

DISCOVER KALMAR COUNTY

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DESTINATION GUIDE TO
70 NATURAL AND CULTURAL
AREAS.



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Discover Kalmar County. Destination guide to 70 natural and cultural areas.

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Discover the gems in beautiful Kalmar County!

Kalmar County – a part of Sweden so rich in natural and cultural treasures that it's hard to find a parallel. On the mainland you can enjoy wild forests, the longest coastal stretch in the country with a teeming archipelago, and an agricultural landscape that brings you straight into Astrid Lindgren's world.

Here you find Småland glassworks, Blå Jungfrun National Park, and well-preserved old market places, such as Pataholm. This is Dacke country full of legends and stories about Nils Dacke and his revolt, and around Lake Allgunnen the most important forests in northern Europe for threatened beetles.

Awaiting on the other side of the Öland Bridge are Stora alvaret, Böda's sandy beaches as well as forts, graves, treasures, and other remains from our ancestors who lived and worked the meagre soils on the island for thousands of years. We are proud to have our own World Heritage Site: The Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland. Every year, millions of birds pass Öland and Ottenby on their migration route. Bird watchers, botanists, walkers, campers, and cyclists are attracted to the island's immense diversity, beautiful countryside and rich culture.

Our county offers tremendous opportunities for outdoor recreation. You can swim, walk, spot wildlife, visit cafés, snorkel, watch sunsets, or paddle canoe. In this destination guide we have selected some of the many nature reserves and cultural environments in Kalmar County, especially suited for outings.

So, welcome out into the countryside! Here is a chance for everyone to find their own favourite place, whether you are an experienced outdoor person, used to being out on your own, or an inquisitive beginner choosing to follow marked trails and use prepared rest areas and other facilities. And do you know, nature is always open!



Peter Sandwall
Governor of Kalmar County

List of symbols

Select destinations with the help of symbols shown by each area.

-  Path/walking trail
-  Birds – species-rich/worth seeing/interesting
-  Insects – species-rich/worth seeing/interesting
-  Flowers – species-rich/worth seeing/interesting
-  Fungi – species-rich/worth seeing/interesting
-  Fishing opportunities, find information on fishing rules
-  Ancient remains area, e.g. prehistoric graves or ringfort
-  Area of geological interest
-  Building of cultural-historical interest
-  Adapted access, e.g. trail, viewing platform or toilet. Varying degree, read more via the QR code.

Key to map symbols

-  Swimming/beach
-  Parking
-  Privy
-  Waste bin
-  Rest area
-  Resting/overnight cabin
-  Cafe/restaurant
-  Ancient remains
-  Wind shelter
-  Lookout
-  Jetty public
-  Fireplace
-  Camping spot
-  Birdwatching tower
-  Viewing platform
-  Ford
-  Mooring
-  Information board
-  Accessible parking
-  Nature reserve
-  Cultural reserve
-  Trail (if several they are in different colours)
-  Bird sanctuary



How to use the QR codes

Several of the double spreads in the destination guide contain a QR code. By using a QR reader, you will have access to more information about places to visit in your

smartphone or tablet. Have you installed a QR reader but not used it yet? Go to step 5.

1. Open the app where you find new apps for your mobile phone or tablet.
2. Search for QR reader.
3. Select one of the apps and press DOWNLOAD.
4. Select INSTALL and wait until the app is installed. This is normally quick.
5. Select OPEN and click past information about the app.
6. Select SCAN with help of the camera.

7. The first time you use the app, you will be asked: "Do you allow the QR reader to take pictures and record videos?" Select ALLOW.
8. Now you can scan QR codes!
9. Turn the camera towards the QR code you want to scan. Hold the device so that the QR code is shown in the viewfinder in the camera app. The reader focuses the QR code and displays a notice.
10. Click on the notice to open the link associated with the QR code.

If you can't or don't want to use a QR reader, you find all visitor destinations via www.lansstyrelsen.se/kalmar/besoksmal.

Sometimes there will be references to other websites, which you find easily by searching on the Internet.

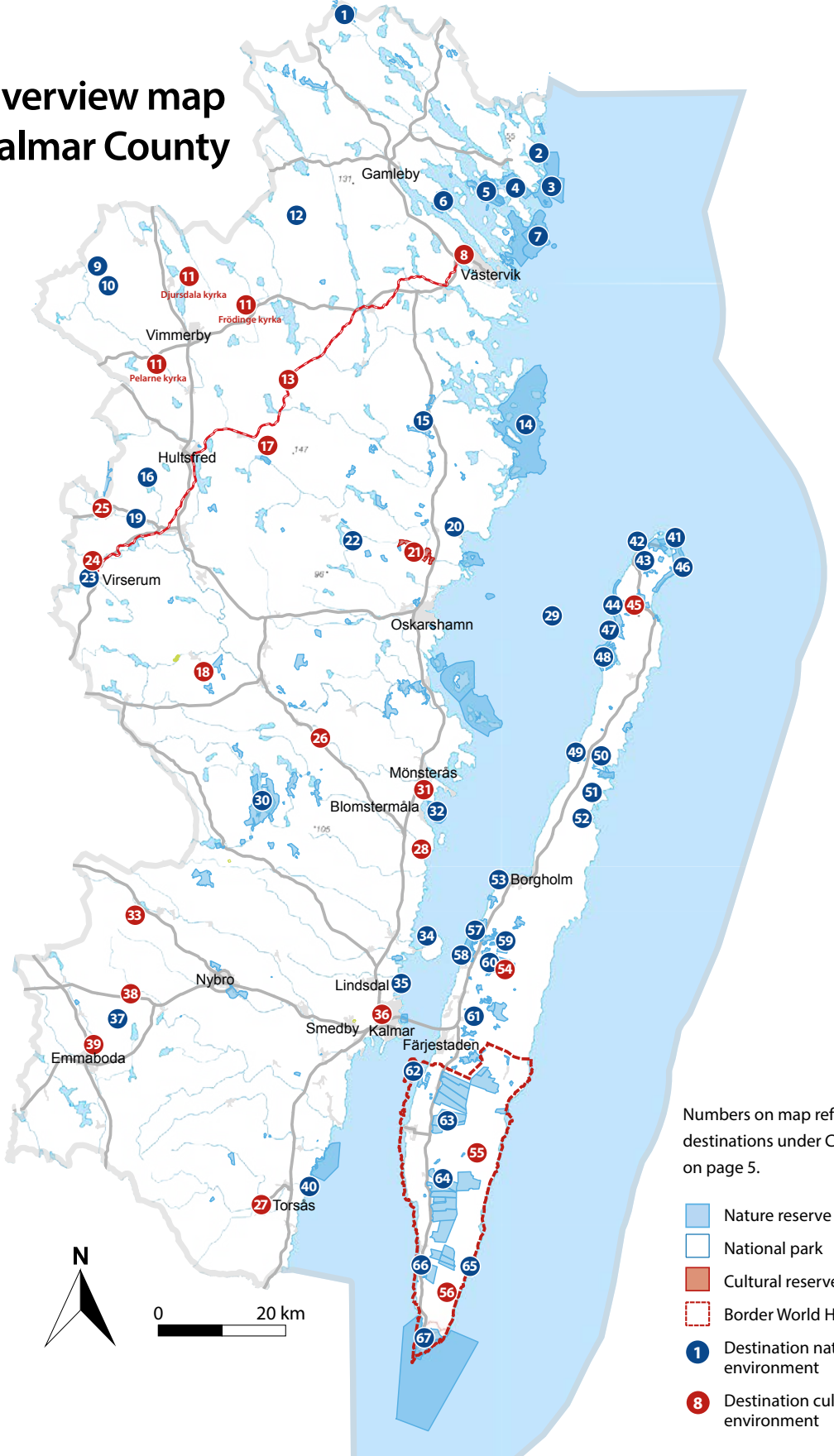
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Overview map Kalmar County



Numbers on map refer to destinations under Contents on page 5.

- Nature reserve
- National park
- Cultural reserve
- Border World Heritage
- 1 Destination natural environment
- 8 Destination cultural environment

Places I have visited

A series of 20 horizontal dotted lines for writing.

Protection of natural & cultural environments

There are many reasons for preserving natural and cultural environments. And there are several ways of preserving them. Many landowners look after their land, for example by managing valuable pastures and clearing around cultural remains. But sometimes public authorities need to step in to preserve and maintain large and small areas, and to develop opportunities for outdoor recreation.

THE RIGHT OF PUBLIC ACCESS

In Sweden there is a Right of Public Access, which allows you to roam the countryside without having to ask permission. But it also means taking responsibility and exercising common sense. You must care for nature and wildlife, and show consideration for landowners and other visitors. The Right of Public Access can be summed up with the phrase “Don’t disturb – don’t destroy”. In protected areas, e.g. nature reserves, special rules and regulations apply.

NATIONAL PARKS

Today there are 30 national parks in Sweden. They represent different valuable landscape types to be preserved in their natural state. The parks are also unique environments where visitors are offered out of the ordinary nature experiences. This is the strongest form of protection, and the Riksdag decides which areas should become national parks.

NATURE RESERVES

Nature reserve is the most common form of protection. There are no less than 5,000 reserves in Sweden. The purpose can be to:

- preserve biodiversity
- protect, maintain, or preserve species and habitats
- restore or recreate valuable natural environments
- promote outdoor recreation.



CULTURAL RESERVES

In a cultural reserve, both valuable natural and cultural environments can be protected and preserved. This may include buildings, structures, ancient remains, and land areas. But also activities, knowledge, and traditions. There are 44 cultural reserves in Sweden, one of which is located in Kalmar County.

LISTED BUILDINGS

Listed buildings are buildings or sites that enjoy protection because of their particularly high cultural and historical value. They should reflect the special features and historical development of the county.

NATURA 2000 AREAS

Natura 2000 is the EU's ecological network of protected areas. Its purpose is to stop the extinction of animals and plants, and to prevent the destruction of their habitats. Many Natura 2000 areas are also nature reserves or national parks.

BIRD AND SEAL SANCTUARIES

Wildlife sanctuaries aim to protect animals from being disturbed. This means that public access is seasonally restricted.

Bird and seal sanctuaries are marked on Swedish recreational boat charts. Information boards are posted in prominent places on islands with bird protection.

NATURAL MONUMENTS

Natural monuments are “distinctive natural objects” that need special protection or care. These could be, for example, single mature trees or geological formations.

ANCIENT REMAINS

Ancient remains are traces of human activity in ancient times, for example settlements, grave fields, ruins, or cultural layers in towns.

Under the Historic Environment Act, it is forbidden to alter, remove, damage, or cover ancient remains.

PROTECTED SPECIES

In Sweden there are 300 protected plants and animals, including all amphibians and reptiles, and all orchids. For some of the species, protection also includes their habitats.

HUNTING & FISHING

Special rules apply to hunting and fishing. You often need to buy a permit to fish.

Read about what you can and cannot do in the brief guide to nature etiquette on page 12.



Stjälkhammar



NATURE RESERVE | VÄSTERVIK MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

The Uknadalen valley offers a dramatic and beautiful landscape, and Stjälkhammar Nature Reserve reflects a large part of the valuable environments that exist here. Everything from old-growth forest to perpendicular rock walls and open pastures with floral splendour.

SEE AND DO

Walking in the reserve gives you a chance to experience many fine environments close-up. The dry pine forest is coarse and gnarled with thick mats of reindeer lichen covering the large flat rocks, especially on top of the plateau. From here you have splendid views across the Uknadalen valley. Lush spruce forest grows in the hollows, but it is mixed with deciduous trees and therefore often light and full of glades. The magnificent screes sloping down to the lake are also fascinating environments, with ancient oaks stretching their gnarled branches towards the sky. Look out for capercaillie!

GOOD TO KNOW

An approximately 3-kilometre stretch of the Tjustleden Trail passes through the nature reserve – accessible from the parking area. Remember that you must keep your dog on a leash and that you are not allowed to light fires within the reserve. Find out more about the valley area on page 134.

READ THE LANDSCAPE – FOR SIGNS OF CULTIVATION

In many places a trained eye will notice that the forest has been used by humans for a long time. Hazel shrubs, large birches, and fading junipers show that cattle grazed here not too long ago. Thus, the forest was kept sufficiently open to allow these light-loving trees and shrubs to thrive. Here and there you also find traces of small patches of land from the time when forest was burned to create areas for cultivation.

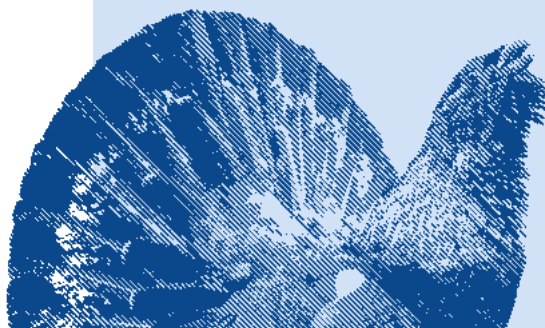
Untouched forest is vital

The reserve has old trees mixed with young, broken and dead ones – all necessary elements for a great number of species. Perhaps it is not surprising that so many rare and threatened species, especially of lichens, mosses, and fungi thrive here.

For example:

- *Lecanographa amylacea* (lichen)
- Mealy-rimmed shingle lichen
- *Schimatomma pericleum* and *Schimatomma decolorans* (lichens)
- Heller's notchwort (moss)
- *Phelinus viticola* (bracket fungus)
- Crown-tipped coral fungus

The untouched forest and screes also provide a haven for the jewel beetle *Anthaxia similis* and birds such as capercaillie, eagle-owl, and black woodpecker.





Crown-tipped coral fungus.



Black woodpecker with young at their nesting tree – an old aspen.

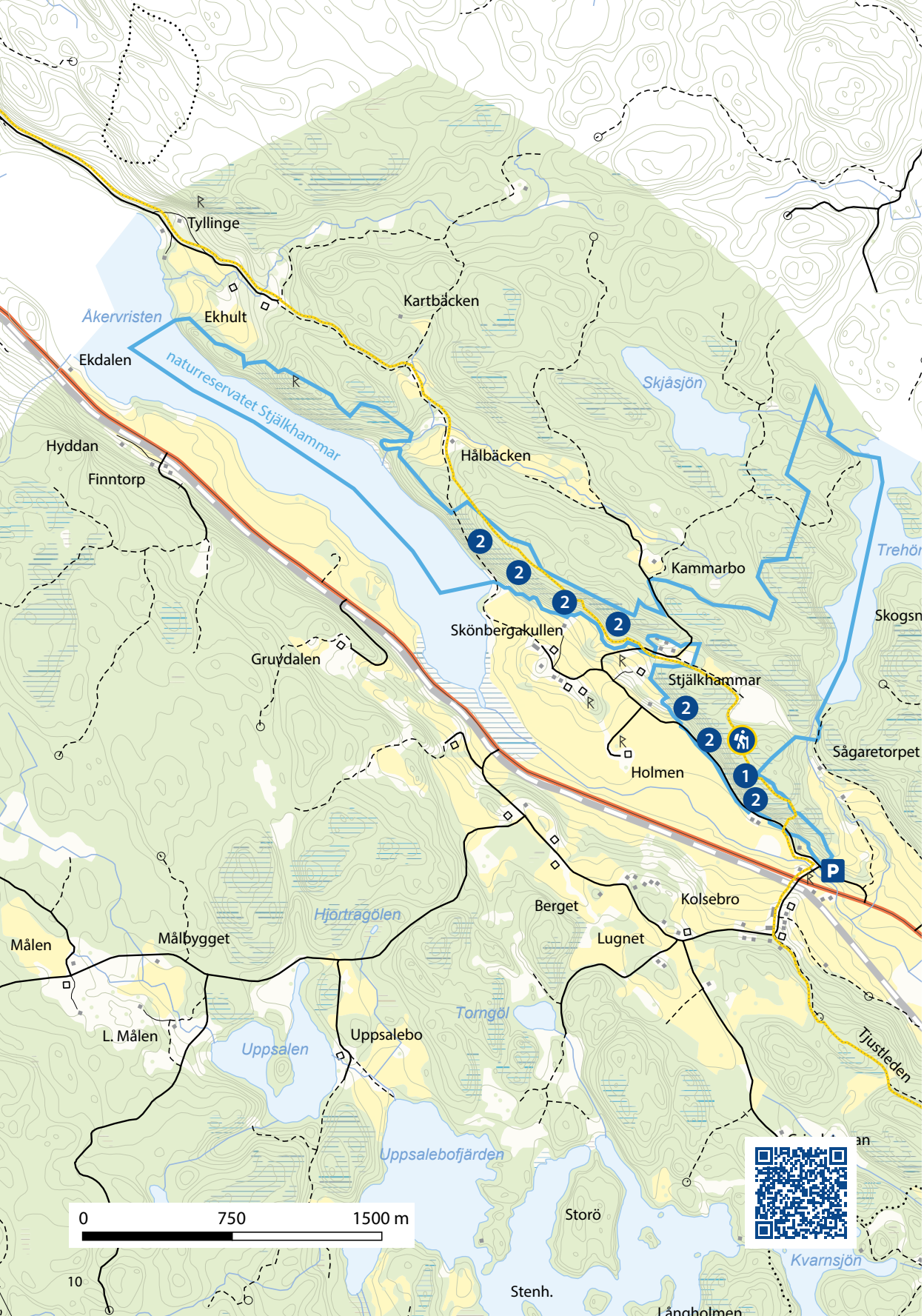


📍 Getting here

The nature reserve is located north of the road between Edsbruk and Falerum.

CAR Around 6 kilometres south-east of Falerum, turn towards Stjälkhammar. After 300 metres, parking is available on the left side of the road by the river Storån.





0 750 1500 m



Discover Stjälkhammar

1 VIEW ACROSS UKNADALEN

Follow the Tjustleden Trail through the reserve; stop and enjoy the views across the Uknadalen valley.

2 SCREES

Look for birds, but don't go too near the edge. You can also birdwatch from parking bays along country roads. Spot an eagle-owl and even a peregrine falcon!



Nature etiquette

Öland and mainland Kalmar County have some of the finest nature reserves and national parks in Sweden, often with unique opportunities for close-up encounters with animals, plants, and habitat types that do not exist in many other places. We must help each other protect and preserve this nature for future generations. Here is a brief guide to nature etiquette.

WHAT APPLIES IN PROTECTED AREAS?

The Right of Public Access is a unique opportunity to roam the countryside – on condition that we respect nature and wildlife and show consideration for land-owners and other visitors. Don't disturb – don't destroy. However, in protected areas, such as nature reserves and national parks, the Right of Public Access does not apply. Instead, visitors must understand and observe special rules and regulations.

Information boards explaining what applies in a particular nature reserve are placed by parking or other entrance areas. The regulations are there to protect the countryside against wear and tear or other damage and often include bans on

- camping
- lighting fires
- breaking off twigs and branches
- bringing unleashed pets.

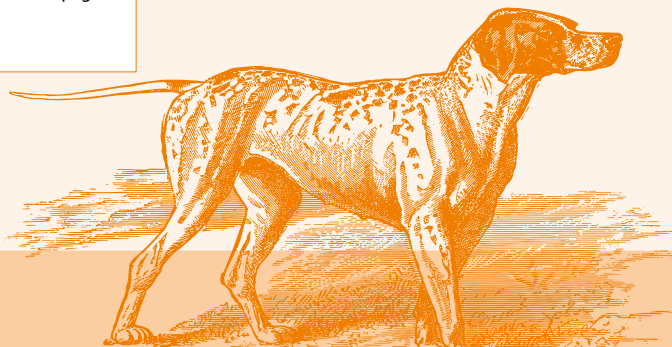
It may seem a shame to restrict the right of doing these things within the reserves. Some may think: "What could it matter if I do this just once?". An occasional visit would not matter, but many of the reserves are extremely popular. If everyone camped, lit fires, let their dogs loose, or picked branches from the trees, the countryside would soon look completely different.

TIPS FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO ENJOY NATURE

Nature is there for everyone, and access to outdoor recreation is important both for individuals and society in general. In popular countryside areas it is especially important that we show consideration for nature and the people we meet there.



Scanning the QR code with your phone takes you to the webpage on fire bans.





- Think about fire risks, especially when it is hot and dry. Only light fires and grills in designated places and keep a check on any fire bans. Up-to-date information on fire bans is posted on the County Administrative Board website.
- Bring things to eat while you are out, but take any rubbish home if the waste bin is full.
- Many places have limited parking – if possible, leave the car at home and cycle instead.
- You may swim from a beach or use a jetty located outside someone's property, as long as you do not disturb birdlife or prevent the owner from using the jetty.
- Show consideration for people living in the area. For example, you may not walk on arable land, trample on crops, or disturb cattle. Avoid going close to residential houses.
- Are you exploring Sweden with a camper van or caravan? Remember that off-road driving is not permitted; this applies both to forests and fields as well as to beaches and parks. Check on local rules for overnighting, as they may vary.
- Summer is a busy time in nature. Keep

your dog under strict control so that it does not disturb new-born animals. Find out if there is a leash requirement.

- Nature reserves and national parks may have special regulations for camping, grilling, wind shelters and cabins. Detailed information is found at Sverigesnationalparker.se or lansstyrelsen.se, under each nature reserve or national park.
- Remember to leave a place as you would like to find it next time. Do not build stone towers, do not leave anything behind which could harm animals or people, and be careful to put out any fires.
- Why you shouldn't build stone towers:
 1. Tall stacks of large stones could be highly dangerous for e.g. children and dogs.
 2. Quantities of stone stacks breaking up the landscape spoil the experience for many people.
 3. Removing stones from clearance cairns and ancient remains is illegal according to the Environmental Code and the Historic Environment Act.



Vindåsen & Hulöhamn



NATURE RESERVES | VÄSTERVIK MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Hulöhamn village is situated between farmland and forest, a short distance away from the affiliated fishing harbour at Båtsviken bay. This former pilot station offers a picture of past life in these coastal areas. The adjacent nature reserves Hulöhamn and Vindåsen are located on two ridges separated by the bay. Nature here is typical of the Tjust inner archipelago.



SEE AND DO

Breathe fresh air on top of the rocks and stroll through idyllic pastures. Hulöhamn is one of the very best localities in Kalmar County for spotting the Apollo butterfly. The outer parts of the nature reserves are home to a rich birdlife, including diving ducks, gulls, and terns. The ridges offer fantastic views across the Tjust archipelago. With luck, you will see a white-tailed eagle soaring above! Ancient stacked stone cairns used as navigational marks are a characteristic feature.

Nearby

Stora Grindö

A little further out is the island Stora Grindö, which is part of Norra Tjust skärgård Nature Reserve, see page 20.

GOOD TO KNOW

There is a picnic table in the parking area. Starting from here, a marked circular route goes through both nature reserves.

Remember to keep your dog on a leash. Putting up tents or parking caravans is not permitted, and boats must not moor for longer than 24 hours.

FLAT ROCKS, DECIDUOUS GROVES & PASTURES

The peninsulas largely consist of flat rocks with sparse pine forest. Lichens, brushwood, mosses, and a few herbs, such as wavy hair-grass and umbellate wintergreen, thrive here. Rare species found in the pine forest include the bracket fungus *Phellinus pini*, witch's-hair lichen and ship-timber beetle.

Oak and hazel grow on some elevations where the soil is richer. In spring liverwort and cowslip appear, and elder-flowered orchid blooms in early summer.

Old fissure valley hayfields that are still grazed have a typical open land flora, with species such as quaking-grass, common milkwort, mountain everlasting and rock-rose. The plants attract insects, including several species of burnet moths.

Orpine host to the rare Apollo

Orpine is a typical species of the nature reserves and an important host plant for the now rare Apollo. As a caterpillar, it feeds on orpine and white stonecrop that grow on the nutrient-poor flat rocks, and as a butterfly, it visits the flower-rich areas of the reserves.



Elder-flowered orchid, which is protected.



📍 Getting here

The nature reserves are located south of Hulöhamn.

CAR Around 1 kilometre east of Loftahammar, take the road towards Källvik. From this road, follow signs going north to Flatvarp.

After around 4 kilometres, turn right towards Hulöhamn. You are then around 4 kilometres away from the parking area for the reserves.





Örnholmen

Meta

Råsdal

Stenkullen

Hulöhamn

Tallholmen

Kalskär

St. Garpen

Fagervik

Vindåsen

Livehamn

Långudden

Stattut

Båtsviken

Skorven

Hagvik

Sällsholmen

Näset

Kårö

L. Grindö

Förholmen

St. Grindö

0 750 1500 m



Discover Vindåsen & Hulöhamn

1 LOOKOUT POINT VINDÅSEN

Lookout point Vindåsen (somewhat unexpectedly in Hulöhamn) offers views across Norra Tjust skärgård and the open horizon.

2 OLD HAYFIELDS

The old hayfields that are grazed today are a feast for the eyes during summer, with flowers and fluttering butterflies.

3 STORA BUSSVIK

This bay is a perfect place for a dip.



Get to know the Småland archipelago

TJUST ARCHIPELAGO | MISTERHULT ARCHIPELAGO |
STRANDA ARCHIPELAGO

Experience a world of islands and skerries, sun-warm rocks, leafy bays, idyllic fishing hamlets, and examples of living archipelago farming. Kalmar County has the longest coastal stretch in Sweden, varying from tall cliffs in the north to grassy bays in the south. The Småland archipelago is famous for its beautiful nature and genuine cultural environments. Popular activities include bathing, paddling, sailing, fishing, birdwatching, walking, and sightseeing.

HUMANS IN THE ARCHIPELAGO

The east coast archipelago rose from the sea 10,000 years ago. The first humans arrived here already in the Stone Age, but it is difficult to know exactly when people settled in the archipelago. Up until the present time the main livelihoods have been shipping, fishing, seal hunting, sea bird hunting, and small-scale archipelago farming. This has shaped the landscape, and in many areas of the archipelago you find ancient remains and cultural-historical sights.

RICH FLORA & FAUNA

Vegetation in the archipelago is varied, from the outer skerries where almost only lichens grow, via grass and herb-clad islands to different types of forest on the larger islands. The rare Apollo

butterfly, scented white sticky catch-fly, and elder-flowered orchid are some of the species that thrive in the Tjust archipelago.

Perhaps the most noticeable birds in the archipelago are eiders, along with flocks of common gull, black-headed gull, terns, and herring gull. Mute swan, great crested grebe, coot, and tufted duck swim in the inner archipelago bays, while the heron stalks fish from the reeds. Greylag goose breeds in well protected sites. In the outer archipelago you can hear the deep call of the black-backed gull, and you may spot a white-tailed eagle stretching out its mighty wingspan. Skua, razorbill, and guillemot also thrive here. Birds that we need to care a little extra for are white-tailed eagle, Caspian tern, osprey, and eagle-owl.

ANCIENT ROCKS POLISHED BY THE INLAND ICE

The northern primary rock archipelago is made up of granites and quartzites. The latter is a hard and relatively unusual rock, characterising large parts of the archipelago. It is thought that the Väster-vik quartzite is 2,400 million years old and that the Loftahammar granite is 1,800 million years old. Traces of the inland ice include glacial striations, giant's kettles, and roches moutonnées. Further south, the last ice age created shallow moraine archipelagos of stones and gravel. In between is a world of islands built from sandstone.



Destinations

Examples of destinations awaiting you:

- **Norra Tjust skärgård**

See page 20.

- **Misterhults skärgård**

See page 62.

- **Furön**

This unique island in the middle of the sea is made up of sandstone and has a long cultural history. Here are traces of human activity all the way from the Bronze Age until present time.

- **Vällö**

Vällö archipelago with some 80 islands, islets, and skerries is a piece of unique moraine archipelago along the Småland coast.

- **Stenhuggarmuseum in Vånevik**

Just less than 10 kilometres south of Oskarshamn is Vånevik, a stonemasonry centre from 1870 until the mid-1950s. Here you can see traces of the local stone industry, including stone mason huts, grinding shed, and smithy. The stone cutter open-air museum can be visited all year round. Scenic coastal surroundings, fascinating stone quarry, and other monuments from the stonemasonry glory days. Signposted from the E22. Read more on [the website of the museum association Hård Klang](#).

- **Lövö**

See page 110.

Norra Tjust skärgård



NATURE RESERVE | VÄSTERVIK MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

The nature reserve Norra Tjust skärgård comprises more than 200 islands, islets, and skerries. Nature here changes from wave-washed skerries in the east to forested islands in the west. Perfect for boating, paddling, fishing, and bathing. The lighthouse Storkläppen, with its classic silhouette has lit up darkness and fog in Norra Tjust skärgård since 1891.



Archipelago settlement with Tjust boathouse on Städsholmen.

Tjust boathouse

In harbours and by jetties in the archipelago you often see boatsheds and boathouses. Norra Tjust skärgård has a particular type of shed known as the Tjust boathouse. It is a combined boathouse and boatshed, with protruding roof on one or both long sides. The oldest boathouses are timbered. The shed is for keeping equipment, and the boat lies protected beneath the overhanging roof.

SEE AND DO

In summer this is a popular area for pleasure craft. It is ideal for kayaking, fishing, and swimming. Make a day excursion and picnic on one of the many islands, islets, and skerries. There are great birdwatching opportunities, and do not be surprised if you spot a grey seal in the area.

The nature reserve has three main islands with cultural-historical settlements: Städsholmen, Stora Grindö, and Jutskär. No permanent residents remain in the old villages, which are still full of life a large part of the year.

GOOD TO KNOW

It is permitted to cook on portable grills or camping stoves. You may camp for up to 24 hours in the same place.

Note that it is forbidden to go ashore or remain within 100 metres from Viggskär and several other places during the period 1 April to 10 July. The large islands with settlements have unmarked paths for walking. It is not permitted to moor or anchor boats for more than 24 for hours in one place.

“More than 200 islands, islets, and skerries”



ON LAND AND UNDER THE SURFACE

Vegetation on the small islands and skerries in the outer archipelago mostly consists of lichens. Grass, herbs, and shrubs are found only in crevices and hollows. The larger islands have flat rock pine forest interspersed with oak, alder, and aspen. There are also areas of orpine, wild pansy, biting stonecrop, and sticky catchfly.

A large part of the nature reserve consists of shallow marine areas. Belts of bladderwrack and stoneworts spread across the bottoms. This vegetation provides good nursing areas for fish, as they offer both shelter and food.



Getting here

The nature reserve stretches from Stora Grindö in the north almost all the way to Hasselö and Sladö in the south. The reserve can only be reached by sea. There is no regular boat service.



BOAT The northern part of the area, with the main island Stora Grindö, is reached by sea from the mainland at Båtsviken by Lerglo, east of Loftahammar. The central and southern parts of the nature reserve, including the built-up Städsholmen and Jutskär, are reached by sea from Hallamre on the mainland, south-east of Loftahammar. A fairway goes straight through the reserve in a northerly direction. Otherwise, large parts of the archipelago are shallow and quite difficult to navigate.

Städsholmen has a public jetty. Natural harbours are found on e.g. Lindö, Storkläppen, Lotsskackelsholmen, and Viggskär.

BIRDLIFE

A large number of sea bird species breed in the nature reserve. Städsholmen has the biggest colonies of common gull, black-headed gull, and Arctic tern. Predators include both eagle-owl and white-tailed eagle. Lesser spotted woodpecker and redstart thrive in the forest environments, and in the shrubby areas on the smooth rocks you find wheatear and linnet. Rare species, such as Arctic skua and razorbill, breed on the skerries in the outermost archipelago.

Discover Norra Tjust skärgård

1 LINDÖ

Old-fashioned agricultural landscape. The island has many small-leaved limes that flower in July. The small, white flowers have the scent of nectar and attract a great number of insects.

2 VIGGSKÄR

You can step ashore on the beautiful island Viggskär when the bird protection period ends in July.

3 STÄDSHOLMEN

Städsholmen has played an important role for fishing; there was a fishing station here already in the Middle Ages. The island was also a pilot station for the Norra Tjust skärgård inner fair-way from the mid-1600s until the mid-1900s. The tall pilot lookout is visible from afar. Read more about pilotage on page 62.

4 STORA GRINDÖ

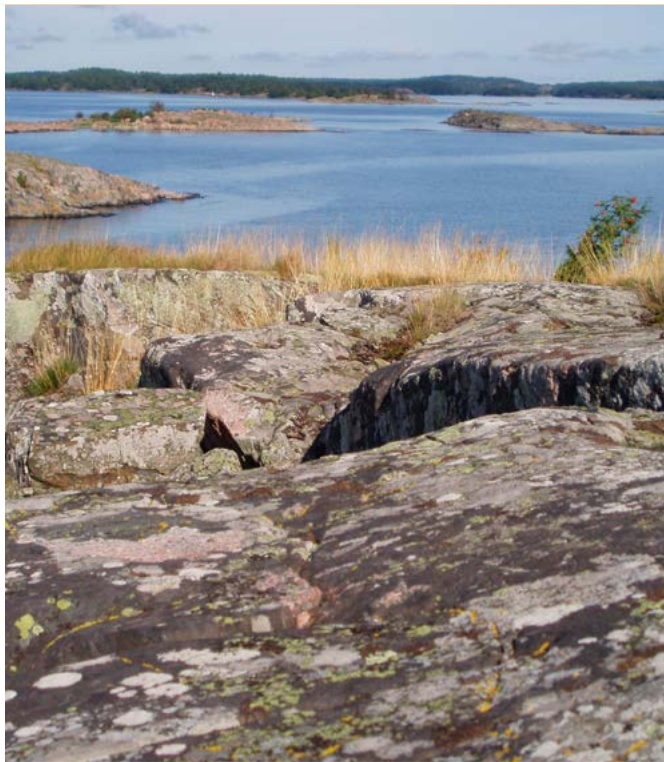
Genuine fishing village and great area for rambling.

5 JUTSKÄR

Beautiful archipelago settlement.



Flowering thrift.





Paddle & snorkel

Discover Kalmar County on and below the water surface. The county has the longest coastal stretch in Sweden, and inland you find fascinating lakes and watercourses, such as the rivers Emån and Alsterån.

PADDLE CANOE OR KAYAK

Kayaking slowly among islets and skerries in some part of the beautiful archipelago is balm for the soul. Particularly lovely areas include Misterhults skärgård (page 62), Tjust skärgård (page 20) and the areas around Lövö Nature Reserve (page 110) in Mönsterås. You can hire canoes and kayaks in several places along the coast. It is also popular to paddle along the rivers Emån (page 77) and Alsterån as well as in the meteorite Lake Hummeln at Humlenäs (page 88). The large Lake Allgunnen in the nature reserve with the same name (page 104) is like an inland sea with a wonderful archipelago.

SNORKEL OR DIVE

For those who want to discover life below the surface by diving and snorkelling, Kalmar County offers some real gems. Blå Jungfrun National Park (page 100) has great depth visibility in the water around the island and is a popular destination for divers.

Snorkelling trails with information along the bottom are found at Stensö in Kalmar and at Lysningsbadet in Västervik. The visitor centre naturum Västervik occasionally offers snorkelling lessons for children.

Snorkelling on your own is recommended at Neptuni åkrar (page 160), Grankullaviken by Trollskogen (page 154) on Öland and at Rågö (page 26) in the Västervik archipelago. All are nature reserves.

REMEMBER TO BE CONSIDERATE

Take care of nature and show consideration. Remember the Right of Public Access: “Don’t disturb – don’t destroy”. Check if there is restricted access before you go ashore anywhere in the archipelago. Also observe any regulations on lighting fires and camping in the area.



Snorkelling visitors in Trollskogen at Grankullaviken.



Rågö



NATURE RESERVE | VÄSTERVIK MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Rågö is a real archipelago idyll! Here you can wander through deep pine forests set against velvety rocks by the sea. The well-kept small village on Rågö attracts visitors with its youth hostel, restaurant, and exhibitions. Rågö Nature Reserve also includes the islands of Horsö and Kalvö and a multitude of bird-rich islets and skerries.

“A real archipelago idyll”

SEE AND DO

On the three largest islands you can relax on sun-warmed rocks, walk through forest and across pastures, and climb a rocky hill to enjoy the views. The well-kept small village on the main island of Rågö has a youth hostel, restaurant, and an archipelago museum. On the Slipholmarna islets there are prehistoric burial cairns and stone settings, clearly visible from the sea. There is also an abundance of birds in the protected archipelago bays and in the varied landscape.

GOOD TO KNOW

Walking trails that take you around the island start from Rågö village harbour. There are two campsites on the main island of Rågö. These are the only places within the nature reserve where you may put up a tent. You may not moor or anchor boats for more than 48 hours in one place. Note that the Flåtarna islets north of Rågö are a bird sanctuary with forbidden access from 1 April to 10 July.

ARCHIPELAGO HERBS AND BIRDS

In the coastal meadows you can botanise among sea plantain, sea and marsh arrowgrass, brookweed, and fairy flax. In places not grazed by animals, reeds, sea clubrush, and grey clubrush spread out; a sea of green interspersed with the intense colour of purple loosestrife.

The archipelago also has a rich birdlife. Diving terns, graceful great crested grebes, and running oystercatchers are a common sight. With luck, you will see a majestic white-tailed eagle gliding on wide wings. In the pine forest keep your eyes open for black woodpecker, wryneck, and lesser spotted woodpecker.





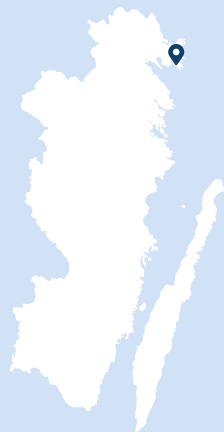
Rågö village.

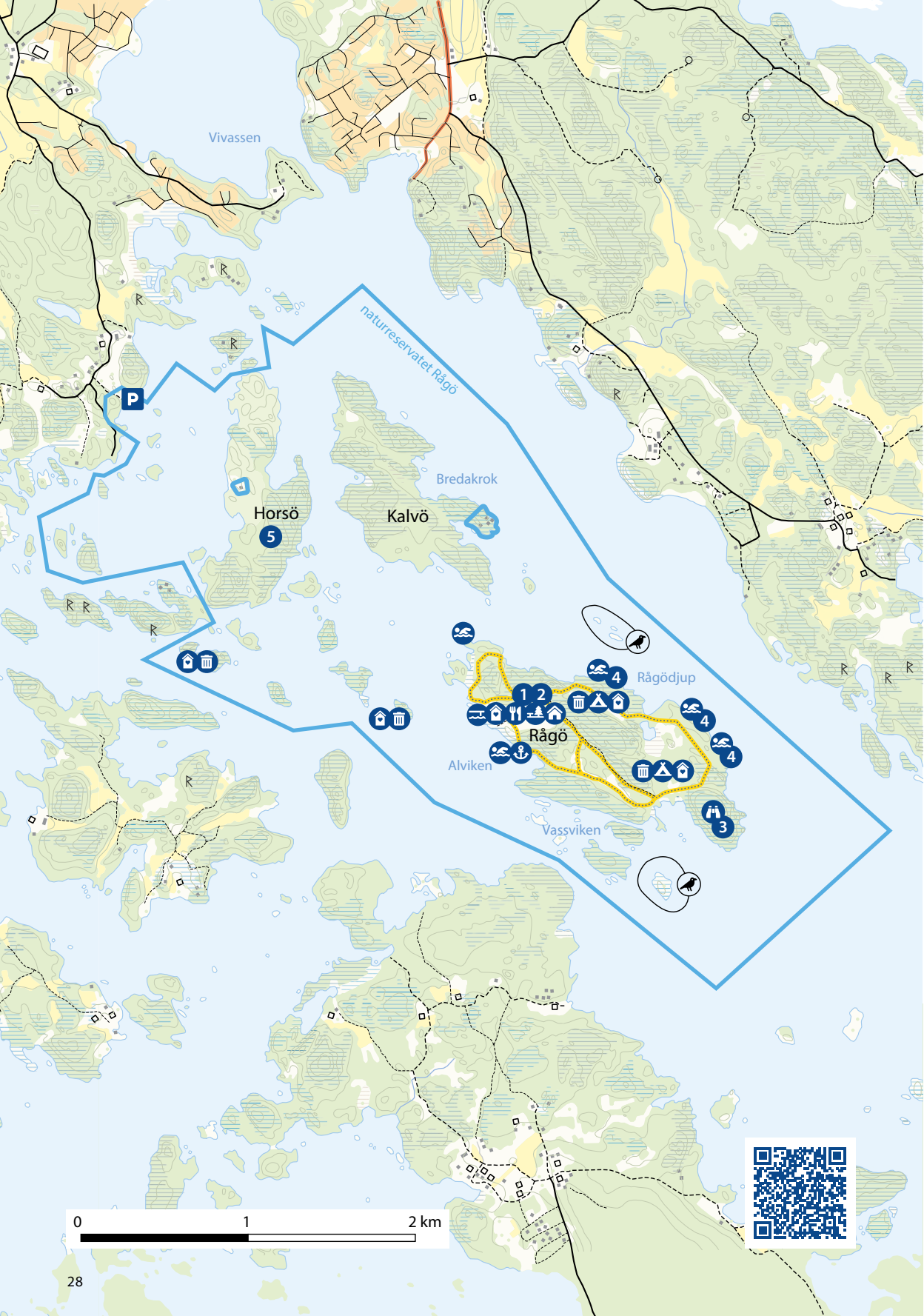


Getting here

The reserve is situated south of Loftahammar and can only be reached by boat.

BOAT During summer there are daily archipelago boat services to the main island of Rågö, where you step ashore at Rågö village. Find further information at Västervik Tourist Office. If you come by your own boat, there is a guest harbour south of Rågö village at Alviken bay.





Vivassen

naturreservatet Rågö

Bredakrok

Horsö
5

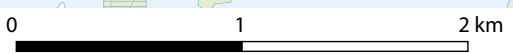
Kalvö

Rågödjup

Rågö

Alviken

Vassviken



Discover Rågö

1 ARCHIPELAGO MUSEUM

View an exhibition of local wooden boats and past life in the archipelago.

2 RÅGÖ VILLAGE

The old houses are typical of settlements in the Västervik archipelago. Boathouse by the water, then a dwelling house and smaller buildings with their gables to the sea, and the cowshed furthest away.

3 NÄSUDDEN – GREAT LOOKOUT ON RÅGÖ

From Näsudden headland you can look out on an unbroken horizon.

4 RÅGÖ BEACH

Do you feel like a swim? Here are both rocks and a sandy beach to choose from.

5 HORSÖ – PARADISE FOR FLOWER & BUTTERFLY LOVERS

Horsö has a lush and more diverse vegetation than other islands, thanks to the nutrient-rich rock. Grazing animals also contribute to the variety of herbs and allows us to enjoy both cowslip and mountain everlasting. On sunny summer days, colourful butterflies flutter across the flowering ground, including the rare Apollo.



Wild pansies.



Björkö



NATURE RESERVE | VÄSTERVIK MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Björkö Nature Reserve is located in a varied inner archipelago with bays, inlets, and a myriad of islands. Fine pastures in combination with good fishing has attracted settlers to Björkö for a very long time. Today Björkö is one of few islands in the archipelago with a permanent population.

Nearby

Solidö

Solidö is another island where archipelago farming is still alive. Here are fine beaches and good chances of spotting the Apollo butterfly, typical of the Västervik archipelago.

SEE AND DO

Don't forget to take a camera on your outing! Beautiful plants found here include mountain everlasting, common milkwort and elder-flowered orchid. The birdlife is typical of the inner archipelago, with many different ducks and gulls. Black grouse and capercaillie live in the forest. Björkö harbour and village offer a lovely sight, when you arrive by water.

GOOD TO KNOW

There are marked footpaths on Björkö. Remember to keep your dog on a leash when walking in the nature reserve. Lighting fires and fishing is not permitted within the reserve, and you may only camp in designated places on Björkö. The houses on Björkö are privately owned, but you are welcome to use all paths and roads on the island.

LIVING ARCHIPELAGO LANDSCAPE

The mosaic of habitats is special for the agricultural landscape in this part of the archipelago. The bigger islands are dominated by coniferous forest, but there are also deciduous woods close to buildings and fields. Islands that are still farmed have fields and pastures.

Boatman's cottages and boathouses are part of the preserved buildings on Björkö, where stone settings show that people lived here even in prehistoric times.

Traces of turn-of-the century stone quarrying

Around the turn of the 20th century extensive quarrying took place here. Traces include quarries, a stone-shipping quay and discarded stones. The stonemason's hut on the southern headland has been restored.



📍 Getting here

The nature reserve is located around 4 kilometres south-west of Loftahammar. Björkö can only be reached by boat.



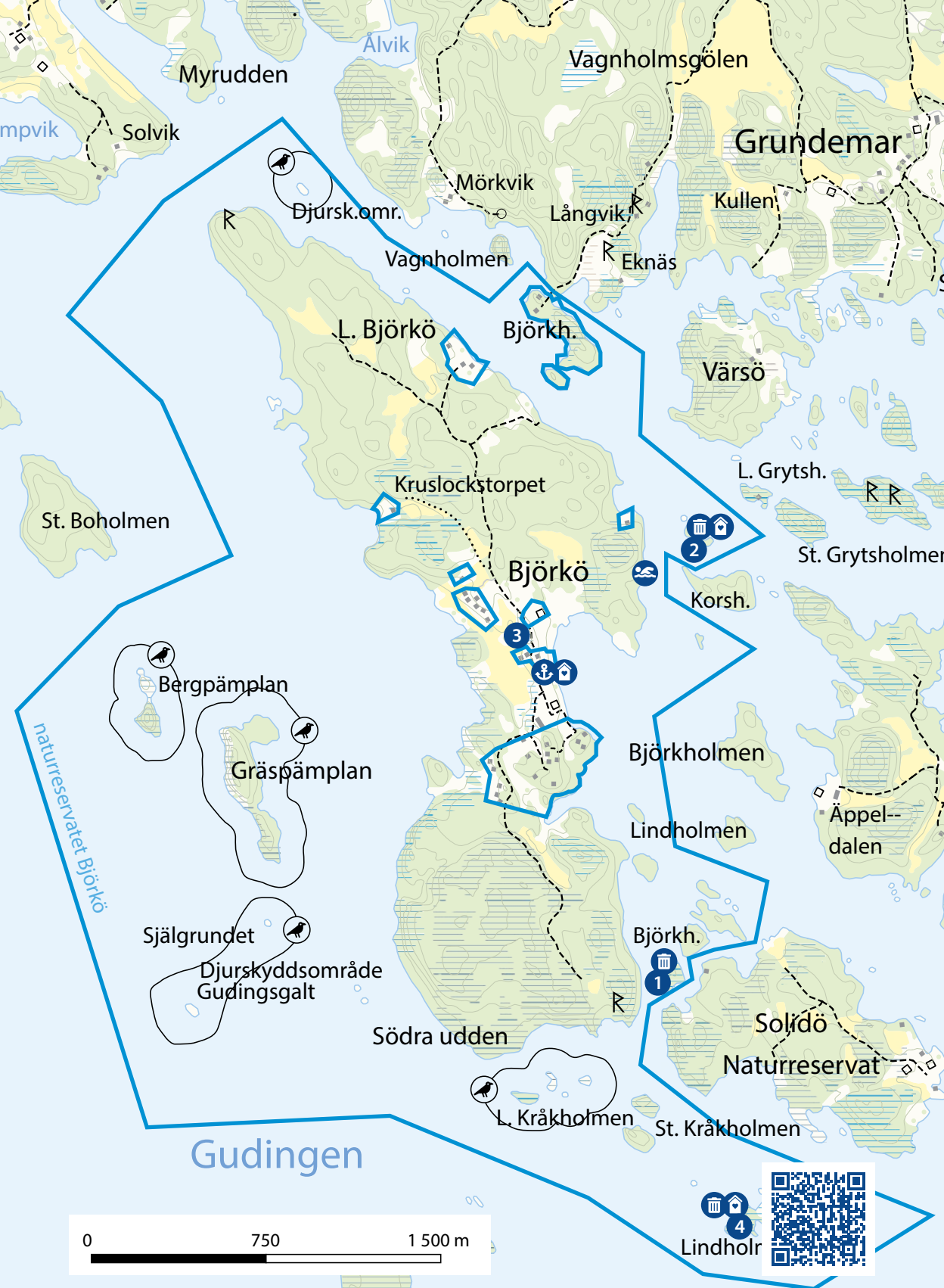
BOAT The closest harbour is Grundemar. Björkö has a public jetty for mooring.



Osprey.



There are still grazing animals on Björkö.



Discover Björkö

1 SUNDSHOLMEN

A lovely islet if you want to be on your own for a day. But you need a boat to get here.

2 KYRKHOLMARNAN

These beautiful islets are found in the northern part of the reserve, perfect for a day excursion and picnic with your own boat.

3 LOOKOUT AT BJÖRKÖ

On the lookout rock is a small cabin where you are welcome to go in, sit for a while, and admire the sunset or the view.

4 LINDHOLMEN

A beautiful island with old small-leaved limes, fine flora, and fascinating insects. The wide views across the sea offer good chances of seeing both white-tailed eagle and osprey.



Segersgårde & Kvarntorpet



NATURE RESERVES | VÄSTERVIK MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Nature in the reserves Segersgårde and Kvarntorpet is typical of the Tjust area. Discover the mosaic landscape of moss-clad flat rocks, forested plateaus, and pastures with broadleaved deciduous trees. You will also find a rich flora and fauna.



