tu–We	11:00–17:00
Th	11:00–19:00
Fr–Su	11:00–17:00

museum.ax/museer-sevardheter/alands-... , +358 18 25426



D Mariehamns stadshus

Designed by architect Lars Sonck and completed in 1939, this functionalist building serves as the administrative center of Mariehamn and sits prominently at the end of the Esplanaden park.

(60.09611, 19.94371)



E Saint George Church

A 1927 church designed by Lars Sonck, featuring stained glass by Bruno Tuukkanen. It is the largest place of worship in the Åland Islands and is known for its distinctive red-toned exterior.

8 Norra Esplanadgatan, Mariehamn 22100, Finland (60.09732, 19.93482)

Mo–Tu	10:00–12:00, 13:00–15:00
We	13:00–15:00
Th	10:00–12:00, 13:00–15:00

mariehamnsforsamling.fi/kyrkor-och-lokaler/s-t-gorans-k...

F Lilla Holmens badstand

A family-friendly beach and park area on the eastern shore, featuring a swimming lagoon, a bird house with peacocks, and a pier.

(60.09587, 19.95127)

G Alandica

A modern culture and congress center designed by Danish architects Kjær & Richter, featuring a large auditorium for theater performances and concerts by the waterfront.

Strandgatan 33, 22100 Mariehamn (60.10081, 19.94411)

alandica.ax

H Mariehamns stadsbibliotek

The city's main public library, designed by Hans-Hermann Widicke and opened in 1989. It serves as a central hub for literature and community events in the town center.

(60.10183, 19.94336)

Mo–Th	09:00–20:00
Fr	09:00–18:00
Sa	10:00–14:00

bibliotek.ax/web/arena/mariehamnssta... , +358 18-531 411

I Torget

The central market square of Mariehamn, acting as a venue for seasonal markets, public gatherings, and community celebrations throughout the year.

