

Experience the winter in the Bothnian Bay

Winter 2023-2024



BOTTENVIKENS
SKÄRGÅRD

EXPERIENCE THE ARCHIPELAGO – WINTER 2024

The coastal stretch along the Bothnian Bay offers many opportunities for outdoor life, relaxation and experiences. The archipelago is not a place you only visit in the summer. When the ice covers the sea, winter opens up opportunities for new journeys and fantastic experiences.

With this little winter guide, we hope to inspire you to new discoveries in our beautiful winter archipelago. Here you can find information about a selection of activities arranged by municipalities and associations.

Keep in mind that new ice, spring ice, snow-covered ice and sea ice can be weak. Make sure it holds up before you head out and check the ice conditions. SMHI has updated information on its [website](#). Also remember to stay away from the ice-free waterways that enter the major ports on the coast. And don't forget the ice spikes.



QR-link to information about ice quality.



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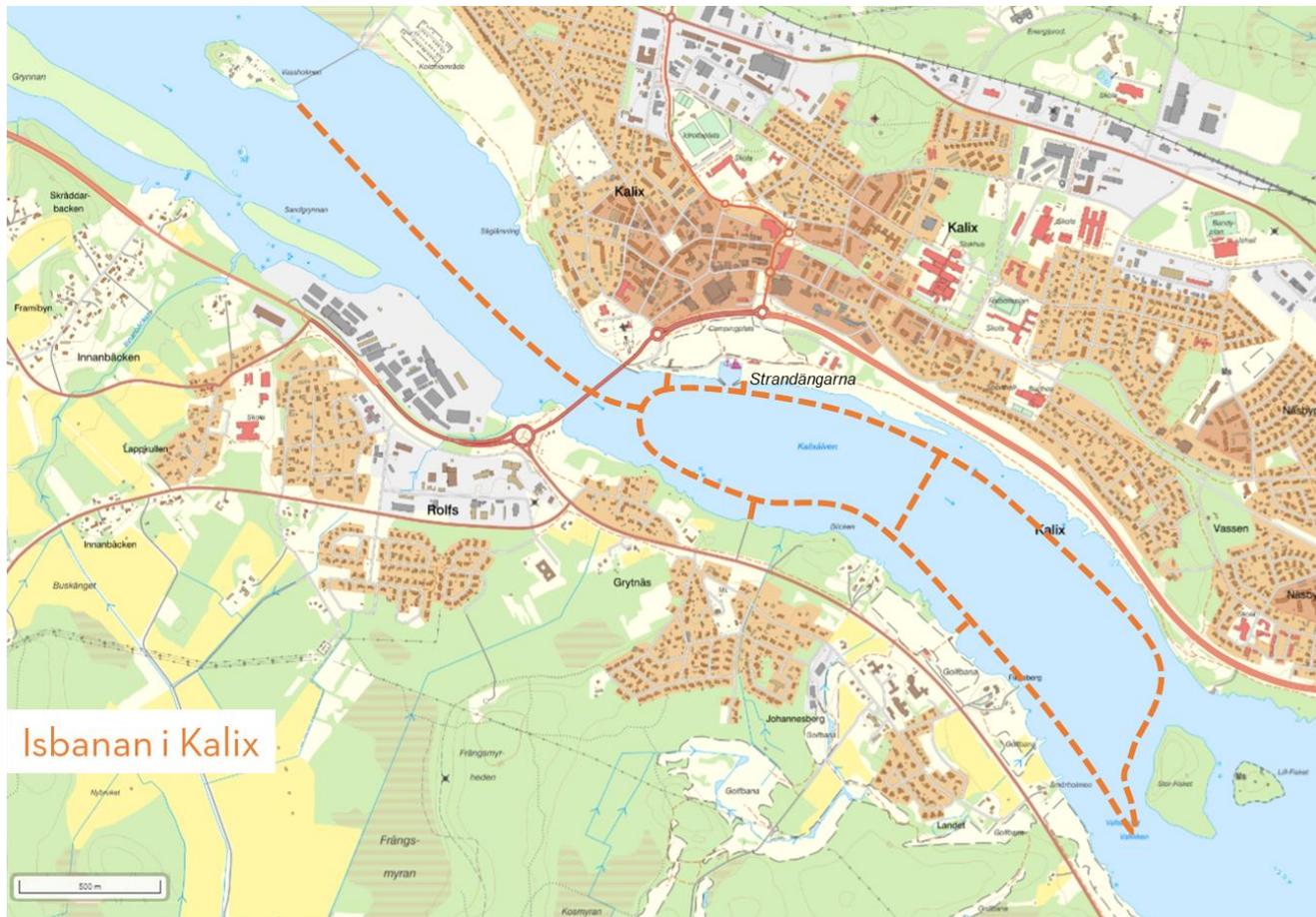
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Cover: Arctic Ice Swimmers Haparanda; Peter Rosén Lappland Media AB; Piteå kommun; Luleå kommun; Visit Skellefteå

ICE TRACKS

On the Bothnian coast, the municipalities of Kalix, Luleå and Piteå maintain ice tracks close to the city. Here you can skate, walk, borrow a kicksledge (a small sled propelled by kicking) and get out on the ice and enjoy the vastness and weather. The length and condition of the ice rinks varies with ice and weather conditions.

