



Paddling in Sweden's best hidden archipelago Around the island Stora Aspön

Suitable canoe	Gussed expenditure of time	Distance to paddle	Difficulty level
Kayak	5-6 hours	About 18 km	Middle/difficult

Start at the harbor of Olshammar. Pass Knappnäset and continue towards the next spit, which is called Lånarn. Continue along Långarn southwards, towards Lövsundet. On your way you might spot ospreys or white tail eagles. Cross the fairway at the most narrow point, towards Lövön and continue on the western shore of Lövön towards the islands Lövödpulsarna and Bästholmen. As far as here, the tour has been in protected waters.

Once you passed the island Lövön, the weather can be become more challenging, with more wind and higher waves. Turn northwards and continue towards the southern end of the island Stora Aspön, continue along the shore between Gråmunken and Brottsjöholmen. Om Brottsjöholmen it is allowed to pitch a tent and stay overnight.

After Brottsjöholmen you will reach the most weather exposed part of the tour. Be meticulous when controlling the wind and the waves and return if you feel unsure. A couple of hundred meters more north is situated the bay Hårdingsviken, take a detour there and round the little island that is situated in the bay. On the northern side of the bay you will find lovely spots to take a break on the rocks.

Continue northwards towards the channel Enesundet where you will find the first islands of the archipelago. Turn westwards and follow the shore of the bay Kvigeviken. By the island Trollholmen you can see rock formations which remind about the Swedish west coast archipelago. The cliff is hanging over the water and forms a little kind of roof where you can paddle below.

On the northern spit of Stora Aspön you can see a "Giant's kettle" which is penetrating the rock horizontally. Be careful if you are going in land. There was recently a fire in the area which makes the trees quite unstable. You also should be careful regarding ospreys living there.



Follow the beach southwards and turn by Stora Hjortholmen's northern point. If you have time, continue towards Lushällen, where you find fire places and an information board about Stora Aspön. A 25 km long hiking trail is starting here, which will lead you over the island. The nature and landscape is varied, it is worth to have hiking boots with you!

Stora Hjortholmen is a popular spot among boat enthusiasts. Here you can even stay overnight in your tent. We can recommend a great spot on the southern point. Continue the tour between Stora Hjortholmen and Ängsholmen. Be careful when crossing the channels towards Åkernäset, by Lilla Aspön and towards Ramholmen.

From Ramholmen you take the direction towards Kvistudden, which used to be an arboretum that was a part of Aspa manor. Today, there are small paths in the surroundings.

Continue along the western beach of Lake Vättern until you arrive at the harbor again.

Remember: take some extra clothes with you, which you store in a waterproof bag. Your mobile phone also needs to be stored waterproof. It is always great to have some snacks and something to drink with you. Get a map over the surroundings with you! Do not forget to check the weather reports before starting the tour and be ready to change your plans.

In the harbor in Olshammar there is a boat slip which you as a kayaker can use. Do respect other boats which are getting watered and try not to block the boat slip. You may pay a voluntary charge for using the boat slip and parking spaces. On sunny days there are many boats trafficking in the harbor. Be careful and try to paddle along the shore.

Almost the entire tour is going through the natural reserve Norra Vätterns skärdgård. Make sure you know the rules that apply there.

When crossing fairways, make sure that there are no other boats in the surroundings. It is difficult for them to spot you in your kayak.



