

Maria Lindqvist, PhD

Baltic Sea Boom

The Economic Landscape:
The 2026 Baltic Macro-Economic Boom. On the economic front, the Baltic countries (Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia) have entered a notable economic boom period. Lithuania's Surge: Lithuania has emerged as an economic heavyweight in the region. Driven by a massive influx of EU funds and significant infrastructure spending on regional defense, its economy has expanded vastly compared to a decade ago.

The High-Tech Pivot: Estonia and Latvia are experiencing an economic expansion heavily tied to artificial intelligence, fintech, and digital integration. Estonia, for instance, has set an aggressive target to scale its economy via public-sector and industrial AI integration to supercharge national productivity.



Renewable energy Baltic Sea Nations Pledge 7x Increase in Offshore Wind by 2030
Under the newly signed Marienborg Declaration, eight countries are teaming up to unlock the Baltic Sea's massive energy potential. The coalition aims to aggressively boost installed capacity from a modest 2.8 GW today to 19.6 GW by 2030, laying the groundwork for further long-term expansion targets toward 2040.
<https://balticwind.eu/the-marienborg-declaration-baltic-sea-countries-declare-more-cooperation-in-offshore-wind/>

Must visit in Turku

**Yes! It's time for
Ruisrock**

July 3-5, 2026

<https://ruisrock.fi/en/>

Museum ships opening hours:

Sigyn, Suomen Joutsen, Karjala and Keihässalmi are open again in the summer season 1.6.-16.8.2026.

<https://www.forum-marinum.fi/en/visit/museum-ships/>



AGENDA

2030

Since 2021

FINLAND TAKES
THE LEAD

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Latest news about the Weather

MetCoOp: Joint Regional Weather Forecasting

MetCoOp (Meteorological Cooperation on Operational NWP) is a collaborative initiative between the governmental meteorological offices of **Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Norway, and Sweden**. By leveraging joint numerical weather prediction (NWP), this ongoing project produces the regional forecasts that form the backbone of daily weather data and official national weather warnings.

These forecasts are distributed to the general public, governmental institutions, and specialized entities like national road authorities.

Key Modifications for the Nordic Region

To optimize the high-resolution model for northern climates, several core updates were implemented:

- **Surface & Ecosystems:** Updated descriptions for ecosystem and surface parameters, alongside modified surface drag descriptions.
- **Physics & Assimilation:** Enhanced microphysics and improved snow assimilation techniques.

Integration of Novel Observations

The operational runs incorporate new data types from regional networks to boost accuracy: • **GNSS Data:** Ground-based Global Navigation Satellite System observations.

- **Radar Data:** Reflectivity data integrated directly from Norwegian and Swedish radar networks.



Islands to visit in Finland

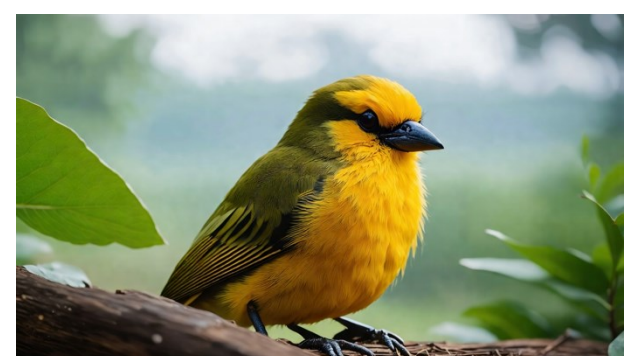
Boasting numerous excellent hiking islands, the Archipelago National Park is a haven for adventurers. You can access the islands by canoe, private boat, organized tours, or charter trips through Metsähallitus partners, with overnight stays permitted on select islands. To protect sensitive seal habitats and nesting bird populations, certain islands are closed to visitors from April to July.

Since opening to the public in 2016, Bodö has been continuously developing its visitor services (bodo.fi). The island previously served as a coast guard station from 1967 to 1991; its main building sat empty until renovations began in 2016. While the historic tower is still operated by the Finnish Border Guard and remains closed to visitors, the rest of the island features marked trails for exploration. **Please note that there is no drinking water available on the island.**

Jurmo Island: A mystical, nearly treeless moraine heath at the very edge of Finland's Salpausselkä ridge system, famous for its pirate lore and rugged beauty.

Hiking & Wildlife

- **Bird-Watching Hotspot:** Excellent vantage points for spring and autumn migrations, supported by the Turku Ornithological Society's station.
- **Trail Network:** Several walking trails cross the island.
- **Seasonal Restrictions:** To protect nesting birds, the western part of the island is closed to visitors from **April 1 to July 31**.
- **Visitor Center:** A free, unstaffed nature information hut is open 24/7 with exhibits on local ecology.



