A photograph of a sailboat on the Baltic Sea at sunset. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, transitioning to a cooler blue and purple. The sun is low on the horizon. The water is a deep blue with some white foam from the boat's wake. The boat's mast and rigging are visible in the foreground, pointing towards the horizon.

SUMMER ON THE BALTIC

PHOTOS AND TEXTS: CARINA JUHHOVA • CHRISTOPHE MORA

Route

1 : Hello Baltic!

We leave Copenhagen to sail into the unknown Baltic. Our destination is Estonia, not Sweden or Finland



2 : Sweden

Zooming in on the charts of Sweden's coastline we discover a labyrinth of islands with hundreds of anchorages. A small detour is an obvious choice and Estonia will have to wait

3 : Estonia

We spend one month in my hometown Tallinn visiting family and friends. The photo album of this part of the trip is in the making

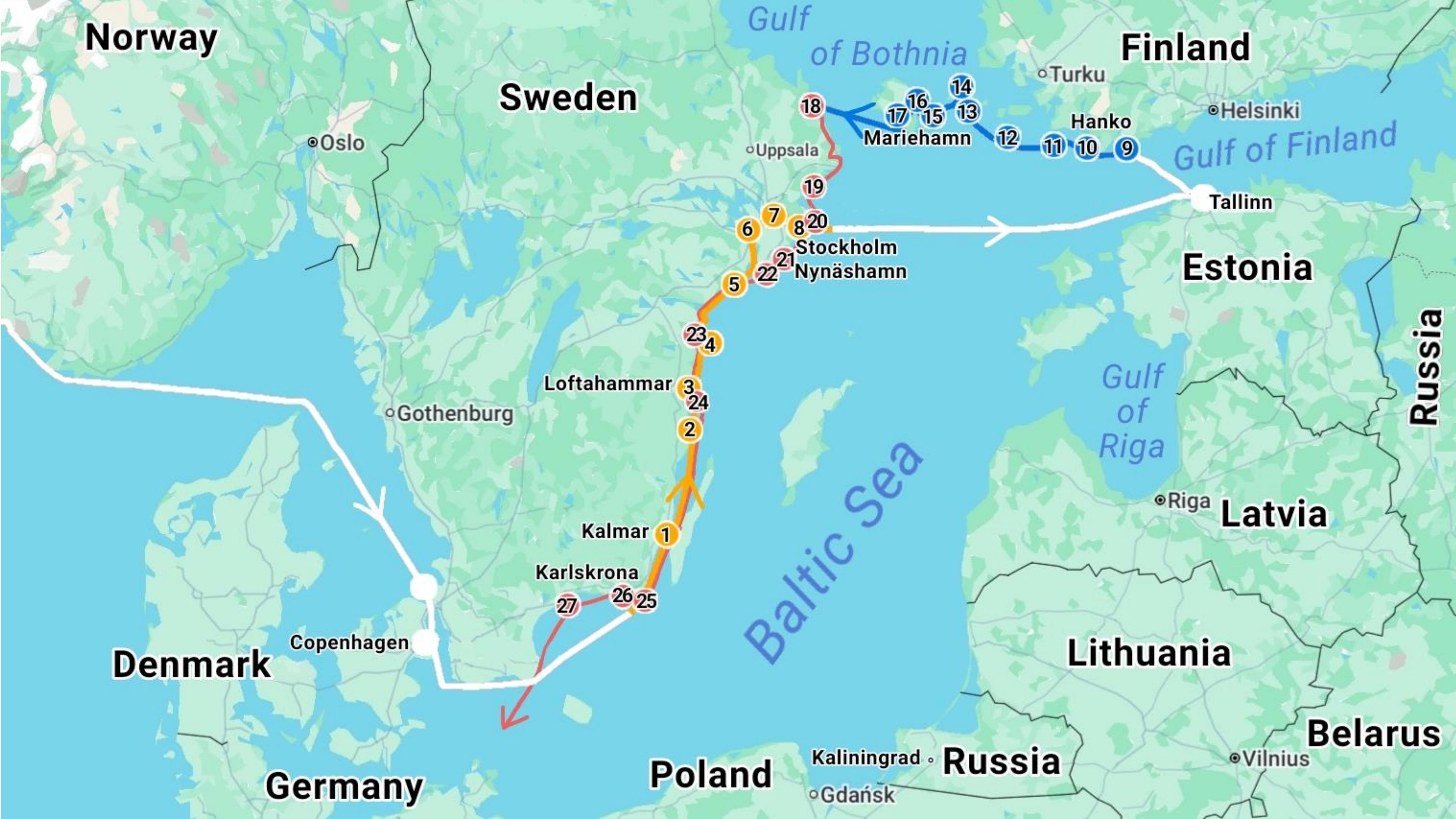


4 : Finland

Island hopping through Turku and Åland archipelagos we cross the Gulf of Bothnia

5 : ...and again Sweden

After relentless south-westerlies, ten days of northerly winds are a welcome change. The weather is colder, autumn is near



ANCHORAGES

Sweden

- 1- Kalmar
- 2- Älö Island
- 3- Loftahammar
- 4- Harstena Island
- 5- Stora Krokholmen Island
- 6- Södertälje
- 7- Stockholm
- 8- Ägnö Island

Finland

- 9- Jussarö Island
- 10- Hanko
- 11- Rosalandet Island
- 12- Björkö Island
- 13- Jungfruskär Island
- 14- Lappo Island
- 15- Skarpskär Island
- 16- Haren Island
- 17- Mariehamn, Åland Island

Sweden

- 18- Raggarön Island
- 19- Ljusterö Island
- 20- Ingårö Island
- 21- Nynäshamn
- 22- Rassa Vikar, Södertörn Island
- 23- Norra Finnö Island
- 24- Hasselö Island
- 25- Sandhamn
- 26- Karlskrona, Långö Island
- 27- Hörvik





Becalmed in Kalmar

Our first stop on the Baltic overlooks this castle from the Middle Ages. Kalmar, a 40 000 soul town, is a good place to provision and get water. Its anchorage is perfect in such weather but not at all in southerly winds. We have to be ready to go!

