

# Degerhamn

## Walking trails



Öland alum factory smokestack

Photo: Coco Dederling

# Discover Degerhamn

Let the fascinating Degerhamn landscape, with its quarries and factory ruins reflecting 300 years of industrial history, spark your imagination. You'll see rows of kilns built of black shale, and walk along transport routes carved into the terrain between the quarries and the harbour. The smokestack still stands at the old Öland alum factory, next to the workers' quarters.

The rocky Bergstigen trail takes you right into the shale quarry to sites with abandoned workers' huts and an old dynamite storage shed. Along the edges of the quarry you can look for plants that thrive specifically in mounds of shale, like white-beam.

People worked hard here breaking rocks in snow, rain, freezing cold and burning summer sun, all the while surrounded by the acrid sulphurous smoke from smokestacks as alum, lime and cement were manufactured. You'll walk close to the giant mounds of burnt shale that were piled up to shelter the workers from the smoke. Now the old work sites are partially hidden in vegetation. In the early 20th century, the landscape was devoid of trees, with smoking lime kilns and mountains of burnt shale waste, crowding right up next to the buildings. Picture this as you walk in the lush greenery surrounded by a cacophony of birdsong!

The Bergstigen trail is divided into three stages, which are marked with red arrows. It stretches from Strömmelns Gård in the north, to Albrunna Torg in the south. From there, the Kalkbrottsleden Trail, marked with orange rocks, takes over. The walking trail continues across Stora Alvaret to the limestone quarry, where you can choose different circuits.



Bergstigen Trail

Photo: Coco Dederling



Cementa

Photo: Kalmar County Museum archives



## Stage 1. ●

Strömmelns gård - Degerhamnsvägen about 0.7 km

On this stretch you can explore the quarries where alum shale was quarried, and you can still see large piles of burnt shale waste. You can walk among the long rows of lime kilns, which are partially collapsed and overgrown. A rich variety of birds live in the water-filled stone quarry.



Kiln Photo: Kalmar County Museum archives

## Stage 2. ●

Degerhamnsvägen - Navet about 1.6 km

Carl Linnaeus visited the Lover shale quarry in 1741. Here you can see the loading platform built out of limestone, ruins of kilns and a worker's cabin. Explore the 'cave', whose origins are unknown. And don't miss the beautifully situated picnic area on the height alongside Kalmarsund. Visit Navet for information on Öland's geology and Degerhamn's industrial history. Carpark and picnic area.



Loading platform Photo: Coco Dederling

## Stage 3. ●

Navet - Albrunna torg about 2.5 km

Continue your walk amongst the ruins of the alum factory – Ölands alunfabrik – and the workers' quarters along Alunbruksgatan. Informational signs will tell you more about the factory. You'll see Konstens Geological Garden and several buildings from the factory era. You can take a dip next to Adolfshamn. The trail goes past mounds of mounds of burnt shale waste and along the shore towards the Albrunna fishing village, all the way to Albrunna Torg. There is a trail between the alum factory and the picnic area from Road 136, but it can be quite difficult to traverse after the snow melts.



Alunbruksgatan Photo: Coco Dederling

## Kalkbrottsleden - Trail – several routes ●●●●

Albrunna torg – Lookout point at the big Cementa limestone quarry, about 1.5 km

The trail continues about 800 metres across expansive limestone pavement to Lake Stensjön, and then out to Cementa's big limestone quarry, which is gradually filling with water. You'll find a barbecue pit and wind shelters at Lake Stensjön. An old factory road there leads to a car park and a toilet at Road 136.