Islands to visit in Sweden

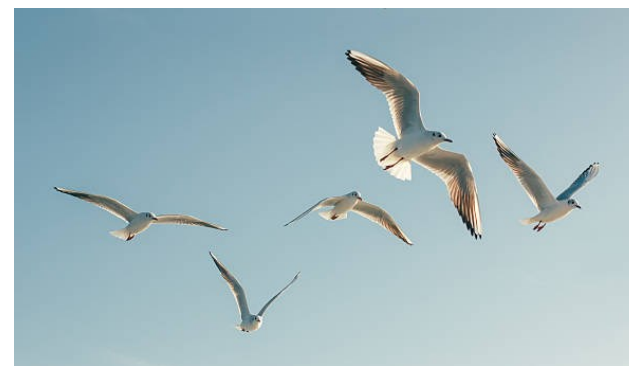


Grinda is widely celebrated as Stockholm's ultimate bathing paradise. When summer arrives, locals from all corners of the city flock here on weekends to soak up the sun, swim in the refreshing waters, and unwind in nature.

Almost entirely owned by the Archipelago Foundation (*Skärgårdsstiftelsen*), Grinda's natural beauty is carefully preserved, leaving the island remarkably lush, clean, and completely open for exploring the forests or swimming to your heart's content. Most of the local shops and cafés are nestled in Södra Grinda, including the charming *Grinda Wårdshus*. This traditional Swedish inn offers accommodations in classic, red-painted wooden cottages just steps from the water. While you're there, don't miss the chance to taste the famous "Grinda loaf"—the island's signature freshly baked bread.

Known affectionately as the "authors' island," Runmarö has long inspired creative minds like August Strindberg, poet Tomas Tranströmer, and painter Axel Törneman. Beyond its rich artistic heritage, the island is a haven for nature lovers, boasting nine inland lakes (locally called marshes) and an incredible variety of wild orchids, with at least 27 species thriving across the island.

Situated as a natural bottleneck in the gulf leading toward Finland, the Holmöarna archipelago comprises a group of forested Swedish islands with a year-round population of under 80 people. The islands boast diverse natural landscapes—ranging from bogs and forests to sandy beaches—making it a premier destination for hiking and birdwatching. The main island, Holmön, also features a specialized museum showcasing the area's rich boat-building history.



Svartsö is a picturesque island in the Stockholm archipelago known for its natural beauty and tranquil atmosphere. The island offers an array of outdoor activities, including hiking trails through forests and meadows, coastal exploration along rocky beaches, as well as excellent fishing and boating in its calm waters. Cultural points of interest include a historic chapel and a traditional Swedish homestead. Svartsö successfully balances its popularity with conservation, maintaining a secluded, peaceful environment that makes it an ideal destination for travelers looking to disconnect.

The Island of Holmön

Holmön offers visitors an authentic Nordic escape characterized by serene landscapes, diverse wildlife, and traditional charm. Located in the Kvarken (Gulf of Bothnia) roughly 10 km from the mainland, this picturesque island is home to a permanent community of about 70 residents, though the population grows several times over during the summer season.

The island's rich maritime heritage is preserved in its historic fishing village, featuring iconic red wooden houses and narrow roadways. For a deeper look into the island's history and seasonal lifestyle, visitors can explore the Holmön Boat Museum (*Boatmuseum*), which showcases local life through the generations.

Tucked off the Bjäre Peninsula on Sweden's west coast, the picturesque island of Hallands Väderö is a protected nature reserve famed for its crystal-clear waters and white sand beaches. While the island is a sanctuary for nesting seabirds like cormorants and guillemots, its biggest draw is the massive colony of up to 1,500 seals basking on the southeastern shore. To see them up close, you can hop on a regular 90-minute seal safari departing from Torekov. For those looking to extend their stay, accommodations range from a campsite, hostel, and self-catering cabins on a historic 19th-century farm to a unique rental apartment inside the island's old lighthouse.

Nestled within northern Sweden's UNESCO World Heritage-listed High Coast, Ulvön is famously known as the capital of *surströmming*—the notorious fermented herring that Swedes either passionately love or completely avoid discussing. Beyond its culinary infamy, the island boasts an absurdly picturesque fishing village and coastal hiking trails that serve up breathtaking views across the Gulf of Bothnia. For anyone who loves exploring charming Scandinavian seaside towns, Ulvön is an absolute must-visit.