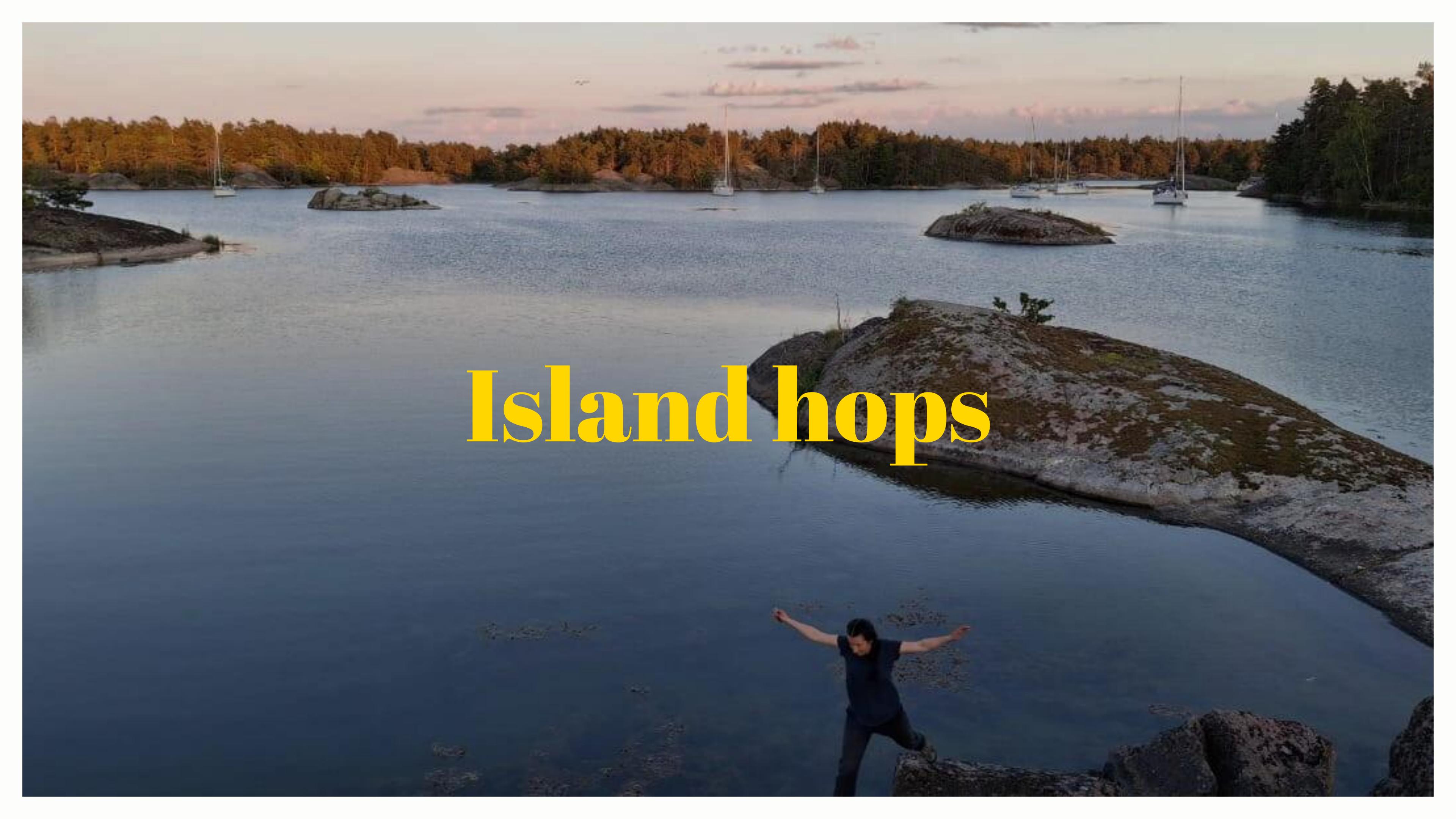
Sailing Sweden

Sailing has rarely been so easy!

Endless islands are covered with dense forests and blueberry fields. They are low enough to let the wind pass over them and provide shelter from any waves. The days are long, there are no tides or currents and we are spoiled for choice with all the anchorages out here - this is as good as life gets





A wide-angle photograph of a coastal archipelago at sunset. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a warm orange and yellow. In the foreground, a person stands on a rocky outcrop, arms outstretched, looking towards the horizon. The background is filled with numerous small, green-covered islands and several sailboats anchored in the water.

Island hops





Cabin culture

The ingredients of Sweden's rural idyll are rustic uninsulated cabins, a dry outdoor toilet, a jetty where to park the boat and a sauna. Spending a part of the summer in the nature is a part of local culture. Since most cabins are built close to water - we saw them everywhere whenever we sailed or anchored

Everyman's Land



Sweden, Norway and Finland are proud of their law called "Everyman's Land", which means that you have the right to swim, walk, cycle, camp and pick berries or mushrooms almost everywhere.

We rarely saw fences or gates like on this photo, not to mention what we thought to be a "keep out" sign. With the help of the translator, we were pleasantly surprised to read this:

**This is private property.
You are welcome to
swim, but please clean up
after yourself!**



... 10 minutes later

An aerial photograph of the Stockholm city skyline, viewed from across the water. The city is built on numerous small islands, with buildings of various heights and architectural styles. Several church towers with tall spires are visible, including the Riddarholmen Church. The water in the foreground is a deep blue, with some white boats and ferries visible. The sky is a bright blue with scattered white and grey clouds.

Anchored in the centre of **Stockholm**



Scandinavian anchorage

Tying the boat to a rock wall is a typical way to anchor in Norway, Sweden and Finland - it requires a stern anchor, lines and often a bow ladder for going ashore.

In popular anchorages rocks will often have metal rings to make the mooring easier. Although we saw many boats do it, we always preferred to swing at anchor instead



Sailing Finland

Thousands of islands make a bridge across the Gulf of Bothnia. Their names are sometimes Finnish and other times Swedish, often both languages are spoken here. Although we are in Finland, the cultural borders become a blur as we reach Åland - an autonomous region where Swedish is the official language.

