

Guide to

THE RONNEBY BRUNN AREA *and* THE HARDWOOD COAST



NATURE • CULTURE • EXCURSIONS

Introduction

We are all responsible for managing the countryside, our environment, with a long-term perspective, so that we can preserve its values for future generations. Here in Blekinge we have a special responsibility for safeguarding the unique coastal deciduous forests.

Since the 19th century, Brunnsparken and the surrounding forests have formed an important part of what we now call “Ronneby, the modern health resort”. Thanks to its well-preserved deciduous forest, Brunnsskogen is a top-class meeting place, which stimulates the senses and invites to active leisure activities, social encounters and tranquil recreation. For us, Brunnsskogen is a driving force for an attractive and growing Ronneby and something that all residents of the municipality can be proud of. Some years ago, the area became a nature reserve managed by Ronneby Municipality, and now it is also a pilot area for the Attractive Hardwoods project.

Being out in the countryside area, whether it is just a few hours in a park or a whole day’s walking on forest trails, makes us feel good, both physically and mentally. I therefore hope that this guide will inspire more people to go out and experience all that Blekinge’s nature has to offer.

Roger Fredriksson

Mayor, Ronneby Municipality



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The Hardwood Coast – beautiful and valuable deciduous forest by the sea!

Hardwood Coast

• BLEKINGE'S COASTAL DECIDUOUS FORESTS

Hardwood Coast – a concept to reflect on. Deciduous forest brings to mind something green, lush and calm. Coast on the other hand paints a picture of something blue, barren and windswept. In Blekinge, both come together. Here deciduous forests grow all the way down to the sea and on the islands in the archipelago. In principle, you can stand by an old oak tree whilst dipping your toes among fresh bladderwrack. Not only that. Some people argue that this is unique. In any case, there are not many places in Sweden where you can experience a hardwood coast such as here in Blekinge.

Deciduous forest all the way to the archipelago

The Hardwood Coast includes a long stretch of Blekinge's coast, from Pukavik in the west to Torhamn in the east. The core is located in the area between Ronneby and Karlskrona. It is one of few archipelago landscapes in the Baltic Sea characterised by deciduous forest. There is no other area in Sweden where both oak and beech forests grow so far out in the archipelago. There are also grazed oak pastures that reach all the way down to the sea. Typical for the Hardwood Coast is the Ronneby Brunn area and the green belt that continues to the south, via Ekenäs, out to Karön and other verdant archipelago islands.

Trees on the march

The Hardwood Coast is special in many ways. Here are large, contiguous areas of beech and oak forest. The forests have a long continuity, which means that the area has been forested for a long period. These are not, however, virgin forests that have been left untouched for hundreds of years.

The Hardwood Coast, Blekinge's coastal deciduous forests, contains landscapes and biological values of international, national and regional significance!

And in this context, the word “forest” refers to land that is more or less wooded. Large parts of what is today deciduous forest along the coast are old wooded and open grazing lands, or forest pastures. This is where the Blekinge farmers' cattle grazed in the summer, at a safe distance from fields and meadows. In pace with the rationalisation of agriculture in the 20th century, these so-called outland pastures disappeared one after another. The previously open landscape gradually became overgrown.

A trained eye can read the landscape and identify land that was once used for something other than what we today call forest. Former pastures, for example, often contain old and thick trees with wide crowns and coarse branches low down on the trunk. These trees are surrounded by younger trees of a similar age, which sprouted when the land was no longer grazed. Their age also reveals roughly when grazing stopped, often around 50 to 100 years ago.

The land may also have been used both as fields and meadows during other periods, as shown by stone walls, clearance cairns and pollarded trees. In glades and forest edges you can also find living cultural heritage by way of pasture plants such as common rock-rose, meadow saxifrage, Breckland thyme, oxeye daisy, cowslip and dropwort.

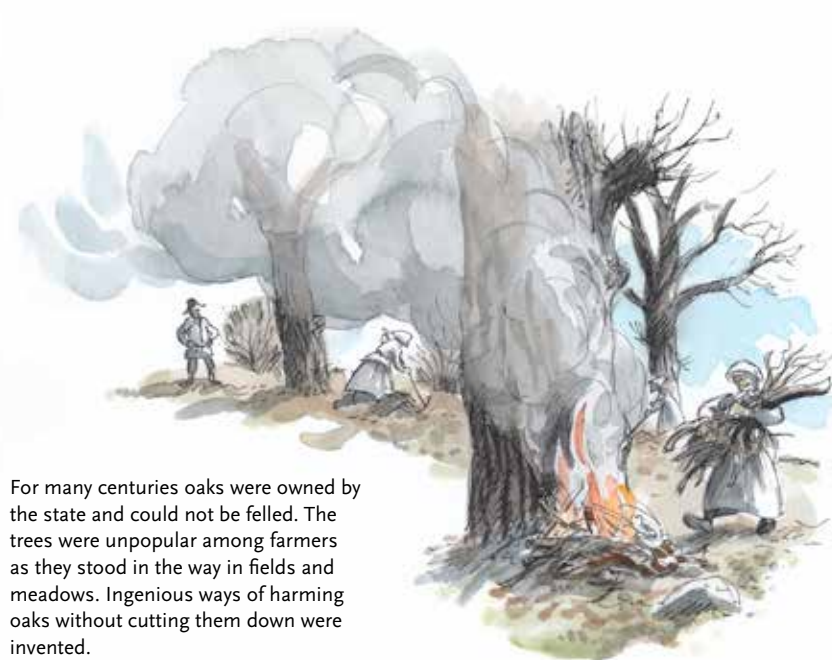


Typical for the Hardwood Coast is deciduous forest growing all the way down to the sea, as here in Biskopsmåla Nature Reserve.

The Ronneby Brunn area contains several examples of old pastures that are now forest. One is the sparse forest around Bålebro homestead in the western part of the park. Others are Rönninge backar and the golf course, where a rich light-loving grove flora remains.

Protected trees

The Hardwood Coast contains many fine specimens of old, thick deciduous trees. Why? For centuries it was forbidden for anyone except the aristocracy to cut down trees such as beech and oak. When protection ceased in 1830, many farmers felled their forests. On land belonging to the nobility, trees fared better. Here, majestic oaks and beeches were left as beautiful features in the park-like grounds. And there are plenty of estates and manors along the Blekinge coast! Examples of estates with many giant trees include the nature reserves Tromtö, Vambåsa hagmarker and Gö.



For many centuries oaks were owned by the state and could not be felled. The trees were unpopular among farmers as they stood in the way in fields and meadows. Ingenious ways of harming oaks without cutting them down were invented.

Diversity of the Hardwood Coast

The Hardwood Coast is an area rich in species. The favourable climate with mild winters and warm summers and autumns means that southern and heat-loving species of e.g. insects, lichens and fungi thrive here. The rich presence of old broadleaf trees also contributes to the diversity. The trees are highly coveted homes for beetles, birds, bats and many others.

Pleasant climate

“The sea air in the wonderful Blekinge archipelago is exceptionally mild and is well tolerated even by sensitive persons.” This was written in a publication about the health resort Ronneby Brunnspark in 1905. But not only people benefit from this climate! The mild, coastal weather creates unique conditions for a rich biological diversity. Even if there is little rain, humid air is brought in from the sea. The moisture is retained in the calm inner archipelago and the highly irregular coastline. The many forest edge environments and deciduous forests also contribute by reducing drying winds.

Varied natural environments

Along the Hardwood Coast, the forest changes character. The further out in the archipelago you go, the more barren it becomes. Forests growing on the islands lead a much tougher life than forests that grow protected on the mainland.

The amount of nutrients in the ground also decides which type of forest that will grow. Biologists differentiate between e.g. moor-type and meadow-type beech forest, where the latter grows in somewhat richer soil.

A further factor is the humidity of the soil. Some tree species thrive in damp soils, others do not. Compare, for example, an oak growing on windswept rocky ground with a thin layer of soil and a beech flourishing in a humus-rich valley. Both these trees live under very different conditions and will develop into a low-growing and weak oak and a tall and straight beech respectively!

Historic land use, such as felling for fuel and subsistence timber as well as cattle grazing, has also made its mark, resulting in fairly sparse forests.

The variety along the Hardwood Coast makes for a great diversity of species. Somewhat simplified, you could say that the more mosaic-like the landscape is, the more different types of habitats it offers. This holds true for the Hardwood Coast. It is especially exciting that there is room for so many rare species with very high demands on their living environments.

Different tree species

Blekinge's Hardwood Coast contains many different deciduous trees. When there is a variety of trees, more wood-living species can thrive, since some of these are strictly associated with particular trees. Specific to the Hardwood Coast is that there are forests where oak and beech grow together. This is unusual even internationally. These forests contain species linked to both oak and beech living side by side, which does not occur in many other places in Sweden. Such mixed forests therefore offer the conditions for greater diversity compared to forests consisting of just oak or beech. Forests with oak and beech also contain species that are normally strictly linked to one or the other tree. Here they can live on both, for instance the rare hermit beetle. Examples of other deciduous trees growing in the coastal forests are ash, small-leaved lime, hornbeam, alder, birch and rowan.

Continuity forest

An explanation for the diversity of the Hardwood Coast is that there are continuity forests. This can be an old forest, but also a younger forest where the continuity has been maintained thanks to some old remaining trees. To guarantee the survival of e.g. mosses and lichens that live on tree trunks, there must always be trees available. No trees, no homes! But it is not always sufficient with just trees; they must also grow in the right environment. Some tree-living species like patchy forests, where the sun reaches the trunks. Others prefer closed, shady forests with a high humidity. To make it even more complicated, some species will only accept old or dead trees as their homes!

The Swedish Forest Agency's definition of continuity forest: forest containing high nature value species whose occurrence is explained by the presence of suitable forest environments and substrates over a long time period in this particular forest or its vicinity.



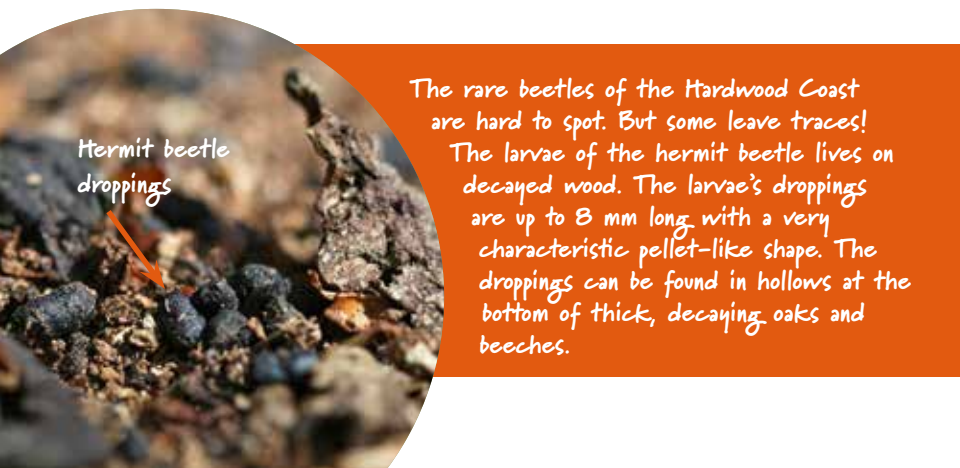
How many deciduous trees do you know? See how many different leaves you can find next time you go for a walk in a forest!