Kalkbrottssjön Photo: Ylva Lönnbom

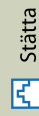


● Shale quarry

- A. Degerhamns kalkbruk 1890–1932
- B. Ölands cement AB 1900–1920
- C. Lovers bruk 1723–1735
- D. Lovers bruk 1735–1875  
AB Siluria 1875–1885  
Ölands cement AB 1886–ca 1930
- E. Ölands alunbruk 1804–1886

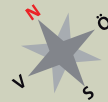
● Limestone quarry

- F. AB Siluria 1875–1885  
Ölands cement AB 1886
- G. Ölands cement AB 1886–1967  
Cementa AB 1967–2019



Cykelled

1 kilometer



**1. ● Strömmelns gård with sandpit**

Johan Carlsson, who owned Degerhamns kalkbruk, built the residence in the early 20th century. Now a private home. Near it you can see the remnants of several sandpits. Cement roofing tiles were manufactured here.

**2. ● Degerhamns kalkbruk kiln area**

A long row of 20 lime kilns stand here.

**3. ● Lime transport railway with kilns and rest cabin**

Limestone and shale were carried on rails from the quarries to the kilns. When calcination was complete, the wagons were loaded with limestone and rolled down to the marina. The waste material was dumped in the surroundings. A rest cabin lies nearby.

**4. ● Dynamite storage shed**

Partially collapsed shed for storage of explosives.

**5. ● Fågelsjön – old shale quarry**

Degerhamns kalkbruk's shale quarry has been transformed into a nice little lake.

**6. ● Lookout and picnic area next to the 'patent kilns'**

Starting in the late 1920s, Degerhamns kalkbruk calcined lime in a special patented process that partially sintered the material. The kilns for this were thus called the 'patent kilns' and stood below this escarpment. Shale for the fuel was crushed and driven down to the patent kilns.

**7. ● Kiln area for Ölands cement AB**

Twelve kilns for calcination of lime stand in a row in the dense vegetation.

**8. ● Site of Linnaeus's visit and loading platform**

Carl Linnaeus visited Hamneberget and Lovers shale quarry in 1741. The shale quarry has a loading platform built out of limestone, and next to it are partially overgrown and collapsed lime kilns.

**9. ● 'Grottan' – 'The Cave'**

A hollow in the rock, whose purpose is unknown.



## 10. ● Picnic area

Beautiful picnic area high above Kalmarsund.

## 11. ● Navet – a knowledge centre

Learn more about Degerhamn's industrial history at Navet, which has a pavilion with information and various types of rock to examine. Car park.

## **Bergstigen Stage 3.**

about 2.5 kilometer

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## 12. ● Södra Bruket – workers' quarters

The old Ölands Alunbruk workers' quarters from the early 19th century, which stand along Alunbruksgatan, are now privately owned.

## 13. ● Ölands alunbruk

The tall smokestack marks the ruins of the alum factory, which was founded in 1804. Informational signs on site tell about alum manufacture. The owner's residence has been torn down, but the barn, grain warehouse, potato cellar, brewery, smithy and a watermill that pumped water to the alum factory still remain.

## 14. ● Konstens Geological Garden

Where the owner's residence once stood, artists Christer Jansson and Elisabeth Sivard have created an homage to art and all the people who work and have worked in stone.

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## 16. ● Alvkällan with brook

About a kilometre further south, by the little bridge, is the source of the Alvkällan spring. The spring was considered holy, with healing powers. At Midsummer, young and old came to drink from it.

## 17. ● Albrunna Fishing Village

The walking trail turns off towards Albrunna village here. Car park.

## **Kalkbrottsleden Trail – several routes**

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## 18. ● Albrunna torg

The southern part of the village is a linear village of farms. In olden days, the villagers were mostly craftspeople and cargo boat owners. In the northern part of Albrunna, the workers at the cement factory built their homes in the 1930s and 40s.

## 19. ● Hålkärr

Hålkärr is a little wet meadow, where white water-crowfoot blooms in the spring before the ground dries out.

## 20. ● Bulehall

A broad, rocky ridge stretches north to south with prehistoric graves in the form of stone settings. The area features many of the characteristic plants of the limestone pavement region.

