



# Please come and explore the nature of Blekinge

Blekinge has some completely unique nature areas. Our hardwood coastlines and archipelago are unparalleled in the country. This guide is intended to help you find all of these well-known and lesser known gems. We have something for everyone, from the experienced outdoor enthusiasts to families with children. You will find untamed natural forests, blossoming hayfields and lush oak tree pastures. These are 43 of the most attractive areas of Blekinge.

You just have to get out there and enjoy!

Berit Andnor Bylund County Governor of Blekinge

# Finding the nature conservation areas





## Key to symbols



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Nowhere else in our country is there such a union of forest and sea. What a light that shines over the brown leaf carpet! Daylight itself is part of this union: it is the sea's enormous mirror that reflects the sunlight, distributes it, and spreads it underneath the trees with such force that all shadows disappear. There is light in every nook and cranny of the moss-covered rocks, in the densest of thickets of the deep woods.

... The hardwood coastline is such a rich vision, so full of flowering and life, of the mighty trees' majesty, of joy in the mind and body, that we all say in unison: this is the perfect spring.

(From Den svenska södern by Carl Fries)

# In Blekinge, the hardwood forest grows all the way out into the sea

The "hardwood coast" follows the southern coast of Blekinge, from Pukavik in the west to Torhamn in the east, and has its centre in the area between Ronneby and Karlskrona. It is the only archipelagic area around the Baltic Sea that is characterised by broadleaved woodlands. Nowhere else in the country do the oak and beech forests grow as far out into the archipelago.

The area is rich in species. The favourable climate, with mild winters and warm summers and autumns, means that many species of insects, lichens and fungi from more southern latitudes thrive here.



## 1 Ryssberget

Rises more than 160 m above the sea and constitutes a commanding feature in the surrounding, relatively flat, landscape of southwest Blekinge. The whole southern part, with its natural beauty and inviting hiking areas, is easily accessible to outdoor enthusiasts, and there are a number of trails criss-crossing the reserve.

### One of Sweden's greatest and most impressive beech forests grows at Ryssberget.

Other common types of tree in the reserve are oak and hornbeam. These are often very old and grow in the embankments, where the soil is not rich enough for the beeches. Pines grow on the scantiest and steepest rocks, and along a damp stretch in the south, there is a bog forest with a lot of alders. On the border to the chalk bedrock of Listerlandet, the flora is richer and includes herbs like coralroot and dog's mercury. The trunks of the old beech trees are covered in lichens and mosses.

#### A species-rich environment

The hollow trees are also home to a large number of insects, some of which are very uncommon. Due to the meagre soil, the flora is fairly scarce, but there are patches of wood sorrel



and liverleaf growing here and there. In earlier times, when pigs and other cattle would graze at Ryssberget, the landscape was more open. Only a few beeches and smaller groups of trees would grow there.

The four species of woodpecker found in Blekinge all breed at Ryssberget. Typical forest birds found at Ryssberget include wood warbler, hawfinch, brambling, chaffinch, blue tit and jay. The woods offer plenty to eat for our birds

of prey, and the reserve is a breeding ground for buzzard, goshawk, red kite, honey buzzard and the nocturnal tawny owl. Roe deer, elk, hares, foxes and badgers also leave traces in the woods.



#### The highest coastline 14,000 years ago.

The bedrock of Ryssberget consists of metavulcanites, which are approx. 1,700 million years old, making them some of Blekinge's oldest rock types. When the inland ice disappeared approximately 14,000 years ago, the glacier-water was collected in the Baltic Sea Basin, forming the Baltic Glacier Lake, whose surface-level was at its highest when all the ice in southern Sweden had melted, and the land mass was still depressed. This level is called the highest coastline, and at Ryssberget, it comes to 57 metres above sea level. As the land began to rise, new areas emerged around the shores. The finer materials were washed out to sea by the erosion of the waves. The remaining courser materials remain, gathered in the embankments.

#### Traces from the Bronze Age

The oldest known traces of human beings at

Ryssberget are graves from the Bronze Age. No traces have been found of any settlements, but our forefathers have used Ryssberget over an extended period as a source of firewood and timber, as pasture for cows and pigs, as well as for hunting and small-scale farming. To cultivate stony land, people of the Bronze Age would gather the stones in so called agricultural cairns. And there are plenty of those around Ryssberget. We have also found stone enclosures, which were probably used as pig stables.

#### FACTS

**Facilities:** Parking, barbecue area, trails. Established in: 2004. Municipality: Sölvesborg Size: 126 ha

Landowner: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency Managed by: The County Administrative Board



## 2 Stiby backe

tiby backe is one of the inselbergs in Listerlandet. The highest point of the hill rises 70 metres above sea level. From the top, you have an extensive view of Kråke-nabben, Listershuvud and Hanö. From Hällevik, there are paths leading up to the top through hardwood forests full of hornbeam and beech, and through dry meadows and flat rock areas. The varied nature within the reserve means an unusually rich flora and fauna.

#### Ice Age Relic

Stiby Backe rises high above the plains of Listerlandet. It has a rather wide plateau, which lies 60 meters above the sea. The bedrock consists of coarse, porphyritic Karlshamn granite. The rock is an inselberg dating back to the Cretaceous Period, 100 million years ago. Chalk beds from the tropical seas of this period can be found in the surrounding area. The inselbergs were finally formed during the latest glacial period, when the bedrock was grinded down. The highest sections consist mainly of vast areas of flat rock. The flat rock still has glacial striations running in the direction of the glacier flow.

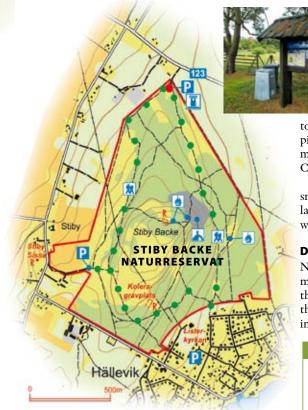


The side that was facing the glacier flow is called the scour side. The scour side was smoothed out as the ice passed over it. On the other side, the pluck side, there was an accumulation of moraine material that had broken loose. Such a formation is called a drumlin and it is of great geological interest. At Stiby Backe, the moraine has been deposited on either side and south of the bedrock. The streamlined drumlin, which is 4 km long and 1.3 km wide, is particularly visible along the west side of the hill. When the ice sheet had melted, the land began to rise. As it did, terraces formed on the eastern side of the hill as well as embankments on the southwest side, here at a height of between 48 and 31 above sea level.



#### A rich flora

To the northeast of Stiby Backe's top, the soil is high in nutrients and there is a hornbeam forest growing here, with ivy coiled around several of the trunks. The flora is the most abundant in spring, with various anemones, gageas and violets. Later come typical plants



of the broadleaved woodlands arrive such as dog's mercury and greater stitchwort. The dry meadows are home to pasqueflower, breckland thyme, mouse-ear hawkweed and lady's bedstraw. In the pastures you may spot pasqueflower,

tormentil, rock-rose, various clovers, maiden pink and cow-wheat. The groves are home to moschatel, angular solomon's seal, cowslip, Corydalis intermedia and Corydalis pumila.

The reserve also has a rich variation of small birds, such as woodlark, nightingale and a large number of warblers, including the barred warbler.

#### Different types of burial sites

Not far from the peak, Bronze Age burial mounds are to be found. In the southern part of the reserve, there is a cholera graveyard, which is the resting place of some the 50 people who died in the 1853 cholera epidemic in Listerlandet.

#### **FACTS**



istershuvud is one of several hills that rise above the surrounding agricultural lands of Listerlandet. 75–65 million years ago, these inselbergs were islands in a warm sea. The calcareous sediments that were then deposited on the sea floor are buried deep below the current ground level, but they still affect the vegetation and soil conditions. The top is located approximately 80 metres above the sea, and from it you have an extensive view of the Bight of Hanö and Listerlandet.

#### Old open pasturage

Within the nature

reserve, some of

them have been

Large parts of Listershuvud used to be primarily used as pastures. A large part of the reserve then consisted of lands with a sparse tree coverage, characterised by the grazing animals. Agriculture took place close to the summit. For many years now, most of the pastures have been left to grow over.

LISTERSHUVUD

NATURRESERVAT





natural pastures. Inside the pastures, in addition to junipers, there are also more rare types of shrubs, such as guelderrose and barberry.

From the highest coastline, which reaches 55 metres here, and down to the shoreline, there is a series of embankments from various stages of the Baltic Sea's development. A nature path with information signs is available for those who would like to learn more about the geological process, from the Ice Age until present day. The top shore formation is Litorinavallen. Growing above it is a large hornbeam forest, probably the largest one in Sweden.



Large areas of beech forest are also to be found here. More than 300 ha of hardwood forest has been set aside for free development. The deciduous forest houses a distinctive birdlife, which includes a large population of hawfinch and a regular presence of red-breasted flycatchers. The area is also home to a healthy stock of roe deer. Ancient remains in the form of stone circles can be found at Listershuvud (where two are slightly damaged) and at Getabjär. There is also a bowl hollow nearby.

Directions: E22 Follow route 123 towards Nogersund, turn left towards Hörvik at the T-junction. The parking areas are indicated from the road. **1** N 56°01′57″ E 14°45′52″ **2** N 56°01′29″ E 14°44′44″ Facilities: Parking, footpaths, toilets, rest areas. Established in: 1993. Municipality: Sölvesborg Size: 475 ha of land

Landowner: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and private owner

Managed by: The County Administrative Board





# our km southeast of Listerlandet, you will find Hanö. With the tour boat from Nogersund, the crossing takes 25 minutes. As you approach, you see the impressive figure of the island, crowned by its proud lighthouse.

To the north, the island consists of a great granite cliff whose summit rises a little more than 60 metres over the surface of the Baltic Sea. Southwest of this is a bouldery moraine ridge. The north of the island consists predominantly of meagre grass heaths, whilst the south is mostly covered in forest, including one of Sweden's largest stock of hornbeams. Hanö has a rich flora. Around 230 flowering plants have been found on the island so far.

#### Bönsäcken changes shape

The area called Bönsäcken on the northern cape is a rubble sand bar stretching out into the sea. It consists of millions of pebbles sanded down by the water, which are constantly moving, changing shape and appearance with storms and winds from the sea.

#### The tall, bright lighthouse

On the highest point of Hanö stands the 16-metre high lighthouse, which was erected between 1904 and 1906. This is one of the brightest lighthouses in the Baltic Sea. Its range is an incredible 23.5 nautical miles or approx. 40 kilometres. Three light flashes are thrown out across the sea every 13.5 seconds. The lighthouse was automated in 1980.

For a long time Hanö was royal property, belonging to the grounds of Sölvesborg Castle. The island was used seasonally by fishers from all over western Blekinge and Österlen. The

> fishers built sheds and temporary shelters, but there were no permanent houses. Remains of simpler shed foundations and jetties can be found around the old Snuggeboda, south of Hanöläge.

Hanö's first permanent settlement was not established until the mid-1800s. In the mid-1900s, there were 250 year-round residences. After that time, the trend has turned.

There are around 300 fallow deer on Hanö. They come from five deer that were introduced in 1956. In the summer, they contribute to keeping the landscape open. In the winter, they are fed.

#### **The English Cemetery**

In the time of the Napoleonic Wars, Hanö provided a base for the English Navy's exercises in the Baltic Sea between 1810–1812. A reminder of those times is the English Cemetery located on the rocks between the lighthouse and Bönsäcken. 15 navy seamen were buried there. The large wooden cross was erected in 1973 in connection with an English frigate visiting the island. The inscription on the cross, which came from a mast on an English ship, reads "HMS Plymouth 21st of June 1973".

The island has several longer and shorter





hiking trails. The landscape is shifting: from dense, spellbinding hardwood forests with high

ferns and moss-covered rocks in the southeast to the high, bare rocks around the lighthouse which offer a view that stretches for many miles beyond.

There are no cars to disturb you. The only sounds are of the roar

of the sea and the wind singing in the trees. And you don't have to deal with mosquito bites; there are no mosquitos on the island.



#### **FACTS**





Fallow deer

16 Fallow deer

## **5** Ljungryda-Östafors bruk

jungryda-Östafors Bruk nature reserve is located on the border between Skåne and Blekinge. The Holje River flows through the reserve in both calm and more rapid sections, through an undulating landscape. On the Blekinge side, the river is lined by steep hillsides covered with hardwood forests, which level out to more open grazing pastures and sandy areas. Kungagraven, a Bronze Age grave is situated in the north on top of a glaciofluvial hill.

This nature reserve is located in an area that is appealing and easily accessible for outdoor enthusiasts. The walking and cycling path Banvallsleden passes by the nature reserve, and the Skåneleden Trail goes through it, along with other routes and trails. There are also wind shelters and resting areas on the side that lies in Along the river there are plenty of alder trees, Skåne. Fishing is permitted in the Holje River for those with a fishing permit. The paddling trail Holjeåleden runs from Östafors down to Lake Ivösjön.