Nearby

Gränsö Nature Reserve

The municipal Gränsö Nature Reserve is within walking distance of Västervik town centre. The 12-kilometre Gränsö Trail goes around the entire reserve. You also find a snorkelling trail as well as beaches and bathing rocks.

SEE AND DO

The rocky elevations in the reserves offer ravishing views, and you also find ancient remains. In spring and summer you can enjoy the floral splendour in forest and pastures, from the adorable mountain everlasting to the handsome elder-flowered orchid. Hear the thrush nightingale sing in early summer evenings.

GOOD TO KNOW

Next to the parking area at Värnvik/Fru-berget is a privy and picnic table. A marked trail through the reserves can be reached from all parking areas.

There is a designated fireplace at Kvarntorpet. In Segersgårde, however, you are not permitted to light fires anywhere. Camping is not permitted in the reserves.

VALUABLE MATURE TREES

Several large oaks stand in the pastures. The mature trees are home to a range of different organisms. Unusual lichens, such as *Lecanographa amylacea*, short-stalked pin lichen, and *Schimatomma pericleum*, grow on the rough bark. The rare hermit beetle lives in hollows with wood mould – a mixture of gnawed remains, bird droppings, rotten wood, etc.

Boulder fields created by the sea

There are large boulder fields on both elevations. They are remains from the time when the level of the Baltic Sea was much higher than today and when the rocks sticking up from the sea were like skerries. The surging waves washed away small stones, gravel, sand, and clay. On the elevations, which today rise high above the sea level, larger stones of a similar size remain – so-called boulder fields.



Orchids, such as elder-flowered orchid, thrive here.

📍 Getting here

The reserves are located around 10 kilometres from Gamleby in the north and Västervik in the south.

CAR When you follow the road on Norrlandet, you pass the reserves. If you arrive from the south, the first parking area is at Segersgårde to the right, on a hill. If you carry on to the north, turning off at Värnvik, you reach the parking area at Fruberget. If you carry on north on Norrlandsvägen for around 1 kilometre and turn right, you reach the parking area at Kvarntorpet.





Kärrebo

Kvarntorpet

Ören

naturreservatet Kvarntorpet

naturreservatet Segersgårde

Segersgårde

Örnerget

Värnvik

Bergholmen

Hällarna

Jungfruholmen

Draget

Dragsviken

Berg

Gamlebyviken



0 500 1000 m

36

Discover Segersgårde & Kvarntorpet

1 HABORS KLINT

A prehistoric stone setting at the top of Örnberget. Fine stone fields from the Ice Age.

2 HILL FORT

The hill fort on top of Fruberget offers amazing views across Gudingén in the north and Gamlebyviken in the south.

3 FRUBERGET'S SOUTHERN SLOPE

Where the walking trail turns from the road at Värmsvik is a lovely hill, which is delightful to visit in spring. Hazel and beautiful broadleaved trees grow here and, most exciting of all, you can find narrow-leaved helleborine, an impressive orchid normally found much further south. A real rarity!

4 COASTAL MEADOW AT VÄRMVIK

Directly from the parking area and privy you reach the beautiful coastal meadow towards the bay Gamlebyviken. Here is a table for your picnic break. On a spring evening, enjoy the birds in the meadow, with the song of the thrush nightingale as a backdrop.



Sladö-Äskeskär



NATURE RESERVES | VÄSTERVIK MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Sladö together with Äskeskär and a large number of small islands form a nature reserve with a rich flora, open meadows, genuine cultural environments, and good birdwatching opportunities.

“The ancient pollarded trees impress”

Nearby

Hasselö

Hasselö, separated from Sladö by a dug canal, is one of the largest islands in the archipelago. Its size and location make it a breakwater protecting the Tjust archipelago. Along the shore is the biggest collection of Tjust boathouses, providing a popular motif.

Hasselö has a guest harbour and public beach. A small store is open in summer, and a tractor or horse-drawn wagon takes tourists to and from Sladö.

SEE AND DO

Walk or cycle in the reserve. Sladö village is a fine example of an archipelago fishing and farming village with a long history. It is mentioned in 1601 as a steersman station with pilotage.

Don't forget to bring binoculars and camera and take the opportunity to birdwatch. Redshank, lapwing, ringed plover, and sandpiper are seen on the coastal meadows. Eider and velvet scoter together with gulls and terns breed further out on the skerries.

Äskeskär is a meandering esker with many meadow flowers attracting rare butterflies, such as small blue and Niobe fritillary.

GOOD TO KNOW

A walking trail goes around the eastern part of Sladö, linking to Hasselö in the north. It is not permitted to light fires within the reserve. Access is banned during parts of the year on some islands within the nature reserve; boards will show you what applies.

FLOWER-RICH PASTURES

Species such as common milkwort, burnet-saxifrage, mountain everlasting, green strawberry, and elder-flowered orchid grow in the pastures and meadows. Although the elder-flowered orchid has no nectar, it attracts inexperienced queen bumblebees and sand bees to come and pollinate the flowers. But the most impressive feature of Sladö's meadows is perhaps the ancient pollarded trees. They are mostly small-leaved limes, and they have taken on almost magical shapes thanks to years of pruning and constant wind from the sea.

Äskeskär also has areas of abundant flora. On the north-western part of the island you find species such as hoary cinquefoil and maiden pink growing among the pebbles.



Pollarded trees

On Sladö you find pollarded small-leaved limes and ashes. Pollarding is a form of pruning. By pollarding, farmers made use of trees and branches as winter fodder for their animals. Trees that have been pollarded take on a shrub-like appearance and can live very long. The mature trees are valuable as they tell us about old farming practices. They also harbour an enormous biological wealth and are vital hosts for lichens, fungi, insects, and many other organisms.

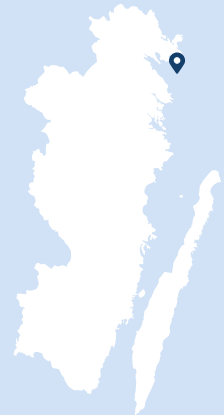


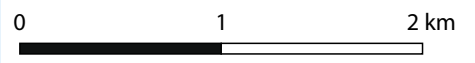
In early summer a carpet of wild pansies spreads out on Åskeskär.

Getting here

The nature reserve is located north-east of Västervik; you get here by boat.

BOAT Tour boats operate in summer. Find out about departures from Västervik Municipality. A public jetty is located in the bay south of Sladö village.







Discover Sladö-Äskeskär

1 BETSUDDEN

This headland offers fine rocks for bathing.

2 ROOT CELLARS

On Sladö you find a group of fine root cellars.

3 MEADOW WITH POLLARDED SMALL-LEAVED LIMES

Some of the pollarded small-leaved limes growing in the haymeadows on Sladö could be between 500 and 1,000 years old!



Hermanstorp-Källsåker



BRONZE AGE COAST | VÄSTERVIK MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

A string of ancient remains lies along the former bay. Hermanstorp-Källsåker is an area where you find many prehistoric monuments mainly from the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. It is also a beautiful natural area with an oak landscape, wetland, and a rich birdlife.

PASTURES

The oaks in the pastures at Hermanstorp harbour a number of red-listed species, such as brown ant, *Caloplaca lucifuga* lichen, and hen-of-the woods fungus. Common milkwort and bulbous buttercup tell us that the landscape has been grazed for a long time.

Here you find ancient remains from the Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age by way of settlements, rock carvings, and graves. Some of the settlements with building remains have been investigated, and items such as pottery, food waste, grain, animal bones, and stone tools have been found.

LANDSCAPE HISTORY

During the Early Stone Age the area was part of the former sea coastline. Parts of Hermanstorp protruded as small islands into the archipelago landscape together with large strips of land to the west and north-west. The people who lived here then were nomads, subsisting on nature. Fishing and coastal hunting were part of the year's activities.

Recreated wetland

In 2017 the valley wetland was recreated with the aim to reduce nutrient leakage from the fields upstream to Lake Kvännaren. This also led to increased biodiversity. Waders, ducks, and geese breed here. In spring and autumn you can also see resting swans and cranes.

The image of the former bay is clearest during rainy autumns and after the snow melt in spring. Then, the water level is almost the same as during the Late Bronze Age.

With land elevation, more and more areas emerged from the sea. Since the beginning of the Bronze Age, 4,000 years ago, the mainland had expanded. But the valley between Hermanstorp and Källsåker remained part of the sea.

In the bay and in the sea beyond there were seals, porpoises, and many seabirds. Wild boar and deer roamed in the lush deciduous woods. Humans settled along the bay. They grew wheat, barley, and millet in small fields, and cattle grazed the shoreline.

FROM SEA TO LAKE & DRAINED WETLAND

Slowly but surely the bay became shallower and turned into wetland and a lake, Kvännaren. The wetland, like many such areas in Sweden, was drained in the 19th century in order to create more arable fields.



The valley was once part of the sea.

📍 Getting here

The destination is located less than 5 kilometres from Västervik town centre.

CAR Hermanstorp-Källsåker is located east of the E22, exactly north of the eastern approach to Västervik. Parking available at Hermanstorp and around 200 metres from the birdwatching tower at Källsåker.

BUS Bus stop Jenny: walking distance around 2 kilometres to Källsåker birdwatching tower. Bus stop Hermanstorp: walking distance 150 metres to Hermanstorp. For timetables consult Kalmar länstrafik.



VISIT

To visit the area you can choose between two nature and culture paths. One is slightly longer and continues down to the wetland and two good birdwatching sites.

Information boards along the paths tell you about the ancient remains. On site you can download a digital circular route if you have a smartphone.

On the other side of the wetland is a tall birdwatching tower. At Hermanstorp you find parking, picnic tables, and a grill area. Remember to keep your dog on a leash, as animals graze in the pastures.



Burial cairn on top of a hill.



CONTACT FOR GUIDED TOURS & EXPERIENCE DAYS:

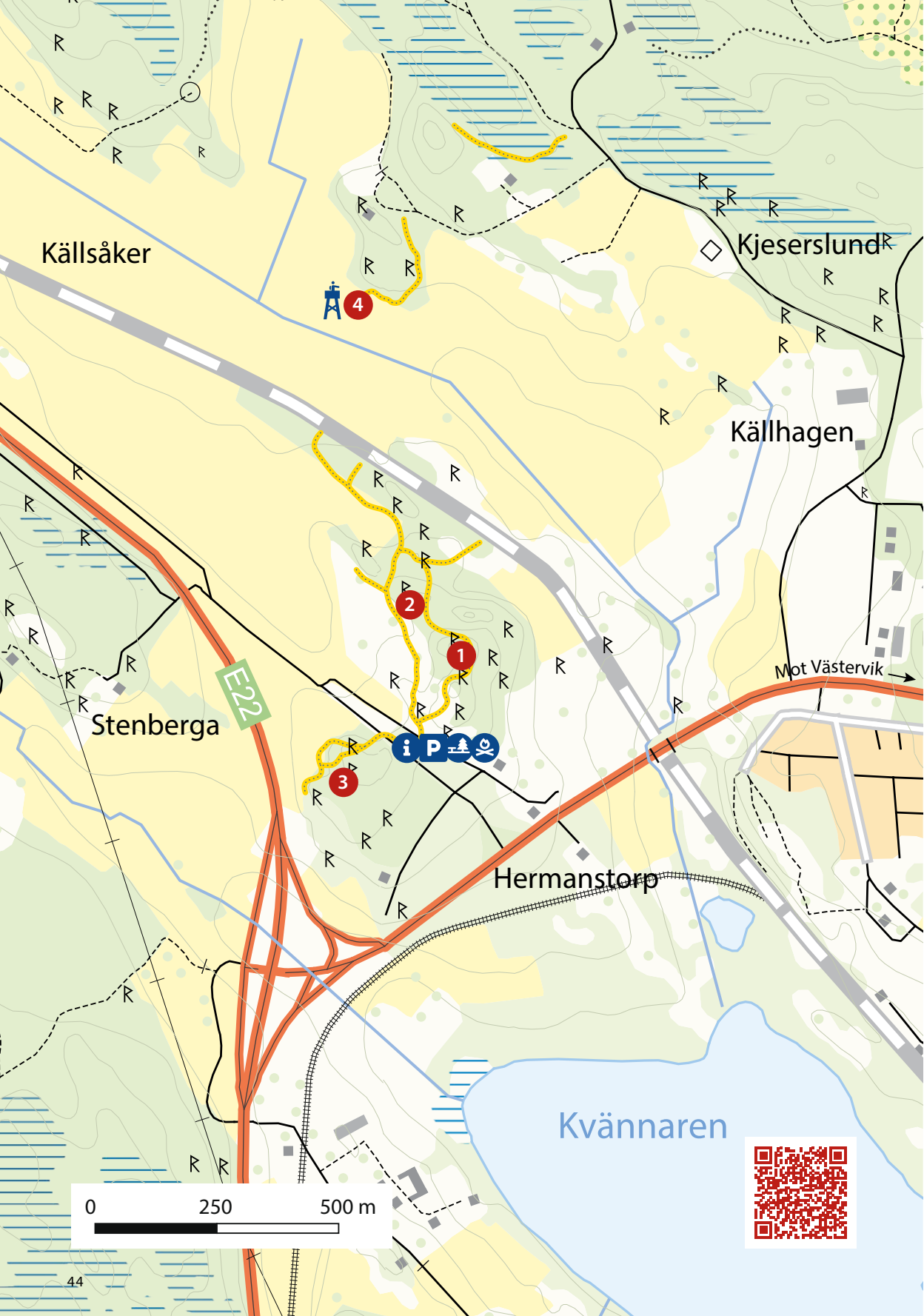
Västervik Museum

info@vasterviksmuseum.se

0046-(0)490-211 77

Naturum Västervik

maria@vasterviksmuseum.se



Källsåker

Kjeserslund

Källhagen

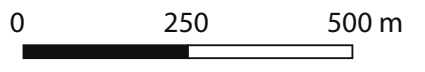
Stenberga

Hermanstorp

Kvännaren

Mot Västervik

E22



Discover Hermanstorp- Källsåker

● CREST BURIAL CAIRN

The largest burial cairn in the area is from the Early Bronze Age. The crest offers fine views over burial cairns on surrounding hills.

● BOULDER WITH CUP MARKS

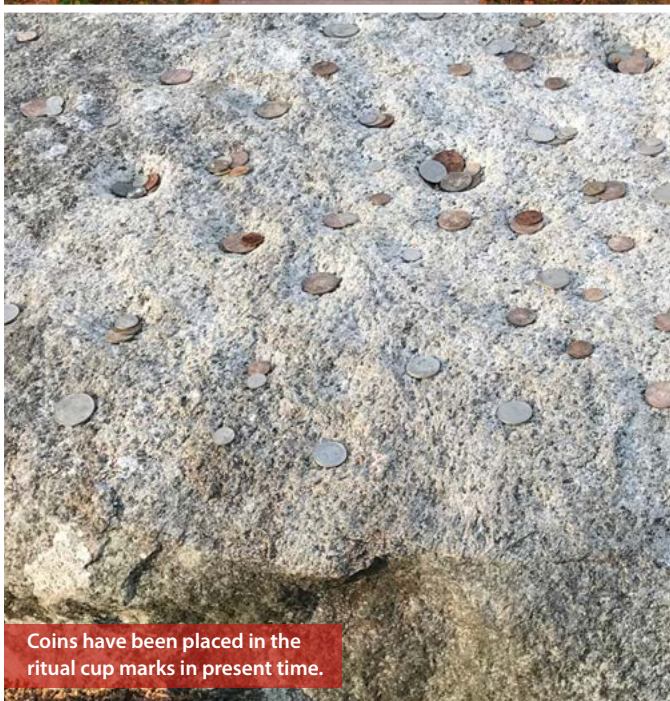
A boulder with 160 cup marks, which are a type of rock carving. There are various interpretations of the ritual function of cup marks and what they symbolise. As late as in the 19th century the holes were sometimes smeared with grease as a sacrifice to elves, and they were also called “elven mills”.

● GRAVE FIELD & SETTLEMENT

In the southern part of Hermanstorp, the path leads to two small grave fields on top of a rocky hill. The grave fields contain five burial cairns and five stone settings. Below the hill was once a Bronze Age settlement.

● BIRDWATCHING TOWER AT KÄLLSÅKER

Spot a marsh harrier hunting for food. Listen out for golden plover and curlew. Great egret, tundra swan, and red-footed falcon have also been observed in the area. But you don't have to be a bird-watcher to have an enjoyable nature experience at the tower.



Coins have been placed in the ritual cup marks in present time.



Norra Kvill



NATIONAL PARK | VIMMERBY MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Fallen trees, mossy boulders, idyllic forest ponds, and old tall coniferous trees give a feeling of age-old wilderness. Norra Kvill is not a primeval forest but has remained untouched for more than 150 years and is a popular destination.

SEE AND DO

Two walking trails go around and past the small forest lakes Stora Idgölen and Lilla Idgölen. Frogs and toads mate here in spring, and birds such as goldeneye and teal can be seen at the water's edge. Bog-bean starts flowering in May to June and later in the summer, both white and yellow water lilies bloom. Follow the trail through the enchanted landscape and let your gaze wander over the giant boulders and epic trees that are several hundred years old. After a steep section, you are awarded with breathtaking views from Idhöjden.

Nearby

Sevedeleden Trail

The Sevedeleden Trail offers around 50 kilometres of walking in different sections through scenic countryside. The trail passes many sights and places where you can overnight. Mariannelund is a good starting point.

GOOD TO KNOW

Näckön is a small peninsula sticking out into Lake Stora Grytgölen adjacent to the national park parking area and information display. Here is a rest area with picnic tables and a fireplace for grilling. Wood is available, but bring your own wood or charcoal just in case. There are also toilets and a wind shelter.

Remember to keep your dog on a leash and not to disturb birds or other animals. It is not permitted to camp, light fires, or fish in the national park. You are, however, allowed to pick berries and mushrooms for your own use.

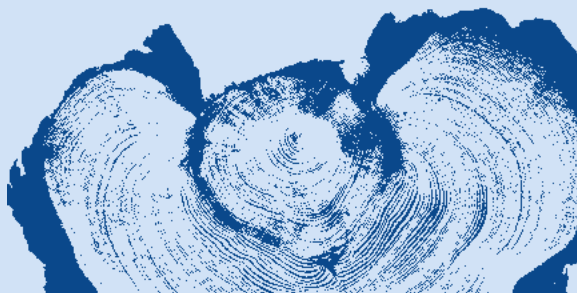
SPECIES-RICH UNDISTURBED FOREST

Wood fescue, the small forest orchid creeping lady's-tresses, and yellow bird's-nest are examples of the flora. The untouched forest with an abundance of dead wood and hollow trees offers both food and breeding places for many forest birds. Several species of bats also thrive here.

Traces of fire

In the past fire was the normal forest regeneration method. The forest in the national park has been formed by countless fires over the centuries. Both spontaneous fires and those caused by human activities. Today it is more than a hundred years since there was a fire in Norra Kvill, but the traces can still be seen.

Pine has a great ability to heal after burning, by encapsulating the damaged parts of the trunk after each fire. These areas are called fire scars.





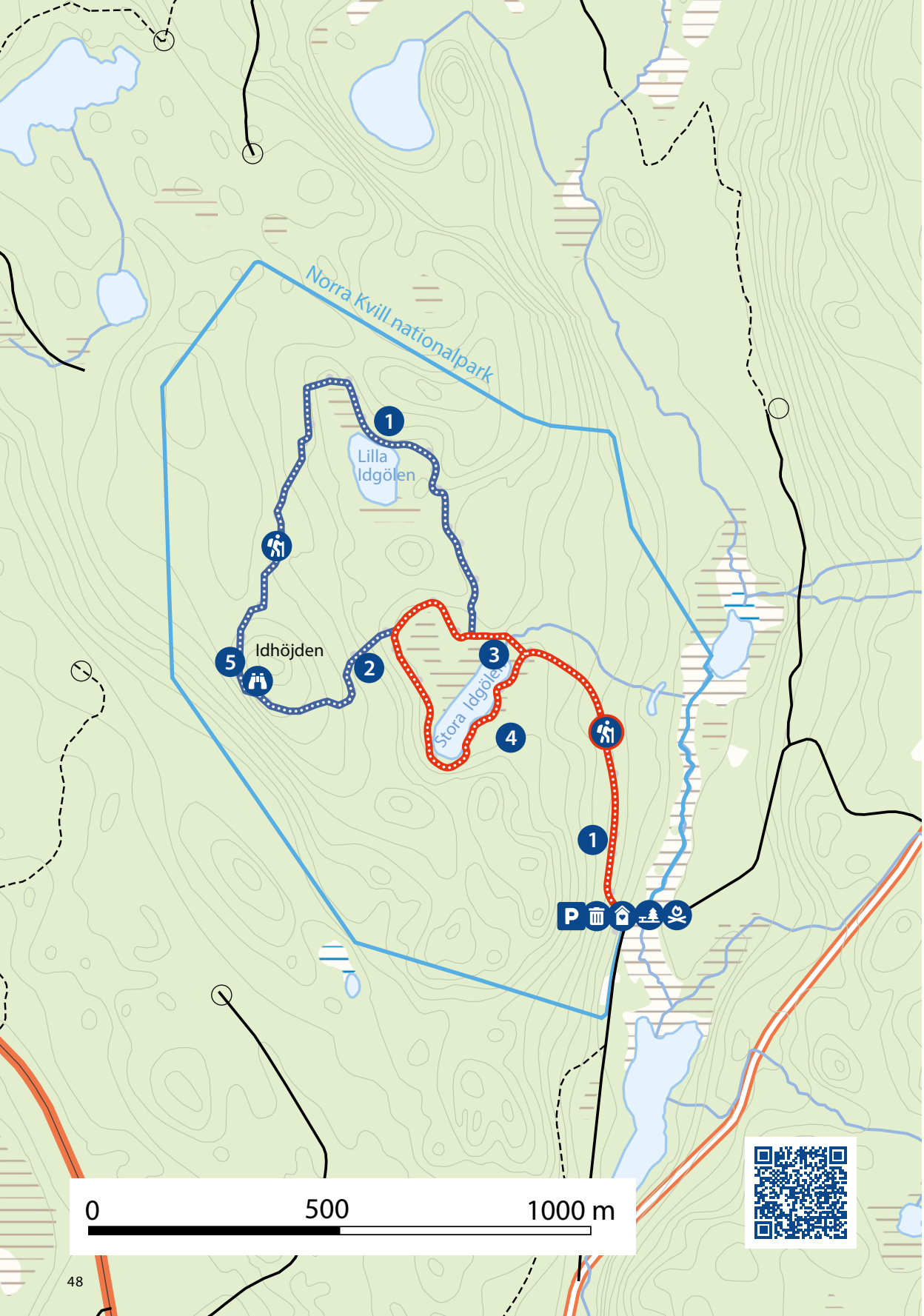
Pygmy owl is among the birds found in Norra Kvill.

Getting here

The national park is located south of Ydrefors.

CAR The national park is close to the road between Vimmerby and Norra Vi, 7 kilometres south of Ydrefors. It is signposted at the entrances from Gullringen, Vimmerby, and Ydrefors.





Norra Kvill nationalpark

1
Lilla Idgölen

5
Idhöjden

3
Stora Idgölen

P



0 500 1000 m

Discover Norra Kvill National Park

1 ENORMOUS BOULDERS

There are several boulder fields in the park, where enormous moraine boulders create a singular environment.

2 OLD PINES

Along the trail on the slope up to Idhøjden you find majestic mature pines. Some are more than 350 years old.

3 STORA IDGÖLEN

Stora Idgölen is also called “Troll Lake”.

4 FIRE SCARS

Here are trees with so-called fire scars. You can find traces of as many as eight fires on one tree.

4 VIEW FROM IDHÖJDEN

When you reach the lookout on Idhøjden, the highest point in the national park, you are 230 metres above sea level.



Kvill



NATURE RESERVE | VIMMERBY MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

In Kvill Nature Reserve you can experience a small-scale agricultural landscape; once a common sight in this area. In the centre of the open land stands the mighty Kvill oak, the thickest tree in Sweden and the only thousand-year-old oak in the country.

Getting here

The reserve is not far away from Norra Kvill National Park, around 20 kilometres north-west of Vimmerby.

CAR Drive towards Rums-kulla from Vimmerby or Mariannelund. By the village Ventzelholm you find a sign for the Rums-kulla/Kvill oak. Parking is available in the reserve.



SEE AND DO

In the wooded pastures you find several traces of old cultivation. Stones were painstakingly removed from the ground, creating clearance cairns. A lot of labour also went into digging ditches. Clearance cairns and ditches show that the pasture was once a field, confirmed by old maps.

The reserve is surrounded by beautiful wooden pole fences, reminding us of the idyllic world of Astrid Lindgren's Småland.

Sit down by the Kvill oak and contemplate all that has happened since it sprouted from an acorn in the ground.

GOOD TO KNOW

There is a footpath. A large section of Sevedeleden Trail goes through parts of the pastures. Rest areas are found at the parking area and by the oak. There is also a privy by the parking area. Remember to keep your dog on a leash. It is not permitted to light fires or camp in the reserve. You may not enter the enclosed area around the Kvill oak.

FLORAL SPLENDOUR

In summer the open, shrub-rich pastures offer a profusion of flowers. A feast for the eyes and nose for us, vital for all insects that feed on nectar from flowering herbs and shrubs.

The most species-rich areas are found by the clearance cairns and in the south-eastern part of the open pastures. Oxeye daisy, peach-leaved bellflower, greater yellow-rattle, and lesser butterfly-orchid are just a few examples.



There is another giant tree to visit in Kville – this enormous fallen pine.



Among deciduous trees & lichens

The Kville oak may be the oldest specimen in the reserve, but here are many other ancient broad-leaved deciduous trees. The rough bark is a great habitat for several rare lichens, such as spiral-spored guilded-head pin lichen, soot lichen, and elm gyalecta. Lesser spotted woodpecker and starling are among the birds that breed in the tree hollows that appear with age.



Discover Kvill

KVILL OAK

The Kvill oak, or Rumskulla oak as it is also known, is the oldest and largest tree in Sweden, and one of the thickest oaks in all of Europe. Its circumference at breast high is 14 metres.

In the 1930s a careful investigation was carried out as to the age of the Kvill oak, and the conclusion was 950 years. This means that it is now more than 1,000 years old and most likely the only oak of that age in Sweden.

Wooden churches

Don't miss the opportunity to visit the magnificent wooden churches in the area. All three churches are located in beautiful surroundings on hills in the Småland agricultural landscape. Follow signposts from major roads.

DJURSDALA CHURCH

Djursdala church is one of the Småland churches that were built in the 17th century. The tarred shingle facade is laid in decorative patterns. The church has an unusually interesting cultural history with extensive early 18th century interior wall and ceiling paintings.

FRÖDINGE CHURCH

Frödinge church was built in 1739. It has an octagonal shape. Inside, the walls are adorned with drapery paintings and the ceiling with well-preserved murals. They were made by church painters working in Småland when the church was built. The stone vestry is from the Middle Ages and belonged to a church that stood here then.

PELARNE CHURCH

Pelarne church is one of the few preserved medieval wooden churches in Sweden. Over the years it has undergone many changes, but its long history is still manifest. The church was built with a straight choir and three-section window to the east – probably in the 13th century. The choir also has medieval wall paintings.

ABOUT THE CHURCHES

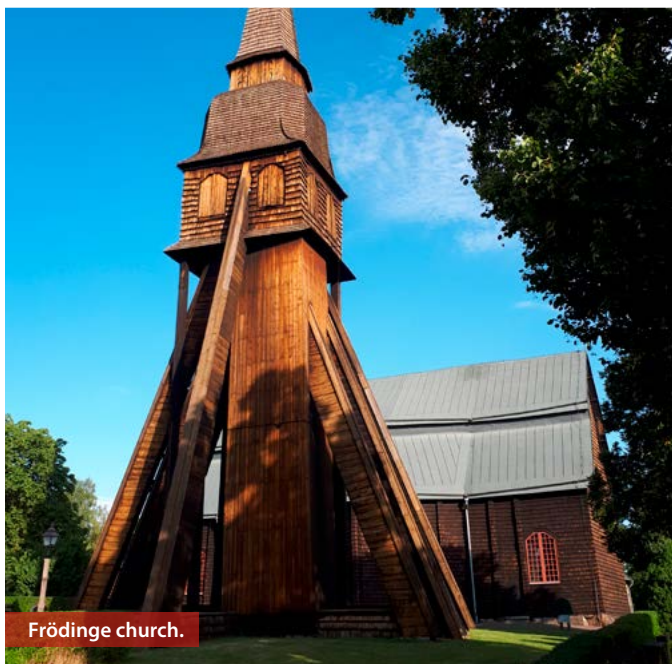
More information is found on [the Church of Sweden website](#).



Djursdala church.



Pelarne church.



Frödinge church.

Ålhults urskog



NATURE RESERVE | VÄSTERVIK MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

In the primeval forest Ålhults urskog large, mature coniferous trees form a colonnade above the thick cover of moss on the ground. New saplings grow in the gaps among fallen, decaying trees. This peaceful environment is also teeming with different forms of life.

SEE AND DO

When you walk in Ålhults urskog, you almost expect to see one of the artist John Bauer's trolls squatting behind the mossy rocks and boulders. In June to July one-flowered wintergreen blooms on the shady, mossy ground, with a scented white flower.

Look for birds! The abundance of insects in the forest attracts mainly woodpeckers, such as black woodpecker, great and lesser spotted woodpecker, and green woodpecker. With luck, you will also encounter capercaillie and hazel grouse in the area.

GOOD TO KNOW

From the parking area, there is a marked footpath to the nature reserve.

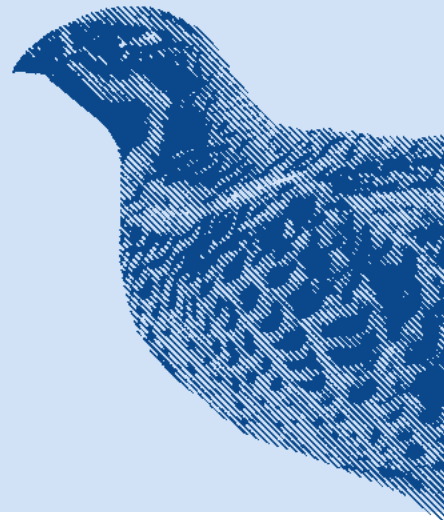
Remember to keep your dog on a leash. It is not permitted to light fires in the reserve.

PRIMEVAL FOREST TREASURES

Ålhults urskog is rich in different species of mosses, lichens, and fungi. The abundance of dead wood and fungi attracts insects, and several rare species have been observed in the reserve. The forest is home to a large number of beetle species, including the endangered round fungus beetle *Liodopria serricornis*.

Grouse

Capercaillie and hazel grouse are forest-living birds and heavily built like other Galliformes, such as chickens. Capercaillie feeds on, for example, bilberries, while hazel grouse nibbles on tree buds.



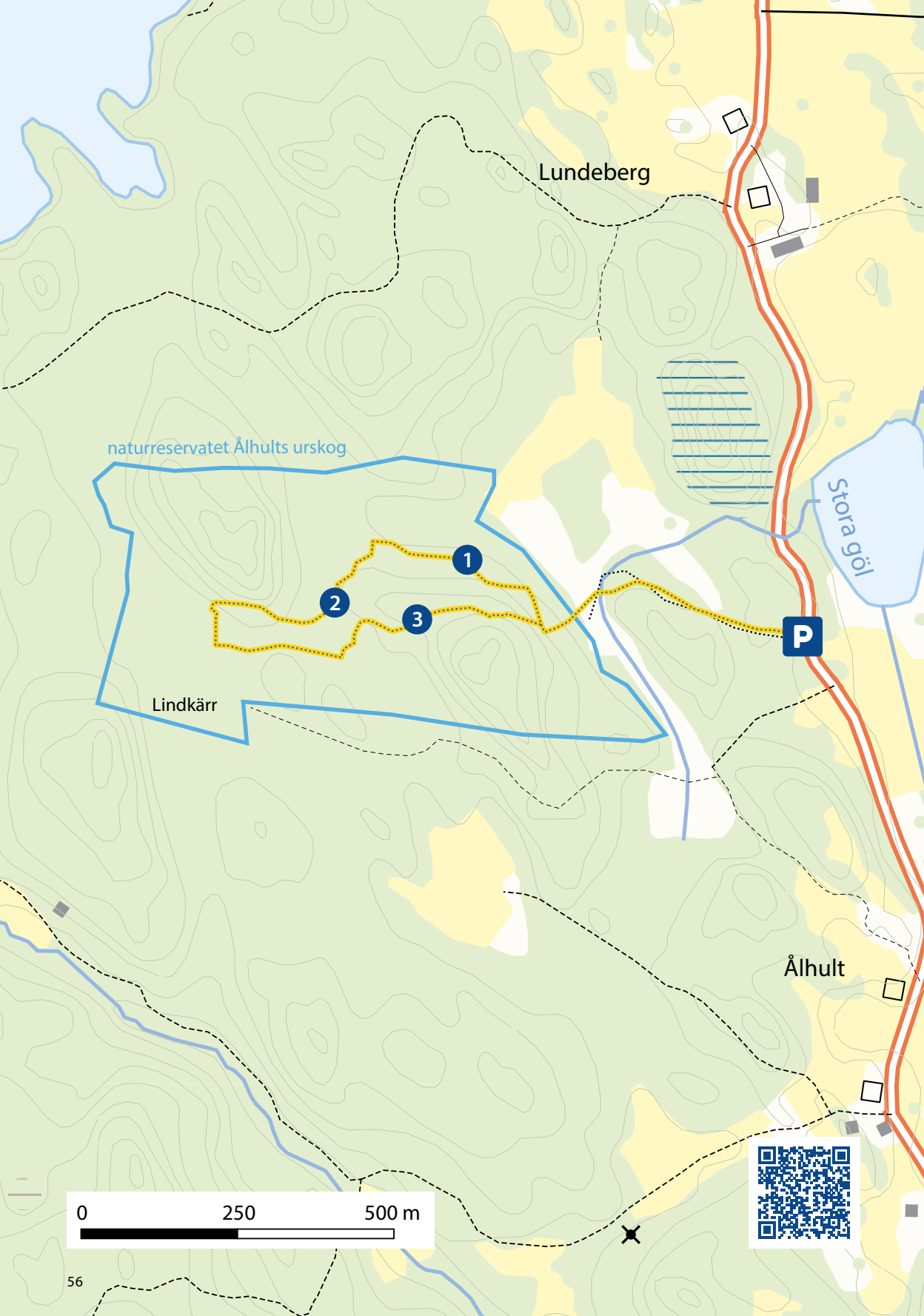
Getting here

The nature reserve is located north of Ålhult.

CAR Turn off towards Hallingeberg in Blackstad. After around 500 metres, turn left on a road signposted Möckelhult. Follow this road for almost 1 kilometre, and turn left again towards Möckelhult. After around 6 kilometres, the parking area for the nature reserve is on the right side of the road.







Lundeberg

naturreservatet Ålhults urskog

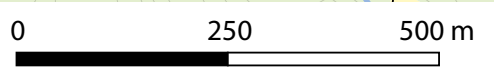
Stora göl

1
2
3

P

Lindkärr

Ålhult



Discover Ålhults urskog

1 GO ON AN ADVENTURE WALK

Let the children lead on the path that runs through hilly terrain in the dramatic old-growth forest!

2 MARVEL OVER THE DIVERSITY OF MOSSES & LICHENS

Here you can study the great variety of mosses, including blunt feather-moss, flat neckera moss, Heller's notchwort, rustwort, and green shield-moss. An abundance of beard and horsehair lichens hang from the trees.

3 SPOT FOREST BIRDS

Look for birds that thrive in the coniferous forest, including crested tit, coal tit, sparrow, capercaillie, and number of woodpeckers.



Crested tit is one of the birds you find in the coniferous forest.



Narrow-gauge railway Västervik–Hultsfred– Virserum

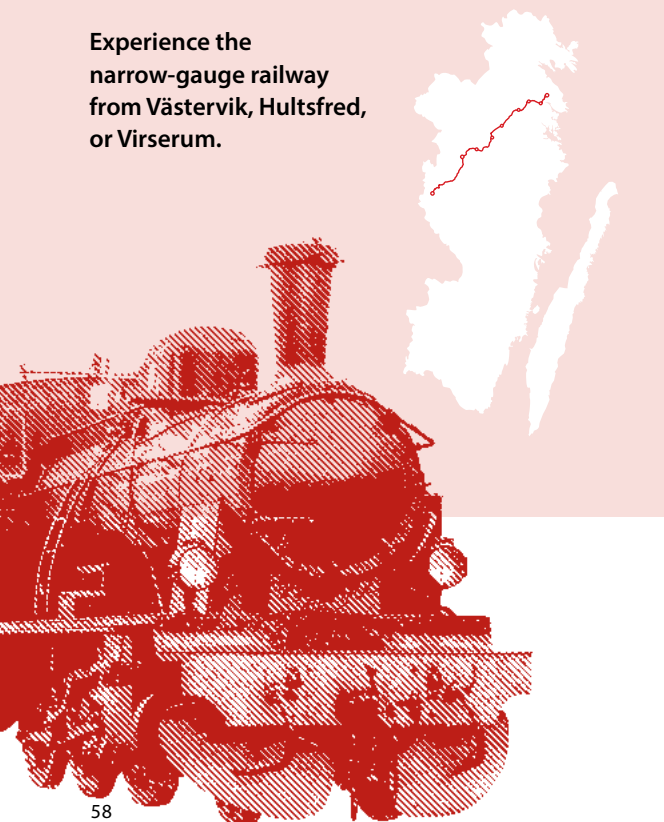


RAILWAY | VÄSTERVIK, VIMMERBY, AND HULTSFRED
MUNICIPALITIES | SMÅLAND

The line between Västervik and Virserum was the first railway in Sweden to be declared a listed building. Here you can travel back in time with train, railbus, or draisine.

Getting here

Experience the narrow-gauge railway from Västervik, Hultsfred, or Virserum.



CENTURY-LONG RAILWAY ERA

The Växjö–Västervik line is part of the extensive narrow-gauge railway network that was built on a private initiative in Småland and Östergötland. Along the line were many industries, for example the large works in Gunnebo and Ankarsrum. Initially the railway was mostly used for freight, but as travel increased, passenger traffic grew.

With time the merger of different private companies led to the establishment of the first narrow-gauge railway company in Sweden – the Norsholm–Västervik–Hultsfred railways. Following a decision in the Riksdag, Swedish State Railways took over almost all narrow-gauge railways in the country in the 1940s and 50s.

Increased motoring and other changes in society in the 1960s led to the closure of many unprofitable railways. The Växjö–Västervik line survived the huge wave of closures. For many years it was the only narrow-gauge line run by Swedish State Railways that operated passenger traffic. But in 1984 this era also came to an end.



The railbus goes across the bridge over the river.



Hultsfred's magnificent railway station from 1875.



Hultsfred

Vena

Tuna

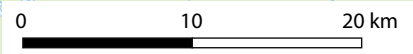
Totebo

Ankarsrum

Färhult

Verkeback

Västervik





Engine shed at the railway station in Västervik.

LIVING MUSEUM

When Swedish State Railways closed traffic against huge local protests, intensive work started to save the railway line for posterity. Activities on the narrow-gauge railway are today run by volunteers.

VISIT

During summer trains, railbuses, and draisines roll along different sections through the scenic countryside. Enjoy grand station environments where time has stopped and platelayer cottages nestle in the landscape.

READ MORE ABOUT THE DESTINATION:

Rail traffic Västervik–Hultsfred, [Tjust-bygdens Järnvägsföreningen website](#).
Draisine traffic Hultsfred–Virserum, [Föreningen Smalspåret Växjö–Västervik website](#).

Misterhults skärgård



NATURE RESERVE | OSKARSHAMN MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

In Misterhults norra skärgård Nature Reserve, you encounter a wild archipelago landscape. Go ashore on an uninhabited island, walk through genuine fishing villages, birdwatch, or simply enjoy the seascape.

SEE AND DO

Misterhults skärgård offers boating, paddling, swimming, and fishing along with walking, birdwatching, and nature experiences, on condition that you show consideration. Here you find clear traces of the inland ice by way of glacial striations, giant's kettles, and beautifully polished round roches moutonnées.

GOOD TO KNOW

There are walking trails on the islands of Örö and Strupö. Privies are available on Örö, Brändö, Älö, Stora Vippholmen, and Istergås. Remember to keep your dog on a leash.

To protect wildlife it is forbidden to remain closer than 100 metres from some islands and skerries in the nature reserve during the times of year when animals have their young. Note that the dates vary from island to island. The periods with forbidden access are 1 April to 10 July, 1 April to 31 July, and 1 January to 15 September. Information boards show where and when restrictions apply.

AMONG BIRDS & SEALS

The archipelago has a fascinating and species-rich birdlife. The seal population has recovered in later years. A number of areas in Misterhults skärgård are bird sanctuaries, and just north of the nature reserve is a large seal sanctuary. You may not go ashore or remain closer than 100 metres from the islands in the nature reserve during the periods of restricted access. The purpose is to protect breeding birds and seals with pups.



Piloting – escorting in rowing boat

Under the Royal Pilot Administration, the pilot at Strupö escorted north-going traffic from Kråkelund to Idö, while the Örö pilots took care of south-going traffic to Kråkelund. During the summer months monitoring required much the pilot's waking life. Watch was kept in six-hour shifts; night and day. The pilots were also responsible for bringing in, maintaining, and setting out navigation buoys and markers.

The actual pilotage could be drawn-out and dramatic. It is said that one pilot mission ended in northern Germany, due to bad weather.

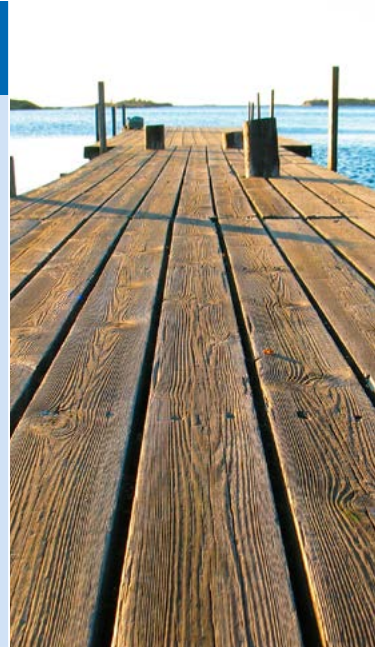


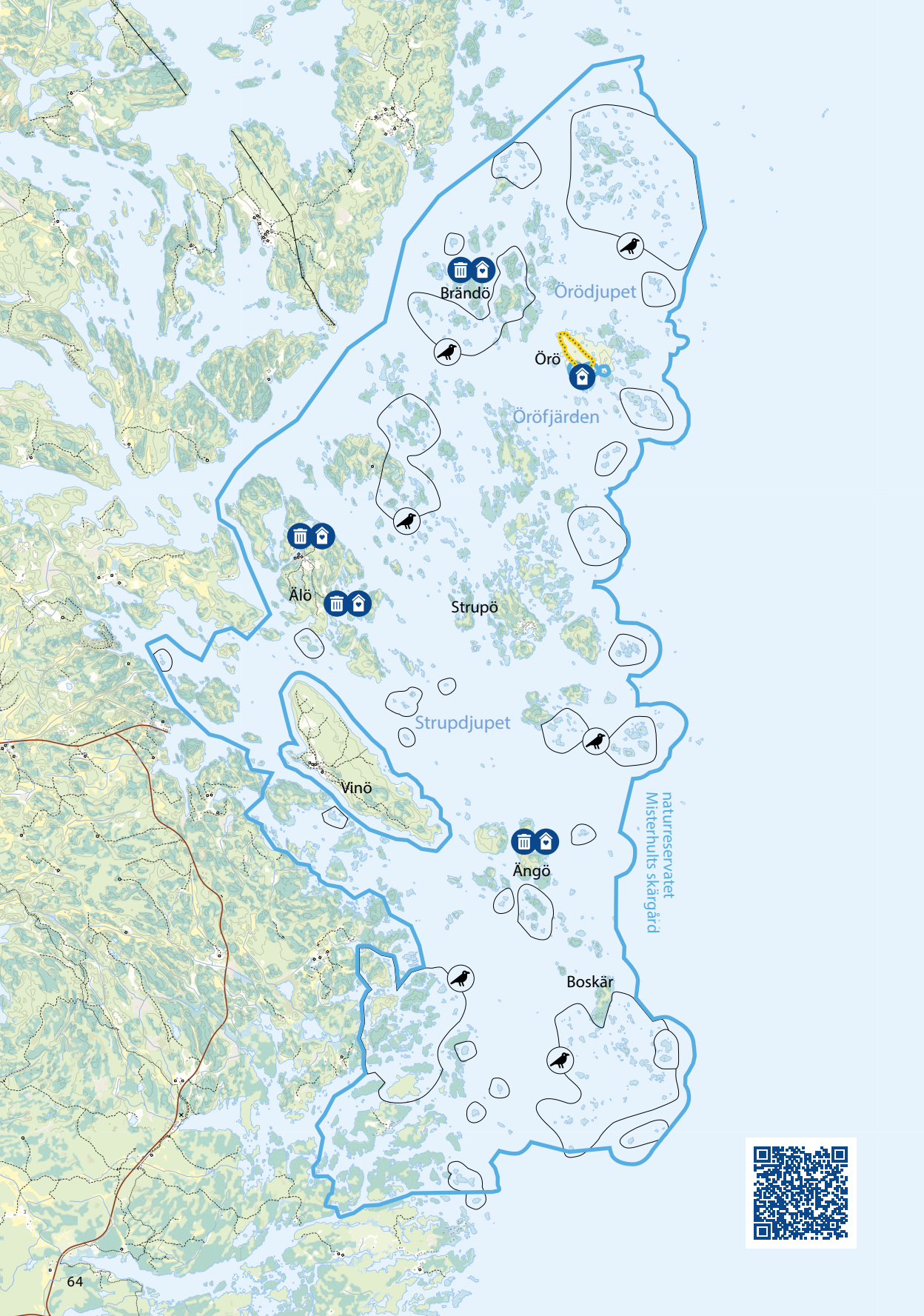
📍 Getting here

The nature reserve stretches from just south of Blankaholm to just north of Oskarshamn's nuclear power plant in Simpevarp. It can only be reached by boat.

BOAT The most accessible harbours are in Klintemåla and Kråkemåla. The largest harbour is Klintemåla; from the E22 turn east to Misterhult. There are currently no regular boat services in Misterhults norra skärgård.

Even on the inhabited islands you are welcome to go ashore with your own boat. Always ask where you can moor without disturbing other traffic.





naturreservatet
Misterhults skärgård



Discover Misterhults skärgård

1 ÖRÖ

Above the boatsheds and jetties in the fishing harbour, Örö village stretches out with strong stone walls dividing the properties. Huge chestnut trees grow in many gardens. Flower-rich haymeadows are cut with traditional methods by the village community.

There is a walking trail on Örö. The oak woodlands on the island stand out in the pine-dominated archipelago. More than 400 species of vascular plants are found here – a haven for botanist.

2 STRUPÖ

Strupö, with an unusually well-protected natural harbour, is a popular destination for canoeists. Strupö village has been located here since the island became inhabited. Most of the farms are from the late 1800s.

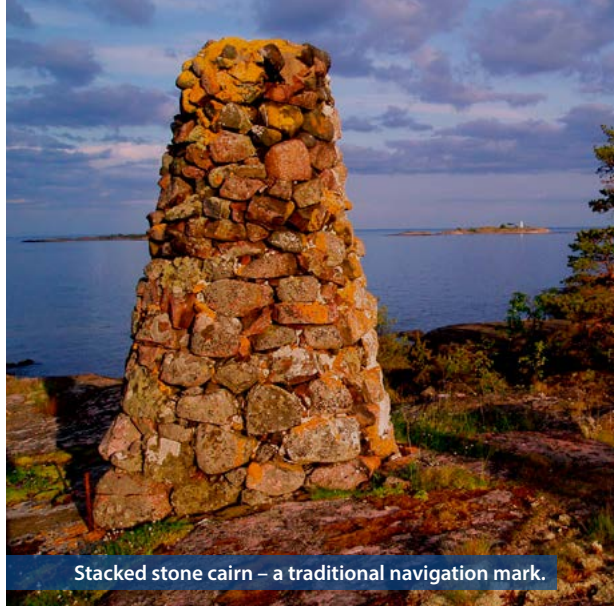
Between 1666 and 1933 there was a pilot station here. A nature trail takes you around the island and up to where the pilot lookout was.

3 ÄLÖ

On the island of Älö with its steep rocky hills, the highest point is 24 metres above sea level. The south-eastern part of Snuggö has grove-like vegetation; such areas are quite rare in the archipelago. Sweet woodruff, red campion, broadleaved sermountain, greater tussock-sedge, black pea, wood melick, and coralroot grow here.

4 MARSÖ

The island of Marsö is a lovely destination with a fishing hamlet, old haymeadows, and traces of past archipelago farming. Kuggen opposite provides a nice view with lichen-clad flat rocks, fens, and pools with water lilies.



Stacked stone cairn – a traditional navigation mark.



