

Bike



on Gräsö



Bike Tours on Gräsö

For those who wants to explore the island Gräsö by bike, we have put together this guide for your convenience. You can choose between tours like the short one that takes about half an hour or the day tour which takes you to the northern tip of the island. We recommend you to follow the trails in the order they are presented in this folder to avoid getting lost, especially if you choose the medium tour. For convenience all tours start at the ferry dock. Enjoy!

1. The Short Tour

This tour takes you around the islands oldest farmland in less than half an hour (4.5 km). You pass by the two villages Österbyn and Västerbyn and if you feel like it you can take a detour to see the old Iron Age grave field.

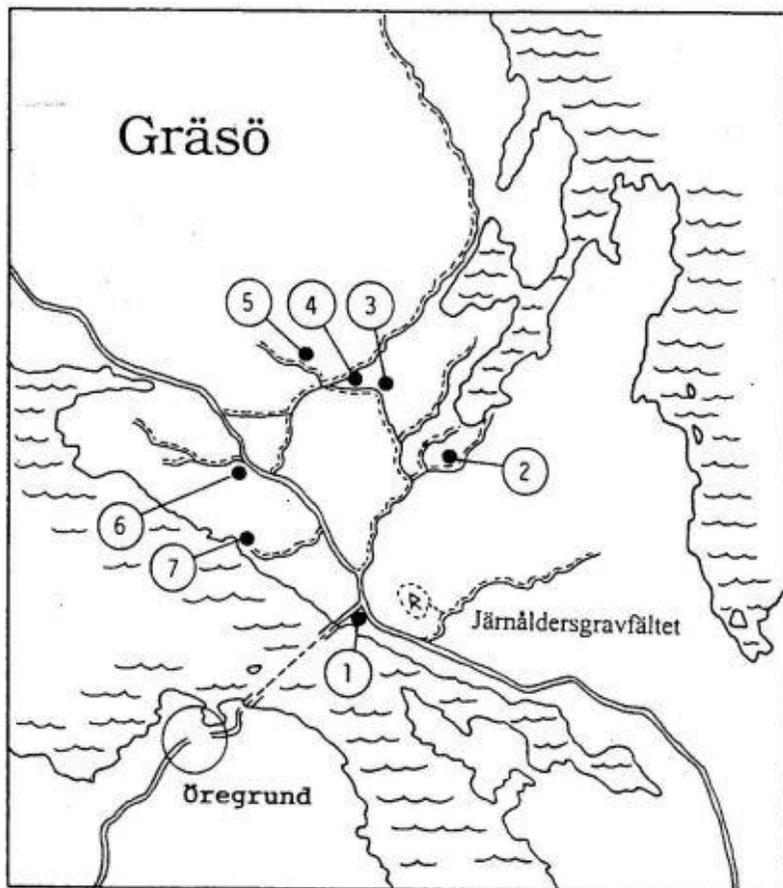
2. The Medium Tour

This tour is about 20 km long and takes about 2,5 – 3 hours depending on the speed. It goes north along the west side of the island pass Klockarboda before you cross the island through the forest. You bike on the eastern side back to the ferry. The trail conditions vary along the tour where some parts require you to walk your bike. Bike trailer is not recommended.

3. The Day Tour

This tour takes you to the northern tip of the island, Örskärssund and then back to the ferry and is about 40 km long. You pass several of the islands villages and detours can be made to see the fishing villages.

The Short Tour



The Short Tour

1. The Church

Gräsö church was built 1965-97 in timber. The church was heavily damaged when the Russians used it as a stable during its ravages on the island in 1719. The exterior is well-kept from the 1600's, but the interior has changed during the centuries which you can read about inside. It is worth a visit so please feel free to make a stop.