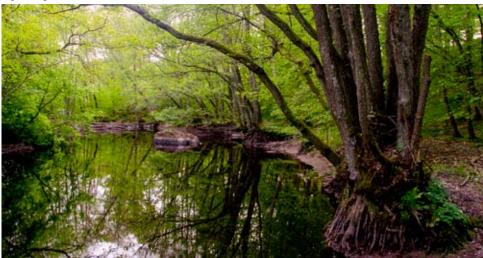
#### **Geological values**

When the nature reserve was established in 1986, it was primarily to preserve the glaciofluvial deposits. The hardwood forests and the open pastures were also to be conserved, while facilitating outdoor activities. In 2012, the nature reserve was expanded in Blekinge to include the hill with Kungagraven and part of a gravel pit.

#### **Broadleaved forest precipices**

The Holje River has a rich plant and animal life, with species such as Dichelyma capillaceum, royal fern, white-throated dipper, grey wagtail, brown trout, brook lamprey, burbot and eel. If you're lucky, you may also spot a kingfisher.





where the lesser spotted woodpecker thrives. Steep slopes of hornbeams and oak, with a few lime trees, maples and beeches thrown in, rise some twenty metres above the river on the Blekinge-side. Carpets of wood anemone spread throughout these forests in spring. On the plateaus, there are open, dry grasslands, where the little herb bird's-foot grows.

#### **Open migration routes**

The rapids of the Holje River have been used in the past to power a sawmill, a flourmill, a nail factory and a tannery. In the 1920s these rapids were dammed up around Östafors in Skåne, and this hydropower was used at the mill until the 1960s. The mill has since been closed, and most of the buildings were torn down. In 2007, the dams at the Östafors mill were also demolished so that the river could once again run past it freely, and the fishes gained free passage to the parts of the river lying higher up.







#### **FACTS**

Directions: Take route 116 southwards from Jämshög towards Näsum and Bromölla. Turn off at the signs towards "Östafors" and "Naturreservat".

Facilities: Resting area, wind shelter, parking, the Skåneleden Trail.

● N 56°12′47″ E 14°30′57″ ● N 56°13′06″ E 14°31′00″ Established: 1986, expanded in 2012 Size: 30 ha.

Landowner: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and private owner.

Managed by: The County Administrative Board Other: Natura 2000 area

This nature reserve includes parts of Blekinge's largest lake, Halen, as well as large forest areas east of the lake. This is old snapphane-country, which is sometimes referred to as "south Sweden's last wilderness". The reserve is close to Olofström and can be visited from several places. The lake Halen is connected to the lakes Immeln, Filkesjön and Raslången, which makes the area popular among canoeists.

#### Natural forests gives it a sense of wilderness.

Almost all of the land mass is covered by forest. The most common species are spruce, beech, oak, pine and birch. The proportion of coniferous forest is approximately equal to the proportion of deciduous and mixed forest combined. The southern parts of Jämshög are predominately covered in beech forests. Parts of the reserve, primarily around the steep shores, the islands and certain beech forest sections, are covered by mature stands of natural forest that give the area a sense of wilderness. The area is hilly in parts, featuring hillocks and large boulders The entire area is located above the highest coastline (see p. 11).

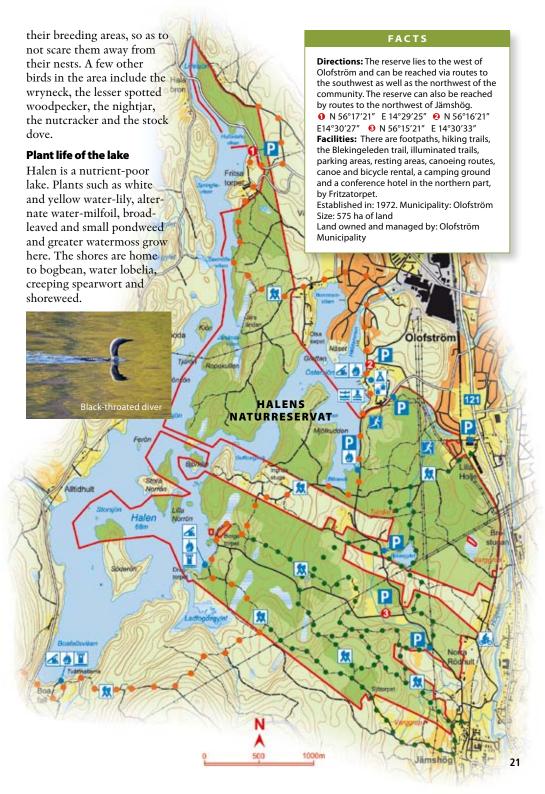
#### **Divers and osprey**

The large number of lakes means that the



landscape has a rich bird life. With a little luck, you may see an osprey with its widespread, light, angled wings, catching a fish mid-air in its talons. The black-throated diver, which also breeds here, can often be seen swimming around these waters. Both of these birds are very sensitive to disturbances. Please respect





n the billowing meadows and pastures are stone walls, agricultural cairns and other traces of ancient famers at Kullan. The diversity of plants and funguses shows that these lands have been farmed for a long period of time. The floral splendour is at its peak around midsummer.

#### Kullan's history

The ancient agricultural and forestry landscape zed or mown. of this reserve has been shaped by humans for hundreds of years, through mowing, cultivation and pasturing. Up until the mid-1800s, the southern part of the reserve was predominantly wetlands. In the later 1800s, the wetlands were drained in order to create new farmlands. In the mid-1900s, mowing and cultivation ceased here and were replaced by pasturing. Thanks to the grazing animals, the open landscape has been preserved.

#### **Natural diversity**

The pastures of Kullan are very rich in species: more than 200 vascular plants and funguses have been noted in the area! The floral splendour is the greatest around midsummer, when arnica, lesser butterfly-orchid, and heath spotted-orchid are in bloom. Many of these



plants depend on the land being regularly gra-

#### Traces of times gone by



Inside the reserve, there are stone walls, agricultural cairns, older systems of roads and paths, a paved pit and a tar pile. The remains tell us of the historical use of this land. In connection to the farm, there are trees with traces of a pruning form called pollarding. The leaves used to be an important supplement to the animals' winter feed.

#### Varied hardwood forests

The northern part of the reserve would provide summer pasture for the animals. When the pasturing stopped, hornbeam, lime, maple and birch started growing between the heavy broadleaved trees. The now very varied forest environment has a rich bird life, including several species of woodpecker.









#### FACTS

Directions: Take route 121 between Olofström and Vilshult. About 7 km north of Olofström and 1 km south of Vilshult, there is an unmarked road leading westward with fences on either side. Pass over the railway, then turn left. After approx. 1 km there is a parking area. The border of the reserve runs along the left side of the road.

N 56°19'59" E 14°28'49"

Established in: 2003. Municipality: Olofström

Size: 41 ha

Landowner: Sveaskog.

Managed by: The County Administrative Board

## 8 Mörrumsåns dalgång

he nature reserve Mörrumsåns Dalgång stretches 11 km along the river, from Svängsta in the south to Hemsjö in the north. The Mörrum river is Blekinge's largest and one of Sweden's most species-rich watercourses. Salmon, brown trout and freshwater pearl mussel are found here, as well as other species.

In addition to the actual water course, the nature reserve includes valuable cultural grounds, species-rich hardwood forests and almost primordial pine forests. Hike along the Laxaleden trail to experience the varied, sometimes dramatic nature and the shifting river, from the slow-flowing stretches in the south to the rapids in the north.

#### **Species-rich river**

Mörrum river is internationally renowned for its salmon fishing and is an important producer of wild salmon for the Baltic Sea. Several species of mussel and a little more than half of Sweden's species of freshwater fish live here, and inventories of bottom-dwelling animals have revealed many examples both of species sensitive to acidification and species requiring clean water. With any luck, you will spot kingfisher, grey wagtail and white-throated dipper. In recent years, otters have settled in the area. Several of the forests in the reserve are rich in species, for example on the river islands, on the hills and the steep slopes. These forests have not been farmed to any greater extent, meaning plenty of old trees and dead wood.

#### Long farming tradition

The Mörrum River has long been the lifeblood of the area, and the valley has been populated since the Stone Age. There are many

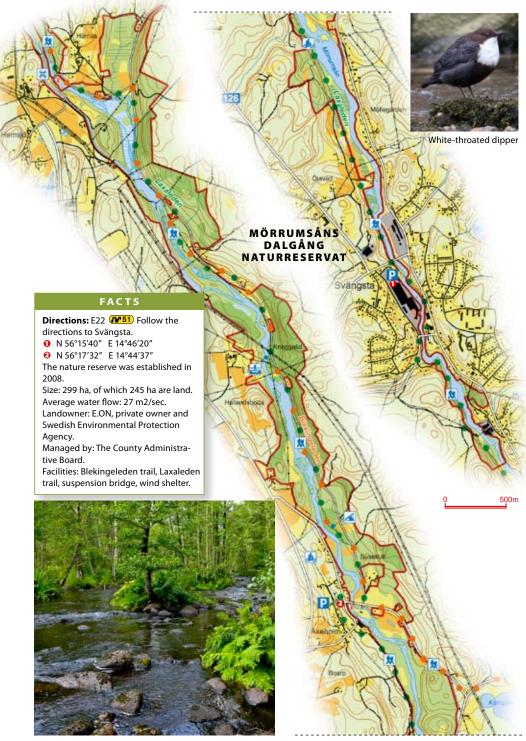


traces of ancient farming, including terraces, cairns, pollard trees, stone walls and cattle paths. What used to be mowed and cultivated lands are used primarily as pastures today. Härnäs is the location of one of the largest marshy meadows in Blekinge still in use. These marshy meadows are flooded when the water in the river rises, which fertilises them with nutrients.

## Walk or bicycle along the river on the Laxaleden trail.

The 30 km long Laxaleden trail runs along the Mörrum River. Along this route there are signs with information on historical remains, such as old flourmills, factories and hydroelectric plants. At Susekull, the Blekingeleden trail connects to the Laxaleden trail. At Hallandsboda, you can take a detour off the trails and cross the river via a suspension bridge.





## 9 Käringahejan

n the 4.5 km long nature reserve, the Mörrum River flows through a deep rift valley. In some places, the valley plummets sharply into the river in a 40-metre drop. In the steep valleys sits a primeval forest wilderness. On the steep slopes, natural forests of pine, beech and oak grow.

#### Species-rich area

The Mörrum River, which is the largest in Blekinge, is one of Sweden's most species-rich watercourses, both in terms of fish and other fauna. It is one of the major producers of wild salmon for the Baltic Sea. Salmon fishing in the river can be traced back to the year 1231.

One of our most rare freshwater mussels, the thick-shelled river mussel, has been found in the Mörrum River.

It also has a species-rich bird fauna, with stable stocks of white-throated dipper, grey wagtail and a few pairs of kingfisher.

The productive river, with its surrounding hardwood forests, open landscapes and houses, also provides excellent conditions for a rich bat fauna. There are several interesting bat species around here, including pipistrelle and natterer's bat. The area offers good living conditions for

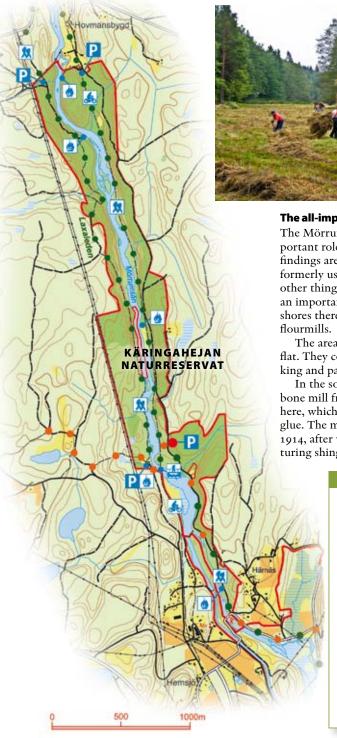


many land-dwelling animals. Otters have for example been spotted by the river on several occasions.

fauna. There are several interesting bat species around here, including pipistrelle and natterer's bat. The area offers good living conditions for Dichelyma capillaceum.

Among the more special plants found in the reserve are the red-listed green shield-moss and Dichelyma capillaceum.







The Mörrum River has long played an important role in people's lives. The oldest findings are from the Stone Age. The river was formerly used as a transporting route, among other things to float timber. It also provided an important power source, and all along its shores there are remnants of small sawmills and flourmills.

The areas on the eastern side of the river are flat. They contain remnants of earlier haymaking and pasturelands.

In the southern part of the reserve, there is a bone mill from 1877. Bone meal was produced here, which was used as a fertiliser and to make glue. The mill was used for this purpose until 1914, after which time it was used for manufacturing shingle and later boxes.

#### FACTS

Directions: E22 **№51** Take route 126 north from Svängsta to Hemsjö, cross Mörrum River and head towards Härnäs, then turn left after the stone arch bridge.

• N 56°21′55″ E 14°41′13″

Facilities: Parking, resting areas, footpaths. Along the river, there is an old railway embankment from the time when there was train traffic between Karlshamn and Vislanda. The railway embankment is now a walking and cycling trail. Established in: 1996.

Municipality: Karlshamn and Olofström Size: 118 ha of land

Landowner: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Sydkraft and private owner. Managed by: The County Administrative Board

lekinge's best-preserved agricultural landscape is found in Ire – a living museum, far removed from the large-scale rationalised farms of today. Preserving this historical heritage requires taking similar measures as the ancient farmers. At the end of the summer each year, the scythes are sharpened to become more effective tools of culture and nature conservation.