Kalix coast and archipelago



[Learn more about the ice track in Kalix.](#)



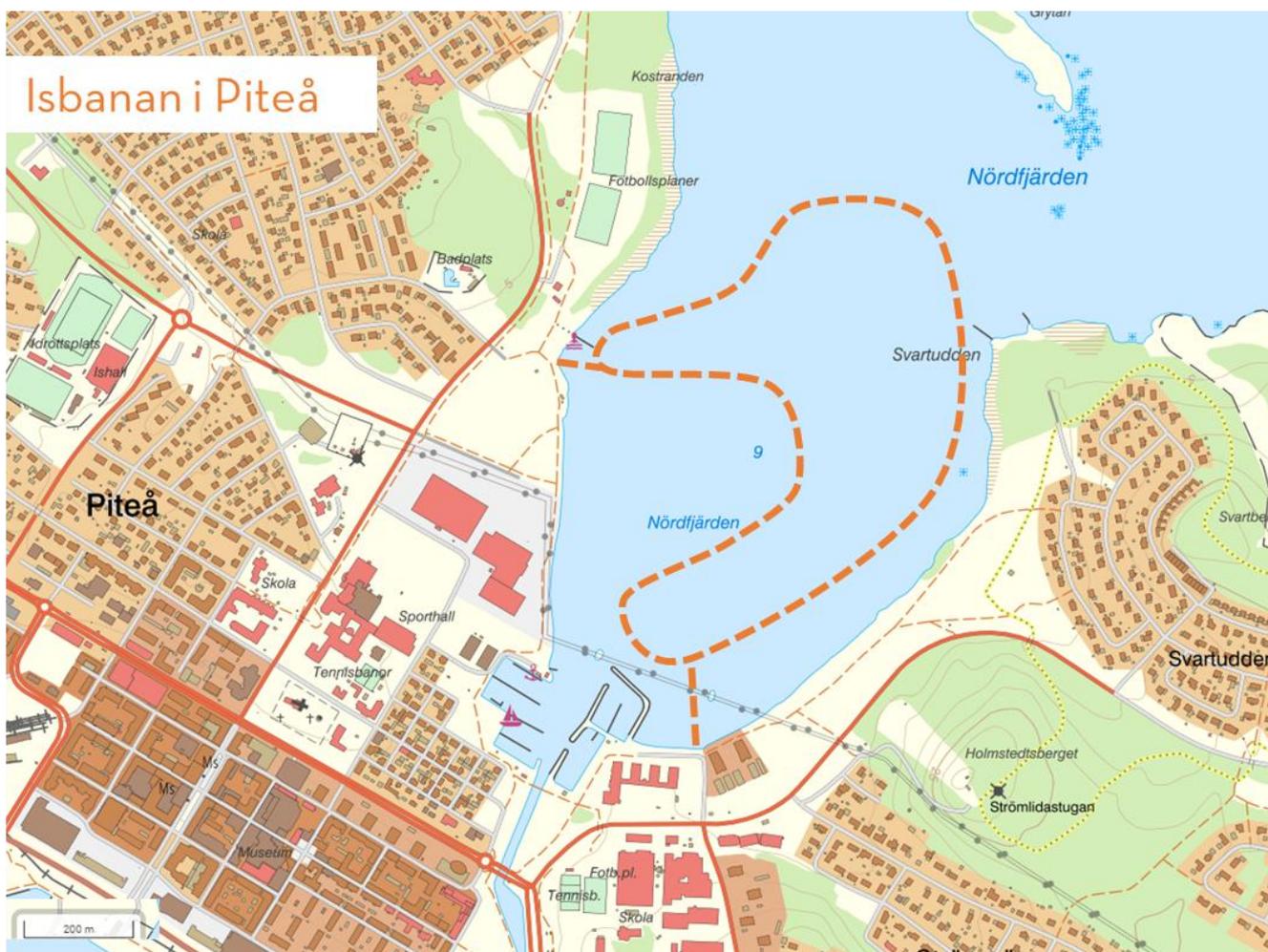
Luleå coast and archipelago



[Learn more about the ice track in Luleå.](#)



Piteå coast and archipelago



[Learn more about the ice track in Piteå.](#)



SKI TRACKS ON RIVERS AND THE SEA

Of course, it's great to ski out on the snow-covered ice and discover the vast expanses and islands that exist. It works especially well if there is a marked ski track, which is the case in Haparanda, Kalix and Piteå coast and archipelago.

Haparanda coast and archipelago

In Haparanda, the municipality organizes a ski track from the center of Haparanda out to the islands Hanhinkari and Torne-Furö. The track starts from the cement quay in Haparanda center and runs along the river bank and further out to the islands.

