

An aerial photograph of a coastal town on the island of Gotland, Sweden. The town is densely packed with buildings, many with red-tiled roofs, and is surrounded by greenery. A large body of water, likely the Baltic Sea, is visible in the foreground, with a rocky shoreline. The sky is clear and blue.

GOTLAND
our island
is our
environment

Welcome to Gotland, an eco-municipality in the middle of the Baltic Sea

For the people of Gotland, environmental issues have always been of crucial importance. Being close to the soil, the forest, the meadow and the sea leads to a solid commitment to the environment. The municipality's Agenda 21 has set up an overall goal: that Gotland will be a sustainable society in the course of a generation – in 25–30 years.

Is this possible? How can we achieve it? The most important thing is to start to do something now rather than wait.

Since 1992, when Gotland became an eco-municipality, environmental work has been resolutely carried on in all sectors and organizations on the island. Households have been involved in sorting waste at source and composting. Businesses and the municipality have cooperated on various projects: environmental management systems and ecocycle adaptation are key terms in development.

More and more people want to experience and enjoy nature and culture on Gotland. There is a growing interest in “ecotourism”, which requires new, environmentally adapted solutions. Each year Gotland has about 700,000 visitors, most of whom come in the summer months. This means that the population is many times greater than the 58,500 permanent residents.

In this brochure you can see a little of what we do together on Gotland. There are also hints about how you can do your share to make Gotland sustainable within a generation.

Welcome to Gotland!

The environmental way to Gotland

Collaboration at sea is the foundation for safety.

The Swedish National Maritime Administration works to keep shipping routes open and safe by means of pilots, hydrographical

surveying, sea rescue services, lighthouses and buoys. In winter, ice-breakers guarantee that seaways are kept open. This is essential if commercial and passenger traffic is to flow without problems. The expenses of the National Maritime Administration are financed with fees paid by shipping companies.

There has been shipping between Gotland and the mainland for centuries. Through the years, the environment has suffered hard knocks, so environmental work is more in focus now than ever. The Baltic Sea has been classed by the International Maritime Organization as a "Special Area" with stricter rules than other seas because of the geographical and ecologically sensitive conditions.

Destination Gotland has therefore invested a great deal in catalytic converters, more efficient emission control, sorting at source, environment-friendly paint, and staff training. The catalytic system on the new high-speed ferry cuts emissions of nitrogen to one seventh of the rate of conventional systems.

Thinking in terms of the ecocycle is one of our foundation stones. We would like to inspire our travellers to think the same way.



Activities in restaurants, cafés and cabins also affect the environment. To cause as little waste as possible, everything is sorted at source. Virtually all cleaning agents are manufactured on board using a computer-controlled mixer which blends the right concentration for minimum impact on the environment.

You sort your own waste

Passengers also have a chance to sort their own waste. Sorting containers can be found in terminals and on board the ferries. At each place there are four containers:

- red for beverage cans and PET bottles
- yellow for plastic mugs, bags, etc.
- green for paper
- grey for other waste, e.g. food waste

The waste is then taken to municipal recycling station on shore.

Ecologically grown food

Service on board works actively with Gotlandic producers through "Product Gotland". An example of our cooperation is our new French hot dog which, despite the name, consists of



100% Gotlandic produce. We are now authorized by KRAV, the controlling body of alternative growers, to display the KRAV badge, which ensures that the food is ecologically produced. The vegetarian alternatives in our restaurants mostly consist of environmentally controlled ingredients.

Enjoy your meal!

The Destination Gotland vessels

Our vessels have catalytic converters on all the engines, which run on city diesel. Emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) have decreased as follows:

Vessel	emission of NO _x without catalytic converter	emission of NO _x with catalytic converter
M/S Visby	232 kg/h	33 kg/h
M/S Thjelvar	163 kg/h	23 kg/h
HSC Gotland	308 kg/h	47 kg/h

For more information call Destination Gotland, tel. 0498-201800, fax 201890, www.destinationgotland.se.

The vessels of the National Maritime Administration

The National Maritime Administration's fleet of vessels, which consist of ice-breakers, survey ships, working ships, fairway boats, and pilot and rescue boats, are being fitted with catalytic converters to ensure a better maritime environment. The National Maritime Administration protects the environment both at sea and in port. We have therefore introduced environmental discounts on fairway fees for vessels which have switched to city diesel and/or taken measures to reduce emissions of sulphur oxides and nitrogen oxides.

