



Götene kommun



Welcome to Götene and
KINNEKULLE



Welcome to Kinnekulle!

Welcome to the verdant hills of Kinnekulle! Here you can hike through blossom-strewn groves and experience our unique flora, visit landmarks of culture and history, or simply drink in the spectacular views of the lake and the countryside. You're sure to find plenty of special places to make your own.

In the St. Sigfrid Spring, around the year 1020, Sweden's first Christian king, Olof Skötkonung, was baptized. The spring is next to Husaby church, which was Sweden's first bishopric. Its majestic tower was raised to the skies in the 11th century. Not far from Husaby, you will find artwork that tells the tale of an even earlier time. The petroglyphs at Flyhov date from the Bronze Age, between 1500 and 1000 B.C.

Many artists have their studios on the slopes of Kinnekulle. A particularly good time to visit them is during Vårrundan – the springtime event on the first weekend in May every year when some 70 participants let the public see how they work.

There are plenty of possibilities for active leisure here, too. The shores of Lake Vänern are dotted with bathing beaches and marinas – like the ones in Källby, Blomberg and Hällekis. Lundsbrunn, a venerable spa town, also boasts an 18 hole golf course in lovely natural surroundings. During the winter months, you can try your luck on the alpine ski hill or glide away on the cross-country tracks. Kinnekulle Ring hosts speedway, demolition derby and rallycross races.

**For more information on all that Götene
and Kinnekulle have to offer, visit
www.lackokinnekulle.se and
www.kinnekulle.se**

Sights and outing destinations

ARANÄS BORGRUIN no. 1 on map

Among the finds during the excavation of Aranäs castle ruin was a helmet that probably belonged to a knight – perhaps the owner of the castle, marshal of the realm Torgils Knutsson. When Birger Magnusson was crowned king at the age of ten, Torgils became his guardian for many years. Aranäs' proud history ended with a consuming fire. Torgils himself was cast into irons and later decapitated in Stockholm. The mansion and castle ruin are private, and are not open to the public.

BLOMBERG

A manor house dating from the Middle Ages – the first known owner was Olof Skötkonung. After his death, the manor was donated to the bishopric in Skara and Knut Knutsson Roos af Hjelmsäter took it over in the 1400s. From the mid-nineteenth century on, it was owned by the Hamilton family. On the grounds were a well known dairy and a distillery – currently it makes vodka. The mansion is private, and is not open to the public.

BRATTEFORS no. 2 on map

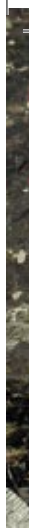
Brattefors farm in Kinnekleva is next to a medieval cemetery. Its primary business is eco-labeled cattle raising. Brattefors quarry produces clay for tennis courts, agricultural lime and gardening lime.

BRATTEFORS QUARRY no. 31 on map

In the notch between Österpana nature reserve and Brattefors farm, a small, horseshoe-shaped quarry is nestled amidst the greenery of Kinnekulle. Besides a fantastic view, it offers spectacular natural surroundings and acoustics.

FALKÄNGEN no. 3 on map

A charming street of workers' houses from the early 1900s. Every summer, some 70 craftspeople are at





The "axe god", with a large axe in his left hand

work in its studios and shops. There is an STF hostel open in the summer; during the rest of the year, it is open only for conferences and groups. There is also a coffee shop, a museum of the history of cement manufacture, a carriage museum and an old-fashioned apartment that is open to visitors.

FLYHOV

A small manor with centuries of history, built of wood in the Caroline style with a distinctive Swedish manor-house roof in the 1700s. There are ceiling murals dating from the baroque period in several rooms and tile ovens from the latter half of the 18th century. The mansion is private, and is not open to the public.

FLYHOVS PETROGLYPHS no. 4 on map

There are some 350 images carved in the rocks here: human figures, ships, feet, wheels and cavities. Of particular interest is the "axe god", a man with a large axe in his left hand. Nearby is an iron age grave field.

FORSHEMS GÄSTGIVAREGÅRD no. 5 on map

Probably Sweden's oldest inn, visited by medieval pilgrims en route to Forshem church. In the 1500s, it was known as Korsgården (Cross Manor), but has been called a gästgivaregård (inn) since 1627. Among others, Carolus Linnaeus and August Strindberg have stayed here.

GUM no. 6 on map

The site of a medieval manor at Järneklev, a sandstone notch on the south side of Kinnekulle. Erikskrönikan, a chronicle written in the early 14th century, relates that on the occasion of his wedding, the marshal of the realm Torgils Knutsson gave Gum manor in Källby parish to his wife. Recently, the remains of thick walls and a limekiln were found here, making the site particularly interesting. Some also believe that liljestenar – ornamental carved stones – were produced here.

GÖTENE

The area around Götene was populated early on. Besides the 12th century Götene church, there are several ancient monuments such as stone circles and grave fields. In the mid-19th century, however, the nearby villages of Holmestad and Vätzlösa were significantly larger than Götene; Holmestad had a district courthouse, an inn, a school and a big yearly three-day market. In the early 1870s, a man named Carl Johansson built a dairy and a steam-powered mill in Götene and a shop opened. In 1942, a powdered milk factory was built here. Today it is called Arla Foods and is the second-largest company in the municipality. There are approximately 600 companies in the municipality of Götene, ranging from Dafgård with some 1100 employees to sole proprietorships. The largest companies are Dafgård AB (foodstuffs), Arla Foods (dairy), Götenehus (house production), Paroc in Hällekis (mineral wool) and Nolato Gota (plastics).