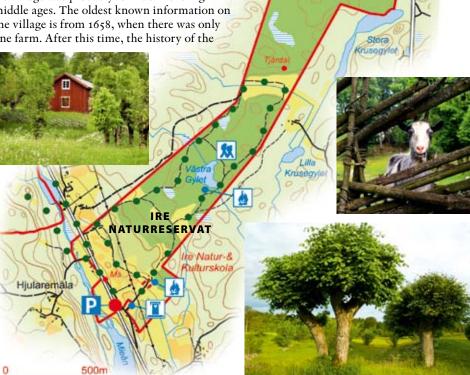
#### Step right into history

Ire is an excellent example of an ancient, traditional, small-scale agricultural landscape, with well-preserved meadows, fields and pastures. You are standing in an area that looks the same today as it has for hundreds of years. Not many of places like this remain; they are rapidly disappearing. Ire is therefore an important link to our past. The northwest part of the reserve consists of outlying forest. These forests have been severely damaged by storms and spruce bark beetles.

village has been well documented. Farms have been divided and merged. Today, two of the original farms in Ire remain: Håkansgården and Josefsgården. Both have been restored to their original state. Josefsgården is named after its last owner, Josef, who at the time of his death in 1984 was the last of Ire's forest farmers. Throughout his life, Josef farmed these lands in the same way as his forefathers. The two farm environments constitute an important part of the reserve.

#### Ire village

Ire village was probably formed in the high middle ages. The oldest known information on the village is from 1658, when there was only one farm. After this time, the history of the



#### Traces in the landscape

Ire's impressive cairns and stone walls, along with the knotty trees that have been pollarded for generations, are a time capsule of ancient farmers' efforts, and they are part of our cultural heritage. In addition, they contain a very rich biodiversity. Birds and bats are happy to live in the hollows of the pollarded trees. Sunlit cairns and walls provide important living environments for insects and reptiles.

#### "The meadow is the mother of the field"

The meadow used to be an important type of land. This was where the winter feed for the farm animals would grow, and the size of the meadow therefore determined how many animals a farm could sustain in the winter. The number of animals in turn determined how much fertiliser there would be, which determined the size of the fields. This chain is the source of the old Swedish expression "the meadow is the mother of the field". And the tradition lives on: the meadows are still moved and the fields are still being used in Ire.

#### Floral splendour

During the summer, the grounds of Ire are in full bloom. Oxeye daisy, harebell, heath spottedorchid, arnica, milkwort and devil's-bit scabious, along with many other plants, contribute to the colourful display. In order to preserve the meadow flora, the land has to be kept up through grazing or mowing. The meadows are not mown until the herbs are overblown, which benefits the

insects. One example is the endangered mining bee Andrena hattorfiana, which lives off the pollen from the field scabious.prakten. För att ängsfloran ska bevaras krävs att markerna hävdas genom bete eller slåtter. Ängarna slås inte förrän örterna är överblommade vilket gynnar insektslivet. Ett exempel är det hotade väddsandbiet som lever på pollen från åkervädd.



#### **FACTS**

Directions: E22 Follow route 29 north. Just before the border to Småland, there is a sign on the left indicating route 629.

N 56°20′39″ E 14°52′13″

Facilities: Parking, footpaths, fireplace. The footpath through the spruces is currently inaccessible. Established in: 1986. Municipality: Karlshamn Size: 59 ha

Landowner: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

Managed by: The County Administrative Board



## 11 Långasjönäs

n between the countryside and the forest lies the Långasjönäs nature reserve. The area consists of deep spruce forests to the north, and dense oak and beech forests to the south. It contains some ten lakes, of which Långasjön with its fine sandy beaches and clean waters is the largest.

such as elonga-

#### Popular outdoor area

This area provides excellent possibilities for outdoor activities, all year round. An extensive system of forest roads, hiking trails and exercise tracks offer inviting ways to exercise and explore. Most of the marked trails start from the Friluftsfrämjandet (Outdoor Association) building, Nytorpet, where they also have barbecue areas, bathing areas and a wood-burning sauna.

cow-wheat blooms – it is easily recognisable by its violet bract and gold-yellow flowers. Other interesting plants here include black peas and broad-leaved sermountains. Northeast of Stora Kroksjön, there is an alder mire with rare plants

vered in the small white flowers of the greater

stitchwort. Later in the summer, the wood

#### Fish, seabirds and "glacial sea shrimp"

The lakes are excellent for fishing, with pike, perch and planted species like rainbow trout and char. In the lake Stora Kroksjön, there are so called ice age relicts, which have been living here since the last glacial period. These "living fossils" are small crustaceans that have been found in this lake since it was connected to the sea 10,000 years ago.

#### Plants of the deciduous forest

In spring and early summer, the ground is co-







ted sedge, wavy bitter-cress and a enchanter's nightshade hybrid. Growing along the Mie river is the royal fern, Sweden's largest fern.

#### **Birdsong**

In the varied deciduous forest landscape, with dead and hollow trees, there is a rich birdlife. The spring bird chorus includes blackcap as well as wood warbler. If you are lucky, you may catch a glimpse of a hawfinch among the leaves. This is a timid bird with a beautiful plumage and thick beak. Another interesting bird that can be seen here is the lesser flycatcher.

#### A cultural landscape

The reserve was once part of two large estates in two different villages: Långasjönäs and Södra Hoka. In the 1700s and 1800s, the area had a



paper mill, a distillery, a flourmill, a sawmill, a starch factory and some twenty crofts. Most of these buildings are now in ruin. Old croft environments, stone walls and agricultural cairns are traces of the area's history. There was also a paper mill that remained in operation until

a paper mill that remained in operation until 1919, when it burned down. The impressive ruins still remain. Fields, meadows and pasturelands have been planted with coniferous trees or become overgrown with deciduous forest. At Södra Hoka, some of the agricultural landscape has been preserved. There are grazed pastures with impressive junipers and plants such as pyramidal bugle, maiden pink and milkwort.

#### **FACTS**

**Directions:** E22 **P51** Follow route 29 towards Växjö. North of Asarum, follow signs to "Långasjönäs"

N 56°15′02″ E 14°51′06″

Facilities: Parking Some accessibility adaptation. Cabins, camping, bathing area with parking and kiosk at Långasjönäs. Trail system, ski trail. The Blekingeleden Trail with waypoint at Långasjönäs camping. Possiblity to spend the night at Södra Hoka conference centre. Licensed fishing in Stora Kroksjön, Lilla Kroksjön and Kroksjögyl. For more information, contact the tourist office in Karlshamn, tel. +46 (0)454-812 03.

Established in: 1990. Municipality: Karlshamn Size: 463 ha of land

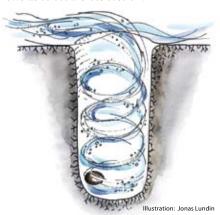
Land owned and managed by: Karlshamn Municipality



## 12 Tararps jättegrytor (Naturminne)

ortheast of Asarum, in Tararp, there is a hilly area with some ten giant's kettles in different sizes. The largest ones are four metres in diameter and four metres deep. The giant's kettles of Tararp are protected natural monuments.

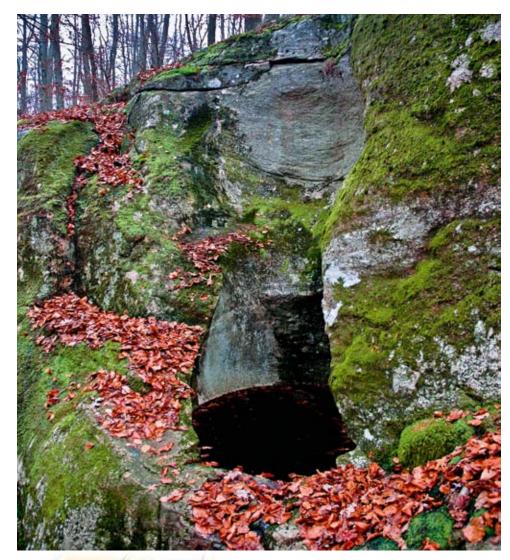
Throughout time, these giant's kettles have stirred people's imaginations. The myths tell of gods and giants who scooped out the kettles to cook their food. Sacrificing coins into them has in many places been considered good fortune for fishermen. The giant's kettles were formed by rapids of glacier water from the ice sheet, along with stones and gravel, which forcefully carved out hollows in the mountain The giant's kettle depicted overleaf has split and separated, which allows us to see a cross section.













#### FACTS

**Directions:** E22 **1.51** Follow route 29 towards Växjö. North of Asarum, take a right towards Långasjönäs. Continue on this road until the exit to Tararp. Drive towards Farslycke. At the junction in Tararp, there is a road sign with a looped square along with a sign reading "Jättegrytor".

• N 56°13'48" E 14°52'47" Established in: 1966. Municipality: Karlshamn

Landowner: Private.

Size: 2 ha

Managed by: Karlshamn Municipality

## 13 Stilleryd

he Stilleryd nature reserve is a popular nature area with barbecue and bathing areas, along with a marked hiking trail. Several sites across the area bear traces of human activity, from Bronze and Iron Age graves to more modern historical remains in the form of closed quarries and concrete bunkers.

The nature of Stillervd is a mix of bare flat rock, wind-torn forests and grazed grasslands. Among the trees, the oak is the predominant species. In the most windy places, where the soil cover is thin, there are low and knotty old oak trees. Heather, lichens and pennyworts like years, the land has been used as pasture. The the biting stonecrop represent the modest plant traditional upkeep of the land is important to life in this rocky landscape. In the crevices and rifts, the vegetation is richer, including such species as the endangered round-leaved dog-rose. The greenest areas are found in the northeast. Along the open pastures, you may for example come across twayblade and lesser butterfly orchid, both from the orchid family.

#### **Long farming tradition**

The open lands in the northeast have been farmed at least since the turn of the century 1700-1800. In the early 1900s, this was a hayfield used by the farmers in the area. In later maintain the open landscape that has characterised this area for centuries. The forests and meagre flat rock areas of the nature reserve, referred to as "Oxhagen" (the ox paddock), have long been used for pasture. The area is still used for summer pasture to this day.





#### Seething life underneath the surface

Underneath the surface of the water, the varied rocky landscape of the reserve continues, with everything from exposed hard bottom with algae and marine species of fish to more protected environments with soft bottoms, vascular plants and freshwater fish. Seabirds thrive in the nature reserve archipelago all year round. In the summer, several species nest on the islands, such as sandpiper, eider, ruddy turnstone, arctic tern

and common tern. Another fairly common guest is the white-tailed eagle.



#### **FACTS**

**Directions:** Exit E22, **10** follow the signs towards "Vekerum". Exit towards Stilleryd bathing area, then head towards Yttre Stilleryd, after 1 km, take the road to Drösebo.

N 56°09'19" E 14°47'22"

Facilities: Parking, marked footpath, barbecue and bathing areas.

Established: 1967, expanded in 2012

Size: 83 hectares, of which 25 hectares are land. Landowner: Private owner and Karlshamn

Municipality

Managed by: The County Administrative Board Other: Natura 2000 area



S tärnö, a rocky peninsula located immediately southwest of Karlshamn, is one of its most popular outdoor areas. It provides opportunities for bathing, fishing, picking mushrooms, etc. Great beech and oak forests to walk around in as well as beautiful rocks where you can stop for a picnic.

Stärnö consists of a 50-metre high peninsula with great altitude differences and a wide diabase dike (black granite) cutting through the peninsula northeast to southwest.

The varied forests of beech, oak and pine – many of them old – along with the southern exposure and beneficial coastal climate provides excellent conditions for a species-rich and interesting animal and plant life. There are several red-listed species in the area

#### **Beautiful lookout points**

Stärnö has two clearly distinguishable ridges. On the northern ridge, with an impressive view, lies Höga Rör, a large burial mound from

STÄRNÖ

the Bronze Age dated to 1000 BC. The southern ridge is called Bålabacken (bonfire hill) and may have been used to light bonfires that would guide, or misguide, ships. In 1679,

an English brig called Altáre is said to have been lured up by a bonfire and

stranded at the site of Altare Hall, a glacial erratic that is also a natural monument.

The beaches are rocky, with roches moutonnées, glacial striations, giant's kettles and rock pools. The embankments of the Litorina Sea can be found higher up, and the area has several moraine fields.



#### **Historic lands**

The area contains historic and modern traces of shipyards, granite quarrying, diabase quarrying, military installations of varying age, energy production and distribution in the form of an oil-fired power station, power lines and a Swe-Pol Link connection.

At Stärnö, there is a bathing area with a shallow sandy beach called Stärnö Sandvik. The bathing and barbecue areas are also accessible.

#### Boön

Boön lies east of Stärnö and includes an interesting hiking trails around the island with





historical sites, a garrison graveyard, a shipyard, fortifications etc., all of which are signposted. Due to its location, Boön has been a strategically important point at the entrance to Karlshamn.

#### **FACTS**

Directions: E22 1.51 towards Karlshamn, go straight ahead at the roundabout and continue on Oljehamnsvägen. Exit towards "Stärnö Sandvik". Facilities: Stärnö Sandvik bathing area, jetties, kiosk, service, toilets. Hiking trails. Established: 2014. Size: 196 ha land, 700 ha water.