2. Österbyn

After passing ICA, the grocery store, you take a right in the first left curve. After a while you will reach the small village called Österbyn. Österbyn is one of Gräsö's oldest villages. It was founded most likely by people relocation from what was then called Gräsö village (today Gräsö Farm and Västerbyn) during the 13th century when the sea stretched to the village. In documents from the Middle Ages (1400's) you can find names such as *Inguast in Osterby in Gräsö* (1420) and *Gudwast in Gräsö in Österbynom*, *tolvman in Bystils socken* (1432). In 1554, eight taxpaying homes were reported. The village is characterized by the old archipelago landscape and its difficult usage. The very oldest fields huddle with granite rocks and stones, as well as the uplift and the ditching of wetlands have created larger fields and farmlands in the lower parts of the village.

3. Svinktorp

Continue north on the small road. Soon you'll pass a farm and from there you can see a red double cottage on a hill. The author Jan Fridegård used to spend his summers here but today it is a summer house. You can still see the old cellar in the slope.

4. Krangelboda

After passing Svinktorp you can see from the hill to the right another cottage, called Krangelboda. It was also a cottage belonging to Gräsö Gård during the 1600's but is today a year-around home.



5. Nötsveden

Another old farm on the right side of the road can be spotted. It was long abandoned after the Russian riots but turned later into one of the larger farms on the island. Due to the uplift, flat fields are there today but during the Viking Age, this was one of the places where land was cut due to wide streams. Today still you can find shells in the soil at the soccer field.

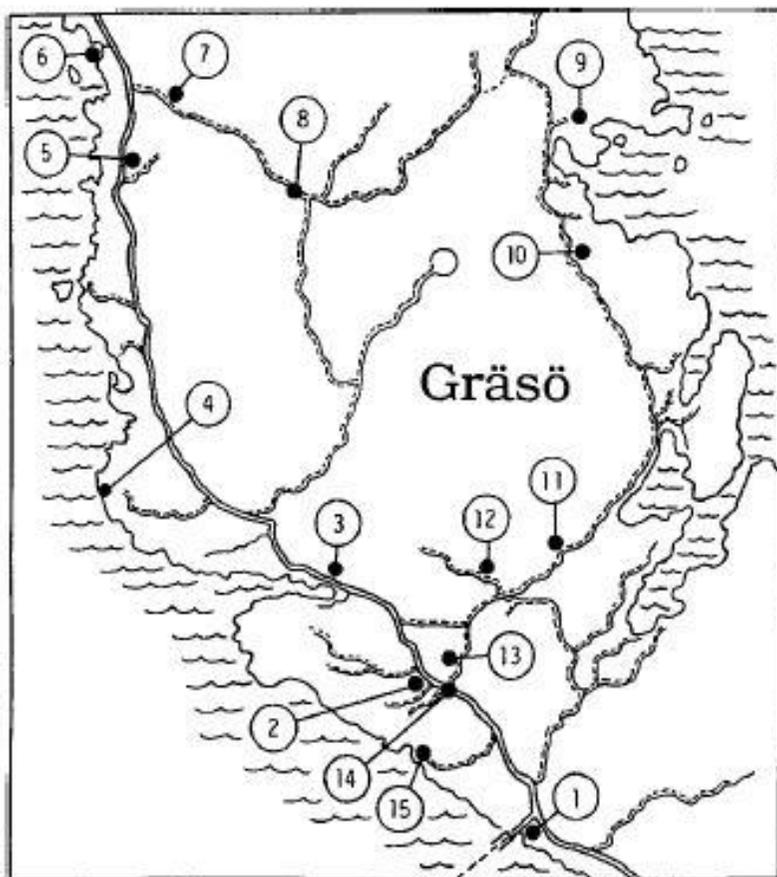
6. Västerbyn

Västerbyn was likely founded in the middle of the 16th century in connection with Gustaf Vasa's purchase of Gräsö Village. When purchased the village became two; Gräsö royal farm and Västerbyn. During the 18th century a country inn was located here as well as a rectory. In 1862 the rectory was burned to the ground but was rebuilt and is today a private home.