## 21. ● Stensjön – an old limestone quarry

In the 1950s, the quarry was filled with water. Trees and bushes were planted and a lake with rich birdlife was created. You'll find a wind shelter and barbecue pit here. An old industrial road nearby leads to the car park and a toilet at Road 136, about a kilometre away.

## 22. ● Lookout point at Kalkbrottssjön

You can get a magnificent view of the limestone pavement and Cementa's big former limestone quarry, which is gradually being filled with water. Sand martins breed in the limestone walls.

## More to discover

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## 23. Degerhamn's hembygdsmuseum (local heritage museum) and lighthouse

The museum features objects and photographs that tell the story of Degerhamn's industries, trade and maritime history. You can also see parts of the legendary 'John i muren' shop, which was built into a wall next to the cement factory in Degerhamn and sold supplies for ships as well as general goods. On the quay you'll find the historical lighthouse Ingrunden, with the old lantern from the Utgrunden lighthouse in Kalmarsund.

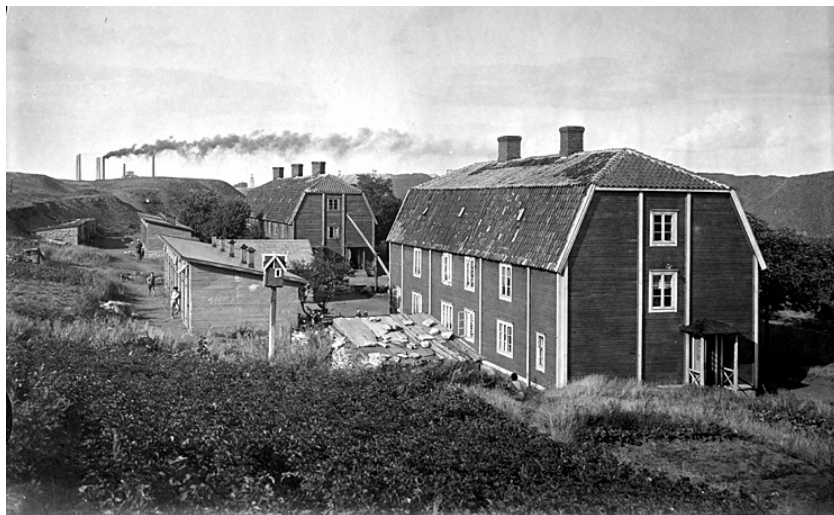
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## 24. Cementa AB

Ölands cement AB was founded in 1886. Sweden's oldest cement factory stopped quarrying limestone and manufacturing cement in 2019. Small-scale production of microcement still takes place in Degerhamn today.

## What the County Administrative Board does

The County Administrative Board takes care of the ruins of Ölands alunfabrik. The smokestack and ruins have been restored. Informational signs tell more about the workers' lives and the manufacture of alum. Do not climb on the walls – treat the ruins with care. The alum factory is a part of our cultural heritage and protected by law. The industrial environments in Degerhamn are an important part of the history of Sweden, Kalmar County and Öland.



Workers' housing Photo: Kalmar County Museum archives



Burnt shale waste

Photo: Lena Arén



Rest cabin

Photo: Kalmar County Museum archives

## Södra Möckleby hembygdsförening

The opening hours of the local heritage museum and showing times are listed on the website

<https://www.hembygd.se/sodra-mockleby>

The local heritage society began clearing the land around the industrial ruins in Degerhamn in 1998 to create the Bergstigen Trail. Over the years, the trail has been expanded with the Navet knowledge centre, Konsten's Geological Garden and several informational signs along the way. The trail is managed by volunteers; we'd love it if you left a donation for its care.

This folder was produced in 2008 by the local heritage society in partnership with several stakeholders. It was updated in 2021 by Södra Möckleby local heritage society, CEMENTA AB and the County Administrative Board in Kalmar County for Degerhamn's 300th anniversary (2023). In 2022 it was printed as a folder.

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