For more information call the National Maritime Administration, tel. 011-191000, www.sjofartsverket.se.



We sort our waste at source

All those who live permanently on Gotland have their material for recycling collected at the gate. We have been collecting in this way since 1991, a service that we are almost alone in providing in Sweden. Many Gotlanders also take sorted waste to the recycling centres. Glass packages can also be taken to bottle banks which are located beside many food shops.

We Gotlanders are good at sorting at source. In the last ten years we have reduced our waste by almost 30%. But we can get even better. By sorting more and composting, we reduce the volume of waste and simultaneously help the environment

Recycling centres

Visby	Monday–Friday 7 a.m.–4 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Slite	Monday–Friday 7 a.m.–4 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Hemse	Tuesday–Friday 10.30 a.m.–7 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Klinte	Tuesday and Thursday 2–7 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Rute	Wednesday 3–6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Ljugarn	Wednesday 3–6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Hamra	Wednesday 3–6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Take your waste to one of our recycling centres

Hazardous waste can only be deposited at the environmental stations located at the recycling centre in Klintehamn and at petrol stations in Fårösund, Roma and Burgsvik. Hazardous waste includes paint, solvents, fluorescent tubes, aerosols, batteries, waste oil, pesticides, oil filters, acids and mercury.

For more information call the Green Line, tel. 0498-269300, Gotland Municipality, Public Cleaning Department, tel. 0498 269100, www.gotland.se/tf.

What happens to the waste

Type of waste	Processed by	Used for
Paper packages	Örebro card mill	Cardboard packages, pallets, plasterboard carton
Newspapers	Braviken paper mill	New newspapers, toilet paper
Corrugated cardboard	Markaryd paper mill	New corrugated cardboard
Plastic, hard/soft	Cementa, Slite	Incineration
Metal packages	Stena/Gotthards Hallstahammar	New packages, motor parts
Glass packages	Swedish Glass Recycling	New packages, insulation

Old glass becomes like new

Christer Mattson started blowing glass at Näs in southern Gotland in 1985. Right from the start his business concept was to design and blow glass made from 100% recycled glass. In 1996 he moved his operations to the centre of Visby. Here you can follow the manufacture of beautiful glass objects at close hand. To emphasize the ecocycle idea, Christer gets some of his glass from the adjacent KRAV-certified restaurant “Kors och Tvärs”, which can receive beautiful hand-made wine glasses in return.

Visby Glasblåseri, Mellangatan 56, tel. 0498-247850



Salt-free roads give flowery verges

Gotland has had salt-free roads for 15 years. We have learned to adjust our speed to the state of the road. Low, even speed reduces fuel consumption and emissions. The risk of serious injury or death on the roads also decreases with lower speeds. A survey shows that 97% of Gotlanders do not want to go back to salting.

The lower salt content in the soil combined with wayside mowing at the right time has a favourable effect on the flora. Viper's bugloss, chicory and musk thistle are some of the 500 species that grow along our roadsides. The fact that the roads are not salted also means less need for degreasing

agents and other cleaning agents. This means less pressure on purification plants, which is better for watercourses and the Baltic Sea.

Cycle tracks

In 1999 a new cycle path was opened between Västerhejde and Tofta North, which means that you can cycle



all the way from Visby to Tofta. There is a special resting-place for cyclists. The Gotland Trail passes resting-places and the best of Gotland's nature and culture.

Pause often

The island has four service and information areas for both cars and buses: Rute Church – road 148; north of Burgsvik – road 142; Hallute Hill, Ljugarn – roads 143, 144; and Träffpunkt Gotland beside Färjeleden above the Port of Visby. All these areas have handicap toilets, telephone, freshwater taps, rubbish bins, and information signs. At Hallute there is a tourist information office in the summer

For more information call the National Road Administration, tel. 0498-292300, www.vv.se.

Blossom beetles and renewable fuels

Gotland Municipality goes in for renewable fuels. On the picture you can see one of the “blossom beetles” leased by the municipality, appropriately named because blossom beetles live on rape and the car runs on RME (rape methyl ester). You can fill up with RME at OK/Lantmännen in Visby, Hemse and Slite

For more information call the Eco-Group, Gotland Municipality, tel. 0498 269000, fax 269211, www.gotland.se/ekokommun



The Langhammar sea stacks on Fårö

Sea stacks were formed in a tropical sea during the Silurian over 400 million years ago. They consist of hard limestone which is built up like coral reefs, embedded in sediments which then hardened to limestone and marlstone. The marlstone and the softer limestone have since eroded away, leaving the stacks. A first stage towards the formation of sea stacks are the caves sometimes found in the cliffs.

