



1. Norsholmen

Beautiful open landscape with grazed meadows. White-tailed eagles are often seen, also during winter. Good birding mainly during spring and autumn migration, look for waders in Tällevika.

2. Langhammar rauk area

Perhaps Gotland's most beautiful rauks, several are over eight meters high. The rauks consist of harder limestone bedrock than the surroundings and were left when the rest of the cliff was eroded by the sea during the land uplift after the Ice age. Further south lies the fishing village Helgumannen and the rauk area Digerhuvud.

3. Ryssnäs

Färö's southernmost cape, Ryssnäs, is a large nature reserve with a distinct Färö feeling: old, windswept pines and large gray cobblestone fields with scattered white swallow-wort – poisonous and left by the sheep – spreading towards the open sea. There are several different environments in the reserve, even a small bog. The southernmost point is an important nesting site for many birds and therefore it is not allowed to go there in spring and early summer.

4. Bästeträsk

Gotland's largest lake with crystal clear water. The green-blue lake is surrounded by the unique Gotland alvar, a very rare type of nature on cracked limestone bedrock with very thin layers of soil. Old but small and lean pines endure on the alvar but nearby one can also find lush meadows with hazel bushes and orchids.

5. Kappelshamnsviken

In the bay, wintering ducks gather in large numbers, mostly tufted ducks and scaup. Hundreds of great crested grebes lie here sometimes in the winter and little grebes can also be seen.

6. Hallshuk

Cape with a high and mighty cliff edge that offers fantastic sea views. Seabirds and eagles are often seen here and along the coast to the south.

7. Hall-Hangvar nature reserve

A large nature reserve with magnificent cliffs, wetlands, orchids and other unusual plants. The reserve stretches along the north west coast south to Ireviken. Here and in the area around Bästeträsk, Gotland offers a touch of wilderness.

8. Grausne källmyr

A bog with springs and streams with a rich flora. Special and unusual plants such as bird's-eye primrose, alpine butterwort, alpine asphodel/ Tofield's asphodel (*Tofieldia calyculata*), great sundew, the eyebright *E. s. subsp. schoenicola* (endemic to Gotland) and several species of orchids.

9. Träskmyr

Träskmyr is one of Gotland's largest bogs with a Gotland specialty: great fen-sedge, a tall sedge traditionally used for making roofs on barns. An even more exclusive species is the orchid *Orchis palustris* – a tall and magnificent orchid, some years over 2,000 specimens can be found in bloom! Cranes, marsh harriers, spotted crakes, water rails and corkcrakes nest in the bog.

10. Fardumeträsk

Fardumeträsk is a typical inland lake with large reed areas and thus a little unusual among the Gotland bird sites. Marsh harriers hunt over the reeds on V-set wings and hobbies catch dragonflies which they can nibble on in the air. Seagulls and terns come to visit from the coast nearby.

11. Furilden

Historic industrial environment and nice small pine forests, beautiful pebble beaches and exciting bird watching during migration.

12. Hammarsånget

A large, traditional Gotland meadow – "ånge" – with exciting swamp forests next to it. Beautiful plants from spring to late summer: wood anemones, cowslips and orchids. Black woodpeckers and lesser spotted woodpeckers nest here as well as Gotland's landscape bird the collared flycatcher. Several different species of bats hunt insects in the meadow.

13. Asunden and Vägumeviken

Asunden is grazed by sheep – the nature conservation heroes who keep the pastures rich with flowers. When low water levels during migration there may be plenty of waders on the west side of the road bank. Dunlins, broad-billed sandpipers, curlew sandpipers and long-legged waders of the *Tringa* genus forage and rest. Ducks and divers overwinter in the bay.

14. Filehajdar och Hejnum hällar

Gotland's largest area with limestone pavement. The dramatic, barren landscape also has beautiful and unusual plants like the Eastern pasqueflower (*Pulsatilla patens*), in Sweden only found here and on a few locations in northern Sweden. The eastern part of the area is destroyed by limestone quarries but there are still areas with old pines and small wetlands with woodlarks, nightjars, black grouse and Tengmalm's owls.

15. Kallgatburg

Nature reserve with a nature trail passing meadows and bogs with orchids and other rare plants. From Kallgatburg the path leads east to an area with lady's slippers, an unmistakable orchid. Narrow-leaved marsh-orchid grow along the path.

16. Lummelundsbruk

A beautiful old mill environment with many songbirds in early summer. In winter dippers can be seen bouncing up and down on rocks before

diving into the cold water. In late November–December trout migrate upstream to spawn. The area is, however, best known for Lummelundagrottan, the second longest cave in Sweden.

