



Bankerydsleden

Welcome to the trail Bankerydsleden!

DISTANCE: Long-distance footpath: Circular trail west of Bankeryd.

The Bankerydsleden trail is a 23.4 km longdistance footpath that takes you through beautiful and varied nature areas with traces of old settlements, early industrial activity and ancient remains from the Stone and Iron Ages. This map shows the easiest and most suitable roads and paths. Enjoy your walk!

The place name "Bankeryd" is thought to derive from the pre-Christian name Banke with the suffix "-ryd" meaning "clearing". The northern parts of the parish boast the largest number of ancient monuments, probably because of people migrating into the district via the Nissan river, Dumme bog and the Domneån river, which forms the border with the province of Västergötland. Another river flows through the area: Lillån. Both rivers have been important through the ages thanks to abundant salmon fishing, and they have also provided power for mills and industry.

The western side of Lake Vättern was used from early on to travel on foot and by horse, and the sunken lanes carved out can still be seen. Since time immemorial, two roads have run through the parish from Jönköping to Västergötland. These routes remain to this day in the form of the old Falköpings-, Björnebergs- and Domsandsvägen roads.

Bankeryd's present-day church was completed in 1865. The site of the earlier church(es) was immediately north of the present one and is indicated by plaques in the churchyard. The oldest known parish hall was located approx. 60 m from the tower of the current church, by the road to Granshult, which started from Björnebergsvägen road.

Things to see along the trail

- 1 Bankeryd open-air museum**, which is the start and end of the Bankerydsleden trail.
- 2 Ekeryd**, formerly Ekestugan. To get here by walk along the ancient church road and cross the Lillån river. Leaving Ekeryd, we follow the once busy route between Granshult and Aledal/Alefors and Borrebruket works. The road was used mainly by factory workers in Granshult. Next to the road are remains of so-called "sunken lanes".
- 3 Spökeslätta**: an old burial site, where a stone circle was removed and graves disturbed when the road was built. The parish's first open-air dance floor was built on this field in 1925.
- 4** Here the trail turns off down towards the **Domneån** river, where it flows beneath the railway in a beautiful tunnel.
- 5 Ower station**, built in 1920 and still in use. You can still see remains of Hullebo mill and its dam construction between the trail and the river.
- 6 Knallafallen** waterfall is named after the loud bangs (Swedish: knallar) that sometimes happened during the spring floods and that could be heard as far away as Bankeryd. Gamla Saxfabriken (1882) – the old scissor factory – and the site of Granbergsstugan hall above the factory. Another factory, Gustafssons Sax- och Sporrfabrik, was built even further up the hill in 1916.
- 7 Kleinafallet** waterfall takes its name from a soldier named Klein, who lived at Hällefors "soldier's cottage" in Bosaryd. The cliffs above where the Domneån river flows into the Klerebodammen dam are a nice spot for a picnic, so it's well worth walking the 50 m or so from the trail down towards the waterfall to enjoy the beautiful views.
- 8 Shelter** with place to make a fire/barbecue.

Things to see along the trail

- 9** **Rödjekvarn mill** by the Domneån river. The dam was owned by Tornaryd and Lindhult. The actual flour and sawmill belonged to Lindhult, but Tornaryd had certain rights to use it.
- 10** **Domnaryd's old farmyard**, where all the village's farms were located before the land reform of 1827. The old spelling "Dompnäryd" appears in written records as early as 1387, and in 1389 Dompä Qvarn mill was gifted to Alvastra monastery. We're now following the old mill road, passing Domnaryd Södergård and then the other farms in the village. The Bethany mission house, built in 1903, is located by Falköpingsvägen road. It is now used by the residents' association.
- 11** Just before Skirebo, in the windthrow area belonging to Göransberg, are a large number of small piles of stones from when the land was cleared for cultivation. At one time, there were hundreds of small cultivated areas here. This may be connected to the fact that the land here was set aside for the soldiers to grow their own food. Skirebo is a farm with very old buildings and a beautiful earth cellar.
- 12** The parish's largest glacial erratic.
- 13** **Tunabo**, two farms transferred to Bankeryd parish from Järstorp in 1950. You can make a detour to the western side of Risbrodammen. Walk approx. 500 m southwards to a bird-watching tower with views over the parish's best area for birds: Dumme mosse nature reserve. If you're here at the right time of year, you can see and hear cranes preparing to migrate south.
- 14** From Tunabo, we continue on one of the parish's few remaining gravelled roads through a forest area.
- 15** **Rydala** is a cottage below Sjövik that is still lived in all year round.
- 16** Picnic area with shelter and places for barbecues. Continuing from here, we pass Björna-mossen. The name probably refers to the common haircap moss (Swedish: björnmossa) that grows here, which was previously used as a seal when building houses, as it is non-flammable.
- 17** **Svinhaga** previously Lilla (little) Svinhaga in contrast to Stora (big) Svinhaga, now Sjövik.
- 18** Just before Flaskebo, the trail crosses Björna-bäcken stream. There was once a simple water-mill 15 m east of the bridge. Further down the stream, which has a drop of 80 m, there was a small power station producing electricity. The trail crosses the new Falköpingsvägen road by means of a "cow tunnel" and comes out on the very old road from Månseryd to Habo church. This road passes the site of two soldier's cottages.
- 19** People have lived in **Granshult village** for approx. 5000 years, and various finds from the Stone Age have been made here. Over the years, the village has comprised a number of farm units and many crofts, or side-cottages. A large number of metalworkers worked here.
- 20** **Prinseryd** Prinseryd is named as a "skattetorp", or a cottage where the rent was paid in kind, in the 16th century. At the end of the 17th century, the farm was owned for a time by Governor Johan Printz, which is when it came to be called "Printzeryd". The parish's first school was built south of the homestead in 1840, although there had previously been a private school. In 1892, Fritz and Justus Miller started a forge and workshop down by the river that developed into Prinsfors Metallfabrik and Bröderna Miller.
- 21** **Milestone** by the extremely old road from Jönköping towards the eastern part of Västergötland.
- 22** **The village of Kolaryd** once comprised five farm units. In 1559, King Gustav Vasa acquired Kolaryd as his private property. The village previously had a silver-plate factory.
- 23** **Labbarp village** has four farms. The trail continues up Labbarpsberget hill, or Kalvaberget as it is called on older maps.
- 24** Before the trail comes to an end, we pass the place where the Bankeryds public school where between 1874 to 2016. The schoolbuilding was demolished in 2020.

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