Gems on the Hardwood Coast

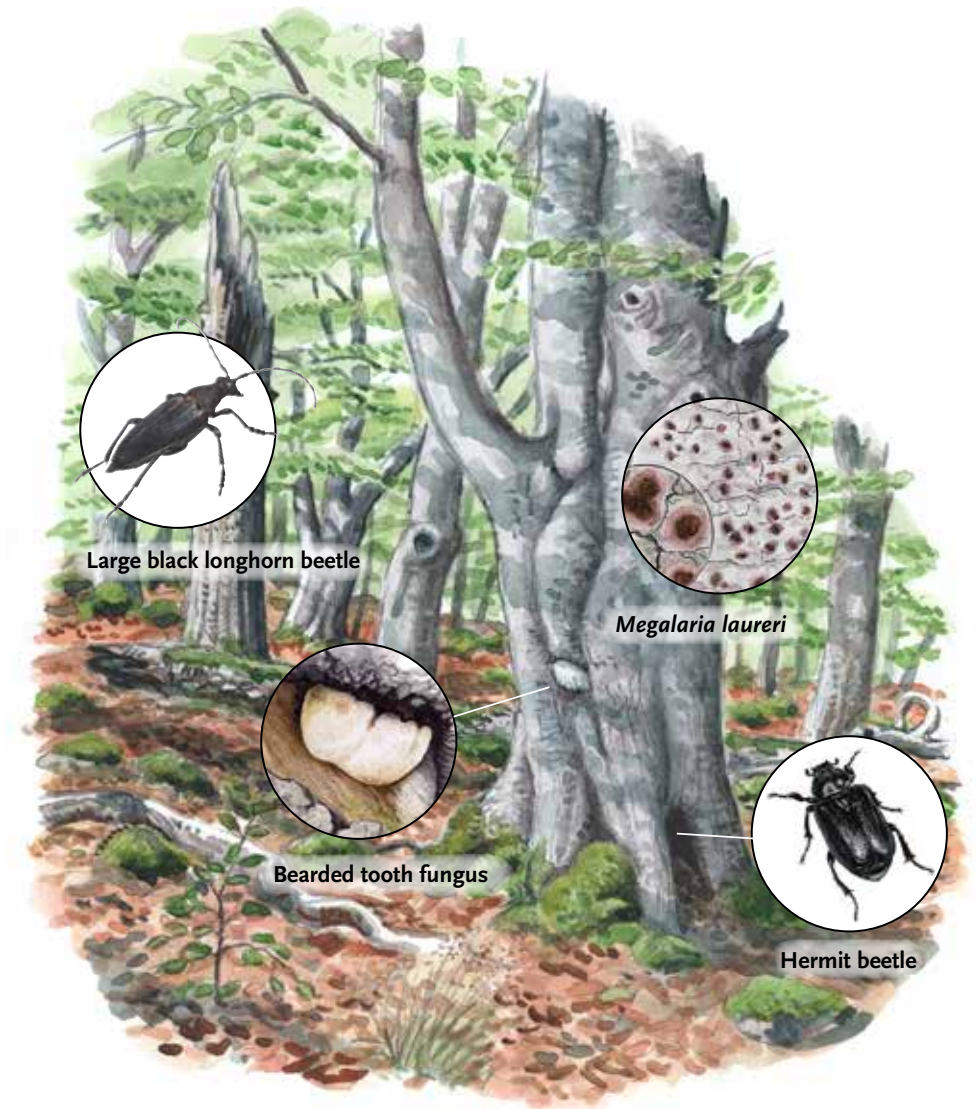
Do you want to visit a forest typical for the Blekinge coast? In the Ronneby area you find Gö Nature Reserve, with large trees and old deciduous forest affected by grazing. Brunnsskogen forest in **Ronneby Brunnsparck** Culture Reserve contains many old trees that have been spared, so that visitors can enjoy a “wild” countryside. Another example of coastal deciduous forest in the Ronneby area is the forest at **Fornanäs**.

Outside Karlshamn is **Stärnö-Boön** Nature Reserve, located on a promontory by the sea, with fine areas for walking through deciduous forests. To the west is **Eriksberg** Nature Reserve with one of Europe's largest wildlife parks. Here bison, deer and mouflon roam freely in leafy forests strongly affected by grazing, with few equivalents in Scandinavia. By the bay Järnaviksfjorden is **Järnavik** Nature Reserve, with dramatic precipices, pastures and deciduous forests growing all the way down to the water. A few kilometres to the south-east as the crow flies, is **Biskopsmåla** Nature Reserve, where oak, beech and hornbeam have grown into a natural forest.

If you head to the east from Ronneby we recommend a visit to **Vambåsa hagmarker**, a nature reserve containing an attractive manor house landscape with impressive giant oaks. A stone's throw to the east, is **Tromtö** Nature Reserve, a “textbook example” of the valuable oak and beech forests on the Hardwood Coast. A little bit further to the east is **Skärva** Nature Reserve, the essence of the Hardwood Coast – deciduous forests and pastures with old trees. And yes, it is also located by the sea!



The rare beetles of the Hardwood Coast are hard to spot. But some leave traces! The larvae of the hermit beetle lives on decayed wood. The larvae's droppings are up to 8 mm long with a very characteristic pellet-like shape. The droppings can be found in hollows at the bottom of thick, decaying oaks and beeches.



Among the finest areas along the Hardwood Coast are the Tromtö beech forests, which belong to Sweden's most valuable environments for wood-living insects. Here we find beetles with high demands on their habitats. One example is the large black longhorn beetle, whose larvae develop in dry, hard beechwood preferably in the top part of snags. The hermit beetle prefers decayed, hollow trees. It normally lives in oaks, but on Tromtö you find it also in beeches, something it has in common with several other species of click beetles. The old trees are also home to rare lichens and fungi.

Experience the deciduous forest

The Harwood Coast is not just a culture-historical and biologically interesting landscape. It is also a pleasant place to visit! The deciduous forests offer fine nature experiences all year round.

Exquisite spring

When in early spring walking through last year's rustling leaves you may spot the dainty liverleaf. From the tree crowns that are still bare you hear the persistent song of song thrushes, chaffinches, blue tits, great tits, treecreepers and nuthatches.



Lesser spotted woodpecker



Stock dove



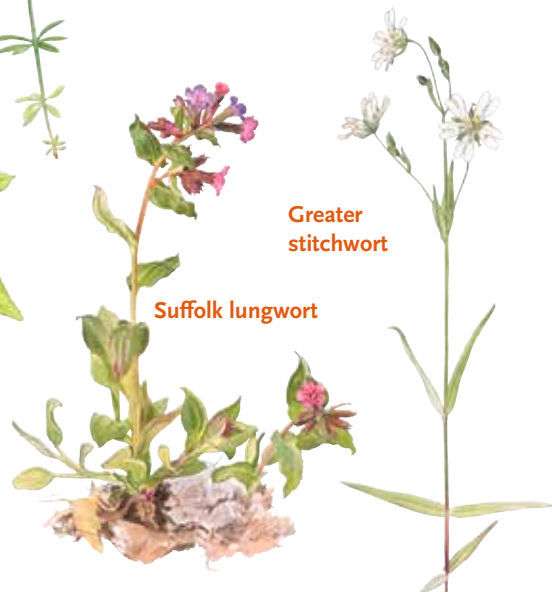
Woodruff



Dog's mercury



Coralroot



Greater stitchwort



Suffolk lungwort

Among the spring sounds in the forest are also the cooing of stock doves and the drumming of woodpeckers.

In late April, early May, it is high time for the deciduous trees to unfold their tender, intensely green leaves. Many people would argue that this is one of the most precious moments of the year, when the sun rays filter through the delicate foliage. And on the ground, a sea of wood anemones spreads out. By now, the bird chorus has been augmented by wood warblers, garden warblers, blackcaps, icterine warblers and many other small birds.

Lush summer

The closer we get to the summer months, the more the tree canopy closes and spreads a pleasant shade among the trunks. It is now that you may see plants that are typical of a more nutrient-rich deciduous forest, such as coralroot and woodruff. Not forgetting greater stitchwort, perhaps the main character species of the deciduous forest. Birdsong is coming to an end; after midsummer the forest becomes noticeably quiet.

Visit a deciduous forest in summer? A great idea! Here you find coolness and tranquillity, away from busy and barbecue-smelling beaches.

Beautiful views

Autumn is the most colourful season in the deciduous forest. The stunning palette of shades from yellow to red is at least as beautiful on foggy, grey days as in the glowing afternoon sunshine. Now it is high time for picking edible fungi; searching for funnel chanterelles and horn of plenty.

Quiet winter

In winter, large parts of nature go into hibernation. But don't exclude a visit to the forest, as there are small wonders to discover even then. A myriad of different lichens, visible with a loupe, grow on old and thick deciduous tree trunks. Nor do mosses take a "winter break", but shine green on rocks and stones. In late winter you may be lucky and hear the mating calls of owls at dusk!



Horn of plenty



Designated nature areas

• SPECIES-RICH, VALUABLE NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS

Valuable nature areas can be protected in different ways, through legislation and various agreements. In Ronneby Municipality, around 7 to 8 percent of the forest are protected. In addition to deciduous forests, oak pastures, species-rich meadows and pastures, as well as marine environments, enjoy protection.

Nature reserves

Nature reserves are created for the purpose of protecting, restoring or establishing valuable natural environments. In this way, biological diversity or species that are worthy of protection can be preserved. Both municipalities and county administrative boards may designate areas as nature reserves. See pages 30 to 32 for a description of **Södra Brunnskog** Nature Reserve.

Natura 2000

Natura 2000 is a network of protected areas across EU countries. The aim of the network is to preserve species and habitats that are especially worthy of protection from a European perspective. All EU countries must designate Natura 2000 sites. The idea is to stop the extinction of wild animals and plants and to hinder the destruction of their habitats. The Natura 2000 site **Ronneby Brunnskog** includes several valuable habitat types, such as nutrient-rich beech forests, nutrient-poor oak forests, and broadleaf forests of slopes. Species to be protected in the area are stag beetle *Lucanus cervus* and hermit beetle.

In Ronneby, valuable nature areas are rarely far away. Look on the map!

Habitat protection areas

Small areas of land and water in Sweden can be preserved as habitat protection areas. These are areas that provide valuable living environments for endangered animal and plant species. The biotopes are also important for more common species and contribute to a varied landscape. You find habitat protection areas in e.g. **Fornanäs** and **Angelskog**. The protection is indefinite.

Nature conservation agreements

A nature conservation agreement is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and a county administrative board, municipality or the Swedish Forest Agency. The landowner decides the duration of the contract, but the span must not exceed 50 years. The purpose of nature conservation agreements is to develop and preserve existing natural assets. **Angelskog** is an example of an area with a nature conservation agreement.

