

Midsummer Åland 2022

This information is taken from Visit Åland, which is a local authority that provides tourist information. There are multiple municipalities here that have a Midsummer pole raising. (Sidenote: Åland islands have sixteen (!) municipalities, with Sottunga as the smallest and it has less than a hundred inhabitants).

Because of the many municipalities and some of them very far away I have shortened the list to the ones that I find interesting or relevant. I personally have never been to any of these "events" so I can't guarantee anything.

Many of these pole raisings include a "Lövningstalka" in which participants help decorating the pole. This often takes place the day before Midsummer. Some events encourage the participants to bring with some "summer-flowers" but that is of course optional. The day after is when the main event occurs. During this day the pole is being risen and speeches are held. After that comes the traditional "circle dance" and singing.

I have personally not witnessed this so I can't comment on whether it's appealing or not to young people like you ;)

1. Mariehamn, Engelska Parken

Engelska Parken is located just outside Hotel Cikada.

Lövningstalka takes place on Thursday 16:00-20:00. The decorating is mostly done by elderly people (Mariehamns pensionärsförening) but in the event it's stated that *they need the general public's help*. If helping out of good will isn't something for you it's also said that helpers get "fika" which doesn't have a good translation but is usually referred to as coffee and pastries of some sort.

The day after on the 25th of June the Midsummer pole is being risen at 13:00.

2. Mariehamn, Järsö (Nåtö)

It's a little bit unclear where exactly this is but somewhere on Nåtö. Fortunately Nåtö is not big so I assume it's hard to miss the event if you are following the main road. Järsö is the place which I recommended to visit if you have a bicycle. So why not kill two birds with one stone and discover Järsö and the Midsummer traditions. *Lövningstalka* starts 12:30 and the rising takes place when it is finished. There is nothing said about speeches and dancing other than that coffee, cupcakes and lottery is for sale.

3. Jomala, Jomala kyrka

This municipality borders with Mariehamn so its rather close. The event is located at the church of Jomala (Jomala kyrka) and is in bicycle distance from Strandnäs hotel.

It starts at 13:00 on the 24th of June. Pole raising, speeches, singing and dancing is promised. "Fika" and lotteries will be sold during the event.

4. Sund, Jan Karlsgården

This might be the best place to experience traditional Midsummer the Aland islands way. The event takes place in Jan Karlsgården which is located close to the castle of Kastelholm. Jan Karlsgården is a recreation of how a late 1800s village could have looked like on Aland islands.

The downside of this is that it is far away from Mariehamn, still on the mainland though. However it might be worth the trip. The next part is a direct translation of the program.

24th of June:

18.00 The midsummer pole is being decorated

19.30 Welcome speeches in several languages.

20.00 Parade to the pole and crowns are being attached. The pole is

being risen, dances and singing

Coffe, Ålands pannkaka and hot dogs for sale.

I couldn't find anything about other events taking place during Midsummer and it's unclear which restaurants that are open during these days. But one restaurant I could recommend which I also believe is open during Midsummer is ÅSS Paviljongen which is located very close to hotel Cikada. From Cikada you aim for the ship Pommern and then turn right and it's a 200 meter walk to the restaurant. Personally i think they serve good food and drinks and the location is very good.

Christoffer / Hotel Cikada