Land owned and managed by: Karlshamn Municipality



## 15 Eriksbergs stränder 16 Bockön-Mjöön

🔭 he nature reserve Eriksbergs Stränder stretches out bevond the Eriksberg wildlife reserve and provides excellent opportunities for beautiful walks along the beach. The Allböleleden trail, offers evening sun and, in some places, a view that stretches on for many miles. The Kohageleden trail runs through a beautiful beech forest all the way down to the edge of the water. Bockön and Mjöön are popularislands among boat owners.

The beaches of the reserve are mostly rocky. In the crevices and areas with a deeper layer of soil, there are more dense tree populations, including everything from alder marshes to Luzulo-Fagetum beech forests. Hiking trails are marked out from each direction. The hiking here is quite exerting, but offers great views of the sea. Along the trails, you can see the remnants of the many cottages that used to be inhabited by fishers and small farmers. It was a rather large population. The school was located in Eriksberg.

The island of Dragsö in the middle of Maraviken can only be reached by boat. On it, there are passages in the fence that allow you to visit the whole island. We recommend that you follow the marked trail to experience the high





rocks and the beautiful view they offer of the archipelago.

Much of Bockö consists of flat rock. In the crevices and rifts, rich colonies of wild pansy and meadow saxifrage bloom. Mjöö is a bird conservation area that may not be entered during the period 1 April-15 July.





#### Eriksberg wildlife park

Eriksberg is a 900-ha enclosed area that you must pay a fee to enter. Within the area, there is red deer, fallow deer, European bison, mouflon and wild boar. At least 15 of Sweden's 19 bat species can be found at Eriksberg. The area is a nature reserve. www.eriksberg.nu



FACTS

Directions: 1 Kohageleden trail /east side: E22 754 Follow the brown signs for "Eriksberg Vilt- och naturpark". Park at the gate and head eastwards.

● N 56°11′26″ E 15°00′00″ 2 Allböleleden trail/west side:

Coming from the west on E22 (153). from the east on E22 754

follow signs towards "Trensum/Matvik" and then to "Eriksbergs stränder". ❷ N 56°10′15″ E 14°59′03″

Bockön and Mjöön can only be reached by boat.

Facilities: Parking, barbecue areas, footpaths

Eriksbergs Stränder established in 1976. Size: 128 ha of land. Landowner: Private. Managed by: County Administrative Board. Bockon-Miöön established in 1975.

Landowner: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Managed by:

39



ärnö, which is beautifully located in the outer archipelago, is the largest of the islands in the Hällaryd archipelago. The island is a popular excursion destination in the summer, and has services in the form of a guest harbour, shop, restaurant and cabin rentals. The easiest way to get to the island is the archipelago boat from Karlshamn or Matvik.

#### **Lighthouse viewpoint**

There is much to discover on the island. An extensive trail system leads you past quaint houses, wharfs and on through oak forests to private coves and cliffs. There is plenty of perfoliate honeysuckle and blackberry to be found here. The highest point is Drakaberget (dragon hill), which lies 30 m above sea level and has a magnificent view of the sea and the Blekinge





archipelago. In earlier times, the hollows in the mountain were seen by the inhabitants of the island as traces of the dragon that lived there. According to legend, there is also a treasure hidden here that is yet to be found. On top of this hill is Sweden's oldest wooden lighthouse still in operation, which was erected in 1910. Around the hill, there are moraine fields indicating the level of the Baltic Sea's ancient shorelines.





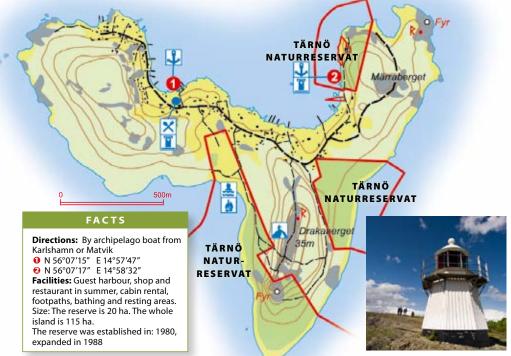




#### Fiskegökaeken

On the northmost cape, Tjuvanabben, stands a great old hollow oak tree, whose name is Fiskegökaeken. This oak tree has long been a seamark for passing ships.

The island has had a permanent population for centuries. At the most, around 1920, the island had 250 residents. The most important livelihood at the time was fishing, but seafowl hunting, masonry and small farming have been important sidelines. Tärnö currently has no year-round population.



The open landscape of Tjärö has been formed by human hands, who for generations have cleared and cultivated, kept grazing animals and felled forest for various purposes. Tjärö holds a special place in the hearts of many archipelago enthusiasts. The settlement consists of old, charming houses that are rented out to visitors. In the summer, the island is full of kind grazing animals of old native breeds.

## An idyllic spot in the archipelago with a long history

It is believed that settlement on Tjärö began in the Bronze Age. In the land register from 1659, the island is entered as a "crown farm". At the time, the rate of taxation was half a barrel of codfish. The population register of 1685 states that there were three people residing on the island. Up until the 1700s, the settlements expanded. The island group





has been in the ownership of Svenska Turistföreningen (STF) since the 1940s. Today, Tjärö has a new owner, who will be renovating and conserving the old houses.

Large parts of Tjärö consist of flat rock where the ice sheet has carved out beautiful roches moutonnées with distinct glacial striations. The forests are predominately oak. In places, the grasslands are both species- and specimen-rich. In the dry meadows, you may encounter carline thistle, Nottingham catchfly and elder-flowered







orchid. The fresher lands are home to Solomon's seal, greater stitchwort, wood cow-wheat, butterfly orchid, dropwort and quaking grass. In the spring, the flat rocks are lit up by wild pansy and later on by the intense yellow of the biting stonecrop and the red sticky catchfly.

#### A rich bird life around the islands

The smaller islands off Tjärö are bird conservation areas. The eider and the tufted duck are a common sight. If you are lucky, you might spot a red-backed shrike spearing its prey on the thorns of the blackthorn bushes. Further in, you can hear the singing of nightingales and whitethroats from the edge of the forest and bushes.



#### **FACTS**

Established in: 1976. Municipality: Karlshamn Size: 76 ha of land. Landowner: Private. Managed by: The County Administrative Board

he Järnavik nature reserve has a varied environment with a rich flora. A variation between steep hills and deep ravines, pretty paths and an interesting history makes this a popular outdoor area.

#### Lush in the north, bare in the south.

The Järnavik nature reserve consists of an undulating costal landscape, typical for central Ble- the coast of Blekinge. As early as the Middle kinge, with bare cliffs, flat rock areas, hardwood forests and open areas characterised by the pastures. In the hardwood forests in the northern parts of the reserve, there is oak, lime, maple, beech, hornbeam and wych elm growing alongside hazel, hawthorn, juniper, blackthorn and various roses. On the forest floor grows wood anemone, lily-of-the-valley, liverleaf, dog's mercury and lesser celandine. The southern part of the reserve is more barren, and the glacially formed rocks are surrounded by Swedish bedstraw, biting stonecrop and wild pansy.

#### Steep hills with grand views

The hills plunge steeply down towards the cove. The name Järnavik comes from the medieval Swedish word hierna, meaning crown or height. On the western cape, there are several footpaths. The hills look out on a magnificent view of the bay. The Blekingeleden trail runs through the reserve, and there is a waypoint by the municipal bathing area.



#### **Medieval port**

ox hides and tar were

shipped from Små-

land by way of

Järnavik is one of the best natural ports on Ages, German and Dutch ships would load and unload their goods here. Wood products,



In the 1800s the harbour activities bloomed, but those days are gone. One of the old harbour warehouses from the period of the sailing freighters has been preserved. Today it is used as a warehouse and waiting room for the tour boat to Tjärö. The old harbour is also very useful for today's pleasure boats.



**Directions:** E22 **155** Follow the signs towards "Järnavik". • N 56°10′51" E 15°04′26" There is a hostel in the harbour. Kayak rentals. Boat tours to and from Tjärö. Kiosk, services and bathing area with jetties are found by the camping grounds.

Established in: 1971. Municipality: Ronneby Size: 94 ha of land Landowner: Ronneby Municipality Managed by: The County Administrative Board





## 20 Lillagärde

n the middle of the beautiful Bräkne River valley lies Lillagärde nature reserve. The area is a smaller reserve, with varied natural environments. Within it lies a restored pasture area, hardwood forests, mixed forests with free development and a beach meadow. The Bräkne River constitutes the eastern border of the reserve, and in places, there is a steep ravine following the river.

#### Forest clinging to the gully

Beech, oak and hazel are the predominant tree species. The flora is rich, particularly in the lower parts closest to the Bräkne River, and in the gully going down towards the river. Here you can find mezereon, guelder-rose, woodruff, lungwort and enchanter's nightshade. Growing along the river bank is royal fern, hemp agrimony, purple loosestrife, meadowsweet and milk-parsley.

#### A rich bird life

The varied nature provides a rich bird fauna, which predominately consists of warblers, thrushes, tits and finches. The great spotted woodpecker helps to create nesting sites for

other cavity nesters. The long-tailed tit and the hawfinch are two particular hardwood forest species that are found here. Grey wagtails are spotted sporadically by the river. The rare freshwater pearl mussel is also found in the river.











Freshwater pearl mussel

#### FACTS

**Directions:** E22 **P55** Drive through Bräkne-Hoby and turn left towards "Björkeryd" after 1 km. After 2 km, turn right at the sign "Naturreservat". After 1 km, turn left at the sign "Lillagarde naturreservat". After 1 km, you will arrive at a smaller parking area.

N 56°16′23" E 15°06′10"

**Facilities:** Parking, resting area and marked footpath.

Established in: 1987. Municipality: Ronneby Size: 13 ha. Landowner: Diocese of Lund Managed by: The County Administrative Board

#### elcome to Blekinge's first cultural reserve. Walk along the winding paths and rejoice that so much of this unique health resort environment from the turn of the 20th century has been preserved.

When Ronneby Helsobrunns Aktiebolag was formed in 1873, large land areas were acquired to old social forms were build the resort. The resort was then expanded as the operation grew. The gardens were to be



pruned wilderness - which was made accessible through constructed promenades and footpaths.

#### The health resort era comes to an end

of the end for the Swedish health resorts. The public health services took over their role. The

class society and the dissolving. In 1929, Ronneby Helsobrunns AB declared bankruptcy. In the 1950s, Ronneby Brunn was relaunched as a holiday resort. In 1959, the old hotel was completely destroyed in a dramatic fire.

#### Ronneby Brunnspark becomes a cultural reserve

Ronneby Brunn is perhaps the country's

foremost representation of the health resort environments of the 1800s. In the 1980s, the restauration of the buildings began to restore them to their original colours, typical for the period. Enterprises and associations became The eruption of World War I was the beginning the new tenants. The salvation of the park and the remaining buildings was their official declaration as historic buildings in 1996.





In April 2003, the County Administrative Board announced that Ronneby Brunnspark would become Blekinge's first cultural reserve. The reserve includes the park as well as parts of the resort forest.

#### Views and experiences in the resort forest

The beautiful and lush forest offers many exotic experiences. Trollsjön lake was a significant place already in the glory days of the resort. There are a couple of barbecue areas by the lake, providing an inviting spot for a picnic. If you listen carefully, you may hear willow warblers, wood

warblers, chaffinches, robins, blackcaps, as well as Blekinge's four species of woodpecker.

If you walk here in the spring, before the leafing of the beeches, you will find the ground covered in coralroot, dog's mercury, woodruff and wood anemones. The steep stairs behind Direktörsvillan lead up to a magnificent view.

#### Södra Brunnsskogen nature reserve

Directly south of the cultural reserve is the municipal nature reserve Södra Brunnsskogen. This reserve was established in order to preserve and develop an area with high natural and recreational values close to the urban environment. Parts of the area are included in Natura 2000. The reserve has trails used for riding, cycling and jogging.natura 2000.





#### Welcome to Naturum

Blekinge's nature and culture information centre, at the centre of the park. See page 98.

#### FACTS

**Directions:** Follow the brown-and-white signs to "Ronneby Brunnspark" from E22. From the west [756] from the east **15°16'55**" N 56°12'00" E 15°16'55" Naturum Blekinge is open all through the summer.

Cultural reserve established in 2003. Size: 102 ha. Nature reserve Södra Brunnsskogen established in 2010. Size: 157 ha.

Land owned and managed by: Ronneby Municipality.

ö nature reserve is part of the grounds of Göhölm. The area is one of Blekinge's largest and most precious reserves. It has large, unique and well-preserved oak forests, with a great species diversity and many different environments, beautiful sandy beaches, Iron Age burial fields, etc.

Other than oak, the riches forests consist mainly of ash, lime, maple, beech, wild cherry and elm trees. There are beech and ash populations in some areas.

Within the reserve, there are a significant number of red-listed species, primarily woodboring insects. On the western side of Bredasund, there is a large beech population, where the average age of tree is 120 years. In the damp grounds there are several elder forests that are









just as old. The reserve includes smaller beach meadows, sandy heaths, sand fields and flat rocks. Gökalv is popular for its nice bathing areas with lovely sandy bottoms.

#### A rich marine life

In the marine areas around the Gö peninsula, there is a mosaic of shallow soft and hard bottoms. The varying bottom conditions provide living environments for a multitude of animals and plants. The marine part of the reserve covers approximately 1,400 hectares.

