

Blekinge Archipelago

- an ocean of possibilities!



www.blekingearkipelag.se



What is a biosphere reserve?

Biosphere reserves are areas of high natural and cultural values. They should benefit the residents through social and economic development, protect biodiversity and provide an arena for research and teaching.

Biosphere reserves are model regions where methods and new ideas can be tested in practice with a focus on sustainable development and balance between people, habitat and nature. A biosphere reserve is a place where innovation and respect for the history of the countryside coexist in harmony. Biosphere work is different depending on the particular area, however the key words are always the same: develop, support and preserve.

BIOSPHERE

the sum of all the Earth's ecosystems. The term refers to the thin layer surrounding the planet in which biological life is found.



ARCHIPELAGO

an island group is a number of islands lying close to one another. A large group of islands is known as an archipelago.





Commitment and concern

Blekinge Archipelago Biosphere Reserve is a non-profit organisation that works for a vibrant archipelago and coastal region where entrepreneurship and ecology develop together in harmony. It is founded on local commitment and concern for future generations' well-being and living and working conditions.

Blekinge archipelago - an excellent biosphere reserve

In June 2011 Blekinge Archipelago was designated as a biosphere reserve. Biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and approved by UNESCO – UN's organisation for education, science and culture. Blekinge Archipelago Biosphere Reserve, that comprises the majority of coastal scenery and archipelago, has unique values that need to be refined and managed.

There are a number of fine qualities and opportunities that make Blekinge Archipelago well suited as a biosphere reserve:

- High conservation values and unique landscapes, such as meadows, small islands and islets, bays and deciduous forests.
- High cultural values like authentic, vibrant craft traditions, the Cultural Reserve Ronneby Brunnsparck and the World Heritage Naval Port of Karlskrona
- Small-scale fishery and agriculture
- Opportunity to develop new approaches to sustainable development

Intention and cooperation is the model

For approval of the formation of a biosphere reserve by UNESCO a formal application from the government is required. However, the first and most important criterion for success is a strong interest and commitment in the area of people, organisations and local government. The biosphere reserve connects actors in a strategic way so that new collaborations and new ideas will be born.

What are the advantages?

We know of at least nine distinct advantages to being awarded the status of a biosphere reserve:

- Being a role model for sustainable development in the world
- Having an international seal of approval
- Being included in UNESCO's global network of biosphere reserves
- Having a unique status in Sweden
- Being an inspirer and opportunity creator
- Having better conditions for economic development
- Local participation, being a force in social development
- Municipal and county-wide collaboration
- Long-term commitment and stability in the work



Do you want to know more?

On www.blekingearkipelag.se you can read more about our projects for socio-ecological sustainability and our future plans. Feel welcome!

Please contact us if you want to get involved

The biosphere reserve aims at making it easier to connect, cooperate and to exchange knowledge and ideas. You will also get access to and experience from biosphere reserves around the world.

Blekinge Archipelago Biosphere Reserve

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Man and
the Biosphere
Programme



**BLEKINGE
ARKIPELAG**

Today (2014) there are 621 biosphere reserves in 117 countries around the world and they are all connected in WBNR, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Sweden has five biosphere reserves so far: Kristianstads Vattenrike, Lake Vänern Archipelago, Blekinge Archipelago, Nedre Dalälven River Landscape and East Vättern Scarp Landscape.