

Pirate Störtebeker's Treasure Map to Sandö Island

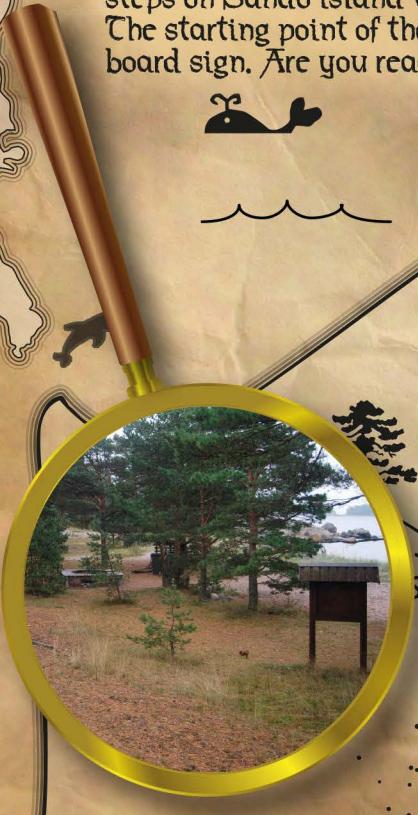
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Ahoy landlubbers!

The notorious pirate Klaus Störtebeker sailed in these waters with his ship The Red Devil in the 12th century. He was the head of the pirates called Victual brothers, who said they were "God's friends and the whole world's enemies".

Now you can follow Klaus Störtebeker's footsteps on Sandö island with his treasure map. The starting point of the map is at the info board sign. Are you ready?



You will find captain Störtebeker's first treasure, when you walk from the info board towards the biggest tree on the island. Carry on over the ridge to the opposite end of the island.



When you see the roots of a big fallen tree,
you have found the first treasure.



The pirates used these slow-growing pine trees from the archipelago to build ships and weapons, because slow-growing trees are especially strong with thick fibers.

Trees also have a special meaning for Sandö island. The roots keep the sandy soil in place and prevent the island from being washed to the sea. They also give cover and habitat for the island's plants and animals.

If you want, you can calculate the age of the tree from the annual circles that can be seen in the saw cut. Two circles, one light and one darker equal one year.

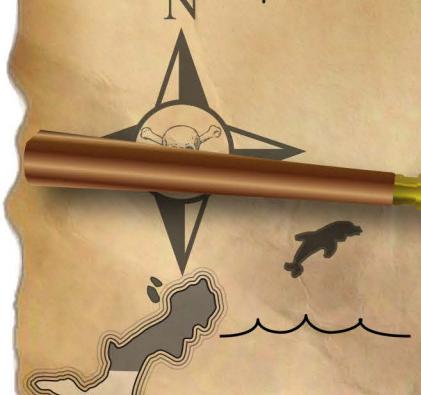
Now to the next treasure, yo ho, yo ho! You will find your way to captain Störtebeker's second treasure when you follow the stony trail near the shore towards the north end of the island.

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After you have crossed a small cliff, you will reach a shore meadow where two little islands lie. Stop there for a moment.

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History books won't tell whether captain Störtebecker was especially fond of flowers. However, these kind of shore meadows and their extraordinary vegetation wouldn't have been unnoticed, not even by the pirates.

Here you can find many rare plants and animals, which have adapted to live exclusively in meadows that grow on banks of bladderwrack. Shore meadows are the most unique habitats of Sandö island.

A good example of the plants that grow here is the tall lime-grass, that resembles the common wheat. See if you can find it here!

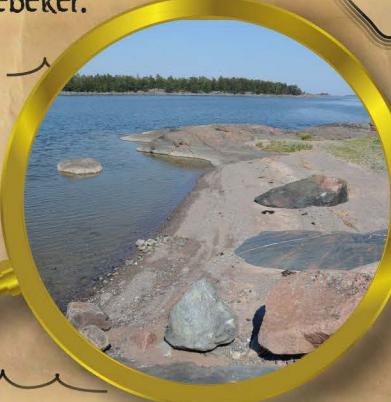
By the way, the fallen tree at the last waypoint was 73 years old.



Onwards landlubbers!
Keep going along the shoreline towards the north end of the island, and you will find the next treasure.

When you see a campfire site and a small beach in between the cliffs, you have reached the third treasure of Störtebeker.

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For pirates it was easy to bury their treasures in sheltered beaches like this.

After burying their treasures the pirates gathered around the campfire to tell stories and gaze the stars at night. Tired from digging the pirates wondered about the vast number of stars and thought whether the stars are as abundant as the sand grains at the beach.

