

A photograph of a sailboat on the Baltic Sea at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the water. The sailboat's mast and rigging are visible in the foreground, and the sea is choppy with small waves. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue.

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

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

5 : ...and again Sweden

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

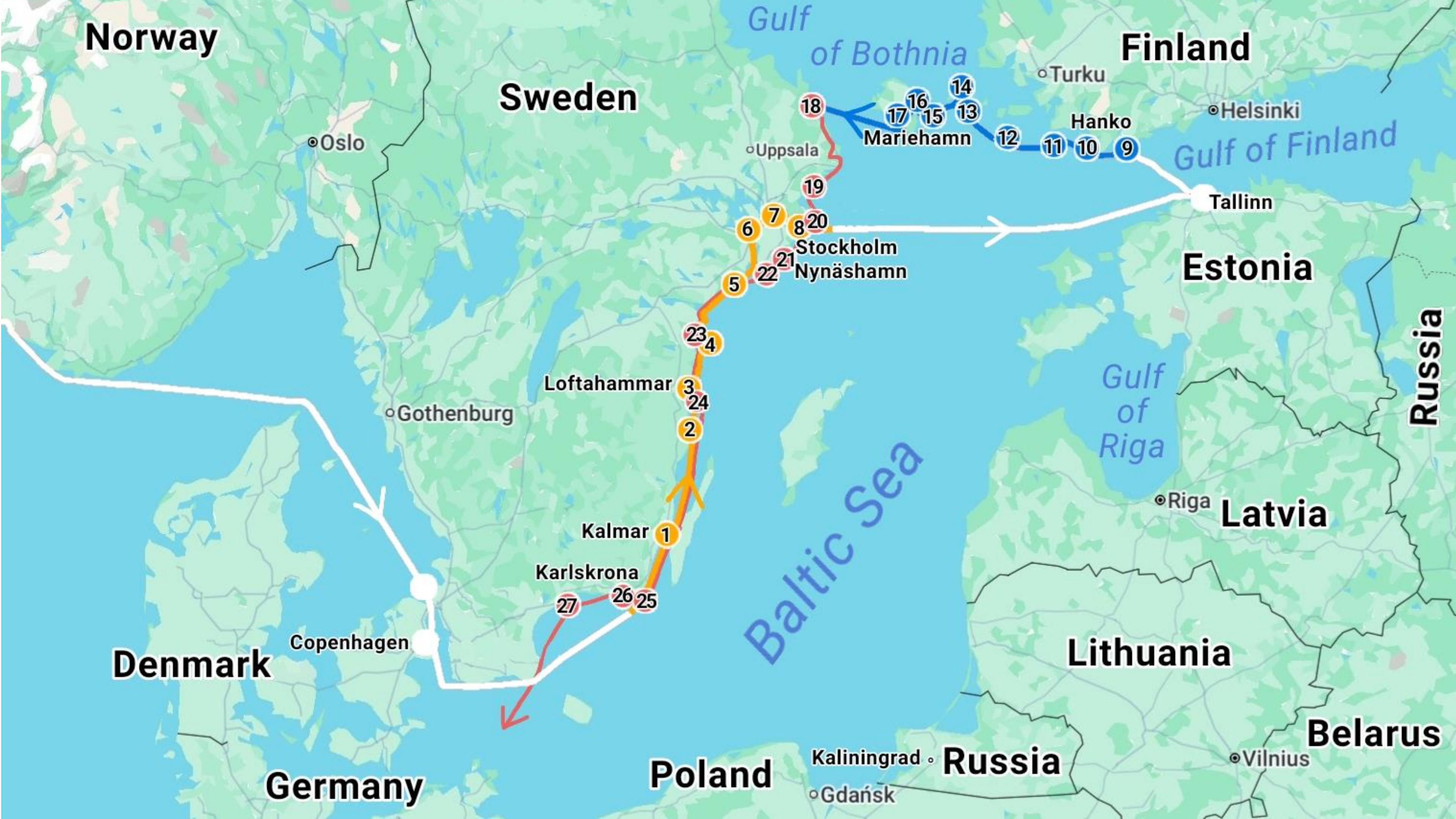
2 : Sweden

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

4 : Finland

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





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- Rosalalandet 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- Ingarö 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. It's 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





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



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

A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a rocky shoreline in the foreground with sparse green and brown vegetation. Beyond the rocks is a calm body of water, likely the Gulf of Bothnia. In the middle ground, there are several small, rocky islands and peninsulas. A single sailboat is visible on the water. The background shows more distant land under a sky filled with large, white, fluffy clouds.