Västra Marströmmen & Mörtfors



NATURE RESERVES | OSKARSHAMN AND VÄSTERVIK
MUNICIPALITIES | SMÅLAND

The nature reserves are located on either side of the idyllic Mörtfors village. They are characterised by great altitude differences, with tall rocky outcrops that turn into forested slopes and valleys in different directions. Here you can walk through forests that are several hundred years old and see traces of the time when crofters, log-drivers, and foundry workers lived here.

SEE AND DO

Västra Marströmmen Nature Reserve offers fine nature experiences and wide views from tall mountain ridges, where burial cairns were constructed in the Bronze Age.

Both the Tjustleden and Ostkustleden trails go through Mörtfors Nature Reserve. On top of a rock is a hill fort, and from here you have amazing views across the lake and endless forests. Within the area you also find traces, such as slag and building foundations, from an old copper works.

Very old oaks grow in both reserves.

GOOD TO KNOW

There are rest areas and picnic tables. Next to the nature reserve at Kappemåla is a beach. You may camp, moor, or anchor boats for a maximum of 24 hours in the same place. It is not permitted to light fires other than in designated places or using your own grills or camping stoves.

OLD FOREST SPECIES

The nature reserves are home to a range of rare fungi, lichens, and mosses associated with old forest. In Mörtfors you find, for example, bearded tooth fungus, and in Västra Marströmmen the bracket fungi oak polypore and *Phellinidium ferrugineofuscum* appear.

Cauliflower fungus grows at the base of very old pines. Spiral-spored gilded-head pin lichen as well as the lichens *Cliostomum corrugatum* and *Lecanographa amylacea* grow on the split, rough bark of thick oaks. Mountain moss, crisped neckera, and Micheli's least pouncewort all signal forest with high natural values.

Other species that we need to care extra about here include the hermit beetle and *Nothorhina punctata* beetle, beefsteak fungus and the *Aleurodiscus disciformis* fungus as well as lesser spotted woodpecker.



Mörtfors

The well-kept small Mörtfors village is located in a scenic valley on both sides of the river Marströmmen. Copper works, mills, and other industries were once powered by the rapids.

Mörtfors was also an important spa; many people came here to be close to nature with clean air and clear water. An old guesthouse and a fairground remain from this time.



Beefsteak fungus grows on old oaks.

Valuable waters

The lakes and watercourses in the reserves are also valuable natural assets. So-called glacial relicts live in Lake Stora Ramm, which is 31 metres deep. One of them is the amphipoda *Gammaracanthus lacustris*, which has only been found in around 20 lakes in Sweden.

Glacial relicts are species that lived in the sea which covered large parts of Sweden during the melting of the inland ice. As the sea retreated, these animals remained, especially in cold, deep lakes.

Getting here

The nature reserves are located between Västervik and Oskarshamn.



CAR

Västra Marströmmen:

Parking is available at the rest area Bayerhof along the E22. A short footpath to Västra Marströmmen starts here.

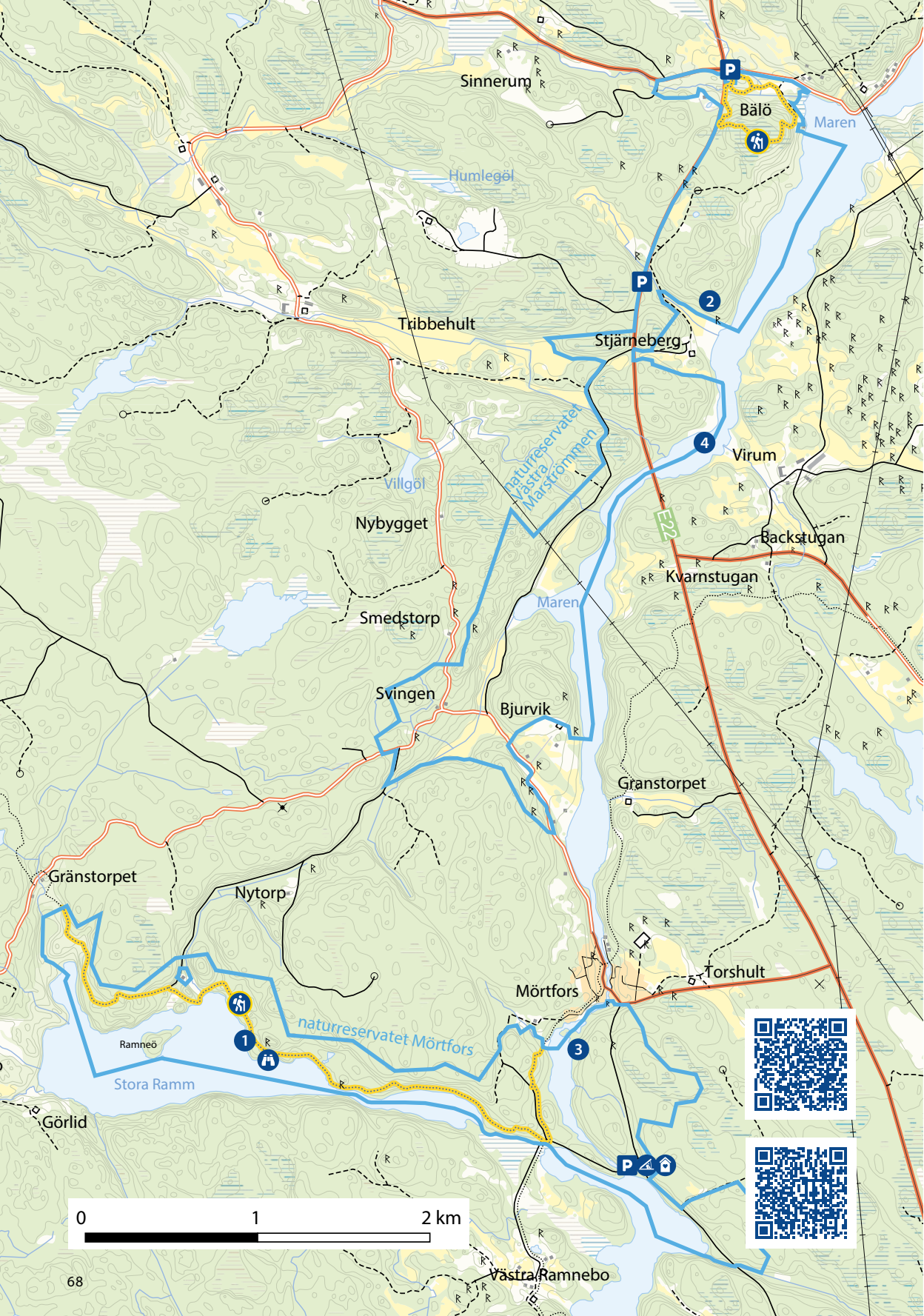
Mörtfors:

From the E22, turn towards Mörtfors. In the tight corner at the start of the village, turn left towards Ramsnäs. You'll find a parking area and wind shelter at the next crossroads.

ON FOOT

You can also reach Mörtfors Nature Reserve on foot via the Ostkustleden and Tjustleden trails.





0 1 2 km

Discover Marströmmen & Mörtfors

1 HILL FORT

Rock with hill fort offers great views of the surroundings.

2 BURIAL CAIRNS

Several burial cairns are located on the hill with the lookout point. They are believed to be from the Bronze Age, i.e. at least 2,500 years old.

3 OLD TREE GIANTS

The oldest oaks in Mörtfors could be up to 600 years old! No wonder they are thick and decayed. Fungi and various small insects living in the oaks over the years have hastened their ageing.

Did you know that hollow trees withstand storms better than solid ones?

4 MARSTRÖMMEN – FROM TIMBER FLOATING TO FISHING IDYLL

Every year the stretch of water between Solstadström and Mörtfors attracts hundreds of recreational fishers hoping to catch a sea trout.

In the past Marströmmen was used to float timber, from Lake Slissjön via Ölvedal, Lilla Ramm, Mörtfors ström, and Maren into Solstadström. The timber was transported to saw mills and paper mills along the coast.



Björnnäset



NATURE RESERVE | HULTSFRED MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Björnnäset Nature Reserve is located on an isthmus in Lake Åkebosjön. The mature pine forest stands on softly lichen-clad boulders and ridges. Occasionally the forest opens up with a marsh or a bog creating bright glades.

Nearby

Stensryd

On the other side of Lake Åkebosjön you find Stensryd Nature Reserve, which consists of a mosaic of forests and mires with pine bogs, open nutrient-poor fens, and swamp woods. In the wetland and swamp woods you find plants such as slender sedge, tussock cotton grass, Labrador tea, bog-rosemary, bog arum, and dwarf birch.

Controlled burning

Prescribed burning helps species that would otherwise disappear, as natural forest fires are normally put out. In Sweden forest fires have occurred since time immemorial, and species that live there have adapted to burning. Moreover, some insects, fungi, and plants are completely dependent on burnt forest for their survival. Three-toed woodpecker and many other birds eat larvae and insects that live in burnt trees. Seeds from *Geranium lanuginosum* and *Geranium bohemicum* need to be heated up by fire in order to germinate.

SEE AND DO

It is silent and peaceful in the forest; this is a haven for both animals and people. Walking among the boulders covered in reindeer lichen fires the imagination. The silvery dead pines and gnarled old trees contribute to the fairy tale image. Tune into the feeling of wild and untouched nature.

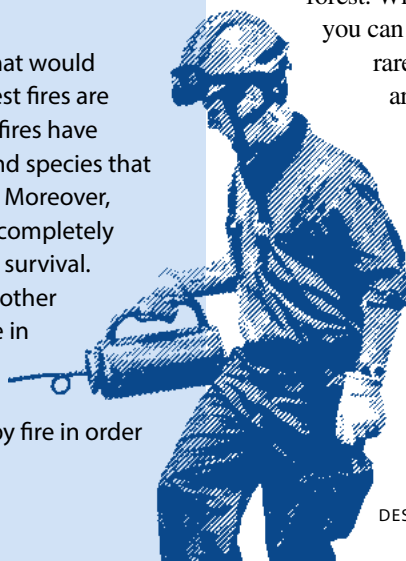
The type of old pine forest we see here today is uncommon in this part of Sweden. The trees are between 100 and 150 years old, and some pines are even older. In the nature reserve you can also see traces of a croft, a mill, and possibly a fish ladder, showing that the watercourses in the forest were once used.

GOOD TO KNOW

There are two walking trails in the area; a shorter route and a longer one which makes a figure of eight. Adjacent to the nature reserve is a campsite. Remember to keep your dog on a leash when walking in the reserve. It is not permitted to disturb wildlife by climbing in nesting trees or deliberately remain closer than 100 metres from bird of prey nests, lairs, or dens. You may only light fires in designated places.

CAPERCAILLIE AS A SIGN

Sweden's biggest grouse, capercaillie, is also closely linked to large, old areas of forest. Where there is capercaillie, you can also expect to find other rare and endangered species around. In the nature reserve you may encounter both capercaillie and black grouse, and the area is also important for several species of woodpeckers. This includes large black woodpecker, which can sometimes be seen digging out carpenter ants at the foot of an old pine.





📍 Getting here

The nature reserve is located on an isthmus in Lake Åkebosjön.

CAR From Road 34 to Hultsfred, turn to Hammarsebo and Åkebo. The road goes between the lakes Lilla Åkebosjön and Åkebosjön, and after passing the turning for Äntsebo, drive south to a T-junction, where you keep left. Soon you pass a beach, and after 300 metres there is a parking area on the left.

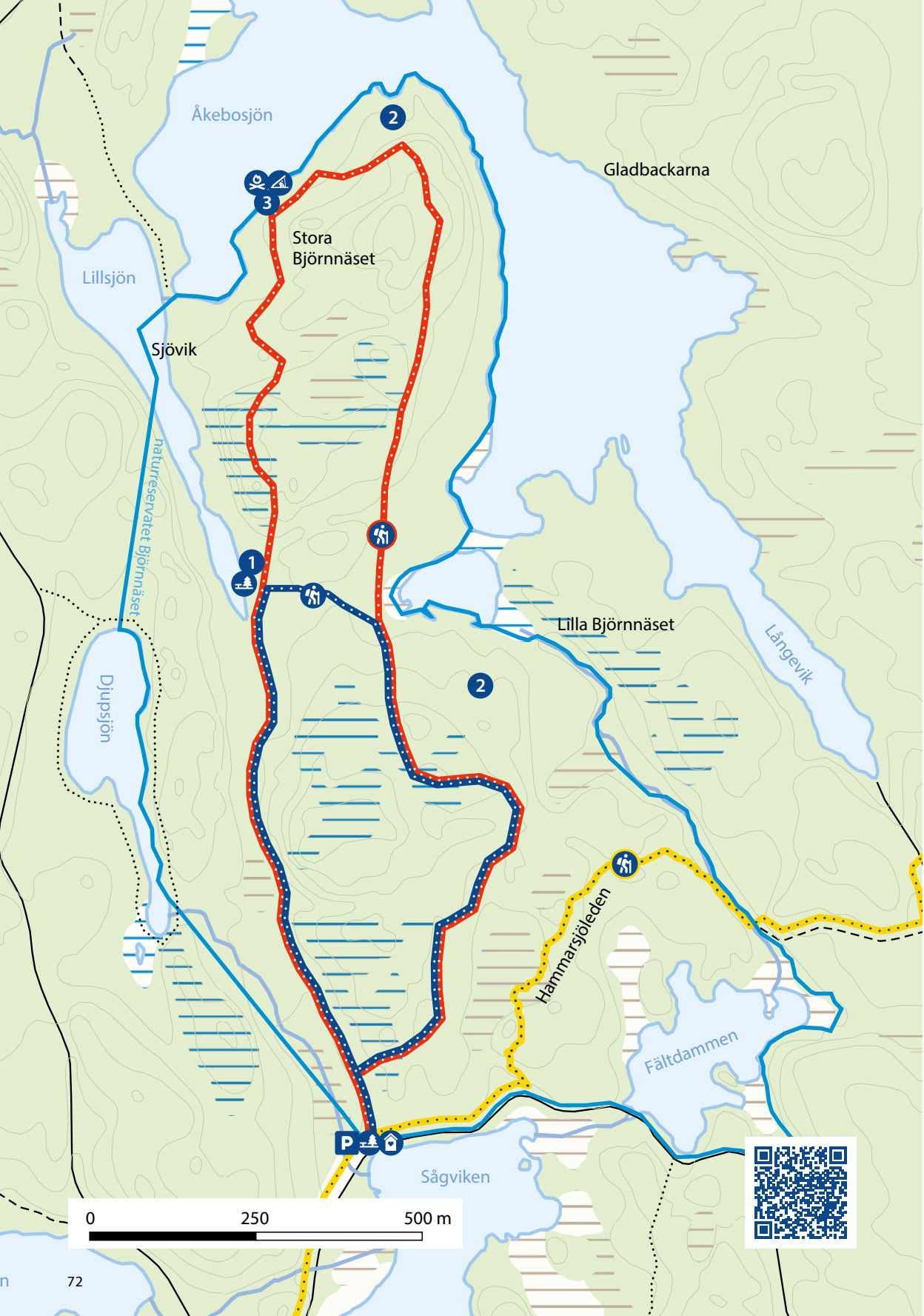


Goldcrest, Europe's smallest bird.



The slime mould wolf's milk on decaying birch wood.





Åkebosjön

Gladbackarna

Lillsjön

Stora
Björnåset

Sjövik

naturreservatet
Björnåset

Djupsjön

Lilla Björnåset

Långevik

Fältdammen

Hammarstöleden

Sägvisen

0 250 500 m



Discover Björnnäset

1 SJÖVIK CROFT

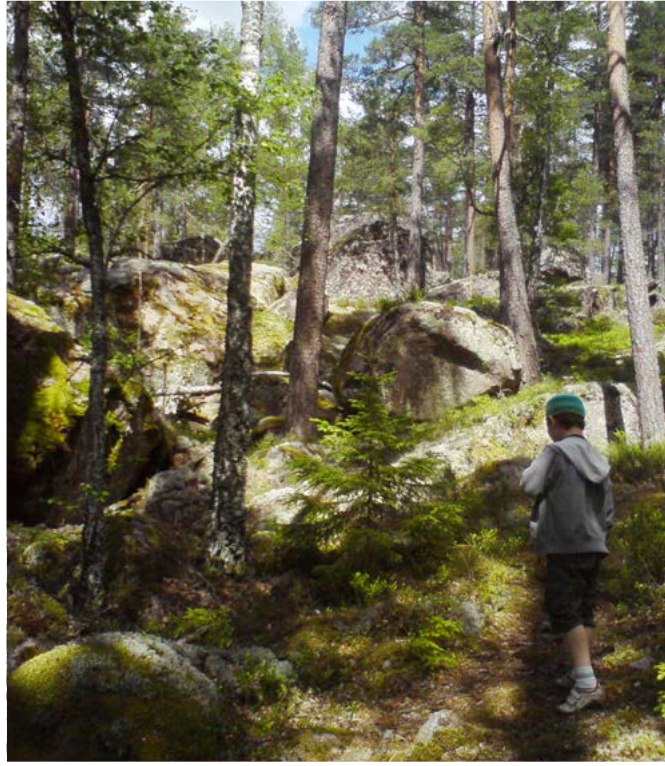
If you have packed something to eat and drink, this is a nice place to stop for a rest. Here is also a small display cabinet where you can see different lichens and learn their names.

2 PRESCRIBED BURN AREAS

Here you can study the effects of controlled burning. It's exciting to follow all the new species that move in.

3 FIREPLACE BY LAKE ÅKEBOSJÖN

By Lake Åkebosjön is a wind shelter and fireplace – a magic spot to spend time together on a summer evening!



Visit a hill fort



BLAXHULT FORNBORG

HILL FORT | HULTSFRED MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Make an outing into the Iron Age. Blaxhult, also known as Borgekulle, is one of around 60 hill forts in northern Kalmar County. They are located on hills and cliffs that were easy to defend, often close to the coast, lakes, or watercourses. Waterways played an important role at this time as there were hardly any solid land routes.

There are different theories as to why hill forts were built. From the hill you could survey the surroundings. But the purpose of building a hill fort could also have been to demonstrate power.

Graves are found in the vicinity of the hill fort, including a so-called cist. Enjoy the beautiful views from the top of Borgekulle!



“Wonderful view from the top of Borgekulle”

Good to know

The hill fort Blaxhult fornborg is located on the Borgekulle hill and is reached via steep paths. Keep an eye on small children. There is a marked 2-kilometre circular route, which goes partly through pastures. Do not bring dogs when animal are grazing there. Lighting fires and littering is not permitted.



Getting here

The hill fort is located east of Vena in Hultsfred Municipality, east of Blaxhult village.

CAR From the road between Kristdala and Vena, follow the small blue and white signs marked “Fornborg”. The last section is on a small dirt road. There is only room for a couple of cars to park here.



RINGHULTS BORG

MEDIEVAL MANOR FARM | HÖGSBY MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Experience medieval history by the stream in the idyllic Ringhult village. Ringhults borg is the remains of a fortified manor farm. Around 700 years ago there was a farm here called Ringvidahult on a hill surrounded by a water-filled moat. You can still find water here after a heavy rain. Archaeological finds of burned birch bark indicate that the manor farm was destroyed by fire.

Knight of the Lejonansikte family

Medieval documents show that in the 1340s Ringvidahult was the main farm of Johan Hemmingsson. He was a knight of the Lejonansikte family, which at the time was the biggest landowner in East Småland. Knight Johan was married to Ingeborg Anundsdotter of the Ving family. It is believed that they both died in Ringhult during the Black Death, and it is said that they had brought the plague with them to the area

Good to know

Don't bring dogs here when animals graze the area. Lighting fires and littering is not permitted.



Tips on similar destinations

Rostockaholme & Bielkeleden

On Rostockaholme you find the remains of a medieval seat farm, see page 146.



📍 Getting here

Ringhults borg is located in Ringhult village, north-east of Fagerhult in Högsby Municipality.

CAR Drive along Road 37 to Fagerhult. Here carry straight on past the church, and follow the signs for Ringhult, around 5.5 kilometres. There is a designated parking area on the grass for a few cars. From here a path goes to the ancient monument, where there is an information board.



The moat of the medieval manor farm.

Lunden



NATURE RESERVE | HULTSFRED MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

In the centre of the unique Emådalen valley on the northern shore of the river Emån, a tall and beautiful esker rises as a reminder of the days of the inland ice. On top of the ridge is an ancient agricultural landscape with flower-rich haymeadows and old pasture trees.

SEE AND DO

Stroll across grassland with birch, juniper, hazel, and small-leaved lime. The ground vegetation is species-rich as a result of haymaking and grazing over generations. Below the esker, which was formed in the Ice Age, is the meandering river Emån. In spring you can listen to the chorus of Lunden's rich birdlife. Wryneck, lesser spotted woodpecker, linnets, woodlark, long-tailed tit, and green sandpiper have all been observed here. Already in April pasqueflowers bloom along the ridge.

GOOD TO KNOW

On the ridge along the footpath is a picnic area. Remember to keep your dog on a leash when walking in the nature reserve. Camping and lighting fires is not permitted.

Nearby

Fröreda storegård

In a genuine farming village environment in the Emådalen valley you find the farm complex Fröreda Storegård with so-called twin-cottages, see page 96.



Pasqueflower.

Getting here

The nature reserve is located in the Emådalen valley.

CAR Lunden Nature Reserve is located near Östra Årena village between Målilla and Järnforsen, around 5 kilometres from Målilla. Signposted from Road 127.



On historic ground in the scenic Emådalen valley

Ever since the Stone Age the abundance of fish in the river Emån has fed people. And more than 2,000 years ago farmers started harvesting fodder for their animals on the floodplain meadows along the river. The seasonally flooded meadows that remain today are a haven for birdlife. The many large villages are a testimony to a rich agricultural district with roots in the Iron Age – along the valley are a number of grave fields.

The rapids and falls in the river Emån have been used to power mills and small industries. In the 20th century many rafters risked their lives when floating timber through the dangerous currents!

The King's Road, a historic route between Kalmar and Stockholm, went through the Emådalen valley. At the Högsbyåsen ridge the national highway still follows the old route with fine views across the river Emån.

You can experience the valley landscape with genuine village environments, old bridges, and medieval churches by driving, cycling, or walking on small roads.



Småland's blue ribbon

The river Emån is called Småland's blue ribbon and runs from its highland source to the estuary at Em. It is the largest watercourse in south-eastern Sweden and the most species-rich in the country.

Here you find, for example, the world's biggest sea trout, the endangered wels catfish, stationary brown trout, otter, and freshwater pearl mussel. The shimmering blue kingfisher builds its nest in the sandy banks.



2

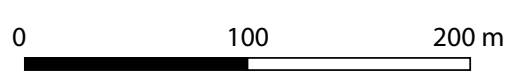
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4



Discover Lunden

1 WALK WITH A VIEW

On top of the esker is a gentle path. From here you have a view of Västra Årena, the dramatic precipice, and fields on the other side of the road.

2 OLD OAKS

The large, mature oaks here are home to a rich insect life.

3 KETTLE LAKE

The ridge ends in two large hills which enclose a so-called kettle lake, formed by the inland ice. According to legend, the rebel leader Nils Dacke's men dug this hole during a battle to find water for their horses.

4 EMÅN'S MEANDERS

At Lunden Nature Reserve, the river Emån winds and curls like a beautiful snake. Such loops in a riverbed in a flat landscape are called meanders, and they are created by erosion and sedimentation. The outside of a meander is a cut bank and the area surrounded by a meander loop is known as a point bar.



Use this stile to climb over the fence.



Figeholm



NATURE RESERVE | OSKARSHAMN MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

The nature reserve is adjacent to Figeholm village. The terrain is gently rolling and rich in boulders and rocks. Here you see traces of a long tradition of grazing, haymaking, and leaf-cutting – so-called pollarding. Other cultural-historical features include the remains of a dance floor, present-day building foundations and traces of damming in watercourses.

SEE AND DO

Ramble through pastures and forests, and enjoy a varied landscape with a diverse flora and fauna. The pastures and meadows that have been grazed and cut during different eras are particularly valuable habitats. The old trees are also vital as a large number of species are linked to them.

Nearby

Virbo med Ekö skärgård

The beautiful Virbo med Ekö skärgård Nature Reserve is located south of Figeholm. It is easiest reached by boat. Parking is available just before the village Drag.

Closest to Figeholm, the woodland is dominated by broadleaved deciduous trees, and the ground here has now been grazed for a few years. Further away from the village the forest is coniferous. Moist spruce forest grows in depressions. On the dry elevations and rocky outcrops the forest contains more pine and oak. The dead wood, both standing and fallen trunks, play a vital role for the diversity of insects, fungi, mosses, and lichens.

GOOD TO KNOW

The Ostkustleden Trail passes through the nature reserve. Lighting fires within the reserve is not permitted. Remember to keep dogs on a leash.

OUTLYING LANDS

Historically, the area has served as outlying lands for the villages around the parish of Figeholm. These were areas located away from the farm, where the animals could graze in summer. The outlying lands also provided wood and timber.

As the population increased in the 18th century, it became necessary to clear areas for fields and meadows. Work to free land for haymeadows and cultivation carried on into the 20th century. Traces such as clearance cairns, roads, and ditches show how generations of farmers have toiled to grow their crops.

During the second half of the 20th century much of the land has become overgrown as haymaking and grazing has ceased.

Green shield-moss

Green shield-moss grows in forests with an abundance of dead wood and high, even humidity. Look on stumps and fallen trunks of spruce – but do not disturb the moss. Green shield-moss has invisible leaves and is recognised by its spore capsule at the end of a long stalk.



📍 Getting here

The nature reserve is located next to Figeholm village.

Paths leading into the nature reserve start from several locations, including the river Norrån and the road Fighultsvägen.

CAR By the road between Fårbo and Klintemåla is a parking area for visitors.



Willow warbler.



Släthult

naturreservat Figeholm

2

Högskulla

Stora Fighult

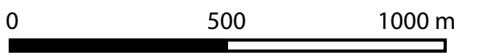
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Eriksmåla

Figeholm

Lilla Fighult



Discover Figeholm

1 KYRKGÄRDET

The name Kyrkgärdet (Church meadow) comes from the fact that the road to the church in Misterhult goes through the pasture. A number of small farm fields and the many clearance cairns demonstrate how the land was used for cultivation and haymaking.

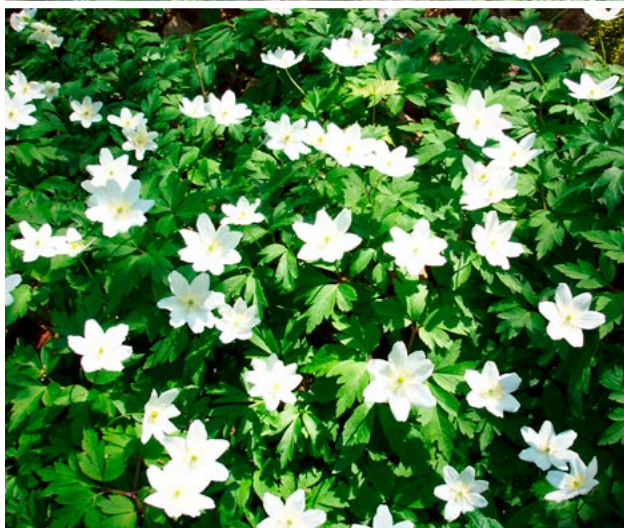
Many of the large, mature small-leaved limes, maples, and ashes in the nature reserve were pollarded to supply winter fodder for livestock. Read more about pollarding and the Småland agricultural landscape on page 123.

Kyrkgärdet has recently been restored, and animals are again grazing the pasture. In the river Norrån, which runs through the reserve, are traces of a millpond.

2 SLÄTHULTSSLINGAN CIRCULAR ROUTE

From the Ostkustleden Trail, there is a 4-kilometre circular route which winds along narrow roads and paths in the hilly terrain.

The area is dominated by coniferous trees, but there are also many deciduous trees, especially in the many wetlands between the hills. Many of the wet areas bear traces of cultivation and haymaking.



Stensjö village



CULTURAL RESERVE | OSKARSHAMN MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

In 2020 Stensjö village, which has long been a popular place to visit, became the first cultural reserve in Kalmar County. A cluster of red-painted buildings, small fields, extensive pastures, flowering verges, and large systems of wooden fences. Here you have a living picture of life in a forest hamlet in Småland at the turn of the 19th century.



Wet meadow cut with a scythe.

SEE AND DO

Stensjö village Cultural Reserve is a living landscape with a rich biodiversity heritage, including pollarded trees and species-rich grasslands.

Several scenes from Astrid Lindgren's film "The Children of Noisy Village" were shot in the village, on surrounding roads, and by Lake Ståringen.

In and around the village you see chickens, pigs, and grazing sheep and cows. Some buildings, and a small exhibition of the settlement's history, are open to visitors. Enjoy the beautiful surroundings, walk around and experience the different seasons. Visitors are welcome all year round.

GOOD TO KNOW

There are gravel roads and paths through the terrain. For prams and wheelchairs the roads are the best option. Buildings with a key symbol are open to visitors.

Walking trails in the cultural reserve:

- Viråslingan Circular Route (1.3 kilometres)
- Lomgölsslingan Circular Route (1.4 kilometres)
- Ängsslingan Circular Route (1.4 kilometres)
- Skogsslingan Circular Route (2.9 kilometres)
- Madsslingan Circular Route (1.8 kilometres)
- Mörkeviksslingan Circular Route (1.3 kilometres)

The Ostkustleden Trail also passes through the village.

There is a public beach at Lake Ståringen.

Read more about the cultural reserve on [the website of Kungliga Vitterhetsakademien](#), the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History, and Antiquities.

AGRICULTURAL FOREST VILLAGE

Stensjö was originally the name of a farm, first recorded in 1351.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the farm grew into a village. The landscape is a result of generations of work, clearing stone, growing crops and haymaking. Livestock have also left their mark by grazing the extensive pastures.

Stensjö village Cultural Reserve includes more than 400 hectares of forest. A hundred years ago this was the village's outlying land, used for grazing and the collection of wood and timber for fences and buildings. Today work is under way to restore the landscape to its former state. Four people now work here with the cultivation and protection of land, buildings, and animals.



📍 Getting here

Stensjö village Cultural Reserve is located 10 kilometres north of Oskarshamn.

CAR Take the signposted exit from the E22 (brown/white sign). Parking area in the village.

BUS Route 160 Västervik-Oskarshamn-Kalmar, get off at the Ängelstorp stop. From there it is a 2-kilometre walk. For time-tables consult Kalmar länstrafik.



Virån

The river Virån played an important part in the village. The inhabitants fished here, and the watercourse was also used to power mills and a sawmill.

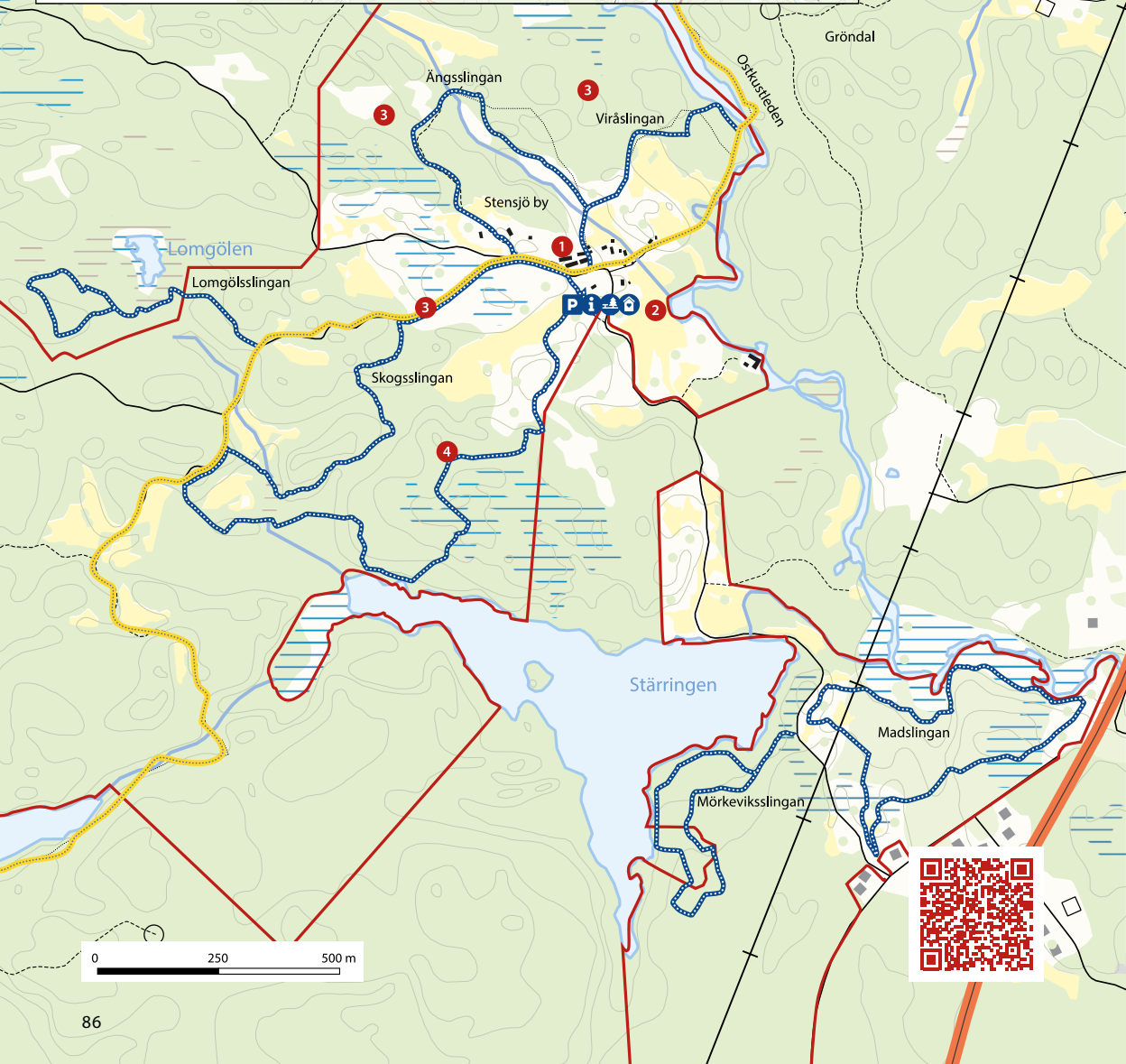
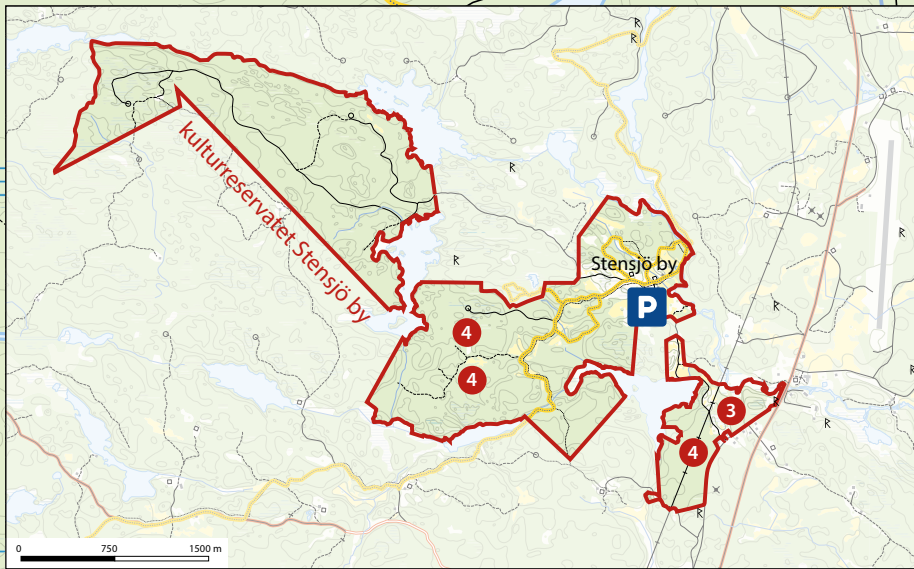
Winter fodder for the animals was cut on the extensive wet meadows by the river. When the river overflowed in the spring, much of the floodwater was directed through the wetlands east of the village. This waterflow created the wet meadows that form a belt through the village.



Cow of the Swedish Red Polled breed.



Stacking the hay.





Discover Stensjö village

1 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT & LOCAL HISTORY EXHIBITION

In Stensjö, farmhouses and barns are gathered in the village in a pattern typical of this part of Sweden before the 19th century land reform. The gardens are now being restored to how they were at the turn of the century. Vegetables and potatoes are grown in the kitchen gardens. Fruit trees, berry bushes, and ornamental plants typical of their time are planted around the buildings, and the lawns are cut with scythes.

The old barn is open all year round, and here you can learn more about the history of the village.

2 HEMÄNGEN

If you visit Stensjö in winter or early spring, you often see the entire Hemängen meadow flooded. It may remind you of the mischievous games on Skomakrängen meadows in the film “The Children of Noisy Village”.

3 EXTENSIVE PASTURES

There are now 65 hectares of pasture land, mainly to the west of the village. Rya sheep and cows of the endangered breed Swedish Red Polled cattle graze here.

4 OLD OUTLYING LANDS

Beef cattle graze in the forest, just like they did a hundred years ago. You can also see traces of how people used the outlying lands then.

Humlenäs



NATURE RESERVE | OSKARSHAMN MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

In Humlenäs Nature Reserve by Lake Hummeln you find an old Småland agricultural landscape with meadows and pastures, wooden pole fences, pollarded trees, clearance cairns, timbered buildings, and winding dirt roads. One of the overnight cottages along the Ostkustleden Trail is located here. Hummeln, a meteorite lake, is popular among bird-watchers and canoeists.

SEE AND DO

Especially in the area to the north and west of the farm Humlenäs gård are many remains from an old agricultural landscape, such as clearance cairns, stone walls, wooden fences, old field islands, and pollarded trees. Read more under “Get to know the Småland agricultural landscape”, page 122.

In spring feel the sap rising among flowering liverwort, wood anemones, and unspotted lungwort. In summer enjoy meadow and woodland flowers, and take a dip at the small beach. When you arrive on a sunny autumn day looking for mushrooms, the colours of the leaves paint a beautiful picture.

Lake Hummeln has a rich birdlife with breeding birds that are typical of forest lakes, including black-throated loon, osprey, sandpiper, and tern. Characteristic coastal birds, such as eider, long-tailed duck, red-breasted merganser, Caspian tern, and great black-backed gull, are regular visitors.

GOOD TO KNOW

The Ostkustleden Trail with yellow markers passes through the nature reserve. In bad weather take protection in Nynässtugan, an overnight cottage along the trail. Picnic tables are found by the cottage and at the parking area.

Within the reserve you find the Blå Leden Nature Trail. It goes through the infields, past pollarded trees, a haybarn, and runs parallel with the Ostkustleden Trail through the forest.

You are only permitted to light fires in designated places, or to use your own grill or camping stove.

You may camp in the reserve, but only for 24 hours in the same place.

LANDSCAPE HISTORY

The Humlenäs area originally provided pasture for villages north of Lake Hummeln. In the early 18th century a number of crofts were built here. The crofters ploughed up small fields and created haymeadows to provide winter fodder for their animals.

In connection with land reform in the 1890s one farm from the old settlement was moved to Humlenäs, and the crofts here were moved elsewhere. The solitary farm Humlenäs was worked until the mid-1950s.

Today cows graze large parts of the nature reserve, and the fields are used for the cultivation of ley.

Nearby

Bråbygden

The well-preserved agricultural landscape Bråbygden is located between Humlenäs and Krokshult.

Krokshult Nature Reserve

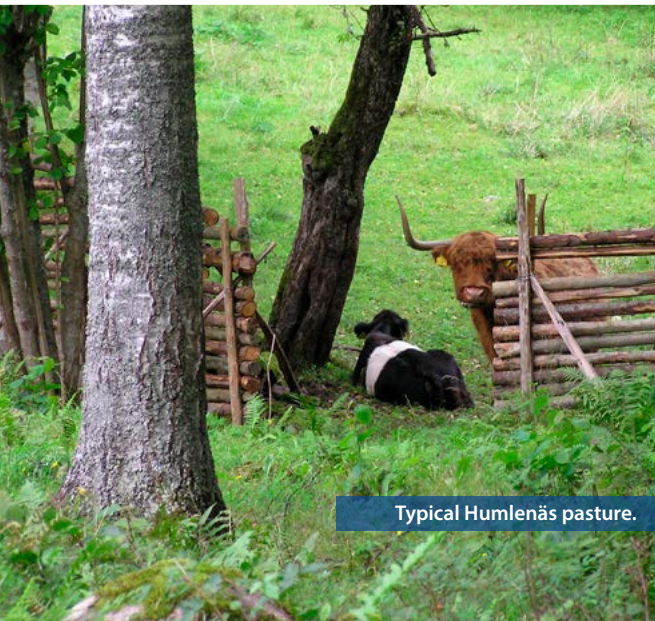
Krokshult is another fine example of a Småland agricultural landscape, well worth a visit.



📍 Getting here

The nature reserve is located around 10.5 kilometres north-east of Oskarshamn.

CAR From Oskarshamn take road 23 heading west. After 8 kilometres turn right towards Kristdala. After just over 10 kilometres, turn right to Humlenäs; see signposts. After 2.5 kilometres you come to the parking area.



Typical Humlenäs pasture.

Hummeln meteorite lake

The lake was formed by a combination of a meteorite impact and a tectonic fault around 550 million years ago.

The crater is around 2 kilometres in diameter, and the depth of the lake is 61 metres. Hummeln is home to four crustaceans: opossum shrimp, *Pallaseopsis quadrispinosa*, *Monoporeia affinis*, and *Limnocalanus macrurus*. They are so-called glacial relicts, left behind from the period following the Ice Age when the lake was connected to the Baltic Sea.



Hummeln

naturreservatet
Hummelnäs

Kalvnäset

Rägeteholmen

Kejnäset

Ostkustleden

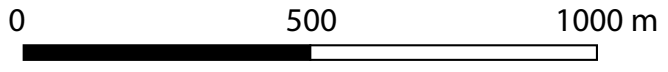
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Kammarviken



90

Discover Humlenäs

1 NYNÄSSTUGAN

The cottage Nynässtugan and the area around it are not included in the nature reserve, but you can rest or overnight here when you walk along the Ostkustleden Trail. The cottage sleeps around 15 people and has a fireplace, simple kitchen equipment, and more information about the Ostkustleden Trail. Bookings are made via the nature conservation society Döderhults naturskyddsförening.

2 LIME KILN

The lime kiln is dug into a moraine slope. In the centre of this ancient remain is a dry brick oven. This is surrounded by a mound of earth and stone, including several limestones. It is likely that the oven was subsequently used for smoking.

3 HAYBARN

The haybarn signals that the surrounding land was once used for haymaking. The hay that was cut on the moist meadow was kept here. Read more about haybarns on page 139.

“Experience an old Småland agricultural landscape”



Länsmansgårdsängen



NATURE RESERVE | HULTSFRED MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Länsmansgårdsängen is a popular recreation area in the centre of Virserum. The western and southern parts of the nature reserve are still managed as a meadow, and mown in the middle of summer when the plants have dropped their seeds. Management also includes an early April spring clean, when branches and old leaves are raked up.

SEE AND DO

You are standing on old meadowland with a number of footpaths to choose from. If you need a rest, there are benches along the way. One of the highlights of the year is spring, when carpets of wood anemones and the occasional liverwort bloom beneath the delicate foliage of the trees.

The nature reserve is also home to several large, mature oaks. If you look closely at the rough bark, you will discover a multitude of lichens in different shades of grey, brown, yellow, and blue-green.

GOOD TO KNOW

It is not permitted to camp or light fires in the nature reserve. Admire the flowers, but don't pick them.

GROVE-LIKE WOODLAND MEADOW & BUSTLING DECIDUOUS FOREST

Large oaks, pollarded small-leaved limes, and old hazel shrubs give the woodland meadow in the western part of the nature reserve a grove-like semblance. A variety of herbs grow in the rich soil, including green strawberry, globeflower, herb Paris, coralroot, water avens, and the endangered narrow-leaved lungwort.

The eastern part of the reserve comprises an area of deciduous forest, where you find old oaks. The forest also contains a lot of dead wood, on which many insects and birds depend.



Getting here

The nature reserve is located in the north-western part of Virserum, along the shore of Lake Virserumssjön.

CAR Follow the signs for Länsmansgårdsängen from the public road between Virserum and Stenberga. The nearest bus stop is at Björkmossavägen.



Legend of the Dacke War & The Battle of Lake Hjorten

On the southern side of Lake Virserumssjön you find the Dacke Cave.

It has not been confirmed, but some people are convinced that the final battle in 1543 of the so-called Dacke War took place on the ice of Lake Hjorten. Nils Dacke was wounded during the battle, and his army of peasants which were revolting against King Gustav Vasa disbanded.

According to legend, the seriously injured Nils Dacke was taken to the cave where he hid from the king's troops.



A popular area thanks to its near urban location.



Virserum

naturreservatet
Länsmansgårdsängen

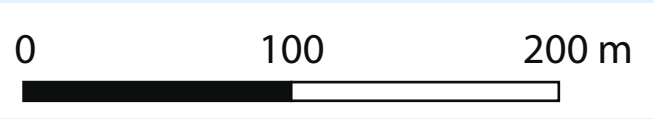


Virserumssjön

Virserums
möbelindustrimuseum

23

Virserumssjön





Virserum möbelindustrimuseum – a scenic location by the river.

Virserum & furniture industry



At one time, Virserum was a leading centre of furniture making in Sweden. During the late 19th century and large parts of the 20th century furniture manufacturing was the main source of income in the area.

Artisanal production of small series of high-quality oak furniture was the strength here. In its heyday in the 1940s Virserum had more than 40 furniture companies.

VIRSERUMS MÖBELINDUSTRIMUSEUM

Virserum Furniture Industry Museum preserves and conveys memories from the glory days. It is housed in the former

sawmill of the biggest local factory – Oscar Edv. Ekelunds snickerifabriks AB, popularly known as “The Works”.

Furniture made in Virserum is shown in settings typical of the time, and there is a copy of a furniture factory from the 1920s. Machinery, belts, and shafts are powered by the large waterwheel in the scenic river Virserumsån. In season the machinery operates daily, and you can learn about the work of sculptors, wood polishing girls, and upholsterers.

Visit the museum for an insight into the fascinating history of furniture making.

For more information, see [the Virserum möbelindustrimuseum website](#).

Visit a listed building



Listed buildings are buildings or sites that enjoy protection because of their particularly high cultural and historical value. Four of them are described here.

FRÖREDA STOREGÅRD

FARM COMPLEX | HULTSFRED MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

The original Fröreda village consisted of 38 buildings and was completed in the early 17th century, but dates back to the 1540s, when Lasse Börjesson settled here and started farming. He stayed at the farm for around ten years. However, the village was destroyed in a violent fire in October 1683, when three of four farms burned down.

After the fire Storegård was rebuilt with two pairs of semi-detached houses, or twin-cottages as they are also called. The

farm complex includes two log barns with loft floors, a gallery and external staircase, two small storage sheds from the early 18th century, and two small 19th century cottages reserved for the older generation. One of the houses has well-preserved 18th century style hand-painted wallpaper and murals.

Visit

The unique complex with its 300-year-old buildings gives you a feeling of how people lived and worked in a farming village in Småland in the 18th century. The interior, with original details such as the preserved hand-painted baroque wallpaper and murals, demonstrates almost 300 years of style history. The village is now managed by the heritage society Järeda hembygdsförening.

Read more about the historic building and the destination on [the Visit Hultsfred website](#).



Getting here

The farm complex is located in Fröreda, around 60 kilometres north-west of Oskarshamn.

CAR Fröreda Storegård is located along Road 47 between Vetlanda and Oskarshamn, 3 kilometres west of Järnforsen village.





BÖTTERUM

INN & COURTHOUSE | HÖGSBY MUNICIPALITY |
SMÅLAND

In the 16th century there was a tavern here, and from the 17th century both an inn and a court. The location is strategic, along the old King's Road between Kalmar and Stockholm. An older building was demolished and replaced in 1753 with the present inn, which

was extended to the north in 1793. The interior includes tiled stoves and wall decoration from the 1790s. The surrounding environment also contains several 18th century log buildings, such as a woodworking shop, coach-house, granary, courthouse, and a gaol.

Visit

The local heritage centre with a number of old buildings, a stage with a dance floor, and lottery booths used at festive events, such as the National Day and Midsummer Eve. In spring and autumn fireside evenings are held in the courthouse.

During summer a café and bric-a-brac are open daily in the courthouse, and guided tours are held of the inn and museum.

Read more about the listed building and the destination on the website of the heritage society [Långemåla hembygds-förening](#).



Getting here

The inn and courthouse are located in Bötterum, around 20 kilometres from Ålem.

CAR Follow Road 34 from the E22, Bötterum is located along the road, 12 kilometres south of Högsby.





