

DYRÖN

Lat 57 o 55.69 ' N. Long 11 o 36.70 ' E
In the heart of Bohuslän – Sweden



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Dyrön in a nutshell

Just over 60 km or an hour's drive from Gothenburg. The island is approx 1.5 square kilometres and lies between two fiords – Älgöfjord and Hakefjord. It has approx 300 residents.

In summer the population doubles. Dyrön is one of seven inhabited islands within the Municipality of Tjörn (approx 15,000 inhabitants). Most workers commute to Tjörn, Stenungsund or Gothenburg.

There are only a few jobs on the island. There are a grocer's shop, a post office in a shop, a restaurant, a café in the summer, an 18-hole minigolf course, arcades, a football pitch, a tennis court, a boules court and a hiking trail and a jogging track.

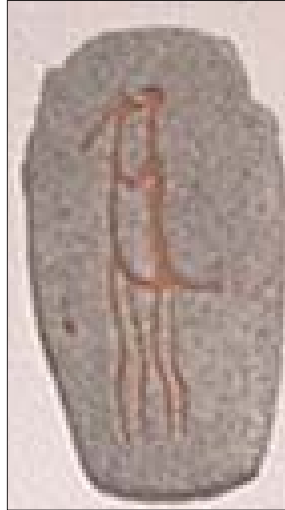
The island has a junior and intermediate level compulsory school, a day nursery and a library. There are two harbours for fishing, commercial traffic and pleasure boats – Nordhamnen and Sydhamnen - both have guest harbours with services.

There are regular boat trips from Nordhamnen to Åstol, Tjörnekalv and Rönnäng. Approx 175,000 journeys are made using this ferry route. From Sydhamnen (Gunnars Båtturer) between Dyrön–Risön–Hättan–Älgön–Tjuvkil–Nordön–Marstrand.



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History

The first settlement dates back more than 3,000 years.

On the western side of the island, a Stone-Age village has been located in a high valley between bare mountains. The remains of a Bronze Age cairn on a high mountain to the west show that early people have lived here.

All the arable land that was later used by the island's fishermen farmers was under water at this time.

The first tenant on Dyrön who is mentioned in old documents was Engelbrekt in the year 1566. Peder Tügge on Diuröö is mentioned on the tax roll for the year 1567. At this time, Dyrön was crown property and its tenants paid tax to "the Pastor and County sheriff".

Dyrön was redeemed from the Crown on 2 September 1743 by two farmers. Anders Nilsson and Jon Jonsson Green paid 43 "daler silvermynt" for Dyrön and the uninhabited islet of Norra Åstol.

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History

The most extensive herring period in Bohuslän's history began in 1747. It was to last until 1808. During this time, fishing became very important and Åstol was quickly inhabited by fishermen and landless seashore fishermen.

The island had a unique natural harbour and the fiord was full of herring shoals.

Tryworks, salting-houses and cooperies sprung up like mushrooms.

Land seines were borrowed or bought in, boats were built and wealth increased.

Dyrön had no harbour, however, and farming and stock farming were still the principal industries on the island. When the herring disappeared from Bohuslän, poverty spread. Even if Dyrön, with its fishermen farmers, coped better than many other places the "halcyon days" were over.

When the soil could no longer support the population, old traditional fishing became increasingly important.

In 1885, 35% of Dyrön's population were fishermen.

At the turn of the century there were four "storbacke" boats and four herring teams.

Oscar II opened the longed-for Nordhamnen, the first harbour in Sweden built with State aid, on 2 September 1902. Right up to the 1960s, fishing took on an increasingly prominent role. At the beginning of the 70s there were 12 fishing boats fishing for herring. But the herring disappeared, the fishing boundaries expanded and today only two big trawlers remain of the big fishing fleet.

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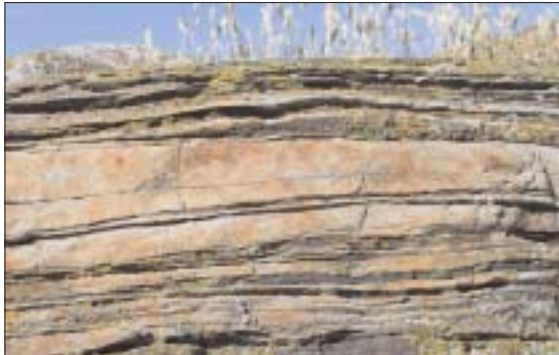
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Geography, flora & fauna

Dyrön offers a varied and fairly dramatic landscape. The housing is concentrated in a long valley extending between Nord and Sydhamnen. On both sides of the long valley the terrain is mountainous and cliffy with open rocks and valleys. Ravines cut through the landscape in many places. Geologically, the bedrock on Dyrön is very interesting. The bedrock on the island is dominated by dark minerals, differing from the mineral composition of the rest of the west coast. The bedrock is known as amphibolite. The northern side also has elements of gneissic granodiorite or light tonalite. On the north-east side of the island there is pillow lava structure, a bedrock element that is unique to the country. The bedrock geology, and in particular, the existence of pillow lava explains the inclusion of the area in the national interest for nature conservation.