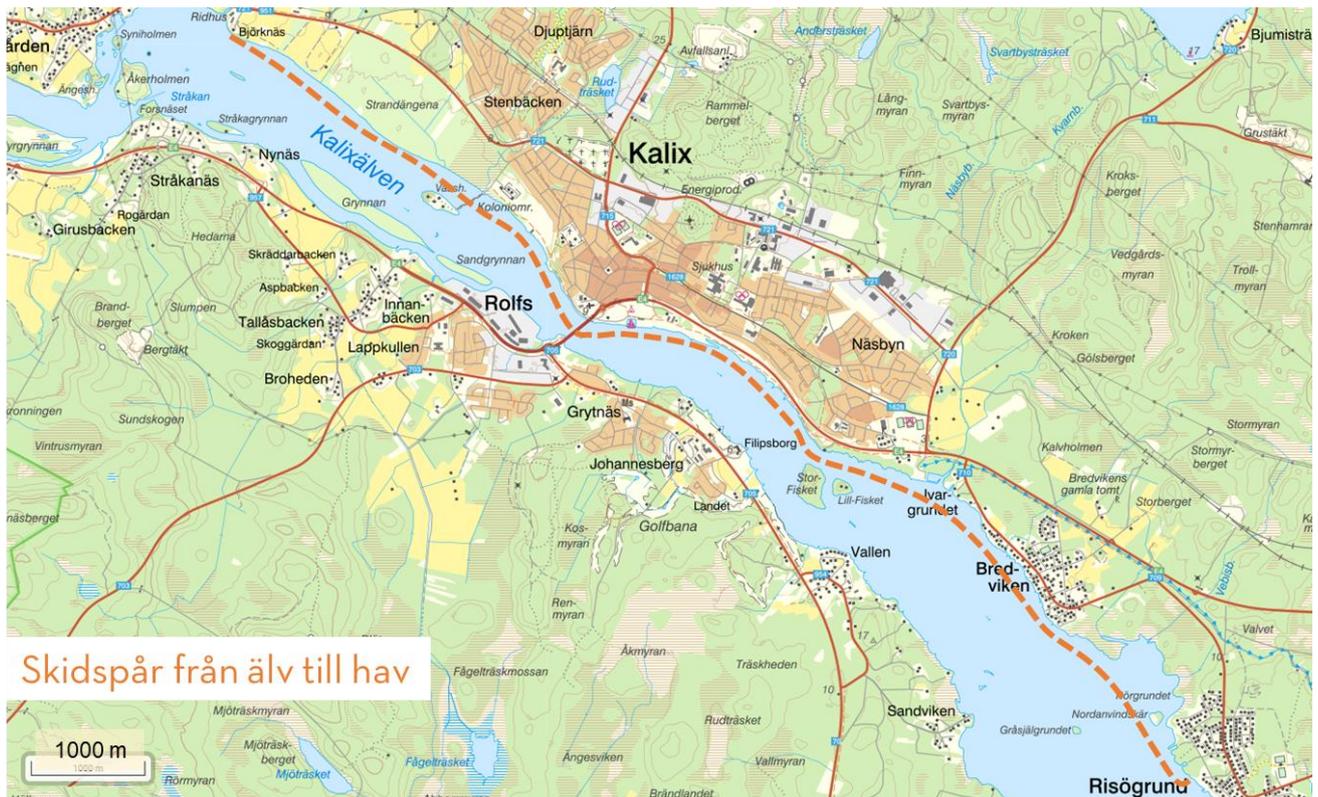


[Information about the ski track.](#)



Kalix coast and archipelago

From Björknäs in Kalix there is a marked ski track along the River Kalix all the way down to Risögrund.



[Information about the ski track in Kalix.](#)



Piteå coast and archipelago

In Piteå, there is a ski track along the ice track in central Piteå.



[More information about the ski track in Piteå.](#)



DRIVE A CAR OUT TO THE ISLANDS - ICY ROADS IN THE ARCHIPELAGO

If the ice conditions permit, roads will be plowed out into the Luleå archipelago. Before you go out on the ice road, pay attention to the traffic and information signs posted for everyone's safety. The roads may be temporarily closed in case of heavy snowfall, heavy fog or high flood waters.

In general, the following rules apply to driving on ice roads:

- maximum 30 kilometers/hour
- the distance to other vehicles must be at least 50 meters
- parking ban
- follow road signs regarding load capacity class



Learn more about the ice roads in [Luleå archipelago](#).

In addition to this, there are several ice roads that are plowed and maintained privately or by cabin/road associations.

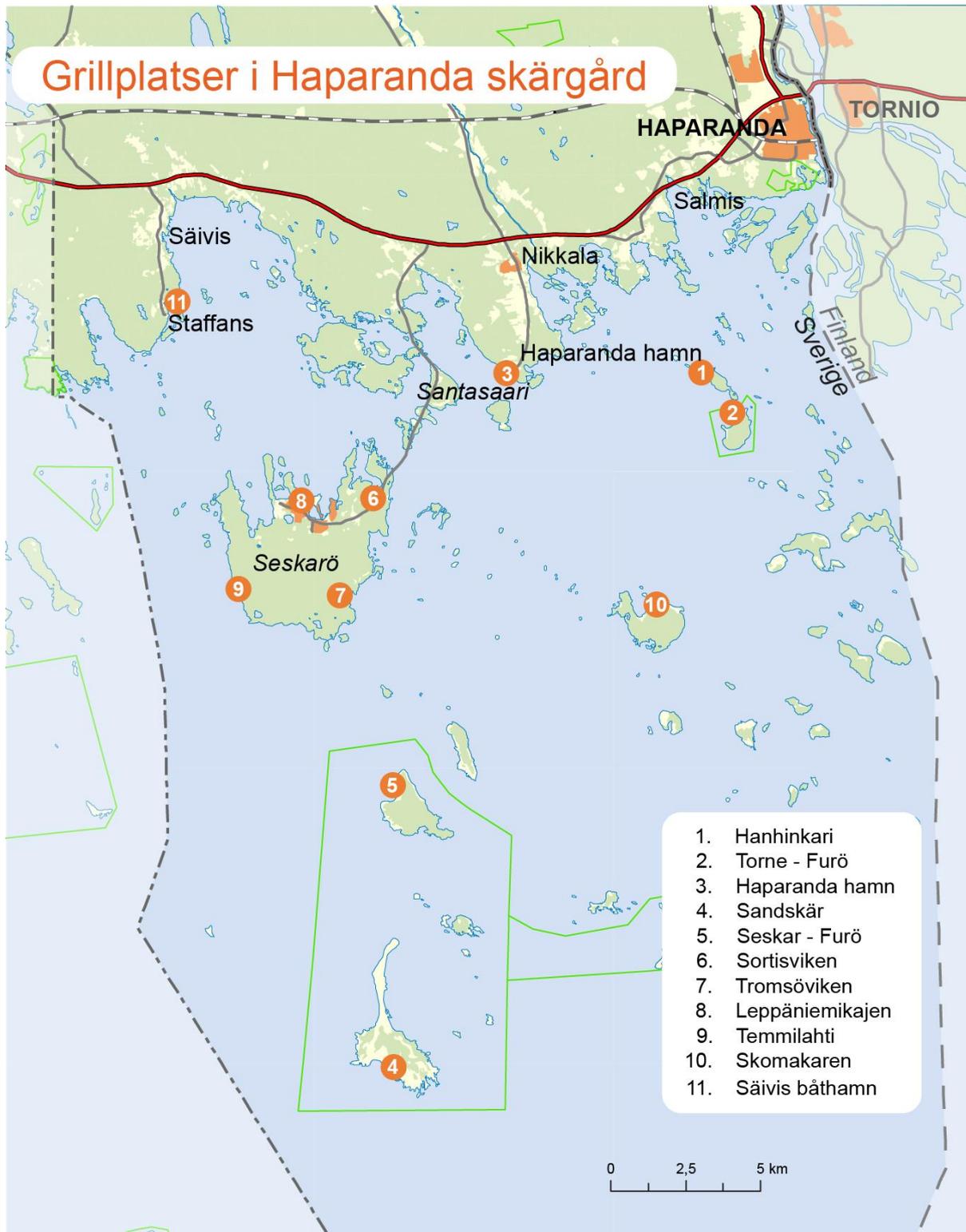


BAREBCUE AREAS

There are many barbecue areas on the Bothnian coast and archipelago. At several of them, the municipality provides firewood, but you can't count on it being there, so bring your own firewood just in case. It's also good to bring a small shovel to dig out the grill if it has snowed a lot. Don't forget matches! And something tasty to grill!

