

Hike in Kolmården

Day 1, Fjällmossen down to Bråviken

Time to shelve the cycle and get out your hiking boots? Or, rather, start to hike again! The Sörmlandsleden trail is attracting an increasing number of hikers. Tonight we won't be sleeping under a rain cover or in log cabins but comfortably in the nearest hotel, where we can shower and enjoy a good breakfast before continuing our hike the next day.

Today, a whole new category of people are heading out into the forests and on trails. In Sörmland you can experience absolute silence. This week we start in **Fjällmossen Nature Reserve**. Today's hike is approximately 15 km and takes about 4-4.5 hours.

On the hike we'll eat our packed lunch on one of the biggest unspoilt bogs in southern Sweden: a fascinating region. The only sound that can be heard, if the wind is blowing, is the distant sound of leaves rattling. The remains of a J22a that crashed here in 1942 have been left where they were, but they too, like all of the animals on the bog, are disappearing over time.

We take two cars down to Bråviken and pass Kolmården Wildlife Park. We park one 500 metres after Skräddtorp on the road to Kvarsebo and the other by Lake Vrångsjön. So, we don't do a loop but maximise the hike with a stretch from north to south.

The Sörmlandsleden trail is clearly marked. After the barren landscape in Fjällmossen along the edge of Kolmården forest, we continue towards **Pigans Plågosten** where a poor girl tried in vain to save herself from a pack of attacking wolves 200 years ago. Her job was to herd the cattle for her master, but the farm people didn't get there in time to help her. It is possible to climb up onto the enormous stone that almost saved the poor cattle-herding girl. The nice photo

below was taken at the time when it was alright for hikers to take a pipe with them into the woods. In autumn, it's mushroom picking time.



Download the map on your mobile Pigans Plågosten in Fjällmossen Mushroom picking in the autumn

The trail continues south towards Bråviken, passing a shingle field on top of the hill. It looks like a ridge where giants played marbles in the distant past. There's a sea of thousands of stones on top of the hill. Later in the week we'll experience a similar but even more impressive shingle field.

The path now takes us down through new terrain, and after an hour we reach the **cliff at Bråviken**. We meet the road that was built after the war to connect Kvarsebo with Krokek and which, further west, passes the entrance to Kolmården Wildlife Park. We are now in Östergötland.



We cross the road and take our first steps onto the next stretch of the Sörmlandsleden trail. This is where stages 33 and 34, which we are now leaving behind, meet. Although we are still going downhill, after only a few hundred metres we reach the cliff edge and the whole of Bråviken opens up in front of us with its enchanting view of Saint Anna archipelago on the other side of the water. You don't need to be in love. Just sitting on one of the nicely arranged benches and looking out over the glittering

waters in the afternoon sun is an unbeatable scene. If you weren't in love already, you will be here.



We continue on the last leg westwards back towards Kvarsebovägen where one of our vehicles is waiting for us. We then pick up the second vehicle by the exit.

As the afternoon approaches, we need to think about the 'bridge' to the next day. There are several options. In the summer months, Vildmarkshotellet in the wildlife park is nearby. But we may already have accommodation at Stavsjö Herrgårdsflygel, 10 km to the north. Stavsjö Herrgårdsflygel is a small lifestyle hotel that is open all year round. Geographically, the hotel is ideally located for all our hikes this week.



Stavsjö Herrgårdsflygel. Photo: Catrin Carlsson

We've had a full day in the forest and experienced forest, mountains, bog, water and archipelago. After all the impressions, it's easy to fall asleep. And tomorrow, new adventures await.

Text Gunnar Casserstedt 22/04/2020.