Survey of semi-natural meadows and pastures

In 2002 to 2004, an inventory was carried out of Sweden's most valuable semi-natural meadows and pastures, on the initiative of the Swedish Board of Agriculture. Areas with natural assets and valuable cultural environments have now been collected in a database called TUVÅ. **Lindö våtmark** and **Funkön** are examples of areas with valuable meadows and pastures.

Key biotopes

Key biotopes are areas of forest with very high natural values. Anything from a tree worthy of protection to entire forests can be classed as a key biotope. Key biotopes play a key role for near threatened and endangered animals and plants in the forest. The national inventory of key woodland habitats was started by the Swedish Forest Agency in 1993. The fact that an area is registered as a key biotope does not mean that it is protected. Key biotopes are found e.g. in **Angelskog**, **Fornanäs** and **Ronneby Brunnsskog**.



Key biotope in Ronneby Brunnspark Culture Reserve

From spa to culture reserve

• RONNEBY BRUNNSPARK

Ronneby Brunnspark has attracted people to Ronneby since the 18th century. And one of the largest health resorts in Sweden sprang up here in the 19th century. Initially people were drawn to the healthy spring water, and eventually various spa treatments were offered. The health resort era came to an end in 1939, although promenades, wooden buildings, spa hall and bathhouse remain. In 2003, the park and Brunnsskogen forest were designated as a culture reserve.

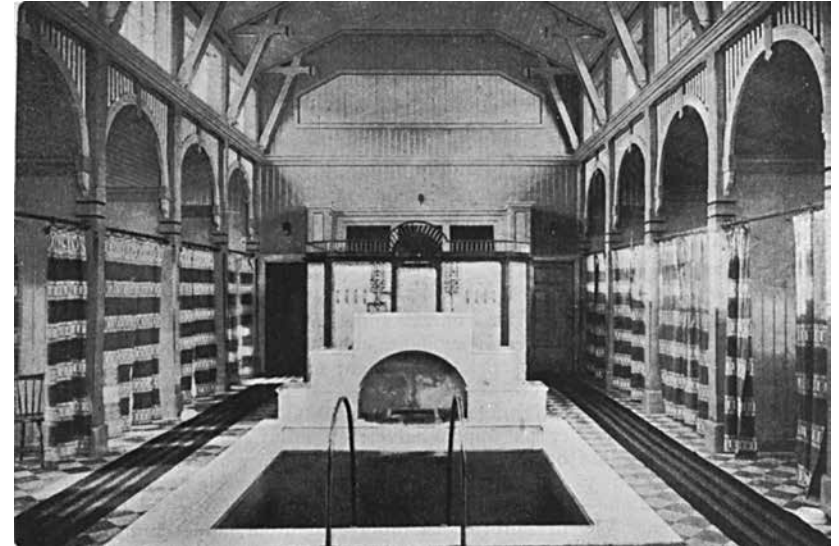
Healthy water

Ronneby Brunnspark has played a central role in Ronneby Municipality for several hundred years, and still does. It all started in 1705, when a spring with iron-rich water was discovered on the west bank of the Ronneby River, which led to the birth of the health resort. But it was not until in the late 19th century that the park enjoyed a boom. Beautiful wooden villas were built as well as restaurants and bathhouses. Major investments resulted in Ronneby becoming the most popular health resort in Sweden.

Salutary baths

Those who came to the resort for treatment were not only offered iron-rich spring water. Bathing was also prescribed. How about a curative bath in water containing strong iron salts, mud or herbs? An insight into the superintendent Oscar Neyber's statistics from 1872 show that 15,695 baths were taken during that year! That means around 170 baths per day. Today, hot baths and saunas are on offer in the resort's modern spa facility. As well as dizzying water shutles in the adventure pool. Bathing from sandy beaches and rocks remains the same!

You can
still taste
the water from
the hand pump
by the spring
Gamla källan.



The photo shows Kallvattenkuranstalten where in addition to cold baths, guests could enjoy special treatments such as electric light baths and saunas.



Exercise was an important ingredient of spa life. Swimming – either in Lake Trollsjön (photo) or in the sea – was one form, restorative walks another. You could also consult a professional sports physician in the building Gymnastiken, where naturum Blekinge is today.



In this photo from around 1910, guests are standing outside the spa hall Brunnshallen. They include women and men, old and young, rich and poor.

Popular health resort with many functions

During its glory days in the late 19th century, Ronneby Brunnspark could be compared to a large city hotel and a regional hospital under the same roof. Countesses and professors, maids and farmhands all came to partake in the famous spa treatments. Some visitors were worn out and ill and some just wanted rest and amusement. Around the turn of the century, Ronneby Brunn registered around 3,000 spa guests and was at the time the finest health resort in Sweden- and the only one that could compete with those in other European countries.

Close to nature ...

The closeness to sea and forest was a major reason for Brunnsparken becoming such a popular health resort. This is how Ronneby Brunn was described in a publication from 1905:

"The rich variety of wonderful natural scenery that the area around Ronneby Brunn has to offer is not least due to the proximity to the sea; in less than half an hour, you can reach the archipelago from the resort. A regular steamboat service is maintained to the largest island, Karön."

Karön became a part of the health resort in the 1870s. Spa guests came here by steamboat to walk and bathe in the open-air bathhouse. In addition, the island was a starting point for sailing trips by the spa visitors. Brunnsskogen forest was also incorporated into Ronneby Brunnspark in the 1870s. It is located to the west of the park. Old farm tracks were made into meandering promenades, taking visitors to lookout points and ancient monuments. The forest was a welcome addition to the well-kept park, since exercise was an important feature of the spa treatment.

... and culture

Another reason for Ronneby Brunn's popularity was its central location, as opposed to many other spa resorts in Sweden. Guests could stay in Ronneby and enjoy the range of entertainment by way of restaurants, theatre, and shops. They could also have a break from the sometimes monotonous spa life by taking the boat to the centre to visit the medieval church or admire the Silverförsen waterfall.



Café Skogshyddan was built in 1893, a stone's throw from the outlook mountain Östra Kumlet in Ronneby Brunnspark. The outdoor café was one of several destinations in the park. The café was probably demolished in 1939.

SWEDEN'S BEST KEPT SPA ENVIRONMENT – SOME HISTORICAL EVENTS

1705: The first spring opened on the bank of the Ronneby River.

1751: Spa hospital built by the spring.

1820: Spa hall, suitable for dances, colonnade hall, and a hospital for the poor was built.

1846: Brunnskällan (Gamla källan), the oldest building in the park, was constructed.

1865: Ronneby spa water sold at chemists'.

1870: Open-air bathhouse built on Karön.

1873: A major investment project started, and the Ronneby Brunn area was extended to include park and forest, wooden villas, restaurants and bathing house.

1897: The impressive Brunnshotell was ready, life at the spa resort was vibrant, and Ronneby became widely known for its healthy water and scenic environments.

1939: The last spa season; Ronneby changed into a tourist and holiday resort.

1959: Brunnshotellet, the largest wooden building in Europe at the time, burned down and was replaced by a modern hotel in 1961.

1969: Swedish Diving Cup held at Ronneby Brunn and around 30 years onwards.

1977: Naturum Blekinge opened in Villa Vera.

1985–1987: The park was restored by professor Sven-Ingvar Andersson.

2003: Brunnsparken and Brunnsskogen were declared a culture reserve.

2005: The 300th anniversary of the health resort. Brunnsparken was designated Sweden's most beautiful park.

2006: Naturum moves to the building Gymnastiken.

2010: Södra Brunnsskog Nature Reserve, comprising 157 hectares, was inaugurated. The adventure water park Ronneby Brunnbad opened.

2018: Crown Princess Victoria carried out a Blekinge Province Walk.



Brunnshallarna



Villa Vera



Direktörsvillan



Gamla källan



Italienska villan

The villas in Ronneby Brunnspark are well worth a visit! In the 1980s, the houses were carefully restored and since 1996, the park together with 17 properties enjoy protection as notable buildings. Today they have different uses, for example youth hostel, cafés, shops and offices. *Read more about the buildings on Ronneby Municipality's website (www.ronneby.se).*



Valuable beech forest in Ronneby Brunnsspark Culture Reserve

Brunnsskogen – The wild part of the reserve

Long appreciated

“The roads are excellent, and the forest air is sweet. Wherever you walk in this extensive area you find comfortable resting places, whether you seek them by the shore of the small lake, deep in the forest beneath the leafy crowns of the trees, or where wide views across land and sea open up; and across everything lies an atmosphere of stillness and quietude which makes Brunnsskogen into the most pleasant haven, while at the same time offering invaluable curative properties.”

The above text is found in a publication from 1905, but the description fits just as well today. Brunnsskogen is, and always has been, a highly valued part of the spa environment, for its beautiful landscape and many attractions along the well-ordered promenades. Today, Brunnsskogen is also recognised for its rich flora and fauna.

From outland to park

Brunnsskogen extends across the ridge to the west of the open grass areas of the formal park. Before the land was bought by the health resort in 1873, it belonged to Carlstorp farm located along the Ronneby River, just north of the spring. In summer, the farm cattle grazed on hills and forested slopes.

The old grazing forest was sparse. When Brunnsskogen was incorporated into the health resort, grazing stopped. However, the forest has been managed so that its light and patchy character has been partly kept. Large and particularly beautiful trees along the promenades have been carefully maintained within the framework for the park's management and have been allowed to develop into mature trees with wide crowns. Brushwood and young trees have been cleared for aesthetic reasons. Firewood was taken from the forest far into the 20th century, which for a long time hindered encroachment.

Blekinge's first culture reserve

Brunnsskogen's old beeches, oaks and pines were the main reason for incorporating the area into the EU network of particularly valuable sites, Natura 2000, in 2003. In the same year, Ronneby Brunnspark was declared Blekinge's first culture reserve by the county administrative board. Today, the old forests are maintained not only because of their beauty and significant cultural and historical value, but also in order to preserve the diversity of plants and animals.

Species-rich deciduous forest

Many people associate Brunnsskogen with beech forest. In spring, the ground between the trees is covered in coralroot, dog's mercury, woodruff and wood anemone. This is also when birdlife is at its peak. You have the chance of encountering all of Blekinge's four woodpecker species.

Several of the very rarest species in the area are linked to the oldest beeches. Other species depend on the many thick snags and fallen trunks for their survival. The centuries-old oaks in the area are just as valuable. The most valuable deciduous forest environments in Brunnsskogen have been classed as key biotopes. Together, they represent around 20 percent of the entire culture reserve.

