



Åland Islands Scandinavia

The Åland Islands lie in the Gulf of Bothnia, between Sweden and Finland. The archipelago consists of several large islands and roughly 6,500 small isles, many of them too small for human habitation. They are covered by pine and deciduous forest, meadows, and farmed fields. The region's characteristic red rapakivi granite also stands out.

These rocks were formed during the Proterozoic Eon, hundreds of millions of years before the dinosaurs. Massive ice sheets later sculpted the landscape, but these days people cut and use the granite in buildings and pavement. Landsat 5 acquired this image in June 2011.