The common pine and the Central European Austrian Pine, *Pinus Nigra*, are found here. Other tree species include birch, spruce, juniper, willow, different willow species, rowan, oak, elm and chestnut. The long valley with its housing is characterised by many gardens, which give it a leafy and green feel. There is vegetation from earlier open meadowland, and elements of pasture and meadowland that favour vascular plants also remain.

Shell remains in the small valleys below the precipices offer a lime-loving flora. Animal life is not particularly varied but includes hares, hedgehogs and the occasional fox. Mountain sheep, the so-called mouflon, are a special addition that has been introduced here. There is rich bird life (including willow-wrens, green woodpeckers, blackbirds, starlings, crows, magpies, house-sparrows, robins) and not least sea-birds, eg gulls, sea-swallows, eiders, cormorants, oyster-catchers, herons.

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Dyrön Community Association

Dyrön Community Association is open to all residents (from 15 years and up). Everyone with a holiday house is welcome to attend the meetings and to take part in common activities. The association has 178 members.

The main aim of the community association is to attract more residents to the island in order to safeguard public services and development of the island.

The operation is organised into five different groups.

Public services

Culture & environment

Companies

Harbours

Children young peoples

The community association is a consultative body for the municipality on matters affecting the island and the archipelago. The association is also represented in Skärgårds Forum (islands and coastal communities within the Municipality of Tjörn).

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Two harbours – two centres

Dyrön benefits from two harbours. They are shared by commercial traffic, pleasure boats and guest boats. The harbours are the life-blood of an archipelago island. This year the guest harbour has had approx 3,500 guest nights (around 10,000 persons).



Sydhamnen

The commercial harbour operation is still important to the island. The harbour is the base for Gunnars Båtturer which operates regular archipelago services all the year round as well as charter trips. The Shipping company have three modern passenger boats. Home port to two iron trawlers GG 707 Arkö (prawns) and one of Sweden's most

modern trawlers GG 730 Carmona (herring, sand lance, fish, etc). There are also a bunker boat for oil and marine service (diesel, Calor gas, oils, etc), a port office and service facilities for the guest harbour.

Nordhamnen

Port of call for the municipal archipelago traffic Dyrön–Åstol–Tjörnekalv–Rönnäng (175,000 trips per year). There are also coastal fishermen, a port of call for cargo transport to the island, leisure and guest harbour (38 guest spaces).

Service facilities with showers, WC and laundry facilities. 100 metres to child-friendly and disabled beach.



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Industry

Traditionally, fishing has been the dominant industry on the island.

Today there are two big iron trawlers **GG 707 Arkö** and **GG 330 Carmona**. In addition, there are boats fishing for herring, eel, crayfish, crab, mackerel, etc near the coast. Sydhamnen is the base for **Gunnars Båtturer** (ferry and charter services). **Dyröns Oljor AB**, which sells diesel and oil products, can also be found here.

Tourism has become increasingly important as an industry.

Today there are **Vadbinderiet Dyrön** that operates a restaurant, Galleri Bockeberget, kiosk & café and an 18-hole minigolf course.

There are companies offering charter, excursion and fishing trips.

Other companies operating on the island include **Dyröboden** (grocer's shop open all the year round), **Formkompaniet** (gold and silversmiths, woodwork, design), **Mats Plåt- & Fastighetservice**, **Lundbergs Mattservice**, **Pater Noster Info** (advertising & marketing).

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Association activities

EFS (Evangeliska Fosterlandsstiftelsen), which holds services and other meetings, runs activities for children and young people. It has its own mission-hall by Nordhamnsliden.

Elim parish has similar activities and its own house very close to the mission-hall.

Hem- och skola is aimed primarily at parents with pre-school and school children. The association also looks after the beach at Nordhamnen.

Dyröns IF runs sporting activities with emphasis on children and young people. The association has its own clubhouse (let out for camps, etc) and access to a grass-pitch for football as well as a high-class asphalt tennis court and boules courts. DIF also usually organises the traditional midsummer celebrations that attract up to 1,000 visitors every year.

There are also **Vägsamfälligheten**, and **Dyröns Andelsförening** that owns the building containing the shop.