No fires or camping in nature reserves

The large areas of sea stacks are protected as nature reserves, with signs displaying information. On Fårö there are special inspectors who are often in the reserve and can provide information about the rules that apply. Camping and campfires are often prohibited in nature reserves. Sea stacks can be blackened by fire, and they can crack if a fire is lit on them and then put out with cold water. Visitors should instead bring their own barbecues.

In nature reserves it is prohibited to break fossils loose from the sea stacks.



Off-road driving damages sensitive beaches

Off-road driving is a problem on many sections of shoreline with bad roads. It is easy to drive off-road since shingly areas have no vegetation and are relatively smooth. Vehicles damage the sensitive ground. We ask you not to drive off-road. Park right beside the road.

At Langhammars the bad road used to be a problem for buses, cars and cyclists alike. We chose to surface it, so now it is both dust-free and much safer for everyone.

For more information call the County Administration Environment Protection Unit, tel. 0498-292100, fax 247275, www.i.lst.se.



The right of public access

In Sweden everyone has the right to walk in forests and fields, to pick mushrooms, berries and flowers which are not protected species, to bathe and go boating along shores, watercourses and in lakes. But this right also entails obligations. We must show consideration to the environment and be particularly careful during the time when animals have their young.

Things to remember:

- close any gates you open
- do not damage crops or forest plantations
- do not ride on running or hiking trails
- do not drive off-road or on closed roads
- you may pitch a tent for one day if it causes no disturbance; by-laws prohibit camping in all built-up areas including Visby
- you may bathe and moor your boat and go ashore anywhere except on private grounds or where there is special protection for e.g. bird life
- hunting is not part of the right of public access.



All Gotland's orchids are protected. The picture shows green-winged orchids.

Beware of dangerous ledges

Gotland has about 800 km of coast with many types of shoreline, from smooth, fine-grained sand to shingle. Some beaches have dangerous ledges which cause underwater currents; these are very hazardous, especially in onshore winds or in heavy swells.

Underwater ledges mainly occur at coasts with high cliffs and sea stacks. Always be careful when diving or bathing in unknown water.

For more information call the Sea Rescue Centre, tel. 031-648020.
Coastal weather forecast, tel. 071-417070.
www.smhi.se/weather, www.sjofartsverket.se





HOLKEN, an ecological daycare centre

At the Holken daycare centre in Klintehamn, there is an ecocycle house where children can learn how to compost, look after hens and grow plants. The greenhouse gives the children vegetables and eggs, and a knowledge of natural cycles. The endangered Gotland Hen has found a refuge here. The daycare centre also practises far-reaching sorting at source.

The eco-municipality and the future

ENERGY. There is already a heavy concentration on renewable sources of energy. District central heating on the island is almost entirely based on biofuels. Wind power accounts for almost 15% of the island's total electricity. On windy days in summer we are virtually self-sufficient as regards electricity.

FARMING. More and more farmers are switching to ecological food production. About 8% of the land is cultivated according to KRAV standards. The majority of the produce is sold to the Stockholm area. Big farms are applying for ISO 14001

A living World Heritage

In 1995 the Hanseatic town of Visby, thanks to its unique cultural value, was added to Unesco's World Heritage List. We have thereby assumed the responsibility for preserving the town and passing it on in good condition to coming generations.

Ban on motor vehicles

To protect the environment, unauthorized motor traffic is prohibited in the town centre of Visby and parts of the harbour during the summer (the ban does not affect residents, taxis, etc.). A handicap-adapted catalytic bus operates in the town centre the whole year round.



environmental certificates, and at Lövsta there are now pilot plants for biogas and aquaculture.

TOURISM. Alongside farming, tourism is the biggest industry on Gotland. Every year about 700,000 visitors come to the island. Gotland is participating in an EU project on sustainable tourism in the Baltic region. The idea of ecotourism is becoming a reality. You can go on an ecosafari by bicycle or follow in the footsteps of Linnaeus, or join an ecosafari visiting environmentally oriented companies and sites. Inquire at Gotlands Resor AB, tel. 0498-201280.

For more information call the Eco-Group, Gotland Municipality, tel. 0498 269000, fax 269211, www.gotland.se/ekokommun.

Welcome back

Destination Gotland
Gotland Municipality
Gotland County Administration
National Maritime Administration
National Road Administration

