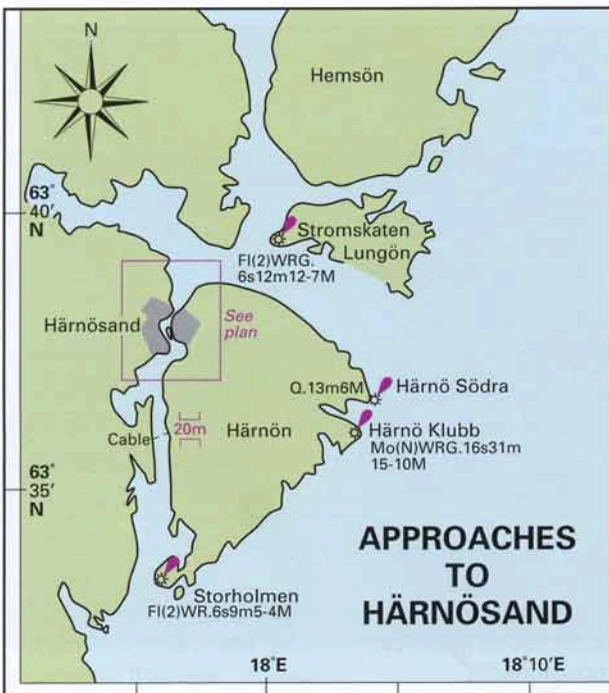


Härnösand

62°38'·1N 17°56'·2E
Chart 523

Regional and shopping centre with commercial port. (Pronounced *Hair-neu-sahnd*). Deep water approaches from south, east and north all leading to the narrow fjord inside of Härnön island. Well placed lighthouses make this an easy landfall if sailing straight up from Öregrund or from the Åland Islands but note the 20m cable across the south entrance.



There are three *gästhamns* one of which will always be sheltered whatever the wind. Södra Sundet is below the lifting bridge, Norra Sundet is above the swing bridge and Nattviken between the two bridges. The north swing bridge is only 8m wide and is immediately north of a 90° turn to port. The bridges open at limited times by telephone request to ☎ +46 611 156817 pre 1600 and to ☎ +46 601 20184 post 1600.

Each of the *gästhamns* has the usual facilities although fuel is perhaps most easily obtained from the fuel station on the mainland north of Norra Sundet.

There is a large shopping centre spread across both banks of the fjord, a university and multi-faith cathedral.

Härnösand, looking south-southeast towards the bridge from the western corner of the inner basin
F. and G. Cattell



4f. The Russian channel, Saimaa Canal and the Lakes

Santio Island

60°27'N 27°43'E

Charts

UKHO 2264

Finnish 901, 12, 13

Santio is a convenient island Frontier Guard station (see page 220) if heading to or from Vyborg, about 40M away. There is 2–4m at their solid pontoon (the inner side is well sheltered in strong winds) and yachts may be allowed to lie alongside overnight before a dawn departure. There is no fuel available and few facilities other than rubbish bins, toilets and a barbecue, and though the island appears attractive visitors are not permitted to leave the harbour area.



The Santio customs post with an interesting Finnish vessel in the foreground P. and G. Price



The Saimaa Canal and Lakes

Charts and guides

Finnish chart 921

Merikarttasarja L: Lappeenranta/Savonlinna

Instructions for Small-Boat Traffic in the Saimaa Canal (published annually, in English, by the Board of Management of the Saimaa Canal – Saimaan käytösatamat), in similar format to the *Käytösatamat Besökshamnar* (see page 222), gives details of nearly all Saimaa Lake harbours, plus information on transiting the Saimaa Canal in four languages including English. See the publisher's website at www.finnlake.com for further details.

Canal communications

Saimaa Canal Operations Centre, ☎ +358 5 458 5170, Fax +358 5 204 483110, VHF Ch 11, Email saimaankanavan.hoitokunta@fma.fi www.fma.fi/saimaacanal

General

The beautiful Saimaa Lake area is reached via the 23M (43km) Saimaa Canal, which is operated by the Finns under an agreement with Russia. Both lakes and canal are the highway for a great timber trade – log rafts, made up from felled timber piled on the ice during the winter and cleared from the south as the ice melts, are frequently encountered as they are moved under tow at an unstoppable 1–2 knots.

The lakes are navigable for deep-draught yachts with fixed masts for some 200M, as far as Joensuu (62°35'N 29°45'E) and Kuopio (62°50'N 27°40'E). There is good sailing on the larger bodies of water, but there are many sheltered and often tortuous channels. Those described locally as 'deep' – some 815km of them – carry 4.2m, the 1560km of 'main' channels at least 2.4m. The area is very well marked and even the smallest channels have transits.

Approach

See Vyborg (page 279) for the approach to the canal. A Russian visa is not necessary unless Vyborg is to be visited.

Approaching a lock on the Saimaa Canal P. and G. Price