Take up a handful of sand and do some thinking yourself. Which do you think are more abundant, the stars in space or the sand grains on Sandö and on all the other beaches in the world?

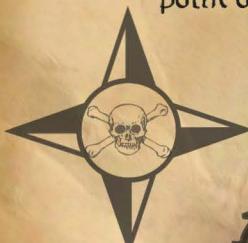


From the beach the journey continues along the trail that starts from the campfire site and leads in to the forest. Follow the trail, yo ho, yo ho!

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The trail follows the hills and valleys of the island and climbs to the top of a high ridge. You have reached the highest point of the island!

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Here from the vantage point of the island, the pirates could keep watch far to both east and west. From here they could see the enemy ships approaching. At their time this grand cliff was however much lower, because 600 years ago in Störtebeker's time, much of the island was still deep under water.

Sandö



At the ice age an over two kilometres thick ice cover pressed the island deep downwards, from where it is now slowly but steadily rising. After being released from the ice cover earth here rises and new soil is constantly revealed over the sea surface. Sandö is growing year by year.



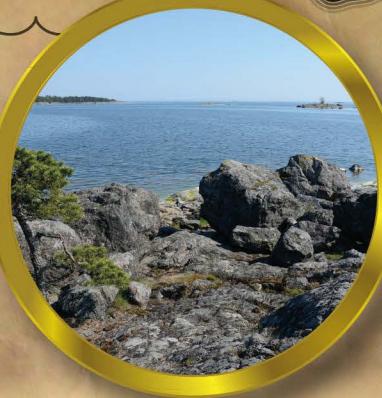
Imagine yourself as a pirate for a moment and gaze at the sea. Do you see enemies at the horizon? When you stand at the altitude of the shoreline and watch the open sea, the distance to the horizon is about five kilometres. From up here, however, the distance is over 10 kilometres. This is because the earth is round and its surface is curving. Even our 12th century pirates knew, that from higher you are able to see ships that otherwise would remain undetected behind the horizon.



Carry on from the viewpoint along the ridge towards the eastern shore and you will find a small shore meadow.



Circle the meadow carefully and find your way to a small cape, which is full of big boulders. You have found the next treasure, yo ho!

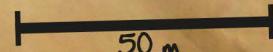


Captain Störtebeker and his men thought that these boulders were thrown here by giants, and you could see the fear and respect for the giants even in the eyes of the most fierce of the pirates.

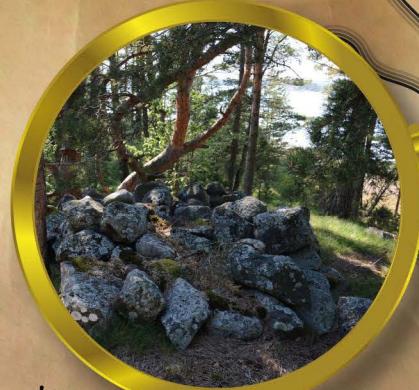
Today these boulders are, however, considered to have been imported here by the glacier ice 10 000 years ago during the ice age. Some boulders or so called erratic blocks, could have travelled long distances before they where placed at their present locations, when the ice melted.



Walk along the stony ridge towards the centre of the island, until you see a mysterious pile of rocks.



Stop by the rock cairn and let your imagination fly.



Cairns like this have been built in the archipelago since the stone age. Many of them have historical value and they should bee left undisturbed. When you ponder the origin and purpose of this pile, remember, that Störtebeker's grave has never been found.

After being captured and sentenced to death for piracy, captain Klaus Störtebeker was executed in 1401. After that all traces of him vanish. Could he be buried here?

Wherever Störtebeker's grave lies, you have now found all of his treasures and got familiar with his greatest treasure of all, the Sandö island. Congratulations!

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Just a minute, landlubbers! Astronomers have reached the conclusion, that all the beaches on earth contain a total of 5 trilliard sand grains. That's a lot of sand, but the amount of stars is even 15 times bigger than that.

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Itä-Uudenmaan ja Porvoonjoen
vesien- ja ilmansuojeluyhdystys r.y.

Runeberginkatu 17, 06100 PÖRVOO



Föreningen vatten- och luftvård
för Ostra Nyland och Borgå å r.f.

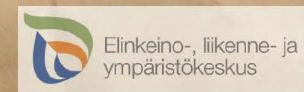
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Itä-Uusimaa and Porvoonjoki river
Itä-Uudenmaanja Porvoonjoen
vesien- ja ilmansuojeluyhdystys
Föreningen vatten- och luftvård för
Östra Nyland och Borgå å

2014

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kehittämisen maatalousrahasto:
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