



## Safety tips :

### Using boats on the Dalsland lakes

*Dalsland has the most lakes of whole Sweden, and great fishing possibilities. But the lakes can be very dangerous also, please read our tips below .*

1. Most big lakes connected to the Dalsland channel are mapped. Make sure you know the lake, or study the lake map before you go out. We strongly advice to use GPS sea maps in your plotter. If you don't have one, we advice you to download the Navionics Boating app on your cellphone.
2. Often the lakes might look safe from shore, but keep in mind there are many dangerous rocks and stones, sometimes just below the water surface. They can cause expensive damage to your boat, engine, and in worst case you can get seriously injured. Always keep an eye on the map, and don't drive your boat too fast unless you know the lake very well !
3. In shallow area's, rocky area's, or close to shores or islands, always trim your engine as high as possible. Of course make sure cooling water keeps coming out of the engine ! When driving in shallow area's it is recommended that one person in the front of the boat looks ahead for stones and rocks.
4. Smaller lakes are often not mapped. Be extra careful here !
5. Some lakes are privately owned or forbidden to fish in. Always make sure that you are allowed to go there by boat, and/or fish in them.
6. Always keep an eye on the weather forecast. Be careful on the big lakes in high winds, and never go out if thunder storms are expected.
7. Make sure you wear warm and weatherproof clothing and always wear Life vests.

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8. Always make sure you have enough fuel.
9. Don't drink alcohol when you drive a boat. It is a criminal offence, Sweden has a zero-tolerance policy.
10. Always buy your fishing licenses. Lake Vänern is license free, but most inshore lakes require a fishing license. The amount of rods you are allowed to fish with differs per lake. Make sure you know the rules.
11. In case of serious emergency, call 112, or if you have marine radio use VHF channel 16.
12. If you are new in the area, we advice one of our guided trips, to get quick knowledge of the lakes and the spots. See our website for information and prices
13. **EXTRA WARNING FOR LAKE VÄNERN :**  
Most days lake Vänern looks calm and peaceful. But keep in mind it is the second biggest freshwater lake of Europe. The weather can suddenly and quickly change there, and the waves can easily reach heights over 2 meter, depending on the wind direction. They are short and dangerous waves, that can easily flip over your boat, or make the nose dive down in the waves .  
Never go to far from the last islands into open waters, and in case you have to, always keep in touch with other boats. Vänern's coastline (skärgård) is also a very rocky area, so always drive careful if you don't know the area very well.  
Never underestimate the danger of Vänern !

*Remember, usage of rental boats and trailers is fully at your own risk.  
We advice you to keep the rules in mind, it can save you from personal injuries and a very expensive trip ..... go safe, and have fun in Dalsland !*

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