Haparanda coast and archipelago

On the coast and archipelago of Haparanda there are 11 barbecue areas that can be used during wintertime.



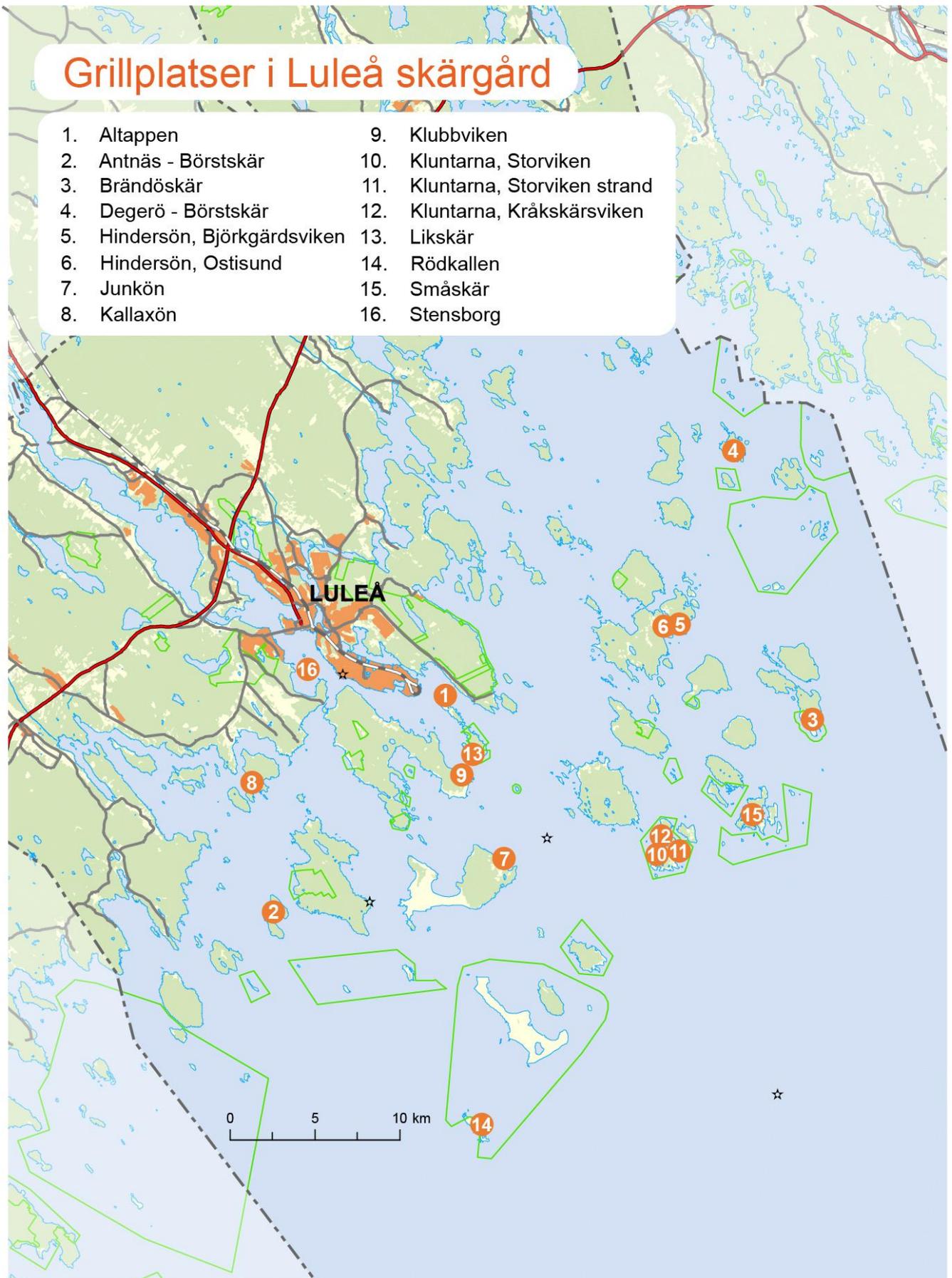
Kalix coast and archipelago

On the coastal area of Kalix there are 2 barbecue areas that can be used during wintertime.