HASTINGS KYRKA no. 7 on map

Not a church (kyrka) at all, but rather a place with an unusual name that is redolent of England and fuels speculation that this was the cradle of Christianity in Sweden. Hastings kyrka is situated above the notch in Västerplana meadow and offers a wonderful view of Lake Vänern. Carolus Linnaeus found the site unusual and described it in detail.

HELLEKIS SÄTERI no. 8 on map

Hellekis manor has been known since the 1300s. The current late Gustavian manor house was



Hellekis Säteri

designed by palace architect Olof Tempelman and is the county's finest late 18th century manor. On its grounds is a rose garden with many old-fashioned rosebushes, as well as lovely perennial beds and exotic trees such as walnut and true chestnut. The main building is private, but part of the lovely grounds is open to the public during the summer. Hellekis Trädgårdscafé & Kök is also located here, a summer restaurant and café where you can eat al fresco or in the greenhouse under climbing grapevines.

HJELMSÄTER no. 9 on map

Hjelmsäter dates from the 1300s, with a manor house from the 1400s, when Queen Margareta leased the manor. The current corps-de-logi was built in the mid-19th century, while the wings date from the 1700s. Ingeborgs weaving studio is in one wing, and a large annual autumn market is held in the opposite wing. The mansion is private, and is not open to the public.

HUSABY BORGRUIN no. 10 on map

The Biskopsborgen (bishop's castle) in Husaby was probably not a castle at all from the beginning, but rather a palace built in the 1480s by Bishop Brynolf Gerlachsson in Skara. He was later captured by a militia, and after that harrowing experience built an extensive stronghold similar to Glimmingehus in Skåne. The bishop was very powerful and also

owned Läckö palace, but the castle in Husaby was destroyed after just 50 years of use. The castle ruin is closed for renovation in 2007.

HUSABY KÄLLA no. 11 on map

Husaby spring has a special place in history. According to royal and episcopal records from the early 1200s, Olov Skötkonung was baptized here by an English missionary. Västergötland thus became the first Christian province in Sweden and the base for many of the earliest medieval Swedish kings. The site's significance was commemorated in June 2000, when the Church of Sweden celebrated a thousand years of Christianity in Husaby with the archbishop and many foreign guests in attendance.

HÄLLEKIS

An alumworks was established at Hällekis in 1768. It enjoyed its heyday in the 1800s, when it had around a hundred employees. The alumworks buildings were razed in 1873 and the laborers took employment at the Hönsäter lime pit. The name Hällekis was given to the town built here when a cement plant was built adjacent to Hönsäter. When the Hellekis cement plant was founded in 1892, the town was built around the new post and railway station. The plant owned essentially everything in town, including the school, shops, land and fields, and it also provided all services, such as water, sewage, medical care, etc. Last summer, a museum of the history of the cement industry was established at Falkängen. When Cementa/Euroc closed the plant in 1979, Rockwool (Paroc) was its replacement, and most of the cement plant employees moved over to the new factory, which manufactures insulation material.

HÖGEHALL no. 12 on map

Högehall is an approximately two-by-two meter rest limestone slab in a field 800 m southeast of Västerplana church. A fist-sized hole straight through the middle of the rock has inspired speculation that Högehall may have had an astronomical function like similar ancient sites abroad.



Husaby källa

HÖGKULLEN no. 13 on map

Kinneulle's highest peak, Högkullen, is covered by a 27 meter thick layer of diabase. Its highest point is 306 meters above sea level and 260 meters above the surface of Lake Vänern. The view tower is situated a short walk from the restaurant at Högkullen. It is open during the summer and offers a fantastic panorama of the area. Near the tower is a monument from the Second World War on the site where a plane filled with members of the Norwegian resistance crashed on Kinneulle.

HÖNSÄTER no. 14 on map

The first known owner of Hönsäter was Duke Erik, son of King Magnus Ladulås, who bought the manor in 1305. However, the most famous owner of Hönsäter was Harald Stake, a fearless warrior who was born in 1598 and fought in the Thirty Years' War. In 1667, he began building a new two-story main building of stone, most of which is still preserved. He died of an illness at Hönsäter in 1677 and is buried in Österplana old cemetery. Hönsäter has had several owners over the years. The manor house is currently a hotel.

KINNE-KLEVA

As early as the 1700s, there were lime kilns in Kinne-Kleva. During the Second World War, oil was extracted from alum shale, leaving open pit mines in the countryside. In one of these mines, Håkan Knutsson opened the Kinnekulle Ring speedway at Brattefors in 1969. Another is now a lake. Kleva was important in ancient times and is said once to have been a city.

KINNEKULLEBANAN

You can take a train to Kinnekulle, disembarking at Österäng, Forshem, Hällekis, Råbäck, Trolmen, Blomberg and Källby stations. This picturesque railway runs from Hallsberg to Herrljunga and on to Stockholm or Göteborg.

