

# What to take with you to the Åland Islands

for the



## 100 years of Åland Islands Autonomy

– in the Middle of the Baltic –



### *”Åland Calling – Come Home to Your Roots, Share and Connect With Us”*

15-20 August 2022

#### To be checked off when packing “absolutely necessary”:

- 1) a) your valid Passport, covering the period of your travel, with your valid Visa  
b) all your travel tickets – please make copies of them in case of need  
c) a valid second identification document with attached photo, valid for the time spent on travel
- 2) a) all necessary medicines needed – and a typed list of them, in case of need  
b) prescription ones in particular, as they cannot be obtained here without a visit to a local MD
- 3) you need to have a Covid pass of some sort that testifies you are vaccinated by 2-3 shots – due to the standard procedure right now.
- 4) your own individual toilet case
- 5) if you wear a hearing aid that needs batteries – take enough batteries to cover your time of travel.

Note 1: as you know, Autonomous Åland Islands consist of 6757 islands of at least ¼ Hectare in size and has a population of 30,000 inhabitants. Mariehamn, the capital of the Åland Islands, has a population of 11,700 inhabitants. The large Åland Mainland Island is one such island (including the Municipalities of **Eckerö, Finström, Geta, Hammarland, Jomala, Lemland, Lumparland, Mariehamn, Saltvik** and **Sund**). This island is surrounded by several name-carrying clusters of other islands, such as the municipalities of **Brändö, Föglö, Kumlinge, Kökar, Sottunga** and **Vårdö**. Each island-cluster include numerous other islands, some inhabited, others not, as well as skerries and barren cliffs. In some instance these are connected by bridges, if not, then often by a string of smaller car carrying ferries. We will visit some sites like this, and by ferry the historically quite unique Föglö Islands, from where **Hjördis Sundblom** left as a young girl from a poverty-stricken crofter’s house for New York and returned 50 years later.

We have sent requests for “just right” warm and sunny weather, but haven’t yet heard if our order was received and filled. Therefore, as daily changing weather-conditions and

temperatures are hard to predict in advance, and as our excursions will take us to various sites, many situated at variable terrains:

Note 2: Please consider these outings are not the staging of individual “Fashion Shows!”, so please, try to adhere to our suggested clothing-attire to be worn by men and women alike, or packed into individually carried suitable **back-packs** at gathering excursions, all which are also quite OK to be worn while at the gathering sessions:

- 4) to keep dry and warm:
  - a) some **practical water proof rain gear**, including head cover, umbrella (sometimes quite useless in strong wind and wind-driven rain)
  - b) practical and **comfortably broken-in flat non-slip-sole** (rough) walking/hiking shoes, you will not end up crying floods over if they get wet, muddy, or dirty.
  - c) practical and **comfortable older long pants**, not intended for “city” use, but suitable for outings most **preferably light colored** or old and grubby Jeans, wind/water proofs, duck, or any old ones you intend to discard the following week and will not shed tears over if they get wet, get spots, or get holes. You know: will protect you from those ever-present ticks, and sundry such, which you yourself judge will keep you warm when needed, cool when needed, and comfortable as desired and you can sit down in at any grubby outdoor place.
- 5) one to two pairs of practical **warm socks** into which the ends of those pants can be stuffed to stay there.
- 6) a practical and **warm old sweater/cardigan/sweat shirt**, preferably a buttoned or zippered one for easy-on and off wear. We recommend **wool-silk underwear**, as for ski use, with the expressed hope you won’t need them. Åland is on the level of the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska, although the climate is different!
- 7) a scarf in case of need – for head or throat
- 8) please report if you have any **food allergies** and describe what has to be avoided
- 9) your prescription eye glasses and sunglasses
- 10) for Monday, August 15 & Friday, August 19:  
something you think “nice” and comfortable to wear at the Opening Day as well as for the Festive Dinner at Restaurant Seagram at Degerby, Föglö.
- 11) **Not to pack:** frilly party dress and no high heels! Signal you are dressed up with a pair of ear rings or a favorite necklace, something cheap so you don’t cry when you lose it. This is not a high heel country, nor a high heel event! Comfort is the leading word for everyone.

**Please bring a brochure of your home community for us to have.**

For this event your registration form to be filled and sent to us you find on our homepage ([www.eminst.net](http://www.eminst.net)). We hope to receive it as soon as you can mail it to us.

Please circulate this information to everyone interested you know.

Due to the world wide Covid-19 situation it might direct us to change the program for some pertinent reason or other.

During the Gathering we’ll provide you with a daily face mask in case there will be a requirement, and hand sterilization.