



# Kindla

**Nowhere in the county of Örebro is there a larger area with no roads cutting through the forest. Kindla is the wildest area, and is also one of the county's largest nature reserves, over 900 hectares.**

## Undulating landscape

The Kindla area is one of the highest areas in the county with the highest point 426 metres a.s.l., and is very undulating. The entire area lies above the highest coastline level of the glacial period. Kindla is dominated by fine-grained moraine covering acidic and infertile rock. The area contains a number of boggy areas, including the Kindla bog and countless small marshes.

## Mining and metalworking

Man's activities have had an effect on Kindla, mostly during the mining period. Some parts of the forest were used for wood and construction timber for the mines. In other parts, charcoal was produced for the many smelting works in the surrounding area. Operation of the mines, including that at Slotterberget, southwest of the nature reserve, required a lot of power for pumps and lifts. Water power was taken from the streams of the Kindla area. The ore was smelted in the ironworks, and water wheels provided the power to drive the bellows. To guarantee sufficient water for these activities, all lakes in the area were regulated and streams were diverted.

## Crofters' cottages and wet meadows

In the nature reserve area, there have only been a few crofters' cottages. At one of these, there are signs that wet meadows were created to increase production of sedge. In the spring, water was collected and spread over the sloping bog to add nutrients.

## Species in the natural forest

Kindla has areas of forest that are 100–120 years old where modern forestry has only had a minor impact. There are also some considerably older trees on mountain slopes and in other inaccessible places. Deciduous trees are sporadic, and mostly found on slopes with better soils. Many animal species, including many birds, are dependent on the old, decayed and dead trees in the coniferous forest. The three-toed woodpecker can be seen looking for food in the bark of dying spruce trees. Insects in the nature reserve include many threatened beetles, all of which are linked to wood at varying stages of decomposition. The black woodpecker's powerful, ringing cry is heard all over Kindla, and the crane's shrill cry is heard from the marshes.



## Predators

In Kindla traces of bear, wolf, lynx and wolverine have been seen, but only the lynx has a permanent population in the district.

## Plants

Plant life is dominated by the flora of nutrient-poor marshes and forest. Plants include the orchid of acidic coniferous forest, creeping lady's tresses, and the beautiful hard fern, which is rare in the county. Other rare species found at Kindla include flora of lichens, mosses and fungi, many of which live on old trees. Examples include *Perenniporia subacida*, *Phlebia centrifuga*, *Bryoria nadvornikiana*, jelly lichen and *Platismatia norvegica*.

## Forest management

Almost all the forest in the nature reserve is being left to develop naturally and will gradually take the character of native forest. Some of the recently planted trees will be burned, and forest fires have previously been an important factor in the development of the forest. Forest fires benefit many animal and plant species.

## Paths and picnic sites

There are paths into the Kindla nature reserve from each of the car parks. There is a total of 15 km of paths in the area, allowing walks of 7-10 km. Most of the paths converge at Lake Klosstjärn. Some of the paths are very undulating, but also offer magnificent lookout points. The nature reserve also has picnic tables, lookout towers, wind shelters and a log cabin with overnight accommodation.



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