

## **Unique nature and coastal environment**

The Gothenburg archipelago has a unique and magical atmosphere. People have lived on many of the islands for generations, but several are uninhabited and virtually unspoiled by man. They have exceptional natural beauty and diverse wildlife. The entire southern archipelago is car-free and is best explored by foot, on a bike or from a sea kayak. In summer the coast and islands provide a fantastic getaway for sunbathing and swimming. There is no better place to enjoy a Swedish summer. Through the seasons the islands and sea play out their own spellbinding drama, with the wind, sky and unforgettable landscape taking the leading roles.

For those seeking real adventure there is plenty of choice. How about a sea trip to catch lobsters, watching a seal colony from close quarters or silently cutting through the waves in a sea kayak? Few places on Earth offer such good waters for paddling as our coast and islands.

You can easily get out to the Gothenburg archipelago by public transport. It takes barely an hour from the city centre and costs no more than a tram ticket. On the larger islands there is accommodation to suit all tastes – from uniquely furnished rooms in guesthouses, to boathouse-inspired apartments with their own terrace just a few metres from the water.

The mainland also has exceptional outdoor experiences to offer. Just a short bus ride from the city centre you can enjoy the peace and tranquillity of a landscape that is diverse, surprising and enchanting. History is revealed in the shape of ancient remains, castles, ruins, churches and fortresses. You can hike, climb, cycle, paddle a canoe, fish or even take a dip in one of the many beautiful lakes. Let the adventure begin and fill your lungs with invigorating fresh air.

## **Adventures on land and water**

If you love getting close to the water you have canals, the harbour, the archipelago and countless lakes to choose from – all within easy reach.

For water sport enthusiasts there is nothing to beat Gothenburg. This is the final destination for the Volvo Ocean Race and everywhere you look you can see evidence of Gothenburgers' love of the sea. Along the coast and in the archipelago the water is dotted with sailboats, and in the city's canals you can take sightseeing boat trips or set out on your own journey of discovery in a kayak. There are also excellent opportunities for windsurfing, diving and snorkelling.

Alongside the city trams, cycling is a favourite way for Gothenburgers to get about. There are good bike paths everywhere in the city and just a couple of kilometres beyond the city centre is a

fantastic network of nature trails. You will also find some of Sweden's finest mountain bike trails here.

### **Adventures for kids of all ages**

Gothenburg is a great city for kids. Favourite attractions include Liseberg amusement park, Alfie Atkins' Cultural Centre (Alfons Aberg's Kulturhus) and the Universeum Science Discovery Centre with its shark aquarium, rainforest and much more. Nature in and around Gothenburg also offers so many places to explore. What could be more exciting than heading out on a seal safari and watching the adorable seal pups sunning themselves on the edge of an island? You can also fish for crabs from a jetty or rocky seashore, or explore the diverse life under the surface with a snorkel and mask.

Vättelefjäll nature reserve and Delsjön lakes are perfect for canoeing adventures. Just a short bus ride or tram ride from the city centre you can camp, fish and cook over an open camp fire.

Swedish "allmansrätten" gives everyone the right of public access in nature and creates unique opportunities for those who want to roam freely and spend the night in the forest or countryside. But we naturally also need to act responsibly towards nature and wildlife, and show consideration for landowners and other visitors. So do not disturb and do not destroy.

There are lots of sheep and other animals to discover in the archipelago, and in Slottsskogen city park you can get close to elk, penguins, seals and deer. You can also pet rabbits here and have a go at riding a pony.

For those who want to learn more about the sea, Gothenburg Maritime Adventure Centre, the East Indiaman Götheborg and the Maritime Museum of Gothenburg are all exciting places to visit. Climb aboard and fill your sails with imagination and curiosity.

## **Beautiful gardens, parks and the green lungs of the city**

You are always close to nature in Gothenburg. In and around the city centre you will find fabulous green spaces such as Slottsskogen city park, the Garden Society of Gothenburg (Trädgårdsföreningen) and Gothenburg Botanical Garden. In 2016 the city will hold the Gardens of Gothenburg exhibition - Gothenburg Green World - a unique collaboration between some of the best gardens in Sweden. The aim is to establish regular garden exhibitions of an exceptional international standard highlight the unique features of each garden and help to make Gothenburg the top garden destination in Sweden.