#### **Large drumlins**

The Gö peninsula is geologically interesting, as it is one of the few places in Blekinge, east of Listerlandet, that is characterised by major drumlins. The peninsula is a typical area for Gö moraine, the bottom layer of the Listerby formation. The drumlins are stretched out in a north-south direction.

#### A long history

A great number of ancient remains from various eras provide evidence of the long human presence in the area.

The name Gö is first mentioned in King Waldemar's land registers from 1241 and refers to the village that was located on the eastern side of the peninsula, by the road to Gö Udde.



#### FACTS

**Directions:** Exit E22 in the Listerby roundabout between Ronneby and Karlskrona. Follow the signs for "Kuggeboda" and "Gö".

**1** N 56°08′35″ E 15°17′19″ **2** N 56°08′00″ E 15°19′04″

Established in: 2009. Municipality: Ronneby Size: approx. 500 ha land

Landowner: Private owner and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Managed by: The County Administrative Board

## 23 Lindö udde

indö Udde is one of the most southern outposts of Blekinge that can be reached by car. Here, you can hike around the peninsula along the stony shores, enjoying the unobstructed sea view.

Around the cape, there is a beach meadow of varying width. In summer, there are cows grazing on Lindö. The inner part of the island is covered by a brushy hardwood forest consisting primarily of oak, birch, aspen and beech. This forest is more or less allowed to grow freely. At the edge between the forest and the beach, there is a thick line of blackthorn, soft downyrose and hawthorn bushes.

#### Birdwatching

Lindö Udde is one of the best places in Blekinge for anyone interested in birdwatching. Throughout March and April, several types of migratory bird pass by, including divers, geese and waders. But Lindö is most famous the flocks of eiders passing by in the early

spring. In favourable weather, you can see thousands of eiders passing close by. In the autumn, many birds of prey and passerines migrate past Lindö. Most of them are flying westwards along the coast.

#### Quarrying

Lindö Udde has long been used for pasture. Maps from the 1820s show that the area was almost completely open at that time, with flat rocks being the dominant features of the landscape. In the 1800s, quarrying began at Lindö and continued into the 1930s. The peninsula is characterised by the traces of these activities. There are piles of debris, rocks lacerated by extraction, fillings and roads used to transport















#### **FACTS**

Directions: Turn off E22 at Listerby, drive towards Kuggeboda. Drive through Kuggeboda towards Korsanäs. Follow the road signs towards "Lindö naturreservat"

N 56°07′27″ E 15°20′55″

Facilities: Parking, rest and barbecue areas, toilets and footpaths.

Other: Natura 2000 area. Established: 1990 Size: 75 hectares, of which 21 hectares are land. Landowner: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and Ronneby Municipality Managed by: The County Administrative Board

## 24 Listerby skärgård

# The nature reserve Listerby Skärgård consists of the beautiful islands of Arpö, Vagnö and Slädö along with a few smaller islets and reefs that can only be reached by boat.

The larger islands have been used for agriculture and have long had a permanent population. There are many traces of ancient farming, and these islands have a rich animal and plant life. There are grazing animals on several of the islands. For the most part, the islands are covered in oak forests. The pasturelands feature many old and coarse oak trees.

The flat rocks of Slädö are mainly covered by pine. Natural ports can be found in north Arpö and west Slädö. These islands are popular among boat owners. Since 2010, parts of Listerby Skärgård constitute what is known as a consideration area.







# Slädo LISTERBY SKÄRGÅRD NATURRESERVAT Grönnsund Grönnsund Arpó, Arpóhamn Birkeskár Arpókalv O 500 1000m

#### **Bird life**

The varied natural environments of the islands give rise to a rich bird life. Inside the hardwood groves are warblers, tits, flycatchers and woodpeckers. Scarlet rosefinches, red-backed shrikes and whitethroats live among the juniper-rich flat rock forests. The shallow coves of the area provide important living environments for many different ducks and waders. Those fortu-

nate enough may witness the giant of the archipelago; the white-tailed eagle, sailing through the skies. Great crested grebe



#### FACTS

**Directions:** Listerby Skärgård can only be reached by boat. There is a jetty on the north side of Arpö.

Municipality: Ronneby. Listerby Skärgård established in 1981. Size: 237 ha of land.

Almö established in 1987. Size: 320 ha of land. Landowner: Private.

Managed by: County Administrative Board

54 5:

Imö is a popular excursion destination. People come here to bathe, have a picnic or walk along the hiking trails. The northern part of the reserve boasts beautiful oak pastures and lush hardwood forests. Heading south, it transforms into an open landscape of heaths, flat rock and beach meadows.

The pastures, heaths and beach meadows of Almö constitute precious cultural heritage environments, where for centuries people have put their cattle to summer pasture. The pasturing has created an open landscape: a cultural environment that has been rapidly disappearing across Sweden in the last century. One purpose of the reserve is therefore to preserve this landscape.

#### **Pasturing creates diversity**

The rich animal and plant life of the reserve is linked to the traditional pasturing. Certain organisms would disappear entirely if the lands were to become overgrown. At the same time, it makes the landscape more accessible to nature lovers.

#### Importance of the oak tree

The northern part of the reserve consists predominately of pastures, where giant oak trees spread their mighty crowns. At dusk in summer time, you can often hear the droning sound of stag

beetles. An old pasture oak tree can host close to 1,500 different species. Mosses and lichens grow on the coarse, sunlit bark. Inside the decaying trunk, there are funguses and insects. The funguses break down the wood and the insects use it for food or dwelling. This forms a soft mulch, a brown wood meal that is collected inside the decaying trunk. A large number of insects, many of which are rare, live in the mulch.











# tions: Ex

**Directions:** Exit E22 in the Hasslö roundabout between Ronneby and Karlskrona. Follow the signs for "Almö"

**FACTS** 

N 56°09′51″ E 15°27′25″ ② N 56°09′06″ E 15°27′02″
N 56°08′53″ E 15°26′30″

Municipality: Ronneby

Almö established in 1987. Size: 320 ha of land. Landowner: Private. Managed by: County Administrative Board



## 26 Vambåsa hagmarker

In these two reserves, you can walk around in a beautiful oak forest landscape with impressive pastoral oak trees. In terms of quantity, the area around Vambåsa has the richest collection of ancient monuments in Blekinge, including a large number of graves and burial fields from the Bronze and Iron Ages.

The reserve consists of two areas. The southern area is on the coast, while the other one lies northeast of the Stora Vambåsa farm.

#### Northern part

In the northern part of the Vambåsa pastures, there are more than 20 old, coarse oak trees. Other species that thrive here are blackthorn, hawthorn, juniper and soft downy-rose.

The entire northern part of the reserve is registered as an ancient monument. It has burial mounds, cup and ring marks, prehistoric fields, agricultural cairns and clearance cairns.

The area was restored in the early 2000s, with the aim of promoting the landscape with its ancient monuments and saving the old oaks. To the north, the meadow borders a bog area of great value to the northern crested newt and large white-faced darter.

#### Southern part

The majority of the southern area today consists of meadows and forests. Hundreds of oaks in the area are more than one metre in diameter. There is also hazel, perfoliate honeysuckle and blackthorn.









A permanent settlement has probably been here since the Bronze Age. The landscape of Vambåsa shows traces of how the land has been farmed for thousands of years.

Hjortahammar's Iron Age burial fields in the southern area is one of Blekinge's largest and most impressive ancient monuments. The burial field is beautifully located on an esker, which forms an isthmus in the strait towards Almö. Within the area, there are more than 120 visible prehistoric burial sites, consisting of mounds along with ship-shaped, square, round, trident and erected stoned.

In ancient times, people would often bury

their dead in an open place, preferably on a height, as the grave monuments were to stand out in the landscape. The ridge at Hjortahammar is a well-chosen site, which can be seen far and wide, from both land and sea.

#### **FACTS**

**Vägbeskrivning:** Exit E22 in the Hasslö roundabout between Ronneby and Karlskrona. There is parking near Hjortahammar burial fields, just before Almö.

N 56°10′12″ E 15°27′41″

**Facilities:** Parking, bird tower, marked trail. Vambåsa Hagmarker established in 1982. Size: 87 ha of land. Landowner: Private

Managed by: County Administrative Board

n western Kvalmsö, you can experience a beautiful cultural landscape with oak meadows, open pastures, flat rock and beach meadows. The open and tree-covered pastures are in stark contrast to the eastern parts of island, which is predominately spruce and hardwood forest. In this varied nature, there is a rich plant and animal life. Along the western coast, there are cliffs and small beaches if you want to go for a swim.

Kvalmsö is an old agricultural landscape. Early farmers established fields and meadows in the fertile hollows and the more level lands next to the coves. The animals were let out to pasture in these meagre and rocky lands, where there were also forests to provide wood. Today, the animals graze on the old fields and meadows. The forests more or less manages itself. In order to keep the grazing animals out of the fields and meadows, the farmers would build stone walls. The stone walls at Kvalmsö are uncommonly well-constructed, for example the ones running along the road east of the farm at Gåraviken. Another charac-

teristic of Kvalmsö is the beautifully constructed agricultural cairns. These were built from the stones that the farmers laboriously cleared from the fields.

#### **Species-rich environment**

The environments of the nature reserve, with old standalone trees, meadows and sparse hardwood forests, provide a home for several rare and endangered insects, lichens and funguses. One example is the robustus conk, which can be found nearly all over the island. It grows on old oak trunks and branches. Another example is

Pachyphiale carneola. This is small lichen that is difficult to discover with an untrained eye. It is now endangered due to a lack of environments with ancient hardwood forest.

#### Beneath the surface

Approximately 60 % of the reserve consists of marine environments. The waters outside of Kvalmsö are shallow, 0.5-2 metres and 3.5 metres at their deepest. A rich vegetation of charophyceae and vascular plants cover the bottom in most places.











#### **FACTS**

**Directions:** Directions: Kvalmsö can be reached either by boat or by foot from the parking at Vambåsa Hagmarker (see previous page).

N 56°10′22″ E 15°26′17″

Facilities: Resting areas and footpath

Established: 1986

Size: 174 ha of which 66 ha are land.

Landowner: Private

Managed by: The County Administrative Board

 $\epsilon_0$ 

romtö is known for its beautiful and majestic beech forest. In spring, you can wander among blooming wood anemones in the ethereal green of the beech leaves, which is transformed into colourful splendour in autumn. The reserve begins at Hjortahammar burial field, by the road to Hasslö.

The Tomtö peninsula used to be part of the manorial estate of Johannishus Gods. The nature is one of the most valuable oak meadows in the reserve consists mainly of beech forests. In mast years, the forests are often invaded by large flocks wetland. At the outermost cape, Tromtö nabb, of bramblings. There are also farmlands with fields, embankments, meadows, grazed islands and beautiful beech forests. Certain parts of the forest are completely untouched by humans. For many insects and wood-dwelling funguses, it is essential that the old heavy beeches and oak trees, along with dead and fallen trees, are allowed to remain in the forest. The forest contains many rare wood-dwelling funguses such as orange polypore and weeping conk.

#### The manor house

In the eastern part of the reserve lies Tromtö manor, beautifully situated and built in the style of Italian renaissance. The manor house is surrounded by a large romantic park, north of which county. Right next to the manor is an artificial there is a beautiful natural port for pleasure boats. The area around the manor house is private



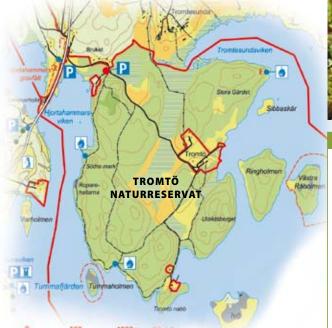




#### Blekinge's emblem animal

it may be a flying stag beetle. For a few weeks from the end of June, the males fly out at dusk. They are on the lookout for females, who are

often found on oak trees with seeping sap. This If you hear something droning through the air, giant of a beetle can grow to more than eight centimetres in length, making it Europe's largest insect. The stag beetle is a protected species across Sweden.





#### **FACTS**

Directions: Exit E22 in the Hasslö roundabout between Ronneby and Karlskrona. After around 4 km, there is a sign for "Tromtö naturreservat". After another 500 m, there is a parking area. N 56°10′07″ E 15°28′11″

Facilities: Parking, footpaths, marked trail, rest areas. Guest harbour at

Established in: 1982. Municipality: Ronneby. Size: 374 ha of land. Landowner: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and private owner Managed by: The County Administrative Board

n Sänneshult, you can take a walk through the beautiful beech forest between the lakes Sännen and Listersjön. The nature reserve and its surroundings are popular hiking areas, which you pass by on the Blekingeleden Trail.

The forests of Sänneshult are at their most beautiful as the beeches begin to leaf in early May. Just before then is the time when wood anemones and May lily have a chance to come up through the thick carpet of last year's leaves.

#### Meadows

In the beautiful oak meadows on the shores of Sännern, you can find arnica, cowslip, pyramidal bugle and liverleaf. Some of the lands are used as hayfields and contain pollard ashes, limes and maples.

#### The lakes

Listersjön and Sännen surround the reserve on two sides. Sännen is one of the few unregulated lakes in the county. The beach and water vegetation of Listersjön is sparse. But you can find the uncommon moss Dichelyma capillaceum growing on rocks and tree bases along its shores.