2 Norra Esplanadgatan, Mariehamn 22100, Finland (60.09794, 19.94320)

Mo–Su	Open 24/7

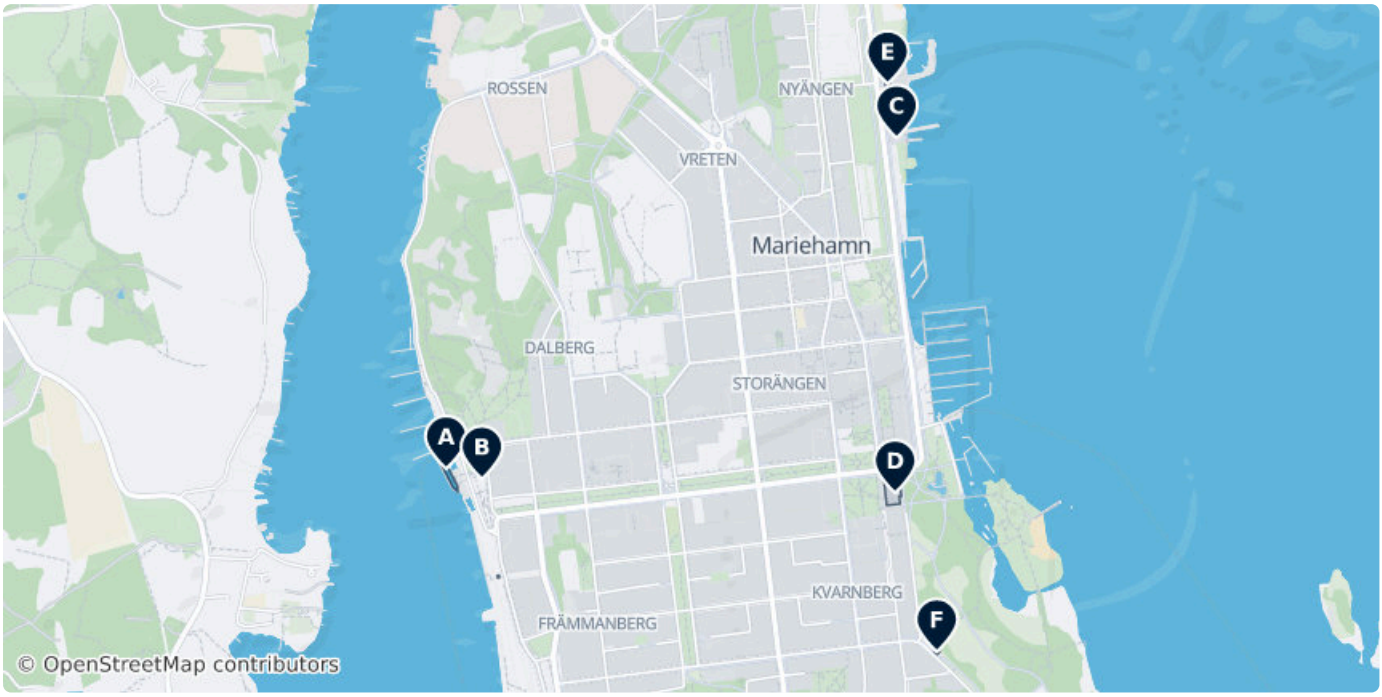
J Jungfrudansen

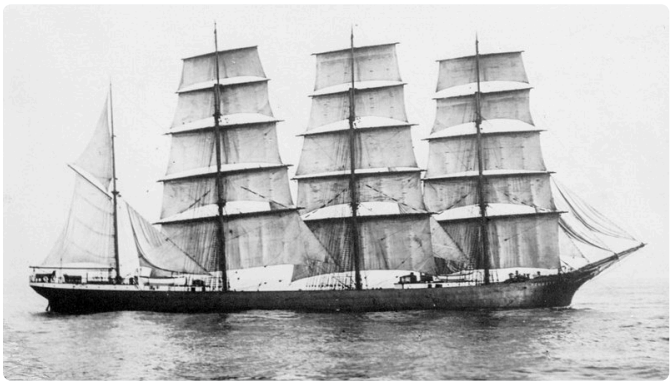
A historic stone labyrinth, also known as a 'Troy Town,' located near the coastline. These ancient patterns were traditionally laid out by sailors for luck or ritual.

12 Parkgatan, Mariehamn 22100, Finland (60.09570, 19.94657)

Maritime Heritage

Mariehamn served as the home port for the world's last great fleet of commercial sailing ships under shipowner Gustaf Erikson. This collection explores that legacy through the Pommern, a remarkably preserved four-masted barque, and the Åland Maritime Museum's extensive collection of figureheads and nautical instruments. The Sjökvarteret (Maritime Quarter) provides a living history of traditional wooden boatbuilding, while smaller specialized museums document the evolution of marine engines and early 20th-century merchant life in the archipelago.





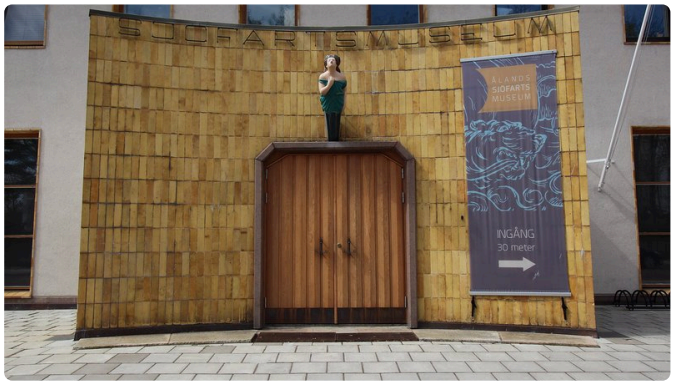
A Pommern

Pommern, formerly Mneme, is an iron-hulled sailing ship. It is a four-masted barque that was built in 1903 at the J.

Mariehamn, AX (60.09747, 19.92493)

May Mo–Su	11:00–16:00
Jun-Aug Mo–Su	10:00–17:00

pommern.ax



B Åland Maritime Museum

Features extensive exhibits on the Erikson sailing fleet, maritime history, and shipwreck artifacts. The collection includes one of the world's few authentic pirate flags and a vast gallery of ship figureheads.

Hamngatan 2, Mariehamn (60.09725, 19.92653)

Jun-Aug Mo–Su	10:00–17:00
Sep-May Mo–Su	11:00–16:00

sjofartsmuseum.ax, +358 (0)18 19 930

C Sjökvarteret museum

A living heritage center focused on traditional wooden boatbuilding. The site includes a working shipyard, a smithy, and a collection of traditional wooden vessels along the eastern harbor.

Mariehamn (60.10485, 19.94508)

Mo–We	10:00–16:00



D Åland Museum

The Cultural History Museum of Åland and Åland Islands Art Museum are two museums under the same roof in Mariehamn in Åland.

Storagatan, 22100 Mariehamn (60.09694, 19.94502)

Mo	Closed
Tu–We	11:00–17:00
Th	11:00–19:00
Fr–Su	11:00–17:00

museum.ax/museer-sevardheter/alands-... , +358 18 25426

E Motormuseum

Located within the Maritime Quarter, this museum displays a collection of vintage marine engines and outboard motors used in the Åland archipelago.

Mariehamn (60.10605, 19.94468)