KINNEKULLE RING no. 15 on map

In 1969, the Kinnekulle Ring speedway was built by a private developer. It is built on the slag heaps left by shale oil production during the Second World War. That autumn, a track enabling year round ice driving was opened. Every year, Kinnekulle Ring hosts at least ten or so track races, demolition derbies and rallycross events as well as fairs, exhibitions, etc.

KOLLÄNGENS TINGSHUS no. 16 on map

Built in the late 1700s as a district court for Kinnefjärding hundred. It is a single-story stuccoed stone building with a mansard slate roof. The building was used as a courthouse until 1904, and has been successively restored. The court has two wooden residential buildings as wings, one of which was originally an inn. The other wing is presently a hostel.

KÄLLBY

This is the site of one of Sweden's largest foodstuffs plants, Gunnar Dafgård AB, founded in 1937 as a one-man business. The company now has some 1100 employees, and manufactures deep-frozen foods primarily for caterers. In 1993, Gunnar Dafgård was named Swedish Businessman of the Year by the business newspaper Dagens Industri. Källby is situated on Lake Vänern just outside



Liljestenar

Lidköping and is therefore a popular place to live for boating and shore enthusiasts.

KÄLLBY HALLAR no. 17 on map

The large northern stone is pagan and depicts a man with horns and feathers and a waistbelt – perhaps the Norse god Thor, with his strength-doubling belt. It is carved sandstone and was moved here by Magnus Gabriel de la Gardie in the 1600s. The other stone is Christian and has a large cross. The stones can be seen as a symbol of the 11th-century struggle between paganism and Christendom.

LASSES GROTTA no. 18 on map

Lasse of the Mountain's cave is one of Kinnekulle's oddest sights. It was home to Sweden's last cave-man – the hunter Lars Eriksson – a legend in his own lifetime. He lived here near Husaby with his wife Inga for almost 30 years. The people Lasse had provoked over the years eventually took their revenge on him, tearing down essentially the whole cave. It has since been renovated several times.

LILJESTENAR

There is some disagreement about what liljestenar are and where they came from. It was thought that they were special gravestones, but more recently it has been theorized that they may have been sacred art brought to Sweden by Vikings who converted

while serving in the Byzantine Empire in the 800s, since tree symbols and floral crosses are common in the east. Others believe they may have been made in Kinnekulle, since they are most common here. Several of these stone carvings can be seen at the church in Forshem.

LILLA BJURUM

This manor in Vättlösa near Götene dates from the mid-1700s. The house was built according to military residence plans and consisted of a one-story masonry structure. The paneled upper story is from the 1800s. The mansion is private, and is not open to the public.

LUNDSBRUNN

Lundsbrunn is a picturesque spa town dating from 1724, where people came to take the waters. In 1816, Count Gustaf Piper established a hospital and poorhouse – Piperska lasarettet – in memory of his deceased wife Jaquette. The austere neoclassical main building was built in 1817. The adjacent buildings house Lundsbrunns Konferens och Kurort, with a restaurant, conference facilities, over 300 beds and a complete spa. There is an 18 hole golf course nearby.

LUNDSBRUNN – RAILWAY TO SKARA

A steam locomotive and carriages from the heyday of narrow-gauge railways in the first half of the 20th century. In the summer, you can take the train from Skara to Lundsbrunn to the music of the rails and the evocative scent of coal smoke.

MARIEDALS SLOTT no. 19 on map

A grand country residence from the 1600s, built by the owner of Läckö castle, Magnus Gabriel de la Gardie, and a fine example of baroque architecture. In the early 1800s, Count Gustaf Piper and his wife Jaquette du Rietz lived here. She often visited the poor and sick in the area, which the Count is said to have disapproved of. When his young wife died of consumption, the Count was inconsolable. He had Jaquette embalmed and built a crypt for her at



Lundsbrunn

the house. Her body remained there until the Count died 40 years later. The mansion is private, and is not open to the public.

POSSESKA SKOLAN no. 20 on map

Not many children had the chance to learn to read and write in the early 1800s. The child-loving maid of honor Louise Posse of Hellekis was ahead of her time, though, and founded the Posseska school ten years before compulsory schooling was mandated by law. In 1950, the municipality of Kinnekulle donated the school to the local history museum society.

RUBENS MASKINHISTORISKA no. 21 on map

An extensive collection of old machinery, including steam engines and combustion engines of various kinds, working vehicles, veteran tractors and various roadmaking equipment. The machinery was manufactured between 1860 and 1950. Products relating to veteran tractors, engines and steam engines are sold here, including books, models, signs, etc.

RÅBÄCKS HAMN no. 22 on map

Lime was previously transported here by carriage via the old roadbed down to the harbor, where it shipped out on sloops. At the Råbäck lime pit, lime was burned from the mid-1800s until 1958. Among

other things, the lime was used to build some of Kinnekulle's churches. The Råbäck mechanical stoneworks was situated by the harbor.

