

INFORMATION ABOUT MEASURES

for lowering the risk of spreading covid-19 upon entering the Åland Islands

– updated June 12th, 2020

ARRIVAL IN ÅLAND

Entry to/Exit from Åland is currently only allowed to/from the Mariehamn airport and to/from the ports in Långnäs and Mariehamn

MARIEHAMN AIRPORT

Please find detailed information regarding air travel to and from Åland at <https://www.finavia.fi/en/airports/mariehamn>

THE LÅNGNÄS AND MARIEHAMN PORTS

Information about the procedures regarding arrival at the ports in Långnäs and Mariehamn is available at:

<http://www.langnashamn.ax/>

<https://mariehamnshamn.ax/>

<https://www.sales.vikingline.com/>

<https://www.tallinksilja.se/aktuell-information>

<https://www.finnlines.com/sv/batresor/kontakt/hitta-till-hamnen/langnas>

<http://www.lillgaard.aland.fi/ships.con?iPage=9&m=5>

THE FINNISH BORDER GUARD MAKES ALL DECISIONS REGARDING RIGHT OF ENTRY

The following directives are in place 15.6-14.7.2020:

The internal border control will be terminated for ferries trafficking Åland and Estonia. The internal border control will also be terminated for traffic by recreational boats between Schengen countries.

Until 14 July 2020, internal border control will continue between Åland and Sweden. The following travel is permitted: return to Åland and Finland, commuter traffic (for work) and other essential travel, according to the following directives given by the Ministry of Interior in Helsinki: travel for family matters or personal matters, or travel for other justified reasons (e.g. property, residence or secondary residence in Finland). Return to Åland is allowed for all Finnish nationals, as well as nationals of EU and Schengen countries residing in Finland and their family members, and third-country nationals residing in Finland with a residence permit. Travel for work is allowed for persons with a Finnish residence permit and EU/Schengen citizens as well as British citizens. More details can be found at the website of the Finnish border authorities: www.raja.fi/current_issues/guidelines_for_border_traffic

The reason for travel and qualifications for entry are analysed during the border check. Travellers may be asked to present documentation or to give an account of their reason for travelling to prove that they are eligible for entry. The final decision regarding the eligibility of a person to enter Åland/Finland is made by the Border Guard. The Border Guard may be contacted at: info.ismv@raja.fi.

INSTRUCTIONS FROM SHIPPING COMPANIES

The shipping companies that traffic the routes to Åland/Finland make sure that passengers travelling from Sweden are informed of the current official travel directives when booking their trips and before embarkation. The shipping companies carry out the measures needed in order to protect their employees and passengers from covid-19 and to prevent the spread of the coronavirus in the Åland community. Onboard each ship, information (signs and brochures) is provided regarding covid-19 and how passengers can help to prevent spreading the virus.

For more information, please visit the following shipping company sites:
Viking Line traffic information

<https://www.sales.vikingline.com/find-cruise-trip/timetables-connections/planned-dockings-and-divergencies/information-regarding-the-coronavirus-situation/>

Tallink Silja Line Corona Information:

<https://www.tallinksilja.com/latest-news>

PROTECTIVE MEASURES BEFORE AND DURING TRAVEL BY FERRY

Persons feeling even slight symptoms of illness before embarkation should cancel their trip and stay at home. A health check-up may be carried out before embarkation. Shipping companies may reject passengers who display symptoms of covid-19. Upon purchasing tickets and shopping onboard, passengers can lower the contagion risk by avoiding close physical contact with others and by following general hygiene instructions. For more details, please see Viking Line's traffic information page at: <https://www.sales.vikingline.com/find-cruise-trip/timetables-connections/planned-dock-ings-and-divergencies/information-regarding-the-coronavirus-situation/> or Tallink Silja Line's current corona information page at: <https://www.tallinksilja.com/latest-news>.

It is recommended that all passengers travelling by ferry book a cabin. In case this isn't possible, spending time out on deck is recommended, weather permitting. In order to prevent spreading the virus, all passengers, regardless of where on the ship they are, must follow the directives for distancing and hygiene issued by authorities and by the shipping companies. Close physical contact must be avoided (keeping a distance of 1-2 meters from others), hands must be washed frequently and one's face must be covered by one's arm or a handkerchief while coughing or sneezing.

FALLING ILL WHILE TRAVELLING

Passengers must immediately contact a crew member upon displaying one or more of the following symptoms:

- A rise in body temperature/fever
- Cough, a runny nose
- Respiratory trouble
- Soreness of the throat
- Loss of smell
- Headache, exhaustion, muscle soreness or abdominal symptoms.