17. Brucebo

High cliff coast with bird-rich coastal meadows, wetlands with orchids and a cliff edge with many caves just north of Visby. There is a nature trail, about 2 km long, through the nature reserve.

18. Södra hällarna

Just south of Visby, this nature reserve offers a fantastic view, high above the sea. The light gray limestone bedrock with sparse vegetation along steep cliffs dominate but you can also find spots with moist deciduous forests. Steep paths lead down to pebble and sand beaches.

19. Alvena lindaräng

A large, well-kept ånge, the special Gotland version of meadows which all also have trees and bushes. Among magnificent, old small-leaved lime trees several species of orchids thrive. Many of the lindens have holes in their trunks, perfect for nesting starlings and collared flycatchers.

20. Storsund

A lake with wide reeds and a bird tower. The lake specialty is the great egret – a large white heron that is found in southern Europe but suddenly started breeding here in Storsund as the only place in Sweden. Now, after a few successful years, you can find great egrets along coasts and in other lakes on Gotland.

21. Lina myr

A formerly incredibly bird-rich wetland that has been ditched out. In late autumn and winter geese rest and forage here as do whooper swans and tundra swans. In winter birds of prey such as rough-legged buzzards and hen harriers can be seen searching for prey over the wet fields.

More information

Do you want to find a place to eat or stay over night? You will find this and more information in the app called Öppet Gotland (in Swedish only but with understandable icons).

More information on protected areas is found at the regional authority's, Länsstyrelsen Gotlands, website www.lansstyrelsen.se/gotland

More about different nature values on Gotland can be found on a map at the Gotland municipality website: www.gotland.se search for Naturvärdeskartan.



Gotland Nature Map

Cover: Skylark



Welcome to beautiful Gotland!

In the delicate spring green of Gotland's meadows you can find our provincial bird, the collared flycatcher, and in early summer pink and white orchids gleam in the shadow of hazel bushes and majestic oak trees. Along the coasts beautiful waders migrate on their way north to their breeding grounds and colourful ducks gather in lakes and bays to breed. The height of summer features spectacular fields of intense blue viper's bugloss against the harsh grey limestone and bright summer nights with screeching swifts hunting for insects for their young almost all night long. The long sandy beaches don't just attract tourists, already in July waders come back here on their route south. Autumn comes with calm and quiet, until suddenly the air is filled with tens of thousands of cackling barnacle geese feeding in fields and coastal meadows. Winter fills coastal bays with beautiful northern ducks, often alarmed by eagles passing by. And soon it's spring again! Welcome to the fantastic nature of Gotland!

Baltic Wings is a cross-border collaboration, promoting the central Baltic area as a birding and nature tourism destination. The aim is to create new work opportunities in rural areas. The project runs from 2018 to 2020 and is mainly financed by the European Regional Development Fund. Region Gotland co-finances the Gotland part of the project which is implemented by Föreningen Närsholmen. More info at www.balticwings.org.



Illustrations: Peter Nilsson (birds) and Bo Mossberg (flowers). Map: © Lantmäteriet.



Lapwing

Oystercatcher

Spotted crane

Great bittern

Wigeon

Eider

Östergårnsholm

Avocet

Goosander

Pintail

Garganey



Pasqueflower (ssp. gotlandica)

Heath spotted-orchid

Early marsh-orchid

Eider-flowered orchid

Military orchid

Lady's slipper

Early-purple orchid

Fragrant orchid

Burnt orchid

Viper's bugloss / Blueweed

(Spring) Pheasant's eye / False hellebore

Lesser butterfly-orchid

22. Kronholmen

The coast at Kronholmen is a good place for migrating birds in the spring. Eiders pass low above the water surface during April. Common scoters, velvet scoters and many other ducks also pass during migration as do loons and geese.

23. Paviken

An excellent bird lake with a bird tower reached by following the path along Paån from the car park by the road Visby–Klintehamn. Ducks, great bitterns, cranes and marsh harriers thrive here together with many other species. In the bushes by the lakeshore you can hear singing warblers and crakes in the evenings and nights.

24. Norrlanda kyrkmyr

A ditched bog that has been partially restored and now attracts whooper swans, geese, ducks and great snipes, jack snipe and snipe during the spring. Birds of prey such as white-tailed and golden eagles, hobbies and goshawks are also seen.

25. Anga prästänge

Fantastic flower splendor with beautiful meadow species. The orchids marsh helleborine, narrow-leaved helleborine, common twayblade, lesser butterfly-orchid, greater butterfly-orchid, fragrant orchid, common spotted-orchid (*ssp. fuchsii*), heath spotted-orchid (*ssp. maculata*), early-purple orchid, military orchid, burnt orchid and fly orchid all grow here.