Seawater is naturally cloudiest near the coastline. This turbidity occurs when organic matter, like algae, and soil materials, such as clay, leach into the water from the surrounding catchment area.

Turbidity is measured in Formazin Nephelometric Units (FNU). While the open ocean remains quite clear—ranging from just 1 to 3 FNU—outer coastal waters typically sit between 2 and 6 FNU. However, in shallow estuaries, heavy river runoff can drive turbidity up to a peak of 80 FNU. In shallow coastal zones, wind and waves also stir up particles that had already settled on the seafloor, mixing them back into the water column.

Ultimately, turbidity shifts with the weather and the seasons. Coastal waters become exceptionally cloudy during strong winds or when seasonal river flows dump soil into estuaries. In contrast, clarity in the open sea is dictated almost entirely by the rise and fall of algal blooms.

Taking a dip off the northern German island of Sylt is undeniably brisk—air and water temperatures rarely top 20°C (68°F), and the sea often hovers closer to a chilly 17°C (63°F) even at its warmest. Yet, there is a distinct romance to its sweeping white sands backed by wild, grassy dunes. While most travelers flock to the popular 18-mile stretch of Weststrand, the beach lining the main town of List is just as alluring. Bordering the Wadden Sea, this area is much more sheltered from the elements, offering calmer—if still frosty—waters to explore.

Beyond its sandy beaches, the Polish coast features a diverse array of impressive geological formations, including the Vistula Spit, the Hel Peninsula, and the rugged cliff coastlines of Wolin National Park. These dynamic features are continuously shaped by coastal currents, wind, and wave action, meaning the landscape is constantly evolving. This inherent changeability makes exploring the region a unique experience for visitors. While Southern Europe is famous for its rocky coastlines, the Baltic Sea offers a distinct atmospheric charm defined by its native cliffs and expansive beaches, making it a highly compelling destination for nature enthusiasts.

The Baltic Sea is a dynamic system where water is almost always on the move. Here is how its unique current system works:

- **The Drivers:** Baltic currents are powered by changing winds, differences in air pressure, and varying water densities.
- **The Shape of the Flow:** As the Earth spins, it naturally veers currents to the right. When these currents hit the underwater trenches and basins of the sea floor, they break off into large and small whirlpools.
- **No Permanent Currents:** Unlike the Atlantic or Pacific oceans, the Baltic Sea's currents shift constantly with the daily weather.
- **The Big Picture:** While the day-to-day movement changes, long-term data shows that the dominant southwestern winds and the Earth's rotation combine to create a grand, **counterclockwise circular rotation** across the whole sea.

Some of the conferences that are about Baltic Sea in July 2026

Macro-regional & Sea Basin Strategies Days 2026

- **Dates:** July 8–9, 2026
- **Location:** SQUARE Brussels Convention Centre, Brussels, Belgium
- **Focus:** Organized by the European Commission, this two-day event gathers all eight EU macro-regional strategies—including the Baltic Sea Strategy—to discuss the post-2027 Cohesion Policy, resilience, and cross-border coordination. Learn more on the [Macro-regional and Sea Basin Strategies Days Event Page](#).

Baltic Sea Region Hackathon 2026

- **Dates:** July 2–5, 2026
- **Location:** Lübeck, Germany
- **Focus:** This all-expenses-paid event invites young people (ages 18–29) from CBSS Member States to collaborate on the theme of "Free and Secure Societies." Apply and find details on the [CBSS Event Page](#).

Baltic Active Mobility 2026: Shaping Future Cities!

This upcoming event in **Gdynia, Poland**, brings together local, regional, and national practitioners, experts, and decision-makers to transform urban transit.

- **The Mission:** To explore how active mobility and strong Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) can reshape our communities.
- **The Goal:** Driving the transition toward healthier, more resilient, and future-ready cities.

<https://eusbsr.eu/event/baltic-active-mobility-conference/>

Sea Conferences in Helsinki

July 16-17, 2026

- [ICMESM 2026: Marine Engineering and Shipyard Management Conference, Helsinki](#)
- [ICMSA 2026: Marine Science and Aquaculture Conference, Helsinki](#)
- [ICMSC 2026: Marine Science and Conservation Conference, Helsinki](#)

<https://waset.org/sea-conferences-in-july-2026-in-helsinki?>

**Electricity will
flow from
Polish wind
turbines in the
Baltic Sea**

<https://en.energydrink.today/2026/06/17/Electricity-is-coming-from-offshore-wind-turbines.-Poland-is-connecting-another-warehouse-in-Pomerania/>

SUOMI
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2021

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