

Walking trail - Linné, 3 km



This rather easy walking trail begins and ends at Station Linné (1). The 3 km long loop will take about one hour to complete. Good footwear is recommended. Please follow the path and do not cross any crop fields. The path is well marked and easy to follow.

- (1) Follow the gravel road north of Station Linné for about 400 m in an easterly direction. Continue 50 m past the big pear tree on the right hand side, then turn left through the opening in the stone wall. Follow the path across to the next field. Pass through the next stone wall and enter the "diversitets-ängen", the Diversity Meadow (2).
- (2) The "Diversity Meadow" is an extremely species rich meadow, and it also contains house foundations from the Iron Age. The trail continues towards the meadow's north-easterly corner, where you will pass through another stone wall. Follow the winding path for approx. 200 m until you reach the next point of interest; Old Skogsby (3), an Iron Age village from 1500 years ago.
- (3) Old Skogsby. Here you will find traces of at least ten Iron Age foundations. It's believed that among these remains one of northern Europe's largest chieftain halls can be found. What seems to be the remains of a cattle street is in fact the sides of this 47 m long hall. Can you see it? 200 m ahead after you have climbed over the stile you will find a sign about this unique relict (only in Swedish).
- (4) Meadow with pollarded trees. The meadows and trees are managed by a local, non-profit organisation who keep these old traditions alive and help support the biodiversity in a major way! A perfect place to enjoy a picnic on a sunny day, but please do not forget to take your rubbish with you once you leave.
- (5) Follow the path to the next meadow. Turn left and walk across the meadow. Continue 20 m into the old forest before you turn to the right and up onto the bank 20 m further down the path. Follow the edge to the next meadow (approx. 200 m). Walk along the edge of the meadow and take the exit on the left through the stone wall and enter the deciduous forest. Along this section of the path you will find a lot of Roman snail (*Helix pomatia*), so please walk carefully.
- (6) You are now back in the Midland forest (Mittlandsskogen), one of the most species-rich environments in Sweden. Walk along the ditch which was dug by hand during the period between the 1st and 2nd world war. The ditch starts at the edge of the Great Alvar and flows into the Baltic Sea north of Gårdby and is over 15 km long. The water from this canal adds yet more diversity to an already species rich area. Follow the path until the forest opens up and enter the next meadow (approx. 300 m).
- (7) (1) Crop field. Some years lucerne or clover is grown here - plants which attract enormous amount of insects when in bloom. There is also a rich insect life along the stone wall, especially on sunny days. Follow the meadow's edge (approx. 200 m) to the stile which you cross over. Follow the stone wall for another 20 m to the next stile and cross over this one as well.
Or: **Shortcut** (500 m closer). Walk around the mound of stones and follow the path back to Station Linné.
- (8) You are now close to the northern edge of the unique "Stora Alvaret": an area known to house a very special and exclusive flora and fauna. The orchid meadows flowering in May are famous around the world. The cows grazing here can sometimes be perceived as a little bit too curious, but if you ignore them they will soon leave you alone. The grazing is necessary in order to prevent the Alvar from becoming overgrown. Follow the stone wall 1 km along the field's northern edge until you come to yet another stile. Cross over here.
- (9) Take to the left immediately after crossing the stile and follow the path back to Station Linné. The 100m long path from the stile to the station's garden is lined with blackthorn brambles, lots of herbs and other shrubs. To the east of the trail, closest to the station, there is even a marsh. These last 100 m - despite being a small, externally impacted area - is a very species rich and diverse stretch of land.
- (1) Back at Station Linné – we hope that you have had a nice experience!