OLSSONSKA GÅRDEN

TRADING PLACE | TORSÅS MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Olssonska garden is one of the original building complexes in the church village of Torsås. It is located by a three-way junction, a hub between coast and inland settlements. When trade was permitted outside towns in 1884, a store was set up here and registered as the first rural trading post in Kalmar County. Olssonska gården has been named after the merchant H.N. Olsson who traded here from 1890 to 1918. The seven buildings on the estate are surrounded by a garden, largely established in the late 1800s.

Visit

The second floor of the main building is a museum, where each room is dedicated to a decade between 1910 and 1940. In summer there is a cosy café on the ground floor with seating in the garden. Activities are organised every Sunday during summer by Kulturföreningen Olssonska gården. Read more about the listed building and the destination on [the association's website](#).



“Kalmar County’s first rural trading post”

Getting here

Olssonska gården is located at Allfargatan 17 in Torsås, 40 kilometres south of Kalmar.

CAR Take Road 130 from the E22 at Söderåkra.



HARBERGSKA & HULLGRENSKA GÅRDARNA

MERCHANT HOUSES | MÖNSTERÅS MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

At the small cobblestone square in the tiny market town Pataholm, a historically important coastal community, are two well-preserved houses from the 19th century.

Harbergska gården

Probably built in the 1840s. The residence is a two-storey timber building with tiled roof and vertical wooden panelling. On the ground floor is an elegant living room interior from the 1880s, when the premises were used for bathing and spa activities.

Hullgrenska gården

Built by the merchant C.J. Hullgren around the mid-1800s. The large house in Empire style built in an L-shape and has a coach entrance. The interior was altered in the 1860- and 1870s, when decorative paintings were made by the marine painter Oscar Hullgren.

The houses also have wooden store-houses and jetties on the shore.



Getting here

Harbergska gården and Hullgrenska gården are located in Pataholm, 15 kilometres south of Mönsterås.

CAR Follow the E22, 30 kilometres north of Kalmar, 15 kilometres south of Mönsterås.

TIPS Mönsterås coastal route is otherwise well worth a detour! The old road winds along the coast through a beautiful landscape.



Visit

The houses, which are next door to each other, are now a folk museum. On the ground floor of Hullgrenska gården you find an old-fashioned grocery, and on the top floor is a genuine merchant house interior. The old shop is not in use, but during summer there is a café here.

The living room walls at Harbergska gården are decorated with national romantic motifs by the rural painter Axel Roth. The top floor studio of the marine painter Oscar Hullgren has been left largely untouched since the artist's death in 1948. Here you find many of his works. For more information, see the website of the heritage society [Ålems hembygds-förening](http://alems-hembygdsforening.se).



Blå Jungfrun



NATIONAL PARK | OSKARSHAMN MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Blå Jungfrun has been marked by the inland ice, and the vegetation is influenced by the island's exposed location. Creeping and twisted trees contribute to the mystical feeling. Already in the 15th century Blå Jungfrun was surrounded by magical beliefs about witches and sorcery. The island has even been called Blåkulla – the Devil's Island.

SEE AND DO

Blå Jungfrun is a popular destination. Here you can go on a discovery tour in a distinctive environment among caves, giant's kettles, rare lichens, and stone labyrinths.

Seal hunters were here around 9,000 years ago. Stone Age settlements have been found in several places around the island, mainly by a cliff overhang and in the Övre Sydslogen forest.

Although there are few plants that flower in summer in the deciduous forest, there is an abundance of bilberries. Spring bloom is more impressive, with a mass of liverworts and wood anemones. Lesser butterfly-orchid and heath spotted-orchid are also found in the darkness of the forest.

“Go on a discovery tour in a distinctive environment”

Stunning plants you see along the shores include sea garden angelica, spiked loose-strife, flat pea, and valerian. There is also a rich birdlife to watch.

GOOD TO KNOW

There are two walking trails here. The longest is marked in red and goes around the island. The shorter route, marked in blue, winds around Blå Jungfrun's dome. This is a more demanding walk, although both routes are challenging.

The terrain is very hilly, with large altitude differences from all entrances. The ground is also very uneven with large stones to climb over. Since walking on Blå Jungfrun is difficult, it's important to bring water and good footwear; boots or sturdy trainers are recommended.

Swimming at Blå Jungfrun is fantastic, but be careful to follow instructions from the park rangers regarding backwash waves.

It is not permitted to:

- bring unleashed dogs or other pets
- camp or light fires
- cycle or fish
- pick stones
- disturb birds or other animals.

Remember that there is a great fire risk on the island. Even throwing a cigarette butt can have disastrous consequences!

You are welcome to book one overnight stay in a wind shelter. This also gives you priority to use your own camping stove in the wind shelter area. See [the Blå Jungfrun website](#).

Park rangers and guides are available on Blå Jungfrun from the week before Midsummer until the penultimate week in August. The guides meet arriving tour boats every day and tell you about the island and what you need to think about during your visit.

PLANTS, INSECTS & BIRDS

A profuse flora and rare lichens grow in the luxuriant broadleaved forest south of the top. The forest is home to a number of unusual beetles.

Despite the exposed location in Kalmar Strait, fauna thrives on the island, especially insects. The old broadleaved forest and the windswept pines provide habitats for many rare and demanding species of beetles.

One of them is the lesser capricorn beetle, a magnificent longhorn beetle, which you can find sitting in a flower on the shore on a sunny summer day. It is often accompanied by both the flower chafer *Protaetia marmorata* and the metallic green noble shafer.

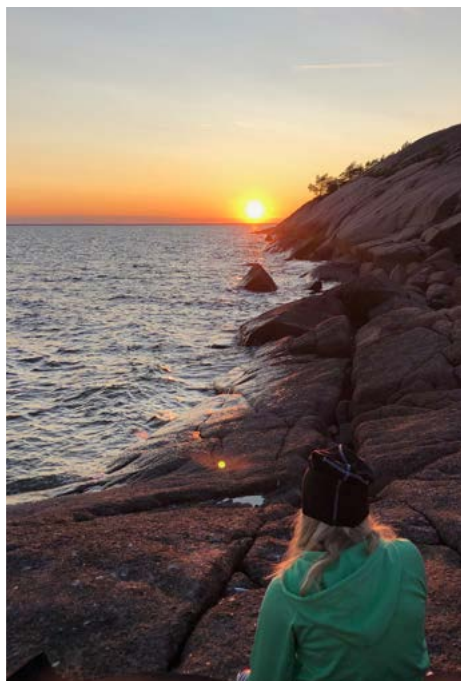
Blå Jungfrun is otherwise a bird island. Rock pipit, kestrel, and white-tailed eagle breed here. With luck, you will still see a black guillemot among the crushed stones at the old quarry.

Getting here

The national park is located in the northern part of Kalmar Strait.

TOUR BOAT Tour boats depart daily from Oskarshamn and from Byxelkrok on Öland, from early June until the end of August.

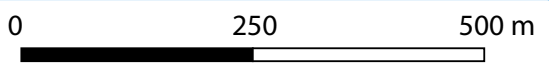
OWN BOAT You can also visit the island with your own boat. It is best to contact the park rangers for a suitable mooring place. Please note that the wake from the Gotland Ferry can cause trouble for moored boats.

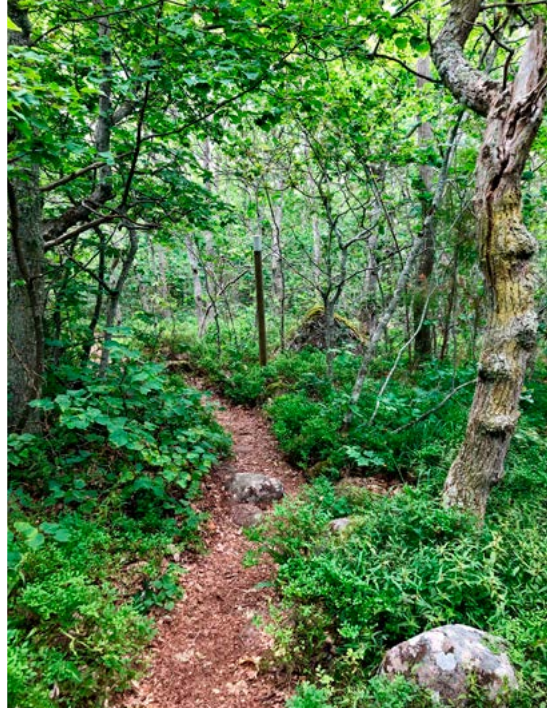


Blå Jungfrun Västra lighthouse and hare's-tail cotton-grass.



Blå Jungfrun Nationalpark





Discover Blå Jungfrun

1 KYRKAN

The cave Kyrkan is in the centre of the island.

The marriage of the national poet Verner von Heidenstam was planned to be held here in 1896. But the wedding party didn't get further than Lervik on the north side of the island, so the ceremony took place there instead.

2 JUNGFRUKAMMAREN

Jungfrukammaren is not exactly a cave, but a cavity among some almost vertical granite boulders.

An archaeological excavation revealed charcoal remains, indicating that there was a fireplace here. In ancient times people probably used the space as a shelter.

3 TROJEBORG

The stone labyrinth Trojeborg is built on a rock. How long it has been there, and who made it, is a mystery.

In the past it was not unusual to make labyrinths in the archipelago. Walking in them was a ritual ceremony – for fertility, good fishing, or a safe journey across the sea.

4 SIKHAMNSGRYTAN

This is one of the giant's kettles on the island. It was once thought that the holes in the rocks were the work of giants. In fact, they are geological phenomena created by the water's motion against the rock.

5 STENSLIPERIET

On this shingle beach you can admire the reddish granite and light-brown sandstone pebbles formed by the waves. Bring your camera to capture the beauty – but remember that you are not allowed to take stones away with you.

Allgunnen



NATURE RESERVE | HÖGSBY AND NYBRO MUNICIPALITIES | SMÅLAND

Allgunnen, one of the largest nature reserves in Kalmar County, includes a great variety of habitats. Here you find lake and wetland, deciduous forest, old pine forest and mixed forest, oak forest, and bogs – as well as old fields and meadows. This explains the rich diversity of insects, lichens, fungi, and vascular plants.

SEE AND DO

Nature experiences, bathing, and other recreational activities await! Many species of fish, as well as otter, thrive in the fresh water of Lake Allgunnen. The abundance of fish attracts osprey and black-throated loon, both of which breed in the nature reserve.

The vast and varied landscape is also home to many birds. Look out for woodpeckers, pigmy owl, nightjar, grey wagtail, and white-throated dipper.

Nearby

Hornsö area

Within the Hornsö area are many attractive nature reserves, such as Flagölerum, Bokhultet, and Getebro, see page 140.

“One of the largest nature reserves in Kalmar County”

GOOD TO KNOW

Fishing is good in the lake, but requires a permit. You may camp for up to 48 hours in the same place. It is not permitted to light fires on rocks or rocky ground. Remember to keep your dog on a leash.

RARE BEETLES & BUTTERFLIES

Most of the forest consists of mature pines. Many of them are more than 130 years old, but there are also specimens that are significantly older. The area has often been affected by fire, which has resulted in an extensive and special insect fauna.

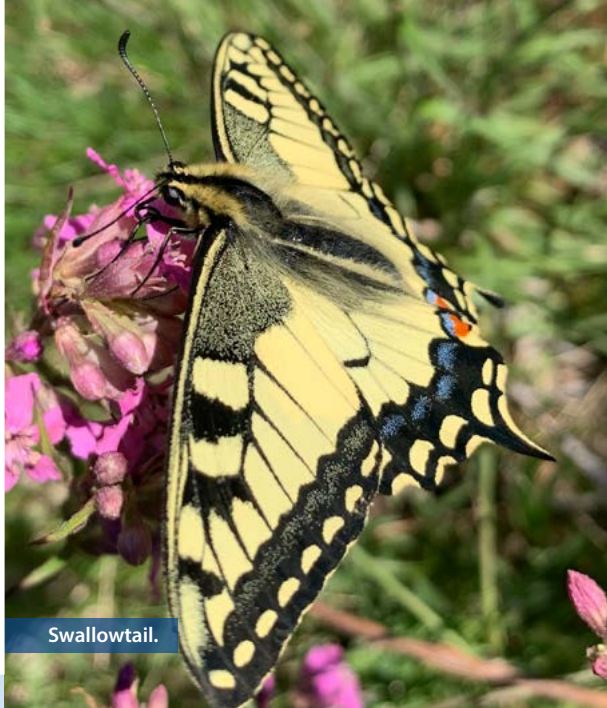
In total, there are more than 100 rare species of beetles in the reserve. The longhorn beetle *Nothorhina punctata* lives in the rough bark of sunlit old pines. Two other unusual longhorn beetles worthy of protection are *Etorofus pubescens* and *Tragosoma depsarium*.

The deciduous forests have a rich herb flora, including wonder violet, unspotted lungwort, bird’s-nest orchid, yellow anemone, and toothwort, providing good conditions for the many rare butterflies and moths that live here. The butterfly green-underside blue and the moths New Forest burnet, tawny prominent, and *Pygaera timon* are some of the many rare species found in the reserve.

📍 Getting here

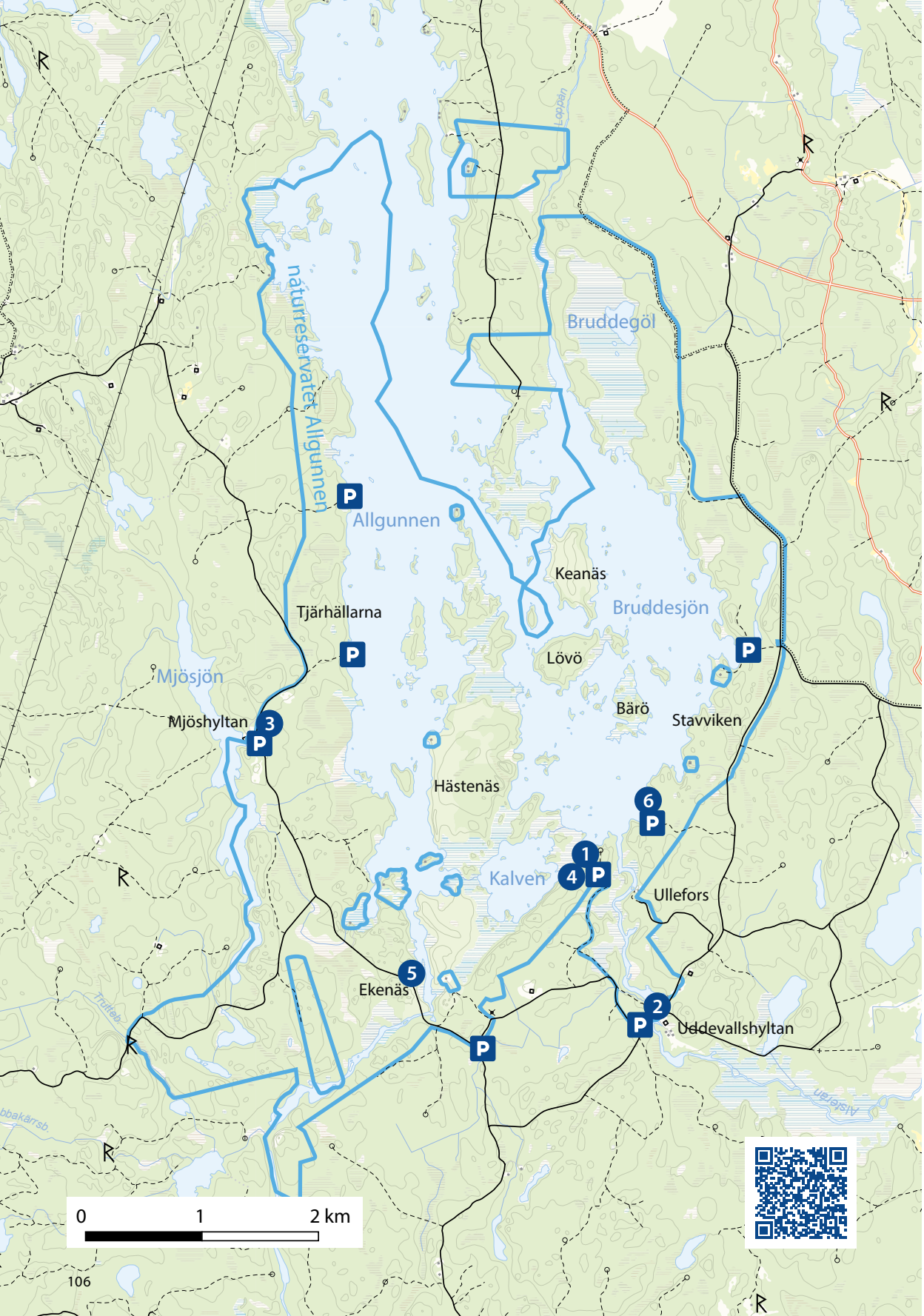
The nature reserve is located on the border between Högsby and Nybro municipalities.

BOAT From the south and Road 125 between Bäckebo and Alsterbro: Drive towards Uddevallshytan. Follow the signs, after around 8.5 kilometres you will arrive at the parking area and information board.



Swallowtail.





naturreservat Allgunnen

Bruddegöl

Allgunnen

Keanäs

Tjärhällarna

Bruddesjön

Mjösjön

Lövö

Mjösjöhyttan

Bärö

Stavviken

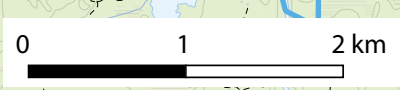
Hästenäs

Kalven

Ullefors

Ekenäs

Uddevallshytan





Part of the forest was subject to controlled burning in 2018. Follow the nature trail (4) to explore the area.



Discover Allgunnen

1 OUTDOOR MUSEUM

Within the Life Taiga project, the County Administrative Board has built the small outdoor museum Sjömunnen on the lake shore in Allgunnen Nature Reserve.

The museum has information about controlled burning, the pre-human landscape, and how fire has made a mark on all species living here today. A beautiful diorama with carved wooden birds shows biodiversity after a fire.

If you have a smartphone, scan the QR code and listen to a story by Ragge Ragback.

2 ALSTERÅN AT UDDEVALLSHYLTAN

At the village Uddevallshyltan traces show that the river Alsterån was used for a number of different activities. It is thought that in the early 19th century, and probably earlier, a mill and sawmill operated here. Later there was also a joinery and electricity plant powered by the water.

You can see the remains of a dam wall in cut stone by the riverside. There are also stone built edges, probably constructed in connection with later industrial activities.

On an islet in the river is a paved inlet channel, as well as parts of foundations of both a factory and power plant.

3 SLÅTTERÄNGEN

At the haymeadow around Mjöshyltan you may spot a number of rare butterfly species.

4 NATURE TRAIL AT SJÖMUNNEN

The trail goes through forest that was subject to controlled burning in 2018 and continues out on a promontory that burned naturally in 2009.

Along the trail are information boards telling you about different structures and species that develop in the wake of fire.

5 EKENÄS

Ekenäs is a farm with a landscape typical of the southern part of Allgunnen Nature Reserve. Here you find grazed forests with oak, abandoned haymeadows and fields, and many stone walls and clearance cairns from farming in the past. The area is surround by Lake Allgunnen and the river Alsterån.

6 ÅKERVIKEN BAY

A scenic excursion spot by Lake Allgunnen. The area is one of several sites with giant oaks and many fascinating species.

Kronobäcks klosterkyrkoruin



CLOISTER CHURCH RUINS | MÖNSTERÅS MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

In the Middle Ages Kronobäck was a well-known landmark for travellers, and it is still a popular place to stop – just 5 minutes from the E22. Kronobäck is the only place in Sweden where you find clear traces of activities carried out by the monks of the Order of St John, also known as the Knights Hospitallers.

MEDIEVAL CLOISTER CHURCH

In 1479 the Order of St John took over a hospital and a church in Kronobäck. Representatives from the Swedish nobility donated land for the establishment of a new monastery.

The monks belonged to the oldest Christian chivalric order in the world. They were knowledgeable within medicine and surgery, and they were the most skilled doctors in Sweden at the time. In the monastery, they ran a hospital for the sick and elderly.

Medicinal plants were grown in the monastic herb garden, including perforate St Johns-wort for anxiety and foxglove for the heart.

Many medieval documents were written in Kronobäck. Not just of a religious nature, but also contracts, purchasing agreements, and similar. Unlike most people then, the monks could read and write.

Visit

Close to the ruins is a visitors' centre, and an exhibition is shown in the former pigsty. Mönsterås Municipality has developed the app *InfoJee* using QR codes





for information in several languages. The app can be downloaded for free from your app store.

The site is partly adapted for people with functional impairment. A paved path enables prams and wheelchairs to enter the ruins. Some information boards have writing in Braille.

The area is managed by the municipality and Klosteruin Kronobäcks Vänner, that also organises exhibitions, guided tours and events. Read more on the website of the voluntary organisation [Klosteruin Kronobäcks Vänner](#) or contact Mönsterås Municipality.

📍 Getting here

Kronobäcks klosterkyrkoruin is located around **45 kilometres north of Kalmar**.

CAR The ruins are located just 3 kilometres south of Mönsterås, by the road to Timmernabben. You can also take the old coastal road via Timmernabben. The Mönsterås coastal road passes Strömsrum and Pataholm, see page 99.



Lövö



NATURE RESERVE | MÖNSTERÅS MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Lövö is an archipelago reserve in Kalmar Strait. The fine old village environment, winding dirt roads, and many well-kept gardens evoke the world of Astrid Lindgren's "The Children of Noisy Village".

SEE AND DO

Here you can stroll, swim, and enjoy nature. Lövö has a genuine archipelago environment with a well-kept village, fishing hamlets, fields, pastures, coastal meadows, and sea.

Typical birds you may observe among the islands in the nature reserve include great crested grebe, tufted duck, common tern, Arctic tern, redshank, and oystercatcher.

Pollarding: a living tradition on Lövö

In the past it was customary to prune trees in late summer and to keep the leafy branches in sheaves as winter fodder for the animals. The custom is called pollarding. Many of the trees on Lövö have been pollarded over a long time, but new, young trees are also pollarded here to keep the tradition and the character of the landscape.

Pollarding creates new habitats for plants and animals, as it significantly prolongs the lifespan of the tree. The rough bark and hollows of old trees provide protection and homes for birds, bats, and insects. Pollarding also gives a wooded, but at the same time light and open landscape, which is important for lichens and mosses.

GOOD TO KNOW

There are several trails and footpaths in the reserve. The 2.7-kilometre Lövö runt Circular Route is the longest, and the shorter routes include Lövögrenar, Appenabben, Jösholmsstigen, and Puttudden.

Remember that areas of Lövö are grazed by animals during large parts of the year. Marked trails with stiles across the fences are found mainly in the south-eastern and southern part of the reserve.

Camping spots with a fireplace are found on Lövögrenar, near Puttudden, and at Grenleudd. They are fenced off from the pastures.

Beaches are found at Puttudden and on Brönnsö. You get to Brönnsö via a wading place. There is also a fireplace.

Remember not to disturb birdlife – access is forbidden on some of the islets during the period 1 April to 10 September.

LIVING ARCHIPELAGO HISTORY

Lövö belongs to the string of islands in the southernmost Småland archipelago, from mainland Mönsterås in the north to Timmernabben in the south. They serve as a natural breakwater in the bay Timmernabbsviken, where there is calm and safe fishing.

Lövö is an old cultural landscape, mentioned for the first time in 1292. Over the ages people on Lövö have subsisted on farming and fishing. The meadows south of the village and also the islands Bredskär, Bjurskär, and Långskär were used for haymaking to provide winter fodder for the animals. The other islands were used for grazing.

"Genuine archipelago environment"



Arctic tern.



Getting here

The nature reserve is located in Kalmar Strait, south of Mönsterås.

CAR Turn off towards Oknö in Mönsterås. From Oknövägen turn right to Lövvö after around 2 kilometres. From there, it is around 7 kilometres to the parking area, south of the village. There is also a parking area at Lövvögrenar.

BUS The nearest bus stop is in Mönsterås. For timetables consult Kalmar länstrafik.





naturreservatet Lövö

Lövö





Discover Lövö

1 LÖVÖ RUNT CIRCULAR ROUTE

This circular route takes you around the western side of the island down to Puttudden and back to the northern parking area on the winding dirt road surrounded by wooden pole fences and beautiful stone walls. Enjoy sea views and lovely pastures.

2 PUTTUDDEN

On the point Puttudden there is a camping spot with a fireplace and a beach.

3 GRENLEUDD

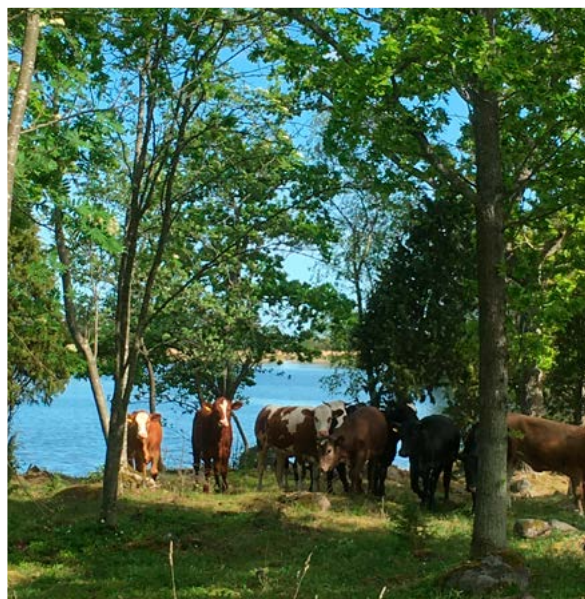
On the headland Grenleudd there is a camping spot with a fireplace.

4 PASTURES

Pollarded small-leaved limes, large, mature pines and oaks, crab apples, and junipers grow in the pastures along with a fine flora.

5 LÖVÖGRENNAR

In this southern part of Lövö you find a cloven erratic boulder, around 1.8 metres tall and 3 metres long. The split side lies parallel to the ground.



Barkeström & Barkeströmsleden



CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT & WALKING TRAIL |
NYBRO MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Barkeström is a cultural environment with a colourful history. Traces of the movement of the inland ice are clearly revealed in the landscape. A beautiful 1.5-kilometre trail around Lake Barkadammen starts here. Along the walk are a number of cultural-historical sights demonstrating the importance of forest and water for humans and society. You can also link to the Orrefors Trail and follow the traces of glass production.

BARKESTRÖM

The dam at the river Vapenbäckån together with preserved buildings from the turn of the 20th century carry stories of Barkeström's significant past. You can walk on the dry-stone dam construction.

There are also traces of medieval iron production in the area. Hydropower on a bigger scale was used when the Orrefors ironworks moved its blast furnace here in 1740.

FOREST, WATER & HUMANS

Along the Barkeströmsleden Trail you walk on beautiful narrow ridges in a landscape of historical and geological interest, with lovely views across the Barkadammen dam. Old and young alike can learn more about the importance of hydropower, rafting, charcoal making, tar production, and old-time forestry.

The forest was not only used for the collection of wood and timber. Charcoal, necessary for the iron production, was made in kilns. Tar was produced in tar

kilns. In the tannery oak bark was used to process the hides.

The watercourses were used to float timber. Barkadammen could easily be dammed up to produce hydropower. The waterfall has powered a mill and sawmill, blast furnace, tannery, and electricity plant.

CONIFER SEED HARVEST

In Barkeström there is something as unusual as a preserved cone harvest hut! When forest was replanted in the 1910s, work was carried out here to release seeds from pine and spruce cones.

ALPINE GRAVEL PIT

There is also an old gravel pit in the area, which in its time was a popular ski slope. In the 1930s the pit was 26 metre higher than what it is today. In winter people came from Kalmar for a day of downhill skiing.



Conifer seed harvest hut in Barkeström.

Getting here

Barkeström is located in Nybro Municipality, south of Hälleberga and north-west of Orrefors, south of Road 31 at Lake Barkadammen.

CAR From Orrefors, drive north on Road 31. Just after passing Lake Orranäsasjön, turn left at the Sveaskog roadsign for Barkeströmsvägen. Follow the dirt road for around 500 metres to Barkeström. Parking for a few cars is available at the start of the trail.

CYCLE The 15-kilometre cycle route from Orrefors to Nybro passes through Barkeström.

VISIT

The 1.5-kilometre walking trail with 13 information boards along the way starts from the parking area. The trail is hilly in parts and goes mainly through forest.

At the start of the trail is a barn, which can be used as a rest area. The Barkeströmsleden Trail is crossed by the Orrefors Trail. Fishing in Lake Barkadammen is not permitted.



Tips

Glasriket x 3

A good combination if you want to experience the landscape and cultural environment of the Kingdom of Crystal on foot is

- Barkeströmsleden Trail
- Orrefors Trail
- Orrefors Guide to the Glassworks.

In the mid-20th century Swedish glass and Orrefors gained an international reputation for being among the finest in the world. The Orrefors Trail takes you along the traces of glass production.

The glassworks guide gives you a glimpse of the history of Orrefors and enables you to go on a discovery tour in the surroundings. To your aid is a map showing the different buildings.

See "Cultural-historical guides to Glasriket", page 145.



Hälleberga

Orrefors vandringsled

31

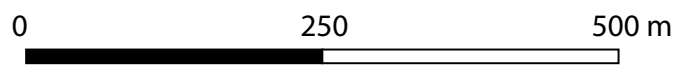
Barkadammen

Barkeström

P

Barkeströmsleden

Kleftetorp





The reconstructed coal burner's hut.

Discover Barkeströmsleden Trail

1 ORREFORS TRAIL & BARKESTRÖMSLEDEN TRAIL

Information boards about the Orrefors Trail and Barkeström, with a map of the Barkeströmsleden Trail.

2 BLAST FURNACE, TANNERY, FLUME & POWER PLANT

Three information boards about activities that took part here.

3 ON THE RIDGE

The ridge, sometimes called Nybroåsen, was formed in a many kilometres long tunnel beneath the inland ice. The network of ridges in the area is of great geoscientific importance.

4 FLUMES

The flumes were used from 1850 to 1935. Timber from the forests was transported to the saw mill in Orrefors.

5 CHARCOAL KILN

There was a kiln here producing charcoal for the iron works. Making charcoal was an important extra income for local farmers.

6 CHARCOAL BURNER'S HUT

Here the charcoal burner could take a rest during the intensive work of manning the kiln. This hut has been reconstructed.

7 TAR KILN

The tar kiln was used for producing pine tar – the only substance available then for protecting wood against rot.

8 KETTLE LAKES

The round depressions between the ridges are traces from the Ice Age, so-called kettle lakes.

9 GRAVEL PIT

10 CONIFER SEED HARVEST HUT

11 JANNE BARCK, TANNER

Learn about the story of how the tanner caused displeasure and was punished!

Lindö



NATURE RESERVE | KALMAR MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Lindö on the Skäggenäs peninsula in Kalmar Strait is valued for its varied and beautiful countryside. The old agricultural landscape around the well-preserved farm Lindö gård shows traces of past-time cultivation.

“Varied and beautiful countryside”

SEE AND DO

Walk through broadleaved deciduous forest, have a picnic in a pasture with beautiful, large trees or stroll along the sea shore. There are also opportunities for fishing, boating, bathing, and camping.

The well-preserved farm buildings form part of the genuine environment. Stone walls, pollarded small-leaved limes, and open glades are traces from farming in the past. Read more under “Get to know the Småland agricultural landscape”, page 122.

In spring anemones flower in the eastern broadleaved deciduous forest. First liverworts appear through old leaves with their intensely violet-blue flowers. They are followed by carpets of wood anemones. Greater stitchwort flowers in May-June.

In August you may see hermit beetle, one of the many rare beetles in the nature reserve.

GOOD TO KNOW

There are two footpaths marked in white. You are only permitted to camp and light fires in designated places within the nature reserve. Remember to keep your dog on a leash.

INSECT LIFE

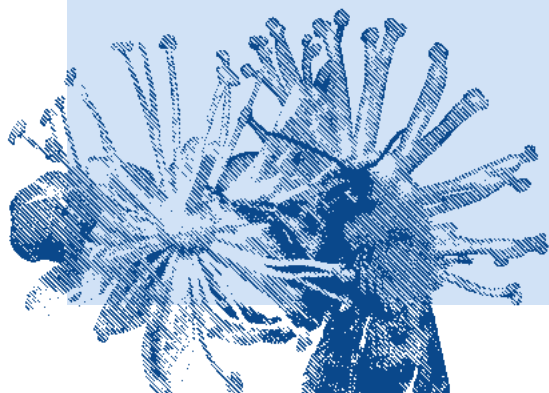
Lindö’s rich insect life is partly linked to the many large, mature, and hollow deciduous trees, which are vital habitats. One of the rare beetles in the reserve is the hermit beetle, a large, black-brown beetle smelling of leather. The hermit beetle depends on hollow trees for its survival.

Lindö is also home to many rare moths, such as *Eudonia laetella*, Linnaeus’s spangle-wing, *Eurhodope cirrigerella*, and narrow-bordered five-spot burnet.

Small-leaved lime

A small-leaved lime can become up to 35 metres tall. The smooth, heart-shaped leaves burst out in late April to early May, and the tree blooms in July. The white, sweetly scented small flowers attract many insects, for example bumblebees, whose buzzing is a delight to the ear.

On Lindö you see several very large, mature small-leaved limes that have been pollarded. The tradition of pruning branches with leaves for winter fodder resulted in the trees growing very slowly.





📍 Getting here

The nature reserve is located on the Skäggenäs peninsula in Kalmar Strait, just over 20 kilometres north of Kalmar.

CAR Turn east from the E22 in Rockneby and then north, when you get to Boda. Follow the signs for Lindö.



Six-spot burnet is a common sight in summer.





naturreservatet Lindö

L.Garnh.

Ekholmen

Stora Garnholmen

1

3

P

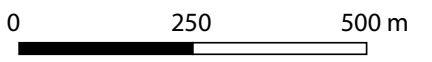
Lindö

2

Äspel

Bodavik

Boda



120



Discover Lindö

1 EASTERN FOOTPATH

The 1,350 metres long eastern circular route goes through the grazed oak forest out to Kalmar Strait. Walking along the path, you will experience the magnificent old oaks and vistas from the Baltic Sea shore.

2 WESTERN FOOTPATH

The 950 metres long western circular route follows the dirt road to the harbour, continues through the pasture, and south to the beach. Walking along this path you will see the many pollarded trees, and why not take a dip.

3 BEACH

Swim in Kalmar Strait; or just dip your toes in the water.



Get to know the Småland agricultural landscape

From villages with log houses, dirt roads wind through the landscape. Fields, meadows, and pastures are criss-crossed by clearance cairns, stone walls, and wooden pole fences. Small-scale agriculture dominated in Sweden into the 20th century, especially in the Småland highlands. Go on a discovery tour in a landscape marked by previous generations.



MEADOW

In the past the meadow was an important type of land. Here farmers grew winter fodder for their cattle – and the size of the meadow determined how many animals a farm could feed. The amount of manure you had depended on the number of animals which, in turn, determined the area of arable land. This chain is the origin of the saying “The meadow is the mother of the field”.

In the mid-1800s a Småland parish could have as much as 2,000 hectares of meadowland.

STONE WALL & CLEARANCE CAIRN

Cultivating stony ground was back-breaking work. Many of the stones that were removed from the land ended up in clearance cairns or stone walls used for enclosures or marking borders. Clearance cairns and walls are not only a reminder of the toil of Smålanders but also a history book of landscape usage. Today these environments are extremely important for animals and plants.

FOREST GLADE

Sunny glades in the forest also tell us something about how Smålanders lived in the past. Animals grazed on land that was not cultivated or used for haymaking, often in adjacent forest. They kept down sprouting shrubs and trees, thus creating grassy and sunny glades. Here you can find many fine plants, and often mushrooms in autumn.

“The meadow is the mother of the field”

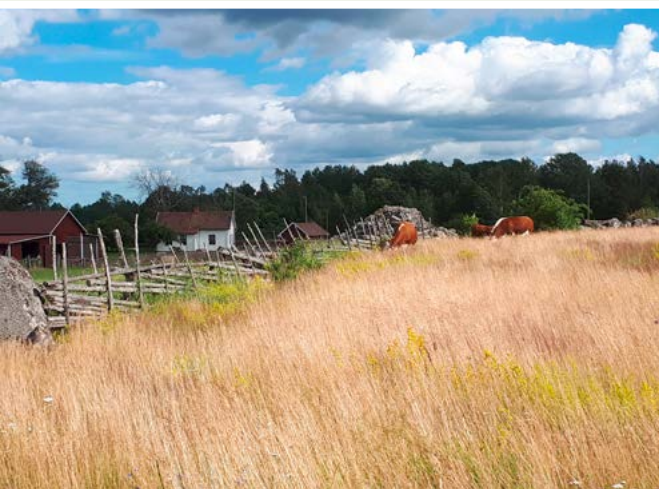


What are pollarded trees?

In the past leaves were used to supplement the animals' winter fodder. Cutting branches for this purpose is called pollarding. When trees are cut like this over the years, they can grow very old. Ancient trees are important for biodiversity. Fungi and beetles feeding on the wood create hollows in the trunk, which provide homes for birds and bats. Pollarding gives a wooded, but also light and open landscape, something which is important for lichens, mosses and others.



Sticky catchfly on the roadside.



Destinations

In Småland you find well-preserved old agricultural landscapes both on the mainland and in the archipelago.

- **Djursdala**
- **Sladö-Åskeskär**, see page 38
- **Stensjö village**, see page 84
- **Krokshult**
- **Bråbygden**
- **Humlenäs**, see page 88
- **Lövö**, see page 110
- **Lindö**, see page 118
- **Lidahult**, see page 136

Many footpaths and walking trails go through Småland's agricultural landscapes, including the Ostkustleden Trail, Torsåsleden Trail, Sevedeleden Trail, and Krokshultsbygdens Trail.

Get to know an oak landscape

In Sweden, it is in Kalmar County together with Östergötland and Blekinge that you find the largest areas with ancient oaks. Most of them sprouted during the Middle Ages. Some of the oldest oaks in the country germinated in the early 12th century, before the end of the Viking Era. The oaks have grazing to thank for the space and light that they need, and for the flourishing pastures that surround them. Hollow giant oaks are home to a number of threatened species.

OLD HOLLOW OAKS

It takes around 200 years for an oak to start rotting from the inside and become hollow. Different wood-living fungi aid the decay. So-called wood mould is formed inside the hollow trees, a loose mixture consisting of rotted wood, bird droppings, leaves, etc. The hollows provide a habitat for many red-listed species.

LICHENS & FUNGI

Old oaks provide homes for lichens and fungi, for example

- *Lecanographa amylicata*
- *Bactrospora corticola*
- *Arthonia pruinata*
- *Chaenotheca phaeocephala*
- *Schismatomma decolorans*
- *Pachykytospora tuberculosa*
- Orange polypore
- Chicken of the woods
- Oak bracket
- Beefsteak fungus.



Great capricorn beetle has its only Nordic locality in Halltorps hage on Öland.



Link to past times

Many large oak landscapes are part of manor environments, such as Em and Björnö. Unlike others, the nobility could decide over the oaks on their land. They were exempt from the regalia rights which allowed the Crown to use oaks for ship-building.

Destinations

Protected areas in Kalmar County where you can experience an oak landscape:

- Åsebo, Småland
- Rudalund, Småland
- Björnö, Småland
- Böda prästgård, Öland
- Horns royal manor, Öland, see page 184
- Halltorp, Öland, see page 212

Read more about the destinations at www.lansstyrelsen.se/kalmar/besoksmal.

INSECTS, BIRDS & BATS

Among the insects that live where ancient oaks grow you find the endangered hermit beetle and European stag beetle. The only location in Scandinavia where the unique great capricorn beetle is found is in Halltorps hage within Halltorp Nature Reserve on Öland. Work is under way to introduce this impressive longhorn beetle to suitable oak landscapes on the mainland.

Bats and cavity-nesting birds, such as tawny owl and wood pigeon, also depend on hollow trees. They raise their young here and seek protection from enemies.

FLOURISHING OAK LANDSCAPE

Oaks need a lot of light and do not like encroaching vegetation. Grazing animals ensure that the ground is clear from thicket. As a bonus, oak pastures also become rich in flowering plants like

- cowslip
- burnet-saxifrage
- pyramidal bugle
- lesser butterfly-orchid
- peach-leaved bellflower
- quaking-grass
- meadow saxifrage.

The cultural oak landscape is a rare commodity in the world today.



Horsö–Värnsnäs



NATURE RESERVE | KALMAR MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Horsö island and Värnsnäs peninsula form a nature reserve close to the city. This is one of the few archipelago reserves that can be reached from land. Here you find countless forest paths, pastures with impressive oak giants, and herb-rich coastal meadows. The reserve also includes the waters around the islands, with islets and reeds.

SEE AND DO

Today Västra Horsö is an open landscape with oak pastures and grazed coastal meadows.

Until the end of the 1960s Värnsnäs halvön was open pasture. Now most of the peninsula is overgrown with sparse forest, and in spring the ground is carpeted with wood anemone, liverwort, and yellow star-of-Bethlehem. The southern and eastern parts of the peninsula are open again, thanks to grazing that resumed in 2018.

On the coastal meadows you find plants such as seaside centauray and dragon's teeth. Along the shores you may also see birds, such as little tern and Arctic tern, searching for food.

In winter there are fine tracks for cross-country skiing.

Nearby

Svinö

Just below the Öland Bridge is Svinö Nature Reserve. This is also a popular outdoor recreation area with jogging track, beach, barbecue area, and ancient remains.

GOOD TO KNOW

The forest, with many paths, is easily accessible. The pastures are also good for walking and a small road goes through the area.

The Kalmarsund Trail passes through the nature reserve, and along it you find several wind shelters and fireplaces.

In the centre of Värnsnäs halvön is the recreational facility Värnsnäs gården with showers, sauna, and toilets. On some Sundays there is a café, and Friluftsförbundet organises activities here; see [the outdoor association's website](#) for more information. A 2.5-kilometre jogging track starts at Värnsnäs gården. In winter there are prepared cross-country ski tracks.

At Söröström there is a boat jetty for temporary mooring.

Camping is not permitted in the nature reserve, and you may only light fires in designated fireplaces. Dogs are welcome but must always be kept on a leash.

VÄRNSNÄS GIANT OAKS

On Värnsnäs are 50 giant oaks that were declared natural monuments in 1937. A large number of rare mosses, lichens, fungi, and insects, including the large hermit beetle, live in and on these trees. The ancient oaks also attract woodpeckers, such as great spotted woodpecker, black woodpecker, and wryneck. Read more about the oak landscape on page 124.



Hermit beetle.



📍 Getting here

The nature reserve is located just outside Kalmar.

CAR In the Snurrom roundabout, at the northern Kalmar E22 entrance/exit, turn off for Värdsnäs. The nature reserve starts after around 3 kilometres. Parking is available at the reserve boundary, the municipal recreation facility, and at the beach at the end of the road.





Kalmarsundsleden

Norrö

Horsö

Sörö

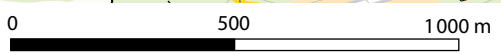
Vassnäseudd

Värtnäs

Appeludden

Björkenäs

naturreservatet Horsö-Värtnäs



128



One of the giant oaks at Värnsnäs.

Discover Horsö–Värnsnäs

1 VÄRSNÖSHALVÖN

In the past Värnsnöshalvön served as pasture for animals belonging to Horsö farm. Walk around on this beautiful peninsula with its impressive oaks. Here are also two beaches, of which the northern one at Apelviken is a naturist beach.

2 HORSÖ OLD FARM SITE

Horsö once had a farm with fields and meadows. You can see the remains of four building foundations, two cellar foundations, and stone walls. A trained eye can also spot stone-cleared areas and clearance cairns.



Iron Age grave fields in Kalmar



ANCIENT REMAINS | KALMAR MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Discover the Iron Age in Kalmar on foot, by bicycle, or why not on your jogging round? A green belt runs right through the modern urban landscape. Brukshagen, Tjuvbackarna, Mobackarna, and Djurängshagen are scenic areas with large Iron Age grave fields and traces of ancient farming. In this belt you also find Skälby gård.

LIFE ON EARTH & ETERNITY

During the Iron Age there was a powerful elite of rich chieftain families who were farmers and traders. They enjoyed going on trade trips and left farming and cattle-raising in the hands of slaves and subordinates.

The dead were buried in grave fields close to the farm or village. The graves should be visible and were usually located on elevations – above the earthly life continuing below. The rich and powerful were often buried together with prized objects.

KALMAR – A PREHISTORIC CENTRAL SETTLEMENT

Kalmar was an important place already 1,000 to 1,500 years ago, as seen by the many large grave fields in the area. Archaeological finds show that influential people were buried here.

At that time the sea level was 1.5 metres higher than it is today, and a coastal bay cut into land inside Kalmar. The fine natural harbour, where the waterway opened up for trade and travel, was an attractive place to settle.

In addition to the burial grounds, you can see the remains of Iron Age fields with low stone enclosures. There is no visible evidence of the settlers' villages or houses. This is probably because the villages were never abandoned – all traces have been concealed by new developments.

Visit

Information boards describing the ancient remains are located at Tjuvbackarna, Brukshagen, and the eastern grave field in Djurängshagen.

A good place to start the exploration of Kalmar's preserved Iron Age remains is Skälby gård where there is also a parking area. From here there are footpaths to Djurängen and a path across the E22 to the ancient remains area in Brukshagen. To continue to Tjuvbackarna you will walk on pavements.

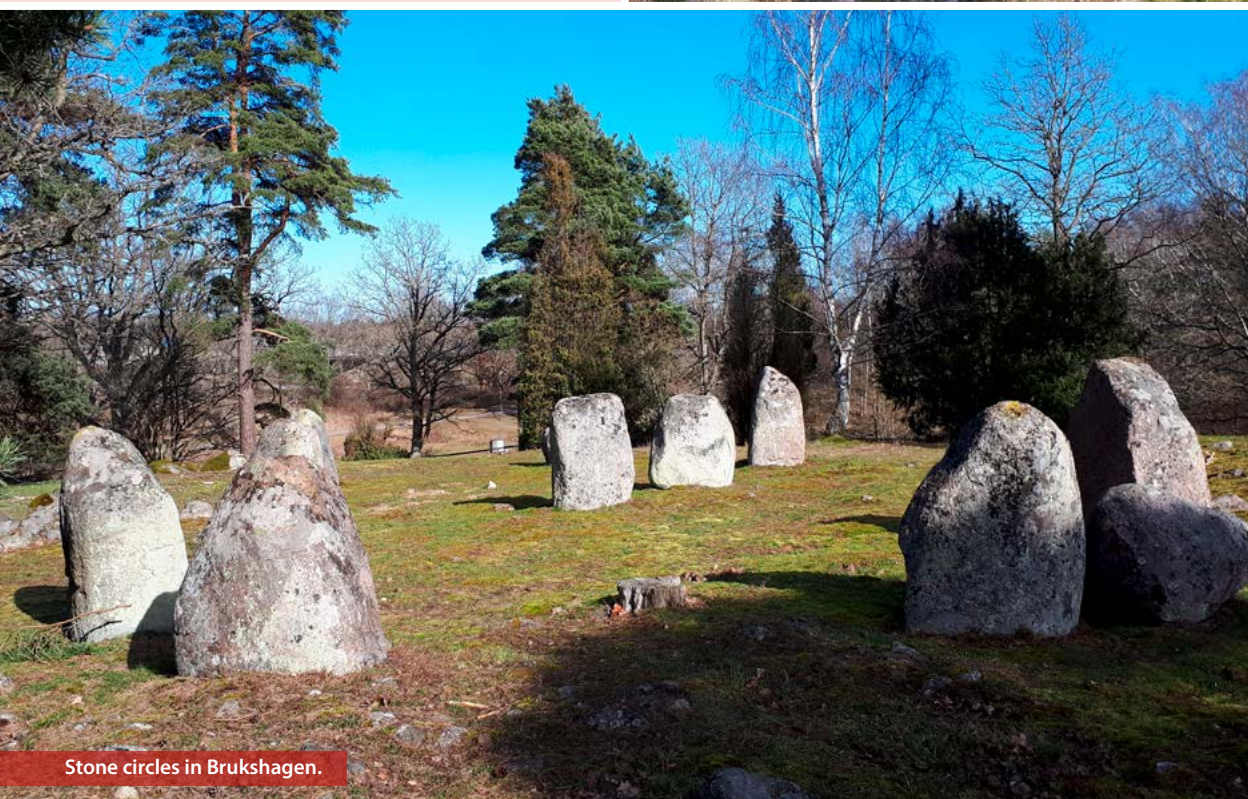
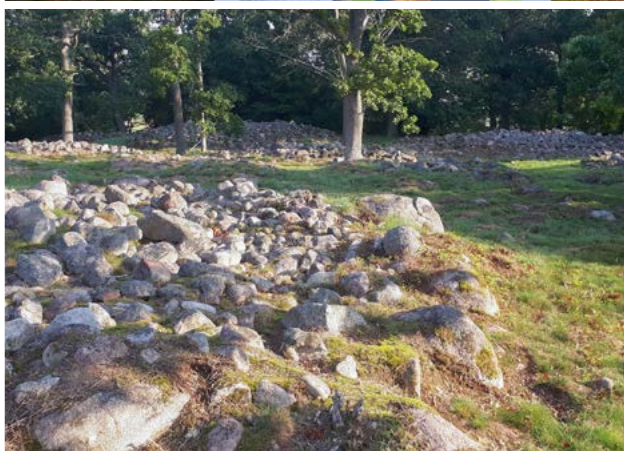
In the eastern part of Tjuvbackarna, there is parking for a few cars.