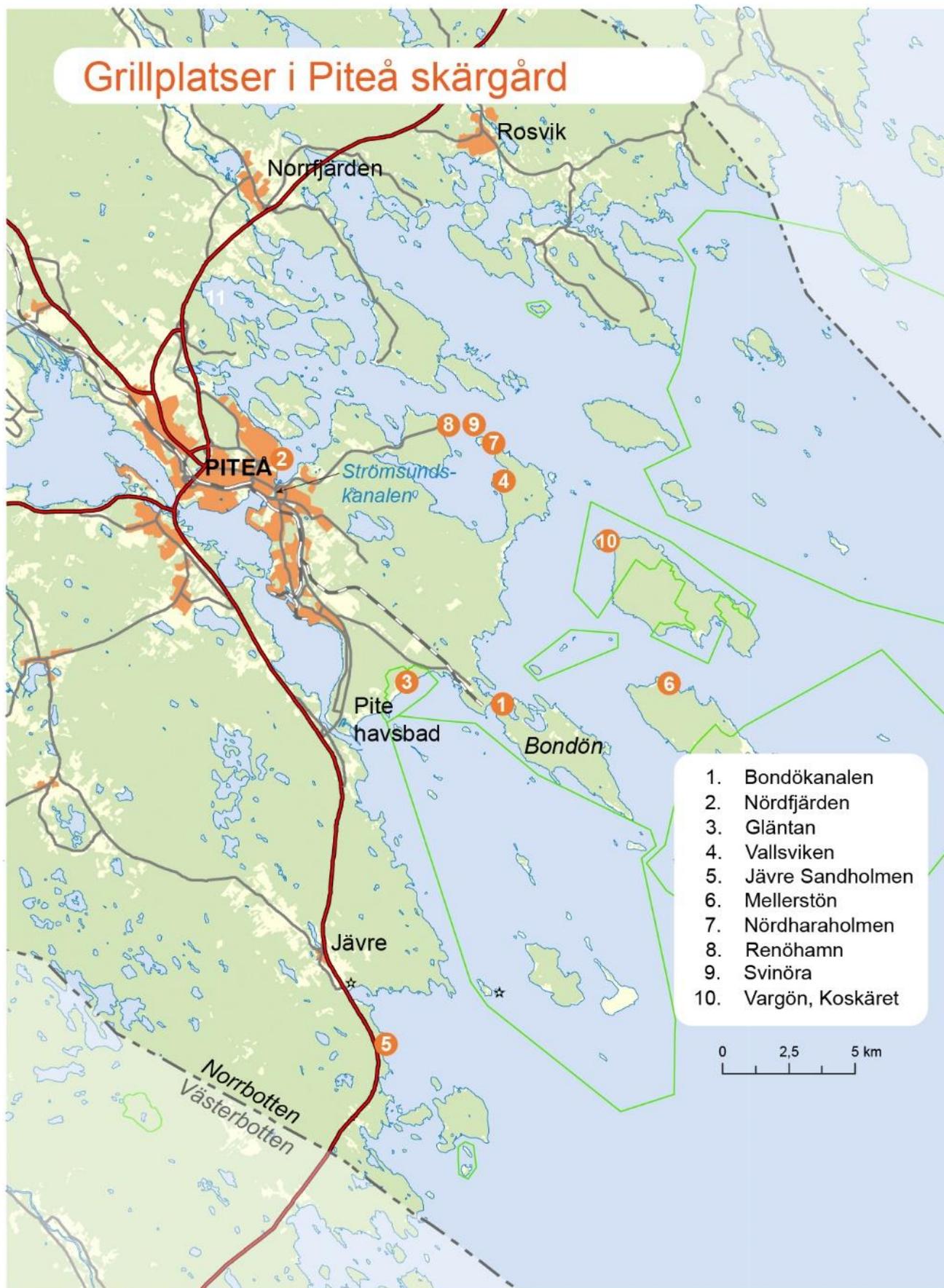
Luleå coast and archipelago

On the coast and archipelago of Luleå there are 16 barbecue areas that can be used during wintertime.



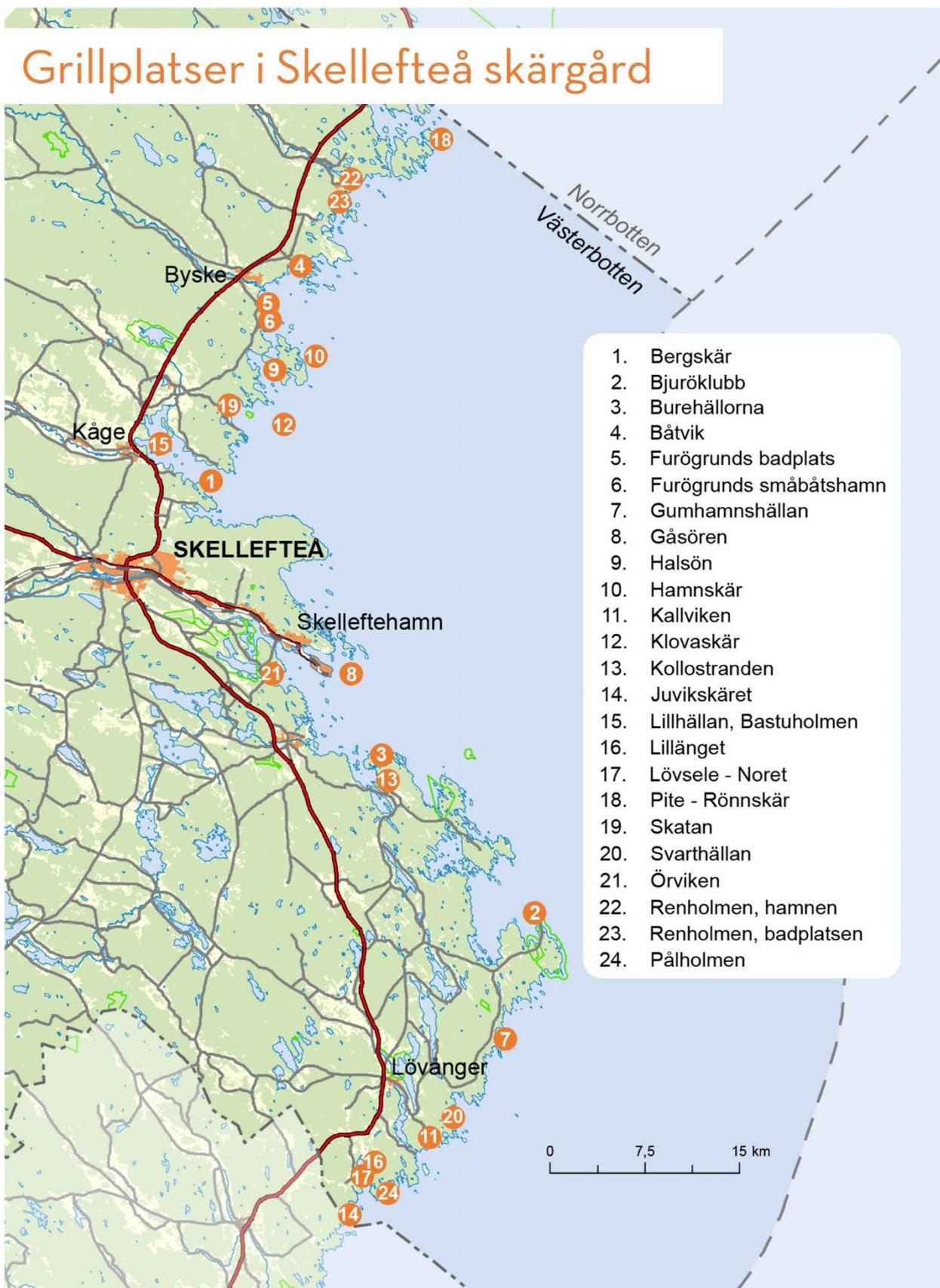
Piteå coast and archipelago

On the coast and archipelago of Piteå there are 10 barbecue areas that can be used during wintertime.