#### **FACTS**

## 30 Grindstugan

rindstugan, near Johannishus, is an oak meadow area that has been used by humans for a long period of time. What you will primarily see here is a large number of coarse, wide-crowned oak trees. The slightly undulating, mosaic-looking area gives a very appealing and beautiful landscape. Stone monuments from the Iron Age give an indication of the area's long history. The rich spring flora includes pasqueflower, among other species.

#### Diversity of the oak

The high natural values here are primarily linked to the very old oak trees. They provide a home to many lichens, funguses and wooddwelling insects with conservation values. The oak tree is one of the absolutely most speciesrich natural environments found in Sweden. It is estimated that 400-500 lichens, funguses and mosses, as well as 800-900 different insects, are more or less dependent on the oak tree for their survival. At Grindstugan, there are several nesting room for highly endangered species, including the wood-living funguses weeping conk and beefsteak polypore, the insects stag beetle and hermit beetle, and the lichens Arthonia pruinata and Lecanographa amylacea. Thanks to the and tawny owl. trees being allowed to grow very old, the biodiversity has had time to grow a great deal.

#### Rich plant and bird life

Vascular plants growing in the oak meadow include pyramidal bugle, catsfoot, maiden pink, rock-rose, broad-leaved thyme, pasqueflower, milkwort, yellow-rattle, meadow saxifrage and devil's-bit scabious. There is also hawthorn,

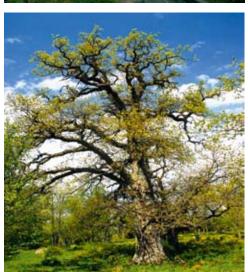
blackthorn, juniper and soft downyrose. The hollows of the trees provide different birds, such as starling, stock dove, green woodpecker













#### FACTS

Directions: Grindstugan lies directly southeast of Johannishus. The road that passes through the reserve is the one that goes between the Hasslö roundabout at the E22 and Johannishus.

N 56°13'23" E 15°25'46"

Established in: 1981. Municipality: Ronneby

Landowner: Private owner and Ronneby Municipality Managed by: The County Administrative Board

## **31** Johannishus åsar

he Johannishus ridge rises gently from the terrain and meanders through a fertile agricultural landscape. The nature reserve stretches 6 km from Hillerslätt in the north to Hjortsberga in the south. The ridge consists mainly of meadows with old, knotty oak trees. The beautiful, parklike landscape is above all a result of the creation of Johannishus manor in the late 1600s. For hundreds of years, the manor has managed the meadows and pastures.

#### Ridge created by ice

The Johannishus ridge is an esker, which was formed when the last ice sheet melted. That happened around 14,000 ago. Beneath the ice were powerful rivers that brought with them large amounts of stones, gravel and sediments. Rocks were worn down and rounded by one another, and deposited in eskers and deltas. The entire ridge has at one time laid beneath the highest coastline (see page 11).

woodpeckers. In spring, there are plenty of pasqueflowers growing on the ridge.

#### **Many ancient monuments**

NATURRESERVA

The ridge has one of southern Sweden's richest and most varied ancient monument areas. People have been living and working here for

the 350 or so registered ancient monuments, most are graves.

thousands of years, thanks to the fertile soil. Of

#### The Johannishus treasure

Blekinge's most important treasure was found at Västra Vång. In connection to ploughing in 1865, a copper pot filled with six kilos of gold and silver objects was found. This treasure had most likely been buried in the early 1100s, but most of it originates in the Viking Age.

#### Johannishus castle

Johannishus manor was established by General admiral Hans Wachtmeister in the 1680s. The main house was built in 1772 and is centrally located, along with its park, next to the Listerby river. For more than 300 years, Johannishus manor has lent its character to the cultural landscape along the river.

The four reserves of Arvidstorp, Skuremåla, Mölleryd and Johannishus Åsar are examples of different ridge and delta formations that emerged when the ice sheet melted.



Directions: K Turn off E22 in the Listerby roundabout, towards "Johannishus". Pass through the village of Johannishus, follow the signs for "Tving". The reserve stretches out along the road on either side. Parking available in Västra Vång. 0 N 56°15′43″ E 15°25′37″ Turn off E22 by Leråkra, towards "Tving". After about 2 km, at Hjortsberga, you will approach the reserve from the south. 4 N 56°13′21″ E 15°24′19″

Facilities: Parking is available at Hjortsberga, Hammarskulle, Kasakulle and Vång. The castle is private property and can only be seen from the road.

Established in: 1982. Municipality: Ronneby Size: 40 ha. Landowner: Private. Managed by: The County Administrative Board



#### High natural values in giant oaks

The high natural values in the reserve are primarily linked to the old and knotty oak trees. An oak can become close to 1,000 years old, and in the various stages of its lifetime, it provides a home for a multitude of animal and plant

On this ridge live several highly endangered species, including the wood-living funguses weeping conk and beefsteak polypore, the insects stag beetle and hermit beetle, and the lichens Arthonia pruinata and Lecanographa amylacea. The hollow trees offer a nesting place for many different birds, such as tawny owls, starlings and



**JOHANNISHUS** ÅSAR

68

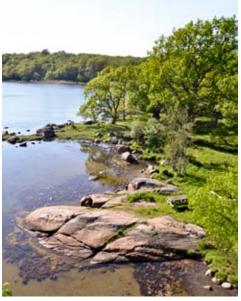
Johannishu

Skärva manor, which was built in the 1700s, is surrounded by a very attractive manorial estate. It contains beaches, meadows, pastures, groves, bogs and species-rich, ivy-covered hardwood forests.

The view of Danmarksfjärden and Karlskrona city is magnificent.

The reserve is home to hardwood forests containing beech, oak, ash, lime and horn-beam. In spring, the ground is covered by wood anemones, gageas, lungwort, coralroot and many other species. Meadows with old trees and open natural pastures with beach meadows provide a rich diversity of plants and animals. The old trees provide living environments for lichens, polypores and insects.

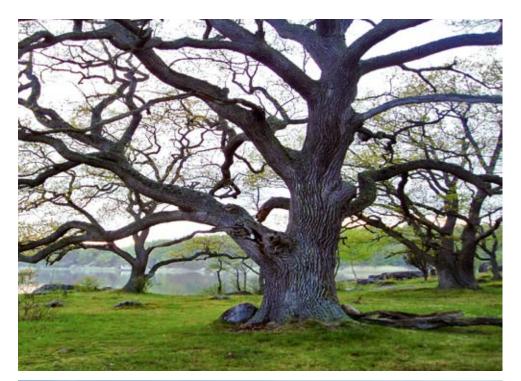




## **History of Skärva**Skärva was most likely so named for the many clusters of sharp rock, calle

the many clusters of sharp rock, called skärv in Swedish, found in the area. Skärva manor, which was erected by shipbuilder Fredrik Henrik af Chapman in the late 1700s, along with its park was declared a historic building in 1975. Since 1998, Skärva is part of the World Heritage Site "The Naval City of Karlskrona".







71

he Älmteryd nature reserve is one of the most valuable meadowlands in Blekinge. Over centuries, perhaps millennia, it has been shaped by the scythe and by grazing animals. Together, humans and animals have created a cultural heritage with an astonishing biodiversity.

The nature reserve consists of beautiful pasturelands with a mosaic of hardwood groves, damp meadows and springs. The grazing animals keep the landscape open, but far into the 1900s, large parts of the meadows constituted a hayfield that was still mown by scythe. In those days, the animals were not set to pasture until the hay had been brought in.

#### **Precious flora**

In the grazed lands, there are many types of grass and herbs that have become increasingly rare as the pastures have been fertilised or left to grow over. The sheer quaking grass and the purple-flowered devil's-bit scabious are both examples of plants that benefit from mowing and pasture. Among the rarities of Älmteryd, we find broad-leaved



thyme, Hartmann's sedge and lousewort. The low-growing lousewort can be found where the soil is meagre, damp and well-grazed. The pasturing animals keep the vegetation down,



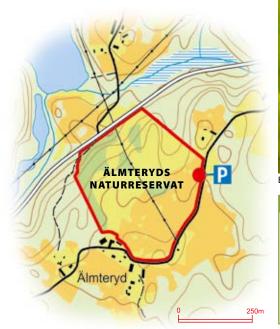
allowing light to reach these plants. The trampling of hooves also stirs up the soil for the seeds to grow.

# **Eldorado for mushroom lovers**

More than one hundred different mushrooms have been found in the pasturelands. Many of these are completely dependent on unfertilised pastures. The most striking ones are the waxcaps, which are often coloured a stark red, yellow or orange. One of them is the witch's hat. It has a pointed cap and turns black as it ages or when it is touched by the frost.

#### **Historic road**

The village road that runs along the east perimeter of the reserve has a long history. It is part of the country road that connected the then Lyckå (now Lyckeby) with Bergkvara and Kalmar. This road has many names, one of which is the "King's Road". Just north of the village, there are several ashes, which were pollarded up until the 1940s. This entailed cutting the branches off the trees and using the leaves as winter feed for the farm animals. Nowadays, trees are pollarded as part of the reserve upkeep. till vinterfoder åt djuren på gården. Numera hamlas träd som ett led i reservatets skötsel.







Early-purple orchid

#### FACTS

**Directions:** Located along road 725 between Augerum and Torsås. ● N 56°16′21″ E 15°45′59″

Facilities: Parking Established: 2002

Size: 15 hectares

Landowner: Private. Managed by: The County Admi-

nistrative Board

Other: Natura 2000 area

# **34** Björstorps hage

B jörstorps Hage is a small nature reserve on the border between forest and agricultural land. It has an unusually rich grove flora where many species bloom before the trees blossom. This land was previously used for haymaking and pasturing.

The grove flora consists of flowers that can handle being shaded by trees. The flowers thrive in nutrient-rich and somewhat damp environments. Many of these species bloom before the leaving of the trees. In early spring, you can find liverleaf, lesser celandine, gageas, Corydalis intermedia and pumila, golden saxifrage, toothwort, dog's mercury and yellow anemone in Björstorps Hage. Later on, there is also lungwort, cowslip and early-purple orchid.

#### The important role of the hazel

There is plenty of alder, ash, birch and hazel in the nature reserve. Hazel used to be a common feature of forest meadows. You could eat the nuts and it provided wood for tool handles. The leaves were considered a good fertiliser for the soil.







# The nutcracker – a bird with an excellent memory

Sometimes in the late summer and autumn, you will see the nutcracker gathering nuts among the hazels. The nuts are saved in the ground, and the bird remembers exactly where it hid them, even after the snow settles. In spring and summer, you may also hear birds like the wren, the blackcap as well as great and lesser spotted woodpecker in Björstorps Hage.





#### **FACTS**

**Directions:** From the E22 between Karlskrona and Jämjö, take exit "Tornby" by the Torstäva rest stop. After 2 km, the nature reserve is on your right.

N 56°11′54″ E 15°44′44″

**Facilities:** Parking, around 400 m of marked paths. Established: 1962

Size: 3 hectares

Landowner: Private. Managed by: The County Administrative Board

Other: Natura 2000 area

he Knösö peninsula is a popular outdoor area not far from the centre of Karlskrona. The nature of the hilly terrain varies between pasture lands, flat rock and thick forest. An often used trail runs through the reserve.

#### Easily accessible nature reserve

The area consists of the southern end of a high granite ridge that stretches from north to south out towards the sea between Verkö and Säljö. On top of the 20 m tall hill, the landscape is mainly flat rock and heather heaths. Thickets of soft downy-rose, hawthorn and blackberry cover smaller areas. Growing in the meagre soil are characteristically low and straggly oak trees, which are constantly exposed to the elements. A few smaller bogs with birch trees and osiers can be found between the ridges. The bathing area on the west side is very popular.

# **Beautiful historic pastures**

In the south and northwest, there are beautiful pastures with hazel, junipers and a few beeches. The areas south of the road have been formed by pasturing, and there are giant oak trees with impressive crowns growing here. The pastur-



ing animals ensure that the landscape remains open, which benefits these old giant trees as well as the pastoral flora. Here you may find milkwort, catsfoot, pyramidal bugle and



hawkweed, as well as the lesser butterfly-orchid and the elder-flowered orchid. In these pasturelands with their old trees, there are many rare species, such as beefsteak polypore and Inono-



tus cuticularis, stag beetle, grey bush-cricket as well as several rare butterflies...

#### **Ancient monuments**

In the southern part, there are two ancient monuments in the form of stone circles, and two "lying hens", which are large boulders chocked up on smaller rocks.



#### **FACTS**

Directions: E22 follow signs to "Centrum" and then "Verkö", turn left towards "Knösö" and continue on this road out to the cape. N 56°10′06″ E 15°39′53″ Facilities: Parking, resting areas, footpaths, bathing area toilets.

Established in: 1982. Municipality: Karlskrona Size: 32 ha of land.

Land owned and managed by: Karlskrona Municipality



hen standing at Uttorp, on the south side of Sturkö, you are as far out in the Blekinge archipelago as you can get without a boat. From the beautiful open coastal heath, you can look out over the sea, and in clear weather, you can see the lighthouse at Utklippan. The area is popular among birdwatchers, especially in spring.

Uttorp is a long and narrow nature reserve, in which the area closest to the sea consists of boulders and rock surfaces as well as junipercovered flat rock and heaths. Further north, the the area. area increasingly becomes thick heather heaths, pastures and sparse mixed forest featuring a few old, wide-crowned oak trees. The area is criss-crossed by finely constructed stone walls running north to south.