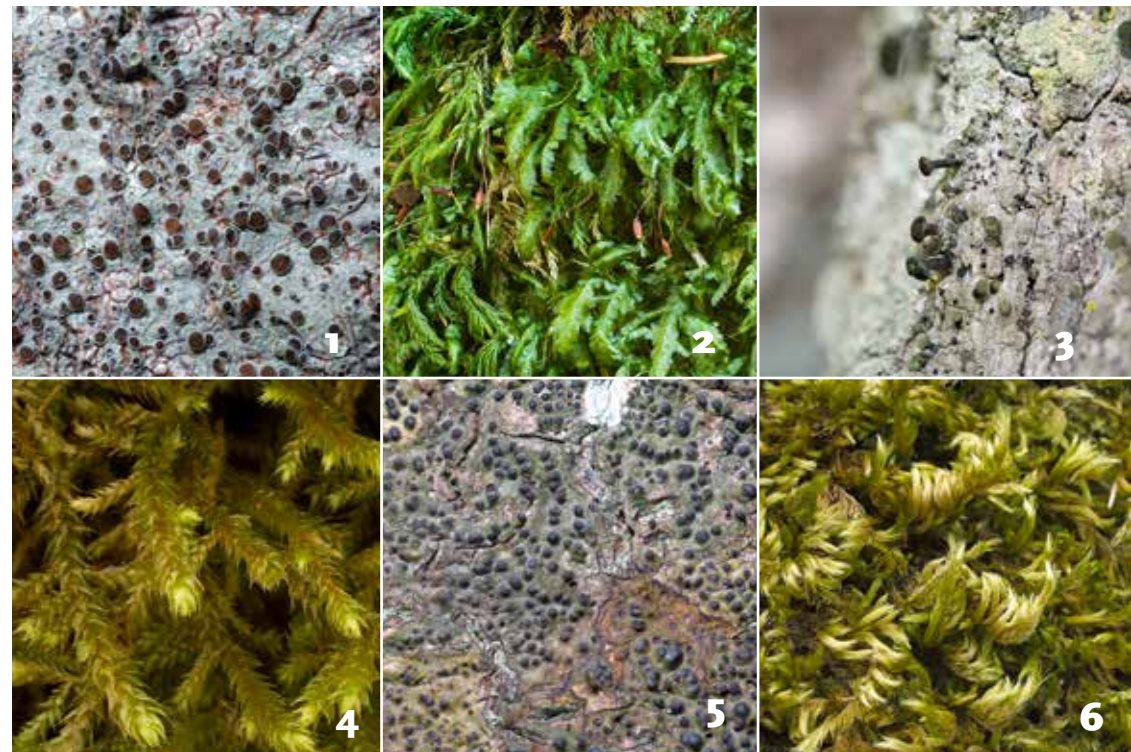
The key biotopes with their ancient trees and decaying wood are home to a wide range of fussy beetles, lichens, mosses and fungi. You need to be a species expert to find many of them. But some are a little easier to recognise, at least if you know what you are looking for and have a loupe!

Examples of mosses and lichens that you can find in the key biotopes:

1. *Lecanora glabrata* lichen
2. *Homalia* moss
3. Spiral-spored guillemot-head pin lichen
4. *Antitrichia* moss
5. *Pyrenula nitida* lichen
6. Silky wall feather moss



Map of the key biotopes (yellow lines) in Ronneby Brunnspark Culture Reserve



Yew forest

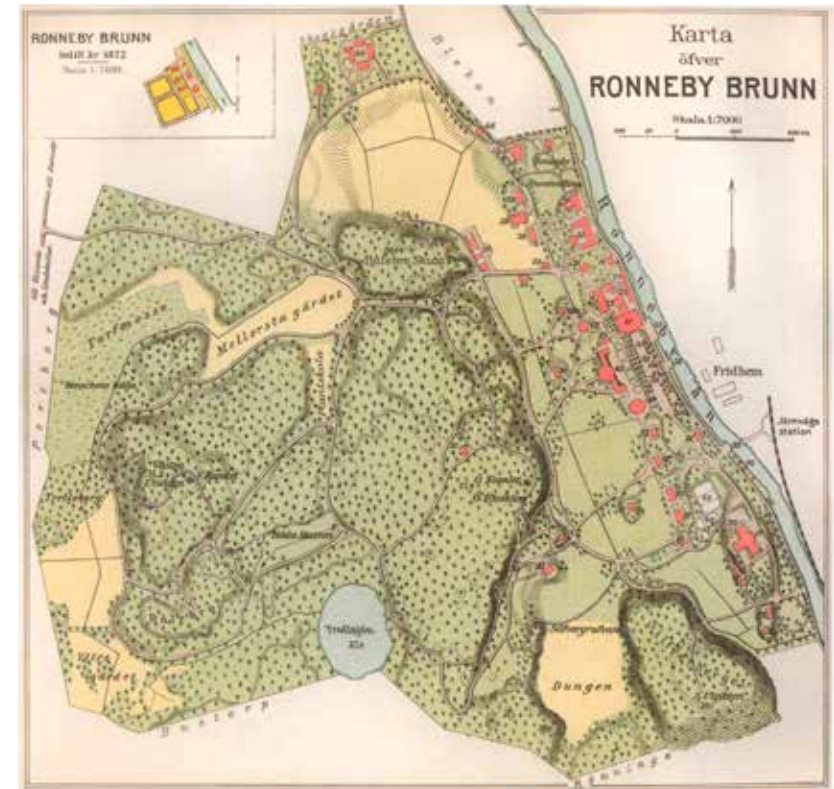
Brunnsskogen also contains an unusually large collection of protected yew trees. As early as 1873, it was noted that yew occurred naturally in the area where the yew forest grows today. On your way to the forest you see the occasional yew tree. But once there, a notably dark forest appears in contrast to the surrounding deciduous woodland. Remember that yews are toxic to humans, except for the flesh of the berries! Thrushes and other birds, however, like the berries and the poisonous seeds pass through their stomachs without harming them.

The main spread of yew within the park today, largely corresponds to the distribution in 1873. Ronneby Brunn's principal landscape architect during the heydays was Henry August Flindt. He especially marked out the area of yew trees during an inventory in 1872 to 1873. The yew forest probably fitted his park ideal, which was about sensuality and varied impressions along the walk.

Tread in the footsteps of spa guests

In 1874, just one year after the outlands were incorporated into the park, a system of paths had been created and marked on maps (see the map on the opposite page). Brunnsskogen was now a proper part of the health resort. The promenades followed the existing farm tracks in the Carlstorp outlands. The network of tracks and paths for walking has been preserved to this day.

Along the promenades are many exciting places to discover. A number of attractions in the culture reserve are described on pages 36 to 55.



The map from 1905 shows Ronneby Brunnspark and Brunnsskogen, the “wild” neighbour of the park. The forest was a valuable feature of the health resort, as it offered opportunities for longer walks in a scenic environment. The paths have largely been maintained until our time. We are literally treading in the footsteps of the former spa guests!



Yew



Rambling in wilderness

• SÖDRA BRUNNSSKOGEN NATURE RESERVE

Södra Brunnsskogen Nature Reserve is neighbour with the culture reserve and offers bilberry-rich coniferous forest, lichen-clad flat rocks and Labrador tea scented small mires. The hilly forest is criss-crossed by small trails that have been in use ever since the spa era. The marked “Yellow trail” meanders around the whole area, passing rest areas, ancient monuments and works of art. To the south are trails that guide visitors the short distance down to the sea and on to Karön – just as in the glory days of the spa era.

Varied countryside

The landscape in Södra Brunnsskogen is hilly and varied. Here are flat rock areas with old pines and gnarled, low-growing oaks. In between is spruce forest, often mixed with pine, oak and beech. Leafy oak and beech forests grow in the valleys around the golf course and the western outskirts of the reserve, with wide-crowned oaks along the edges. To the north-west you find the small wetland Fågelsjön and the open areas around Bålebro homestead. The golf course to the east is also located within the boundaries of the reserve.

Plants and animals

The nature reserve has an abundant flora and fauna, not least in the parts with deciduous forest. Rare lichens and fungi grow on the oaks, and in the rich soil between the hardwood trees you can find herbs such as liverleaf, moschatel, Solomon's-seal and woodruff. The area also has a rich birdlife and wetlands where agile frog spawns in early spring.

Traces from the past

The nature reserve lies on land that in the past belonged to Bustorp and Rönning. Cattle grazed in the forest well into the 20th century. The fact that the forest was a lot more open than it is today was most likely due to the harvesting of firewood and timber.

The valley by the golf course was once used as fields and hay meadows. Here you find the best-preserved traces of an older cultivated landscape within the Ronneby Brunn area. Open grounds are marked by grazing and contain significant elements of hornbeam, hazel and small-leaved lime as well as a rich flora. Between the trees are cairns, bearing witness to the farmers' toil with clearing stones from fields and meadows.

The whole area is criss-crossed by stone walls, which mark old boundaries between properties and types of land. Other visible historic traces are the croft Antonatorpet and prehistoric graves. Old stone steps and remnants of brick-built drink tables used during the spa era can also be seen in the forest.

Read more about the ancient remains in the reserve on page 36-39.

Getting around

The forest area south of Lake Trollsjön was appreciated already during the spa era for its untamed nature. There are several passages in the stone wall between the culture and nature reserves, which show that people have come here over a long period of time for walking and hiking. Today, the trails go criss-cross through the forest and are suitable for walking, running and cycling. You can enter the nature reserve from the culture reserve to the north and from the entrances by the golf course, Rustorp and Bustorp.

The nature reserve was established in 2010 by Ronneby Municipality, which also owns and manages the area.

You need to know

• RIGHT OF PUBLIC ACCESS AND PROTECTED AREAS

In Sweden, everyone has the right to roam freely in the countryside. We call it Allemansrätten (the Right of Public Access). It is a unique privilege which means great freedom but also some obligations. We must not damage nature or wildlife and must show consideration for landowners and other people enjoying nature. In other words: Don't disturb – don't destroy. *Read more on www.naturligtvisblekinge.se.*

In protected areas, e.g. nature reserves, the Right of Public Access does not apply. Instead, there are special rules – regulations – which visitors need to consider. The regulations that apply to Södra Brunnsskogen Nature Reserve are posted on information boards on site. For example, you must keep your dogs on a leash, you may only cycle or ride on roads or marked trails, you may only grill in special barbecue areas, and it is not always permitted to camp. *The regulations for Ronneby Brunnspark Culture Reserve are available on the website of Blekinge County Administrative Board (www.lansstyrelsen.se/blekinge).*



Riding and cycling is permitted on marked trails in Ronneby Brunnspark and Södra Brunnsskogen. But show consideration for other people using the trails!

Welcome day and night, all year round!

• NATURE, CULTURE OR BOTH

On the following pages you can read about things to see and experience in Ronneby Brunnsparck Culture Reserve and Södra Brunnskog Nature Reserve. Attractions and places worth visiting are presented to give you an overview and help you find what you are looking for during your visit. Where can I eat my picnic, what can I see if I only take a short walk, where can I find places of historic interest? Carry on reading, and you will find the answers. The map on the next page shows the locations!

