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*Blå Jungfrun National Park also contains aquatic areas out to public waters, i.e. at least 300 m from the shoreline or at a depth of 3 m. There are two natural harbours, both located on the north side of the island. The wind direction determines which to choose: Lervik on the eastern side, or Sikhamn on the western. Even moderate winds make it difficult to approach the island.*

## Blå Jungfrun National Park

- Established in 1926
- Height above sea level: 86 m
- Area: 66 ha. The island is 1 150 m long and 840 m wide.
- The area is part of the EU's ecological network of protected areas, Natura 2000.

### Please note!

- Follow the marked trails.
- Don't damage the flat rocks or the moss and lichen cover.
- Don't remove any stones from the island.
- Leave flowers and other plants untouched.
- Respect animal life. For example, don't go near bird nests.
- Dogs must be on a leash.
- Don't camp or light fires.
- Don't leave cigarette butts in the countryside, they may cause a fire.
- Sturdy shoes with rubber soles are recommended.
- Bring drinking water on your outing to Blå Jungfrun. There is no food or drink for sale on the island.
- Remember that passing ships can cause strong and unpredictable swells.



*Black guillemot is the signature bird of the island.*

### Further information

Kalmar County Administrative Board  
391 86 KALMAR  
Sweden  
+46-(0)480-820 00  
[www.lansstyrelsen.se/kalmar](http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/kalmar)

The purpose of national parks in Sweden is to preserve large areas in their natural state for research and recreation. They should be made available to the general public without losing their original character.

**Produced by:** Kalmar County Administrative Board. **Layout & text:** Henrik Karlsson. **Photos:** Kåre Persson, Sigge Sundström, Henrik Karlsson and Oskarshamn Municipality photo archive. **Illustrations:** Nils Forshed. **[5 000 copies]. [Print: Åtta.45 Tryckeri AB]**



Länsstyrelsen  
Kalmar län  
Administrative Board of Kalmar County



SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY





## Mythical and unique

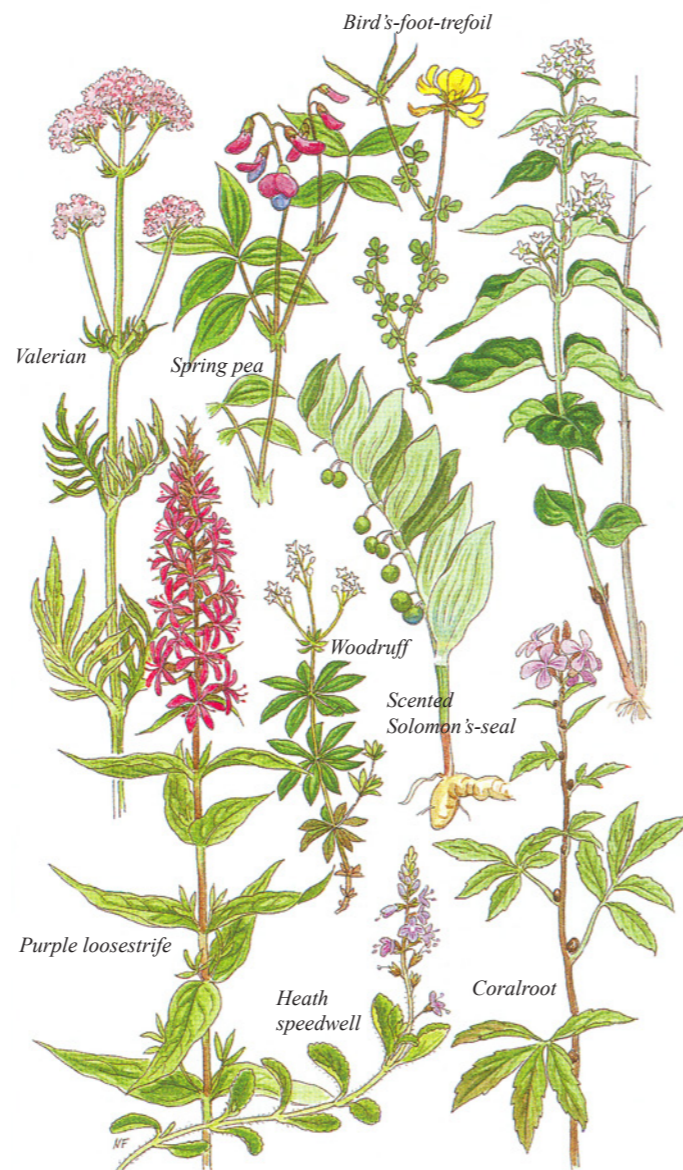
Blå Jungfrun rises in lonely majesty, distinguished by its shape and size from all other islands in the Kalmarsund archipelago. This bald granite dome stands 86 metres above sea level and 130 metres above sea bottom. Both from the mainland and from Öland, Blå Jungfrun stands out as a grey-blue silhouette far out at sea. Considering its isolated location and the colour of its contours, it's not strange that Blå Jungfrun (*Blue maiden*) is featured in folklore and myths. Already in the beginning of the 15th century, the island was called Blåkulla, surrounded by magical beliefs about witches and witchcraft.

