Experience Helsinki Nature!

Kallahdenniemi

A natural meadow surrounded by the sea
Kallahdenniemi has no large areas of rock and is partly covered by sand, and has been in nature reserves since it was created in 1965, and which were in the part that was reserved - last time one at the time for the national landscape. It is a lovely, wide shoreline, with a steep slope and sandy beach, with an extensive and diverse vegetation. Across the beach and sand dunes there are high, thick pine trees protruding from the sand dunes, and a forest of trees behind the dunes.

The villa Åsa, belonging to the family of Torolf Lassenius – who wrote a book on Kallahdiemi, was constructed in 1908. In 1939 legendary runner Paavo Nurmi commissioned a villa and a beach sauna on the small island of Porsassaari, on the northern shore of Kallahdenniemi, with its own separate bridge.

Until the Second World War, transport to the villas was by steamboat from Helsinki’s Northern Harbour. The area was countryside, lying far outside Helsinki right up until the 1950s.

The Flora of Kallahdiemi

A pine esker and sandy beach
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The Flora of Kallahdiemi

Adder’s tongue fern
Adder’s tongue fern (Acorus calamus) is one of the meadow’s specialities.

Beach rose
Beach rose (Rosa marina) is an abundant beach rose population. Originally from Asia, and easily invasive, the beach rose is classified as one of the most harmful alien species, so the population in Kallahdenniemi has been monitored closely.

Beach pea
Beach pea (Lathyrus maritimus) is spread through the sand, the sea sandwort and beach pea are halophytes, or plants that require the salinity of seawater.

City of Helsinki

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Housing and environment

Nature and green areas

Take a look in the direction of a common goldeneye
The rocks of the outer tip of the peninsular are a popular spot for those looking for the common goldeneye, and with a bit of luck and a good eye you might be able to see a white-tailed eagle and the ruddy turnstone from there too. During the migratory season the common goldeneye, tufted duck, greater scaup and smew gather in the shallow waters nearby. In the autumn flocks of swans linger in the shallows.

Old villas and the countryside of a bygone era
Kallahdenniemi comprised the oldest settlements on Kallahdeniemi. Several of these were later converted to be used as villas. The first villa was built in 1885. On the shore in the central part of the peninsular dozens of beautiful villas belonging to the nobility sprang up from the beginning of the 1900s all the way through to the 1960s. Several of these are inhabited year-round these days. Some beautiful villas were constructed in sand pits, which were reworked to become gardens.

The Flora of Kallahdiemi

Bird’s foot trefoil, purple-loosestrife and dotted loosestrife
At the edge of the water is a band of common reeds, whilst the drier part of the meadow is home to low-growing plants. The dunes drop to the meadow’s edge, provide nesting locations for the common whitethroat and the red-backed shrike. The yellow cinquefoils and bird’s foot trefoils, purple-lousestrifes, and white valeriana sambucifolia give the meadow an array of colours.

Sheep’s bit flowering on the sandy shore
Sheep’s bit flowering on the sandy shore – another form of small fennel – exists locally on Kallahdenniemi.

The Flora of Kallahdiemi

Adder’s tongue fern
Adder’s tongue fern (Acorus calamus) is one of the meadow’s specialities.

Sand dune
Spread through the sand, the sea sandwort and beach pea are halophytes, or plants that require the salinity of seawater.
Kallahdenniemi is a grand esker peninsular jutting out from Vuosaari. During its sandy soil it features a rugged, bright pine forest atypical for Helsinki. The beaches on the peninsular are wide, beautiful, and sandy. The esker continues into the sea as an underwater sandbank.

The whole peninsular is part of a national conservation programme for eskers. The peaceful esker has been protected as a separate nature reserve, as has the area around created by post-glacial rebound at the tip of the peninsular. Both nature reserves and the water area surrounding the peninsular are included in the European Union’s Natura 2000 network of valuable natural sites.

During migratory periods, water birds and waders gather in the sandy shallows. When water levels are low, large areas of the underwater sandbank are left exposed. At these times it is possible to walk to the sandy flats without getting your feet wet.

Getting about in Kallahd

When the ground is not frozen, the only way to move around the peninsular is on foot on the marked paths running across the sand. The peninsular goes to the tip of the peninsular, which was once a separate island. Its name, Kuningatar (Queen), is the Finnish translation of the old Swedish place name Drottningholmen. In the 18th century the island was home to a fishing croft, which was once a separate island. Its name, Kuningatar (Queen), is the Finnish translation of the old Swedish place name Drottningholmen. In the 18th century the island was home to a fishing croft, which was once a separate island. Its name, Kuningatar (Queen), is the Finnish translation of the old Swedish place name Drottningholmen. In the 18th century the island was home to a fishing croft, which was once a separate island. Its name, Kuningatar (Queen), is the Finnish translation of the old Swedish place name Drottningholmen.