- 1 → 9** HISTORICAL REMAINS see pages 36–39 in the guide
- 10 → 15** REST AND BARBECUE AREAS see pages 40–43 in the guide
- 16 → 18** LOOKOUT MOUNTAINS see pages 44–45 in the guide
- 19 → 22** AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS see pages 46–49 in the guide
- 23 → 27** GARDENS IN THE PARK see pages 50–53 in the guide
- 28 → 36** SCULPTURES see pages 54–55 in the guide

P Parking	R Ancient remains	— Södra Brunnskog Nature Reserve
i Information	Café	— Ronneby Brunnsparck Culture Reserve
WC WC	Restaurant	○ ○ ○ Squirrel trail 1.3 km
Bird tower	Golf course	● ● ● Illuminated track 2.5 km
Rest area	Bathing	● ● ● Lake Trollsjön Trail 2 km (unmarked)
Barbecue area	Football	● ● ● Yellow trail 5 km
Lookout tower	Caravan parking	● ● ● Pram trail 3.5 km (unmarked)
		● ● ● Blekingeleden Trail
		● ● ● Other trails

RONNEBY BRUNNSPARK and SÖDRA BRUNNSSKOGEN





Mouth of Silvergrottan cave

What were our ancestors up to?

• HISTORICAL REMAINS AND LANDSCAPES

1 HILL FORT

The Ronneby River was a major transport route in pre-historic times; like today's E22 motorway. The people of Ronneby had to monitor the fairway against unauthorised upstream passages. This was done from the fort on Silverberget. Only low stone

walls along the northern side and the southern slopes of the mountain remain. To the east and west, the rock drops steeply, and no protective walls were needed. Archaeologists estimate that the hill fort is from the late Iron Age (400 BC-1050 AD).

2 SILVERGROTTAN CAVE

In the early 17th century, the burgher Elias Schlichting had great plans for mining in the Ronneby area. One initiative was to mine for silver at the foot of the mountain Halware berg, as Silverberget was called then. But after having blasted a bit

into the mountain something went wrong. Huge amounts of water spouted out and almost drowned parts of the district. That was the end of the silver dream. But the traces remain by way of Silvergrottan, the entrance to the mine.

3 ANTONATORPET CROFT

Antonatorpet is a croft located in Södra Brunnsskogen. Anton and his family lived here in the early 1900s. The stone foundations from the dwelling house and barn remain. Below the buildings, you can make out where the crofters grew their produce, as the land is still quite open.



Building foundation at Antonatorpet



Wooden fencing, hazel shrubbery and magnificent oaks – all this is found at Bålebro homestead.

4 BÅLEBRO HOMESTEAD

The 17th century Bålebro homestead was located here. The farm included a calf paddock, fields and meadows. Building ruins still remain. The old meadows and fields are now surrounded by beautiful

wooden fencing and are kept open by grazing animals. The ancient cultivated landscape with occasional trees and shrubs is not only of cultural and historical value, but also a feast for the eyes!

5 ÖSTRA KUMLET BURIAL CAIRN

On Uvberget you find a monumental burial cairn, measuring more than 20 metres in diameter. Sometime during the Bronze Age (1700–500 BC), local people decided that this was a great place to bury their dead. The idea was that the grave should be

visible from afar. Since the spa era, it is known as Östra Kumlet. In those days, it was a given attraction. Follow previous visitors to Brunnsparken – climb a mountain and admire the impressive grave that our ancestors built!

6 PAVILION AND CAFÉ

In the forest on Uvberget are seven standing stones. They are the only remains of a music pavilion that was here during the spa era. There was also a café called

Skogshyddan (forest hut). On page 21 in this guide, you can see a photo of well-dressed spa guests having refreshments beneath the pine trees.

7 VÄSTRA KUMLET BURIAL CAIRN

The other burial cairn in Brunnsparken, also on an elevation, is called Västra Kumlet. The view that Bronze Age people and visitors during the spa era enjoyed from the top is not the same as today. Forest

has grown around the cairn and surrounded it with greenery. But the grave itself is relatively free from vegetation and can be seen in all its splendour. You find the cairn by taking a short detour from the “Yellow trail”.

8 BURIAL CAIRN

The burial cairn in Södra Brunnsskogen is a little more secluded than those in Brunnsparken. But if you follow the small animal tracks to the east from the “Yellow trail”, you will find it. It is not quite

as magnificent as the cairns in Brunnsparken. But like the others, it is located on a plateau. Today, the forest obscures the view, but when it was constructed it was probably visible from far away.

9 STONE SETTING

To the west of the “Yellow trail”, is another type of grave, a stone setting. This is also built with stones, but is not as high as the cairns. The stone

setting is covered in a layer of grass and moss. Brushwood and saplings have been cleared away from the grave so that it will be easier to find!



Lake Trollsjön on a still summer evening

Best part of the outing?

• PICNIC AND BARBECUE AREAS

10 TROLLSJÖN

Isn't it lovely to sit and grill by a small lake? You can do that at Trollsjön! Take your after-dinner coffee on the jetty. This is a picnic place to return to, as the lake and its environs change according to the seasons. On a sunny winter's

day, with ice on the lake and snow on the ground, a fire is especially welcome. And during still summer evenings, you can sit on the jetty and look out over a mirror surface decorated with water lilies.

11 BÅLEBRO

The rest area at Bålebro homestead is beautifully framed. The small open site is surrounded by forested slopes, and from the picnic table you have views across the lovely grazing areas. Note that some of the trees in the

pasture have a special feature; the branches all start from the same place on the trunk. This is because they were pol-larded by Bålebro farmers in the past. Branches and leaves were dried as winter fodder for the animals.

12 ANTONATORPET

In the southernmost part of Södra Brunnssko-gen lived the crofter Anton and his family in the early 1900s. When you sit here and have a picnic, you look out over the stone founda-tions of his dwelling and barn. With some imagination, you can make out where the crofters' cultivated land was.



The rest area at Antonatorpet

13 REST AREA AT BÄCKAHÄSTEN

In the north-eastern part of Brunnsparken is a rest area with several tables. The area is located by the northernmost of the Spegeldammarna ponds. You can go out on the

jetties if you want to explore the water. You also find the horse sculpture Bäckahästen, one of the many works of art in Brunnsparken, by the stream that discharges into the ponds.

14 REST AND BARBECUE AREA BY THE PLAYGROUND

In the centre of the park by Villa Vera is a picnic and barbecue area. It is next to the playground – a super combination for families with

children! If you want magnificent rhododendrons as a backdrop, come when they flower in late May, early June!

15 BARBECUE AREA AT BUSSEMÅLA

By Bussemåla is a large barbecue area. Here you can sit in the lee and gaze into the flames. The barbecue site is a stone's throw from the

parking area. You can come here with people who are unable to walk long distances. For those with restless legs, the forest is close by!



Barbecue area at Bussemåla



Picnic in Brunnsparken.



Silverberget in winter

Three beautiful views

• LOOKOUT MOUNTAINS

16 SILVERBERGET MOUNTAIN

There are actually steps up to Silverberget. At least if you go up along the western side of the mountain. The steps were constructed in the late 1800s for the benefit of the spa guests. The lookout mountain was one of the spots

to visit along a walk recommended by the doctor at the health resort. So, follow the guests before you – walk up the mountain and enjoy the view. If someone really wants to climb, there are plenty of suitable trees at the top!

17 UVBERGET MOUNTAIN

Uvberget, or the Eastern Lookout, was also a popular excursion for the spa guests. Not just because of the Bronze Age burial cairn, but also for the fine views. Today, you can look out over Brunnsparken, and to the north you see Ronneby centre and the old

water tower. Why is it called Uvberget (eagle-owl mountain)? This is a recent name and comes from the fact that eagle-owl chicks reared in captivity have been released from the top in an attempt to boost the population of this vulnerable species.

18 BUSSEMÅLA PLATEAU

To the south of Södra Brunnsskogen is a lookout point offering views across the bay Busse Viken and the island Inre Stekön. You have to find your own way on unmarked paths and across the rocks. But have a go, it's worth it!



Lookout point at Bussemåla



Lake Trollsjön

Nature's own mirrors

• AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS

19 SPEGELDAMMARN PONDS

Spegeldammarna (mirror ponds) is a really suitable name for the small waters, arranged in a row, in Brunnsparken. When it is still, villas, trees and shrubs are reflected in the water. The ponds were constructed in the mid-1980s when the park was renovated. They are beautiful to

look at and provide havens for a variety of ducks, geese and swans. Mallards are the most common, but you can also see terns hunting for food, black-headed gulls and common gulls. If you are very lucky, you may also catch a glimpse of the turquoise-shimmering kingfisher.

20 LAKE TROLLSJÖN

Lake Trollsjön is Brunnsparken's own gem, an enchanted water edged with lush shore marshes. The small lake offers nature experiences all year round. In spring, you may see toads and grass snakes by the lake. In early summer, Labrador-tea flowers in the

wet ground, emitting its pleasant, aromatic scent. During still summer days, dragonflies hover above the white and pink water lilies. In autumn, resting birds may turn up on the lake. And in winter, the stillness of the small frozen forest lake cannot be surpassed!

21 FÅGELSJÖN WETLAND

In the north-western corner of Brunnsparken is a wetland with an open water surface. Here you can watch birds from a tower. Little grebe, tufted duck, black-headed gull and coot are among the species you may spot. Don't forget to bring binoculars; they make birdwatching more fun!



Spegeldammarna

22 RONNEBY RIVER

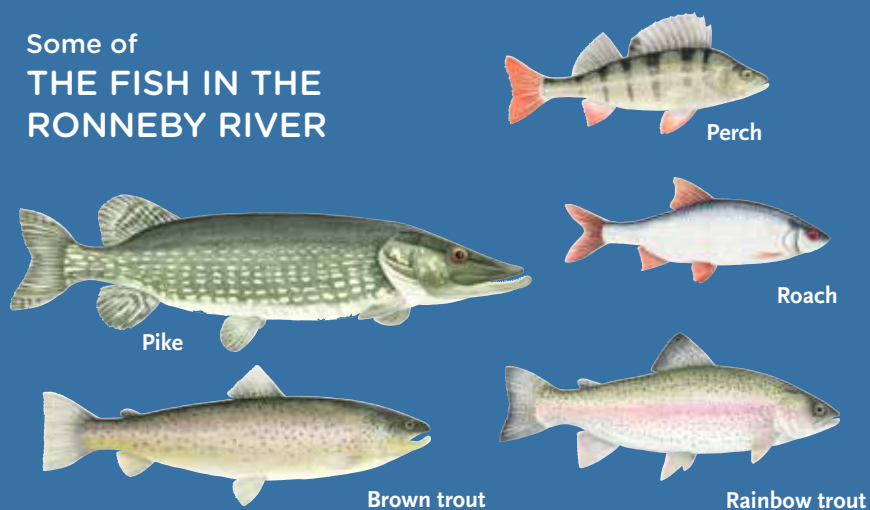
Without Ronneby River – no Ronneby. It's as simple as that. Ronneby River is the life-blood of the ancient merchant town. For centuries, the river was a central transport route, linking the sea to the district. During the spa era, the river was the entrance and frontage of the health resort, something

which certainly contributed to making it so popular. A walk along the riverbanks offers beautiful views with magnificent trees reflected in the glittering water. You can paddle a sea kayak from the harbour at the mouth of the river all the way to the town centre and market square!



Ronneby River in a wintry landscape

Some of THE FISH IN THE RONNEBY RIVER



Grey heron



Purple loosestrife



Mallard



Blue-eyed hawk



Kingfisher



Merganser



Yellow iris



Laburnum and rhododendron lend colour to Ronneby Brunnspark.