Sailing Finland

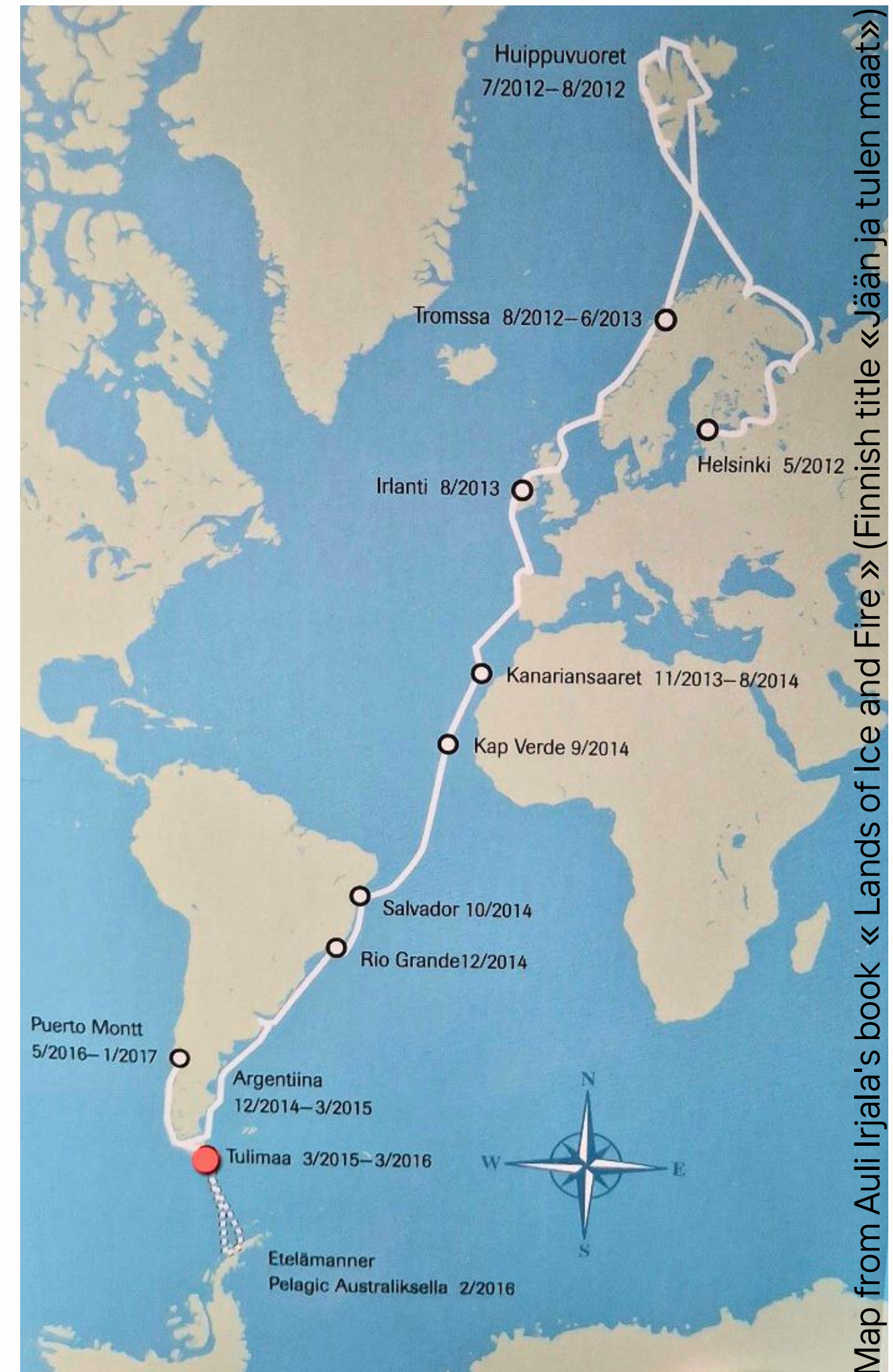
Thousands of islands make a bridge across the Gulf of Bothnia. Their names are sometimes Finnish and other times Swedish, often both languages are spoken here. Although we are in Finland, the cultural borders become a blur as we reach Åland - an autonomous region where Swedish is the official language.

