

## TROJAN HORSE SUMMER RETREAT 🍌 2023

August 14–21, 2023

Bengtsår, Finland

Trojan Horse Summer Retreat is a safer space in which designers, architects, artists, and researchers can come together, take time to relax and develop and test critically oriented collective practices. The retreat is structured around a temporary communal routine away from the city and from everyday routines. We spend several days living together and we form friendships. Our learning sequences build upon asking questions, facilitating peer-to-peer education, introducing and testing various research methodologies, caring for each other, and forming support structures that cross national and professional boundaries. Trojan Horse rigorously explores the joys and the freedoms of informal learning. These experimentation zones vary, depending on the interests, knowledge and the urgencies of the participants.

### Workshop structure and the daily routine

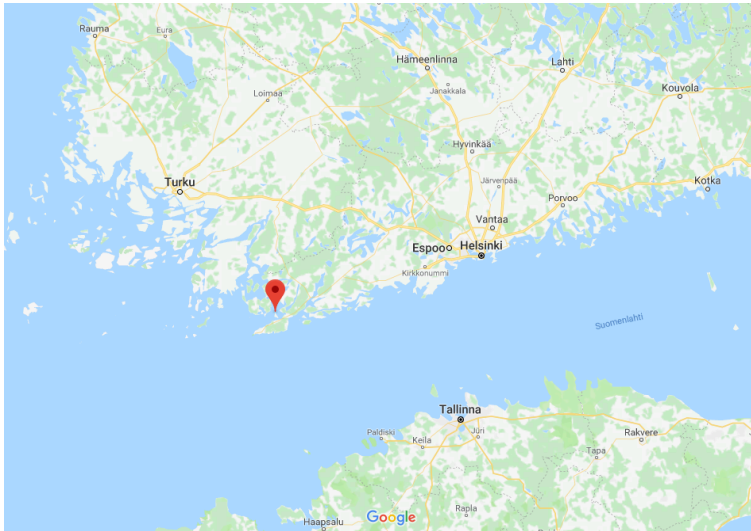
We have experienced from previous years' summer summer schools that a rather rigid daily structure can be very useful. The safety that comes from repetitive routines will help us plan our days in a new environment and concentrate on our topic.

Rough schedule of one day in the island could look something like this, with alterations done together during the summer school: (All times Eastern European Summer Time, UTC+3)

<p><b>Breakfast_</b> 9:00 – 10:00</p> <p><b>Check-in_</b> 10:00 – 10:30</p> <p><b>Possible sharing moment_</b> 10:30–12:00</p> <p><b>Lunch_</b> 12:00 – 13:00</p> <p><b>Hike &amp; Reading / Digestion_</b> 13:00 – 15:00</p> <p><b>Possible sharing moment 2_</b> 15:00 – 17:00</p> <p><b>Dinner_</b> 17:00 – 18:00</p> <p><b>Possible sharing moment 3_</b> 18:00 – 19:00</p> <p><b>Sauna_</b> 20:00 →</p>
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Peer to peer learning is a very important part of the summer school. There is plenty of time and possible sharing moments so that each one could give a short workshop, reading or another kind of session during the week.