Stunning scents and colours

• GARDENS IN THE PARK

23 SPRING GARDEN

Yellow star-of-Bethlehem, crocus, snowdrop – in Vårträdgården (spring garden) you see many of the early favourites gathered in the same place. When cherry and magnolia blossom, this garden is a delightful sight! Newly-awakened bees and

bumblebees fly hungrily among the early-flowering herbs for their nectar shots. In addition to food, there is also accommodation for insects. There are two hives for honey bees and a bee hotel for wild bees.

24 SCENTED GARDEN

This is a garden for many senses. Walk slowly and take in the scents of the herbs and enjoy the spectrum of colours. In Dofträdgården (scented garden) the fragrant feast starts in early March with flowering daphne mezereum, followed by lily-of-the-valley. On windless,

warm summer days you will most likely be accompanied by butterflies, bumblebees and bees. They also appreciate the flowers. Not for their beauty, but for offering nectar and pollen. Autumn phlox ends the season with a palette of pink and purple tones.

25 RHODODENDRON HILL

“Scarlet Wonder”, “Queen Mary” and “Lord Roberts” – beautiful blooms require beautiful names! Around 25 rhododendron varieties grow on the slopes of Rhododendronberget (rhododendron hill) down to the park and around the ponds. The purple varieties are the most common, but here are also shrubs with white, yellow, pink, lilac, blue and red flowers. When they flower in June, you walk through a cavalcade of colour! One of the annual highlights in the park.



Rhododendron in bloom

26 ROSE GARDEN

The full name of Rosenträdgården (rose garden) is “The Garden of a Thousand Roses”. A walk here is a delight. You do not need to be a rose specialist, just enjoy the diversity of colours and scents.

But for those who know their roses, the garden includes some old varieties that have almost fallen into oblivion. For example, “Duchesse de Montebello”, “York and Lancaster” and “Sissinghurst”.

27 JAPANESE GARDEN

Japanska trädgården (Japanese garden), right in the centre of Brunnsskogen is a special place. A garden offering peace and tranquillity, where you walk along raked gravel paths, accompanied by the scent of damp moss. In the open pavilion, you are indoors and outdoors at the same time, surrounded by the greenery of the forest. The garden with Zen Buddhist influences was

created in 1987 by the landscape architect and professor Sven-Ingvar Andersson and his Japanese assistant Akira Mochizuki. One idea is that non-living materials such as stones and raked gravel symbolise the roar of the ocean waves and wonderful paradise islands. The garden is tended all year round, something which requires both knowledge and skills.



Japanese garden



Rose garden



Spring garden



Lynx is found in the southern part of Södra Brunsskogen Nature Reserve.

Outdoor art

• SCULPTURES AND OTHER WORKS OF ART

28 HORSE

Bäckahästen, play sculpture installed 1987, created by Esse Adolfsson. Kept indoors during winter months.

29 PASSAGE OF TIME AND MIRROR OF TIME

Tidens gång and Tidens spegel, art works in red and grey/black granite installed 1987, created by Fukiko Nakabayashi.

30 TROLLS

Trollen, wooden sculpture, created by Sören Niklasson.

31 FOX AND BADGER

Räven och grävlingen, wooden sculpture installed 2019, created by Caspar S. Teglbjaerg.

32 LYNX

Lodjuret, sculpture installed 2019, created by Vesa Jussila.

33 WAVE

Våg, sculpture installed 1987, created by Wive Larsson.

34 FROG

Grodan, bronze sculpture initiated 1888, created by Per Hasselberg.

35 MANWOMAN

Gubbkvinnan, metal sculpture installed 1987, created by Kjell Hobjer.

36 RIVER BEND

Å-krök, sculpture installed 1989, created by Jonny Martinsson.

Read more about the sculptures on www.ronneby.se.



Mirror of time

Something for everyone

• TRAILS IN RONNEBY BRUNNSPARK, BRUNNSSKOGEN AND SÖDRA BRUNNSSKOGEN



SQUIRREL TRAIL

LENGTH: 1.3 km

ACCESSIBILITY: partly hilly

Educational trail for children. Along the route are models of animals and signs explaining the local countryside. The walk passes the exciting passage Rävahiet.

ILLUMINATED TRACK

LENGTH: 2.5 km

ACCESSIBILITY: partly hilly

Suitable for jogging and Sunday walkers alike.

LAKE TROLLSJÖN TRAIL

LENGTH: 2 km

ACCESSIBILITY: partly hilly

One of the main trails constructed during the spa era. The circular walk passes Lake Trollsjön, Spegeldammarna and Ravinen. The latter is an area of very fine beech forest with many old trees.

YELLOW TRAIL

LENGTH: 5 km

ACCESSIBILITY: partly hilly

The longest trail in the area, taking you through both the park and the forest to the south.

PRAM TRAIL

LENGTH: 3.5 km (unmarked)

ACCESSIBILITY: mostly on gravel tracks, some sections on paths.

TREE ROUND

LENGTH: 0.5 km

ACCESSIBILITY: easy to walk, short circular route adjacent to naturum Blekinge.

BLEKINGELEDEN TRAIL

Passes through the Ronneby Brunn area. The trail is 258 km long, stretching through Blekinge County from Sölvesborg in the west to Bröms in the east.



In the Ronneby Brunn area you can run on soft surfaces.

More to discover

• VALUABLE NATURE AREAS IN AND AROUND RONNEBY

There are also many nature areas worth visiting beyond the Ronneby Brunn area. On the following pages, you can read about places of interest within cycling distance from Ronneby centre. Choose

from idyllic lakes for swimming, species-rich deciduous forests and first-class bird-watching sites. Trails for walking, cycling or canoeing link the attractions.

Room for many

• DIVERSITY OF SPECIES



BLACK-VEINED WHITE

Here are just a few of all the plants, animals and fungi that have been recorded at the places of interest presented in this guide. For current find data, visit Artportalen on

www.artportalen.se and search for the site. You can also submit your own finds. All reports are valuable, whether the species are common or rare.



EUROPEAN STAG BEETLE

- Europe's largest beetle and Blekinge's landscape insect.
- Occurs in oak pastures within the range of the guidebook.



PARSLEY WATER-DROPWORT

- A Ronneby speciality; the only habitat in Sweden!
- Can be found on the Risnäsälvön peninsula and at Ekenäs beach.



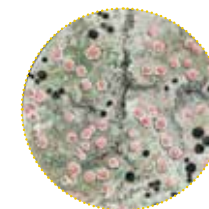
LIVERLEAF

- One of spring's messengers, thrives in calcareous soil.
- Found in e.g. Angelskog and Fornanäs.



BEEFSTEAK FUNGUS

- Annual polypore growing on old oaks.
- Found in Angelskog certain years.



BACIDIA ROSELLA

- Crustose lichen growing on old trunks, preferably beech.
- Found in e.g. Angelskog.



HEN OF THE WOODS

- Appears at the base of old oaks.
- Found in Angelskog certain years.



What is what on the map?

• SYMBOLS

- | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1-15 | Places of interest described on pages 62–67 | Nature reserve boundary |
| | Species-rich forest environments | Bird protection areas |
| | Species-rich meadows and pastures | Blekingeleden Trail |
| | Parking* | Other trails** |
| | | Cycle trail** |
| | | Paddling trail** |

*If there is no parking available at the place of interest, an alternative mode of transport is recommended, e.g. cycling or walking. Some of the destinations, such as Gö Nature Reserve, can be reached by public transport. *For more information, see www.blekingetrafiken.se.*

**part of ARK56, *read more on page 74*

For each site described in the following pages, there are symbols suggesting things to see and do:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Walking
(marked trails are available) | Species-rich nature |
| Swimming | Area with interesting flora |
| Paddling | Ancient remains/cultural heritage |
| Birdwatching | |

The map is also available in a larger format in weatherproof material. You find it in the plastic pocket inside the front cover!



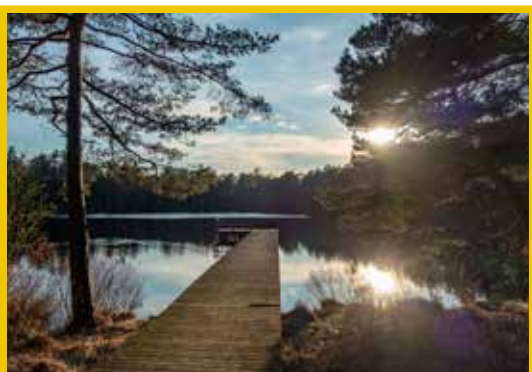
1 PISKABACKEN

Nature and culture. Piskabacken's varied environment is home to rarities such as large thyme, great crested newt and the stag beetle *Lucanus cervus*. These and many other of Piskabacken's inhabitants are light and heat loving species that thrive in the old cultural landscape. The farmers that kept the land open for generations have moved away. But remains such as building ruins, cattle paths and fences can still be seen. Every year, cattle are let out to graze in the pastures, a condition for keeping the diversity of plants and animals in the area.



2 HÄRSTORPSSJÖN

Bathing and birding. Lake Härstorpssjön is perhaps best known as a popular place for swimming. But there is more to discover. To the west of the beach, the lake is edged by swamp forests. This may not sound so inviting for humans, but for birds such as lesser spotted woodpecker and long-tailed tit, the damp forest is a superb environment. During autumn and winter, the lake is visited by large flocks of resting sea birds. With luck, you may spot the elegant smew among the many tufted ducks and goldeneyes!



3 PERSBORGSGÖLEN

Idyllic pool. Persborgsgölen is a small enchanted lake, a stone's throw from Ronneby urban centre. Take a dip from the jetty or rocks, or ice skate in winter. Don't miss walking the lovely path around the lake. The low-growing shrub bog myrtle offers a scent of wilderness, along with the white-flowering rhododendron relative, Labrador tea.



Coastal forest and open land.

There are no marked trails on the Risnåshälvön peninsula. You have to find your own way. The countryside alternates between open pastures and lush deciduous woodland. The forest grows all the way down to the water, which is typical for the Blekinge coast. There are also flowery coastal meadows, with species such as the very rare parsley water-dropwort. Don't forget to bring binoculars. You can look for birds all year round both in the forest and on the water.



4 RISNÅSHÄLVÖN

Walking-friendly landscape.

On Funkön you can walk over coastal meadows and through pastures with wide-crowned oaks. Always accompanied by the sea. The land is kept open thanks to grazing cattle. The many geese that visit the peninsula also help milkwort and other plants favoured by grazing to thrive! If you look up from the flowering ground, you may see black-headed gulls and terns which breed on the surrounding islets. Another bird typical for the area is nightingale, which sings in the early summer nights.



5 FUNKÖN

Gate to the archipelago.

In summer, Ekenäs is teeming with life. The camp site, guest harbour and restaurant make it into a magnet for tourists. It is also the gateway to the archipelago, with ferries leaving from here for the islands. Sand between your toes? Yes, if you go to Ekenäs beach.



