

PHOTO: PEKKA TUURI

# BALTA~~Ø~~AR



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# Helsinki Underwater Park Kronprins Gustav Adolf

60° 03.027 N  
24° 55.764 E



Museovirasto  
Finnish Heritage Agency

# What is the underwater park?

An underwater park for a shipwreck, built around the wreck of the Kronprins Gustav Adolf, is the first of its kind in the Baltic Sea.

The idea behind the park is to present the wreck of this culturally significant ship. The Finnish Heritage Agency has ordered the construction of an underwater culture path, connected by a rope, around the wreck of Kronprins Gustav Adolf. Along this path, there are information boards that present details about the structure and the history of this relic.

Similar underwater parks have been used successfully in different parts of the world to share information about underwater cultural heritage and to promote its conservation.



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**Want to dive into the underwater park with a guide?**

Helsinki-based Sea Safety Diving Centre arranges guided diving tours to the underwater park.

Contact information: Oy Sea Safety Scandinavia Ltd,  
Mannerheimintie 17 (Töölö Sports Hall) 00250 Helsinki  
+358 9 4544 600 / [diving@seasafety.net](mailto:diving@seasafety.net)

# Story of the Kronprins Gustav Adolf

The Swedish ship-of-the-line Kronprins Gustav Adolf was completed in 1784. In total, ten ship-of-the-line vessels were built based on the same model.

The ships were designed by the famous ship architect Fredrik Henrik af Chapman. Kronprins Gustav Adolf was part of Sweden's 'örflogsflottan', their deep-sea fleet. The vessel was about 49.3 metres long and 13.6 metres wide. It had a crew of about 570 members. Over 70 of the ship's cannons have been discovered and two of them have been raised.

Kronprins Gustav Adolf sailed on the waters off Helsinki when Gustav III of Sweden was at war with Catherine II of Russia. In October 1788, the Russians caught the anchored Kronprins Gustav Adolf unawares. The vessel tried to escape and ran onto rocks. The Russians overtook the vessel, took the crew members as prisoners of war, and set the ship-of-the-line on fire. In the end, the ship blew up and drifted towards the south, finally sinking to where it now lies.



The fateful rocks that wrecked the ship were later given the name of Gustav Adolf's Shallows.

Kronprins Gustav Adolf's wreck was discovered in 1995 and examined between 1997 and 1999. The Finnish Heritage Agency established the underwater park for the wreck in 2000. The current maintenance and development partners of the park are the City of Helsinki and Oy Sea Safety Scandinavia Ltd.

The park has also been developed through the Baltic History Beneath Surface: Underwater Heritage Trails In Situ and Online (BALTACAR) project, funded by the EU's Interreg Central Baltic programme (2017-2019).

# Ancient underwater relics and the Antiquities Act

Shipwrecks, their parts and items that sank more than a hundred years ago are considered underwater ancient monuments that are protected by the Antiquities Act, 295/63. They cannot be excavated, touched or harmed in any way.

A research permit granted by the Finnish Heritage Agency is needed for researching the wrecks. However, no permit is needed for diving to the wrecks or photographing them.

Before diving, have a look at the Kunnioita hylkyjämme ('Respect our wrecks') campaign (in Finnish):

<https://www.sukeltaja.fi/content/fi/11501/56708/>

[Hylkysukellus.html](https://www.sukeltaja.fi/content/fi/11501/56708/Hylkysukellus.html)



VEDENALAINEN PUISTO 2000  
SUOMEN MERIMUSEO  
KRONPRINS GUSTAV ADOLF  
Piiustus Kalle Salonen  
Kartta Minna Koivikko

0 1 5 m



Perän laskeutumis-/  
nousuköysi



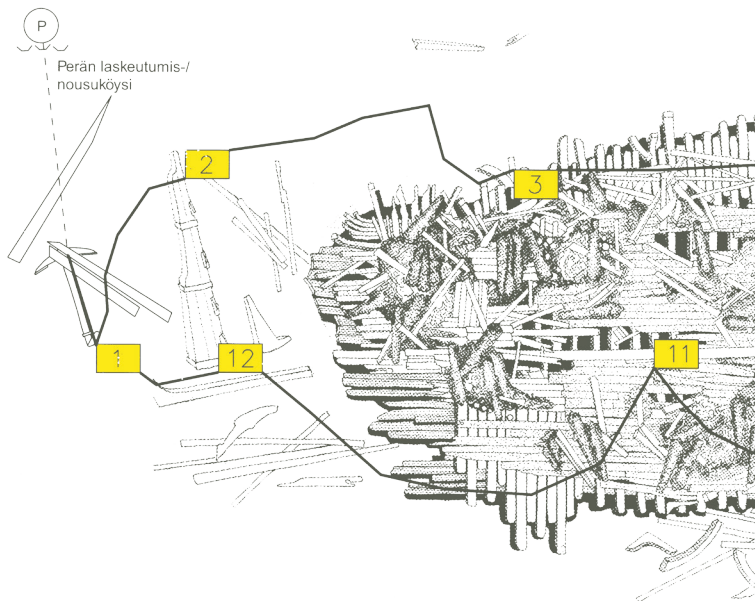
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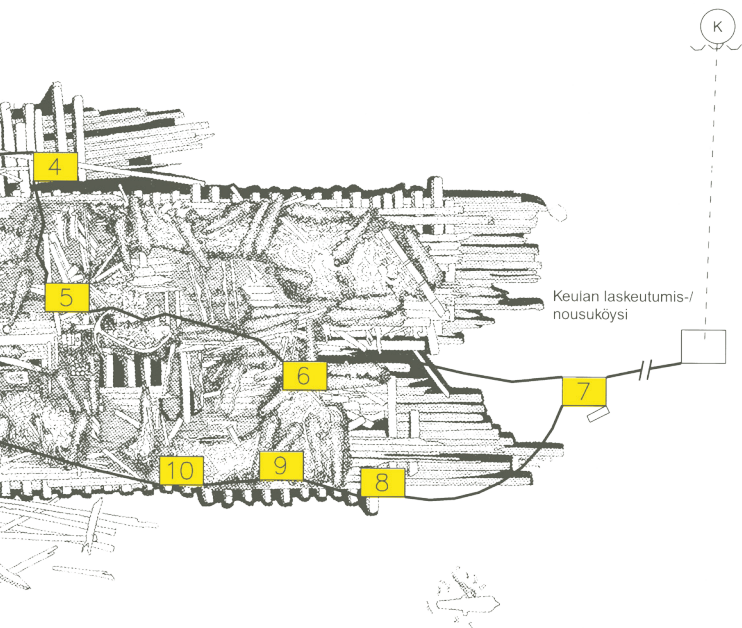
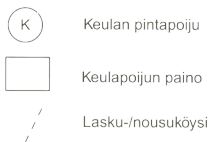
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Perän pintapöiju



Please also read through the park's code of conduct:  
[https://www.museovirasto.fi/fi/kulttuuriymparisto/  
arkeologinen-kulttuuriperinto/vedenalainen-kulttuuriperinto/  
helsingin-hylkypuisto](https://www.museovirasto.fi/fi/kulttuuriymparisto/arkeologinen-kulttuuriperinto/vedenalainen-kulttuuriperinto/helsingin-hylkypuisto)



Helsinki Underwater Park is also presented here:

<http://www.muinaispolut.fi/sukelluskohteet>

[helsinkikronprins-gustav-adolf](http://helsinkikronprins-gustav-adolf)

and here:

<https://balticunderwater.com/wreck/the-kronprins-gustav-adolf/>