

Participant Information

ESIN & Clean Energy for EU Islands – Houtskär, 22–25 September 2026

Welcome to Houtskär! Here is some practical information to help you prepare for your stay. We have marked the event venue, accommodation and other useful locations on this map:

[Houtskär event map](#)

Please keep this information with you during your journey to Houtskär, as it includes pick-up and late ferry information.

Our base is Näsby, the main village of Houtskär. Unless otherwise stated in the programme, activities start from the courtyard at Skärgårdsskolan – Saaristokoulu.

Skärgårdsskolan – Saaristokoulu

Näsbyvägen 259

21760 Houtskär

www.skargardsskolan.fi

What to bring

Please bring:

- Warm and weatherproof clothing – September in the Finnish archipelago can be windy, rainy and cool.
- Comfortable shoes for walking outdoors.
- Swimwear and a towel if you plan to join the sauna.
- Some cash in euros – you will need cash for some drinks during the event.
- **If you are joining us on 23 September:** bring something edible from your country or island to share. A small local speciality that travels well is perfect – the idea is to create a shared tasting table with something from each participating country.

A note about services on the island

Houtskär has a grocery shop, but shopping and other services are limited. There is no pharmacy and no Alko (the Finnish state-run alcohol shop) on the island. The grocery shop carries a small selection of basic over-the-counter medicines, but please bring anything you know you will need during your stay.

Arrival and check-in

It is very helpful if you let us know approximately when you expect to arrive.

When you arrive at Skärgårdsskolan, please come to the entrance hall of the main building and ask for Erika. We will give you your room and key and help you get settled.

Breakfast is included and will be served in the main building.

Practical information during the event

22 September

We will be on site from 16:00, and the programme starts with dinner at 19:00.

If you arrive after dinner, please make sure to bring something to eat with you. The grocery shop in Houtskär closes at 18:00.

20:00 – Beer at the local pub Sybarit

Meet outside Skärgårdsskolan at 20:00 and we will walk to Sybarit together. You are also welcome to make your own way there.

Restaurant Sybarit & Bed and Breakfast

Näsbyvägen 189

Approx. 750 m / 10-minute walk from Skärgårdsskolan.

23 September

17:15 – Optional guided walk

Ulla Mattsson-Wiklen will take us on a guided walk in Näsby. We start outside Skärgårdsskolan and explore the village on foot.

19:00 – Crayfish party

We will have a traditional Finnish-style crayfish party, with crayfish and schnapps, pickled fish and a shared tasting table with the specialities brought by participants.

21:00 Sauna

Some drinks will be available at the sauna for a voluntary cash contribution.

24 September

15:30 – ESIN Member Roundtable

Each ESIN member country will have approximately 5 minutes for a short update.

Please come prepared – no formal presentation is necessary. Our dutch representative will have a longer presentations as they are new.

Dinner

A €15 drink ticket can be purchased in cash.

25 September – Departure

We can use the facilities at Skärgårdsskolan until the afternoon, so there is no need to check out of your room in the morning.

Participants joining the programme in Korpoström will leave Houtskär at approximately 12:45.

For those travelling back towards Turku/Åbo, there is a bus connection at approximately 14:00.

Please make sure to return your room key before leaving.

Getting to Houtskär

Houtskär is an archipelago of several islands, so getting here involves ferries. Place names can also be slightly confusing, as most places have both Swedish and Finnish names.

You may see both versions on signs, timetables and maps:

Turku = Åbo

Pargas = Parainen

Nagu = Nauvo

Korpo = Korppoo

Houtskär = Houtskari

Travelling by bus from Turku

Please plan your journey using the Seutu+ Journey Planner, as bus routes and connections vary depending on the time of day.

Your journey may include a change of bus at Galtby ferry harbour in Korpo, usually from bus 901 to bus 904.

For the final part of your journey, check where the Journey Planner tells you to get off:

- Näsby: Get off in Näsby and walk to the event venue. The closest bus stops are Vittelund and Skärgårdsskolan.
- Träsk skola: Get off at Träsk skola and we will pick you up there. If the Journey Planner suggests walking the remaining 2.6 km to Näsby, you do not need to walk.
- Galtby: If your connection ends in Galtby without a connecting bus to Houtskär, take the ferry to Houtskär independently. We will meet you at Kittuis ferry harbour on the Houtskär side.

Please use Näsby as your destination in the Journey Planner, not Mossala.

If you need a pick-up at Träsk or Kittuis, please let Erika know by email in advance. If you have not done so, please contact her at least 3 hours before arrival.

Seutu+ Journey Planner and timetables: **Line timetables, lines 901, 903, 903M, 904 and 904M**

<https://seutuplus.fi/en/timetables/>

<https://reittiopas.seutuplus.fi/?locale=en>

Travelling by car

Travelling by car

From Turku/Åbo, you will travel through the archipelago using **three ferries**:

Lillmälö (Pargas) → Lillandet (Nagu) → Pärnäs (Nagu) → Retais (Korpo) → Galtby (Korpo) → Kittuis (Houtskär) → Näsby

For current ferry timetables, go to **Finferries** and select **Routes and schedules**. You will need to check these three routes:

Pargas–Nagu

Nagu–Korpo

Korpo–Houtskär

Finferries: <https://www.finferries.fi/en>

Remember to allow enough driving time between the ferries. In particular, you need to drive approximately 30 km across Nagu between Lillandet and Pärnäs, and then across Korpo between Retais and Galtby.

Please allow plenty of time – distances may look short on the map, but the ferry connections determine the rhythm of the journey.

Please note that vessel to Utö depart from Pärnäs, make sure you board the ferry to Korpo. Please note that ferries to Åland and Kökar also depart from Galtby. Make sure you board the ferry to Houtskär.

Planning your journey by car – and late evening travel

The example below also gives you an idea of how the journey through the archipelago works – the ferry crossings, driving distances between them and the time you need to allow for connections. You can use the same route to plan your journey at other times of the day, using the current ferry timetables.

The last ferries from Galtby to Houtskär at 22:45 and 23:45 must be booked in advance before 21:00 on the same day.

Reservation: +358 20 7118 704

To catch the 22:45 ferry from Galtby, you need to:

1. Take the 21:15 ferry from Lillmälö (Pargas) to Lillandet (Nagu).
2. Drive approximately 30 km across Nagu to Pärnäs.
3. Take the 22:20 ferry from Pärnäs to Retais (Korpo).
4. Drive across Korpo to Galtby.
5. Take the 22:45 ferry from Galtby to Kittuis (Houtskär).

Contact

Erika: erika@foss.fi +358444913247

Second contact (if Erika still hasn't answered after your third attempt): Pia Prost
+358503381710

Feel free to use our WhatsApp group for practical questions, updates or if you need help during your stay.

We look forward to welcoming you to Houtskär!