6 EKENÄS



7 KARÖN

Follow in the footsteps of spa guests. You can do this on the popular island Karön. People come here to bathe and walk on some of the many paths around the island. Ferries leave Ronneby centre and Ekenäs all summer. In addition to the beautiful landscape, there are luxurious 19th century summer villas. Schweizeriet, Blekinge's oldest restaurant, is still in use. The buildings were erected during the height of the spa era, when Karön was a destination not to be missed.



8 FLISBERGET

Burial sites and butterflies. Flisberget is a gem, less than 20 minutes away by bicycle from Ronneby centre. Sometime during the Bronze Age, people stood on the small hill and looked out over the surroundings. They decided that this was a good elevated site for burying their dead. The cairns that mark the graves still remain. But Flisberget does not only offer cultural history. The open grounds are rich in flowers and butterflies. Make your excursion on a still, sunny summer's day, when the butterflies are the most active!



9 FORNANÄS

Magnificent old trees. At Fornanäs, you can experience a deciduous forest that is more than 100 years old. It is not a virgin forest: Quite a few trees have been removed by local farmers, and cattle have grazed the land. But some trees have escaped the axe and the muzzle and have been able to grow tall. Here is also a lovely spring flora with e.g. liverleaf. And if you are interested in rare lichens, mosses and fungi, Fornanäs is the perfect place to visit.



Fairytale forest. Bearded tooth fungus and beefsteak fungus – strange things grow in Angelskog. On the mature trees you find rare lichens and on the ground are tufted mats of large white moss. The mosaic of beech forest and flat rocks with pine is home to crested tit, redstart, spotted flycatcher, lesser spotted woodpecker and black woodpecker. Note the old, slow-growing oaks that sprout like bouquets. They have been pruned by grazing and coppicing. Despite their modest height and thickness, these oaks may be among the oldest in Blekinge!



10 ANGELSKOG

Cultural and historical walk. Aspan is a lovely place for excursions. Here you can swim, fish, and bring a picnic. There is also a marked, varied 2 km trail starting from Aspan Conference Centre. Half of the circular route follows the shore on a meandering path edged by many thick trees. The landscape contains many traces from stone quarrying that took place from 1890 until the 1950s. The trail also passes through pastures and a large wetland area.



11 ASPAN

Top class nature. Gö Nature Reserve offers a cornucopia of experiences. Swim from a sandy beach, snorkel among bladderwrack, barbecue with a sea view or take a long walk. The landscape is exceptional. Lush deciduous forests with old, thick oaks grow in large parts of the reserve. But there are also pine bogs with cloudberry, wet swamp forests and kilometre-long sandy shores. Many endangered species live in Gö, for example exclusive lichens, fungi and insects linked to the old oaks.



12 GÖ



13 BREDASUND

Watch from a bird tower.

Bredasund is a first-class environment for both birds and fish. In summer, redshank and other waders patrol the wet shores. In spring and autumn, thrushes rest on the surrounding pastures. With a lot of luck, rarities such as spotted crane or great egret may turn up. Atlantic herring and pike spawn in the brackish water, and the bay is a near perfect nursery for eel and flounder.



14 LINDÖ VÅTMARK

Birds on the move. Grazed coastal meadows are usually good places for birdwatching. The wetland Lindö våtmark is no exception. In spring, many migrating birds stop here to rest and feed. You may spot different waders, such as lapwing, wood sandpiper and green sandpiper. Don't forget to look up in the sky. Birds of prey, such as red kite and white-tailed eagle sail overhead. Or out across the reed belts, where marsh harrier can sometimes be seen hunting.



15 LINDÖ UDDE

Famous bird locality. Lindö udde is one of the southernmost outposts in Blekinge. It is one of the best places in the county for watching migratory birds. During March and April, you can see large amounts of eider fly past the promontory, an extraordinary experience. You can also see loons, cormorants, geese and waders on the move. In autumn, many migrating birds of prey and small birds pass over Lindö. On the southernmost tip is a cabin with a viewing platform. You can actually sit indoors and watch the birds!



Some birds you may see along the coast



White-tailed eagle



Lapwing



Redshank



Shelduck



Eider



Black-headed gull

Find a new hobby

Are you thinking about becoming a birdwatcher? Here are a few tips:

- Get a pair of binoculars (second-hand, or borrow from a friend), a good field guide and download birdsong apps.
- Start by learning the most common birds in your locality; what they look like and how they sound.
- Join a club or association where you can get tips, advice and company. Books and apps are fine, but nothing beats a knowledgeable twitcher!

Worth a visit

• TREES WITH CHARACTER



The Hardwood Coast contains a large number of old and thick trees. These ancient specimens provide essential habitats for e.g. many endangered insects and lichens, such as hermit

beetle and *Lecanographa amylacea* lichen. The trees are also a magnificent sight in themselves. Why not make an excursion and marvel at a giant tree!

1 ALDER

Girth: 4.25 m
Coordinates: N 6229151, E 516325
Healthy, large alder by the spring in Espedalen

2 OAK

Girth: 7.40 m
Coordinates: N 6228078, E 515067
Natural monument; one of the thickest and largest trees in Blekinge

3 YEW

Girth: 3.20 m
Coordinates: N 6224148, E 516466
Supposedly the largest wild growing yew in Sweden

4 BLACK POPLARS

Girth: the largest tree measures 7.60 m
Coordinates: N 6226405, E 516870
Cuttings from Flugträdet (fly tree) which was blasted away in 1884 when the railway came to Ronneby

5 DOUGLAS FIR

Girth: 2.80 m
Coordinates: N 6227165, E 517137
Vital, large, North American evergreen; probably planted more than 100 years ago

6 SCOTS PINE

Girth: 1.65 m
Coordinates: N 6227662, E 517449
Home to the rare longhorn beetle *Nothorhina muricata*, whose attacks colour the trunk yellow

7 BEECH

Girth: 6.20 m
Coordinates: N 6228229, E 517394
Blekinge's thickest beech until it died in 2012

8 WILLOW

Girth: 5.80 m
Coordinates: N 6228239, E 517773
Supposedly Blekinge's thickest willow

9 NORWAY MAPLE

Girth: 4.60 m
Coordinates: N 6228202, E 517886
Supposedly Blekinge's thickest Norway maple

10 OAK

Girth: 4.60 m
Coordinates: N 6227704, E 518139
Natural monument; known during the spa era as Friareken (proposal oak)

11 OAK

Girth: 7.32 m
Coordinates: N 6226120, E 519755
Old, very thick oak; grows between the road and the sea

12 SCOTS PINE

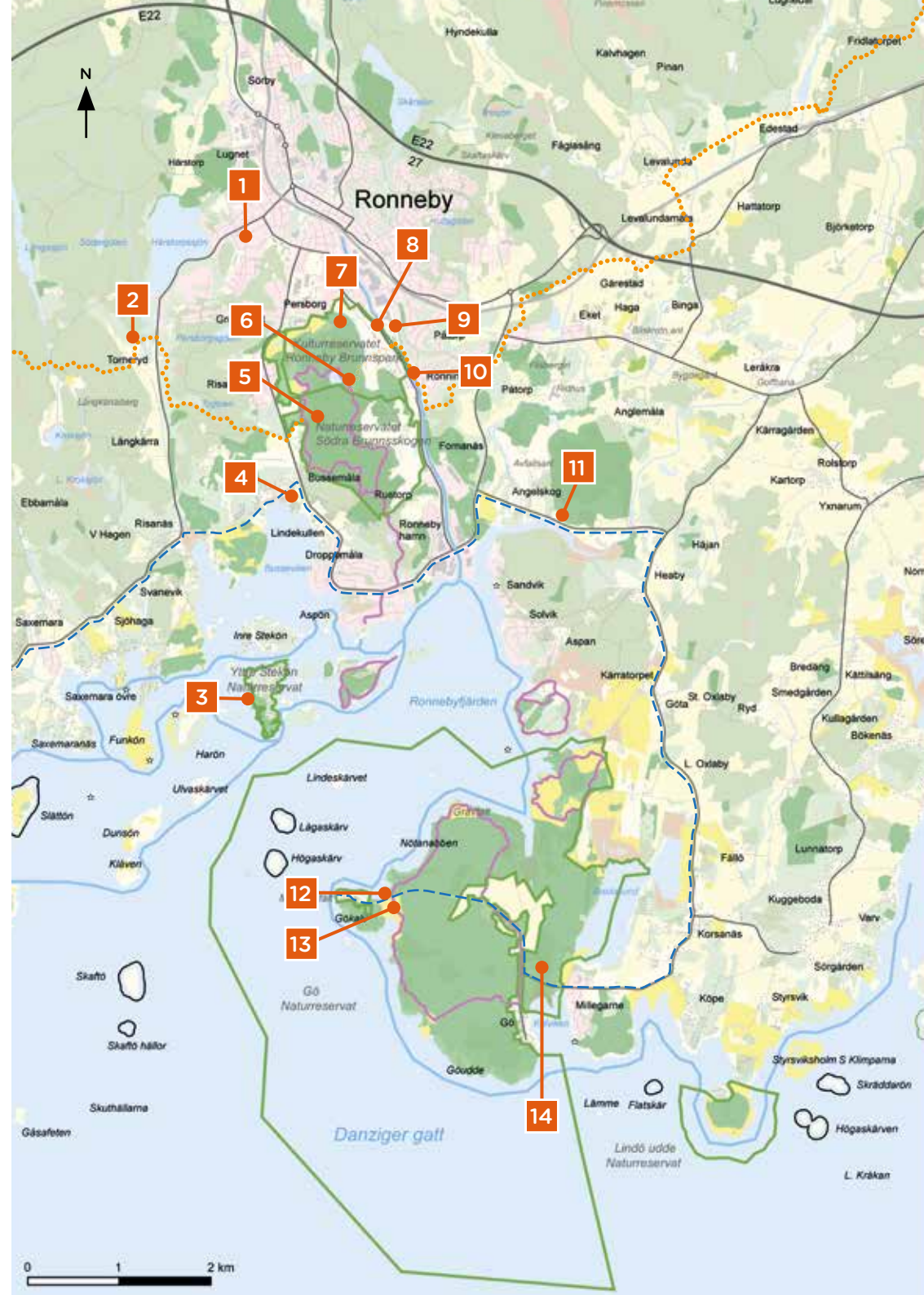
Girth: 3.36 m
Coordinates: N 6221996, E 517878
One of Blekinge's thickest pines