When it comes to geology, Blå Jungfrun is a unique dome of isolated red granite, between the Småland-Värmland granite on the mainland and the calcareous bedrock of Öland. The red colour comes from potassium feldspar. The granite rocks on the island have been polished almost completely smooth by ice and water over thousands of years. Blå Jungfrun has a number of giants' kettles – geological phenomena formed by water movement against the rock.

## Flora and fauna

Oak forest with lime, maple and aspen grows on the southern slopes. The largest oaks are several hundred years old. The species-rich flora includes woodruff, coralroot and angular Solomon's seal. The deciduous forest contains an exciting and diverse flora of lichens, due to the location far out at sea. Several rare so-called sub-oceanic lichens that normally only thrive in the humid climate on the Swedish west coast are found here, e.g. *Lobaria virens* and *Lecanora sublivescens*. Windswept pine forest grows on the northern side of the island. Although not particularly large, the trees here are also very old.

The most distinctive bird on the island is black guillemot. It is mainly found sitting on the southern cliffs. Other nesting birds include rock pipit, common eider and velvet scoter. Many of Sweden's common birds nest in the deciduous forest, such as great tit, blue tit, common redstart and several warblers. Birds who like resting at Blå Jungfrun include white-tailed eagle and great cormorant. Since there are many old and hollow trees, the island also has an interesting insect life. However, mammals do not naturally occur on Blå Jungfrun.



## Blå Jungfrun and humans

The name Jungfrun was mentioned in 1555 by the Swedish ecclesiastic and humanist Olaus Magnus. He wrote: "It is believed that Nordic witches meet on this mountain at certain times of the year to try out their witchcraft and spells."

Carl von Linnæus was the first person to describe the island, in 1745, after a visit during his journey to Öland and Gotland. He wrote about the rich amount of ivy in the deciduous forest and about the Trojeborgen stone maze on the southern part of the island. The ivy has disappeared after some very cold winters, but the maze remains visible. Its origin is still unknown.

Even though Blå Jungfrun has probably never had a permanent population, and despite its remote location, stone quarrying started here in 1904. During this time, the biggest giant kettles were blasted. The stone was exported to Germany and other countries as decorative stone. Old stonepits can be found on the southern part of the island. Remains of the rails on which stone was transported to the boats can also be found.

After World War I, there was a strong movement to save the island. Thanks to a donation from the businessman Torsten Kreuger, Blå Jungfrun was redeemed and handed over to the Swedish Government. The National Park was established in 1926.



*Snapshot from one of the pits where stone was quarried in the early 20th century for export to Germany and other countries.*



*The Trojeborgen maze is one of the largest and most impressive in Scandinavia. Old texts and oral narratives reveal that mazes were often connected with magic. Along with Eastern traditions, people walked certain routes through the maze in the hope of improved fertility and fishing luck.*

## History carved in stone

National parks and nature reserves are created to protect and maintain valuable natural and cultural assets. In many cases, such as Blå Jungfrun, there are also scientific reasons. Blå Jungfrun offers great opportunities for geological research. Around 500 million years ago, during the Cambrian and Ordovician periods, the granite dome was covered in sediment. Sediment remains are still visible in cracks at the lower western stone quarry. The island's current round profile began to take shape through the grinding effect of the inland ice around a million years ago, during the Quaternary period. The finishing touches to Blå Jungfrun's contours were made between 6900 and 5000 B.C. At this time, the Baltic was an inland lake known as the Ancylus Lake, and the water level was much higher than it is today. The large boulder fields on the southern side of the island are a fascinating attraction for both geologists and other visitors.

## How to get to Blå Jungfrun

For information about boat trips from Oskarshamn, contact the Tourist Office in Oskarshamn, tel. +46-(0)491-881 88.

Daily boat trips depart at 10 a.m. from Byxelkrok from the first Sunday after Midsummer until the middle of August. Return around 4 p.m. For further information, phone Hans Arvidsson, Byxelkrok, tel. +46-(0)485-240 05.