#### A rich flora

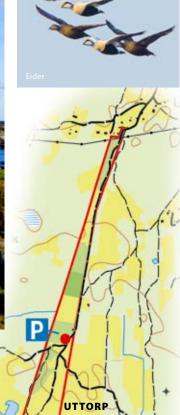
The vascular plant flora is abundant, with species like marsh and sea arrowgrass, lesser and seaside centaury, strawberry clover and the redlisted lousewort near the sea, whereas further

inland you can find heath spotted-orchid, lesser butterfly-orchid, milkwort and mat-grass. The red-listed fungus smoky clavaria is also found in

## **Birdwatching**

Uttorp is one of Blekinge's best birdwatching sites if you wish to see seabirds migrating in spring. At the end of March, there are plenty of eiders and if you are lucky, you may spot a king eider. In April, you can see dabbling ducks, geese, divers and swans. White-tailed eagles are a common sight here during the winter. At Uttorp there are roughly 218 species of birds registered, of which 75 breed in the area.







#### **FACTS**

Directions: Drive towards Sturkö church, Just before the church, there are signs to the nature reserve. N 56°16'23" E 15°45'27"

Facilities: Parking, resting area.

Established: 1980 Size: 15 hectares

Landowner: Private

Managed by: The County Administrative Board

Other: Natura 2000 area

# 37 Hästholmen-Ytterön

n Hästholmen-Ytterön, there are grazed beach meadows, juniper heaths as well as farmed fissure valleys. For centuries, humans have been shaping this small-scale farming landscape. In the historically valuable archipelagic environment, there is also a rich animal and plant life.

Humans began to farm the lands in Hästholmen-Ytterön several centuries ago. The beach meadows and heaths were grazed by cows, and in the oak forests, pigs would feast on the acorns. The low-lying meadows were mowed to provide the animals with winter feed, and the fields were farmed. When the population grew in the 1800s, the landscape changed radically. The forest shrank, and the arable land area increased. The result was an open landscape, which to a great extent remains to this day. In order to preserve this valuable cultural environment, the lands must be kept open through pasturing, mowing and farming.

#### Open landscape

Hästholmen-Ytterön consists primarily of flat

rock mingled with juniper-rich grass heaths. Characteristic for the area are the narrow rift valleys cutting through the landscape. Historically, these valleys have been used for cultivation. A few of the fields are still in use, while others are kept open through pasturing.

## Flourishing beach meadows

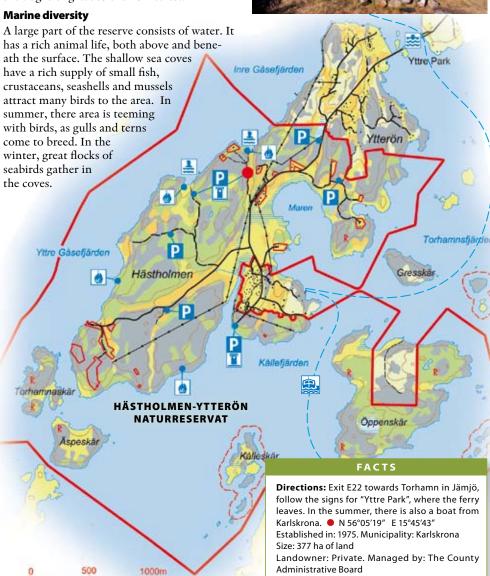
North of Hästholmen village, there is a vast beach meadow area. These beach meadows are former coves, which are sometimes underwater. Along the shoreline, there is typical salt-resilient flora, with species such as saltmarsh rush, reflexed saltmarsh-grass, glasswort, thrift and sea arrowgrass. For a long time, the meadows have been kept through mowing and pasturing.



This is reflected in the area's rich flora, which contains several plants that benefit from these practices.

#### The islands

The smaller islands are predominately covered by juniper heaths. On the island Öppenskär, there is also coniferous forest and a bog. The Öppenskär bog is one of Sweden's most southeasterly mires. The extreme location means that the bog is of great scientific interest.



# 38 Torhamns udde

ea breeze, heaths and vast beach meadows – the perfect spot for walks and excursions. The well-preserved, open agricultural landscape of Torhamns Udde have many ancient monuments and a long history. The area is also an internationally birdwatching spot, with a large number of breeding and resting birds.

# Impressive bird migrations

Torhamns Udde is a popular excursion destination. Many come to birdwatch, primarily in the spring and autumn, when large amounts of migratory birds pass by the area. Particularly impressive is the eider migration in early April, when tens of thousands of eiders can fly by in a single day. During this period, there are also large flocks of geese and waders on their way to their northern breeding grounds.

#### Black-and-white aristocrat

In the summer too, there is non-stop activity, as a large number of breeding birds search for

food in the shallow coves. The most handsome of them all is the pied avocet, with its black and white coat and an elegant upturned and thin beak.

# Flowering pastures

Grazing farm animals keep the landscape open and preserve a valuable cultural heritage. At the same time, they safeguard many of the sensitive and rare plants that can only live in open pasturelands. Growing on the cape are the beautiful heath spotted-orchid and lesser butterfly-orchid. It is also a place where Montia minor and lousewort bloom. These two plant species are





red-listed in Sweden, which means that there is a risk of them becoming extinct if measures are not taken. Conserving the pasturelands in Torhamns Udde is a way of saving them.

#### **Subsurface environment**

The coves around Torhamns Udde provide an important spawning and growing ground for fish. In the shallow waters, there is plenty to eat in the form of mussels, seashells and small crustaceans. The bottom offers a rich algae flora. There are several species of charophyceae, a type of algae that contains lime, which makes them "hard" to the touch. Charophyceae require good water conditions, and if the water becomes too rich in nutrients, they disappear.



#### **FACTS**

**Directions:** Exit E22 at Jämjö towards Torhamn. Follow the road southwards from Torhamn church

N 56°04′50″ E 15°50′30″

**Facilities:** Parking, resting areas, footpath, toilets and bird tower. Some accessibility
Established in: 1977. Municipality: Karlskrona
Size: 115 ha of land. Landowner: Private. Managed by: The County Administrative Board



# **39** Steneryds lövängar

# teneryds Lövängar are the remains of a historic landscape that is still traditionally kept. This is done to preserve both the special vegetation and the traditional practices.

The forest meadows were formerly used for animal winter feed. Grass and herbs were mowed for hay, and the leaves of the forest were set seeds before mowing, the composition of conserved by pollarding the branches. A forest meadow provides a mix of sunlight and shade, which allows many plants with particular needs to grow on a small surface. Here, you will find plenty of wood anemone, liverleaf, cowslip, greater yellow-rattle, peach-leaved bellflower, devil's-bit scabious, and in May, there is also elder-flowered orchid.

#### How was a meadow kept one hundred years ago?

Raking. In April, when the snow had melted, all the leafs were gathered and burned. The ashes were then used to fertilise the meadow. Haymaking. In July, when most of the meadow

Möcklervd

Hästhallen

RESERVA

plants had bloomed and set seeds, the hay was mowed. As the plants had been allowed to species was different than if the land had been grazed by animals. Each year, normally on the third Saturday in July, there is a haymaking feast - everyone is invited.

Grazing. After the haymaking, animals were set to pasture in Oxbacken (ox hill), Kalvhagen (calf paddock) and Hästbacken (horse hill). Pruning - pollarding. In August, after the haymaking was finished, the trees were pollarded. In these meadows, the trees were actively pollarded up until World War II.

# Hästhallen – Blekinge's largest rock carving

In the Bronze Age, three thousand years ago,

people would carve figures and symbols into the flat rock. These rock carvings were discovered in the late 1700s. At that time, they lay







in a completely open landscape, which is now covered by pine forest. The carvings consist of a little more than 150 figures, distributed over a surface of 20x10 metres. They show eightyfive ships, eighteen feet, ten animals, two humans, three circular figures, some ten other shapes and around twenty cup and ring marks.

# The carvings are named after two of the figures depicting horses.

The horse arrived in the Nordic countries in the Bronze Age. It had a special status within the Bronze Age society, and was attributed with supernatural traits.

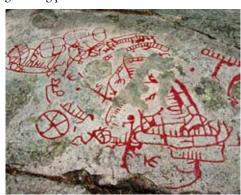
## **Carving upon carving**

For close to one thousand vears, new figures have been carved into the rock. Some carvings have been made on top of others, and

they are not all from the same period.

The fact that so many figures have been carved in this particular place indicates that it must have been an important cultural and social gathering point.







40 Hallarumsviken Stora Rom 41

A walk around Hallarumsviken offers flat rocks with oak forests, steep drops with cultivated rift valleys and beautiful

views of Blekinge's lush inner archipelago.

In the Hallarumsviken nature reserve, the rocks plunge steeply into the cove from a height of 30 metres. There are several outlook points with beautiful views of the archipelago. Beyond the knotty oak forest, you can see glittering water, junipers, beech forests and in the far distance, the silhouette of Karlskrona. Minor rift valleys cut across the landscape. In these parts, the oak forest is thick and intermingled with small fields and pastures. Just inside Vassaskär, there is a meadow that is usually the site of the midsummer celebrations. The meadows may be lit up in the reds and yellows of the elder-flowered orchid. Around midsummer, the scent of the lesser butterfly-orchid can be felt at dusk. The reserve is a popular outdoor area.





#### **FACTS**

**Directions:** Exit E22 at Jämjö towards Torhamn. After 4 km, the reserve is on the right hand side. **Facilities:** Parking, footpaths, rest areas, shelter.

• N 56°09′19″ E 15°49′39″
Established in: 1973. Municipality: Karlskrona

Landowner: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency Managed by: The County Administrative Board



tora Rom nature reserve consists of grazed natural, predominately oak forest predominately on a bedrock plateau with a steep, bouldery slope down to Hallarumsviken. Other than oak forest, the plateau is also has junipers, flat rock areas and a mosaic of smaller bogs. Closest to the sea, there is a narrow beach meadow and a birch grove.

The natural oak forest has a few very old oak trees, with large and wide crowns. Growing on their trunks are a large number of lichens, some of which are very rare. Perfoliate honeysuckle is a common sight in the slope towards the sea, where it climbs high up in the oaks, and there is a small amount of ivy all over the area. On the ground, you will see mostly heather, blueberry bushes and wavy hair-grass. In the richer soils, there is woodruff, liverleaf, greater stitchwort, heath dog-violet and bitter-vetch.

#### Frogs and newts

Several of the small bogs in the forests constitute spawning grounds for frogs in the spring. The bogs that are filled with water all year round are also the spawning ground of the northern crested newt. The rich supply of dead wood provides a living environment for a large number of wood-dwelling insects, and primarily beetles. In the damp grounds around the bogs, crowberry is a common feature. Inside the bogs, there is purple moor-grass, sedge, creeping bent, and along the edges, you can find cranberry and Labrador tea.

# The bedrock plateau drops off steeply towards Flagen.

The bedrock consists of granite. The pastures consists of a bedrock plateau along with a steep, bouldery slope in the western end. The beach meadow by the seashore is an old mowed meadow which, once no longer used for haymaking, became pastureland instead.



#### FACTS

Directions: Exit E22 at Jämjö towards Torhamn.
After 5 km, the reserve is on the right hand side.
② N 56°08′26″ E 15°49′32″

Facilities: Parking, resting areas, footpath Established in: 2001. Municipality: Karlskrona". Size: 20 ha. Landowner: Swedish Environmental Protection. Agency Managed by: The County Administrative Board







# 42 Utklippan

tklippan is Sweden's most south-easterly cluster of islands, and it has a popular and well-protected harbour for long-distance sailors going in or out of the Baltic Sea. Most have likely heard the name Utklippan in radio weather reports.

Utklippan consists of two almost bare islands: Norraskär och Södraskär, between which lies a sheltered port. Södraskär used to be the home of the lighthouse keepers and their families. Now there is a hostel, which is open in the summer. In the guest harbour, you can moor your own boat.

# Migratory birds and seals

A large number of migratory birds stop over at Utklippan in the spring and autumn. Karlskrona Ornitologiska Klubb has been conducting bird ringing and studying birds here since 1964. Living on the flat rocks around the island is also Blekinge's largest colony of grey seals.





# **Toad paradise**

Both natterjack toad and European green toad thrive in the rock pools of Utklippan, in the more or less brackish waters. The natterjack toad is classified as vulnerable according to the red list. It lives in the south and southwest of Sweden, and can be found in some ten places in Blekinge, along the eastern coast and in Listerlandet. The highly endangered European green toad only regenerates in three places in Sweden: two in Skåne and then at Utklippan. Overgrowth in beach meadows and wetlands along with eutrophication are considered to contribute to decreasing the numbers or both species.