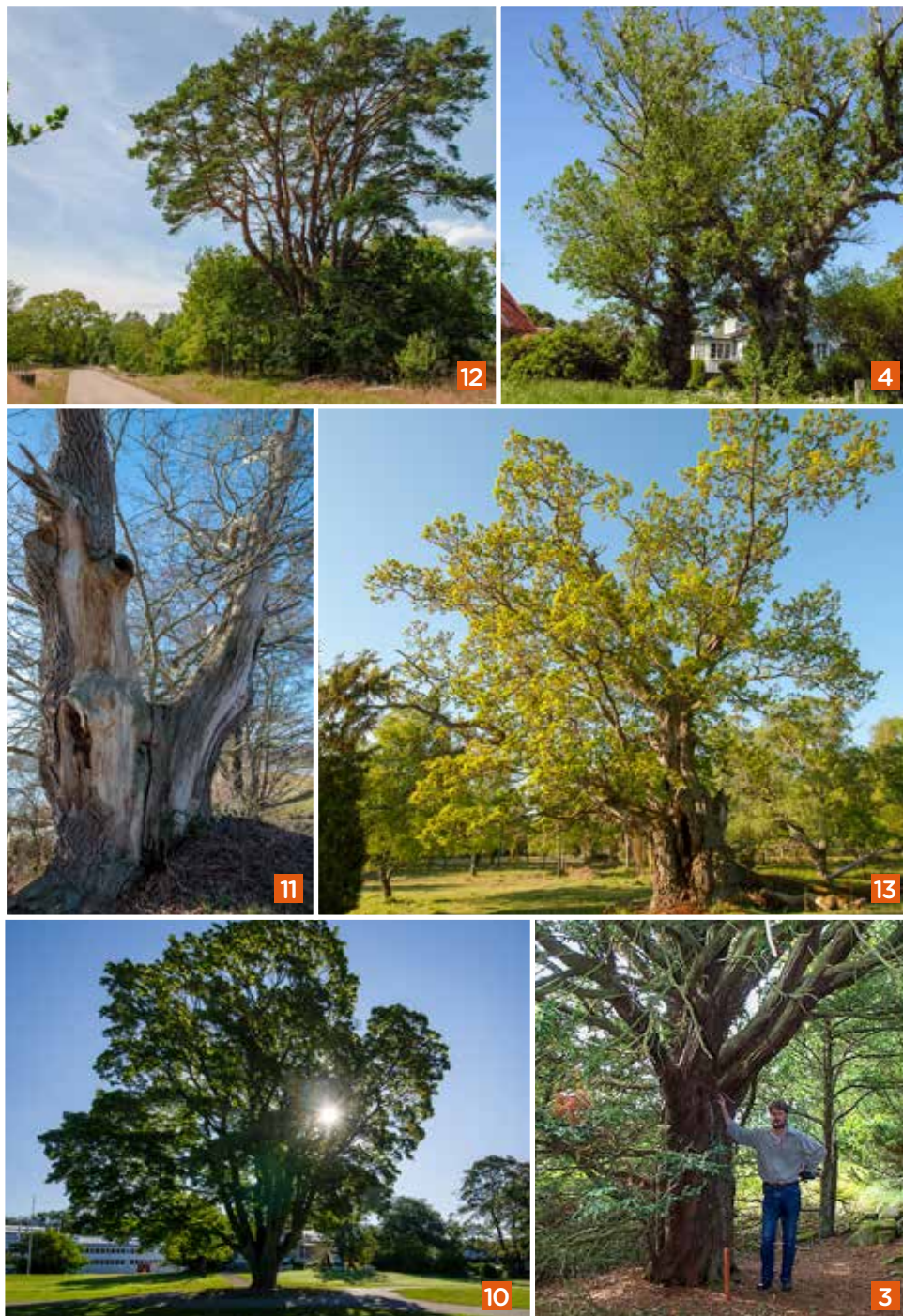
13 OAK

Girth: More than 6.00 m
Coordinates: N 6221970, E 517967
Natural monument; old, thick and beautiful oak

14 OAK

Girth: 6.38 m
Coordinates: N 6221230, E 519565
Called Säteseiken





The numbers refer to the descriptions on page 68.



Top up your knowledge

• NATURUM BLEKINGE



Meet sea creatures and learn more about the fauna in Ronneby's magical watercourses. A visit to naturum is a must for inquisitive nature lovers. The exhibition is presented in the building known as Gymnastiken (gymnastics) during the spa era, a beautiful wooden house worth a visit in itself.

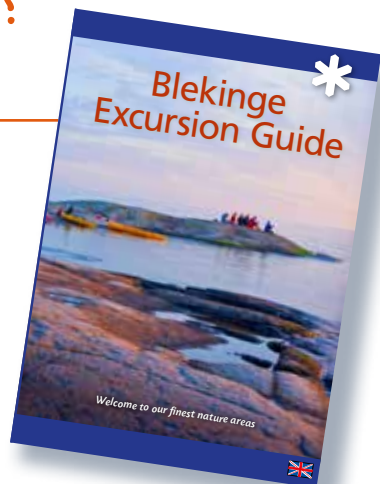
Naturum arranges a wide range of lectures, guided tours and excursions. On www.naturumblekinge.se you find current information, opening hours, contact information, etc. You can also follow naturum on www.facebook.se/naturumblekinge.

Free entrance!

Want to know more?

• READING AND WEB TIPS

Don't let your excursion into the Blekinge countryside stop at the Ronneby area. There is so much more beautiful nature to discover in the county: wilderness-scented forests, lovely farmland, pastoral oak landscapes, and smooth skerries furthest out in the archipelago. Just to mention a few examples! A tip is to download the brochure "Blekinge Excursion Guide" from the county administrative board's website. Here you can find inspiration for your next outing!



Websites

www.lansstyrelsen.se/blekinge

www.lansstyrelsen.se/blekinge/privat/djur-och-natur/skyddad-natur.html

www.ronneby.se/brunnsparken

www.skogsstyrelsen.se/en/attractive-hardwoods

www.visitronneby.se

www.blekingetrafiken.se

<http://biosfaromrade.org/biosfaromrade-blekinge-arkipelag>

www.naturligvisblekinge.se

Visit a hardwood forest

• ATTRACTIVE HARDWOODS PROJECT

This guide has been published within the framework for the EU project Attractive Hardwoods.

The aim of the project is to boost the popularity and number of visitors to hardwood forests as destinations in cross-border ecotourism.

The goal is to improve and strengthen cooperation between various national and international stakeholders active within the tourism sector. Within the project, authorities, organisations, entrepreneurs, private companies and tour operators work together to develop products and services. The accumulated experience will be put together into a joint strategy for increasing cross-border ecotourism to hardwood forests around the Baltic Sea.

Project activities take place in specially selected pilot areas distributed around the participating countries Sweden, Lithuania and Poland. The pilot areas in Sweden are the Blekingeleden Trail and Brunnsskogen.

Project owner: Swedish Forest Agency

Financing: The project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg South Baltic Programme and partners in the participating countries.

Project duration: July 2016 to June 2019



Blekinge Archipelago Biosphere Reserve

Biosphere reserves are designated by UNESCO as model areas for sustainable development of unique natural and cultural values in interaction.

A biosphere reserve has three main objectives:

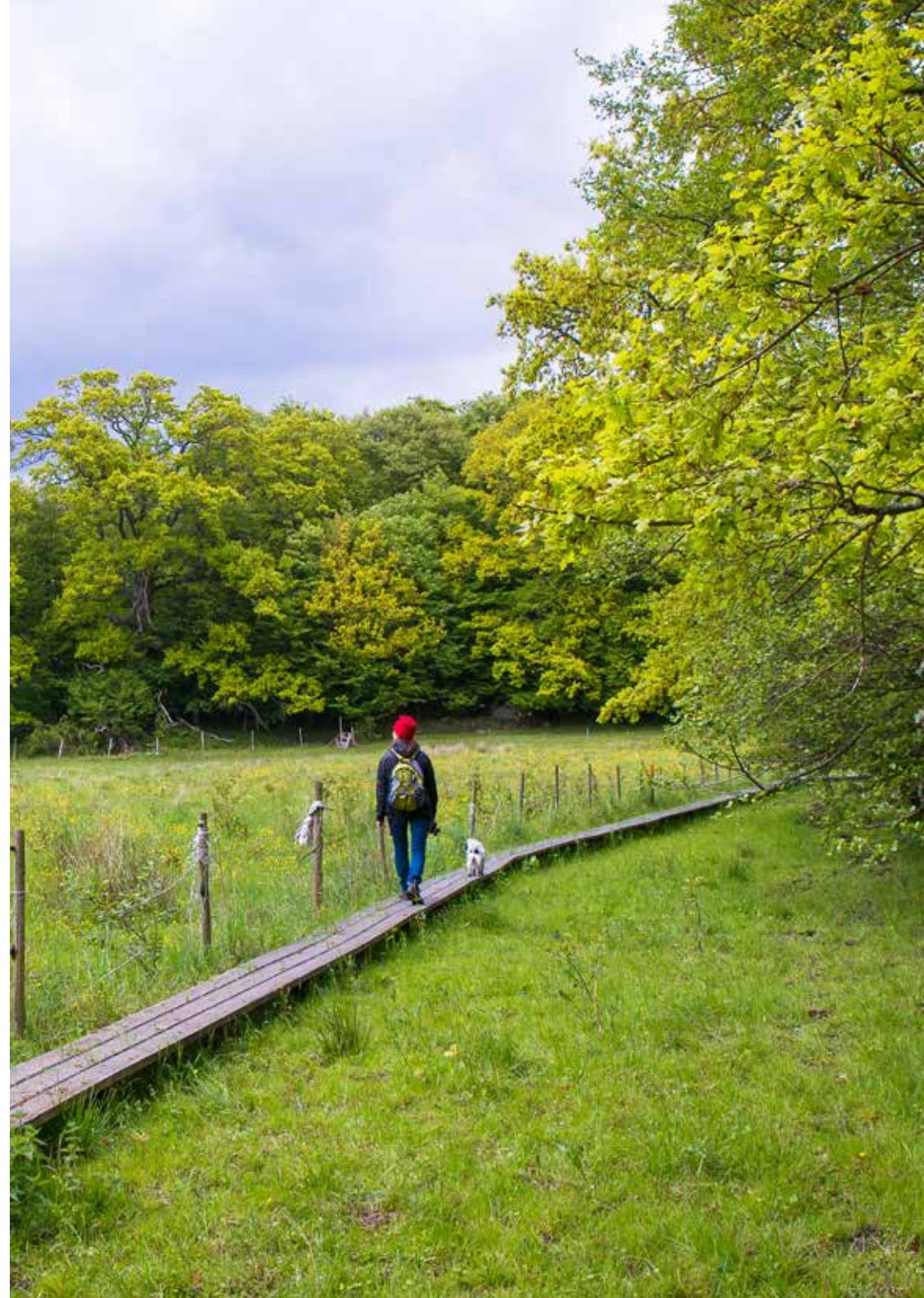
- Preserve biological and cultural diversity, ecosystems and landscapes.
- Develop society in a long-term sustainable way.
- Support demonstration projects, research and knowledge development.

Blekinge Archipelago is one of five biosphere reserves in Sweden, and the first with a focus on Baltic Sea issues. The biosphere reserve is run as a non-profit organisation and includes most of Blekinge's archipelago and coastal landscapes.



ARK56 – links coastal trails in the biosphere reserve

The logo and outdoor destination ARK56 guides Blekinge's inhabitants and visitors to things, places and areas worth seeing and experiencing. ARK56 sets up new trails, linking them to existing routes so that you can get to know the archipelago walking, cycling, kayaking or sailing.



Tryck: Risbergs 2019

“The contents of this nature guide are the sole responsibility of the authors and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union, the Managing Authority or the Joint Secretariat of the Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020.”



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