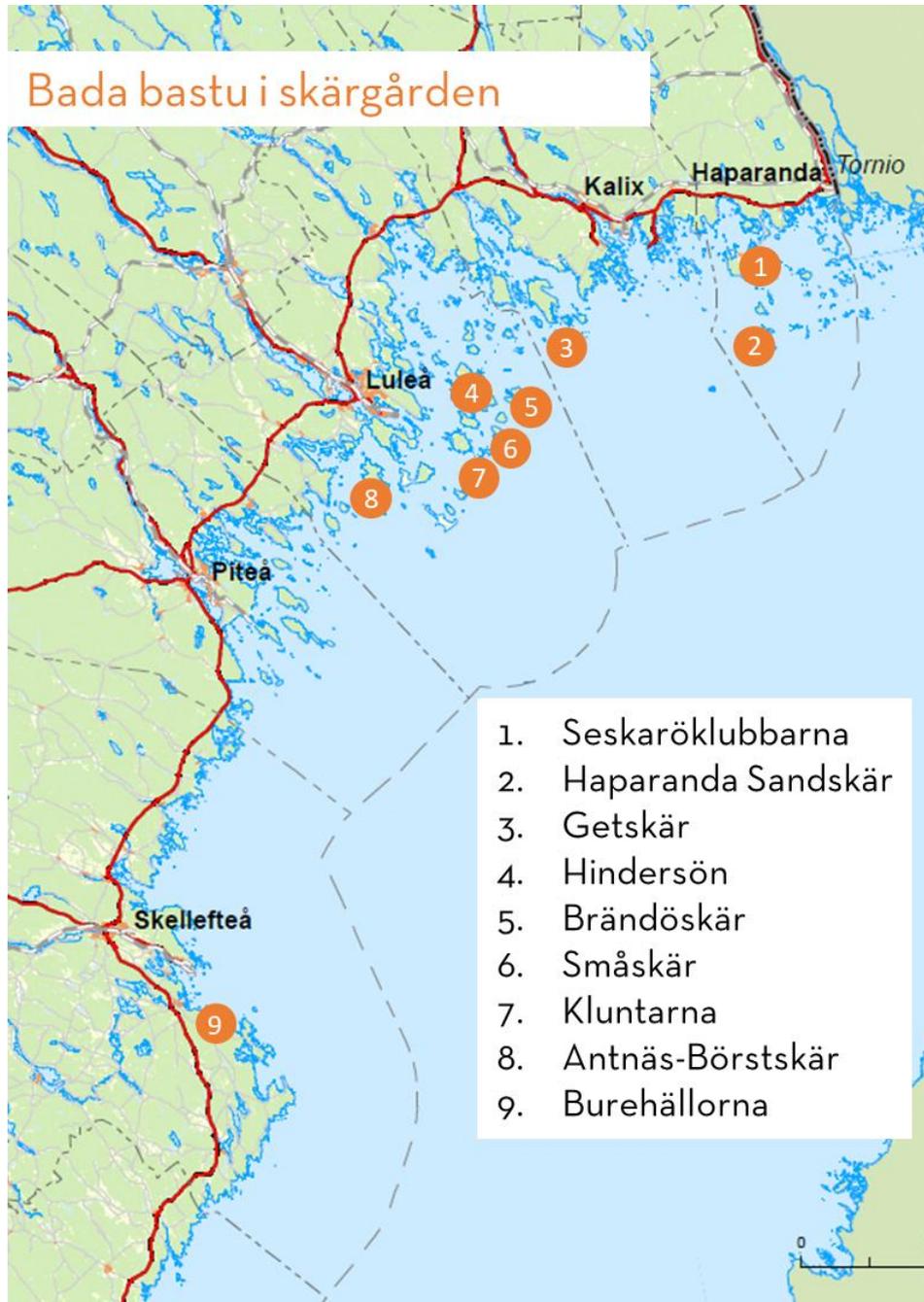
Skellefteå coast and archipelago

On the coast and archipelago of Skellefteå there are 24 barbecue areas that can be used during wintertime.



ENJOY A SAUNA IN THE ARCHIPELAGO

Warm up one of the open public saunas found in the Bothnian archipelago. Sit for a while and then go out and roll in the snow. At several of them, the municipality provides firewood, but you can't count on it being there, so bring your own firewood to be safe. It might be good to bring something to drill a hole in the ice so you can collect water to heat up in the sauna so you can wash yourself afterwards.



More information:

[Hindersön, Brändöskär, Småskär, Kluntarna and Antnäs-Börstskär](#)
[Burehällorna](#)



