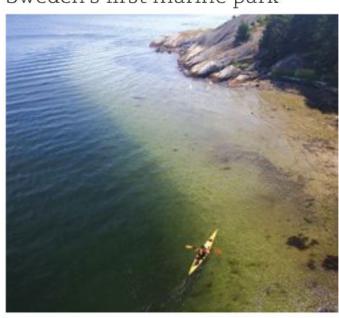
National Geographic Green Magazine - Spring 2010 "Travel Snapshots"

Sweden's first marine park



The Koster archipelago, on the northwest coast of Sweden, has been designated a 45km² national park to protect its unique marine life, sandy beaches and heath-clad moorland. Just 300 people live on the main two car-free islands, North and South Koster, which are linked by a small cable ferry.

The main place to stay on South Koster is Hotel Ekenäs (+46 5262 0250; sydkoster.se), close to a sandy beach and with rooms that look out over the Koster Fjord. In summer it opens a specialist fish restaurant.

To get there, from Copenhagen, take the train via Gothenburg to Strömstad (www.sj.se), then catch a ferry from Strömstad North Harbour to Ekenäs on South Koster (vasttrafik.se).

Nature Travels runs kayaking and camping trips on the islands from £349 (naturetravels.co.uk).