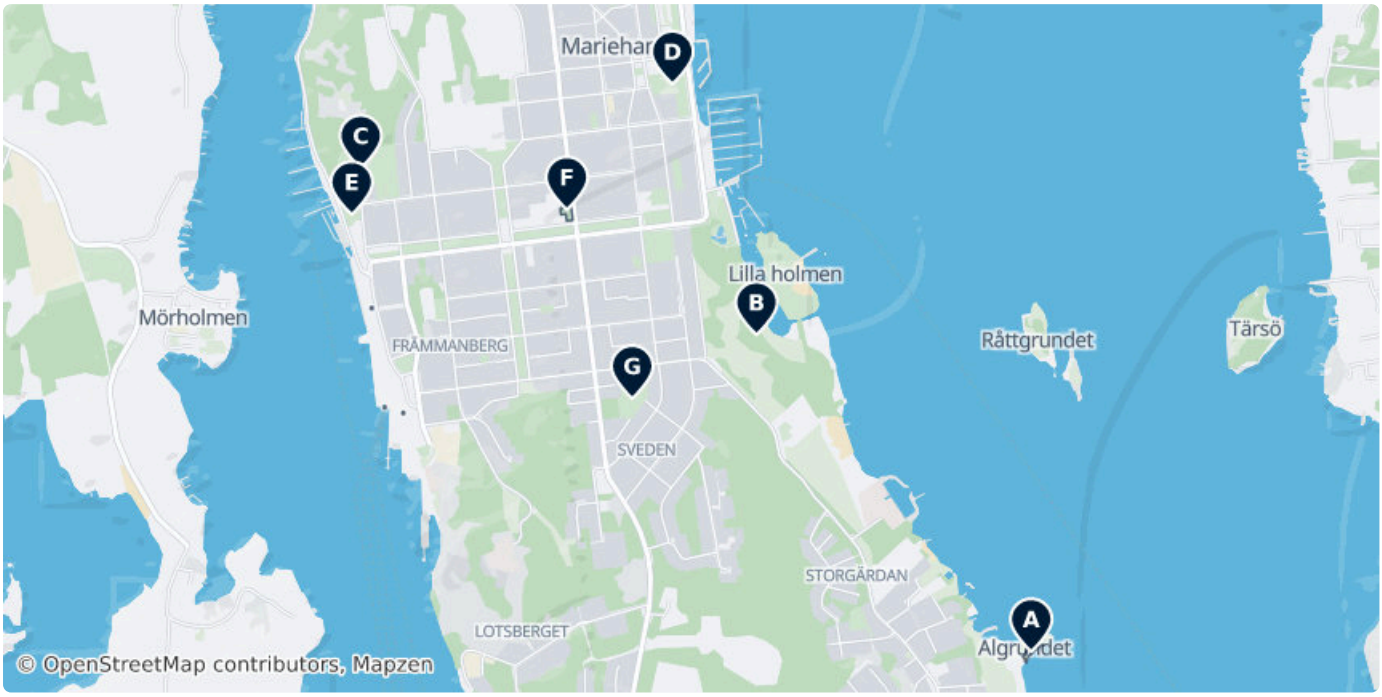
F Köpmannamuseet

A preserved 1920s-style general store showcasing historical merchant life, trade goods, and original shop interiors from the early 20th century.

Parkgatan 23, 22100 Mariehamn (60.09340, 19.94688)

Parks & Nature

Mariehamn's landscape is shaped by its maritime history and a commitment to urban green spaces. This collection highlights the city's diverse natural areas, from the historic Badhusparken, which served as a social hub during the 19th-century spa era, to the expansive Tullarns äng nature reserve on the eastern shore. The list includes coastal access at Algrundet's sandy beach and elevated viewpoints in Engelska parken, alongside central gardens like Miramarparken that host local community events.



A Algrundet

Sandy beach on the southern tip of the Mariehamn peninsula, offering access to the Baltic Sea.

(Unnamed Road), Mariehamn 22100, Finland
(60.08541, 19.96454)

B Tullarns äng

Large nature reserve on the eastern shore featuring deciduous forests and meadows. It is known for its wood anemones that bloom in spring.

(60.09433, 19.94902)

C Badhusparken

Waterfront park on the western harbor and former site of a 19th-century spa hotel. It features a historic music pavilion and tennis courts.

(60.09902, 19.92665)

D Miramarparken

Central park located between the library and the eastern harbor, often used for public events and markets.

(60.10139, 19.94427)

E Engelska parken

Wooded park on Badhusberget hill with walking paths and views overlooking the western harbor and the museum ship Pommern.

(60.09772, 19.92615)

F GE-villans trädgård

Garden surrounding the historic GE-villa, the former residence of shipping magnate Gunnar Eklund.

48 Ålandsvägen, Mariehamn 22100, Finland
(60.09785, 19.93831)

G Lindan

Small green space and recreational park located in a central residential district.

(60.09255, 19.94199)

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikidata, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites

IMAGE CREDITS

- Pommern — "POMMERN., Mariehamn. 2113 tons. Built at Glasgow. 1903. Iron. Ex Mneme.. Shows..." by Unknown, Public domain
- Åland Maritime Museum — "Ålands sjöfartsmuseum May 2016 38" by Sniper Zeta, cc-by-sa-4.0
- Åland Museum — "Åland Museum 2022" by Erik Wannee, cc-by-sa-4.0
- Mariehamns stadshus — "Mariehamn, Åland. The City Hall, built in 1939, architect Lars Sonck..." by Håkan Skogsjö, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Saint George Church — "Maarianhaminan kirkko1" by Mikkoau, cc-by-sa-4.0
- Pommern — "POMMERN., Mariehamn. 2113 tons. Built at Glasgow. 1903. Iron. Ex Mneme.. Shows..." by Unknown, Public domain
- Åland Maritime Museum — "Ålands sjöfartsmuseum May 2016 38" by Sniper Zeta, cc-by-sa-4.0
- Åland Museum — "Åland Museum 2022" by Erik Wannee, cc-by-sa-4.0

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 16, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.