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



Freshwater lake on Björkö Island





Rocky path on Lappo Island at 60° North

Swedish autumn





L'Envol in the narrow Dragets Canal



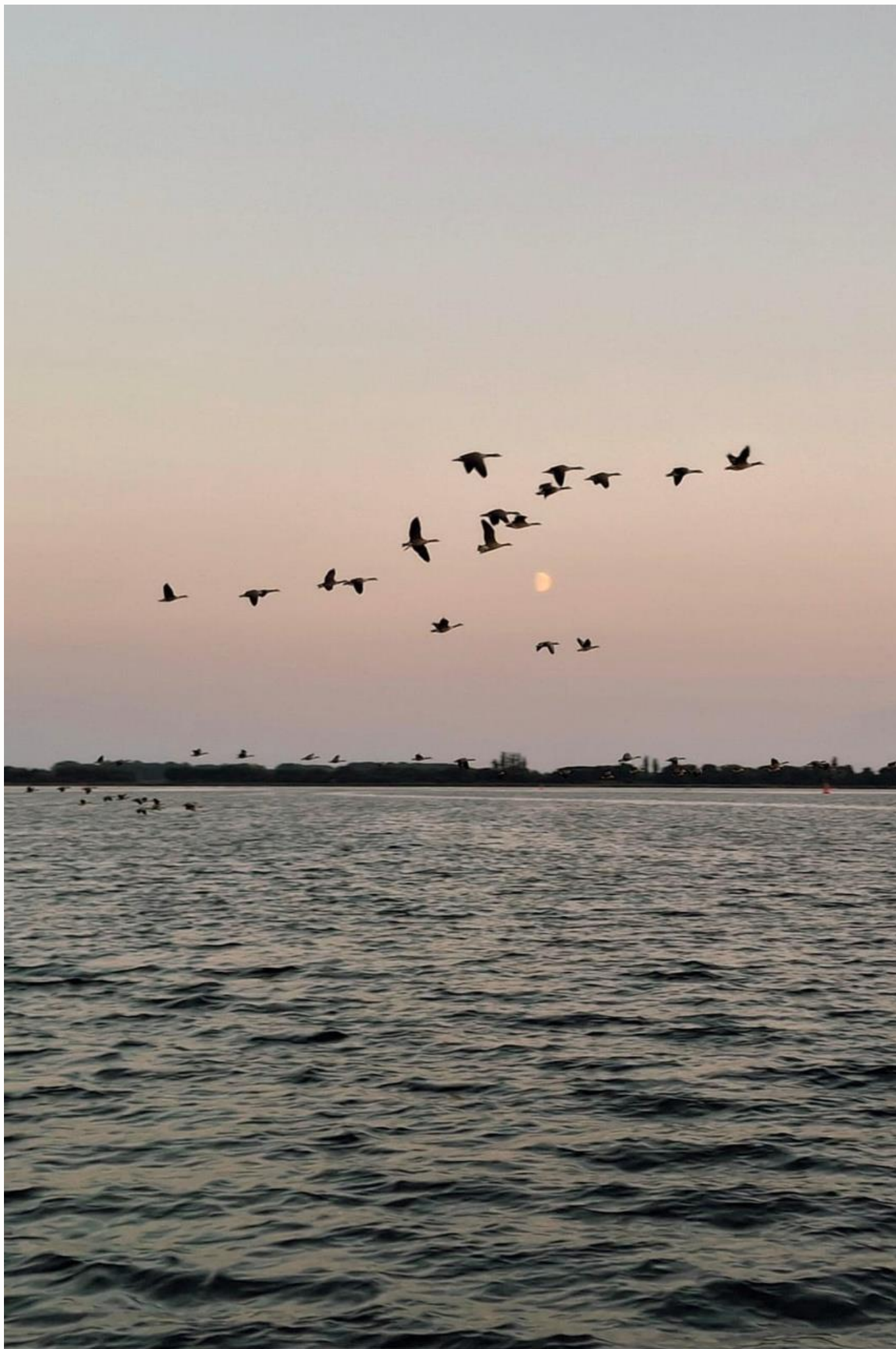
Our longest stop



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