26. Upstaigs urskog

Upstaigs urskog is a small but attractive area of old-growth forest. Old forests are uncommon in Sweden's southern parts but here you will find large pines almost three hundred years old. Dead tree trunks remain where they have fallen and benefit many insects, lichens and mosses.

27. Grogarnsberget and Kuppen

The Östergarn area is characterized by its beautiful pastures and gray-white limestone cliffs, the view of the sea and the long pebble beaches. At Grogarnsberget the view over the small island Östergårnsholm and the Baltic Sea is magnificent. Further south, on Kuppen, you can get a good view of migrating ducks, loons, geese and other birds passing on their way to or from the nesting sites in the north.

28. Torsburgen and Herrgårdsklint

Fantastic views of the forest landscape. Soaring golden or white-tailed eagles can be spotted over the treetops. The cliffs have been used as fortresses in ancient times when stone ramparts complemented the natural protection provided by the cliffs. A large forest fire created dramatic, burnt areas now being recolonized by vegetation, an area passed if approaching from the northeast.

29. Russvåtar nature reserve

Gotlandssippa, a subspecies of pasqueflower special for Gotland, blooms with bright purple flowers on the dry, gray limestone ground in late April and early May. A nice and quite long forest walk will take you from Russvåtar's parking space, through the reserve and farther into the forest on small forest roads up to Torsburgen.

30. Mallgårds källmyr, Botes källmyr and Kviebäcken

In the Lojsta forest there are exciting plants still left in the cold bogs after the Ice age, while most of their relatives grow far north in the mountains. Here you can find, for example, alpine butterwort, alpine bartisia, and the eyebright *E. s. subsp. schoenicola* (endemic to Gotland) together with many orchids, the carnivorous great sundew, alpine asphodel (*Tofieldia calyculata*), and many *Carex* species. Parts of the area are grazed by the local, rustic pony breed: Gotlandssuss.

31. Stora Karlsö and Lilla Karlsö

The only bird cliffs in the Baltic Sea. Nesting guillemots and razorbills on the cliff ledges and beautiful, sheep-grazed grasslands with many interesting plants. On Lilla Karlsö there is a colony of grey seals and on Stora Karlsö unusual species such as barred warbler and the bright red rosefinch with its high whistle "Pleased to meet you!" nest. Staying overnight is possible on both islands during the summer.

32. Ekstakusten

Dramatically barren rocky shore with windswept pine trees. The road along the coast provides a glorious view over Karlsöarna and at Langsteviken in the southern part there are often plenty of birds to watch: geese, waders and ducks thrive on the grazed coastal meadows.

33. Lausvik

One of Gotland's very best birding sites with two bird towers along the shallow bay. In spring, large numbers of bar-tailed godwits rest and forage. Avocets nest along the shore and waders of many other species are found here in July and August when the water level is low. In autumn and spring barnacle geese in tens of thousands, sometimes with occasional red-breasted geese in company, rest and feed in the area. During migration up to ten thousand common gulls rest in the bay. White-tailed eagles and golden eagles are seen all year round.

34. Hammaren

Ducks, waders and geese rest along the beaches and orchids and other rare plants grow in the beautiful grazed pastures. There is a nature trail for cycling and hiking along the coast with signs about birds, plants, fish and bats (in Swedish). A hiking trail, Östkustleden, leads north past Ljugarn and all the way up to Anga prästänge (25).

35. Närsholmen

A grazed peninsula, called Sweden's savannah with junipers looking almost like acacia. The red and white lighthouse is famous. In summer you will find avocets, ringed plovers, redshanks and curlews breeding but also many other waders returning from the north after breeding. Tens of thousands of barnacle geese rest and pass in spring and autumn. In early summer orchids like elder-flowered orchid, burnt orchid and green-winged orchid can be found.

Lesser whitethroat

Lesser whitethroat

Meadow pipit

Meadow pipit

Red-backed shrike

Red-backed shrike

Collared flycatcher (male and female)

Barred warbler

Red-breasted flycatcher

Lapland bunting

Rosefinch

Barred warbler

Red-breasted flycatcher

Lapland bunting

Rosefinch

36. Ronehamn

During the winter, flocks of ducks – mostly tufted ducks and scaup – gather in the harbour or in the open sea just outside. Here you have a chance to see northern ducks at a convenient distance, species that nest in Lapland or all the way up on the tundra. The scaup and tufted ducks look rather similar but the male tufted duck has a black back while the scaup have a grey, mottled back. Only the tufted duck males have the tuft at the back of the head.