## Bengtsår



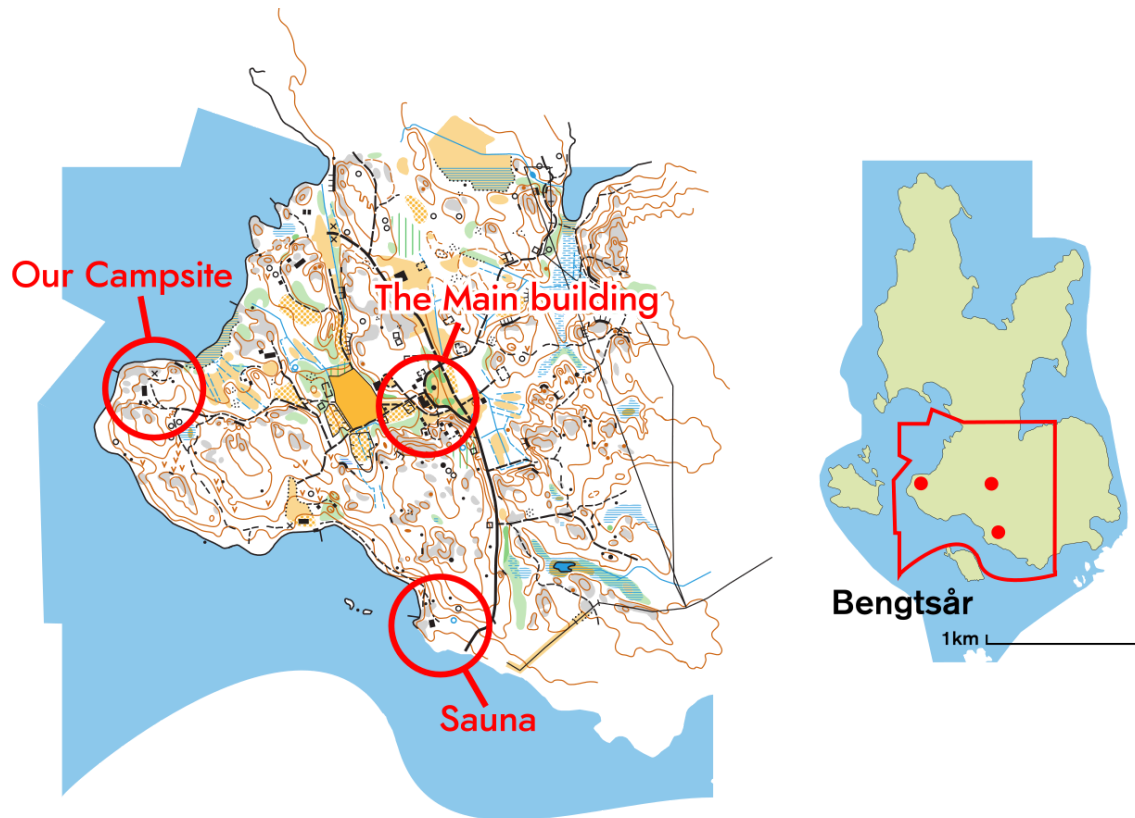
The location

Bengtsår is an island located in the municipality of Hanko, in southern Finland. The island is situated about 110 kilometres west from Helsinki and about 10 kilometres north-east from Hanko, the southernmost mainland city of Finland. Part of Bengtsår is owned by the city of Helsinki and it is used to hold different kinds of summer camps. Because of this the island has camping grounds, a canteen, a sauna and many kinds of different facilities that can be used freely. The main building where the canteen is situated has electricity and wifi, otherwise we'll be spending time in offline off-grid environments.



The main building of the island

The island is rather big. It's about 3,4 kilometers long in north-south direction and about 1,5 kilometers wide in its widest point. There are no proper roads and no cars on the island. The nature consists of spruce and pine forests, oak groves, grass fields and some rocky hills. There are many paths we can walk.



Campsite, Sauna and the main building

[benkku.munstadi.fi/files/2014/03/bengtsar2008\\_uusikartta\\_paino.pdf](http://benkku.munstadi.fi/files/2014/03/bengtsar2008_uusikartta_paino.pdf)



Walking reading circle in the forest



Reading circle at the rocks



Morning at the campsite

The island is close to the mainland. We will travel between Santala in the mainland and Bengtsår by a boat provided by the island. The boat ride takes about fifteen minutes.



Taking the boat from the mainland towards Bengtsår

## Campground

In Bengtsår we will sleep in tents during the summer school. On the first day we will create a randomized plan according to which we will place our tents. It's necessary that your own tent is rainproof and your sleeping bag can keep you warm even if it gets close to 0°C during the night. If you really cannot bring a proper tent or sleeping bag with you let us know as soon as possible. We have a few extra tents, sleeping bags and blankets and there are some very basic tents available on the island, but we cannot provide a good tent and a sleeping bag for everyone.

If you haven't been camping lately we recommend you to stay in a tent for one night before the camp. It's a good idea to bring a pillow or invest in an inflatable camping mattress.



Setting up tents



Our campground



Luka inside his tent

Our campground has dry toilets which means that they do not have running water. There is a shower at the sauna building.



Dry toilets in the island

We eat a warm lunch and dinner which is prepared for us at the main building. Breakfast and evening bites will be provided and we will eat them at our camp, at the sauna or by the bonfire. It's good to bring warm clothes with you.