RÅBÄCKS HERRGÅRD

Råbäck manor was first mentioned in writing in the early 1400s. The monks of Vadstena owned the manor. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the noble Stake family owned it and the main building gained its present appearance. For almost 50 years, Råbäck was the summer residence of the Silverschiöld family of Koberg. When it was time to move in for the summer, a whole caravan would come with the servants, scullery maids, etc. and a covered carriage with the family. The interior of the main building was rebuilt in the late 1800s, and a second story was added later. The mansion is private, and is not open to the public.

RÅBÄCKS MEKANISKA STENHUGGERI

no. 22 on map

This was the site of the old stoneworks of the 1800s with its stockpiles, three workers' housing buildings with outhouses and harbor. It began operation in the late 1930s and employed 15 men in the mid-1960s. The stoneworks was closed in 1970. Of the mechanical equipment, only the big frame saw remains in the new shop, while the old shop is well preserved, with four stonecutting machines, a sander, a stone crane, a smithy and a galley. Other memories of the stoneworking era include the harbor near Hällekis camping and the stoneworks with the tall chimney at Gössäter.

SIGRID STORRÅDA no. 23 on map

The Viking ship Sigrid Storråda is a replica of the Norwegian Gokstad ship from the 900s. According to legend, Sigrid Storråda was a rich and powerful woman, the mother of Olof Skötkonung. The ship is 24 meters long and the stem is decorated with a gilt dragon head designed by artist Martin Hansson of Husaby after a picture on a rune stone in Husaby.





Stora stenbrottet

STORA STENBROTTET no. 24 on map

In this quarry, you can see a 40 meter exposure of Kinnekulle's thick layer of orthoceratite limestone, with its 400 million year old fossils. The redstone at the bottom was quarried for cement production and lime burning. The other layers are greywacke or soapstone, the upper ones redstone or liver-colored stone. These were primarily used as construction materials. Most of the stone in the quarry was used for cement production between 1892 and 1979. The quarry has been restored, and there are gamefish in the artificial pond. Plans exist to build an amphitheater in the quarry.

TREDINGSTENARNA no. 25 on map

According to legend, there was a large Viking settlement at Medelplana approximately where the manse is today. It is believed that the people who lived there are buried in the grave field by the stones known as Tredingsstenarna. The largest of the three stones, which are also known as Tvärdörns Hallar, is said to be Lage Posse's gravestone, the second-largest Anna Posse's. The engraving on the third stone has worn away. In the 1800s you could read on the stone that it was King Sverker's – possibly Sverker the elder, who was killed in 1156.

TROLMEN

With a corps-de-logi in the 18th century style, Trolmen was built in about 1930 by Fredrik Wethje, then managing director of Rörstrands china factory in Lidköping. The name Throllmen is first mentioned in writing in 1566, and the Stake owned the manor for some 200 years. The mansion is private, and is not open to the public.

UTSIKTSTORNET – (view tower) see Högekullen.

ÅRNÄS no. 1 on map

In the early 1800s, the owner of Årnäs was granted permission to build a glassworks there. A factory town began to grow around it. It didn't really pick up steam until the 1840s, when a new owner took over and began making bottle glass. In the 1940s, window glass was briefly produced here. In the 1960s, the glassworks was replaced by other types of production, including the manufacture of steel springs. Årnäs' genuine mill environment is largely preserved. Plans exist to turn the old managing director's residence and the former restaurant into a museum. The current main building of Årnäs manor was built in the late 1700s. The mansion is private, and is not open to the public.

Churches in the municipality

BROBY KAPELL no. 32 on map

Originally a medieval church, it was later partially razed and converted to a school. Following restoration in 1930, Broby was reconsecrated as a chapel.

FORSHEMS KYRKA no. 33 on map

A classic 12th century church. The church has been rebuilt several times, gaining its cruciform shape in the mid-1700s. The author Jan Guillou drew inspiration for his novels about Arn the crusader here.

FULLÖSA KYRKA no. 34 on map

Originally from the 1100s, the current church was built in the 1200s, and the murals date from the



Husaby kyrka

late 1600s. The interior is in the Caroline style, with prominent stag motifs in the paintings.

GÖTENE KYRKA no. 35 on map

A steepleless church with paintings from the late Middle Ages. Unusual baptismal font from the 1100s, altar-screen from the 1500s. Götene kyrka is one of the oldest churches with its original exterior. According to tradition, Saint Helena's severed finger is kept here in a silver box. She is the church's patron saint.

HANGELÖSA KYRKA no. 36 on map

A 19th century church with an unusual baptismal font. Much of the inventory comes from an earlier church from the 12th century.

HOLMESTAD KYRKA no. 37 on map

This church, built in 1874, has an octagonal floor plan with a 50 m western tower of the type created by palace architect Emil Langlet. The church was built on the former gallows hill.

HUSABY KYRKA no. 38 on map

After Olof Skötkonung was baptized, according to tradition, in the spring at Husaby and Christendom arrived, Sweden's first cathedral was built in the first Swedish diocese. Husaby church's oldest and most unusual section is the grand tower in the west,

consisting of a large square tower bookended by two semicircular stair-turrets, built in the 1000s. The church has many interesting furnishings, including the “bishop’s chair”, one of Sweden’s oldest pieces of furniture, and a superb baptismal font.