Saunas in Luleå archipelago

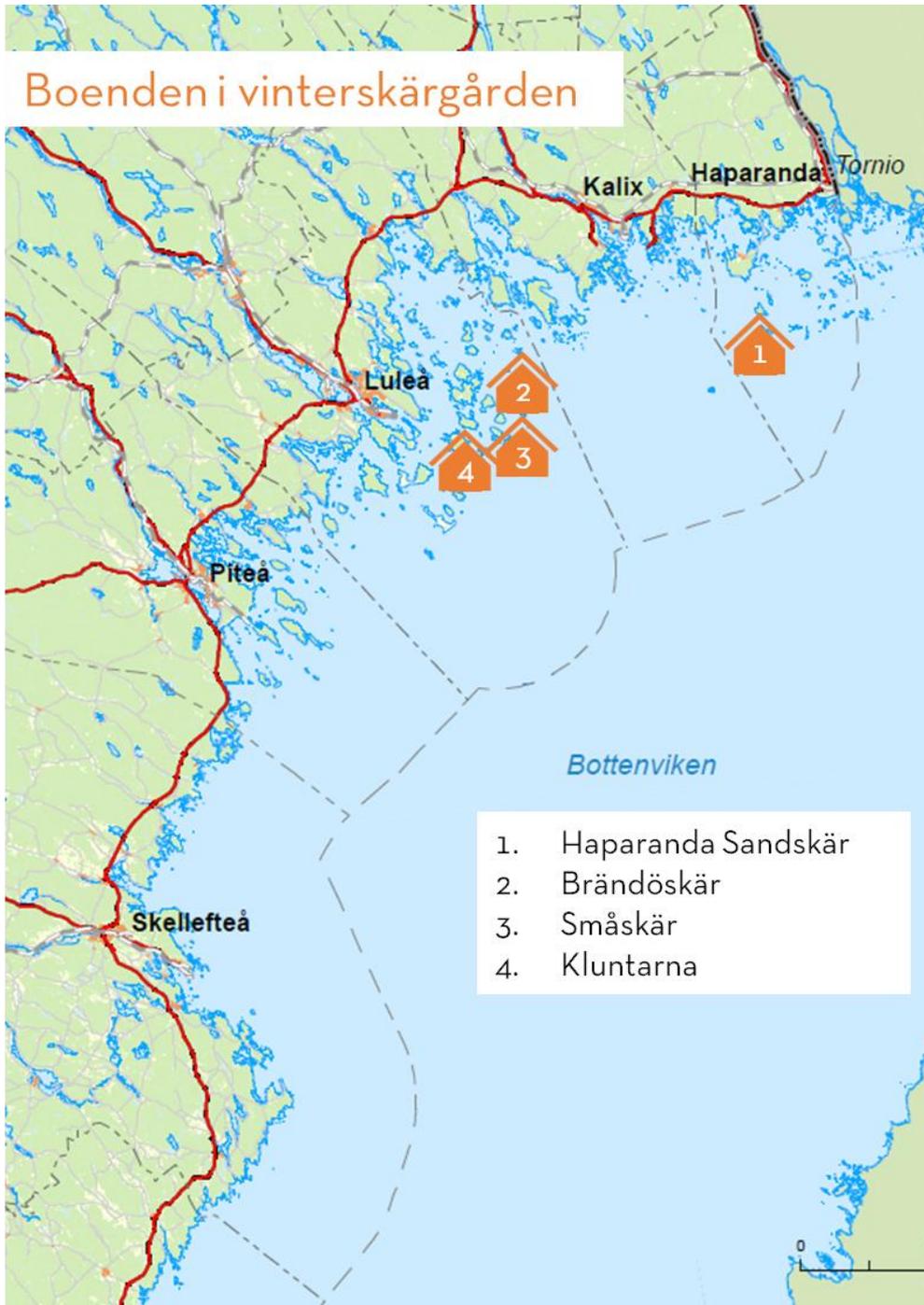


Sauna at Burehällorna

COTTAGE COZY IN THE WINTER ARCHIPELAGO

There are several rental cabins in the archipelago that can also be rented in the winter. Provided the ice and weather permit, you can bring your gear and head out to the islands on skis, bicycles, scooters...

However, the availability of the cabins is completely dependent on the quality of the archipelago ice. Check up the ice situation when you're about to go to the cabin!



Cabins at Haparanda Sandskär



Cabins in Luleå archipelago

More information:

1. Haparanda Sandskär: [Innala Tours](#)
2. Brändöskär: [Luleå kommun webpage](#)
3. Småskär: [Luleå kommun webpage](#)
4. Kluntarna: [Luleå kommun webpage](#)

WINTER SWIMMING - TAKE A DIP IN AN ICE WAKE



The ice wake at Västra kajen in Piteå. Photo: Kallbad i Piteå.

More information:

Haparanda coast and archipelago

[Facebook - Haparanda Arctic Ice swimmers](#)

Luleå coast and archipelago

[Kallis i Luleå](#)

[Icebath Luleå](#)

[Facebook - Vinterbad i Luleå](#)

Piteå coast and archipelago

[Facebook - Kallbad i Piteå](#)

Skellefteå coast and archipelago

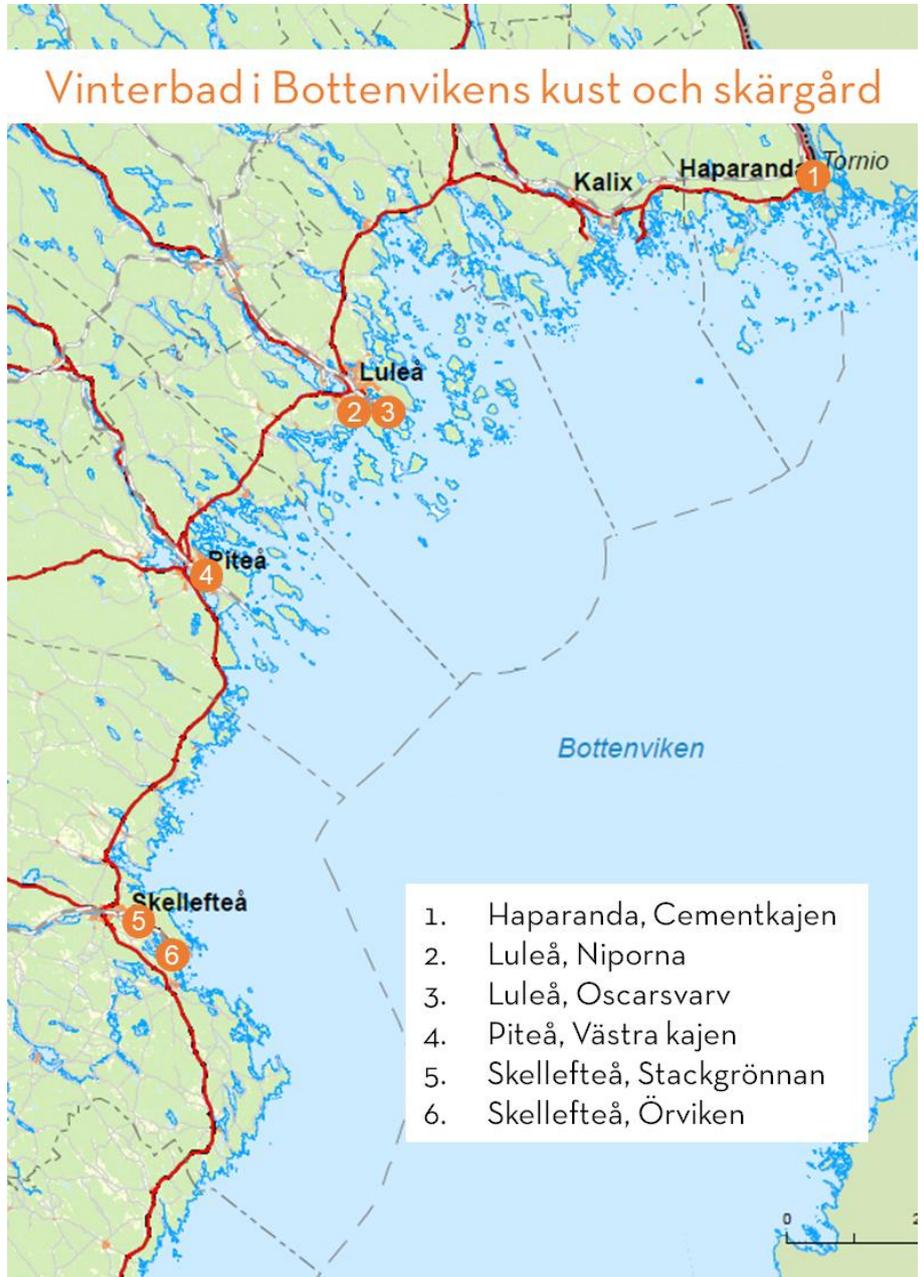
[Visit Skellefteå - Vinterbad i Stackgrönnen](#)