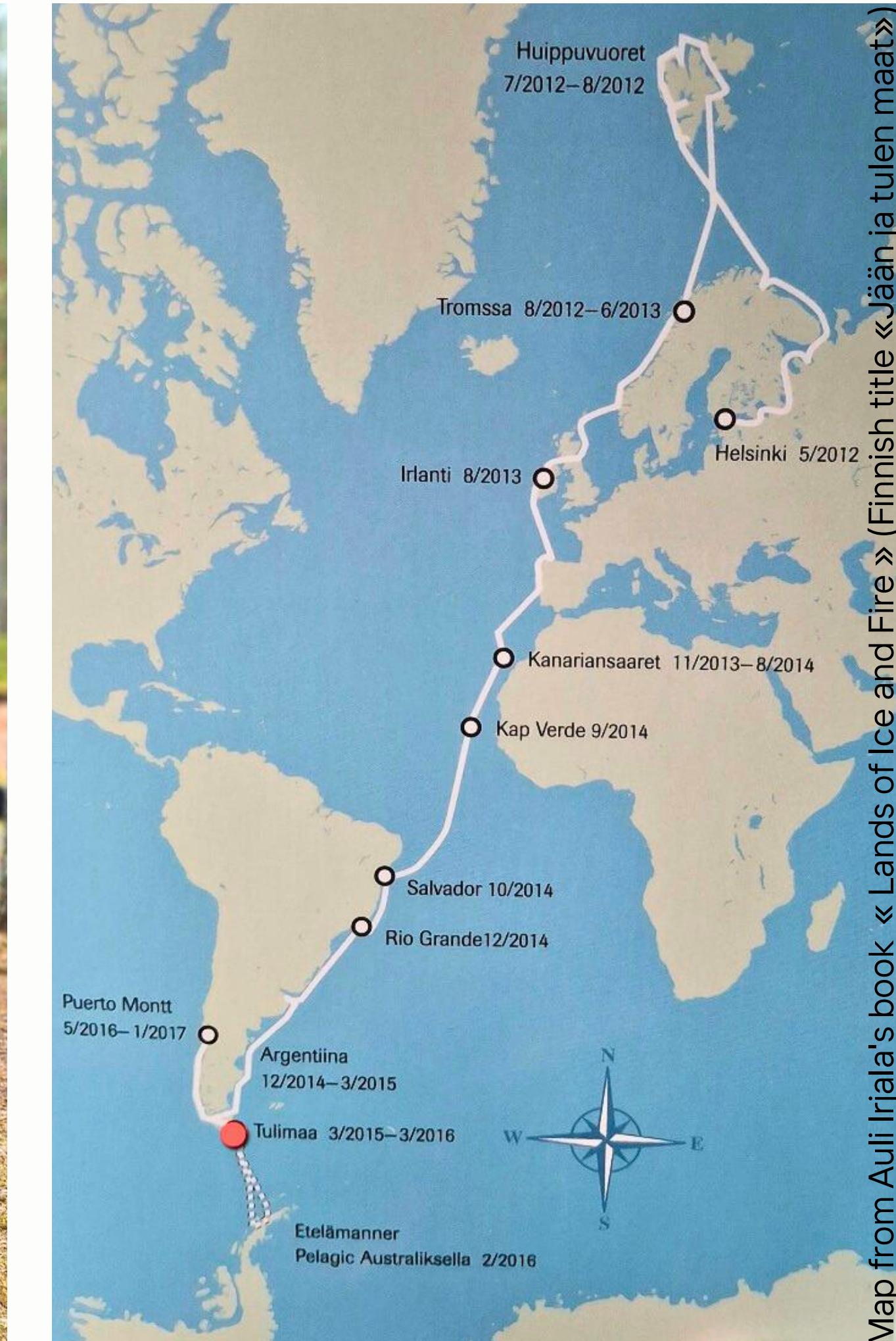
We sail through these wild archipelagos from east to west after our stay in Estonia. It is mid August, the holidays are over and local ships have gone back to the mainland. We enjoy the high latitude atmosphere and lonely anchorages before returning to already familiar cruising grounds in Sweden