HÖNSÄTERS KAPELL no. 39 on map

Hönsäter chapel was built as a funeral chapel in the early 1900s. It houses Harald Stake’s funeral hatchment, typical of its period and taken from old Österplana church.

KESTAD KYRKA no. 40 on map

This medieval church was threatened with demolition but was saved at the last minute. It has a crucifix with Mary and John at the right and left hand of Jesus in the triumphal arch in front of the altar – unique in western Sweden.

KINNE-KLEVA KYRKA no. 41 on map

Romanesque church dating from 1870 and built of sandstone. Several interesting medieval artifacts have been preserved from the old church towers that the Kinne-Kleva church replaced. Among them are a 12th century Madonna and an early 15th century pieta.

KINNE-VEDUMS KYRKA no. 42 on map

One of Sweden’s best preserved 12th century churches; the work of the master mason Othelric. There are several liljestenar in the churchyard, the typical carved stones of the area.

KÄLLBY KYRKA no. 43 on map

The current church’s tower and porch remain from the original church. The church’s oldest furnishing is its 12th century baptismal font. Magnus Gabriel de la Gardie donated an altarpiece among other things.

MEDELPLANA KYRKA no. 45 on map

The first stone church was built here ca. 1150. The church took on its present appearance when it was rebuilt in 1824. When Danish raiders swept through



Kinne-Vedums kyrka

in the 1600s, the vicar of Medelplana grew anxious and buried his silver (and probably the church's, too). He died without revealing where he had hidden the treasure. According to legend, the shadow of the church tower points to the treasure trove at a particular time on a particular date. Of course, it is also possible that the silver has been found and melted down, or that it never existed in the first place ...

OVA KYRKA no. 46 on map

Most of the nave of the medieval church has been preserved. Several nicely carved *liljestenar* that were previously in the church's floor are now displayed in the porch, and several more stones can be found outside, leaning against the north wall of the church. In 1668, the church was repaired on the initiative of Magnus Gabriel de la Gardie.

SKEBY KYRKA no. 47 on map

Beautiful wooden ceiling from the 1700s. The 12th century baptismal font is one of the finest in Västergötland.

SKÄLVUMS KYRKA no. 48 on map

From an art historical standpoint, this is one of the most unusual churches in the diocese of Skara. It is built of carved sandstone in Romanesque style



Västerplana kyrka



Österplana kyrka

and dates from 1136. Carved above the entrance is the legend “Othelric made me,” indicating that the church was built by a Westphalian master builder.

VÄSTERPLANA KYRKA no. 49 on map

Limestone church built in the 1100s. The older east–west space was changed to a north–south orientation in the early 1700s by adding wings to make the church cruciform. The church is home to one of the finest baptismal fonts in the diocese and a famous 13th century wooden sculpture of Mary. Saved from demolition at the last minute.

VÄTTLÖSA KYRKA no. 50 on map

Draws its architectural inspiration from England. The altar is partly original with a reliquary niche. The crypt was built near the close of the Middle Ages, and the current Art Nouveau-inspired stencils were added in 1910.

ÖSTERPLANA KYRKA no. 51 on map

A typical 19th century cathedral-style church from 1875. In the old cemetery by a nearby curve in the road, the foundation walls of old Österplana church still remain. A medieval baptismal font and several memorial stones and *liljestenar* (carved stones) were moved from it to the new church. The church bells were donated by General Harald Stake of Hönsäter in the 1600s. He is buried in the old cemetery. The pulpit, the retable and all of the Stake family funeral hatchments from the demolished chapel are now in Hönsäter chapel.

Hiking trails, suggestions for walks, and nature reserves

Walks

Blombergs walk

Take the train to the Blomberg station and follow the road to Blomberg harbor. Continue north to the Blomberg swimming area and further north along the shore. Walk past the residential district and up the escarpment to the east. Connect here to the Kinnekulle hiking trail and follow it south and back to the Blomberg station. Ca. 4 km [2.4 miles] on easy terrain. Uphill at the sandstone escarpment.

Råbäck – Hällekis

Take the train to the Råbäck station. Follow the Kinnekulle hiking trail from the station through the upper section of Munkängarna meadows and past the Hellekis säteri [manor] and the Hellekis harbor. Continue on the public road along Vänerstranden beach to the town of Hällekis and take the train back. Ca. 7.5 km [4.6 miles] on easy terrain.

Kinnekulleknallen

Every year, on the Friday after Ascension, the National Association for the Promotion of Outdoor Life organizes an evening hike on Kinnekulle. Over the years, the hike has become a highly anticipated and well-attended event, attracting thousands of participants. The hike begins at Hällekis via Högkullen and the Great Limestone Quarry [Stora kalkstensbrottet] and returns to Hällekis. Ca. 10 km [6.2 miles] on relatively easy terrain.





Kinneulle

Hiking trails

Bratteforsfallet waterfall

Along the Medelplana – Österplana road, turn off toward Örnekulla. Drive until the road ends and park in the little parking lot at Nyängen. Walk through the gate and follow the path southward to the Bratteforsfallet. The waterfall is particularly impressive in the spring, when the snow is melting. This spot also offers a fine view across the plains to the east. Ca. 1 km [0.6 mile] from the parking lot on easy terrain. Look for the blue wooden posts.