There are grazing animals at Mobackarna, Tjuvbackarna, and the eastern part of Brukshagen. It is not permitted to feed the animals or to enter the pastures with dogs when animals are there.

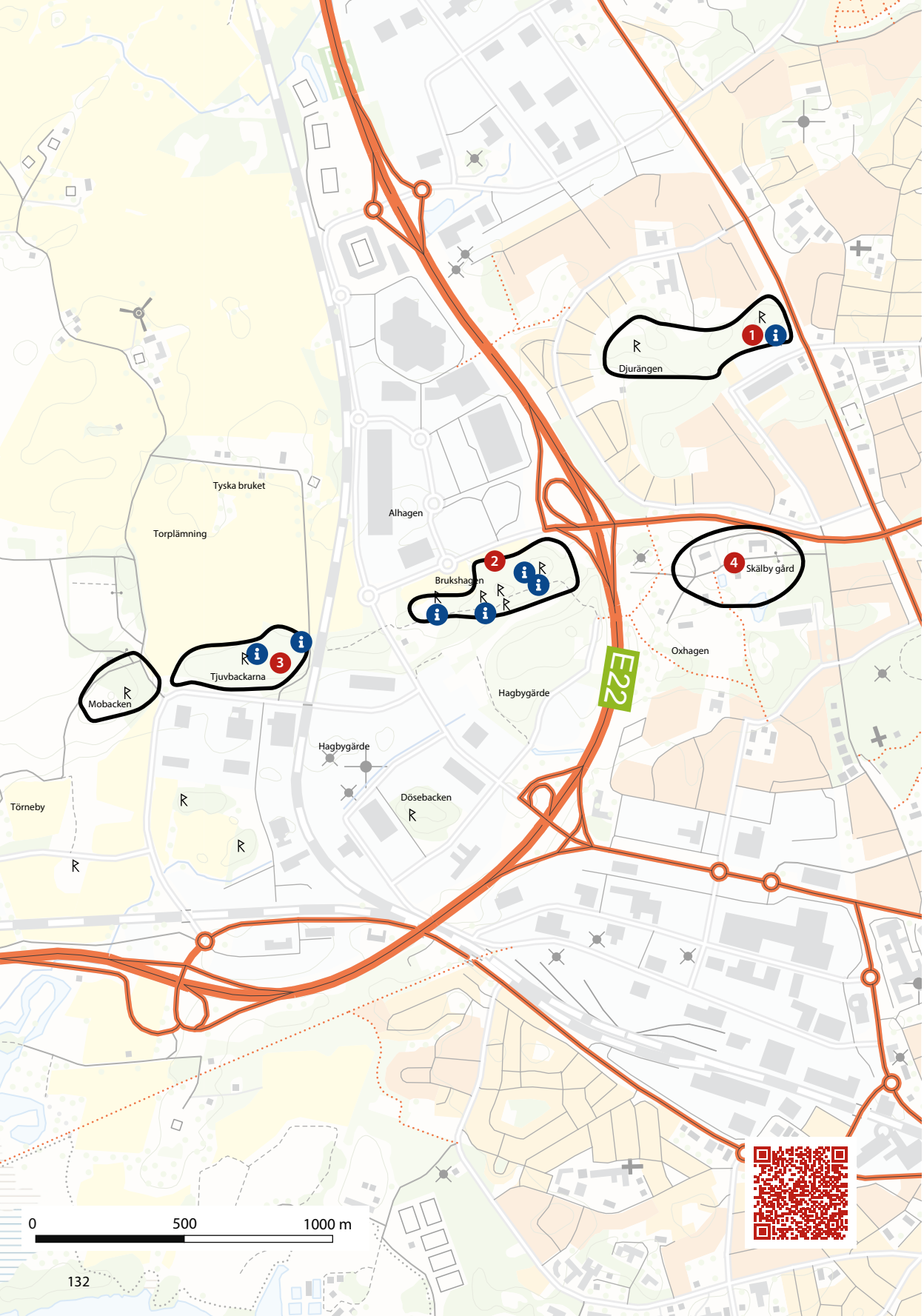
Prehistoric grave types

How people have buried their dead and marked the sites has changed with time and has also varied in different parts of Sweden. Cairns, stone settings, and stone circles from the Bronze and Iron ages are common in the Kalmar area.

- **Cairns** – built up of stones, often of a similar size, and dome shaped.
- **Stone settings** – lower and smaller than cairns. Stones have sometimes been placed together to form a kerb, often circular with a layer of stones or earth inside.
- **Stone circles** – circles with regularly placed standing or lying stones.
- **Domarringar** (judge circles) are stone circles that were once believed to be old thingsteads. Stone circles in the shape of a ship are called **ship settings**.



Stone circles in Brukshagen.



0 500 1000 m





Discover Iron Age grave fields & Skälby gård

1 DJURÄNGSHAGEN

The grave field is located on a hill in oak forest. Archaeologists have investigated one of the graves. At the site you can read about discoveries made of a woman who was buried here in the late Viking Age.

2 BRUKSHAGEN

There are grave fields in the western part of Brukshagen and on a hill in the eastern part of the area. Here are also traces of ancient cultivation. In the 17th century a brickworks was set up nearby, belonging to the royal manor Skälby royal manor. At the time Brukshagen was a pasture, with cattle grazing among Iron Age remains.

3 TJUVBACKARNA

The grave field is located on a hill in a grazed oak pasture. The hill is a so-called end moraine created when the inland ice melted. At the site you can read about the archaeological finds made when some ten graves were investigated. A man who was probably a chieftain in armour was buried

here with a horse and gaming pieces, among other things, beside him.

The area has an abundance of old oaks, hollow trees, and dead wood. This benefits the protected hermit beetle, found here. So-called mould boxes have been put up to help species dependent on hollow trees.

Read more about the oak landscape on page 124.

4 SKÄLBY GÅRD

Skälby's history dates back to prehistoric times. During the reign of Gustav Vasa Skälby became a royal manor, managed by a bailiff who supplied Kalmar Castle with food and other commodities. The farm has also been a county governor residence, but is now owned by Kalmar Municipality.

Today Skälby is a large meeting place with a 4-H farm, accessible playground, garden, outdoor gym, walking area, and extensive lawns for play and socialising.

Get to know Småland's fissure valleys and rivers

East Småland is characterised by long fissure valleys and large watercourses which drain the Småland highlands to the west run through them. Eskers also traverse the fertile agricultural landscape like huge strings of gravel. This distinctive environment has a rich natural and cultural history.

FISSURE VALLEYS

From the Småland highlands, steep forested slopes lead down towards a more open agricultural landscape on the coast to the east. The area is characterised by deep natural fissures in the bedrock, through which the large rivers flow. The fissures were created over millions of years as a result of movements in the bedrock.

The deep and wide valleys around the rivers were formed by glaciers and meltwater from the last Ice Age. The eskers are valuable groundwater reservoirs, and here are also environments with special flora and fauna.

AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENTS

Traces of field terraces and clearance cairns on the slopes, together with more recently drained and cultivated land in the valleys, show the development of the

agricultural landscape.

Following the last Ice Age, around 10,000 years ago, the area of Kalmar County was colonised by plants, animals, and later, humans. The slopes of the valleys down to the rivers offered good pastures and well-drained soil for cultivation. The lower parts, which were seasonally flooded, were used to cut winter fodder for the animals.

Emådalen is the longest valley in Kalmar County, with fertile plains and rich natural resources. Archaeological finds show that people have lived along the river Emån for more than 6,000 years. By the edges of the valley are large grave fields and other ancient remains showing that human presence goes back a long time.

In the valley there are also villages and settlements from the 18th to the 20th century. A fine example is Fröreda on the Järedaåsen ridge, an old village with a traditional style farm complex, see page 96.

The villages in the Småland fissure valley landscape are often located on a slope or on an esker. In the fertile agricultural landscape of the Uknadalen valley with the meandering river Storån you find well-preserved old villages, such as the linear village Kolvebo and large manors, including Stjälkhammar and Stensnäs.

RIVERS

Selection of rivers:

- Emån
- Nötån
- Gårdvedaån
- Alsterån
- Storån
- Vindån
- Marströmmen
- Snärjebäcken
- Lillån
- Virån



The river Emån meanders through Emådalen – one of several fissure valleys in east Småland.

The watercourses have been an important power source for running mills, industries, and plants. Fishing, rafting, and wet meadow hay cutting, see page 139, are other historically important activities along the rivers.

Many birds are dependent on flowing water. For example, white-throated dipper and kingfisher, which seek food here. Brown trout and otter also live in the rivers.

The bottom fauna consists of small creatures living on and in the sediments of rivers and lakes, including crayfish, mussels, stoneflies, caddisflies, dragonflies, damselflies, beetles, and worms. Many of the watercourses from the river Alsterån and northwards contain rare species, such as the freshwater pearl mussel.

Trunks and branches from the deciduous woods along the shore sometimes fall into the river. They provide hiding places for fish, which also feed on the small insects on leaves that fall to the bottom.

The 20-kilometre-long river Emån contains more than 30 species of fish. Many of them are rare, such as the endangered wels catfish – Sweden's largest freshwater fish.

Högsbyåsen – historic road section

Högsbyåsen is an esker running along the entire river Emån. The ridge has attracted settlers as well as provided an important transport route over long periods. For example, the King's Road from Kalmar to Stockholm went here.

Today's Road 34 still follows the old route on or close to the Högsbyåsen ridge, offering fine views across the river Emån and the surrounding landscape. Along the route you find milestones and other historic road marks.

Destinations

Protected areas where you can experience fissure valleys and rivers:

- **Ekhultebergen**
- **Stjälkhammar**, see page 8
- **Vinäs**
- **Risebo**
- **Stora Vrängen**
- **Västra Marströmmen–Mörtfors**, see page 66
- **Emsfors–Karlshammar**
- **Åby**

Lidahult



NATURE RESERVE | EMMABODA MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

The meadow in Lidahult is a so-called wooded meadow. Oak, small-leaved lime, ash, and a number of mature beeches grow here. The meadow is enclosed by a wooden pole fence, and wolf's bane, spotted hawkweed, heath spotted-orchid, oxeye daisy, and viper's grass thrive here. These are all species that benefit from haymaking and grazing.

Nearby

Huvudhultakvarn

Huvudhultakvarn Nature Reserve by the river Lyckebyån is a similar environment, with wet meadows and haybarns. It is located north of Broakulla.

SEE AND DO

Enjoy the lovely meadow and one of few preserved haybarns. Listen and watch for birds. Many breed in the nature reserve, including

- blue tit
- starling
- great tit
- nuthatch
- wren
- pied flycatcher.

GOOD TO KNOW

In the hay barn are benches and tables for your picnic break.

Riding is not permitted in the nature reserve, and dogs must be kept on a leash at all times.

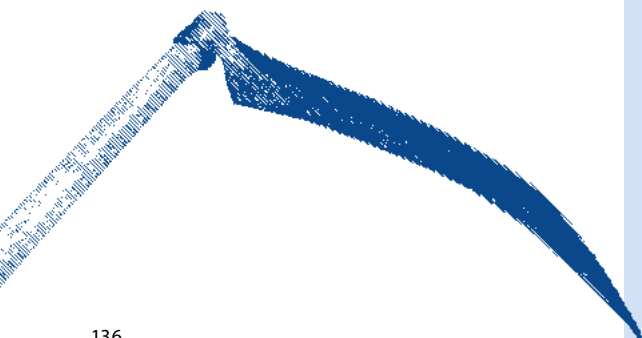
It is not permitted to light fires or camp in the reserve.

POORHOUSE

The meadow has belonged to the farm Lidahult, which was purchased in 1871 by Algutsboda parish to be used as a poorhouse. The main building, now demolished, served for this purpose until 1932.

The building you see today was the former overseer's house. For a while the author Vilhelm Moberg's godmother, Augusta Nyström, lived here. She was married to the poorhouse overseer. Life stories from Lidhult feature in Vilhelm Moberg's books.

“Lovely meadow”



What is a haymeadow?

A haymeadow is grassland that is not fertilized or ploughed, and that is cut with a scythe or a sickle. In the past the meadow was an important type of land, providing winter fodder for horses, cows, and sheep. In the mid-1800s a Småland parish could have as much as 2,000 hectares of meadowland. Today there are few meadows left in the agricultural landscape.

Getting here

The nature reserve is located around 6 kilometres north-east of Emmaboda.

CAR Follow the sign from the road between Geta-sjökvarn and Örsjö.



Peppered moth on a straw.



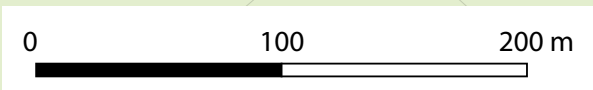
Lesser butterfly-orchid is one of the orchids that thrive here.

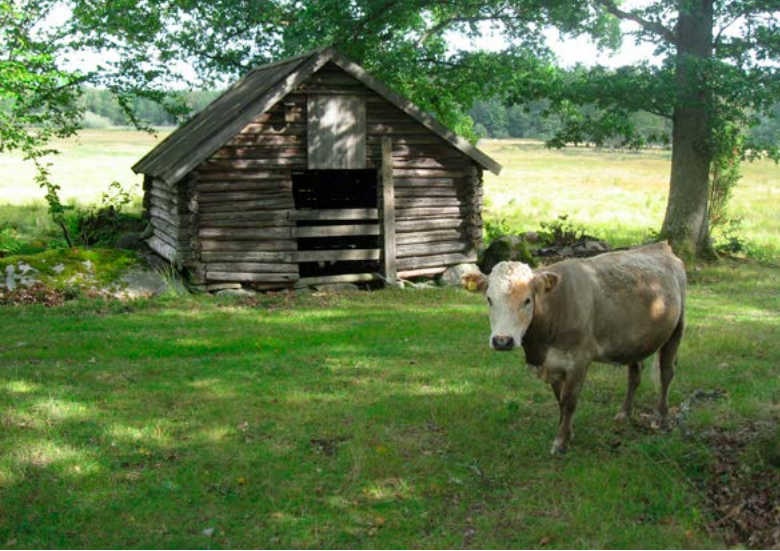


Borgholm

naturreservatet Lidahult

P





The log-built haybarn.

Haybarn – threatened cultural heritage

In forest areas with animal husbandry, the hay that was cut on the meadows was gathered in haybarns. These were often located in the forest, some way from the village and rarely visible from the road. Most of the barns were by a wet meadow, where there was plenty of sedge, a necessary supplement to the winter fodder.

In the past haybarns were often referred to as “she”, and in Kalmar County one often said meadow house instead of haybarn. In this part of Sweden haybarns are the only type of buildings that are constructed of round logs. In the 1940s there were a number of haybarns in every village in inland Småland, sometimes as many as 20 to 30 per village. The haybarns in the county were used into the 1950s, in some cases until the 1960s.

Today only a few preserved haybarns remain.

ANNUAL CUTTING

People on the farm picked a day during the summer, between mid-July and

mid-August, when they went to cut the meadows. The grass was stacked in hayricks to dry. There are many stories told about these working days. In some haybarns, initials or dates relating to the haymaking have been inscribed on the walls.

Later in the summer the dried grass was stored in the haybarn. It remained there until the ground was frozen or snow-covered and the hay could be transported to the farm on a sledge.

In Sweden haymeadows are a significant cultural-historical phenomenon, with thousand-year-old roots. The annual haymaking was a custom that was kept alive and carried on for generations.

The reason for haymeadows having such a diversity of flowers and grasses is that cutting keeps away tall and strong species that otherwise take over the grassland. It leaves space for many less competitive species, which can then thrive together.

Haymeadows are part of Sweden’s biological heritage.

Get to know the Hornsö- Allgunnen area

Few places in Sweden contain such a diverse nature and high natural values as the Hornsö-Allgunnen area in Högsby and Nybro municipalities. This is also a paradise for insects and birds. The area is known internationally for its rich occurrence of rare and threatened insects. On a still spring evening you can hear the bubbling hoots of the Tengmalm's owl among rustling aspen leaves. And in early summer the dawn call of the black-throated loon travels across the calm water of Lake Allgunnen.

FASCINATING MOSAIC OF ENVIRONMENTS

The river Alsterån meanders through the landscape, linking the large Lake Allgunnen to the west with Hultsnäsesjön, Barnebosjön, and several smaller lakes on its way to the Baltic Sea. Along the way you find many different nature types like

- pine forest
- oak forest
- riparian forest with ash-alder
- deciduous swamp woods
- wet meadows
- marshes
- pine bogs.

Here are also ancient hollow oaks, the remains of old beech forests, and abandoned infields, where many interesting species still exist.

This is a core area for biodiversity with few equivalents in Scandinavia and Western Europe.

SIGNIFICANT FIRES

Where there have been forest fires, many new small and large habitats are created, on which several threatened species depend, for example the beetles *Buprestis octoguttata*, flatheaded woodborer, and black fire beetle. Wood-living insects, in turn, are eaten by black woodpecker and other woodpeckers.

In the 17th century and earlier, forest fires were a common occurrence in this area, and traces can still be seen on trees and stumps, for example in the old pine forests in Allgunnen Nature Reserve.

The historic fires are one reason for the great diversity of species that still exists here.

OLD ASPEN FORESTS

The old aspen forests in the Hornsö-Allgunnen area could be a result of previous forest fires. Aspen is a tree that often emerges after a fire, as the seeds can grow in fire-affected soil and there is less competition for light from other trees. In these forests, where insects, mosses, and lichens thrive, you also find Tengman's owl.



National responsibility species

Only within Allgunnen Nature Reserve there are around 100 red-listed species of beetles; 28 of them are threatened. Some of them are also so-called national responsibility species (NRS). This means that Sweden has an obligation to ensure that these animals can live on in the forests. Examples of NRS species are flatheaded woodborer, *Dicerca alni*, *Aegomorphus clavipes*, and eyed squeaker.

Destinations

Protected sites where you can experience the Hornsö-Allgunnen area:

- Allgunnen, see page 104
- Aboda
- Grytsjön
- Bokhultet
- Flaggölerum and Högeströms holme
- Getebro and Barnebo

NATURE CONSERVATION IN THE HORNSÖ-ALLGUNNEN AREA

A large part of the area is now an eco-park, one of the largest in Sweden. There are also several nature reserves, where work is carried out to ensure that habitats develop in a way that enable the species that live here to continue to exist. One example is controlled burning of the old fire-affected pine forests.

“A core area for biodiversity”



Great spotted woodpecker. The wet deciduous forests around the river Alsterån are home to many different woodpeckers.



Visit a glassworks village



The classic Boda glasbruk is one of many villages within Glasriket in south-eastern Småland. Learn about the history of glass production, and experience a world of innovative design, colour, and function.

BODA GLASBRUK

GLASSWORKS VILLAGE | EMMABODA MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

One of the most famous glassworks in Småland, Boda glasbruk, was established 1864. The same year full freedom to conduct business was declared, opening up for new ventures all over Sweden. The village Boda glasbruk is completely built up around the glassworks. The attractive works environment includes many typical buildings that show the history of glass making.

Crusher – from silicon to recycling

The crusher by the river Bodaån was one of the first buildings to be erected at the glassworks. It contains an old water-powered crushing machine, a so-called edge mill. All glassworks had similar crushers, but few have been preserved.

Glass largely consists of melted sand, and the Småland sand gave brown or green glass. Originally, to produce clear glass, crushed pebbles were added to white sand. Later, silica sand was imported. The crushers were then used for recycling glass waste and broken crucibles – clay pots used to melt glass in.

Sweden's largest collection of art glass

When the glassworks closed in the early 2000s it was converted into a museum: The Glass Factory. Here you find Sweden's largest collection of art glass.

The exhibitions show the seemingly limitless world of varying design, colour, and function in glass. The craftsmanship and artistic tradition is kept alive and evolves in the experimental glassmaker's workshop.

Visit

At the respective website you can read more and find information before your visit:

- [The Glass Factory](#)
- [Glasriket](#)
- [Hönsalottas luffarmuseum](#)
- [Emmaboda Municipality](#)

“The artistic glass tradition is kept alive”



The glass is melted and shaped in the furnace.

Hönsalottas luffarmuseum

Did you know that the history of tramps is linked to the glassworks? Tramps often visited the glassworks to ask for night lodging by the warm furnace. In one of the old grinderies you can visit Hönsalotta's Tramp Museum.

📍 Getting here

Boda glasbruk is located around 15 kilometres north-east of Emmaboda.

CAR Follow Road 25 between Växjö and Kalmar; you find the glassworks village 20 kilometres west of Nybro.



Discover Boda glasbruk

1. Old furnace
2. The Glass Factory
3. Old grindery and smithy
4. Tramp Museum
5. Works office
6. Substation
7. Crusher
8. Old grindery
9. Old school, hostel
10. Albin and Pegasus, sculpture by Bertil Vallien
11. Ruben's cottage
12. Old Konsum shop
13. Managing director's house
14. Red cottage



0 250 500 m



Cultural-historical guides to Glasriket

In the booklet *Boda glasbruk – Kulturhistorisk guide i glasbruksmiljö (Boda glasbruk – Cultural-historical guide to a glassworks environment)* you can read about other buildings, places, historical events, and people in Boda glasbruk village.

Similar guides are available for several glassworks villages in Glasriket. The Kingdom of Crystal guides can be downloaded from [the Kalmar County Administrative Board website](#); write “glasbruk” in the search box.

The guides have been produced jointly by Kalmar and Kronoberg county administrative boards. The glassworks in Kalmar County are highlighted in bold print.

- **Alsterbro**
- **Björkshult**
- **Boda**
- Bergdala
- **Flygsfors**
- **Gadderås**
- **Gullaskruf**
- **Johansfors**
- Kosta
- Lindshammar
- **Målerås**
- **Nybro**
- **Orrefors**
- **Pukeberg**
- Rosdala
- Rydefors
- Skruf
- Strömbergshyttan
- Transjö
- **Åfors**



Rostockaholme & Bielkeleden



MEDIEVAL SEAT FARM & WALKING TRAIL | EMMABODA
MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

On the islet Rostockaholme are traces of the Bielke family's medieval seat farm. The Bielkeleden Trail goes around Lake Grimmansmålasjön. Follow paths through enchanted forest with scenic views across the lake. Information boards will guide you among the many natural and cultural-historical sights along the trail.

ROSTOCKAHOLME

Rostockaholme is located in the water system of the river Lyckebyån. The southernmost part of the islet is an esker. Stone Age discoveries have been made on the islet, but the most extensive remains are from a medieval seat farm.

In the 19th century the islet was used for cultivation. In the 20th century sheep grazed here, and from the 1920s the islet was a popular meeting place for local teenagers.

MEDIEVAL SEAT FARM

Medieval documents show that the farm, which was then called Lybeck, was the manor of one of the most influential magnates of the 14th century – Nils Turesson Bielke. He was a knight, judge, and for some years the person closest to the king.

The location on an islet between two lakes and the river Lyckebyån was strategic from a defence point of view. The typical site of medieval fortified seat farms in Småland was on islets, isthmuses, and headlands in lakes

and watercourses.

Today you can see the foundations of five buildings and one cellar. A little further north is a paved edge by the lake, which can be interpreted as a pier.

Archaeological excavations and analyses show that the farm was inhabited for almost 200 years; from when it was built in the early 13th century until it was destroyed in a fire in the 15th century. Charred grain and the remains of wooden barrels were found in the thick fire layer. Forged iron nails, a padlock for a door, and other details from the manor were discovered.

Just north of the manor are several traces of cultivation by way of clearance cairns and negative lynchets. Most traces are from 19th century agriculture, but some could date back to medieval times.

NATURE & CULTURE ALONG THE BIELKELEDEN TRAIL

When you follow the Bielkeleden Trail, you pass Sjomålen, which was originally a dayworker's croft belonging to the farm Grimmansmåla gård. Further south, ruins, an apple tree, and a lilac bush remind us of the crofters at Sjöbrånen.

Along the trail you can see areas of large granite boulders and some huge erratic blocks left behind by the inland ice.

Close to the water are wet meadows and haylofts that once belonged to villages and farms further away. Read about wet meadows and haylofts on page 139.

Lyckebyån

The medieval name of this river was probably Lybäcken. It attracted the first settlers to the area around 7,000 to 8,000 years ago. Later, the river provided the conditions for both tax-exempt farms and medieval iron production, and powered mills and sawmills, glassworks, and foundries. For centuries iced-over lake and river systems facilitated the transport of timber, wood, gravel and sand, winter fodder for the animals, and even ice from the lake itself.



Greater water-moss thrives in and around Drottning Kristinas källa. It is said that Christina, Queen of Sweden, rested at the spring on her way to Rome.



📍 Getting here

Rostockaholme and the Bielkeleden Trail are located just east of Emmaboda, to the north of Road 120.

CAR From Road 120 in Lindås, follow the sign Rostockaholme 2 kilometres. The last 500 metres is a narrow dirt road. There is parking for a few cars at the beginning of the trail.



CYCLE/WALK Bielkeleden Trail passes close to Emmaboda, and from there you can cycle or walk to join the trail.



Discover the Bielkeleden Trail information boards

1. Bielkeleden Trail to Rostockaholme
2. Copper bridge
3. Kettle lake
4. Rostockaholme
5. Bielkeleden Trail
6. Diorite rock
7. Gubbakärret mire
8. Wet meadows
9. Sjöbrånen croft
10. Bielkeleden Trail
11. Drottning Kristinas källa
12. Boulder quarry
13. Big boulder moraine



Ångslada

Rostockaholme

Grimmansmålasjön

Mjusjön

0 250 500 m



Visit

The easy-to-walk path to Rostockaholme is around 750 metres long.

The Bielkeleden Trail is 6.5 kilometres, mostly through forest. Bridges and footbridges take you over wet areas; they can be slippery in wet weather.

Picnic tables are provided in some places along the trail, for example on Rostockaholme.

Badberget is a rock for swimming, with views across the lake. There are no tables here, so bring a blanket or seat pads for your picnic.

Lake Grimmansmålasjön is popular for outdoor activities all year round, including swimming, boating, and skating.

Legend about the copper bridge

Several myths and legends originate from Rostockaholme. One tells about Algut, a knight who supposedly owned the fortified manor and lent his name to the entire parish. It is said that Algut and his soldiers were hit by a terrible storm. When they rode across a copper bridge that Algut had built, he shook his fist to the sky and shouted at the Norse god Thor: "You rumble up there, but I reign down here!"

Upon which lightning struck and the bridge sank together with all the men and horses. Some people say that the shining copper bridge can still be seen on the bottom when the moon is full.



Örarevet



NATURE RESERVE | TORSÅS MUNICIPALITY | SMÅLAND

Örarevet is a long esker which frames an archipelago consisting of some thirty low islets and skerries. Wind and waves have over time made their marks on the ridge and contributed to its peculiar look. Both islands and the mainland have been used for grazing over a long time.

SEE AND DO

Örarevet is a popular area for rambling and excursions. Herbs you are likely to encounter are yarrow, mountain everlasting, lady's bedstraw, and mouse-ear hawkweed. Walk along the coastal meadows; the widest are located around and between the headlands of the reef, where quiet bays and lagoons have formed. On the eastern side of the reef is a shingle beach – a perfect spot for meditation. The boathouses and junipers on the furthest tip provide a fine archipelago view.

Nearby

Riding officer routes along the Kalmarsundsleden Trail

The Kalmarsundsleden Trail takes you on some paths that were used by riding officers. These were guards who patrolled the coast on horseback to prevent smuggling and wrecking. In 1638 there were two riding officers employed in Kalmar County – the first ones in Sweden.

Discover the remains of redoubts and step through stone labyrinths. Take a dip or stretch out on a picnic blanket on the beach.

GOOD TO KNOW

From the parking area a walking trail passes the beach and continues south along the reef. A smaller path goes from the parking area to the western side of the reef.

It is not permitted to drive cars, quad bikes, motorcycles, or mopeds on the reef.

You may moor or anchor a boat for maximum 24 hours in one place. There are designated areas where it is permitted to light fires. Camping is not permitted in the nature reserve.

BIRDLIFE

The low skerries within the nature reserve are important breeding places for Canada goose. Other species that breed here are tufted duck, oystercatcher, ruddy turnstone, sandwich tern, and little tern.

If you look up to the sky in autumn and spring, you will see large numbers of waders, ducks, and small birds migrating south before the winter, and returning when it is over.

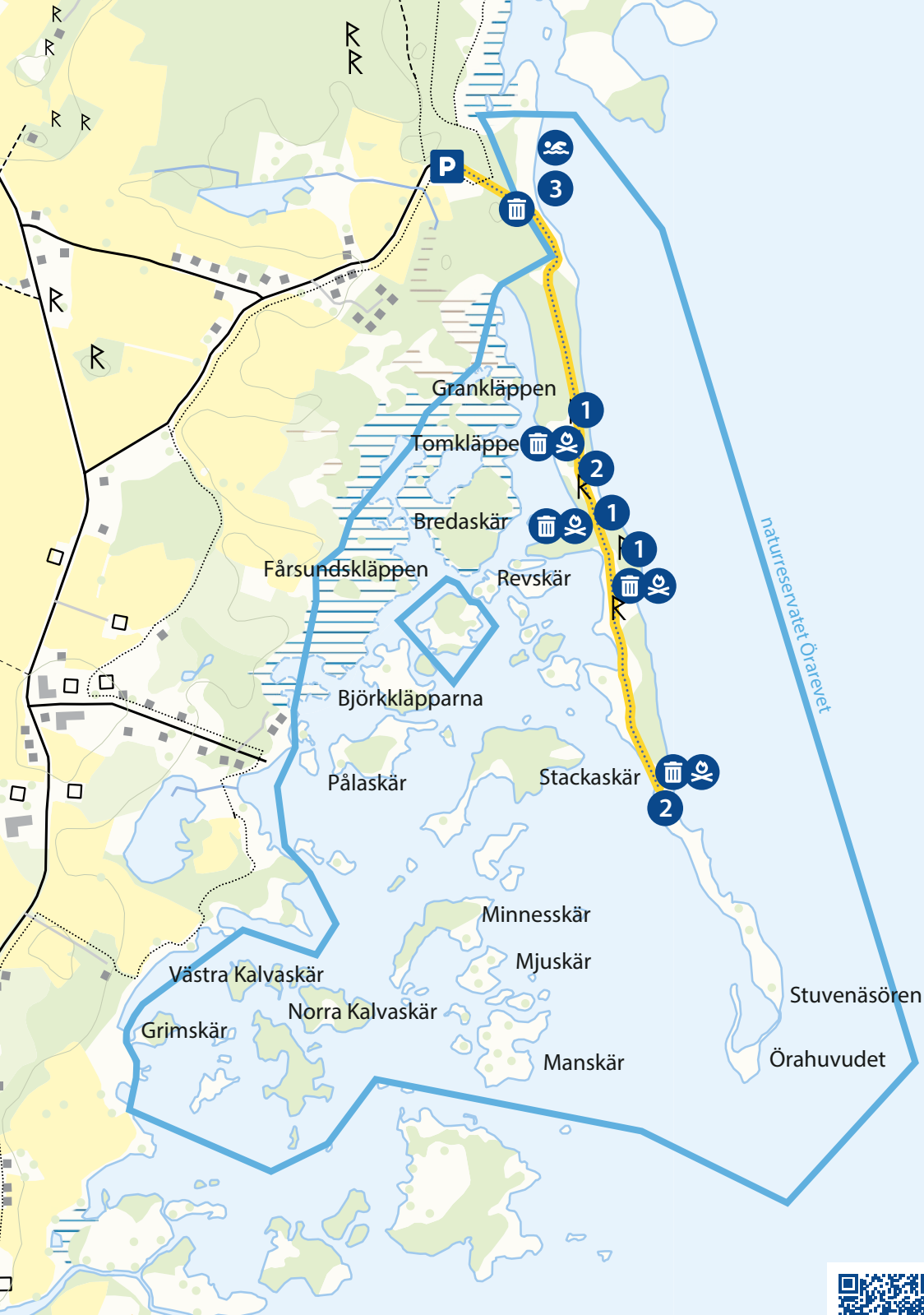
Getting here

The nature reserve is located north of Söderåkra.

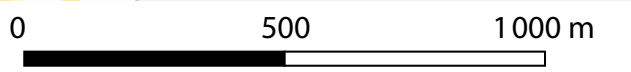
CAR To get to Örarevet, drive on the old E22 until you are around 2.5 kilometres north-east of Söderåkra village. From here, follow signs for the reserve.







naturreservatet Örahuvudet



Discover Örarevet

1 REDOUBTS

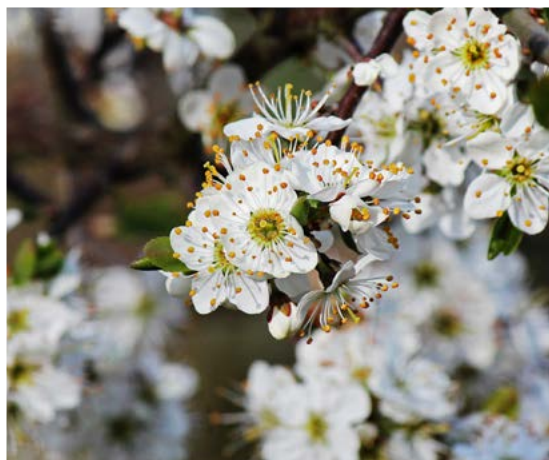
In the area are four redoubts with the remains of battlements and a trench. They were constructed by Swedes during the 1676 to 1677 war, as protection against the Danes and the Germans, and may have been used as late as in the early 19th century.

2 LABYRINTHS

On the reef are several stone labyrinths. In the past it was customary to lay these out in the archipelago. People wished for good fishing or a safe voyage, and walking in the labyrinths was believed to evoke magic powers. Archaeologists do not believe that the labyrinths here are very old, but why miss an opportunity? Try walking in one of them!

3 BEACH

There is a good beach on the northern part of the reef. Here you find a jetty, toilet, and changing facilities managed by Torsås Municipality.



Trollskogen



NATURE RESERVE | BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

The nature reserve is located on the north-easternmost tip of Öland and is part of Böda Eco Park. Ancient trees grow in the forest, and large amounts of ivy cover the ground and trunks. Pebbles, coastal meadows, prehistoric burial cairns, and windswept pines by the sea; this place is impressive for old and young alike. Trollskogen is one of Öland's most popular nature areas, with a host of cultural-historical attractions.

SEE AND DO

This is a good place for birdwatching all year round. Walk through herb-rich forest with pines that are up to 200 years old. If you visit Trollskogen in May to June, twinflower will be in bloom. Where the forest ends, grazed coastal meadows start. On the border between sea and land are shingle beaches. Old pines that have become twisted by the sea winds stand in a shelter belt zone.

The north-eastern tip has played an important role for people since prehistoric times, with an abundance of fish and a secluded harbour in Grankullaviken bay. According to a new archaeological theory, the Jaktmuren stone wall is much older than previously believed, and seems to have marked the border to a holy site with graves and other ritual places on the peninsula.

“One of Öland's most popular nature areas”

The wreck of the stranded schooner Swiks, and fire trenches that are several hundred years old are other examples of what you can find in the area.

At the visitor centre naturum you can learn more about Trollskogen and the nature and culture on Öland.

GOOD TO KNOW

Trollskogsstigen Path mainly goes through uneven terrain. Murgrönestigen Path is partly gravelled and suitable for prams and walking aids. Knysseknackestigen Path goes along a footbridge and is accessible for wheelchairs.

Naturum offers exhibitions, a café, and various activities. For opening hours, see [naturum Trollskogen's website](#).

Remember that cows roam freely in the nature reserve. Keep your dog on a leash at all times. Cycling is permitted on the central road, but not on the walking trails.

ANCIENT TREES, COWS & BREEDING BIRDS

Insects, wood-living fungi, and lichens thrive in Trollskogen thanks to the abundance of old, hollow trees and dead wood. The insects, in turn, are appreciated by nesting birds, such as black woodpecker and red crossbill. Some of Öland's less common breeding birds, such as willow tit and firecrest, are also found here.

The cows in Trollskogen help keep the forest open and the coastal meadows grazed. This benefits waders and ducks, as they enjoy grazed areas close to water.



📍 Getting here

The nature reserve is located on the north-eastern tip of Öland, around 7 kilometres from Borgholm.

CAR Follow Road 136 north, and turn to Grankulla just before Byxelkrok. Signs show the way from Grankulla. Parking is available at the visitor centre naturum, with places reserved for disabled badge holders.



Firecrest.

Ivy

Ivy uses trees to climb up to the light. It is perhaps best recognised by the triangular leaves. But when the plant becomes eight to ten years old, branches grow out with elongated leaves. It is first then that the ivy starts to flower. The blooms appear in autumn, and the dark berries ripen in spring!

On calm, warm autumn days in September to October you can smell nectar in the air and hear insects buzzing among the ivy flowers.







The shipwreck Swiks.

Discover Trollskogen

1 FIRE TRENCHES

The fire trenches were probably used in battle when Danish troops tried to conquer Örehamn in 1452.

2 MUSEUM RAILWAY

In summer you can go to Trollskogen by train from Fagerör. The narrow-gauge forest railway is part of the original Böda line, used for transporting timber in the first half of the 20th century.

3 LEGENDARY HJERTESKEPPET

Legend has it that a ship went aground here and then became overgrown with grass. In the bottom of the depression is a well with fresh water, but since local people believed that the place was bewitched, they didn't let their cattle drink there, and the well was filled in.

The large depression in the ground could in fact be a kettle lake, a hollow formed by dead ice remaining and melting over a long period as the ice sheet retreated in the last Ice Age. According to new theories, Hjerteskeppet could have been used as a thingstead in the Iron Age.

4 BURIAL CAIRNS

It is not known how old the burial cairns here are, but they are likely to be of the same age as nearby Nabberör, one of Öland's most famous burial cairns from the 8th century.

5 TROLLEKEN

Öland's oldest oak, the Troll Oak, is between 800 and 900 years old. It is one of many ancient oaks in the nature reserve. More than 1,000 species live in, on, and from old oaks. Read more about the oak landscape on page 124.

6 SKEPPSVRAKET SWIKS

In a storm just before Christmas 1926, the schooner Swiks ran aground on a sandbank, close to the Trollskogen shore. She was on her way home from Germany to Åland. The crew of seven managed to get ashore. With time, the waves pushed Swiks up on land.

7 JAKTMUREN

Until recently it was believed that the collapsed stone wall was a hunting wall from the days of King Johan III. According to a new theory, it marked the entrance to a prehistoric holy place.

Get to know Mittlandsskogen

Central Öland is dominated by deciduous forest that is very rich in species of plants, fungi, and animals. The forest Mittlandsskogen and the surrounding grazed coastal grassland are home to almost 1,000 threatened species. Many of them are new finds in Sweden. Mittlandsskogen is Europe's largest contiguous deciduous forest below the mountain range.



OLD MEADOWS AND PASTURES

Agriculture has contributed to the biodiversity. In Mittlandsskogen there are meadows and pastures that have been used from the Iron Age until the 20th century. On this land grew broadleaved deciduous trees, whose leafy branches were harvested as winter fodder for the farm animals.

Mittlandsskogen largely consists of old, abandoned meadows and pastures that have become overgrown. Many species are associated with the mosaic, small-scale landscape resulting from animals grazing the forests.

There are plenty of traces from past agriculture, such as the straight stone walls built by farmers in the 19th and 20th centuries. Significantly older are the so-called field-walls, the remains of Iron Age enclosures, often seen snaking through the landscape.

AMONG BROADLEAVES, HAZEL GROVES & MOIST MEADOWS

The broadleaved deciduous woodland consists of hazel-rich oak forest, forest of oak, ash, and elm as well as hornbeam forest. Here you find Sweden's most widespread occurrence of hazel. The gappy hazel groves on Öland give rise to a pleasant micro climate, favourable for many insects and fungi.

The fungus flora in the forest is of international importance. Lilac coral, flaky puffball, goliath webcap, and satan's bolete are just some of the special fungi that grow here.

The elegant agile frog thrived in the small wetlands in the hazel groves already in the Stone Age.

Mittlandsskogen has a rich butterfly fauna, and several species are rare or do not occur on the mainland; marsh fritillary is one example.

In the forest are also several rare and threatened vascular plants, such as wood-barley, lesser hairy-brome, fen orchid, white elm, shrubby violet, and scorpion senna.



Mittlandsskogen in figures

- 14,000 hectares in total
- 45% broadleaved deciduous forest
- 30% other deciduous forest, predominantly birch
- 5% hazel groves
- 15% planted coniferous forest

“Exclusive fungi”

FOREST BIRDS

There are 100 breeding species of birds in Mittlandsskogen. Some deciduous forest birds that are less common in Sweden are found in greater numbers here.

Thanks to its powerful bill, hawfinch can eat hard stones and seeds from cherry, sloe, bird cherry, beech, hornbeam, elm, etc. In spring it feeds on buds from deciduous trees. Honey buzzard is a fairly rare forest raptor. It eats mainly honeycombs, larvae, pupae, and adult wasps, and bumblebees. But also other insects, amphibians, fruit, and berries.

Lesser spotted woodpecker thrives in deciduous forests and mixed forests rich in deciduous trees. It pecks the surface for wood-living insects, and in summer it feasts on insects found on bark and in foliage.



A satan's bolete appearing through the leaves.

Destinations

Protected areas where you can experience Mittlandsskogen:

1. Rönnerum–Abbantorp, see page 224
2. Vanserum–Bäck
3. Gillsätra
4. Mossberga–Vipetorp
5. Kalkstad
6. Arontorp
7. Långrälla–Borg

Neptuni åkrar & Forgalla skepp



NATURE RESERVE & ANCIENT REMAINS AREA | BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

Sky meets sea at one of Öland's most popular destinations. In 1741 the scientist Carl Linnaeus gave the extensive shingle beaches and coastal banks the name Neptuni åkrar (Neptune's fields). And the landscape really does look as if it was created by the sea god himself. When viper's-bugloss blooms, the grey beach is transformed into a sea of vibrant blue. Next to Neptuni åkrar is a Viking Age grave field. One of the graves has the evocative name Forgalla skepp (Forgalla ship).

SEE AND DO

Neptuni åkrar is perhaps best known for its colourful flowering of viper's-bugloss. To experience this you should visit the nature reserve in June to July.

Along the shoreline you can see ringed plover running around in search of food. Other waders include oystercatcher and redshank, which emits a loud piping call if you get too close. Wheatear may also turn up, and in the water you can see eider and shelduck. Enjoy the magnificent view across the sea and Blå Jungfrun National Park!

There are also plenty of fossils to study and marvel over. Here are many examples of trilobites, a group of extinct marine arthropods, and brachiopods, meaning "arm" and "foot", that resemble sea shells.

Just south of the reserve is a Viking Age grave field. There you can read about the history of Forgalla skepp and archaeological finds.

GOOD TO KNOW

A footpath goes through the entire nature reserve. There are also several shorter paths from the parking areas down to the water. The Ölandsleden Cycle Trail runs along the eastern edge of the reserve.

It is not permitted to take away fossils or to chip them away from the limestone rock. Do not disturb the birds.

COASTAL BANKS & SHINGLE BEACHES

The area mainly consists of coastal banks, created during the last Ice Age. They are formed by flat stones and gravel, polished by the sea and washed up on the shore, while the land rose from the sea over thousands of years.

The smooth pebbles deposited alongside the coastal banks form shingle beaches. A soothing sound is heard when waves wash over the stones.



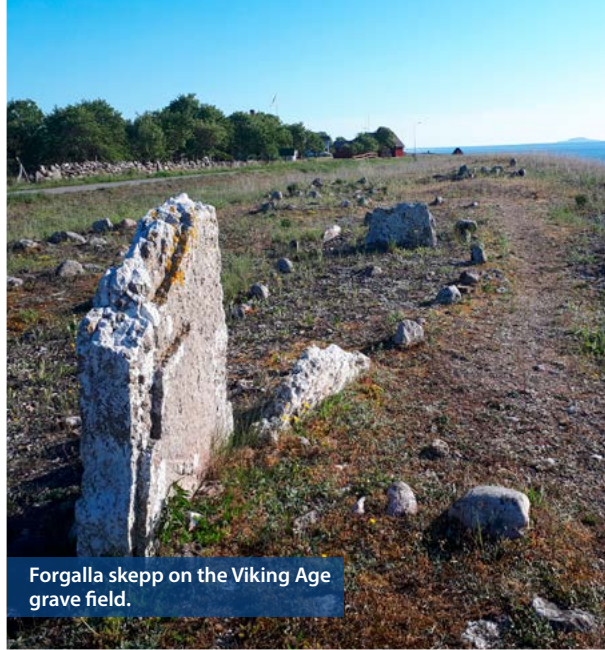
Öland's northern tip

Öland's northern tip with the 32-metre-tall lighthouse Långe Erik is a popular destination. For more information, see [the website of the Swedish national property board Statens fastighetsverk](#).

Getting here

The nature reserve is located around 2 kilometres north of Byxelkrok.

CAR Follow Road 136. There are four parking areas on the road along the reserve.



Forgalla skepp on the Viking Age grave field.



Viper's-bugloss came with cargo

Viper's-bugloss, which every year attracts visitors to Neptuni åkrar, is not a native plant on Öland. In 1934 a boatload of gravel was shipped from Ven to Byxelkrok. The gravel contained seeds from viper's-bugloss, which spread and now the plant grows in several places on the island.



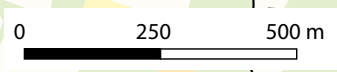
Hälluddsvik

Hälludden

naturreservatet Neptuni åkrar

Västeralver

Forgalla skepp



Discover Neptuni åkrar & Forgalla skepp

1 VIPER'S-BUGLOSS

In this part of the nature reserve, there is a profusion of blue flowers in June to July.

2 SWIMMING & SNORKELLING

A fine site for swimming and snorkelling.

3 GRAVE FIELD WITH FORGALLA SKEPP

It is said that a big sea battle took place along the coast. The ground where an enemy ship sank was called after the ship – Forgalla. A grave believed to be a ship setting is called Forgalla skepp. But archaeologists found that it actually consisted of two stone circles. There are several types of graves on the burial field – cists and standing stones, circular and three-pointed low stone settings, and taller burial cairns.

During an archaeological excavation, women, men and children, who had been buried during the Viking Age, were found. A 60-year-old woman had been buried with beautiful bronze clasps holding her dress, as well as scissors, a knife, and a case for sewing needles beside her. A small child was buried with a clay pot, and another had been given two glass beads as a grave gift.

“Sea of flowers in vibrant blue”



Lindreservatet



NATURE RESERVE | BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

Meet a varied landscape with a diversity of plants and animals. Lindreservatet Nature Reserve contains broadleaved deciduous forests, pine forest, open pastures, limestone alvar, fens, and herb-rich haymeadows. The land has been affected by human use for a long time, and here you find the well-preserved remains of an Iron Age village.

SEE AND DO

Walk through pastures and meadows, beneath leafy tree crowns and past stone cairns and enclosures from bygone farms.

In Lindreservatet are meadows with a herb-rich flora surrounded by oak, ash, and small-leaved lime. In late spring and summer you can enjoy the floral splendour of plants like

- cowslip
- early-purple orchid
- military orchid
- quaking grass
- greater yellow-rattle
- crested cow-wheat
- fragrant orchid
- lesser butterfly-orchid.

Nearby

Böda backar

Böda backar Nature Reserve is a great area for walking with many trails and a good place for picking bilberries.

Bats, like the rare species natterer's bat and Nathusius's pipistrelle, thrive in the wooded meadows.

Look out for collared flycatcher and lesser spotted woodpecker when rambling through the deciduous forest. When small-leaved lime flowers, you can hear the buzzing of hundreds of bees and bumblebees collecting nectar.

GOOD TO KNOW

There is a 2-kilometre marked walking trail in the nature reserve.

Remember that dogs must be kept on a leash. It is not permitted to light fires, but you can camp for 24 hours within the reserve.

LIFE AROUND DECIDUOUS TREES

Many small-leaved limes, ashes, and oaks in the area are very old. Ash and small-leaved lime carry traces of previous cutting – so-called pollarding, when leafy branches were gathered as winter fodder for the farm animals. The oaks have wide crowns, which shows that they once grew in a more open landscape.

Parts of the meadowland have become overgrown and are now a deciduous forest dominated by small-leaved lime, which is unusual. Here you find many rare species, such as the endangered fungus *Biscogniauxia cinereolilacina*, which is only found in a few places in Sweden, and threatened lichen, such as tree lungwort, *Bacidia rosella*, and *Gyalecta truncigena*.



Tree lungwort, one of the threatened lichens found in Lindreservatet.