[Visit Skellefteå - Isvak i Örviken](#)

[Mörkrets och kylans glada vänner/Dark & Cold](#)

[Facebook - Vinterbad i Skellefteå](#)

There are several opportunities to take a dip in an ice wake, but most are run by associations or companies that may then have to charge a membership fee or charge for a dip in the ice wake. The ice bath and any associated sauna can also be reserved for the association's members, but this varies between the associations.



QR-links to refreshing experiences (=winter swimming) in Haparanda, Luleå, Piteå and Skellefteå.

MORE WINTER ACTIVITIES

SKATING ALONG Long-distance ice-skating is a glorious way to enjoy the winter archipelago, but not entirely risk free. In the early winter, before the snow arrives, there are sometimes fantastic ices for skating. The Swedish Outdoor Association arranges organised, safe long-distance ice-skating under the guidance of trained leaders.

GLIDING ALONG The vast white expanses invite you on long ski trips, and when there's a crust on the snow the possible places to go are almost unlimited. The best skiing is usually in February to April. Even when the ice has broken up, you can ski in the archipelago on what is known locally as 'landkallen'. There are several places in the archipelago where ski tracks are prepared both privately and municipally.

NORTHERN LIGHTS Aurora Borealis – the magical, legendary northern lights. They form when solar particles in space collide with the outer atmosphere in conjunction with the way the solar winds move across the firmament. The Bothnian Bay's archipelago offers excellent opportunities to see the northern light's as early as August. The archipelago's open spaces provide great photo opportunities for people seeking to immortalise the experience.

ICE FISHING In winter, ice fishing is a popular pastime. Take an auger along and drill a hole in the sea ice. When fishing in shallow water one exciting thing is looking down through the hole to actually see fish circling your bait, will they take it or not. But be kind to the fish you catch, the one you don't want to keep, remove the hook carefully and release the fish into the hole as quickly as possible. Immediately kill the fish you want to keep.

PACK ICE EXPERIENCES As spring approaches, pack ice begins to raft up far out in the archipelago. Wind and weather push together great piles of massive ice blocks. Getting up close to pack ice is an exciting experience and you can sense just how powerful the forces at work are. One can imagine being in the wild Arctic, surrounded by huge icebergs and cold, blue water. Where you can experience this depends on the wind and weather from year to year.

KITE SURFING In kite surfing, you are propelled forward while standing on a board using the wind to act on a kite. The sport has been described as a combination of sailing and wakeboarding. It is usually done on water, but it works just as well on snow and ice. All you need is wind, open spaces and the right kit. Many people kite surf on the waters around Luleå, but you can kite surf in many other places too.

CYCLE OUT TO AN ISLAND Interest in cycling on ice is on the increase and the pastime is growing in popularity. Whether or not you have your own fatbike or rent one, unique experiences await. It's safest to stick to ploughed ice tracks and ice roads, but when the crusted snow supports your weight, you can explore new places.

SNOWMOBILES The most common form of winter transport between the islands is still the snowmobile. There are marked snowmobile tracks across the sea organised by snowmobile clubs, cottage associations etc. Note that it is not permitted to ride snowmobiles on the islands in the Bothnian Bay's archipelago other than on the shortest route to and from a cottage or on marked trails. There is information about snowmobile trails in the municipalities on the [Luleå](#), [Piteå](#) and [Skellefteå's](#) municipal websites.



QR-links to information on tracks for snow mobiles in Luleå, Piteå and Skellefteå.

CONTACT US

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Kalix tourist information

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Tel 0923-65 300

visit@kalix.se

www.kalix.se/turism



Heart of Lapland

www.heartoflapland.com



Luleå tourist center

Kulturens hus, Luleå

Tel 0920-45 70 00

turistcenter@lulea.se

www.lulea.se/skargard

www.visitlulea.se



Piteå tourist information

Bryggargatan 14, Piteå

Tel 0911-933 90

turistcenter@pitea.se

www.visitpitea.se



Skellefteå tourist center

Trädgårdsgatan 7, Skellefteå

Tel 0910-45 25 10

info@visitskelleftea.se

www.visitskelleftea.se



Bottenvikens skärgård kommunsamverkan

The Bothnian Bay Inter-municipal Cooperation gathers Haparanda, Kalix, Luleå, Piteå and Skellefteå municipalities who work together to make our beautiful coast and archipelago more accessible both to those who live here and to those who are visiting.



Read more about us on our [website](#).

Bottenviken.se

On the page www.bottenviken.se there is more information about what the archipelago can offer in both winter and summer.





BOTTENVIKENS SKÄRGÅRD

www.bottenvikensskargard.se