Forshems gammelskog

A bishopric reserve known as Forshems gammelskog is located at the intersection of the road to Hällekis, Forshem and Gössäter. You can walk the pilgrim path alone or with a guide. The path is laid out like a contemporary rosary, with a number of beads that symbolize the path through life. Visitors can pick up a plasticized map, which describes the meaning of the beads, at the parish register's office or at Forshems kyrka [church]. Ca. 2 km [1.2 miles] on easy terrain.


Höggullen

With the restaurant on Höggullen as a starting point, whet your appetite by taking a comfortable hike that passes by the lookout tower. Either take the stairs



Kinneulle





above the ski slope or turn off immediately to the left, behind the restaurant. You can choose between two different walks at the top. Walk to the lookout tower and continue south along the precipice. Pass the military installations, a Boy Scout hut, and Salen meadow, and return to the restaurant. Ca. 3 km [1.8 miles] on a medium-difficult terrain (a steep downhill slope and two steep uphill slopes). Look for the yellow posts. You can also take a shorter hike on the plateau by keeping to the left at the military installations and going back to the restaurant. Ca. 2 km [1.2 miles] on easy terrain. Look for the blue posts. With its many options for cross-country and downhill skiing, Högkullen is a popular winter destination as well.

Kinneulle hiking trail

This 45 kilometer [27.9 mile] long hiking trail on Kinneulle takes about two days to complete. The path, which offers a lot of variety, goes along both the west and east sides of Kinneulle. Shelters for overnight stays are available in a few locations. The route is marked with orange posts. A trail folder containing a map and other information on sights along the way is available

Pilgrim trail

This trail goes between Husaby and Forshem's churches, through a nature reserve, along small byways and old railroad embankments, and through pastures. It is marked with a pilgrim symbol, which links trails through Sweden and Norway toward Nidaros (Trondheim). Informational material about the trail is in production. Ca. 15 km [9.3 miles] on easy terrain. Labeled with the pilgrim symbol.

Hiking trail along the banks of the Sjøråsån

You can hike along the banks of the Sjøråsån River in Hällekis on a marked trail. Begin your hike at the Falkängen hostel. Walk along the lake, pass the small boat harbor and the mouth of the Sjøråsån, and continue along the river, over a bridge, and then along the old railroad embankment back to the hostel. Along the trail, there are opportunities for detours to Madberget (grill available) and the bird tower at the sewage treatment plant, which offers a superb view across Sjøråsviken Bay.

Nature reserves

Martorpsfallen no. 52 on map

In the spring, the water gushes over the edge of the limestone escarpment, which marks the level of the ocean thousands of years ago, near the end of the Ice Age. The waves that beat against the limestone created its shape; where the stone was a little more pliant, the water hollowed out small grottoes and formed limestone pillars. The remains of a mill, described by Carl von Linné in 1746, as well as a dam above the escarpment, are located here. However, some references to the waterfall date back to the 15th century.

Munkängarna no. 53 on map

This big scenic area is home to almost all of Sweden's hardwood trees. The area is covered with a layer of alum shale, the most fertile of Kinnekulle's rock species. During the 15th century, Munkängarna was owned by Vadstena Abbey, which probably explains its name ("munk" is the Swedish word for "monk"). Munkängarna was designed in the 18th century along the lines of the English park ideal, with winding paths, beautiful views, small picturesque buildings, such as the Emilie Högqvist pavilion, and a variety of open and dense sections for vegetation. Every year, on Ascension, Munkängarna is the site of an early morning, open-air worship service. An experience on several levels ...

Stora Salen no. 54 on map

Salen, an open hay field, with rich flora and a superb view, is located on Högkullen, ca.1 km [0.6 mile] southwest of the lookout tower. The meadow in Salen was previously part of a farm located on the hillside. Every year, the municipality mows the field, and during the summer, sheep also graze in the area. This is a favourite excursion destination both in the winter and summer. When the Kinnekulleknallen (evening hiking) goes around Kinnekulle in early summer, the hikers usually take a break at

Salen before continuing down to the Great Limestone Quarry. A sign at Högkullen indicates the best way to reach Stora Salen.

Västerplana storäng no. 55 on map

Västerplana storäng can be reached from a little parking area on the west side of the main road between Hjelmsäter and Blomberg. Look for an information sign in the parking area. This nature reserve lies on Kinnekulle's sandstone deposits closest to Lake Vänern. The area is a small remnant of the previously expansive meadowland on the hill's western side, which Carl von Linné described during his trip to Västra Götaland in 1746. Today the landscape is dominated by hardwood forests and oak groves. The northern part is a closed forest, while the southern part is used for grazing. Small creeks turn into waterfalls as they rush down the slope toward Lake Vänern. In the spring, before leafing, the ground is covered with white and gold wood anemones and birthwort. In early summer, the aroma of bear's garlic [*Allium ursinum*] permeates the entire area. In Västerplana storäng, the trained eye can see the traces of a long history of cultivation efforts in the form of clearing cairns and terraces. The oldest relicts are believed to date from the Early Bronze Age or Late Iron Age.