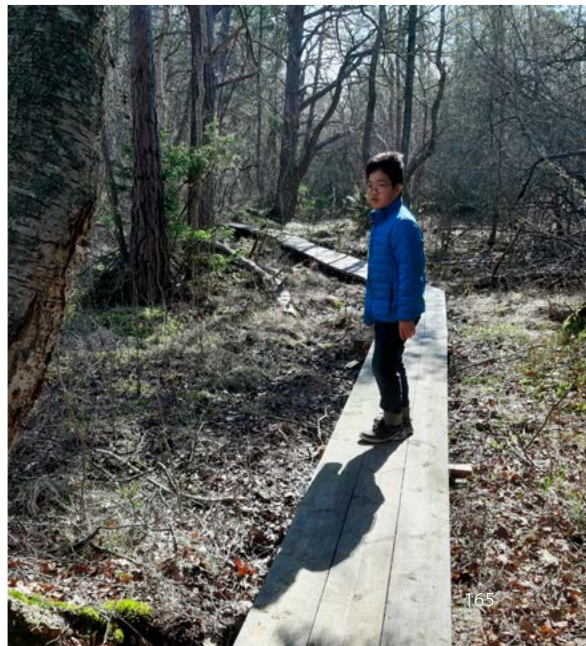
Harsher winters

In the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age, the climate in Sweden became colder and more humid. Sturdy houses were built to protect humans and their animals, which now had to be kept indoors during winter. We can see this from building foundations, grave fields, cattle paths, and stone wall enclosures in the Iron Age village.

Getting here

Lindreservatet is located 2 kilometres east of Byxelkrok, at Torp.

CAR At Torp village, follow blue signs to the nature reserve.





Flygfält

naturreservatet Lindreservatet

2

Idékärret

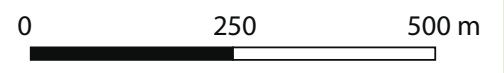
3

1

Kronängen

Gravfält

P



Discover Lindreservatet

1 WOODED MEADOW

Enjoy the floral splendour. Look out for bats, if you stay until dusk.

2 FOOTPATH

The circular route goes through the meadow Kronängen, beautiful pastures, deciduous forests, and wetlands. You pass several ancient remains, such as old enclosures and building foundations along the marked trail.

3 ÅKER IRON AGE VILLAGE

Historically, stone enclosures and building foundations have been removed or destroyed in many places to give way to cultivation etc. However, the remains of this Iron Age village, which may have been called Åker, are very well preserved.



Look out for collared flycatcher.



Seasonal tips

Lighting a fire and grilling on a clear winter day, walking in a sea of orchids on a May evening, picking bilberries in a summer forest, or finding chanterelles on a colourful autumn day. Even if nature is open for experiences all year round, many places are especially worth a visit at certain times of the year.

Here are some tips for seasonal destinations. Naturally, there are thousands of other gems in the large Kalmar County, and sometimes it is enough to go out in the countryside and just unwind. Find your own seasonal favourites!

ADVENTURES IN WINTER

- Ancient remains and cultural relics are easier to see when the grass is not growing. Go out and look for traces from the past in Rosendal or Hermans-torp.
- Enjoy a walk out on the reef Örarevet and light a fire in the fireplace.
- To follow animal tracks in the snow is exciting and works in all natural environments.
- When the snow has settled, you find fine ski trails in Horsö-Värshäs and Svartbäcksmåla nature reserves.
- When there is ice on the limestone alvar, you can have a unique skating experience on the lake Möckelmossen.

EXUBERANT SPRING FEELINGS

- There are plenty of slopes with wood anemones; extra spectacular displays are found at Figeholm, Albrunna lund, and Vickelby ädellövskog nature reserves.
- The bright yellow pheasant's eye is also called Arontorp rose in Swedish.
- A trip to Rönnerum-Abbantorp or Hall-torp nature reserves when the lime green hornbeam leaves burst out is balsam for the soul.
- You encounter a sea of early-purple orchid and elder-flowered orchid at Segersgårde, Sladö, and Stora Vickelby alvar nature reserves.
- At the ringfort Gråborg and the ship setting Noaks ark in Karum you can enjoy a profusion of flowers and ancient remains.
- The haymeadows are splendid in early June, a visit to Lidahult or Lilla Horn wooded meadows is a wonderful experience.





UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER DAYS

- The first Arctic waders start flying southwards at Midsummer and can be seen close-up at Gammalsby coastal grasslands.
- When viper's-bugloss flowers in Neptuni åkrar Nature Reserve, a visit is a must.
- Walking along one of the long-distance trails in Kalmar County is an enjoyable and climate-smart holiday adventure.
- Particularly good places for swimming are found on the rocks at Sladö, at Örarevet reef, at Byrum and Ramsnäs in Böda, and at the wading place leading to Brönnsö in Lövä Nature Reserve.
- The forests invite you to come bilberry picking, both on northern Öland and on the mainland.

AUTUMN SENSATIONS

- Walk around in one of Kalmar County's great cities and towns.
- When nature is quiet, tranquil walks provide recovery for body and soul. Good nature reserves for rambling are Rälla-Ekerum, Trollskogen, Allgunnen, and Björnåset.
- The forest Mittlandsskogen in autumn splendour is not only beautiful, but offers all kinds of mushrooms.
- Take the opportunity to walk across the impressive Schäferiångarna meadows when access restrictions lift. In the deciduous woodland Ottenby lund there is also a chance of seeing fallow deer fighting during the rutting season.
- Öland's harvest festival at the end of September attracts visitors from all over Sweden. Art, crafts, food, drink, and much more provide a feast for the taste buds as well as the eyes.

See Contents on page 5 to find out more about the destinations mentioned here.



Bödakustens västra



NATURE RESERVE | BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

Bödakustens västra Nature

Reserve includes an approximately 8-kilometre-long stretch of sand along the west coast of Öland. The area is a popular spot for swimming and relaxation on the beach as well as for its beautiful scenery. Here you find impressive sand dunes, leafy deciduous trees, and flowering meadows.

SEE AND DO

Walk along the coast all the way through the nature reserve.

The extensive sandy beach at Byrums sandvik is a paradise for the whole family. You can also enjoy unforgettable sunsets with a lovely view across Kalmar Strait and Blå Jungfrun National Park.

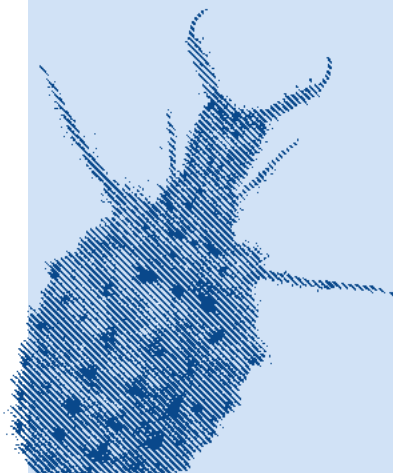
Nearby

Rosendal järnåldersby & Skäftekärr

Take the opportunity to visit Rosendal, the best-preserved remains of an Iron Age village in northern Europe. Close by is also Skäftekärr archaeological outdoor museum with a reconstructed Iron Age farm. See page 174.

Byrums raukar

Don't miss Öland's only area of rauks! See page 180.



In the central parts of the reserve are impressive drifting sand fields and dunes, where the wind has transported grains of sand over thousands of years. The largest dunes are several kilometres long and can be up to ten metres tall. Old, sparse, and windswept pine forest grows here.

At the headlands Kinshögar, Masthuggsudden, and Rörstensudden you find shingle beaches. The pebbles washed up on land have been polished by the sea. Listen to the sound made from waves lapping across the stones.

In the southern part of the nature reserve you find limestone alvar and dry grassland. This is the northern part of the Mens alvar, where plants such as hoary rock-rose, dropwort, fly orchid and fairy flax grow.

Many of the forests here are full of berries, especially bilberries, which you are welcome to pick.

GOOD TO KNOW

The Bödaledden Trail, which stretches through the area, is suitable both for walking and jogging.

The Ölandsleden Cycle Trail passes through the nature reserve.

It is only permitted to light fires in designated fire places, see map on page 172.

Rare insects & fungi

Many rare insects thrive in the varied habitats along the Böda coast. For example, all three species of antlion lacewings are found in the area.

Interesting fungi include grey falsebolete, Alexander's funnel, and scented knight.



FOREST, MEADOW & WATER

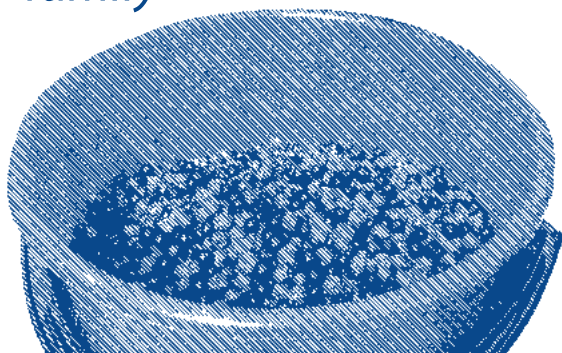
The lush deciduous forests west of Byrum village contain beech, small-leaved lime, maple, elm, and yew, together with the threatened species field maple and large-leaved lime.

South of Byrum village is Bränsle äng. On this dry grassland, you find maiden pink, green strawberry, sheep's-bit, and rock-rose. In spring small pasque flower paints the ground purple.

The large contiguous dune area west of Byrum, with twisted, centuries old pines, is one of the largest in Sweden.

The nature reserve also includes the aquatic area along the coast, with limestone pavements, sandbanks, and shallow bottoms. The latter are important spawning grounds for Baltic herring, flounder and other fish species.

“Paradise for the whole family”



Getting here

The nature reserve is located on north-western Öland and stretches from Sandviken, south of Byxelkrok, down to the Mensalvar, south of Byrum.



CAR Large parking areas are found near Byrum and at Ramsnäs.



Sea rocket.



naturreservatet
Bökustens västra

Marieholm

Sandviken

P

Brokärr

Grytmon

Hunderum

Lyckebacki

4 P

Hagudden

St. Mossen

Skogsbbyn

2

Hagskog

Rosendal

Förhist
husgrunder

Rörstensudden

Haget

Fagerum

Böda

Masthuggsudden

Kinshögar

Naturreservat

Norrböda

3 P

Ramsnäs

Skäftekärr

Pepparhagen

Byrums sandfält

1

P

Byrum

Bödaledden

Abbekärr

Byrums Sandvik

Bränse

Gåsekärr

Naturreservat

Mensalvåret

Bäckalund

Fornborg

Gällby

0 1 2 km



Älkistan

Buskorpvet

Vedbyskog

Binnerback

Vedborne

Vedborm

Glabo

Strar

Asbacken

Discover Böda-kustens västra

1 SAND DUNES AT BYRUM

When you have had enough of sun and bathing, take a look at the small outdoor exhibition by the parking area. It describes the teeming flora and fauna linked to the sandy ground. There are also paths among the impressive sand dunes in the ancient forest nearby.

One tip is to look for antlions – the larvae of the antlion lacewings. They dig sand pit traps and hide in the bottom waiting for passing prey. When an ant walks into the pit, the antlion flicks sand at it so that it loses its balance and falls into the trap. The antlion takes hold of the ant with its strong pincers, sucks it dry, and throws away the carcass.

2 JUDGE CIRCLE STENDANSEN

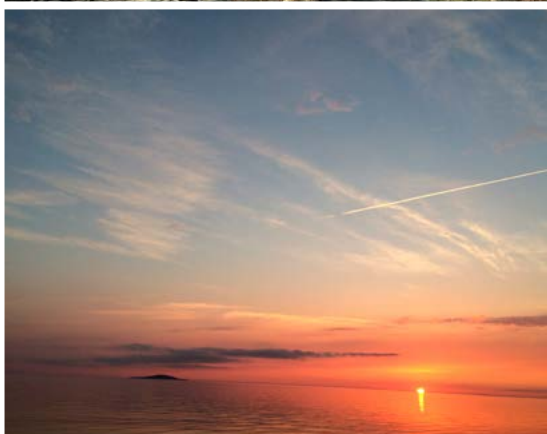
Ancient stone setting. Like other round stone settings, Stendansen was thought to be an old thingstead and is therefore known as a judge circle.

3 RAMSNÄS

When you walk from the parking area, through the sparse pine forest down to the water, you are met by a magical view across Kalmar Strait and Blå Jungfrun National Park. Here is also a wind shelter and a barbecue area.

4 HAGUDDEN

Stop at the headland Hagudden along the coastal road. Here is a parking bay and a picnic table.



Sea holly.

Rosendals järnåldersby



IRON AGE VILLAGE | BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

Northern Europe's best preserved Iron Age villages are found on the northernmost tip of Öland. The finest example is Rosendal. Here you can walk around and see traces of buildings and cultivation, as well as graves where villagers buried their dead. Learn more about how a village worked and how people lived and died in the Iron Age.

Around 1,600 years ago Öland was densely populated with villages and farms all over the island. In Rosendal was a village consisting of six or seven farms with dwellings and cattle sheds, fields, meadows, and open pastures surrounded by deciduous trees and wetlands.

Each farm had their own fields and meadows. The meadow provided fodder for the cattle, which gave manure to the fields where corn was grown. You can identify the fields as stone-free surfaces with stone walls or stone piles around them.

CATTLE PATHS

When grass and herbs had been harvested in autumn, cattle could graze the meadow. Until then they were put out to pasture outside the village, using the cattle paths – narrow, trodden tracks between stone walls and wicker fences.

If you have children with you, stop and think what it might have sounded like when the animals trod along the track. How did the boys and girls herding the cows urge them on?



LIKE FARM, LIKE GRAVE

To gain more knowledge about the settlement, archaeologists have investigated parts of the village and some of the graves. One of the farms is larger than the others, and one of the graves is marked with a big standing stone. It is a man's grave with richer contents than the others, including objects from foreign countries.

Not everyone who died in the village was given their own burial mound. For many, the last resting place was in a reused grave. This points to the social differences that existed in Iron Age society.

GOOD TO KNOW

The site is very rocky. A path that is around 1 kilometre long starts from the parking area, where there are picnic tables. There are also several information boards within the site.

Inside the fence are grazing animals, keeping the land free from shrubs and tall grass.

“Northern Europe's best preserved Iron Age village”





Tips on similar destinations

Skäftekärr arkeologiska friluftsmuseum

Close to Rosendal Iron Age village is Skäftekärr Archaeological Outdoor Museum where there is a reconstructed Iron Age farm. Here you can see a replica of an Iron Age house, which is open at specific times. [The association Fornverkstan](#) organises guided tours and other activities. Visit their website for more information.

Skedemosse

Skedemosse on central Öland was one of the most important places of sacrifice in Scandinavia during the Iron Age. See page 224.

Grave fields

Öland is full of traces from the Iron Age. Along the country roads on both the eastern and western side of the island you pass many grave fields.



Skäftekärr Archaeological Outdoor Museum is nearby.

Getting here

Rosendal is located on northern Öland in Böda Eco Park.

CAR Drive on Road 136 towards Böda. From the roundabout at Böda Sand, follow the signs for Rosendals järnåldersby. From there, it is 1 kilometre.



Bödakustens östra



NATURE RESERVE | BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

The long, sandy beaches along the Böda coast attract holiday makers who like swimming. Further inland, sand dunes and drifting sand fields take over. This is a haven for many insects and birds.

SEE AND DO

Sift the fine sand between your toes, swim in the sea, or walk barefoot along the water's edge.

Wander across pine-clad sand dunes. In the sparse forest at Fagerrör you find old pines with branched trunks that twist and turn. The oldest are almost 200 years old.

Would you like to travel in a nostalgic mode? Check out the timetable for the museum railway return journeys through the nature reserve, from Fagerrör up to Trollskogen.

Erosion

Have you thought about where the millimetre-size sand grains come from? They are the remains of mountain ranges that formed billions of years ago. During an incomprehensible period of time they have weathered and been moved by rain, snow, ice, waves, and wind. This process is called erosion.



GOOD TO KNOW

The Bödaleden Trail goes through the area, and there are a number of forest roads suitable for cycling.

Toilets are available at the beaches in Lyckesand, Homrevet, and Fagerrör.

Remember to keep your dog on a leash. It is not permitted to light fires or camp within the nature reserve.

HAVEN FOR MANY SPECIES

Examples of breeding birds are velvet scoter, red-breasted merganser, and ringed plover, as well as birds of prey like white-tailed eagle and osprey. In autumn and spring many sea birds rest along the coast.

On the shores north of Tomtskog more than 20 rare species of insects have been found. For example, antlion lacewing, heart moth, four-spotted footman, and the longhorn beetle *Nothorhina punctata*.

The lichens *Opegrapha soreidiifera* and *Schismatomma pericleum* and the fungus *Irpicodon pendulus* are examples of rare species found in the nature reserve.



*“To see the world in
a grain of sand and
a heaven in a wild
flower, hold infinity
in the palm of your
hand and eternity in
an hour”*

WILLIAM BLAKE



Queen of Spain fritillary.

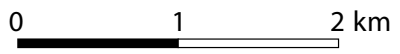


Getting here

The nature reserve is located on north-eastern Öland, between Trollskogen Nature Reserve to the north and Böda camping to the south.

CAR Parking is available at the beaches Lyckesand, Homrevet, and Fagerrör, as well as in Trollskogen.





Discover Böda-kustens östra

1 MUSEUM RAILWAY

The museum railway goes from Fagerrör to Trollskogen, see page 157.

2 ÄNGJÄRNSUDDEN

The headland Ängjärnsudden is Öland's easternmost point.

3 PINE FOREST

The impressive windswept pine forest and sand dunes.

4 HOMREVET

One of the longest sandy beaches on Öland.

5 BÖLINGE BACKE

The largest sand dune in the area is Bölinge backe, which stands almost ten metres above the ground.



Byrums raukar



NATURE RESERVE | BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

Öland's only rauk field is an exciting coastal landscape, which is also rich in fossils. Within the area are around 120 rauks, limestone pillars of different sizes chiselled out from the bedrock by constant wave motion from the sea.

Nearby

Horns royal manor

Horns royal manor Nature Reserve is a fine destination, where almost all of Öland's habitat types are represented. Pastures, deciduous forests, alvar limestone and dry grassland, wooded meadows, and cliff coast. See page 184.

“Öland's only rauk field in an exciting coastal landscape”

SEE AND DO

The smallest rauks are found in the northern part of the nature reserve and are only around 1 metre high. In the southern part they can reach up to 4 metres. Here you also find an abundance of fossils.

Beyond the rauks, flat limestone rocks jut out into the water. The rocks may have contributed to the end of rauk formation, since they prevent waves from eroding the limestone bedrock.

Above the rauks rises a cliff. At the top is a coastal bank with occasional pines as well as dog rose and juniper thickets. Viper's-bugloss and white swallow-wort flower here in June to July.

GOOD TO KNOW

It is forbidden to extract fossils from the rauks. Nor is it permitted to remove fossils from the beach and take them home.

HOW LIMESTONE, RAUKS & FOSSILS WERE FORMED

Öland's mighty limestone layer originated around 490 million years ago. Over a very long time, clay particles and calcareous fragments of shells from marine animals sedimented on the bottom, slowly turning into limestone. The rauks at Byrum were formed when waves eroded soft layers of limestone.

Traces of early life can be found in the bedrock by way of fossils, i.e. petrified remains and remnants of animals and plants. As prehistoric organisms died and ended up on the sea bottom, they were covered with material over time. The material compressed and eventually turned into rock, for example limestone, where the shapes of the organisms have been preserved as fossils.

📍 Getting here

Byrums raukar Nature Reserve is located around 8 kilometres north-east of Löttorp.

CAR Turn off for Byrum, either from Löttorp or Böda. Drive around 8 kilometres or 6 kilometres respectively. Follow the signs for the nature reserve parking area.



Orthocerid.



Byrums Sandvik

naturreservatet Byrums raukar





Trilobite.

Orthocerida, trilobites & crystal apples

The easiest to find fossils are prehistoric squid and octopuses, so-called orthocerida.

Trilobites is another group of animals represented as fossils. They lived in the seas around 560 to 250 million years ago. Trilobites belong to the group arthropods and are distant relatives of the now living crayfish and spiders. Their shells are preserved, and it is thought that they went through moulting just as crustaceans do today.

In the limestone you can also find examples of a small, round fossil, which the scientist Carl Linnaeus called crystal apple. If the hollow inside the fossil is visible, once the animal's body cavity, you can see small sparkling crystals of calcite.

This fossil represents a group of extinct echinoderms; an ancient relative of our sea urchins.

EXPLORE WITHOUT DAMAGING

Fossils are beautiful prehistoric remains and clear evidence of landscapes and environments that existed here millions of years ago. But the fossils are not unlimited, and they will not recreate. Please respect the rules that apply. In the nature reserve and other protected areas it is forbidden to collect fossils.

Horns royal manor



NATURE RESERVE | BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

Horns royal manor is a large farm dating back to the Middle Ages and which king Gustav Vasa established as a royal manor. The nature reserve found here contains most of Öland's habitat types – a smorgasbord of nature experiences. Pastures, deciduous woodlands, alvarland and dry grassland, wooded meadows, and cliff coast. The area around Hornsjön, Öland's only lake, is rich in ancient remains.



Hornsjön – fine bird lake

Hornsjön was once an inlet of the Baltic Sea, that was cut off by land elevation. In the early 1900s the water level was lowered by around one metre. Across large parts of the bottom grow dense carpets of stonewort, which is typical of lakes in extremely calcareous areas.

Great crested grebe, marsh harrier, coot, and water rail breed here. All kinds of terns can be seen searching for food in the lake. In spring the coastal forest resonates with an intense chorus including thrush nightingale, wood warbler, and scarlet rosefinch, among others.

SEE AND DO

At Lake Hornsjön you can enjoy both osprey and Caspian tern. In late spring evenings the booming call of the bittern can be heard, and bats can be seen hunting over the water. Twelve of Sweden's bat species are found in the area; barbastelle and Nathusius' pipistrelle are examples of the rarer ones.

Many orchids thrive in the beautiful haymeadow at Skogsgärdet, and collared flycatcher sings in the woodlands. Lush broadleaved forests expand along the western shore of Lake Hornsjön. Here you can enjoy spring and early summer flowers, such as liverwort, coralroot, and lily-of-the-valley. And on the extensive pastures stretching out between Lake Hornsjön and the coast you find, for example, lesser butterfly-orchid, cowslip, and oxeye daisy.

Horns udde is a 6 to 7 metres tall coastal cliff, where rough blocks of



Vi alvar grave field

Here you can see stone settings marking several graves from the Iron Age. Most are examples of a type of grave called "nesting hen". Later in history Vi alvar was used as an execution place! Read more about the site on the information board. At the edge of the field are also traces of a scrubbing mill, a wind-powered construction for grinding limestone.

“A smorgasbord of nature experiences”



Getting here

The nature reserve is located around 3 kilometres from Byrums Sandvik, around 5 kilometres north-west of Löttorp.



CAR From Road 136, drive west towards Löttorp. After 4 kilometres, drive north, following the sign Horn 2. It is now around 1 kilometre to the first parking area. To reach the northern part of the nature reserve continue all the way to the coast before turning right. From there, it is around 4 kilometres to the parking area.

quarried rock remain on the shoreline. Underneath the overhanging cliff is a colony of house martins. The view across Kalmar Strait with a profile of Blå Jungfrun National Park's dome is magnificent.

At Horns royal manor Nature Reserve you sense the echoes of history in the landscape. Foundations show us where Iron Age farmers lived, and there are remnants of stone walls where they had their fields and meadows. On the area's alvar are several grave fields, and out on the headland Klosterholmen are traces of a medieval fortified manor.

GOOD TO KNOW

Dogs must be kept on a leash. It is not permitted to light fires or camp within the nature reserve.

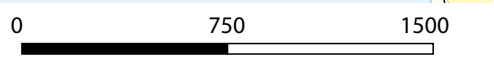
KUNGLADUGÅRDEN ROYAL MANOR

In the Middle Ages, Horn was a village where Roma Abbey periodically owned

several farms. Kungsladugården was established in the 16th century by king Gustav Vasa as a model farm for local agriculture. The farm was managed by a bailiff, and eventually Horn's crofters started doing day work there. Beekeeping in the 16th century and aquavit distilling in the 19th century were other activities that took place on the farm. Fishing, particularly for eel, was an important supplement. Horns royal manor delivered beef, pork, sheep cheese, and honey to the royal stores in Stockholm.

Today, the farm is leased from the Crown. The land is traditionally managed with cattle grazing the pastures and aftermath grazing of meadows after cutting. In the haymeadow you also find pollarded trees.

The main building has a mansard roof. It is a so-called two-row house with a six-room plan and a large drawing room in the centre. In 1941 many of the buildings were destroyed in a fire, although several have been rebuilt in their original location.



Discover Horns royal manor

1 SKOGSGÄRDET

Look out across orchids such as fragrant orchid, heath-spotted orchid, and the evocative pyramidal orchid.

2 KLOSTERHOLMEN

Here you come close to Lake Hornsjön. On the headland Klosterholmen are the ruins of a medieval fortified manor farm. The moats that surrounded the farm have dried out, as a result of the lowering of Lake Hornsjön. You can still see the remains of the moats, a pier, and buildings.

It was long believed that the stone ruins were part of a monastery. But it is now known that it traces back to a private manor farm, probably involved in trading.

3 STONE COAST

Walk along the stone coast and admire the view of Blå Jungfrun National Park and the boathouse site Fornbodar, which blends so well into the landscape.

4 PASTURE WITH LARGE OAKS

Impressive oaks stand in the sun-lit pasture. Beetles, such as hermit beetle and lesser capricorn beetle, thrive in the large, mature oaks. Read more about the oak landscape on page 124.



A part of the ruins on Klosterholmen.



Knisa mosse



NATURE RESERVE | BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

At Knisa mosse Nature Reserve you find a rich flora and fauna in wetlands, pastures, spinneys, and coastal grasslands. Ancient remains show that the area has been of interest to humans for many centuries.

SEE AND DO

Follow the footpath and enjoy the surroundings. Visit the birdwatching tower with views across the mire. There are many birds to watch; a tip is to bring binoculars, camera, and a flask. With luck, you will see the rare Montagu's harrier circle above the ground in early summer.

Many different orchids flower on coastal shores, fens, and dry grasslands in spring and early summer. Here you find, for example, musk orchid, early marsh-orchid, burnt orchid, and marsh helleborine. Shallow pools of water form in depressions in the limestone bedrock and dry up in summer. The rare brassica *Sisymbrium supinum* and sparse-flowered plantain grow in these temporary pools.

If you are interested in butterflies, you should visit the meadows directly north of the parking area. Many different species fly here when the ground is full of flowers.

In the southern part of Knisa mosse are several grave fields, as well as building foundations and traces of enclosures; the remains of an Iron Age village.

"Many birds to watch"

GOOD TO KNOW

A footpath of around 4.7 kilometres goes around Knisa mosse. There are footbridges in some places, but boots are a good idea in autumn, winter and early spring when there is a lot of water.

The walking distance from the parking area to the birdwatching tower is around 400 metres.

In parts of the nature reserve, access is prohibited between 1 April and 15 August, with the exception of the footpath.

It is not permitted to light fires in the nature reserve, or bring dogs unless on a leash.

PREHISTORIC WETLANDS

The wetland area belonging to Knisa village has since prehistoric times been used by people for fishing, hunting, haymaking, and grazing. The almost 400-metre-long grave field is part of a large ancient remains area in the south-eastern part of Knisa mosse Nature Reserve. The many different types of graves show that humans have lived here during a very long time, maybe even since the Bronze Age.



Knisa lövskog

Next to Knisa mosse is Knisa lövskog Nature Reserve, with a shared parking area. Knisa lövskog offers meadows, swamp forests, and leafy groves, with a great diversity of flowers, birds, lichens, mosses, and insects. You also find exciting ancient remains.

History

Knisa mosse is one of Öland's few undrained wetlands. The valuable mire survived a wave of drainage measures which escalated in the late 1800s, when new farmland was created to feed a growing population.

In 1931 the wetland was protected as Drottning Victoria's bird sanctuary. In his book *Sällsynta fåglar* (Rare Birds) the author and photographer Bengt Berg had highlighted its rich birdlife. At that time, birds like black tern, black-tailed godwit, and horned grebe bred here. Knisa mosse was the first marshland on Öland to be protected for its rich birdlife.

Many birds and plants depend on well-managed land, and unfortunately Knisa mosse was not cared for in the best way after it became protected, since haymaking and grazing became prohibited. In the 1960s the area had therefore lost much of its rich birdlife. During the 1990s a nature conservation programme with clearances, haymaking, and grazing was initiated and is still going on. The hope is that black-tailed godwit and other birds will return here to breed.



Marsh lousewort thrives in wet soils.

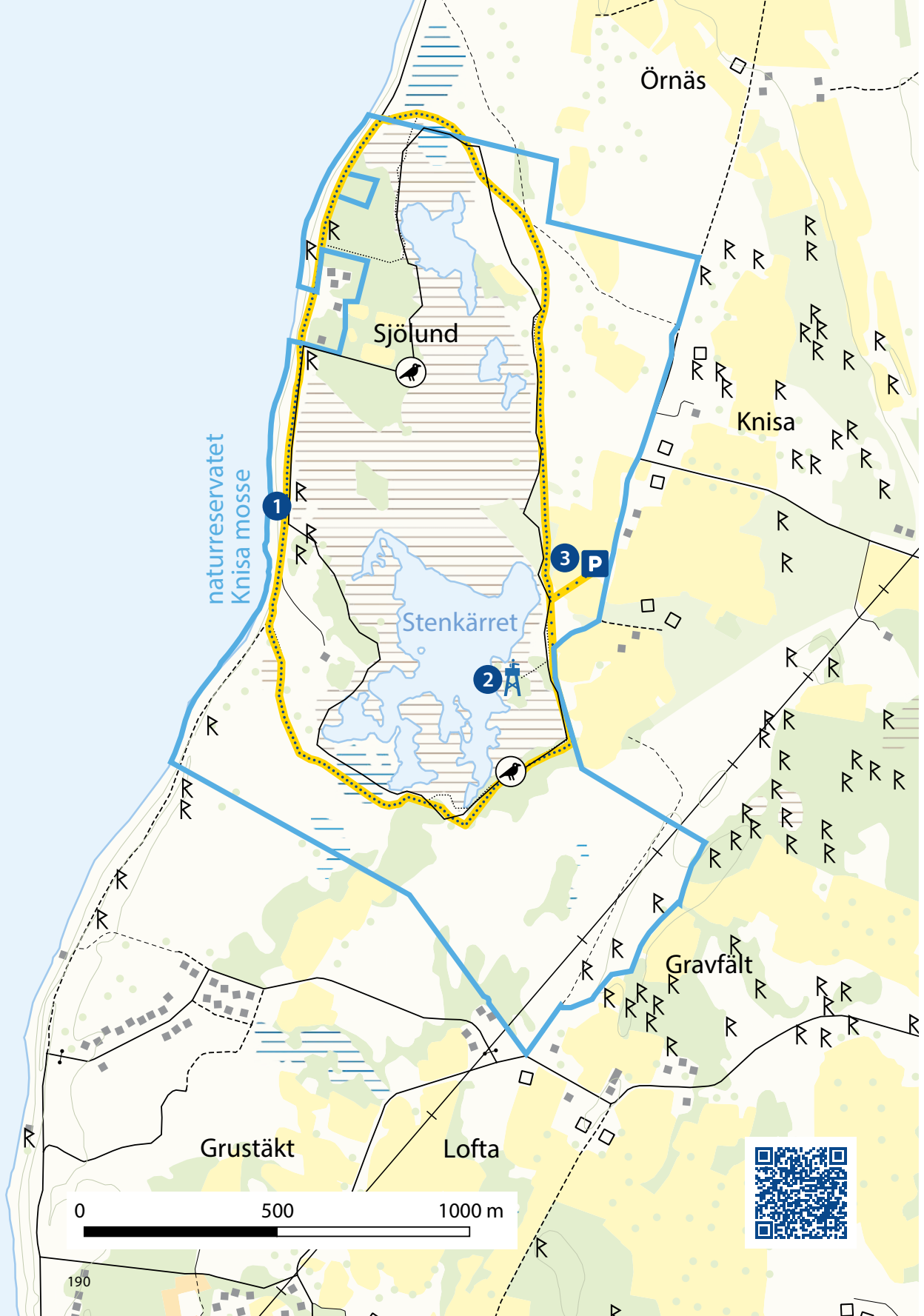
Getting here

The nature reserve is located just outside Knisa village.

CAR Just south of Sandvik on north-western Öland, around 30 kilometres from Löttorp. There is a parking area 400 metres south-west of Knisa village.

BUS The closest bus stop is on Road 136. For timetables consult Kalmar länstrafik.





Örnäs

Sjölund

Knisa

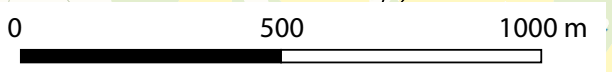
naturreservatet
Knisa mosse

Stenkärret

Gravfält

Grustäkt

Lofta



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Discover Knisa mosse

1 COASTLINE

You can walk along a narrow, paved road – the old coastal road. On the way you find both prehistoric building foundations and graves. The beautiful scenery with the cliff dropping down to the sea and the views towards Blå Jungfrun National Park is a popular destination and place for swimming.

2 BIRDWATCHING TOWER BY THE MIRE

From here you can both enjoy the view and observe birdlife.

3 ENCLOSED OUTLYING LANDS

“Horvor” are old fields that have been cultivated at least since the 18th century; they were maybe even created by Iron Age farmers. They are now used as hay-meadows and are full of bloom in spring and summer.



Södviks sjömarker



NATURE RESERVE | BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

Along the bay Södviken on north-eastern Öland are some of the region's most beautiful and most valuable coastal meadows, created by thousands of years of grazing. Södviks sjömarker Nature Reserve is a breeding and resting place for many birds. Large numbers of bird-watchers are attracted to the area every year.



Black-tailed godwit is one of the waders you can see here.

Nearby

Jordhamn scrubbing mill – listed building

Rock processing was in the past a major source of income for Öland's farmers. Limestone grinding was called scrubbing. The only preserved wind-powered scrubbing mill on Öland is in a beautiful location by the sea in Jordhamn. Next to it is a simple mill that was driven by oxen. Wind-powered scrubbing mills first came into use in around 1860.

Jordhamn is located around 7 kilometres from Södviks sjömarker, north of Sandvik on the western side of the island.



SEE AND DO

Get ready for birdwatching! Many birds like open, well-grazed coastal grasslands. Around Södviken the coast is still grazed and can offer habitats for waders, such as ringed plover, pied avocet, black-tailed godwit, and ruff.

Examples of other waders that breed here are dunlin, lapwing, and redshank.

The coastal meadows are also important for migrating birds, which rest here, especially in autumn. Some of them are red knot, little stint, grey plover, and Brent goose.

Here you can also see ancient remains by way of old enclosures and grave fields.

GOOD TO KNOW

Remember that access is prohibited on the coastal meadows in spring and summer to protect breeding birds.

Camping is permitted for a maximum of 24 hours. Dogs are welcome, but must be kept on a leash.



LIVING COASTAL GRASSLANDS

The coastline between Södvik and Östra Vässby differs from the rest of Öland's shores. The coast here is shallow and has more inlets than elsewhere, and out in the bay are many small islands and shallows. What is today dry land, was for a long time below sea-level. The extremely flat shores mean that the coastal meadows are unusually wide and varied.

The wetlands have been shaped by humans who have let their cows and sheep graze here. Ancient remains are found mainly in the western parts of the nature reserve, which were the first to rise out of the sea. Grazing has created an open landscape.

Many plants depend on this habitat type. Some like it best on the foreshore, such as strawberry clover, silverweed, seaside centaury, and sea milkwort. The slightly elevated grazing areas are favoured by bird's-eye primrose, blue moor-grass, breckland thyme, and mountain clover.

In the parts of the shoreline meadows that sometimes dry out you find Baltic sea-wormwood, slender hare's ear, common glasswort, and annual sea-blite.

📍 Getting here

The nature reserve is located around 1.5 kilometres south-east of Södvik on northern Öland.

CAR The reserve is reached via a small road starting from Södvik village, north of the shop, signposted Ö Södvik. The nature reserve parking area is at the end of the road. Note that buses cannot turn here.



*“Get ready for
birdwatching”*



nhorvan

Vikgård

Tallhorvan

Enetorp

Tallarna

naturreservatet
Södsviks sjömarker

Södsviken

Hallen

Holmen

Skäret

torp

Rögrund

sby

Långgrundsh.

Vässby
fjärd

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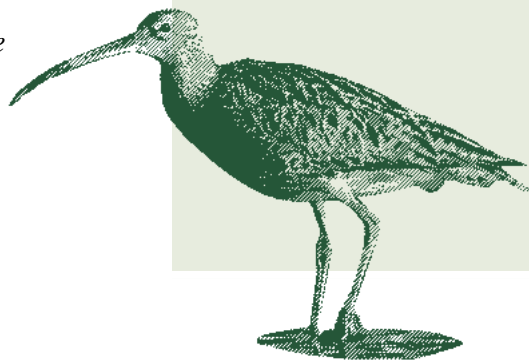
Discover Södviks sjömarker

1 BIRDWATCHING PLATFORM
Platform with information boards.



Get to know Öland's coastal grasslands

Öland's eastern coast is lined with extensive coastal grasslands. This beautiful landscape is appreciated by birds. Grazing animals keep the grasslands open, which is a requirement for maintaining the teeming flora and fauna.



FLOWERING PASTURES

The remains of stone walls, building foundations, and Iron Age graves show that Ölanders have lived here and let their animals graze the grasslands for more than two thousand years. Long before churches and linear villages were built, animals grazed here just as they do today.

Thanks to uninterrupted grazing, the grasslands have become home to many plants that thrive on open ground:

- seaside centaury
- bird's-eye primrose
- thrift
- blue moor-grass
- Irish fleabane
- fly orchid

HOME & RESTING SITE FOR MANY BIRDS

Oystercatcher, dunlin, pied avocet, and other rare birds nest in the open ground, where they can easily find food and spot danger. Pied avocet is completely dependent on grazed coastal grasslands for its survival and reproduction.

During autumn large numbers of migrating birds land on the coastal meadows to rest and feed before the next stage of their flight. They find a well-stocked larder here on the wetlands and in the shallow water.

If you come at that time of year, you may see rare birds, such as sanderling, Brent goose, little stint, and bar-tailed godwit.

COMMUNAL BOATHOUSE AREA – VILLAGE FISHING HUTS

Along the eastern coast of Öland are many small fishing villages. Every farm had their own boathouse, gathered in a communal area. The huts were built in wood or stone and were used for the storage of fishing tackle and as overnight accommodation.

Boathouse areas also had enclosed sites for hanging up equipment and fishing nets to dry. You can still see the remains by way of low stone walls or lines of stones.



Kidney vetch.

Show consideration

You are welcome to enjoy the coastal grasslands and look for birds, but remember to show consideration.

- Leave nesting and resting birds alone.
- Close gates behind you.
- Do not disturb grazing animals.



Southern dunlin with chick.



Destinations

Protected areas where you can experience Öland's coastal grasslands:

- Karsnabben
- Högby hamn
- Södviken, see page 192
- Östra Vässby
- Högenäs orde
- Frösslunda sjömark
- Hulterstad sjömark and Görans dämme
- Gammalsby sjömark, see page 250

“Enjoy the coastal grasslands and look for birds”

Södra Greda löväng & Iron Age village



NATURE RESERVE & IRON AGE VILLAGE |
BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

Södra Greda löväng Nature Reserve, located close to the coastal grasslands, has a rich flora and fauna, and one of the few haymeadows that is still being cut every year. During your excursion you can also visit the nearby Iron Age village with views across the sea. The narrow ridge to the south takes you to the fine settlement remains.

SEE AND DO

A perfect place to visit on an early summer day! Swallows and swifts dart around in the air, and in the lush greenery of the trees the collared flycatcher sings its slightly strident song along with willow warbler and tree pipit. If you follow the marked footpath through the meadow, you will be met by ragged-robin, heath spotted-orchid, lesser butterfly-orchid, oxeye daisy, and common milkwort.

Continue along the path on the ridge and you will come to the pasture with a row of building foundations from the Iron Age. Follow the old coastal bank southwards towards the sea. Here are the remains of dwellings and cattle sheds. A plan of the settlement is shown on an information board. Can you find all the buildings?

A tip is to bring a picnic and enjoy it among flowers and ancient remains, with views of the sea horizon. If you have brought children, talk about whether the people who lived here a very long time named their animals, and if so, what they would have called them.

GOOD TO KNOW

The walk to and from the Iron Age village is around 2 kilometres and includes stiles.

Remember that there are grazing animals in the area, so make sure to have your dog on a leash. Camping and lighting fires is not permitted within the nature reserve.

MEADOW

The meadow is rich in trees and shrubs, mainly oak and hazel. There are a few ashes left, but unfortunately ash dieback has reached here as so many other places on Öland. Several of the ashes bear traces of pollarding, i.e. regular cutting of branches with leaves as winter fodder for the animals.

Along the low coastal bank to the west, the grassland is dry. Species like sheep's fescue, spiked speedwell, breckland thyme, rock-rose, and lady's bedstraw grow here. In spring you will find a profusion of orchids, especially elder-flowered orchid.

East of the coastal bank is herb-rich, moist grassland. Examples of species that grow here are common self-heal, bird's-eye primrose, Irish fleabane, and purple moor-grass.

The wooded meadow also has an interesting fungi flora. On several of the oaks you find rare polypores such as *Pachykytospora tuberculosa*, ox tongue and orange polypore. Ground fungi include eccentric pinkgill, *Inocybe adequata*, and *Xerula pudens*.

Last but not least, the meadow has a rich birdlife including scarlet rosefinch and collared flycatcher, which breed here.



Scarlet rosefinch nests near the meadow.

Getting here

The nature reserve is located on eastern Öland, around 20 kilometres north-east of Borgholm.

CAR Follow signs for the nature reserve from Södra Greda village. There is a parking area close by.

BUS Note that it is not possible to drive a bus to the parking area.



Attractive location throughout history

Throughout history humans have settled where water is within reach. There are many locations along the east coast of Öland where you can see Iron Age building foundations. The coastal grasslands provided good grazing and winter fodder for the animals. The sea offered fishing and hunting of seal and seabirds – and no doubt people also enjoyed the sea views then.



2

1

naturreservatet
Södra Greda löväng

Stora Mossen

Järnåldersbyn

3

4



0 100 200 m

200

Discover Södra Greda löväng & Iron Age village

1 ORCHID-RICH PART OF THE MEADOW

Orchids like elder-flowered orchid and green-winged orchid thrive in the western part of the meadow.

2 SHEEP SHED

The small building, called a “sheep shed”, was here already in the early 1800s. It was mainly used as storage for tools and

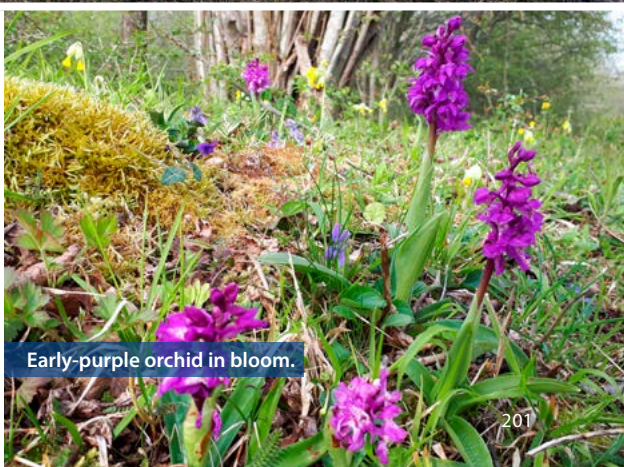
harnesses, but probably also as protection from the weather for workers in the fields and meadows.

3 IRON AGE VILLAGE

There was a village in Södra Greda more than 1,500 year ago. Thirteen building foundations and a network of low stone walls are spread out across the ridge. Some of the village graves are found a little further away, south of the settlement.

4 IRON AGE FARM

On the information board you can see how the Iron Age farm with its two buildings may have looked. Step over the low enclosures into the remains of the building and imagine how an Iron Age family spent their time here.



Petgärdeträsk & Djurstadträsk



NATURE RESERVE | BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

Two neighbouring nature reserves with wetlands, principally known for their birdlife. Many species of beetles and butterflies also thrive here. Cultivation and grazing, which has taken place in the area for a long time, still keeps the ground open.

SEE AND DO

In spring the area attracts both breeding and resting birds. Seeing them can be an amazing sensory experience. In summer enjoy watching the birds going about their nesting activities and their downy chicks hiding behind a tussock or swimming in a row behind a parent.

There are good opportunities for observing birds in both of the nature reserves. Bring binoculars, camera, and a picnic.

Birds that are regularly seen and heard in the wetlands include

- Montagu's harrier
- penduline tit
- ruff
- black-tailed godwit
- jack snipe
- brent goose
- white-fronted goose
- spotted crake
- horned grebe
- garganey
- shoveler
- yellow wagtail
- reed warbler
- marsh warbler.

GOOD TO KNOW

Footpaths lead to the two birdwatching towers by the edge of the wetlands.

From 1 April to 15 August access is restricted – it is prohibited to remain or walk in the area, except for on the footpaths leading to the birdwatching towers.

Dogs must be on a leash at all times.

BETLES & MOTHS

At Petgärdeträsk there are rare beetles, such as black night-runner, green night-runner, crucifix ground beetle, and the rove beetles *Acrotrichis brevipennis* and *Gyrophana lucidula*. The first time the very rare feather-wing beetle *Ptilium caesum* was observed in Sweden was at Petgärdeträsk in 1978, and it is still only known on Öland.

Djurstadträsk is home to many moths. Here is an abundance of *Oidaematophorus vafra-dactylus Svensson*, a moth that is not found anywhere else in the world outside Öland and Gotland. *Bactra suedana*, marsh button, *Agonopterix bipunctosa*, *Monochroa niphognatha*, *Trifurcula headleyella*, notch-wing neb, and fen cosmet are other examples.

Nearby

Bruddesta fishing village

Beautiful coastal landscape with charming boathouses, many of which are built in limestone with reed roofs. Bruddesta fishing village is a listed building located around 5.5 kilometres from Djurstad.



📍 Getting here

The nature reserves are located on the eastern side of Öland, around 17 kilometres north-east of Borgholm and around 5 kilometres south of Föra.



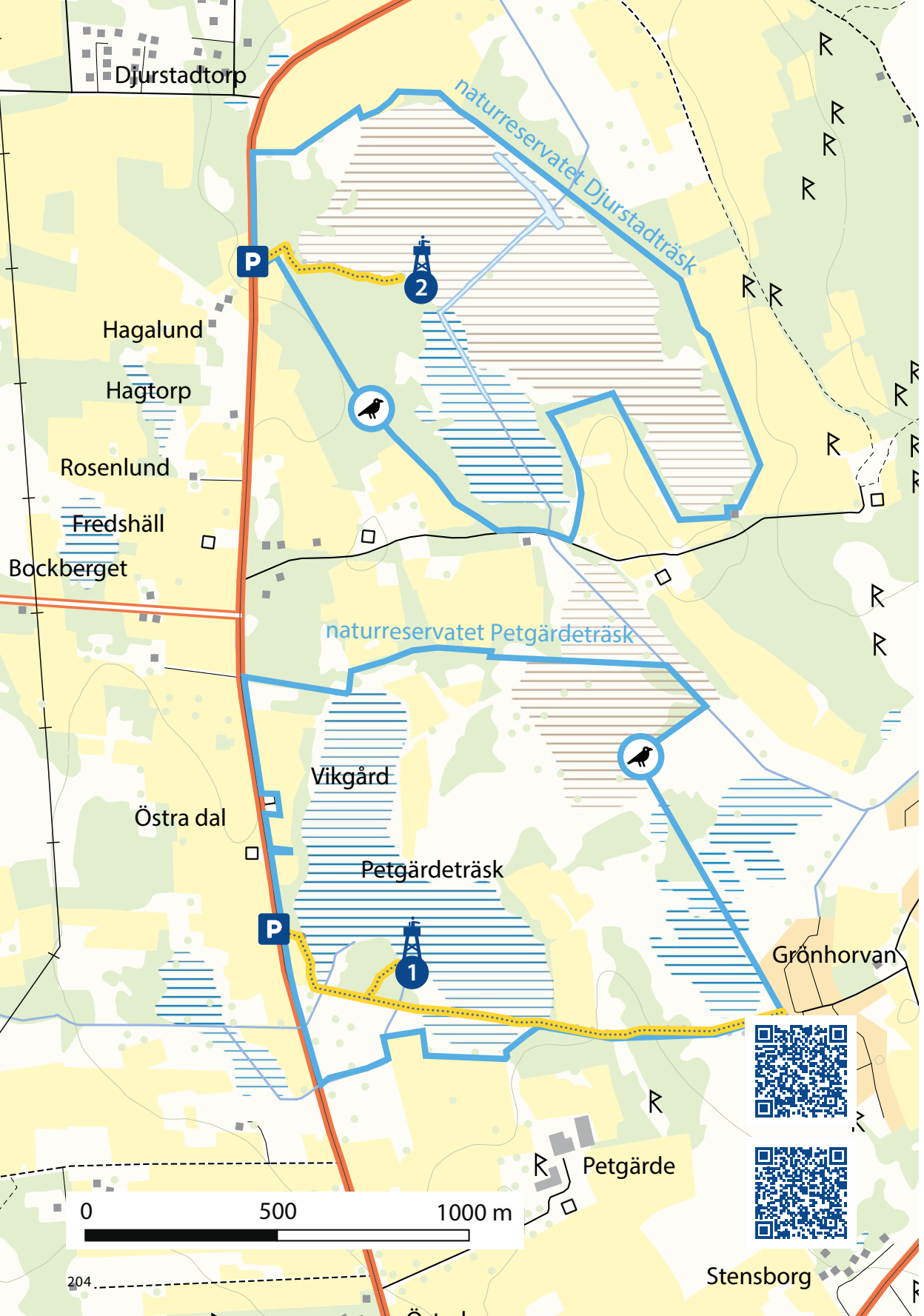
CAR Parking is available along the road by the entrance to the nature reserves.



