



Björnö slott

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Björnö castle is situated at the Kalmarsund, only 15 km north of Kalmar. The property with its islands covers a total of 65 hectares, mostly pasture and parkland and an over 300 hectares large coherent water area in the Baltic-Kalmar Sound.

The attractive main construction consists of the farmhouse from the 1800s and the wing and outbuildings from the 1700s. In addition there are modern and efficient stables and a newly constructed beautiful wooden indoor riding arena with international dimensions.

History

The known history of Björnö dates back to the 1400s, but it was not until 1609, that the Kings Counsel, Carl Eriksson Oxenstierna, had built a manor on Björnö. During the wars of the 1600s, the Danes burned Björnö 1611 and 1677. During the 1700s a number of small industries were constructed at Björnö, including four mills, two sawmills, a tar- and charcoal kiln and a brick kiln. During the 1800s, Björnö together with Wärnanäs and Berga at Högsby, became one of the larger estates in the south of the county and through "bördsköp" (the right to buy back a property, that earlier was lost from the family), Björnö comes back to the family Posse in 1835. Now begins the glorious days of Björnö and at his death in 1867, Carl Posse was a wealthy man, considered as the largest builder in the county. In connection with a daughter's wedding, he had in 1850 built a new main building at Björnö. In 1885 the family Posse sold Björnö to the merchant Johan Magnus Bruun from Kalmar. The family Bruun owned Björnö until 1972. The current owners took over the property in 1999 and has since through a solid restauration, re-created much of Björnös former glory.

From the highway (now E22) leads a winding scenic road through a three-kilometre long lime tree avenue, lined with a fence of stones, out to Björnö. Once at the weighing house, you will enter a beautiful courtyard, surrounded by centuries-old deciduous trees, leading to the beautiful castle right next to the water. On both sides of the courtyard, there are beautiful old outbuildings and a large wing.



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The castle was originally built in late 1840 - in Empire Style, of the so-called "Rosendal type", which is characterized by a middle section with avant-corpses at the ends. The building is entirely constructed of wood with horizontal panels. The facade with its well-constructed wooden details, represent a transitional form between the Empire and the period of new styles. The exterior is very well preserved.

The interior of the building consists of an old vault cellar and a ground floor consisting of, among other things, a large hall with scrubbed floors and a fireplace, lounge, bedroom, large manor kitchen, office, breakfast room, and a dining room with exit to a veranda, overlooking the park and the water. The upper floor consists of a room suite with prestigious salons facing the water, and the Count and Countess's room and bedroom, with a breathtaking view of the Kalmar Sound. Along the back towards the east and the water, runs a balcony. The penthouse, which does not occupy the entire surface of the floor, is partially furnished with guestrooms.

The building has in recent years undergone a complete exterior renovation and so has also largely the interior, including a new kitchen area. The interior is well preserved, including twenty-one tile-stoves. Trims, linings, doors, floors and windows are completely preserved from the construction period.

Two small pavilions from the 1700's is flanking the main building. These are among others used as summerhouses and servants' cottage. Adjacent to the south pavilion is a small wooden pigeon house.

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The stone-wing-building was constructed about 1765 in rococo style, with a large broken brick roof. The exterior is well preserved and much of the interior is still influenced by the 1700s. The wing with its extension has four separate apartments, fully furnished with kitchen and bathroom. These are currently used for weekly rentals. In connection with the wing, there is an orangery from late 1850. It is a beautiful building where the southwestern facade is designed as an arcade, consisting of seven vault arches with six glass sections. The Orangery has been partially renovated in recent years. In connection with the orangery is now a large swimming pool, sun deck, an old tennis court and a herb-garden, divided into different stone-lined terraces, constructed on the old foundations from the time of the market garden.



The Farm-buildings

A large part of the special atmosphere of Björnö depends upon the magnificent outbuildings surrounding the courtyard.

The weighing house and the smithy at the entrance, are part of the 1700-century buildings. The old stables and the cattle shed, were erected in stone in the late 1770s. These buildings, together with the wagon shed, form a closed cattle house, with partially paved courtyard.

In the 1800s, the large northern building was constructed as a barn/wagon shed and riding stable, now converted into a banquet room, with seating's for more than 400 seated guests. In part of the building is the farm's central heating plant situated, fired by pellets and provides the castle and the wing with heat. This heating supplies both the wing and the main building.

Opposite on the south side, lies the old cowshed, built during the same period. In the recent years, it was completely renovated into a modern stable, with room for 19 horses in spacious boxes, altogether there are 32 boxes in different stables.

The newly built bright wooden indoor riding arena with international dimensions, is ideally suited to the old farm environment, thanks to its beautiful exterior. In connection with the indoor riding arena is a lighted gravel runway and a grass runway with fixed obstacles.

On the way from the square cowshed area towards the south of the park, there are two workers housing, with three, respectively four rooms and kitchen. Both housings are modern and just now rented to permanent residents.

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A stroll in the Björnö park and garden is a delight. You can sense a flair of days gone by and a publication in 1680 mentioned Björnö garden for its beautiful trees and plantations. The land survey map from 1766, is the oldest map that shows both buildings and the garden on Björnö. Most of the plants and precious trees remaining now, comes from the glorious period of the Posse family in the 1800s when they extended the park and plantations and erected the walls around. There are also a lot of big oak trees dating back to the 1600s. During the late 1800s, a large English park was constructed on the northern peninsula and on maps from 1936, you can still see the winding gravel paths. At that time, there was even a market garden, from which deliveries went several times a week to



the big city. At the facade of the northern pavilion, there is now a big old tree stump from a very old elm tree, that was cut down in the 1940-50s. According to the legend, this elm was a landmark in the late 1600s. The County Board has made an inventory of the whole park and garden. We have compiled this into a management plan for a possible restoration.

In the northern part of the English park is the small octagonal gazebo/bath house in Gothic style from the 1860s.

Björnö can offer good hunting of deer/small game and in particular waterfowl, thanks to the water area with the islands in the Kalmar Sound. The fishing is traditional salt sea fishing, where especially the eel-fishing should be mentioned.

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Legal relations

Property name

Björnö 1:1, 1:5 i Åby socken, Kalmar kommun, Kalmar län.

Areas

2 ha of productive forest land

7 ha forest impediment

7 ha of arable land

41 ha pasture

7 ha of plot and other land

65 ha according to the property register.

In addition there are water areas of over 300 ha in the Baltic-Kalmar Sund.

Rateable value

agricultural land and other property with a total value of 3 788 000 SEK for 2008.



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Summary

Björnö castle with its unique location is, from a historical and antiquarian approach, one of the best preserved properties in southeastern Sweden. During the time of the current owner, a carefully made restoration and modernisation work has been carried out in collaboration with antiquarian expertise.

The property offers an opportunity for a class accommodation in a beautiful environment, combined with the possibility of active outdoor-recreation and the pleasure of recreation at sea. Thanks to the investments made in recent years, there are also excellent conditions for horse breeding and horse training or other activities in modern and appropriate buildings.

The number of mansions situated at the sea along the east coast is very limited because of Russian ravages in the 1700s. This increases the attractiveness of Björnö on the market. There is a tendency to increasingly appreciate the intangible values, the so called sentimental and soft values. This trend is most likely to strengthen in the future, when people are going to try to find especially attractive properties worldwide. According to this pattern, our unique archipelago will probably conquer a special position.

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