Österplana hed och vall no. 56 on map

Park at the quarry, located south of Österplana Church. The nature reserve is situated on Kinnekulle's limestone deposits. For a long time, a thin layer of soil and grazing animals have contributed to the creation of special conditions for vegetation. The predominant physical feature – bare limestone soil – is found in only a few places around the world, among them Kinnekulle, Öland, and Gotland. In the spring, the early purple orchid [*Orchis mascula*] grows abundantly around Österplana kyrka, transforming the heath into a brilliant magenta-purple color. Kalknarv [*Arenaria gothica*], a type of sandwort, exists in only two places on earth: here and on Gotland.

This is the right of public access in Sweden

The right of public access allows you to enjoy the fragrance of flowers, the singing birds and the peaceful silence of the forest. But! You are required to show care and consideration towards other people, animals, plants and wildlife. As a rule of thumb,

YOU MUST NOT DISTURB AND NOT DESTROY.

You will keep well on the right side of the law in Sweden by following these few, simple rules:

- You are, as a rule, permitted to walk across other people's land and sail on their water, to swim, provided you do not get too close to houses or walk over gardens, land under seed or crops.
- You are entitled to pick wild berries, mushrooms and wild flowers, provided they are not protected.
- You must not cut down trees or bushes, nor are you allowed to break branches of trees or strip bark.
- You are allowed to fish with hand tackle along the coast. You should inquire locally if a fishing license is required for inland lakes and streams.
- You are not allowed to light a fire if there is any risk of the fire spreading. Never light a fire on bare rocks, they will crack and split.
- Show consideration for animals and wildlife. Do not disturb nests and young
- You are not allowed to drive a car, a motorbike or moped off-road.
- And, of course, don't litter.