Bonfire by the sauna building

## Resources

Besides the natural environments, the forests, the rocks and the sea, there are different buildings on the island we can use for our purposes. Our campground has a large long shed with no heating or insulation. It's really basically just an outdoor space with a roof and electricity from the solar panels. We can use it to have workshops, screenings or stay away from rain. The campground has dry toilets, a place to warm up water and a place to make a bonfire. There is also a small red hut we can use as a library.



Workshop by the large shed



The small red hut we have used as a library

The main building of the island is situated about 500 meters away from our campground. Besides the canteen where we eat our lunch and dinner every day, the main building also has a cellar with electricity and internet we can use to watch movies or other screen based or projected content. There is a large grass field next to the main building we can use to for example play football or do things like that.



Chilling at the grassfield

The sauna building is also located about 500 meters away from our campground. The sauna will be heated most likely almost every day. Besides the sauna, the building also has showers we can use anytime and a place to make a fire. There are also kayaks and canoes we can use.





A pier by the sauna



The eastern lean-to and a place to have a fire. This place is about 20 minutes walk from the main building.

There are in total three campsites like this on the island. We will only use one for our camp, but the other two, that have similar long sheds for example, could also be used for workshopping. In general, all these resources are available for us all to use. So, when you think about your workshop, you can already think a little bit about where you would like to do that. And, if you need more information about the island or tips for where to do something and what is possible just ask us!



A dinner at the large long shed



The large long shed used as a disco

### **Participants**

We will be all in all approximately 20 people on the island including us organizers and participants. We will be a somewhat diverse group of architects, artists, designers, researchers, urbanists, writers and cultural producers. Some of us are finishing studies and some have graduated and have had practice for a while. We hope we could create a space together where everyone could share their honest perspectives and concerns so that we could figure things out as a group.

### **Practicalities: How to get to Bengtsår?**

By far the easiest, cheapest and maybe the most convenient way to get there is to take the train. Tickets for the train to Santala can be bought in advance online at <https://vr.fi/en>, or from machines at the railway stations.

If you come from Helsinki, you should take the train that leaves from Helsinki Central at 11:36. You will first take the train to Karjaa (InterCity 951 to Turku). At Karjaa you must change trains to a smaller trainbus (junabussi in Finnish) heading to Hanko. Get off from this smaller trainbus at Santala stop. We will take the same train, so we can walk together from there. It's about 1.5km to the pier from there.

If you travel to Bengtsår from the direction of Turku, for example by boat from Stockholm, you can take the train from Turku Central Railway station to Karjaa (InterCity 954 to Helsinki) and change in Karjaa to the same trainbus heading to Hanko.

If you would prefer to cycle to Bengtsår, we can recommend some good routes. From Helsinki there is a beautiful route that goes by some nice small towns, an amazing castle and some archipelago scenery. In total it is about 130 kilometers, so either one or two days of cycling.

The summer school ends on Sunday the 20th of August. We will take the train that departs from Santala at 13:31. Often we have a good bye hangout moment in Helsinki, but this is something we can discuss in Bengtsår.

## **Practicalities: Packing list**

**These are suggestions of things that you might need.**

The tent if you have one (If you don't have a tent there are [these old-school tents](#) available on the island).

Good, very warm sleeping bag (winter, or two summer bags)

Thick sleeping mattress, eg. inflatable AND a cell foam pad underneath to isolate you from the cold ground

Pillow, Pillowcase

Towel

Toiletries etc., preferably biodegradable

Toothbrush

Medicines

Mosquito repellent

Sunscreen

Good, actually waterproof rain jacket

Good, actually waterproof pants, something like Rukka rain pants

Rubber boots or waterproof hiking boots

Waterproof storage bag, goods and clothes can get moist in the tent

Running or hiking shoes

Clothes

Woollen pullovers or light down jacket or something similar

Warm pajamas, eg. thermal underwear

Socks

Woollen socks

Scarf

Cap

Beanie and gloves

Sunglasses

Swimming suit

Powerful headlamp, spare batteries

Something to make a fire with

Small backpack for day hikes and sauna gear

Unbreakable plate, cup and cutlery in a separate textile bag

Water bottle

Interesting books, also including eg. nature guides

Instruments (recorder, harmonica, banjo, small synthesizer)

Scissors

Knife

Pencil and rubber, indian ink, markers

Paper

Sweets, candy

If you take a computer, pack it in a waterproof bag or the like

Best again,

See you soon!

The Trojan Horse Summer Retreat working group