

Gale force winds at this year's lighthouse days

At this year's International Lighthouse days, 68 Swedish lighthouses were opened to the public. With winds up to 20 m/s in various locations, the number of visitors became limited to 9287 persons. At many lighthouses, boat trips to the lighthouse, quiz and other activities had been arranged. Other had only opened their doorways for the guests to get up and admire the view. Unfortunately, in some places the arrangements had to be canceled due to the strong winds. At Östergarn, e.g., its 200 years anniversary had to be moved to another calmer place. Kullen is usually well-attended but was closed this year due to its renovation. The 68 lighthouses which were open bear witness about the great interest. In Malmö, people were waiting in line during 20 minutes to come in to the lighthouse. Among the visitors there were some over 90 years old, while the younger ones that came to the lighthouse Järve, outside of Piteå, appreciated the candy rain.

The International Lighthouse days are celebrated in many countries around the world at the end of August. The Swedish Lighthouse Society (<https://fyr.org/>) coordinates the event in Sweden. At each separate lighthouse, a local lighthouse unit and in some cases a lighthouse owner is responsible for the arrangements, such as: guiding, entertainment, etc.

The Swedish Lighthouse Society has been around for 22 years and consists of more than 4000 lighthouse enthusiasts and organisations in Sweden. The aim is to preserve the lighthouses, being valuable cultural maritime heritages in a time when satellite navigation is taking over.

Number of visitors, ranked as per most visited place (names in Swedish) were for:

Finngundet fyrskepp 1000; Jävre 517; Ölands Norra Udde 412; Falsterbo 380; Malmö 360; Bönan 350; Mariestads fyrrar 322; Bjuröklubb 308; Hanö 293; När 278; Stenkyrkehuk fyr 256; Morups Tånge 250; Fårö 248; Stora Karlsö 247; Haken 212; Söderarm 200; Ystad 189; Storzjungfrun 186; Örskär 178; Ölands Södra Udde 159; Stavik 155; Hällö 150; Sandhammaren 144; Hoburg 132; Rataskär 127; Grynge ensfyrrar 120; Brämön 118; Garpen 105; Ulebergshamn 100; Bråten 92; Almagrundet, fyrskär 90; Hammarö Skage 90; Häradsö 90; Hästholmen 81; Huvudskär 76; Arholma Båk 74; Smygehuk 70; Vanäs Udde 66; Djursten 65; Högbonden 64; Valar 62; Snurran, Bohus Malmön 60; Vinga 60; Landsort 57; Nordkoster 54; Bergudden 52; Arkö Båk 43; Gotska Sandön 43; Utklippan 42; Agö 41; Bungeör 40; Harnäsudde 40; Tylö 40; Limö 38; Gåsören 35; Lungö 34; Segerstad 32; Svenska Högarna 30; Östergarnsholm 30; Grönskär 29; Stora Fjäderägg 25; Måseskär 12; Utlängan 10; Björn 8; Ingrunden/Utgrunden 8; Pite-Rönnskär 6; Tislarna 2.

Some of the lighthouses celebrated their days at other dates.

The Swedish Lighthouse Society would like to thank all the people and societies helping us with the Lighthouse days in Sweden as well as the Swedish Maritime Administration which allowed us to open so many lighthouses. Among the societies involved were: local lighthouse units, local history communities, boating clubs, canoeing clubs, as well as sewing circles. Everyone deserves many thanks. We are also very happy for the work that has been done since it spreads the interest for and a knowledge about Lighthouses, which increases the possibilities to save them. Simultaneously, also knowledge about shipping in general is spread through the lighthouse days, which is important for the Swedish legacy as a sea farers nation.

Please feel free to contact the Swedish Lighthouse Society.

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