Haymaking & grazing

Haymaking and grazing prevent the land from becoming overgrown by trees and shrubs, thus favouring both flora and fauna.

In Djurstadträsk, however, large areas of the wetland are neither cut nor grazed – they have been left to protect the breeding site of Montagu's harrier.



Djurstadtorp

naturreservatet Djurstadträsk

P

2

Hagalund

Hagtorp

Rosenlund

Fredshäll

Bockberget

naturreservatet Petgärdeträsk

Vikgård

Östra dal

Petgärdeträsk

1

P

Grönhorvan

Petgärde



Stensborg

204

Discover Petgärdeträsk & Djurstadträsk

1 BIRDWATCHING TOWER IN PETGÄRDETRÄSK

Many of Scandinavia's rare birds are found at Petgärdeträsk. For example, you have a good chance of seeing penduline tit – a rare species also on Öland. Examples of other breeding birds in the wetland are

- garganey
- shoveler
- gadwall
- shelduck
- coot
- teal
- greylag goose
- Canada goose
- mute swan
- black-tailed godwit
- redshank
- snipe
- lapwing
- ringed plover
- yellow wagtail
- reed warbler
- marsh warbler
- reed bunting.

2 BIRDWATCHING TOWER IN DJURSTADTRÄSK

Around 20 species of birds linked to wetlands breed in Djurstadträsk. The most common include

- snipe
- lapwing
- redshank
- whinchat
- reed bunting
- reed warbler
- crane
- mallard
- shoveler
- shelduck
- water rail
- marsh harrier
- greylag goose.



Look for penduline tit in Petgärdeträsk.



Borga hage



NATURE RESERVE | BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

Borga hage is part of the former coastal forest – a contiguous deciduous forest that once stretched along the coast between Borgholm and Färjestaden. The nature reserve contains deciduous forest with oak and hazel, and closer to Kalmar Strait are open pastures. This popular area is close to Borgholm Castle ruins and Solliden.

Nearby

Borgholm Castle ruins

Borgholm Castle ruins are impossible to miss. In the area you also find attractions such as king Charles XV's hunting stone and queen Victoria's bust. For more information, see [the website of the Swedish national property board Statens fastighetsverk](#).

Solliden

Exhibitions and activities are held in the beautiful parks and gardens belonging to the palace. For more information, see [the website of Solliden Slott](#).

Borgholm

Visit the town of Borgholm. Next to the nature reserve are also lovely buildings from the late 1800s, when Borgholm first became a seaside resort.

SEE AND DO

Walk, cycle, or jog. If you follow the road Strandvägen, you will see very old, fine oaks and a sea of anemones in spring.

Here are also cultural-historical attractions, for example a bomb crater from World War II.

GOOD TO KNOW

There are several paths and roads leading into the nature reserve.

It is not permitted to camp or light fires within the reserve. Remember to keep dogs on a leash.

VALUABLE DECIDUOUS FOREST

For as long as Borgholm Castle was used as a fortress, the pastures here were open with a few oaks and hazel bushes. When grazing ceased in the late 1800s the area became overgrown into the forest it is today, with hazel groves and thickets.

Old broadleaved forests and swamp forests with an abundance of large, mature trees are valuable. Many plants and animal species are totally dependent on this type of habitat for their survival. Here in Borga hage around a hundred rare species have been observed. Plants such as wood-barley and white violet; fungi such as false satan's bolete and *Tricholoma bresadolatum*; animals such as agile frog, *Truncatellina costulata* and *Pedostrangalia revestita*.

“Some hundred rare species in a royal landscape”



European stag beetles.



📍 Getting here

The nature reserve is located south of Borgholm and borders with Borgholm Castle ruins and Solliden.

CAR From Road 136 turn off for the castle ruins just south of Borgholm. If you come from the north, follow the road Strandvägen from Borgholm. Parking is available at Borgholm sport centre and at the castle ruins.





naturreservatet Borga hage

Kråkudden

Lapphamn

Mossen

Sjöboviken

Sandviks badplats

Bergdala

Åkerhagen

Skogskärret

Borgholms slottsruin

Slottsvillan

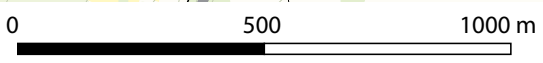
Ekelintorpet

Kyrkoruin

Ladugården

Vasahuset

136



Discover Borga hage

1 BORGHOLM LIGHTHOUSE

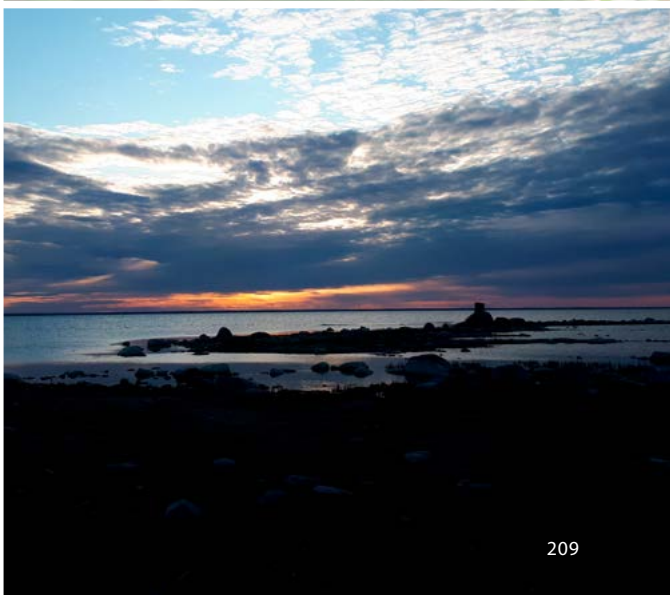
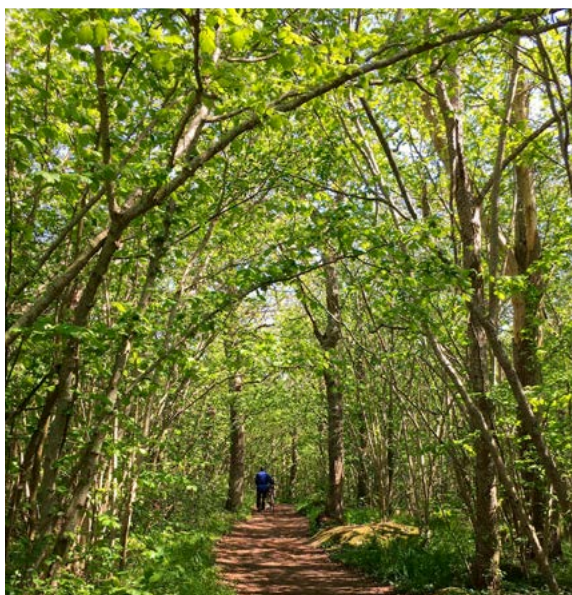
Old paved roads lead out to Kråkudden. There has been a lighthouse at the point since the 1860s, when the fairway through Kalmar Strait was improved. Borgholm boating club keeps the lighthouse lit from 1 May to 30 September.

2 BOMB CRATER

One night in July 1942 an unidentified plane dropped several bombs close to Borgholm. The biggest explosion created this crater. Read more on the information board at the site.

3 LUGNET

In a glade with apple trees are the ruins of the croft Lugnet, which the shoemaker August and his wife Sofia built in the 1860s. The croft was one of many belonging to the royal manor Borgholm royal manor. The crofters paid “rent” for the land by doing day work for the manor.



Visit a ringfort



Prehistoric forts on Öland are of a type often called ringforts. On Öland, where as opposed to Småland there are no highlands, fortresses had high and strong stone walls. These were built in a circle or oval around the buildings inside. Most were probably constructed in the 4th century and were used for different purposes until the 7th century. Many were then reused several times later in history.

The fortresses were safe and protected places in times of unrest. They may also have been used for different kinds of meetings, for example military or religious.

Here is a guide to some of Öland's most famous prehistoric fortresses.



Tips on similar destinations

Gråborg – Öland's largest ringfort

Gråborg is located in Borg village. See page 230. At the site you find more information about the prehistoric fortress. If you would like a longer walk, there is a trail between Gråborg and Ismantorps borg.

ISMANTORPS BORG

RINGFORT | BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

Embedded in the greenery of the Mittlandsskogen forest, you find the best-preserved fortress in Kalmar County. All 95 building foundations remain. The fortress is unusual because it had nine gateways. One possible explanation could be links with Nordic mythology, where the number nine is significant. The ringfort was used between year 300 and 600 and to some extent also between the 10th and 13th centuries.

Visit

Ismantorps borg is located in the centre of Öland. Signposts from the road between Rälla and Långlöt lead to a parking area with toilets.

The path from the parking area to the fortress is around 350 metres long. There is also a road of around 400 metres, which is easier to walk.

For visitor information, see [the website of the Swedish national property board Statens fastighetsverk](#).

TRIBERGA BORG

RINGFORT | MÖRBYLÅNGA MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

Triberga borg was built in the Iron Age, and like many other fortresses on Öland it was probably used also in the early Middle Ages. It is located on an old stretch of road that starts at Triberga läge, crosses Stora alvaret, and continues towards Resmo on the western side of Öland.

The road is believed to have continued to Fröbygårda, an early major trading post by Kalmar Strait and the fortress may have been significant for trade and communication.

Visit

Triberga borg is located 1 kilometre west of Triberga village, at the edge of Stora alvaret. Signposted from the road through Triberga village.

The area is grazed, and dogs are not allowed.



EKETORPS BORG

RINGFORT | MÖRBYLÅNGA MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

The reconstructed ringfort Eketorps borg is one of Öland's most popular tourist attractions. Archaeological excavations in the 20th century show that the fortress in the centre of Stora alvaret was used during three different periods from year 300 to 1300. Around 25,000 objects were found during the dig! Some of them are on display in the fortress museum.

The impressive ring wall now towers on Stora alvaret again. Inside the wall are reconstructed houses from the Iron Age and Middle Ages. You can visit dwellings, cattle sheds, and storehouses, which have been built using traditional methods and materials.

Visit

Eketorps borg is located on Stora alvaret on southern Öland. For visitor information, opening hours, and current programme of events, see [the website of the ringfort Eketorps Borg](#).

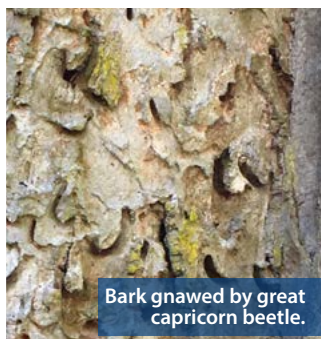


Halltorp



NATURE RESERVE | BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

Walk through deciduous forest and meadowland in Halltorp Nature Reserve. This is one of the most biodiverse areas in Sweden. The most exclusive species live in the ancient oaks in Halltorps hage. In the early 20th century meadow management stopped and the number of grazing animals declined. As a result, the land became overgrown. Today most of the nature reserve is cleared and grazed again.



Bark gnawed by great capricorn beetle.

Giant oaks to care for

Until the early 1900s there was a large number of oaks around Halltorp. Today low and wide stumps remind us of the thousands of old oaks that were cut down in 1918.

A handful of ancient oaks remain in Halltorps hage. Several critically endangered species of beetles live in them. The only known locality in Sweden of oak click beetle and *Brachygonus dubius* is in Halltorp, and great capricorn beetle has its only certain Nordic location here. Read more about the importance of the oak landscape on page 124.



The rare lady's-slipper orchid.

SEE AND DO

Visiting the majestic oaks in Halltorps hage is a must. With luck, you will see European stag beetles flying.

In spring a chorus of small birds is heard in the light deciduous forest. Stop and listen by trees with hollows, and you may hear young starlings calling their parents.

At this time of year the broadleaved forest and wooded meadows are in full bloom. First out are anemones in white, yellow, and blue as well as yellow star-of-Bethlehem, and cowslip. They are followed by sweet woodruff, coral-root, spring pea, early-purple orchid, and lady's-slipper orchid.

In summer you can enjoy many different flowers on the grazed coastal meadows, such as strawberry clover, adder's-tongue, and seaside centaury.

GOOD TO KNOW

The system of footpaths uses colours and shapes to enable as many as possible to walk them.

When it is raining and in spring, the ground can be wet and muddy, although there are footbridges across the wettest parts.

The gates leading to Halltorps hage are self-closing, and there is a 700-metre footbridge. This part of the nature reserve has been made accessible for e.g. wheelchair users and people with rollators.

Dogs must be kept on a leash. It is not permitted to camp or light fires within the reserve.

There is a beach next to the nature reserve at Ekerum Camping.

“Visit the majestic oak giants”



Getting here

The nature reserve is located around 8 kilometres north of Glömminge.

CAR Follow the signs from Road 136. The parking area for the nature reserve is located around 1 kilometre along the byroad, next to the part of the reserve called Halltorps hage.

You can also reach the nature reserve from a rest and parking area along Road 136 and from the road to the inn Halltorps gästgiveri.



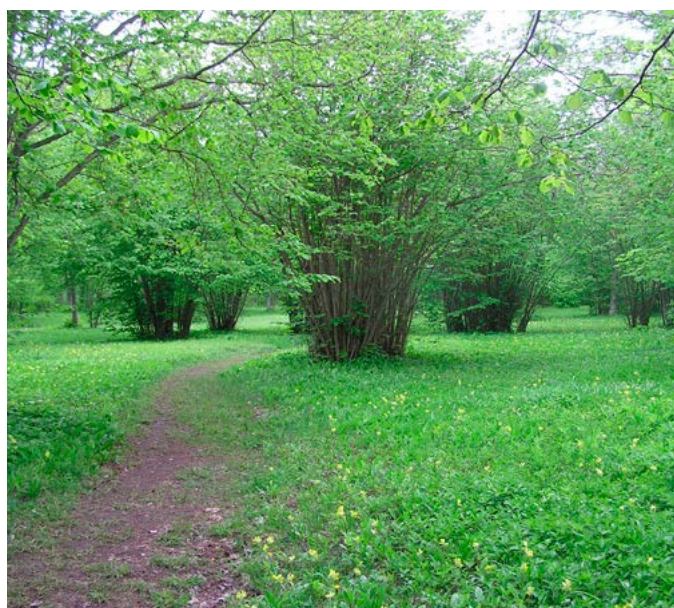
SPECIES-RICH

For centuries farmers in Halltorp have let their animals graze the wooded meadows and cut hay and leafy branches here. The abundance of flowers is thanks to this, together with the calcareous soil. And the open ground has benefitted light-loving oak, ash, and elm. The old broadleaved trees contribute to Halltorp's biodiversity as they are home to many species.

Halltorp is teeming with life. Many of its inhabitants are tiny and inconspicuous: lichens and mosses that grow on the trunks, and fungi that appear in autumn in the calcareous ground, as well as insects that spend the greater parts of their lives in the trunks, branches and roots.

Birds that build nests in tree hollows include starling, lesser spotted woodpecker, and stock dove. Bats also move into the cavities. Both birds and bats feed on the multitude of insects they find among

the trees and on the flower-rich ground. Birds hunt during the day and bats during the night.



naturreservatet Halltorp

Garnudden

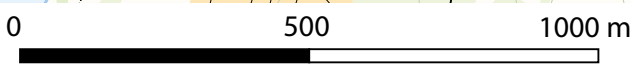
Kårudden

Halltorp

Golfbana

Ekerums hamn

Ekerum



4

3

5

6

1

2



Discover Halltorp

1 SPÅNGEN (700 METRES)

A circular footbridge path among ancient oaks, including benches and a large platform with picnic table.

2 ÄNGSSTIGEN (1.4 KILOMETRES)

This path takes you through the meadow where the rare lady's-slipper orchid blooms in late May and early June. The path continues into Halltorps hage and connects with the wooden footbridge going past the giant oaks.

3 GÄSTGIVARPROMENADEN (2.8 KILOMETRES)

The path starts at the inn Halltorps gästgiveri and follows the old farm track into the nature reserve, where it passes the meadow and sun-lit grazed forest with several old oaks. In spring this walk goes through a sea of blue, white and yellow anemones. A stretch goes along the grazed coastal meadow with forest edges. In the water you often see mute swan and shelduck.

4 STRANDÄNGSSTIGEN (3.5 KILOMETRES)

This path runs along the whole coastal meadow. It passes open, grazed meadows and flowering forest edges with old oaks stretching towards the light. The path turns into the grazed, sun-lit forest in the north and then continues south to a magic place with several large erratic boulders. There is a picnic table in a big glade in the centre of the nature reserve.

5 GRODSTIGEN (2.1 KILOMETRES)

The first stretch of this path follows the footbridge close to the giant oaks. It then continues through hornbeam forest and pasture with oaks and pollarded small-leaved limes. In spring you may spot agile frog in the wetlands.

6 LILLA LUNDSTIGEN (1.6 KILOMETRES)

The first stretch of the path follows the footbridge where you can admire the ancient oaks and look for insects. It then makes a turn through the pasture and goes down to the coastal meadow.

Rälla-Ekerum



NATURE RESERVE | BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

A large number of threatened insects thrive in the sandy soil of the glaciofluvial delta and in the lush deciduous forests. Here you can enjoy broadleaved forest, sparse sandy pine forest with old, sun-lit trees, and open flower-rich sandy grassland inside narrow beaches with pebbles or white, fine-grained sand. Below the sparkling water surface are shallow aquatic areas with species-rich eelgrass meadows.

SEE AND DO

In Rälla-Ekerum you can enjoy activities such as walking, running, cycling, riding, swimming, and mushroom and berry picking.

Some areas of the nature reserve are part of a large glacial river plain with huge sand and gravel deposits. Here you find formations such as coastal banks, shore scarps, and sand dunes. A steep glaciofluvial scarp marks the western edge of the delta, and here you can walk with fine views across the sea. Paths take you down to the beach.

At the foot of the scarp, calcareous groundwater seeps out in a myriad of small source flows. Different mosses thrive in the springfens between tufts of remote sedge and tall ferns. In summer orchids bloom here surrounded by lush deciduous swamp woods.

Within Rälla-Ekerum Nature Reserve are cultural-historical traces, such as



clearance cairns, old stone walls, and ancient remains showing that the area was inhabited as far back as in the Stone Age. In recorded history Rälla has been both a royal manor and a forester's lodge. For centuries, most of the land here has been cultivated as field, meadow, or pasture.

GOOD TO KNOW

In the central part is a cemetery and memorial site, which are not included in the nature reserve.

There are marked trails for jogging and mountain biking (MTB) and a large number of unmarked footpaths.

In addition to the bathing jetty, there are peaceful natural beaches within wading or cycling distance.

Dogs must be kept on a leash in pastures. Lighting fires not permitted except for in designated places or when using camping stoves. You can put up a tent for up to 24 hours in the same place.

Oaks

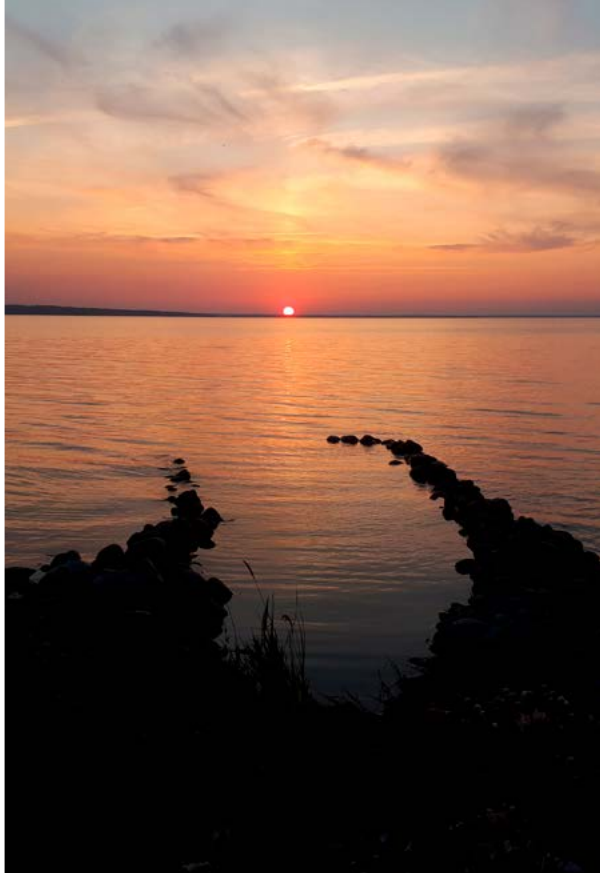
Halltorp Nature Reserve (page 212), located just north of Rälla-Ekerum Nature Reserve, contains dying oaks that are many centuries old. The large, mature oaks need replacements so that species dependent on them, for example great capricorn beetle, can survive.

It is therefore especially important to look after the oaks in Rälla-Ekerum, and ensure their development into very old and large trees. Read more about the importance of the oak landscape on page 124.

VALUABLE HABITATS IN THE GLACIOFLUVIAL DELTA

The so-called Rälla deposit was created around 14,000 years ago. Inside the inland ice and at the edge of the glacial sheet meltwater gushed out along with stones, gravel and small grains of sand polished by strong friction. As sand spread over a large area, deltas, such as the Rälla deposit, were formed.

Pine forest grows on the sandy glaciofluvial deposits. Here are highly important habitats for many rare species, including umbrella wintergreen, rattle grasshopper, and several wild bees. Thick, sun-lit pines as well as dead or dying pines are vital habitats for e.g. the longhorn beetle *Nothorhina punctata*.



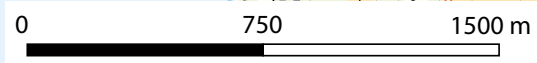
Getting here

The nature reserve is located on the western side of central Öland, level with Rälla village.

CAR The parking area for Halltorp Nature Reserve joins Rälla-Ekerum Nature Reserve. Parking is also available at the entrance road to Rälla farm in the eastern part of the reserve, by the memorial site, and by the windmill at Ljungheden.

BUS Bus stops are located along Road 136, for example at Rälla. For timetables consult Kalmar länstrafik.





Discover Rälla–Ekerum

1 LJUNGHEDEN

This sandy heathland is surrounded by pine forest, creating a warm and protected microclimate. In addition to heather, you find Iceland moss, lady's bedstraw, sheep's-bit, breckland thyme, and the rare dwarf everlast. By the road is a windmill that was moved here from Västra Sörby.

2 LIMESTONE STEPS AT STUGBYN

Around the old holiday facility Stugbyn are some cultural-historical remains. One example is the long flight of stone steps leading from the pine forest down the glaciofluvial scarp.

3 COASTAL WALK & OAK ENVIRONMENTS

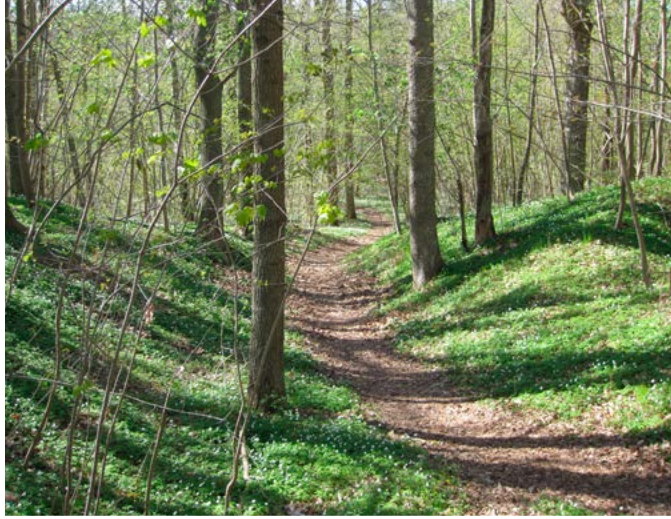
Deciduous forest spreads out below the pine forest towards the water. Here you can walk on soft nature paths among fine old oaks. The path also passes a burial mound, which may date back to the Bronze Age.

4 LARGE TRAPPING PIT

In 1723 king Fredrik introduced around 50 wild boar in the grounds of the forester's lodge. A large round hole in the ground is believed to have been used for hunting these animals. The adjacent stone walls could be the remains of trapping "arms" which helped leading the wild boar into the pit.

5 TOMTESTIGEN & PINE FOREST

The delightful Tomtestigen Path runs between the parking area at Rälla farm and the memorial site through an open, tall pine forest.



Karum



NATURE RESERVE | BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

Karum on central Öland is a small-scale agricultural landscape with a mixture of small fields, alvarland, haymeadows, and deciduous forests. This is one of the most important places in Sweden for the preservation of old arable weeds and the cultivation of Gotland rye, which here goes under the name Karum rye. The nature reserve contains traces from many different time periods, starting from the Early Iron Age. See the famous ship setting Noaks ark in the grave field on the alvarland.



Nearby

Karås & Västra äng

By the parking area adjacent to Karum you find information about the nature reserve and the two neighbouring nature reserves Karås and Västra äng.

“Threatened arable weeds in a small-scale agricultural landscape”

SEE AND DO

Walk in a varied landscape with prehistoric gems and discover traces of ancient agriculture. Start by going through the village inlands on old farm tracks along flowery meadows and fields, and continue out to pastures, deciduous forests and alvar which in the past were the village outlying lands. Read more about the division of land and the World Heritage Site of the Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland on page 242.

The sheep-grazed grave fields on Karum’s Alvar with the magnificent ship setting Noaks ark is fascinating at all times of the year. In spring the slopes are coloured by flowering cowslip, early-purple orchid, and meadow saxifrage. In summer blue butterflies flutter among tufts of breckland thyme. On a dry late summer day almost the only vivid green plant is the enchanting but toxic white swallow-wort, rejected by the sheep. In autumn the raised stones stand silent and secretive in the morning mist, and you almost feel as if you have been transported back to prehistoric times.

Read more about Öland’s alvarland on page 228.



Ancient land

The land at Karum has been inhabited for more than 2,000 years. The village name Karum dates back to the Iron Age. “Ka” could come from the personal name Kadhi and “rum” means an open place in the landscape. Traces show that during Iron Age the village may have had eight or nine farms.

GOOD TO KNOW

Within the nature reserve there are a number of marked trails to choose from, for example the almost 3-kilometre Karumleden Trail.

The Mittlandsleden Trail passes through the reserve. You can access it from the parking area at Noaks ark or the village parking area.

Lighting fires is not permitted in the nature reserve, but you can camp for up to 24 hours.

FLOWER POWER IN FIELDS AND MEADOWS

Karum’s fields do not resemble modern cultivated farmland. A return has been made to an older three-field system, and the seed used is the old variety Gotland rye, which here is called Karum rye. It is especially well adapted to Öland’s climate and soil.

Thanks to this old method of cultivation, a range of rare arable weeds are now seen again. For example rye brome, corncockle, corn buttercup, and narrow-fruited cornsalad.

Thanks to management, the meadows have also started to take back the appearance and flora they had a hundred years ago. Here you find everything from oxeye daisy and fairy flax, to crested cow-wheat, greater yellow-rattle, devil’s-bit scabious, and various orchids.



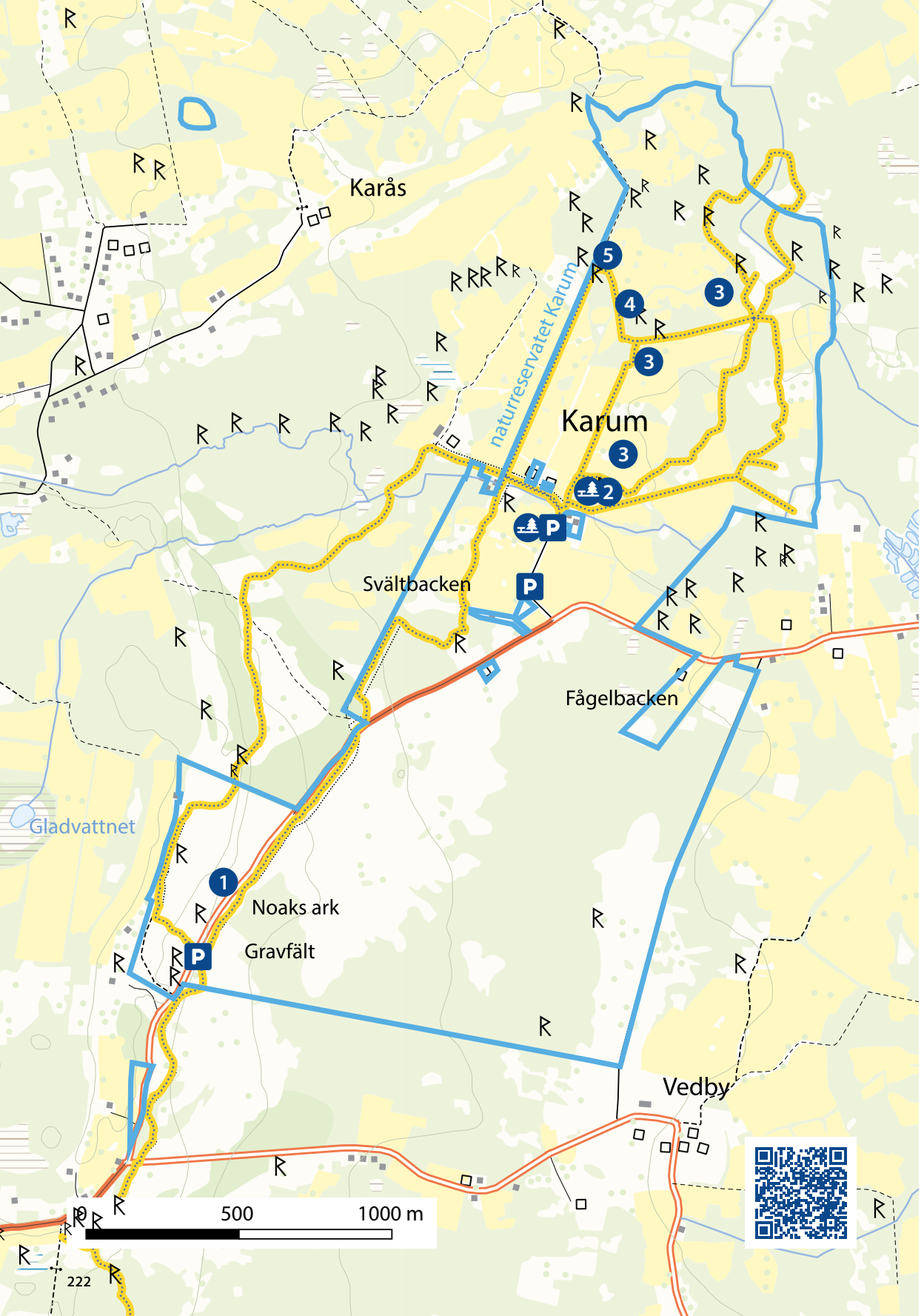
Burnt orchid flowering in Karum.

Getting here

The nature reserve is located on central Öland.

CAR Turn east from Road 136 in Rälla, towards Högsrum. Where the road forks, keep left towards Gärdslösa. After around 1 kilometre, you arrive at the parking area for Noaks ark. After a further 1 kilometre, follow signs for Karum. Parking is available on the right before you reach the village. Parking for buses is found on the left after turning for Karum.





Karås

naturreservatet Karum

Karum

Svältbacken

Fågelbacken

Vedby

Noaks ark

Gravfält

500

1000 m



222



Rye brome, one of the threatened arable weeds.



Discover Karum

1 GRAVE FIELD WITH NOAKS ARK

Among the stone setting in the beautifully located grave field you find Noaks ark, one of Öland's best known ancient monuments, dating back to the late Bronze Age, 1100 to 500 BC. It is a ship setting; a grave shaped like a ship. Noaks ark has tall stones in the fore and aft, and the railing is marked by small stones. The lines that go across are unusual – they may represent rowing benches. The boulder in the centre could be the mast. Take a close look!

2 INFORMATION SITE

On the roof-covered information boards you can find out more about the area's nature and cultural history. Nearby is a picnic site. A perfect starting point for walks on roads and footpaths in the area.

3 THREE-FIELD SYSTEM

In the late 1800s cultivation here used a three-field system, i.e. crop rotation where rye is grown one year, six-rowed barley the

next, and the fields lie fallow in the third year.

Since the mid-1990s the old crop rotation system is used again, but with modern machinery and without fertilizers.

The map marks 3 of the 33 small fields using the traditional three-field system. These fields contain a lot of common and rare arable weeds.

4 HAYMEADOWS

Sit on the bench and enjoy one of the fifty small meadows in Karum. Maybe you'll spot a blue or a burnet moth.

5 BUILDING FOUNDATION FROM THE IRON AGE

Remaining from both prehistoric and historic times are a large number of stone lines, clearance cairns, old farm tracks, and building foundations.

Rönnerum–Abbantorp



NATURE RESERVE | BORGHOLM MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

Rönnerum-Abbantorp Nature Reserve is located in the heart of the forest Mittlandsskogen and consists of broadleaved forest, grazed dry grassland, calcareous wet meadows, and wetlands. In the reserve you also find many interesting species and Sweden's largest hornbeam forest. In the centre of the nature reserve is the ancient village Rönnerum fornby, one of Öland's many fascinating areas with building foundations and stone lines from the Iron Age.

SEE AND DO

The open pastures at the ancient village Rönnerums fornby are surrounded by broadleaved forest. Walking across the verdant meadows in early summer, when the ash leaves are beginning to unfurl and the hawthorn blossoms in white, is a wonderful experience.

In the forest you will be accompanied by birdsong. Here you can hear

- wood warbler
- icterine warbler
- blackcap
- collared flycatcher
- hawfinch
- willow warbler
- chaffinch
- robin.

The nature reserve is also home to more unusual breeding birds, such as honey buzzard and red-breasted flycatcher.

A tip is to do a walk that includes Rönnerums fornby and two other exciting sites in the vicinity: the standing stones Odens flisor and the ringfort Ismantorps borg, see page 212.



GOOD TO KNOW

The Mittlandsleden Trail goes through the nature reserve and can be accessed from both parking areas.

Lighting fires is not permitted, and dogs must be kept on a leash within the reserve.

Nearby

Skedemosse

Don't miss Skedemosse on central Öland – one of the most important places of sacrifice in Scandinavia during the Iron Age.

In Skedemosse Museum you can find out more about the unique gold finds, the sacrificial site and the Iron Age on Öland. A 5-kilometre footpath takes you to the sacrificial site.

For more information and opening times see [the website of Skedemosse Museum](#).



LUSH DECIDUOUS FOREST

Rönnerum-Abbantorp, which is a part of the forest Mittlandsskogen, is rich in broadleaved trees, such as oak, ash, and the three Swedish species of elm – field elm, wych elm, and white elm. There is also an area dominated by hornbeam.

Ivy climbs on the old tree trunks, anemones flower on the ground in spring, and in summer you see violets, the rare wood speedwell, and occasional orchids.

Choosy lichens that only live on old broadleaved trees with high and even humidity like it here. You also find light-demanding ground fungi, such as *Cortinarius odoratus*, and flaky puff-ball. Lesser capricorn beetle thrives on flowering hawthorn.

In the past cattle were let out to graze in the forest. And many of the rare species that you find here are linked to a landscape that has been grazed for generations and where oak, hazel, and other broad-leaved trees have grown for a long time.

📍 Getting here

The nature reserve is located around 2 kilometres south-east of Högstrum church.

CAR The reserve can be reached from the public road Högstrum-Ismantorp. Parking is available at Odens flisor.

Another parking area by the reserve is reached via a small private road from Rönnerum village.







Discover Rönnerum– Abbantorp & Odens flisor

1 RÖNNERUMS FORNBÝ

This ancient village comprises fine remains of Iron Age farm buildings and enclosures. The village well and a number of clearance cairns with small fields in between are also preserved.

2 ODENS FLISOR

One of Öland's best known ancient remains is part of a burial site with around 40 graves. Odens flisor consists of two large limestone slabs, 2.5 to 3 metres tall. No one knows how old the name is, but the grave is from the late Iron Age, 400 to 1050 AD.

According to legend, the slabs were originally one stone, which cracked when the Norse god Odin put his sword through it to tether his eight-footed horse, Sleipnir. On the information board at the site you can read more about the legend.

3 CIRCULAR ROUTE WITH NATURE & CULTURE

A walk between Odens flisor, the exciting Ismantorp borg, and Rönnerums fornby and back takes you to three of the most interesting Iron Age sites on central Öland. It's also one of the best ways of experiencing the diverse nature of Mittlandsskogen forest! The round trip is around 10 kilometres and you can also start from any of the other sites.

4 HORNBEAM FOREST

Enchantingly beautiful when leaves unfurl and wood anemones bloom.

Get to know the Öland alvars

The alvars on Öland display one of Sweden's most remarkable cultural landscapes, so barren and immensely beautiful. Stora alvaret on southern Öland, comprising 26,000 hectares, is the largest alvar area in the world. The landscape rests on a foundation of limestone, and in many places the bedrock is exposed. The very special environment has enabled plants and animals that have disappeared from the rest of Sweden to live on here as relics from other time eras with warmer or colder climates. These are species that have adapted to an extreme calcareous, dry, and grazed habitat.

“Barren and immensely beautiful”



MIXED FLORA

Here you find mountain species, such as alpine lichen and red alpine catchfly. But also plants typical of southern Europe, like common globularia and fastigate gypsophila. Shrubby cinquefoil is characteristic of the wet grasslands of Stora alvaret. The hoary rock-rose *Helianthemum oelandicum* and alvar wormwood are examples of endemic plants, i.e. plants that do not grow anywhere else in the world. In early summer early-purple orchid, elder-flowered orchid, and other orchids provide a floral splendour.

BIRDS & INSECTS

The moth *Setina roscida*, the snail *Helicopsis striata* and rose-winged grasshopper are examples of species that are extremely rare in other environments. Birds characteristic for the Öland alvar are mainly

- golden plover
- skylark
- red-backed shrike
- wheatear
- Montagu's harrier.

CULTURAL-HISTORICAL REMAINS

The alvar may seem like a deserted landscape, but apart from a great biodiversity there are cultural-historical remains from many different eras.

DESTINATIONS

Stora alvaret has many fine places to visit. One is the impressive **Gettlinge grave** field with views across the alvar to the east. Another is **Tingstad flisor** with its 3-metre-tall stones that stand out in the landscape and carry an interesting history.

Examples of nature reserves to visit:

Stora Vickelby alvar & Lilla Vickleby alvar with their mass blooming of orchids.

Dröstorps alvar and the remains of a village that was deserted in the 19th century

Gynge alvar & Mysinge alvar with Möckelmossen alvar lake offering birdwatching and sometimes ice skating, see page 238

Södra Karlevi alvar

Hulterstad alvar

Solberga alvar

Lilla Dalby alvar, see page 246



Gettlinge grave field.



Common globularia.



What is alvar?

Alvar is a landscape that has been grazed for thousands of years and consists of a thin layer of soil on limestone bedrock. Öland is the region in Sweden that has the least precipitation, and the summer climate is almost desert-like. The differences in temperature and the variations between wet and dry are great, creating highly specialised conditions for flora and fauna.

Jordtorpsåsen & Borg village with Gråborg



NATURE RESERVE & RINGFORT | MÖRBYLÅNGA MUNICIPALITY
| ÖLAND

The nature reserve is located in the south-western part of the forest Mittlandsskogen and is a popular place for excursions and rambles. The around 2-kilometre ridge Jordtorpsåsen traverses the landscape. The reserve contains species-rich meadows, hazel groves, fens, and fascinating ancient remains on the ridge crest. In the nearby Borg village you find a genuine Öland village environment with windmill, lovely haymeadows, and the island's largest ringfort – Gråborg.

SEE AND DO

Spring and summer are the best times to experience Jordtorpsåsen. Visitors include school classes and associations that come here to study the nature, cultural history, and geology of the area. The site offers floral splendour including several species of orchids.

During the Iron Age the ridge was used for burials, and the nature reserve has two grave fields with stone circles. From here you can walk to Borg, where you can enjoy the village, medieval chapel ruins, Gråborg, and the beautiful meadows Borg ängar.

GOOD TO KNOW

A footpath goes into the nature reserve, up and along the ridge, and back to the parking area. You can also continue along the ridge for a further 2 kilometres to the east, to the ringfort Gråborg.

The slopes of the ridge are steep in parts. The area is grazed, and there are stiles along the footpath. Camping and lighting fires within the reserve is not permitted. Dogs must be kept on a leash.

Borg village and Gråborg are managed by Kungliga Vitterhetsakademien, the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History, and Antiquities. Here too are grazing animals. For visitor information, see [the Kungliga Vitterhetsakademien website](#).

BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Sunny, relatively dry, and herb-rich hills, slopes, and ridges are often so-called hotspots for biodiversity.

Jordtorpsåsen Nature Reserve is without doubt such as hotspot. The mosaic of habitats and the fact that the entire area has been grazed over a long period of time have resulted in an abundance of plant, fungi, and insect species.

Many species of wild bees build nests in the sandy soil and collect nectar and pollen from the herb-rich surroundings. Here are also many butterflies.

In spring agile frog, moor frog, and great crested newt spawn in the fens on both sides of the ridge. Several species of dragon flies also thrive here. The gappy hazel groves in the northern part of the forest have a unique fungus flora with a great number of rare species.



Grass-of-Parnassus.

Coastal bank formed by the sea

The ridge was probably formed when the sea level was higher than it is today. During powerful storms the sea threw material on the shore. Over the course of time the sea level has changed repeatedly, while the surf has shaped the coastal bank. Now the sea has retreated and allowed the greenery to take over.



Getting here

The nature reserve is located almost 2 kilometres outside Algotsum.

CAR At the crossroads by Algotsum church, turn towards Jordtorp. After less than 1 kilometre you come to a sign showing a turning for Jordtorpsåsen on the right. The dirt road to the parking area is less than 1 kilometre.





Kärr

Grävrose

Övetorp

Naturreservat

Naturres.

Holmetorp

Hovgården

Hobben

Höge ås

Hässleby

Jordtorpslund

Jordtorp

Kvarnbackarna

Rosenborg



1

Gravfält

St. Åskärret

naturreservatet Jordtorpsåsen

Törnbotten

Bollmossen

Borg

St Knuts kapell

3

4

Gråborg

Rörkäret

38

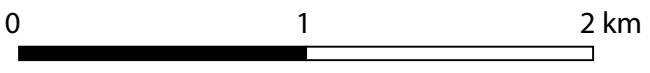
Hönstorp

Naturres.

Tveta

Igelmossen

Högalund



Naturres. 232

Tveta fritidsområde

Kåren



Heath spotted-orchid is found on Borgs ängar in spring.



Discover Jordtorpsåsen & Borg village with Gråborg

1 GRAVE FIELDS

In total, around 150 prehistoric graves have been registered on the ridge. There are two grave fields within the nature reserve, probably from the Early Iron Age. The sites are located around 50 metres from each other, and each contains five stone circles.

2 GRÅBORG

Gråborg was built as an enormous defence facility around 300 AD and was used until around 700 AD. The wall of the ringfort, which is 640 metres long, originally had many small gates.

From the late 1100s to around 1300 Gråborg was reused, probably as a centre for trade and administration of central Öland. The ringfort was strengthened with, among other things, two defence towers. The western medieval arched gate is still preserved. Read more about Öland's ringforts and find more examples worth visiting on page 210.

3 BORGs ÄNGAR

The meadows, which are still managed in a traditional way, are particularly beautiful in spring when the orchids bloom. Walk on marked paths in consideration of the meadow flowers and take a break in the rest area.

4 ST KNUT CHAPEL

Adjacent to Gråborg are the ruins of the medieval St Knut chapel. It was dedicated to the Danish canonised king Canute and used by the inhabitants of Gråborg and Borg village. The chapel was built in the late 1100s and was abandoned in the 16th century.

Beijershamn



NATURE RESERVE | MÖRBYLÅNGA MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

The story of Beijershamn could be summed up as a successful failure. What should have become a major port is now one of Öland's most important localities for water birds. The nature reserve is also very rich in butterflies.

SEE AND DO

From the path leading out to the pier and birdwatching towers you have a good view of the area and its birdlife. In total, much more than 200 different bird species have been observed in Beijershamn.

Walk, look for birds, and admire butterflies among the flowers.

The water area south of the pier is also excellent for wind and kite surfing. You can surf here from 1 November to the end of March.

Port became bird paradise

In the mid-1800s a 2-kilometre pier was built as part of a new major port. But the construction was faulty, and the area started to silt up. After 15 years the port was closed.

Rushes and reeds began to establish, and eventually the area developed into a mosaic of coastal meadows, reedbeds, and open waters. Together with the shallow bay and sandbank, Beijershamn became one of Öland's finest bird habitats.

GOOD TO KNOW

The Mörbylångaleden Trail passes through the area, and several circular routes have been created within the nature reserve. The Pier Walk to the end of the pier and back is 5 kilometres, and large parts of this trail has been adapted for prams as well as electric and manual wheelchairs.

To protect migrating and breeding birds in Beijershamn Nature Reserve access is restricted for part of the year. Then you are only permitted to use the paths leading to the bird observation platforms. Surfers must avoid the areas marked on the map during this period.

RICH INSECT LIFE

In the old deciduous forest in the eastern part of the nature reserve, sheltered and sun-lit glades offer good conditions for insects.

No less than 650 of the total 950 Swedish butterfly species have been observed in the reserve. To ensure maximum blooms for the butterflies in spring and summer, several of the dry meadows are used for haymaking. Grasses and herbs are not cut until the end of the summer, which gives insects plenty of food by way of pollen and nectar.



“Walk, look for birds, and admire butterflies”



Yellow wagtail – one of the many bird species you can see here.

Nearby

Karlevistenen

Don't miss Karlevistenen north of Bejershamn. It is one of Sweden's most remarkable runestones! Follow signs from the road or walk here on paths from the nature reserve or on the Mörbylångaleden Trail.

Vickleby ädellövskog

Vickleby ädellövskog Nature Reserve is neighbour with Bejershamn.

Getting here

The nature reserve is located along the coast, around 7 kilometres south of Färjestaden.

CAR Follow signs for Bejershamn from Road 943.

BUS Bus stop along Road 943 by the turning for Haga park, Bejershamn. For timetables consult Kalmar länstrafik.

BICYCLE There are cycle roads from both Färjestaden and Mörbylånga. However, you need to turn off and cycle the last bit to Bejershamn on the highway.



Karlevistenen.



0 750 1500 m



Discover Beijershamn & Karlevistenen

1 PIER

Walking out on the long pier among waving reeds is a lovely experience.

2 BUTTERFLY "BOOK"

By the meadow close to the coastal bank is an information table with a "book" showing some of the butterfly species you may find during your visit.

3 BIRDWATCHING TOWERS & FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS WETLANDS

From the birdwatching towers the views are majestic. Information about which species you can observe is found inside the towers. Come closer to the wetland inhabitants by walking on the footbridges.

4 REED PLATFORM

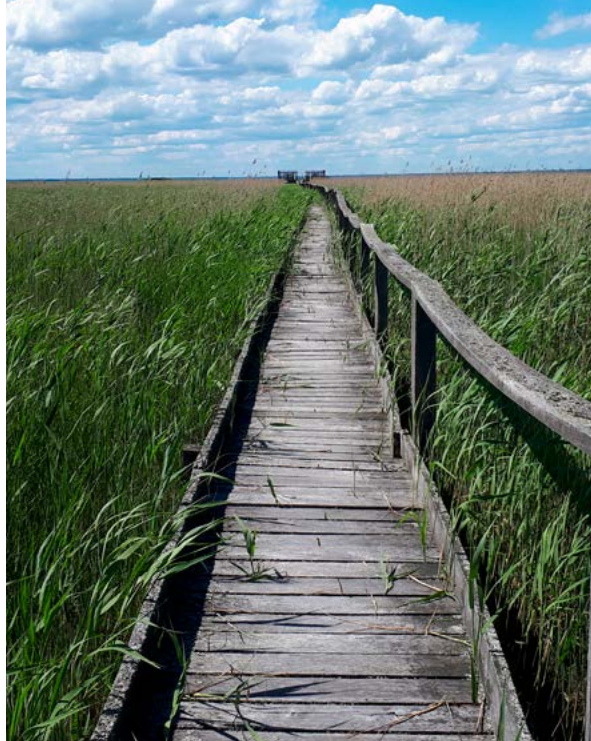
If you want to study the birdlife in peace and as close as possible, visit the reed hide in the north. It's a little further to walk, but well worth a visit. Don't forget to bring a flask and something to eat!

5 KARLEVISTENEN

Öland's oldest runestone was erected around a thousand years ago, probably at the end of the 10th century, in memory of the Danish chieftain Sibbe den gode. Researchers believe that Sibbe died on a voyage and was hastily buried on land by his men.

