

# Vänern



Båtbussen

# Välön



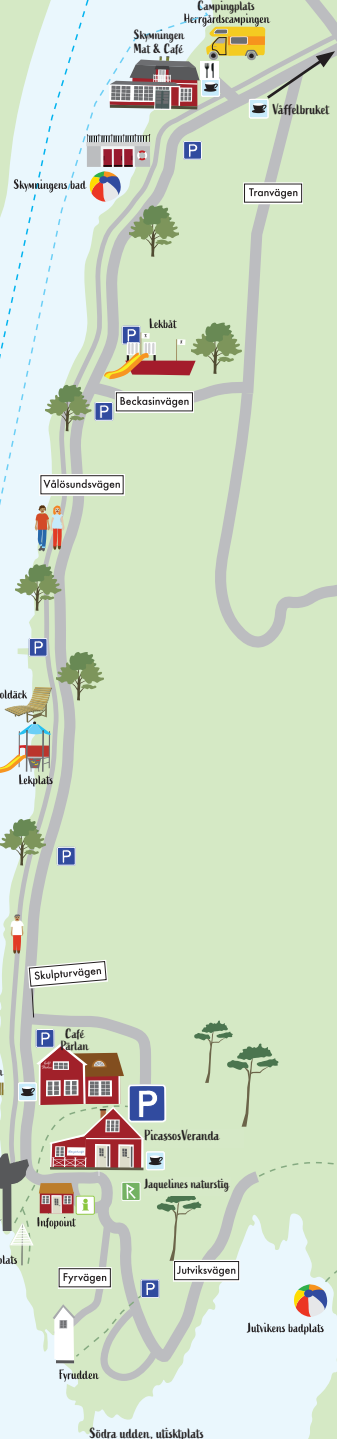
Sandvikarna badplats



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Don't miss the exhibition in the Picasso Park.  
Eight signs tell you more about the Picasso sculpture and its history.



## The Picasso sculpture & the area around Vålösundet





**Text by Tommy Ternemar,  
Former municipal councilor in Kristinehamn**

"In the archipelago of Kristinehamn you find one of Pablo Picasso's first monumental sculptures, the Female head (Tête de femme). The reason for why this 15 meter high sculpture, ended up there is something of a coincidence and much thanks to the artist Bengt Olson from Kristinehamn.

In the autumn of 1963, Olson met the Norwegian artist Carl Nesjar on a dusty country road outside Paris. Nesjar, who had been working with the great Pablo Picasso for a few years, said that Picasso had never been allowed to do any monumental work, as he was so expensive that no city or country could afford to buy it. Therefore, Nesjar said, Picasso had decided to donate the opportunity to get a sculpture. Nesjar pointed at a model and said that it would cost SEK 150,000 to get it 15 meters high and that New York might be interested.

Olson asked if he could not be allowed to take the model to Sweden and try to get it sold there. He could but he had to work fast, since New York might want it.

Olson went home to Kristinehamn and called the city council, at the time, chairman Göte Berg, who understood that this was an outstanding offer. The city council convened the next day, two days before Christmas Eve. Everyone showed up.

Olson showed them the model and ended by saying

**- "If it is now the case that Picasso chooses Kristinehamn over New York, then which of you dare to say no to the future?"**

Göte Berg quickly took the club and said:

**- "Yes, if that's the case, we shouldn't say no to it"**

**- "No",** said the rest around the table and Göte Berg slammed the club on the table. "



### **Facts about the sculpture:**

The sculpture is made of natural concrete, which means that a mold is filled with sorted stone material and then has liquid white cement injected. The artistic decor was sandblasted by Carl Nesjar.

### **The sculpture is worth seeing all year round ...**

- ... was inaugurated in..... 1965**
- ...it is ..... 15 meters high**
- ... weighs ..... 35 tons**
- ... diameter of the column ..... 1.65 meter**
- ... span ..... 6x4 meters**
- ... one wing weighs ..... 8 tons**
- ... the surface lasts for ..... 2000 years**

(Picasso was pleased with that.)