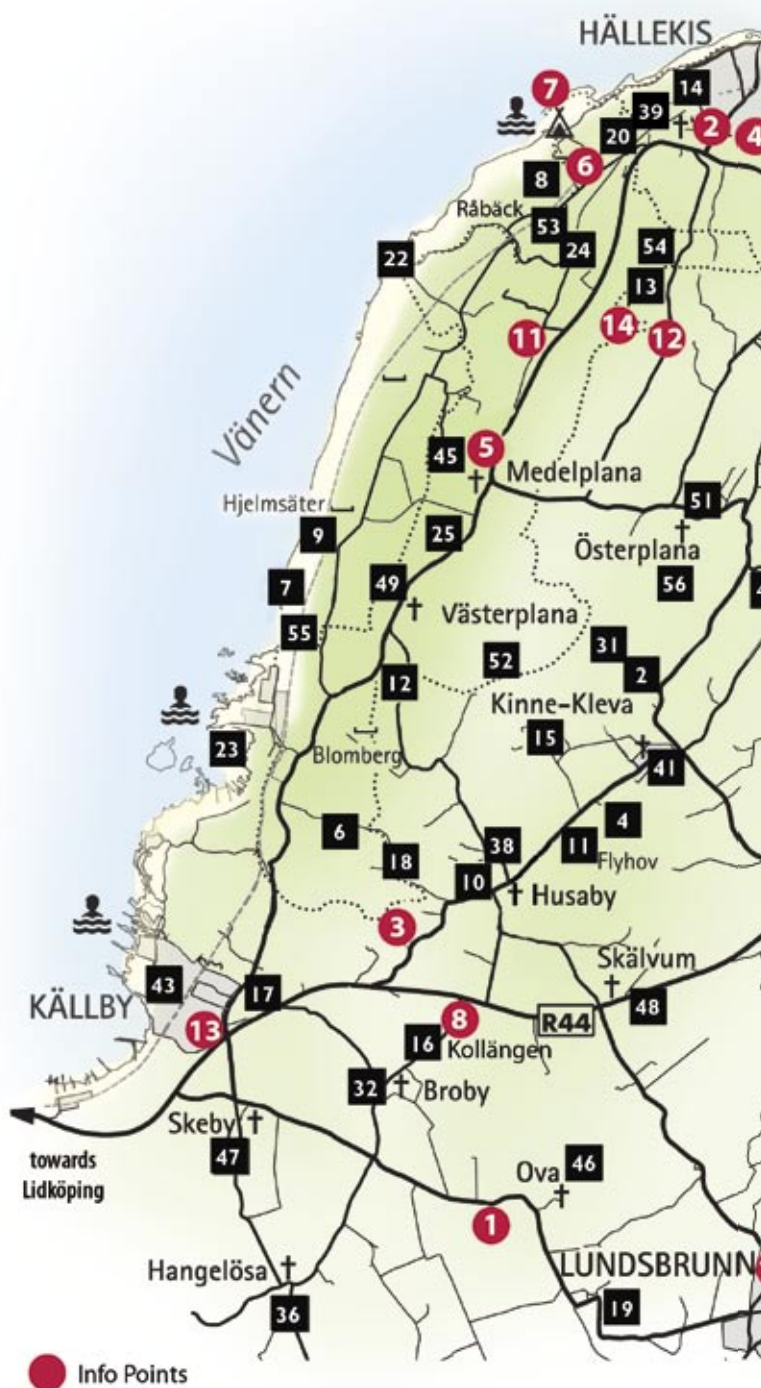


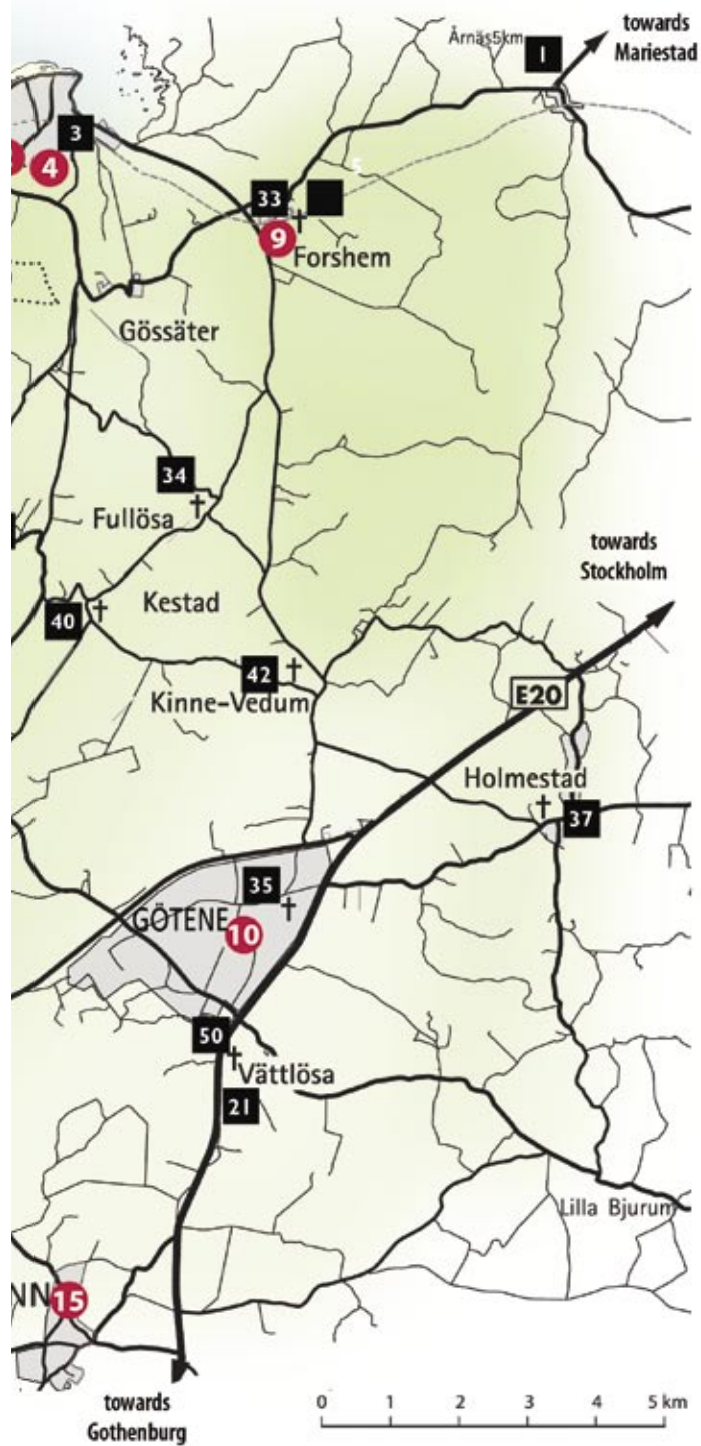
Special rules for national parks and nature reserves

There are special rules for these areas. There are notice-boards with information on the rules that apply at each location. Tourist bureaus can also supply information.

Here is the symbol for protected natural areas. It can be seen on notice-boards, along the boundaries of protected areas, and often on maps.







For more information about Kinnekulle and the surroundings:

Tourist Information in Lidköping

Stationshuset, Bangatan 3
531 32 Lidköping
Phone 0510-200 20
Fax 0510-271 91
E-mail: turist@lackokinnekulle.se

Götene kommun

Torggatan 4, 533 80 Götene
Phone 0511-38 60 00
Fax 0511-597 92

Info Points:

At Info Points, visitors to the Kinnekulle area can find information and maps. Staff are available to provide tips on outing destinations, current activities and services in the area. Some Info Points provide Internet access, enabling you to search for information on our website. Info Points have the same opening hours as the companies hosting them. If you would like information at other hours, visit our website at www.lackokinnekulle.se. To contact us by telephone, call the Tourist Office in Lidköping at 0510-200 20.

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Broby Struts | 9 | Kinnekulle församling |
| 2 | Coop Nära | 10 | Medborgarkontoret |
| 3 | Echsets Café
- Konsthantverk - B & B | 11 | Medelplanagården |
| 4 | Falkängen | 12 | Kinnekullebacken |
| 5 | Handens hus | 13 | Statoil Källby |
| 6 | Hellekis trädgårdscafé | 14 | Utsiktstornet |
| 7 | Kinnekulle camping | 15 | Lundsbrunns Kurort |
| 8 | Kollängens Tingshus | | |



Götene kommun