Grey seal





# **FACTS**

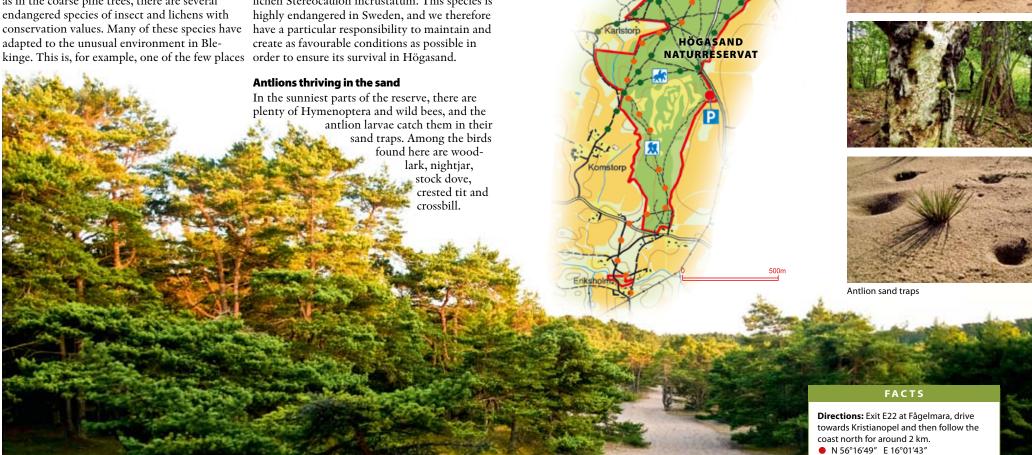
**Directions:** Can only be reached by boat. • N 55°57′17″ E 15°42′13″ Facilities: Guest harbour, hostel, toilets, resting areas. Bildat år: 1988. Established in: 1988. Municipality: Karlskrona. Size: 13 ha of land Landowner: National Property Board Sweden.Managed by: The County Administrative Board

# 43 Högasand

The Högasand nature reserve includes the sandy and mostly pine-covered parts of the Litorina embankment along the close to three kilometre stretch between Eriksholm and Trolleboda. Many rare species thrive in this unique environment.

Living in the dry and warm sand areas, as well as in the coarse pine trees, there are several endangered species of insect and lichens with adapted to the unusual environment in Ble-

in the country where you can find the snow lichen Stereocaulon incrustatum. This species is



Facilities: Riding and hiking trails Established in: 2005. Municipality: Karlskrona Size: 95 ha. Landowner: Private owner and the Swedish Environmental Protection. Agency. Managed by: The County Admini-

strative Board

# Other nature reserves in Blekinge

# See map on page for the location of these reserves. They are marked in green.



## 44 Sölvesborgsviken

Bay with a rich birdlife.



## 45 Valje

Hardwood forest and oak pastures near the sea.

#### 46 Brötalyckorna

Species-rich beech forest. Municipal nature reserve.

# 47 Hjärthalla

Hardwood forest on top of one of Listerlandet's inselbergs.

# 48 Spraglehall

Grazed, orchid-rich beach meadows by the sea.

# 49 Skinsagylet

Steep rift valley with beech and hornbeam.



# 50 Holje

Untouched forests with a great biodiversity.

# 51 Lilla Nyteboda

Hardwood forest with large variations in altitude.

# **52 Mulatorp**

Isolated farm in the forestlands with ancient meadows and pastures.

## 53 Siggaboda södra

Protected forest for the Siggaboda reserve in Kronoberg.

#### 54 Åmma

Grazed forest and meadow by Mörrum river.

# 55 Hönebygget

Beech forest along the Mörrum river.

#### 56 Elleholm

Predominately oak forest with elements of pine.

#### 57 Fölsö

Grazed island with excellent bathing areas.

# 58 Eriksberg

Northern Europe's largest wildlife enclosure, Limited access.

# 59 Hoka

Forested ridge and part of the Mie river.

#### 60 Grimsmåla

Esker and cultural landscape in the Mie river valley.

#### 61 Loberaet

Old cultural landscape in forestland.

#### 62 Bökemåla

Bird-rich moraine landscape in gently undulating forestland.

# 63 Gummagölsmåla

Deciduous forest that has sprung up on former meadowlands near Bräkne river.

# 64 Hjärtsjömåla

Old pine and spruce forest in hilly terrain with no paths or trails.

#### 65 Långehall

Inaccessible, varied forest area with plenty of mushrooms.

#### 66 Tattamåla

Rich animal and plant life in landscape resembling natural forest.

## 67 Kvallåkra och 68 Östra Kvallåkra

Hardwood forests in bouldery terrain and steep slopes.

# 69 Persgärde

Hardwood forests with marshy meadows and pasturelands.

# 70 Björkeryd

Beautifully varied cultural landscape in the Bräkne river valley.



# 71 Pagelsborg

Gravel esker with coarse oak and lime trees.



#### 72 Sonekulla

Outlet of the Bräkne river varying between forest and beach meadows.

#### 73 Trofta

Forest and flooded meadows by the lake Nässjön.

#### 74 Wallanders Åbacka

Old hardwood forest with some spruce areas.

#### 75 Moabacken

Varied forest area west of Kallinge.

#### 76 Yttre Stekön

Yew forest.

#### 77 Göljahult

Norway spruce forest.

#### 78 Vantakalleberget

Natural coniferous forest, which is home to many animals.

## 79 Blåningsmåla

Old forest, predominately aspen, with plenty of dead wood.

#### 80 Finnamaden

Forest slope with mowed marshy meadows by the Nättraby river.

#### 81 Gröngölsmåla

Natural coniferous forest with great variations in altitude.

#### 82 Alnaryd

Ridge sloping steeply down towards the Nättraby river.

#### 83 Tolseboda

Old beech forest with many rare beetles.

#### 84 Store mosse

Oligotrophic bog where snipe, crane, black-throated diver and osprev thrive.

#### 85 Värmansnäs

Small peninsula rich in oak and beech.

#### **86 Arvidstorp**

Well-preserved esker, beautifully situated on the western shore of Arvidstorpsjön lake.

#### 87 Skuremåla

Grazed ridge and delta formations formed by the melting ice sheet.

#### 88 Mölleryd

Esker covered in pine, oak and spruce.

#### 89 Gise Höna

Small beech forest that has remained untouched since 1922.

#### 90 Tallet

Natural forest on burn-beaten land with pine, birch and spruce.

#### 91 Treklasen

Old pine forest with a lot of beech and spruce as well.

#### 92 Jordö

Flat rock area with coarse junipers and some hardwood forest.

#### 93 Rollsö

Rocky island with military remnants.

#### 94 Lyckeby ekebacke

Medieval gathering place, now pastureland with coarse oak trees.

#### 95 Prästamarken

Undulating land with plenty of coarse hardwood trees.

#### 96 Västra Skällön

Easily accessible bathing area, with flat rocks, pasturelands and damp beach meadows

## 97 Järkö

Cultural island with nice bathing cliffs on the southeast side.

#### 98 Svenö

One of the many excursion highlights of the archipelago, with beautiful bathing and hiking possibilities.

#### 99 Färskesjön

Wide-stretched flat rocks and mosaic natural forest around the lake Färskesjön with both deciduous trees and pine.

## 100 Häljarum

Small sand pit with several rare plants and animals.

# 101 Södra Flymen

Old spruce forest with some pine and various deciduous trees.

#### 102 Bråtabron

Forest with two lakes and two islands.



# Blekinge's nature is being protected in various ways



#### **Nature reserve**

The nature reserve is the most common conservation form. A reserve is set aside to protect valuable natural environments, the biodiversity or to safeguard areas for recreational purposes and outdoor life. Nature reserves are subject to special regulations, both for landowners and the general public. Each reserve has a maintenance

plan, which describes how the area is to be maintained in order to safeguard and develop the natural or recreational values. In Blekinge, there are more than 100 nature reserves.

#### **Natural monuments**

Natural monuments consist of small areas with an interesting nature, or individual objects such

as giant's kettles, glacial erratics or giant trees. The natural monument status is one of the oldest forms of conservation for distinctive features in nature in Sweden. In Blekinge County, 78 areas and objects have been declared natural monuments, the earliest already in 1919. Today, it is not as common to conserve nature areas through natural monument status.

#### **Cultural reserve**

A cultural reserve is formed to conserve valuable cultural environments. The cultural reserve is a relatively new conservation format, which was introduced along with the Swedish Environmental Code in 1999. Ronneby Brunnspark is Blekinge's only cultural reserve so far, and one of 41 in Sweden.

#### Natura 2000

Natura 2000 is the EU's ecological network of valuable nature areas. The purpose of the network is to prevent the extinction of animals and plants, as well as the destruction of their habitats. These areas shall contain habitats or species listed in the EU directive. Natura 2000 areas are assigned

by the member countries, who are also responsible for conserving their values. Sweden began the work of assigning Natura 2000 areas in 1996, after joining the EU. In Blekinge County, there are a total of 186 Natura 2000 areas. Most of the nature reserves described in this brochure are part of Natura 2000.



# **Biotope protection areas**

Biotope protection is used for smaller areas that provide a habitat for endangered animal or plant species. A general biotope protection area is used to conserve the biodiversity of the agri-



cultural landscape. All avenues, agricultural cairns, field islets and stone walls in the agricultural landscape are protected. Special biotope protection areas on

agricultural lands may consist of meadows and natural pastures. In forestlands, for example, older grazed forests are protected. In Blekinge, there are 15 special biotope protection areas on agricultural land and around 150 in forestland.

#### Wildlife conservation areas

Bird and seal conservation areas can be set aside to protect animals that are sensitive to disturbances. It is not permitted to be within these areas during certain periods of the year, primarily in breeding season, normally from 1 April to 15 July. Blekinge has 152 bird conservation areas and one seal conservation area.



#### Area maintenance

Many of the natural areas found in our nature reserves require maintenance for their conservation. What needs to be done is determined in a maintenance plan. This deals with upkeep in the form of meadow mowing, pasturing, clearing and selective logging. Great efforts are also made to make the areas accessible through parking, hiking trails, barbecue areas, etc.

Marking the borders of the reserves, information signs and information on the website of the county administrative board is also part of the management. The county administrative board is responsible for the national nature reserves, and the maintenance is carried out in collaboration with municipalities, landowners, farmers and entrepreneurs.







# Do not disturb – do not destroy

The Swedish right of public access gives us a unique opportunity to roam around freely in nature. But there are a few rules of consideration.

The right of public access entitles us all to spend time in nature, but this freedom comes with responsibilities. We must not harm the environment or the animals, and we must be considerate towards landowners and others.

#### Thanks to the right of public access, you may:

- · Make a fire on ground that will not be damaged by you doing so.
- Put up a tent for a day or two, as long as you are not near any houses.
- Ride over land that will not be damaged by you doing so.
- Pick berries, mushrooms and flowers However, you may not break any branches or pick any protected plants.
- Drive on private roads that are not closed to motor vehicles. However, the Swedish Off-Road Vehicle Use Act prohibits driving on bare ground.
- Bring your dog, but preferably on a lead. During the period 1 March-20 August, it is absolutely compulsory for the dog to be on a lead.

# Special rules apply within a natural reserve.

It may only be permitted to make a fire in a designated barbecue area or there may be a pro- on the website of the county administrative hibition against horse-riding and pitching tents throughout the reserve. Each nature reserve





has its own regulations, which can be found board or on the information signs posted on



# Biosphere Reserve Blekinge Archipelago, – a sea of possibilities!

Blekinge's coastal landscape is characterised by a mosaic of hardwood forests and widestretched oak pasturelands meeting the sea. The coastline is adorned with a string of islands with interesting cultural environments and biological values, both above and beneath the surface of the sea.



In 2011, the Blekinge Archopelago was declared a biosphere reserve by UNESCO. In total, there are a little over 620 such biosphere

reserves in the world, of which five are located in Sweden. The declaration provides stimulation in the efforts to build a sustainable society and to find a good balance between culture, nature and entrepreneurship. It also gives us international status, which promotes collaboration and knowledge exchange. The biosphere reserve is currently managed by a non-profit association, with three primary aims:

- · Conserve biological and cultural diversity, ecosystems and land-
- Develop our society in a long-term sustainable manner;
- Provide knowledge support through education and research.

Find out more at www.blekingearkipelag.se



# Welcome to Naturum Blekinge



Naturum is a visitor's centre that aims to help you get closer to nature, and for those who wish to learn more about plants, animals and how we as humans have shaped and continue to influence our region and our environment.

Inside Naturum Blekinge, there are exhibitions and information about Blekinge's nature, special places worth visiting, nature conservation, various outdoor activities and much more.

In Brunnsskogen, there is a marked nature trail that is 1.5 km long. Inside the park, there is a self-guided tree tour, with 48 different species of trees and bushes. Naturum has something for the whole family.

#### **Scheduled school visits**

Naturum receives scheduled school visits, showing the exhibitions and guided tours of the parks and forests according to your wishes.

#### **Guided tours**

- Every day at 13:00: "Matning av djuren" (Feeding the animals), free of charge.
- Every day at 14:00 during the summer: "Guidning i Brunnsparken" (Guided tour of Brunnsparken), SEK 40/adult.
- Monday & Wednesday: "Natur & kulturhis toria" (Natural & cultural history).
- Tuesday & Thursday: "Träd & växter" (Trees and plants)
- Friday: "Familjeguidning på naturstigen" (Family tour of the nature trail)

Welcome to Byggnaden Gymnastiken in Ronneby Brunnspark.

Tel: +46 (0)457-168 15 www.naturumblekinge.se www.facebook.com /naturumblekinge

# **Visiting hours**

Naturum is open for visitors every day from May to September and on weekends in the spring and autumn.



Blekinge