7. Gräsöbaden

There will be a sign saying "Västerbystigen" along the way, which is the starting point for a culture trail through the village's older farmlands that is worth a visit. At Gräsöbaden you can take a swim in Öregrundsgrepen or have a meal at restaurant Doppingen before biking back to the ferry.

The Medium Tour



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3. Långviken

At Långviken Västerbyn's boatswain's cottage, the foresters cottage; Örntorp, and Långvikstorpet. The one mentioned last, located in the slope, was one of many day-work cottages belonging to Gräsö Farm and just like the old boatswain's cottage, this one is from the 17th century. Most of Gräsö Farm's some twenty cottages was bought out during the 1920's and are today private homes.

4. Djursten's Lighthouse

Leave the main road and bike 800 meters and you will reach the lighthouse called Djursten. It has been a lighthouse spot since the 1700's and still has the surrounding buildings collected that represents the life as a lighthouse keeper. Here, you can take a break with a stunning view over the bay. Pay attention to private land and only park on marked spots for visitors.

5. Klockarboda

Another village on the island with a long history and is documented back to the 1500-1600. You can still find a little farm with some hens and also sheep. Here are also leafy trees that previously played an important role when feeding the animals in the winter. Around Klockarboda you can see how the archipelago's nature is still home for farm animals. In a sharp curve, you find an old NTO facility where "Templet 319, Framtidshoppet, Gräsön" were located when the island was dragged into a Christian trend where sobriety became important. Today the house is a private home.

6. Storsand

About 1 km north from Klockarboda, on the left side, is Storsand, which used to be a dock for loading coal and wood. Today it is a small beach, nice rocks and a picnic table and we highly recommend a swim!

7. Baklä

Bike back a couple of hundred meters and then take a left to get to Baklä. Here many homes for workers transporting coal and foresters are located. The coal was transported over the ice to Forsmark's work to be used for iron preparation.

8. Through the Forest

You will now bike in the forest for a while and should take the chance to enjoy the beautiful nature. Maybe you will find some wild berries and the fern plants you will see are called Örnbräken. Rumors also say there is an old Viking ship hid in a bog. Soon you will reach a road barrier and after that a storage for gravel and stone. The trail will split and you should take the one continuing straight ahead. Pay close attention to the trails and avoid turning into a newly made road, instead continue straight ahead. After about 2,5 km take a right on a small little trail where you most likely have to walk your bike. The trail used to be the only way to the old school in

Klockarboda a long time ago that the children had to walk both summer and winter time. Soon you'll reach a road and continue right on it.

9. Kallboda

If everything has gone well you have reached Kallboda. On your left side of the road, in the right turning curve, are more farms that were a part of Gustaf Vasa's collection. Today they are private.

10. Kallvik

Kallvik is another place that were homes for foresters and coal workers. After the houses you can find old birches and trees.

11. Lugnet

Again, a good example of what the coal workers homes looked like. Pay attention to the old, well kept, stone basement!

12. Nötsveden

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13. Agnarvet

On the other side of the field, on the right side, the islands poorhouse was located. Here, one of the islands "originals" lived; Back-Lasse. He was a so called "wise man" or like the authorities called him; a quack doctor. He blended his own herbs at his cottage and some of them still exist.

