The two half-timbered buildings, The new cemetery and the old cemetery. The two houses were erected in the 1730s to provide stable and storage space.

16 Brahe Church is Visingö’s parish church. The church was erected in the 1600s by the Counts of Brahe as the church for the castle of Visingborg.

17 In the 1600s, Visingborg Castle was the stately centrepoint of the Brahe countship. It was destroyed by fire in 1718.

18 Atolej Lovisa Strandgården. Shop and gallery with paintings, prints, cards, textiles, trays etc. Books about the countship of Visingborg and the counts of Brahe. Guided tours on the theme of Visingborg castle and gardens can be arranged.

19 Katherine Tingley was behind the first arrival of mains electricity on Visingö in 1930. The small building was the electricity sub-station.

20 The cist grave is a grave from the Paleolithic period. It was excavated in 1874 and a flint dagger and some unburned bones were found. Legend has it that the Loastenen is a sacrificial stone.

21 Karl XI’s Way. It is probable that the road was constructed during his reign, in the mid-1800s.

22 Hagahög is the biggest burial mound on the island. It is thought to have been a high status grave from the Bronze Age.

23 Galleri Persgården. Art exhibitions.

24 Näs Jonsagår is the last farm of its type on Visingö. Parts of it were probably built in around 1750. In private ownership.

25 The Drying House in Näs was built in the middle of the 19th century. Here, linen was dried for textiles and corn for beer.

26 Näs castle ruin is the remains of Sweden’s oldest and first royal fortress. Sweden was controlled from here during the Middle Ages. In 1318 the fortress burned down and over time parts of it have fallen into Lake Vättern.

NATURE

26 Sandudden; attractive sandy beaches.

27 In the autumn, Erstad Kärn nature reserve is an important resting place for migrating birds, and an Eldorado for ornithologists.

28 The carp ponds date back to the 1600s and belonged to Visingborg Castle. The fish farm part of the diet of the Brahe family court.

29 The Royal Oak was planted in 1839 and is an impressive example of the island’s famous oak forest.

30 Stora Silvergranen is a silver fir tree more than 39 m high, with a trunk so wide that it takes three adults to encircle it with their arms. Silver firs were introduced to the island.

31 The oak forest. In the 1800s, the state decided that oaks should be planted to provide timber for the Navy. 300,000 oaks were planted on Visingö.

32 Between 1836 and 1864, silk was produced on the island from silkworms, which ate the leaves of mulberry trees. 1,500 trees were planted.

34 The Sverkerseken oak tree was planted in memory of Karl Sverkersson who was murdered on this site in 1167.

35 Näsbo Stallar. 600 million years ago, the geological development took place that created the layers of rock now known as the Visingö formation.

36 Legend says that Gilbert began to dig a tunnel right across the island, known as Gilbert’s Cave.
Today you can enjoy historical remains, beautiful natural surroundings, art and a great deal with local collaboration being the basis. UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, selects areas of the world that demonstrate initiative in terms of sustainable development, environment. Visingsö is part of the Östra Vätterbranterna geographical area, which was designated a biosphere area in 2012. A biosphere area is a model area for sustainable development and local collaboration being the basis. Today you can enjoy historical remains, beautiful natural surroundings, art and a great deal more on Visingsö!

Welcome to Visingsö!

According to the legend, Visingsö was created when the giant Vist threw out a tuft of grass into Lake Vättern for his wife to step on. Just like a thousand years ago, that tuft of grass is still teeming with life!

Visingsö is the largest island in Vättern, and is 14 km long and 3 km wide at the widest part. The narrowest point is only 600 m across, and the highest point is 33 metres above the lake. Around 70% of the island is meadowland. There are also 360 hectares of oak woodland and 152 hectares of coniferous woodland. The distance to Gränna is 6 km, to Jönköping 30 km and to Västergötland 7 km.

The many ancient cemeteries indicate that the island has been inhabited for a long time. The island belonged to the monarchy in the 1100s and 1200s. The first Swedish royal fortress, Näs, was erected on the southernmost point. Magnus Ladulås was one of the many kings who lived here.

In the 1600s, the island was the centre of the country’s biggest and most powerful countships, Visingsborg. Here the Counts of Brahe constructed an impressive castle, with its own church – Brahe Church – which has unique and beautiful decorative features. Visingsö is part of the Östra Vätterbranterna geographical area, which was designated a biosphere area in 2012. A biosphere area is a model area for sustainable development and provides local solutions for global challenges. The word “biosphere” means everything living on earth and the environment we live in. It relates to the interplay between people and the environment. UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, selects areas of the world that demonstrate initiative in terms of sustainable development, with local collaboration being the basis.

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Useful information

- If you would like more information about companies or activities, please visit their websites
- Visingsö is open all year round! But the island is at its liveliest in the summer
- There are currently no cashpoint machines on Visingsö
- Around 750 people live on Visingsö all year round. In the summer there are many more inhabitants...
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- There is one food shop, open 7:00-22:00, every day of the week
- Outdoor swimming – no public sites but you can swim in several places. There is a heated pool in Kumlaby
- The Swedish Transport Administration’s brown and white signs indicate particularly interesting sites and places
- The same traffic rules apply on Visingsö as on the mainland
- Leave your car in Gränna

On Visingsö you will find walking trails, bicycles for hire, horse-drawn carriages and buses!