Auli and Hannu

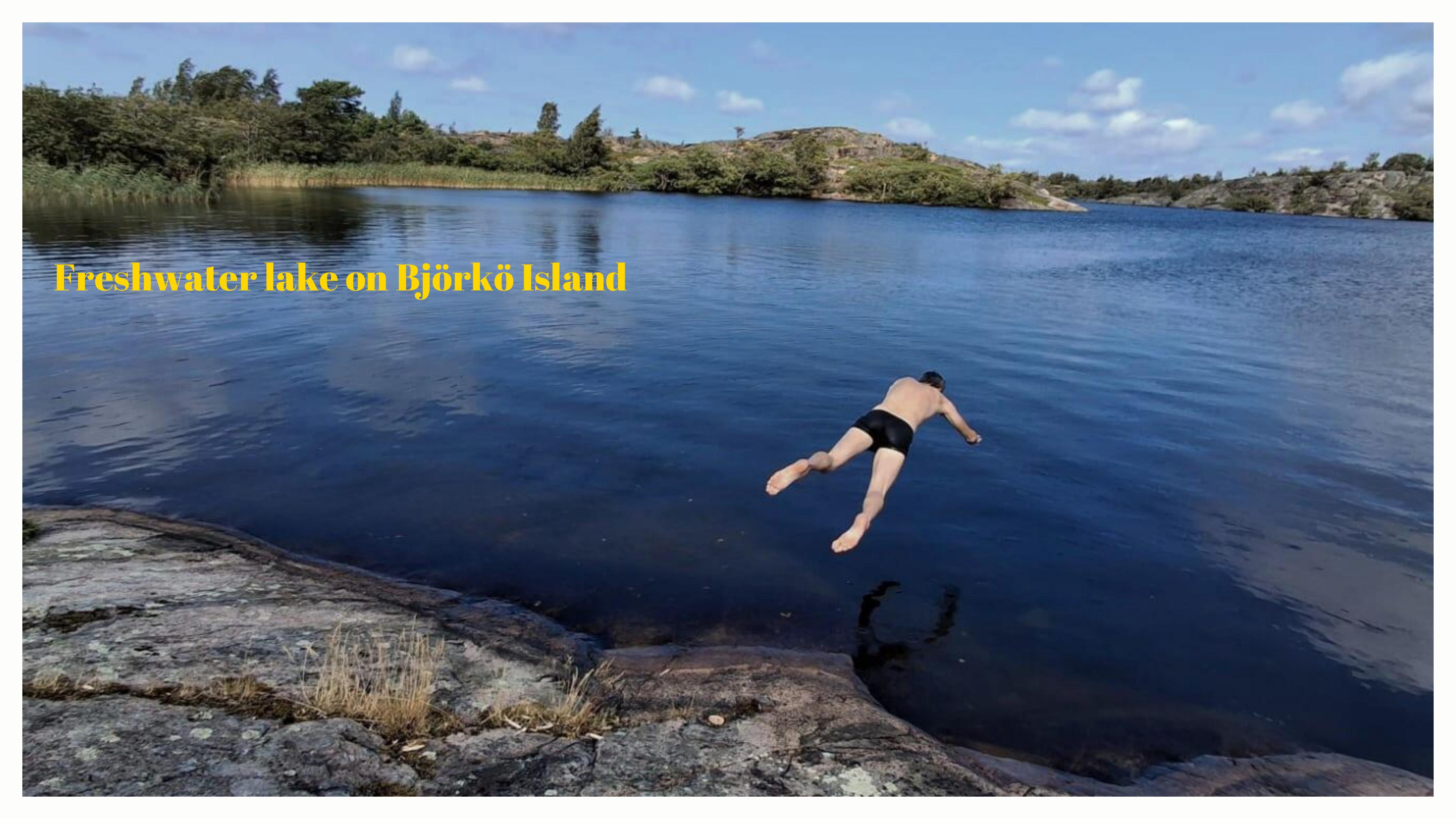
On the left: We were happy to visit our Finnish sailing friends in their forest cabin near Inkoo



On the right: SY Manta's unusual route is marked on the map with a white line. The red dot is where we first met Auli and Hannu 10 years ago



Map from Auli Irlala's book «Lands of Ice and Fire» (Finnish title «Jää ja tulen maat»)

A photograph of a man in black swim trunks jumping into a large, calm blue lake. He is captured mid-air, leaning forward with his arms extended. The lake is surrounded by rocky, green-covered hills. The sky is blue with some white clouds. In the bottom left corner, a rocky shore with some low-lying plants is visible.

Freshwater lake on Björkö Island

Rocky path on Lappo Island at 60° North



Swedish autumn





L'Envol in the narrow Dragets Canal



Our longest stop



We spend 4 days in the charming town of Karlskrona. This is the first time we had to wait so long for a weather window in Sweden!

We are lucky to meet Stefan and Marlene, who allow us to use their small jetty for landing, fill our waterbottles and jerrycans and offer us fruit from their garden





Time to go

We follow the wild geese in
their southbound migration
and sail away to
Germany



TO THE BALTIC SEA:
THANK YOU
FOR BEING THE TREASURE WE FOUND