Shipping companies have routines for isolating persons who fall ill onboard as well as for contacting health care services at the port of destination. For information to passengers travelling to Åland, please visit:

<https://www.ahs.ax>

PROCEDURES UPON ENTRY TO ÅLAND

Passengers arriving by ferry or plane from Sweden must be prepared to give an account of their reason for travelling to Åland and to prove it with the necessary documentation in connection with the border check. Border guards may ask for proof of employment or of any other reasons for essential travel to

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Åland. Clear documentation will help speed along the border check process. Entry to Åland will be granted or denied upon viewing the evidence on a case-by-case basis by the border guards. The Border Guard provides more detailed instructions for passengers crossing the border at: https://www.raja.fi/current_issues/guidelines_for_border_traffic. The instructions provided on the site include the following:

- Keep your distance to other people
- Make sure you have all the necessary documentation readily available when you approach the border control
- Follow the instructions given

TRANSPORT OPTIONS FROM THE PORT ON ÅLAND BY MEANS OTHER THAN A PERSONAL VEHICLE

Travellers are responsible for arranging their own transport from the port, since any taxi and bus services usually arranged by shipping companies are currently suspended. Taxi is a good alternative if one wishes to avoid the possible crowds on buses. If the port of destination is served by public transportation (bus traffic), and passengers choose this travel option, they should strive to take a seat at least two rows away from other passengers. In order to lower the risk of contagion, passengers must carefully follow the instructions given by the bus or taxi driver, for example when boarding and alighting the vehicle. This will help to lessen the risk of contracting the virus both for the passengers and the driver. The Åland Government has directed bus companies to follow instructions provided by authorities regarding the coronavirus and adjust their procedures in accordance with any updates in order to minimize the risk of contagion.

QUARANTINE-LIKE CONDITIONS FOLLOWING ARRIVAL FROM OUTSIDE OF FINLAND

A person arriving on Åland from Sweden is instructed to self-quarantine and to minimize unnecessary social contacts during the first 14 days following arrival. Detailed information is available on the internet site of the Finnish Border Guard at https://www.raja.fi/current_issues/guidelines_for_border_traffic.

The recommendation to self-quarantine applies to all persons arriving from abroad (from outside of Finland), regardless of whether they arrive by plane, by ferry or by other routes from the mainland.

During the quarantine period, commuting between one's residence and one's workplace as well as movement associated with other necessities is permitted. However, everyone must follow the general instructions given by the authorities regarding good hygiene, protective distance and social distancing in order to prevent the spreading of covid-19. In practice, this means keeping a physical distance of at least 1–2 meters to others, washing hands often with soap and warm water, and covering one's nose and mouth with one's arm or a handkerchief when coughing or sneezing.

A person staying on Åland always has the right to depart from the islands, i.e. no one is required to stay on Åland for 14 days in self-quarantine before leaving, provided that they haven't fallen ill with covid-19 during their stay on Åland (read more below).

FALLING ILL DURING STAY ON ÅLAND

Upon feeling even the slightest symptoms of illness, everyone is required to follow the instructions provided below.

IF YOU EXPERIENCE MILD OR MODERATE SYMPTOMS:

Call the corona health information line on Åland: +358-18-535-313 for an assessment.

Regardless of the assessment and your test results, self-isolate until you have had one symptom-free day.

IF YOU EXPERIENCE SEVERE SYMPTOMS - E.G. HIGH FEVER AND RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS:

During business hours, call the corona health information line: +358-18-535-313

Outside of business hours, call the emergency reception at the Åland Central Hospital: +358-18-535-001

In an emergency, call 112.

For more detailed information and questions regarding testing, even due to mild symptoms, please contact the local public health services at Ålands Hälso- och Sjukvård (ÅHS). All patients who test positive for the coronavirus are placed under a strict quarantine in accordance with the Infectious Diseases Act. This means that a person who tests positive may not leave Åland during a period of at least 14 days, unless travel is prompted by medical reasons. Upon confirmation of a person having contracted the virus, an infectious disease specialist will carry out contact tracing to make sure that any close contacts who have potentially contracted the virus are placed under a strict quarantine as stipulated in the Infectious Diseases Act. This quarantine differs from the above-mentioned "quarantine-like conditions" in that the strict quarantine, according to the Infectious Diseases Act, is mandatory and requires that the person in quarantine avoids all physical contact with other people for the duration of 14 days.

MORE INFORMATION

The Åland Government calls upon everyone to remember the underlying reasons for the control measures, restrictions and recommendations, and to act responsibly in order to help curb the pandemic.

The Åland Government will keep following the situation and promptly share any new instructions from the Parliament of Finland or the authorities involved. Information about any developments is updated at www.regeringen.ax/coronaviruset-covid-19. The public is encouraged to continually check the updated information. Every traveller is responsible for being informed about the situation at the time of their travel.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.ahs.ax/>

<https://www.regeringen.ax/>

<https://thl.fi/sv/web/infektionssjukdomar/aktuellt/aktuellt-om-coronaviruset-covid-19>

https://www.raja.fi/aktuellt/instruktioner_gransovergang

<https://thl.fi/sv/web/infektionssjukdomar-och-vaccinationer/aktuellt/aktuellt-om-coronaviruset-covid-19>

THE ÅLAND GOVERNMENT INFORMATION LINE

Should you have non-medical questions related to the coronavirus, please call +358-18-25-572 or +358-18-25-573.

THE CORONA INFORMATION LINE AT THE ÅLAND HEALTH CARE SERVICES

The corona information line at +358-18-535-313 is open 8 am–4 pm on workdays and 9 am–4 pm during weekends. In case the line is busy, callers can also contact the health care information line at +358-18-538-500.

This information package has been compiled and updated by the Åland Government in order to help prevent the covid-19 contagion in the Åland Islands in connection with the adjustments made to the border traffic restrictions starting May 14th, 2020. The information provided is aimed for passengers travelling to/from Åland and is also available at the home page of the Åland Government and at the necessary ports, shipping companies, airports and airlines.