Karlevistenen stands in its original position, and the runic poem written in the metre *dróttkvætt* is the only one of its kind that has been preserved.

Parking and information board available at the site, which is managed by the Swedish national property board Statens fastighetsverk.



Gynge alvar & Mysinge alvar



NATURE RESERVE | MÖRBYLÅNGA MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

This part of Stora alvaret is open and characterised by thin soils and millennia of grazing. The grandiose landscape has a species-rich flora. Lake Möckelmossen is famous for its diverse bird and insect life and is a popular destination.

SEE AND DO

Ramble across lovely alvarland, look for birds, and find flowers among the limestone pavement. There are also ancient remains visible in the area.

Möckelmossen, the largest lake on Stora alvaret, is home to golden plover with its melancholy call. Skylark, snipe, redshank, and lapwing are common, and there is a good chance of spotting Montagu's harrier.

In autumn cranes rest here, and in winter whooper swans and Arctic terns are often observed. Look for them while skating on the frozen lake. You can also see pike swimming under the ice.

Nearby

Mysinge hög

One of Öland's largest burial mounds. From Mysinge hög you have fine views across the valley Mörbylångadalen to the west and the alvar to the east. Signposted from Road 136.

"A great species richness"

GOOD TO KNOW

A walking trail with a footbridge across the wettest parts goes from the parking area at Möckelmossen. The municipal circular route Möckelmossen–Bårby källa also starts from the parking area. It goes south outside the nature reserve and is marked with small stone cairns.

Remember to keep dogs on a leash. You can camp for 24 hours in the same place within the nature reserve, and in Mysinge alvar you can light fires in designated places.

FLORA

Due to the grazing of horses, cows, and sheep as well as the gathering of wood, the alvar here is open with a great species richness. There is an abundance of common globularia, branched St Bernard's lily, alpine catchfly, goldilocks aster, and fastigiate gypsophila. In early summer some of Öland's best localities for orchids are found here with rare species, such as musk orchid and dwarf spurge. Alvar wormwood and hoary rock-rose are examples of endemic species, i.e. species that have only been found on Öland.



📍 Getting here

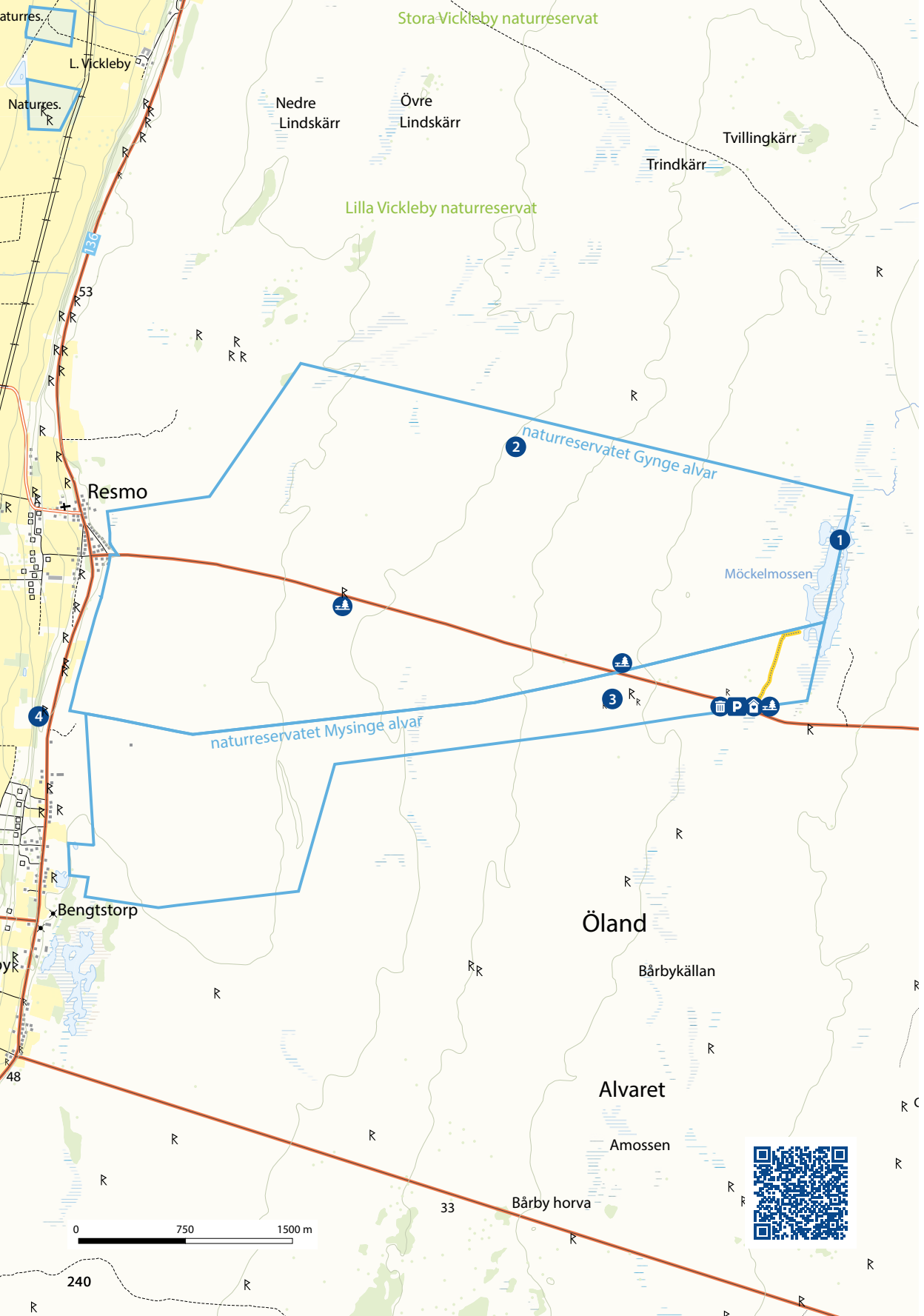
The nature reserves are located east of Mysinge and Gyngge along Road 136.

CAR Road 26 between Resmo and Stenåsa goes through Gyngge alvar. The rest area by Lake Möckelmossen is a good starting point for a visit to Gyngge alvar and Mysinge alvar. Parking available.



Branched St Bernard's lily.





Stora-Vickleby naturreservat

L. Vickleby

Nedre
Lindskär

Övre
Lindskär

Tvillingkärr

Trindkärr

Lilla Vickleby naturreservat

136

53

Resmo

2

naturreservatet Gyngedalviken

1

Möckelmossen



3



naturreservatet Mysingedalviken

4

Bengtstorp

Öland

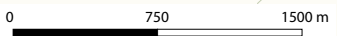
Bärbykällan

Alvaret

Amossen

Bärby horva

33



240

Discover Gynge alvar & Mysinge alvar & Mysinge hög

1 MÖCKELMOSEN

Around this bird lake is also a great variety of butterflies, including some small species that only occur on Öland.

2 GYNGE ALVAR

A good place to explore a unique habitat type – the expansive, species rich, varied alvar. Read more about Öland's alvar on page 228.

3 ANCIENT REMAINS

An exciting example is found a few hundred metres south of the alvar road. Here are the remains of five small buildings from the Iron Age.

4 MYSINGE HÖG

One of Öland's largest burial mounds, probably dating back to the Early Bronze Age, 1800 to 1500 BC. Graves like this one were for chieftains, while other people were buried in cairns. An information board at the site tells you about legends and ghost stories surrounding Mysinge hög.



Dark-red helleborine.

Get to know The Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland



WORLD HERITAGE SITE |
MÖRBYLÅNGA MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

The Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland demonstrates, better than in many other places, the interaction between humans and nature over millennia. Here the ancestors of today's farmers shaped a landscape that is now a World Heritage Site. The adaptation to natural conditions on the island has created a unique biodiversity and preserved outstanding environments and ancient remains.

HUMANS & LAND USE

Öland is by size the third largest island in the Baltic Sea, and the world heritage site comprises around a third of the island's surface. Öland has been inhabited since the inland ice retreated. But humans did not have a fundamental impact on the environment until the Late Stone Age, when they started to farm and keep cattle. The landscape contains building foundations and walls from Iron Age farms.

In the past land was divided into infields and outlying land. The infields consisted of arable lands and meadows. The outlying land were alvar plains and coastal grasslands used for grazing. They are distinct, species-rich environments, see Öland's alvar, page 228, and Öland's coastal grasslands, page 196.



When farming changed in the 19th century the division between infields and outlying land ended on mainland Sweden and in other parts of Europe. Outlying land were abandoned and turned into forest. On Öland, however, the land division was retained as there were no alternatives.

Today Öland's farmers cultivate land that has been used by many generations and let their cattle out on pastures that have been grazed for thousands of years. This is the basis of Öland's world heritage.

SETTLEMENTS FROM MEDIEVAL TIMES TO THE 17TH CENTURY

The agricultural land was divided into infields and outlying land in the mid-13th

Getting here

CAR Take Road 137 across the Öland bridge, then Road 136 south via Färjestaden.

FERRY In summer the ferry Dessie runs between Kalmar and Färjestaden.

BUS Bus from Kalmar Central Station to Färjestaden or Mörbylänga. For timetables consult Kalmar länstrafik.



What is a World Heritage Site?



The United Nations organisation UNESCO adopted the World Heritage Convention in 1972. The convention aims to preserve cultural and natural objects with the idea of handing them over to future generations in good condition. The designation as a World Heritage Site entails a responsibility to protect the values included in the area.

The Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000. The committee's motivation: "The landscape on Southern Öland takes its contemporary form from its long cultural history, adapting to the physical constraints of the geology and topography. Southern Öland is an outstanding example of human settlement, making the optimum use of diverse landscape types on a single island."

"Southern Öland is a unique agricultural landscape"

century and late 14th century. Arable land and meadows formed one large field in which all the farms in the village had a share. The farms were built on a village site, on the border between infield and outlying land. The buildings were constructed in a row along the road and formed a so-called linear village. The width of each plot along the road corresponded to the farm's share of the village.

To protect the crops from cattle and wild animals, the infields were enclosed by stone walls. Outside the infields was the alvar plain and coastal grasslands, where cattle grazed in the summer. Sheep were tended by shepherds.

This is how villages were organised until the first half of the 19th century, when they were subject to land reform. The aim was that all farmsteads should receive land lots consisting of arable land, meadowland, alvarland and coastland. Many of the stone walls typical of Öland were built at this time.



Destinations

1 MÖRBYLÅNGADALEN

One of Sweden's most fertile cultivated areas with linear villages and lovely views. The mild climate and calcareous soil make it possible to grow peas, brown beans, and the new crop, sweet potato.

2 SÖDRA KVINNEBY

Södra Kvinneby is one of several well-preserved linear villages on Öland.

3 DRÖSTORPS ÖDEBY

From Skarpa Alby you can walk to the abandoned village of Dröstorp which was created in the 18th century.

4 WALKING TRAILS ON STORA ALVARET

There are several trails to choose from if you want to walk on Stora alvaret. For example Stora alvarleden, Gössslundaleden, Örnkulleleden, and Bårby källa. Find more World Heritage Site walking trails on [the website of Mörbylånga Municipality](#).

5 MÖCKELMOSSEN

On the road that goes straight across Stora alvaret between Resmo and Stenåsa is a rest area by an alvar lake called Möckelmossen, see page 238.

6 GAMMALSBY COASTAL GRASSLANDS

Between Seby läge in the north and the harbour Gräsgårds hamn in the south is an easily accessible area with parking on both sides.

7 SCHÄFERIÄNGARNA IN OTTENBY

Furthest to the south is a large area that was for a very long time managed as

a haymeadow. The entire area is now grazed, except for the north-eastern parts where haymaking has been resumed.

In the 1540s the land belonged to Ottenby village with 19 farms, which the Swedish king Gustav Vasa turned into a royal manor, see page 262. It included a sheep and a stud farm.





More about the World Heritage Site

Read more on the following websites:

- [Mörbylånga Municipality](#)
- [Swedish National Commission for UNESCO](#)
- [Institute for Language and Folklore](#)



Lilla Dalby alvar



NATURE RESERVE | MÖRBYLÅNGA MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

At first impression Lilla Dalby, which is part of Stora alvaret, may seem barren. But a visit shows both variety and species-rich habitats. The area contains everything from wetlands and wooded ridges to flat, open limestone pavement. Cultural-historical traces remain e.g. from the time that Öland had its own railway.

SEE AND DO

Snipe and redshank are some of the birds that breed in the wetlands. On the alvar you can hear characteristic birds, such as golden plover, wheatear, and whinchat. A rose-winged grasshopper may startle you as it jumps from the ground. Look for the elegant Montagu's harrier soaring across the alvar land in search of voles, mice, or small birds.

Ancient remains can be seen in the reserve by way of prehistoric graves and several clearance cairns. The landscape is also criss-crossed by traditional Öland stone walls.

Here and there are stones and boulders left behind by the inland ice. Two large erratic boulders have been named Millerstenen and Tokstenen.

GOOD TO KNOW

Several walking trails start from the parking area. You can also follow the embankment from the nature reserve, south to the deserted village Penåsa or north to Tingstad flisor.

Around 100 metres to the east along the disused railway is a rest area with fireplaces, wood, picnic table, and privy. You can also pump up your bicycle tyres here.

You are not permitted to camp for more than 24 hours in the same place. Dogs must be kept on a leash.

ALVAR FLORA

The thin layer of soil that has been grazed for millennia contains a special and species-rich flora. Spiked speedwell, dropwort, small pasque flower, black medick, hop trefoil, bulbous buttercup, and reflexed stonecrop are some of the plants that grow here in abundance. But you may also find more uncommon species, such as alpine catchfly and lesser butterfly-orchid. In some places a profusion of orchids, such as burnt orchid and elder-flowered orchid, can be seen in early summer.



Penåsa ödeby & railway embankment

The village Penåsa was deserted in the mid-1800s. Building foundations, cattle path, well, and small enclosed fields bear witness to a time when people lived with small means from the meagre soil.

The old railway is also a monument from a past time. The Mörbylångaleden Trail goes along the embankment, straight across the alvar, passing between and through nature reserves. At the rest areas at Penåsa and Skärlöv are the ruins of old platelayer cottages. These were built in 1910 by the Öland railway as homes for the people who inspected and maintained the tracks and the embankment. The railway was in use from 1910 until 1961 and was built for transporting sugar beets and other produce.

Cavalry horses

Up until the 1950s Öland farmers were famous for breeding young horses, so-called remounts, for the Swedish cavalry. Grazing on the calcareous soil on southern Öland gave the horses a strong bone structure.



A tip is to follow the disused railway from the nature reserve to Tingstad flisor.



Burnt orchid.

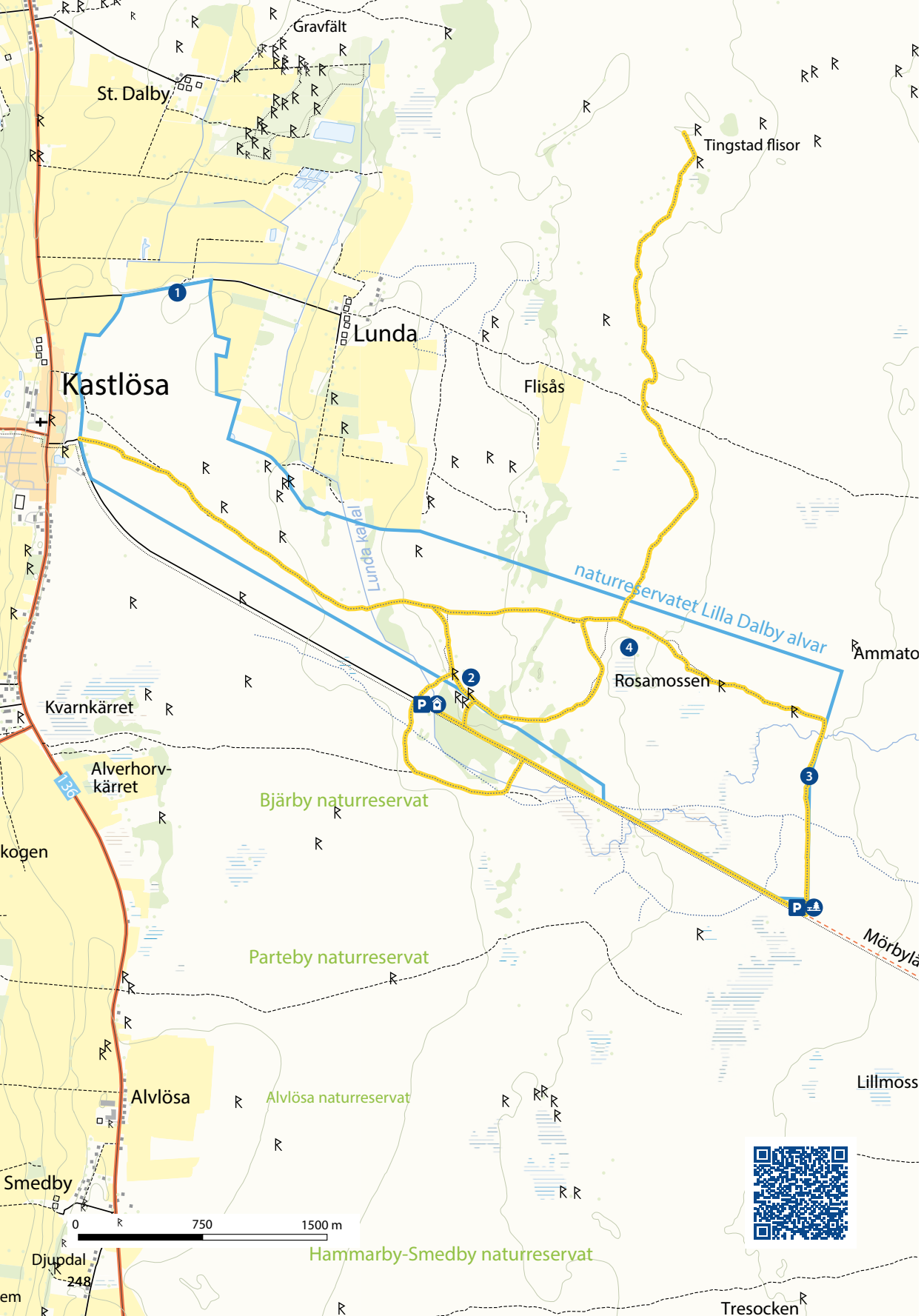


Getting here

The nature reserve is located next to Kastlösa village.

CAR Follow Road 136 south to Kastlösa. In the centre of the village turn east by the nature reserve sign. Drive along the embankment and you come to a parking area.





Kastlösa

Lunda

Flisås

naturreservatet Lilla Dalby alvar

Bjarby naturreservat

Parteby naturreservat

Alvlösa naturreservat

Hammarby-Smedby naturreservat



Discover Lilla Dalby alvar

1 TOKSTENEN

According to legend the erratic boulder Tokstenen was thrown here by a giantess in Småland. The place is said to be haunted.

2 GRAVE WITH CENTRE STONE

Prehistoric grave field where one of the stone circles has a large boulder in the centre.

3 MILLERSTENEN

This erratic boulder was used as a border mark between the parishes of Hulterstad and Kastlösa. When the central wall was built, it determined its line. According to common Swedish folklore, erratic boulders were thrown by giants. Millerstenen could signify “middle stone”, since it was located between two parishes.

4 ROSAMOSSEN

Golden plover, snipe, lapwing, and redshank breed in the wetland Rosamossen and along the river Penåsabäcken. Some years the rare Montagu’s harrier also breeds in the nature reserve.

Remember to show consideration for the birds during the breeding season, especially around the wetland areas.



Gammalsby sjömarker



NATURE RESERVE | MÖRBYLÅNGA MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

The nature reserve contains typical coastal grasslands in an open landscape. The coastal grasslands on eastern Öland are some of the most valuable bird areas in Europe. The island Gammalsbyören, the long stretch of coast with varied habitats, and the open, grazed land provide excellent conditions for the rich birdlife. Ancient remains show that people lived here in prehistoric times.



Nearby

Seby läge

At Seby läge are fine orchid sites and a pier jutting out into the sea. Here is also a beach with jetty, fireplace, and picnic area.

Gräsgårdshamn

A genuine fishing harbour where you can walk around and breathe in the scents of fresh fish, seaweed, and sea.

SEE AND DO

Gammalsby sjömarker is an easy-to-reach place for birdwatching in summer and autumn.

Curlew, oystercatcher, pied avocet, redshank, and shelduck are among the typical birds. You also find threatened species, such as southern dunlin, black-tailed godwit, and little tern. A large number of Arctic waders and geese visit every year.

Cows peacefully grazing in the afternoon sunlight is a lovely sight, as is flowering green-winged orchid and musk orchid on the coastal meadow in spring.

The oldest known traces of human presence in the nature reserve are building foundations, stone lines, and burial cairns. Thanks to the long tradition of haymaking and grazing many of these prehistoric marks are still visible in the landscape. Among more recent cultural remains are a number of bomb shelters from the 1940s.

Getting here

The nature reserve is located on south-eastern Öland, east of the villages Torngård and Gammalsby.

CAR The nature reserve is within easy reach of Seby läge to the north or Gräsgårdshamn to the south. Parking is available at both ends.





Beneficial grazing

The coastal grasslands within the nature reserve are mostly grazed all the way down to the water's edge. If this was not the case, a tall flora would take over the coastal zone, creating a border to the water of cow parsley, nettles, docks, and sorrels. Grazing is therefore beneficial for birds searching for food, including pied avocet, redshank, ringed plover, and other waders.

GOOD TO KNOW

The Mörbylångaleden Trail passes through the nature reserve.

Access is prohibited in parts of the nature reserve from 1 April to 31 July in order to protect birdlife.

The marked footpath that goes through the area of restricted access is available all year round. This means that you can

always use it to reach the two observation platforms.

You can camp and moor or anchor your boat for a maximum of 24 hours in the same place. Lighting fires is not permitted, and dogs must be kept on a leash within the nature reserve.

SAFETY & FOOD FOR BIRDS

The open landscape and shallow bottoms are important for breeding and resting birds. Gammalsbyören is a long and narrow island within the nature reserve, around 200 metres from land. Arctic tern, velvet scoter, and eider are among the birds that breed there. The island is bare, which is an advantage for nesting birds, since crows and other egg-thieves often use trees as a vantage point. The area between land and Gammalsbyören also plays an important role for birdlife. Here gulls, waterfowl, and waders seek food on the shallow bottoms and among the heaps of seaweed washed up on the shore.



Seby

Torngård

Gammalsby

Mellstaby

Seby läge

Gammalsbyören

Gräsgårds fiskehamn

naturreservatet
Gammalsby sjömarker



Discover Gammalsby sjömarker

1 OBSERVATION PLATFORM AT STRANDÄNGEN

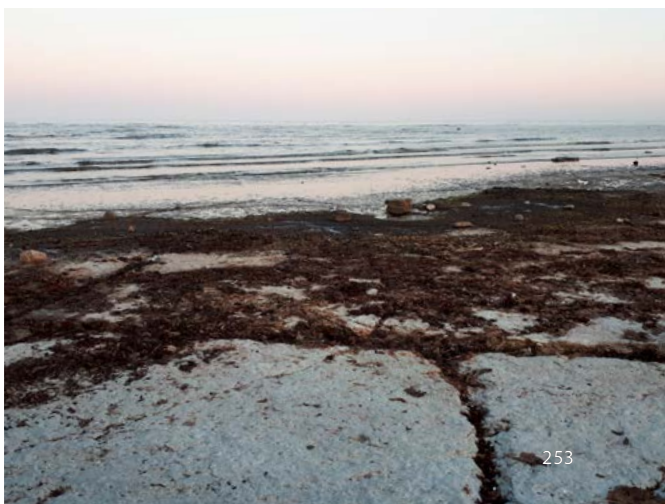
From this platform you have a good view across the island Gammalsbyören and the shallow seaweed bay where large flocks of waders often rest in summer and autumn.

2 OBSERVATION PLATFORM NEAR GRÄSGÅRDS HAMN

From this easily accessible platform you have a good view of the southern part of the island Gammalsbyören and countless ducks and other seabirds in the sound.

3 "EEL BRIDGES"

From the shore, a number of stone piers stretch out into the water. These are the remains of old "eel bridges" which were used until the mid-20th century when eel was fished in fyke nets from the shore. This type of eel fishing was especially common on the eastern side of Öland, where the water remains shallow a long way out.



Walking in Kalmar County

Walking strengthens body and soul - and is an easy way of exploring natural and cultural environments. You can hike almost anywhere in Kalmar County. Short or long; an hour or two. Go for a day's walk or an adventure over several days sleeping along the trail. Several of the longer trails link together - for those who want a real challenge!

DISCOVER THE COUNTY'S UNIQUE NATURE AND CULTURE ON FOOT

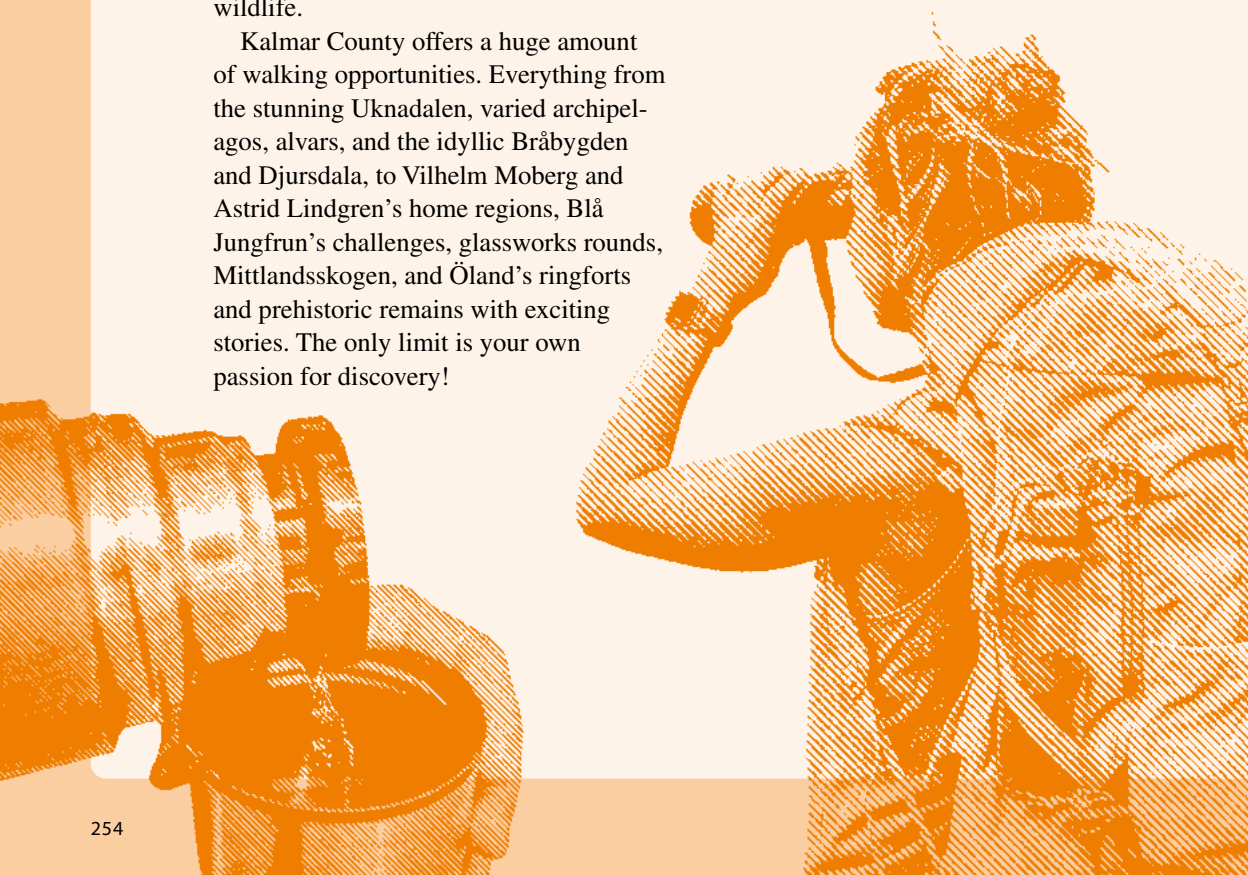
Most of the destinations in this guide include short footpaths and circular routes suitable also for inexperienced walkers. Longer walking trails pass through many of the nature reserves.

Experiencing the county's unique diversity of natural and cultural sites on foot is something very special. You have time to take in beautiful views, sense the echoes and scents of history, and spot wildlife.

Kalmar County offers a huge amount of walking opportunities. Everything from the stunning Uknadalen, varied archipelagos, alvars, and the idyllic Bråbygden and Djursdala, to Vilhelm Moberg and Astrid Lindgren's home regions, Blå Jungfrun's challenges, glassworks rounds, Mittlandsskogen, and Öland's ringforts and prehistoric remains with exciting stories. The only limit is your own passion for discovery!

TIPS FOR BEGINNERS

- Start with shorter walks, follow marked trails, and use a map.
- Walk in comfortable shoes (not new).
- Dress according to the weather, bring a jacket or jumper, and a hat.
- Bring an extra pair of socks.
- Plasters are a good idea.
- Always take water and something to eat, even on short walks.



WALKING TRAILS, 50–200 KILOMETRES

Don't think all or nothing – you don't have to walk the whole distance. Many of the trails are divided into sections, and you can also plan your own circular route.

- **Sevedeleden**, Vimmerby Municipality
- **Tjustleden**, Västervik Municipality
- **Lönnebergaleden**, Hulstfred Municipality
- **Ostkustleden**, Oscarshamn Municipality
- **Mönsteråsleden**, Mönsterås Municipality
- **Kalmarsundsleden**, Kalmar and Torsås municipalities
- **Utvandrarleden**, Emmaboda and other municipalities
- **Dackeleden**, Nybro Municipality
- **Torsåsleden**, Torsås Municipality
- **Gullaboleden**, Torsås Municipality
- **Mörbylångaleden**, Mörbylånga Municipality
- **Mittlandsleden**, Borgholm Municipality
- **Bråbygdens vandringsled**, Oscarshamn Municipality, 9 kilometres
- **Krokshultsbygdens vandringsled**, Oscarshamn Municipality, 18 kilometres
- **Jonas Stolts kyrkväg**, Högsby Municipality, 12 kilometres
- **Kevershälls vandringsled**, Mönsterås Municipality, 5–7-kilometre circular route
- **Svartö naturstig**, Mönsterås Municipality, 2.8 kilometres
- **Örsjö vandringsled**, Nybro Municipality, 5.5–7.5 kilometres
- **Stampaleden**, Emmaboda Municipality, 7 kilometres
- **Ljungbyleden**, Kalmar Municipality, 2.5 kilometres
- **Dackeleden**, Torsås Municipality, 30-kilometre circular route
- **Hornsjöleden**, Borgholm Municipality
- **Gösslundaleden**, Stora alvaret, Mörbylånga Municipality, 7-kilometre circular route
- **Bårby källa**, Stora alvaret, Mörbylånga Municipality, 1.8–6-kilometre circular route.

SHORT TRAILS & CIRCULAR ROUTES

There are plenty of short walking trails and circular routes maintained by associations or municipalities. Here are some examples:

- **Loftaleden**, Västervik Municipality, 20-kilometre circular route
- **Gladhammarslederna circular routes**, Västervik Municipality, 8.8/13 kilometres
- **Djursdalarundan**, Vimmerby Municipality, 7-kilometre circular route
- **Brantestads naturrunda**, Vimmerby Municipality, 9.9-kilometre circular route
- **Hammarsjön runt**, Hulstfred Municipality, 10 kilometres

More information about walking trails and circular routes can be found on the websites of respective municipality.

WALKING IS GOOD FOR YOU

Walking is both gentle and easy; you can choose the degree of difficulty, go out on your own, or together with a companion. In other words, start from your own situation, enjoy and reap the health benefits. Walking increases fat burning, and lowers blood-pressure and the risk for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and osteoporosis. When you walk in uneven terrain, more muscles are activated and you will become fitter.

Research shows that moving reduces stress, and that actually being in the countryside will reduce your pulse rate and the level of the stress hormone cortisol in your blood.

Albrunna Lund



NATURE RESERVE | MÖRBYLÅNGA MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

Albrunna lund is a leafy oasis between alvar and arable land. Walk through the verdant grove and enjoy birdsong and flowers. Here are also moss-clad bomb shelters from World War II.

Nearby

Albrunnastenen

A large stone erected on a field between the entrance road to Albrunna lund Nature Reserve and Albrunna; east of Road 136. The 4-metre-tall limestone slab, which had been standing in its leaning position at least since the Iron Age, fell and shattered in 2014 as the result of an accident. Three years later a cast copy of the original was put up in the same place. In connection with this the ground around the stone was investigated, and archaeologists found traces of a 29-metre-long ship setting which was part of a grave field.

SEE AND DO

If you visit Albrunna lund in spring, you will be met by an intensive bird chorus of blackcaps, chaffinches, and other songbirds and thrushes. With luck, you will also hear the rare golden oriole.

On the herb-rich meadows in the northern part of the nature reserve the bright yellow pheasant's eye stands out, which in Sweden only occurs on Öland and Gotland.

The bomb shelters that were built here during World War II are fascinating. Another reminder of the past are the remains of an outdoor dance floor, which for a long time was an important meeting place for young people in the area.

GOOD TO KNOW

A walking trail runs in a loop through the nature reserve, and there are two rest places with picnic tables. At the entrance to the reserve is also a table and an information board.

Remember to keep your dog on a leash, when you walk through the reserve. Picking flowers or digging up plants or parts of plants is not permitted. But you may pick berries and mushrooms.

RARE WOODLAND SPECIES

The rare moth scarce lance-wing has been observed in Albrunna lund. Here is also a rich fungi and lichen flora. On the bark of broadleaved trees you find, for example, the lichen *Megalaria laureri*, which only grows on Öland and in a few other places in Sweden. Other rarities include the fungi lilac coral, *Lactarius mairei*, and iodine bolete.

Deciduous trees of varying ages

The average age of the deciduous trees in the oldest part of the forest, which is in the centre of the woodland, is around 100 years. Several wide-crowned oaks are significantly older. They germinated when the ground was more open, and the grove was used for grazing and haymaking.





Getting here

The nature reserve is located south of the village Albrunna.

CAR The reserve is easily reached from Road 136. South of the village Albrunna turn east onto the farm track just south of the erect stone Albrunnastenen. There you will find a parking area.



Pheasant's eye is protected.



Kalmarsund

Albrunna

Albrunna naturreservat

P

3

4

1

2

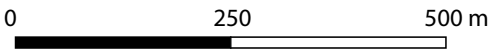
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136

Albrunna lund

naturreservatet Albrunna lund





Bomb shelter.



Discover Albrunna lund & Albrunnastenen

1 THE OLDEST FOREST

Oak and ash interspersed with field elm, maple, and small-leaved lime. The trees are on average 100 years old, but many oaks are significantly older. If you come to the grove in April and May, you will see a profusion of white and yellow anemones.

2 ALBRUNNA BOMB SHELTERS

During World War II a military unit was ordered to build around ten bomb shelters here. It was part of the monitoring and protection of the strategically important harbour area and the cement industry in Degerhamn, vital during the war. Local farmers contributed stones from the fields, which were then crushed and mixed with cement to make building blocks. The

shelters were hidden beneath soil and limestone walls and were furnished with wooden benches and a stove with chimney. They were used as shelters for people working in the cement factory.

3 ALBRUNNASTENEN

The erect stone Albrunnastenen marks the place of a ship setting. The original stone is believed to have been from the Iron or Bronze Age.

4 MEADOWS

The meadows in the grove are cut every year, which results in a rich flora including bloody crane's-bill, dropwort, and green strawberry. But the biggest attraction is the protected pheasant's eye, which flowers in April and May.

Ottenby



NATURE RESERVE | MÖRBYLÅNGA MUNICIPALITY | ÖLAND

Ottenby, on the southern cape of Öland, is one of the largest nature reserves in Kalmar County. The historic Ottenby royal manor, one of Sweden's biggest farms, still manages the land. Here you find expansive coastal grasslands, scrubland with shrubby cinquefoil and hawthorn, and deciduous woodland. Watch the large amounts of resting and breeding birds, look for seals, and find exciting ancient remains. Ottenby has a lot to offer for both young and old!

SEE AND DO

On the southern cape of Öland is Ottenby lighthouse village. Those who climb the 197 steps in the lighthouse are rewarded with magnificent views across sea and land. A stone's throw away is naturum Ottenby, a visitor centre with information about the area's nature and history.

If you visit the deciduous woodland Ottenby lund in spring, you will find flowering orchids on the meadow Kyrkängen. Frogs and toads call by the woodland lakes, and there is a good chance of seeing fallow deer wandering around. The early summer bird chorus is outstanding.

The scrubland is home to red-backed shrike and whinchat. Little tern, ruddy turnstone, and oystercatcher can be seen at the end of the lighthouse road. And large numbers of waders and ducks, including southern dunlin, breed on the meadows Schäferiängarna.

GOOD TO KNOW

There are four marked walking trails and several unmarked paths and roads in the nature reserve. During periods of restricted access you are only permitted to use the marked trails in some parts of the reserve, see map.

Camping and staying overnight is forbidden. Visit the website of naturum Ottenby for information about opening hours, exhibitions, guided tours, and other activities.

LIFE IN THE WOODLAND

Some 40 different species of birds breed in the woodland. The most common include chaffinch, willow warbler, starling, and icterine warbler. With luck, you will also hear or see golden oriole and red-breasted flycatcher.

Ottenby lund is a mixed deciduous woodland with several large, mature oaks, some more than 400 years old. The oaks are home to many rare and endangered insects and lichens. One example is the lichen *Lecanographa lyncea* which in all of Sweden has only been found on a single oak in Ottenby lund. Read more about the importance of the oak landscape on page 124.

Ottenby royal manor

One of five royal manors that king Gustav Vasa established on Öland. They were to serve as a model for local farmers and as stud farms for the royal court. At Ottenby royal manor Gustav Vasa set up a sheep farm. The meadows where the sheep grazed are called Schäferiängarna. Ottenby lund has also been a royal hunting ground since the 17th century. The current buildings belonging to the farm, located by the entrance to the nature reserve, are mainly from the early or mid-19th century. For more information, see the website of the Swedish national property board Statens fastighetsverk.

Open landscape biodiversity

Stone Age and Iron Age remains show that Ottenby was some form of central settlement. In the Middle Ages it was a large farming village, and in the 16th century the royal manor was built here. For centuries, birdlife and plants have adapted to conditions in the open landscape. Traditional management with grazing and haymaking is necessary to keep the coastal meadows and other pastures open.



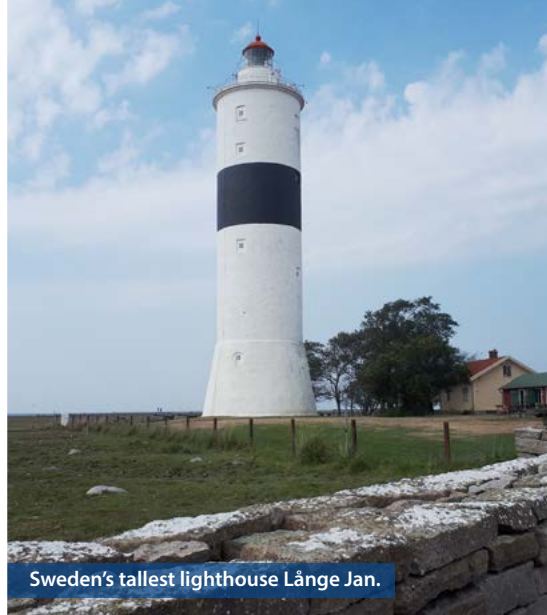
Getting here

The nature reserve is located on Öland's southern cape.

CAR Take Road 136 to Ottenby. Parking is available at Ottenby royal manor, which is the entrance to the nature reserve, and at naturum on the tip of the cape. Two more parking areas are found at Ottenby lund.







Sweden's tallest lighthouse Långe Jan.

Discover Ottenby

1 OTTENBY LIGHTHOUSE VILLAGE

The lighthouse village, where naturum is located, is a listed building. Here is Långe Jan – Sweden's tallest lighthouse and one of the best-known landmarks on Öland.

At Ottenby Bird Observatory thousands of birds are ringed every year to aid the study of their migration. The beautiful sky-blue building, designed by the architect Jan Gezelius, was built in 1961 as a bird museum.

2 SÖDRA LUNDTORNET

Södra lundtornet is a tall lookout tower with views across the deciduous woodland Ottenby lund, the meadows Schäferi-ängarna, and the lake Södra lundsjön.

3 KANONTORNET & STENGÖMSLET

The birdwatching platform Kanontor-net offers views across the meadows Schäferi-ängarna. From here a footbridge takes you in to the stone hide Stengömslet with views across the lagoon and sandbank.

4 SAINT JOHN'S CHAPEL

At the ruins of this medieval chapel is a tactile bronze model of how the little church may have looked.

5 KUNGSSTENARNA

Two erect stones on an Iron Age grave field. The origin of the name is unknown, but they are surrounded by legends.

6 KYRKHAMN FISHING VILLAGE AND TRADING POST

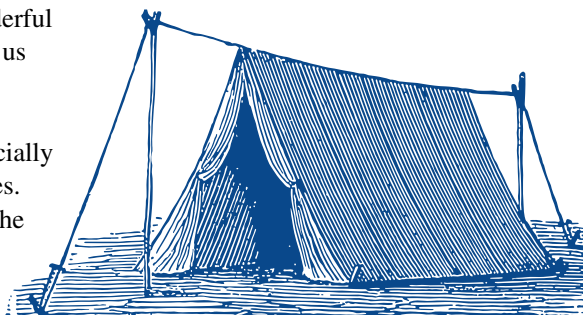
The remains of Kyrkhamn, which for 500 years was Öland's major fishing village.

7 ORMINGE RÖR

At the magnificent navigation mark Orminge rör you can also look for white-tailed eagle.

Lighting fires & camping

Overnighting and cooking outdoors is a wonderful experience. The Right of Public Access gives us great opportunities to do this in many places. In protected areas, however, special rules and regulations apply. Perhaps the ground is especially sensitive, or it may not be suitable to light fires. Here follows an overview of what applies in the nature reserves and national parks in Kalmar County – use this when planning your visit.



Municipality/ Nature reserve	Here you may camp for 24 hours on a designated site	Here you may camp for 24 hours <i>*You need permission from the landowner or Kalmar County Administrative Board</i>	Here you may camp for 48 hours	Here you may light fires in designated places	Here you may only use a portable barbecue or camping stove
Västervik					
Björkö	•				
Forsby		•			
Hultserum		•			
Kvarntorpet				•	
Mörtfors		•		•	
Nabben				•	
Norra Tjust skärgård		•			•
Risebo		•		•	
Rågö	•			•	
Stora Vrången		•		•	
Södra Malmö			•		
Trässö	•				
Vårum		•			
Västra Marströmmen		•			•
Yxnevik		•			
Oskarshamn					
Blomsfors		•			•
Bockemålen		•			•
Emsfors-Karlshammar		•			•
Hulteglän		•			
Humlenäs		•			•
Köksmåla		•			•
Lämmedal		•			•
Misterhults skärgård		•			•
Mörtfors		•		•	
Norra Göten		•		•	
Runnö		•			
Späckemåla		•			•
Stamsjövägen		•			•
Ölvedal		•			

Municipality/ Nature reserve	Here you may camp for 24 hours on a desig- nated site	Here you may camp for 24 hours <i>*You need permission from the landowner or Kalmar County Administrative Board</i>	Here you may camp for 48 hours	Here you may light fires in designated places	Here you may only use a portable barbecue or camping stove
Hultsfred					
Björnnäset				•	
Knästorp		•			•
Sällevadsåns dalgång				•	
Högsby					
Aboda	•			•	
Allgunnen			•	•	
Berga		•			•
Getebro		•		•	
Kyllen		•			
Lixhultsbrännan		•			
Rudalund		•			
Åsebo		•			•
Mönsterås					
Emsfors–Karlshammar		•			•
Lövö	•			•	
Vällö	•			•	
Åby		•		•	
Kalmar					
Bokenäs		•			
Horsö–Värnsnäs				•	
Lindö				•	
Svinö				•	
Vinterbo		•			
Nybro					
Allgunnen			•	•	
Smedjevik			•		
Svartbäcksmåla				•	
Torsås					
Strömby		•			
Örarevet				•	
Emmaboda					
Ekensberg		•*		•	
Borgholm					
Byrum		•			
Böda Backar		•			
Bödakustens västra		•		•	
Hagelstad		•			
Hjälmsstad sjömarker		•		•	
Ismantorp		•			
Karum		•			
Karås		•			
Knisa mosse		•			
Knisa lövskog		•			
Lindreservatet		•			
Marsjö sjömarker		•		•	
Mossberga–Vipetorp		•			
Rönnerum–Abbantorp		•			
Petgärdeträsk	•			•	

LIGHTING FIRES & CAMPING

<i>Municipality/ Nature reserve</i>	<i>Here you may camp for 24 hours on a design- ated site</i>	<i>Here you may camp for 24 hours *You need permission from the landowner or Kalmar County Administrative Board</i>	<i>Here you may camp for 48 hours</i>	<i>Here you may light fires in designated places</i>	<i>Here you may only use a portable barbecue or camping stove</i>
Skeppersång		•			
Strandskogen		•			
Strandtorp		•			•
Södviks sjömarker		•		•	
Tomteby		•			
Vanserum–Bäck		•		•	
Vargeslätt		•			
Östra Vässby sjömarker		•		•	
Mörbylånga					
Albrunna alvar	•				
Alvlösa	•				
Bjärby alvar	•				
Dröstorp	•			•	
Frösslunda sjömark	•			•	
Gammalsby sjömark	•				
Gillsättra	•				
Gynge/Mysinge alvar	•				
Möckleby–Gårdstorps alvar	•				
Parteby alvar	•				
Ryd	•				
Solberga alvar	•				
Stora/Lilla Vickleby alvar	•				
Stormaren	•				
Vickleby ädellövskog	•				
Åby sandbackar	•				



QUIET PLACES

There is a lack of places offering natural quiet and natural darkness, something we have come to miss in our highly illuminated and connected society.

We have listed some nature reserves and national parks in Kalmar County for those who really want to experience stillness. But as you know: Nature is not silent! Wind, waves, rushing rivers, birdsong, and creaking old trees are sounds that you are sure to experience in these areas. We hope, however, that the absence of human noise will add a new dimension to your visit.

Borgholm Municipality
Trollskogen
Hultsfred Municipality
Sällevadsåns dalgång
Högsby and Nybro municipalities
Allgunnen
Mörbylånga Municipality
Stora Alvaret
Oskarshamn Municipality
Blå Jungfrun National Park
Torsås kommun
Örarevet
Vimmerby kommun
Norra Kvills nationalpark
Västerviks kommun
Stjälkhammar
Ålhults urskog

DARK PLACES

Light pollution has become increasingly common in recent years. It is sometimes difficult to find places where you can experience natural darkness. Grönhögen Astronomy Club have tips on places on Öland that are good for stargazing. But, of course, you can just go and experience the darkness.

Borgholm Municipality
Byrum
Halltorpshage
Horns royal manor
Karum
Karås
Nepuni åkrar
Petgårdeträsk
Trollskogen
Mörbylånga Municipality
Albrunna alvar
Norra/Södra Karlevi alvar
Ottenby

ACCESSIBLE PLACES

The following nature reserves have relatively good accessibility. Nearly all have wheelchair adapted toilets/privies. Trails are adapted for prams and rollators, and in several places also to electric and manual wheelchairs. There are benches to rest on and picnic tables. For more information about individual sites, visit the page *Be-söksmål* on the website of Kalmar County Administrative Board, or call us on +46(0)10-223 80 00.

Borgholm Municipality
Halltorp
Trollskogen
Kalmar Municipality
Svinö
Mörbylånga Municipality
Beijershamn
Ottenby
Vickleby ädellövskog
Gynge/Mysinge at Möckelmossen
Oskarshamn Municipality
Humlenäs
Vimmerby Municipality
Norra Kvill
Kvill

Photos

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Welcome out into our beautiful Kalmar County

In this destination guide we have selected 70 of the many nature reserves and cultural environments on the mainland and Öland. We hope that residents and visitors alike will find their way into the countryside and enjoy exciting destinations. Discover new favourite places, rich in biodiversity and fascinating cultural history. Here is so much to see and do!

- Walk in a magic forest.
- Picnic with sea views.
- Climb up a lighthouse.
- Travel on old railroads.
- Paddle in the archipelago or on a meteorite lake.
- Skate on the alvar.
- Learn about Glasriket, ancient forts, and fossils.
- Pick berries and discover beautiful plants and birds.

The aim of Discover Kalmar County is to guide and inspire both unaccustomed visitors and experienced walkers and birdwatchers. Maps show the way to different paths, rest shelters, and lookout points, and symbols give an overview of accessibility etc.

PLAN YOUR NEXT EXCURSION NOW!



Scan the QR code and you will come to our website with the digital version of the destination guide.



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