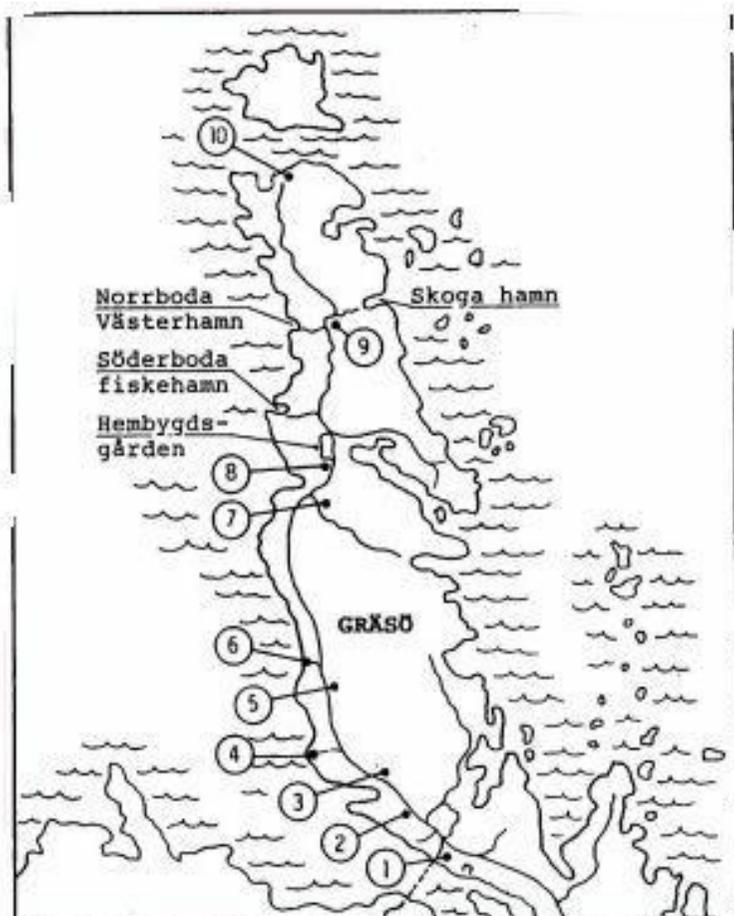
14. Back at the country road

Now, as you have returned to the larger road you have passed by the islands oldest parts. About 2000 years ago this part was uplift from the sea and created an about 7 km long island.

15. Gräsöbaden

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The Day Tour



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7. Mörtarö

Once you biked down the hill you are at the northern limit of Gräsö back in the days. Here, a stream used to go across the island. The part of the island that was north of the stream was then called Wiggan and everything south was the actual Gräsö. When Wiggan was populated is still unknown but most likely it was used as a seasonal spot for fishing during the 12-1300s. By the end of the 15th century it became a home for people and in Middle Aged documents you can find names such as; *Lares Olsson I Wigga* (1490) who was a council member of Frösåkerstinget.

8. Söderboda

When you reach the village Söderboda, take a left and you will travel on the old village road. After about 200 meters you will see a red house with a split door; that's the main house for the homestead. Around the homestead you find old remains of old houses such as a boatswain's cottage etc. Söderboda avoided the land split and therefor many farms are still close. At Anders

Matsgården you can make a stop to enjoy a break and maybe an art exhibition if you are lucky. When you are back on the country road, continue north. After about 150 meters you'll reach a sharp curve to the right and if you are interested, you can visit Söderboda fishing harbor by turning down on a small gravel road. It is about 1 km to the harbor and when there you can enjoy the wonderful view and during a nice summer night you can see the sun set in the sea.

9. Norrboda

Back at the country road; continue north to reach Norrboda, a village just as old as Söderboda. However, Norrboda was split up during a shift in the 1880's and several farms moved. In the middle of the village you can make a detour to Norrboda's western fishing harbor is were some of the oldest boat houses still stand. Or you can continue 100 meters on the road and take a right to the eastern fishing harbor; Skoga harbor. Keep right.

10. Örskärssundet

4 km from Norrboda is Örskärssundet, the most northern tip of Gräsö. Along beautiful nature and winding roads you will reach the end. The country road was built in 1890, before you had to take a boat. At the tip of the island there is also an old fishing camp with boat houses typically for Gräsö. The island across; Örskär, and the waters surrounding it is widely known for its dramatically maritime incidents such as ships sinking etc. You can read more on a memorial stone before returning back to the ferry the same way.

Pärlor på Gräsön



Hjälp oss att bevara öns unika kulturlandskap, stöd Gräsöfonden
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