37. Grötlingboudd

From behind a wind shield you can look for ducks, waders and geese on the flat grasslands towards the sea. During the breeding season, one is not allowed to move freely, but you can go out to the windbreak all year round. There are almost always birds to look at and the coast environment is beautiful all year round.

38. Krakvåt and Sävvåt nature reserves

Krakovåt and Sävvåt belong to the EU network of protected areas – Natura 2000. The orchid *Orchis palustris* blooms here in the thousands during good years and in Krakvåt there are interesting plants such as dune gentian, early marsh-orchid, marsh helleborine and musk orchid.

39. Nisseviken

Nisseviken is best known as a lovely beach but a little further into the bay, waders thrive. Ringed plovers run around in the sand and in the shallows longer-legged waders of the *Tringa* genus like redshanks, wood sandpipers, green-shanks and spotted redshanks can often be seen. During the migration north in May, spotted redshanks are incredibly elegant: carbon black plumage with discreet white dots on wings and back.

40. Näsudden

A headland that juts out far into the sea, like Näsudden, is almost always good for birds passing during migration. Many birds also rest here after or before embarking on longer stretches across the open sea. Näsudden with all its wind turbines is an exciting birdwatching site during spring and autumn but also has fun winter visitors like twite, redpolls, snow buntings and horned larks that have tiny "horns" on their heads of small, raised feathers.

41. Burgsviken

Along the eastern shore of the bay there is a bird tower. Reeds have been removed along the shoreline, a small lagoon has been excavated and grazing animals now roam the area to benefit the bird life. This may become a really good birding site in the future. Already now the bay is well known for its large flocks of smew in the winter.

42. Fide prästänge

A very nice meadow with hazel, birch and oak and open areas covered with flowers during early summer. Here the orchids heath spotted-orchid (*ssp. maculata*), fragrant orchid, military orchid and lesser butterfly-orchid bloom out in the sunlight among meadow saxifrage and devil's-bit scabious while early-purple orchid, narrow-leaved helleborine and common twayblade thrive a bit into the shade. In late summer one can find the unusual fungus Satan's boletus/Devil's boletus.

43. Faludden

At the far end of the cape migrating ducks, geese and loons will pass relatively close to land. Part of the cape is off limits (military), but you can walk past the houses to reach the shore. Further inland there are groves where exciting small birds often rest during migration. In spring and early summer, the sky larks sing intensely over the grazed, coastal meadows.

44. Stockviken

From the bird tower you get a good view over Inre Stockviken, where most European duck species are represented in their most beautiful plumages in April–May. Shiny, colourful and easy-to-see ducks like pintails, wigeons, teal, gadwails and of course mallards are seen along with a few garganeys. The world's largest terns, the Caspian tern, often search for fish in the lake. Further out along the coast, in Yttre Stockviken, waders, gulls, ducks and geese are seen in spring and autumn. Cranes and herons like the grassy area between the lake and the coast and bearded reedlings live their withdrawn lives in the wide reed beds.

45. Holmhällar

A beautiful rauk area with a sea of flowering blue viper's bugloss during early summer. Just outside is the island Heligholmen where many birds nest, including barnacle geese, eider, Kentish tern and the elegant lesser black-backed gull.

46. Muskmyr

Birds of prey are often seen here, even unusual ones like red-footed falcons in spring and summer. From the bird tower you can search the sky above the tree horizon for white-tailed eagles and golden eagles. Marsh harriers nest in the bog and hobbies are often seen catching dragonflies over the reeds. Along the hiking trail that leads around the bog there are many beautiful and special plants including a wide variety of orchids.

47. Alvret

The open, dry alvar area south of Muskmyr acts as a heating surface and the hot air lifts the soaring raptors to a good, elevated view of possible prey or as a starting point for migration south. In April–May and September–October, migratory birds of prey are often seen here. In winter golden eagles, white-tailed eagles and sometimes hen harriers, rough-legged buzzards and peregrine falcons remain in the area.

48. Husrygg and Vaktbackar

Husrygg is an elongated ridge with great views over the sea. Along the edge golden eagles are often seen cruising. In early spring the yellow pheasant's eye/false hellebore blooms with large shiny yellow flowers that almost look artificial on the gray limestone gravel.

49. Hoburgen and Rivet

The area around Hoburghsklippan and down towards the sea is one of Sweden's most exciting bird areas. Here the migratory birds pass in spring and autumn. Auks in long black and white bands pass close over the sea surface, the loons usually fly a little higher and the geese pass in large cackling flocks. In the bushes at the bottom of the cliff small birds rest and forage and real rarities can be found.