



Västanåleden

DISTANCE: Long-distance footpath: Circular trail south of Gränna

From swathes of pines to luxuriant deciduous forest, a walk through Västanå nature reserve is rich in contrast. On the upper part of the escarpment, the pines grow direct on the rock, while the lower part is covered with leafy deciduous forest, including many of Sweden's native broad-leaved trees. The Röttleå river runs through a deep ravine in the northern part of the reserve. Västanå lies in the Östra Vätterbranterna biosphere area.

The nature reserve is well worth a visit, particularly in spring. The area boasts an abundance of spring flowers and is also rich in bird life. Many flycatchers and rosetfinches live here, together with commoner species such as blackcaps, garden warblers, wood warblers and wrens. In spring and autumn, it provides a resting place for many of the species that use Lake Vätter as a navigational aid when migrating. Lake Vätter was created when part of the bedrock sank relative to the surrounding ground level. This formed what is known as a graben, the sides of which can be very steep. Västanå nature reserve is situated on steep ground of this kind. The escarpment does not plunge directly into the lake but

flattens out by the shore of the lake. This area, known as "Rasterna", comprises rock types that are 700-800 million years and were formed from the skeletal remains of countless small aquatic animals. The name "Rasterna" is thought to originate from the time when the people of Visingsö brought their animals here to graze. When there was a shortage of pasture on Visingsö, the farmers "walked" (Swedish: rasta) their cattle on this narrow strip of land instead. The sheltered location, below the escarpment, gives a favourable microclimate. Combined with the rich bedrock, this is why many broad-leaved trees thrive here.

The lower parts of the area comprise beech forest and herbaceous mixed forest with a large number of broad-leaved trees and grey alder. The shrub layer in the deciduous forest is well developed, and the spring vegetation is rich in upland enchanter's nightshade, lungwort, liverwort, wood anemone and yellow anemone. During the summer, there is an abundance of ramson, figwort and sanicle. Pine forest grows on outcrops on the upper parts of the fault precipice. Västanå also boasts rich bird life, with species such as the lesser flycatcher and wood pigeon.

Find out more

Useful website for planning your trip:

JÖNKÖPING PUBLIC TRANSPORT – jlt.se
TABERG LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY – hembygd.se/tabergs-berglags
NORRAHAMMAR INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM – industrimuseet.se
TABERGS TOPPEN – tabergstoppen.se and toppgolf.se
SÖDRA VÄTTERLEDEN TRAIL – jonkoping.se
TABERG NATURE RESERVE – lamsstyrelsen.se
TABERG MINE AND BAT CENTRE – vattern.org
TABERG MINE AND BAT CENTRE – taberg.info/gruvan
HOVSLÄTT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY – hovslatt.se/hforening (info about the Kallebäcksleden and Hassafallsleden trails)



Naturkartan

Download the Nature Map, your guide to nature in Jönköping municipality.



REPORT ERRORS 036-105000 (Contact)


















Allemansrätten

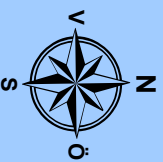
The Right of Public Access has been enshrined in Sweden's constitution since 1994. It is best summed up by the phrase "Don't disturb – don't destroy".

The Right of Public Access allows you to walk and cycle almost everywhere. You can camp for a night, and pick flowers, berries and mushrooms. You can light a small fire if you are careful. The best place to light a fire is in a designated place for barbecues. A ban on fires may be introduced in very dry conditions.

The Right of Public Access offers great freedom but this must not be to the detriment of others – everyone must show sound judgement, take responsibility for animals and nature, and show consideration for landowners and people who live in the countryside. You can find out more about the Right of Public Access at jonkoping.se.

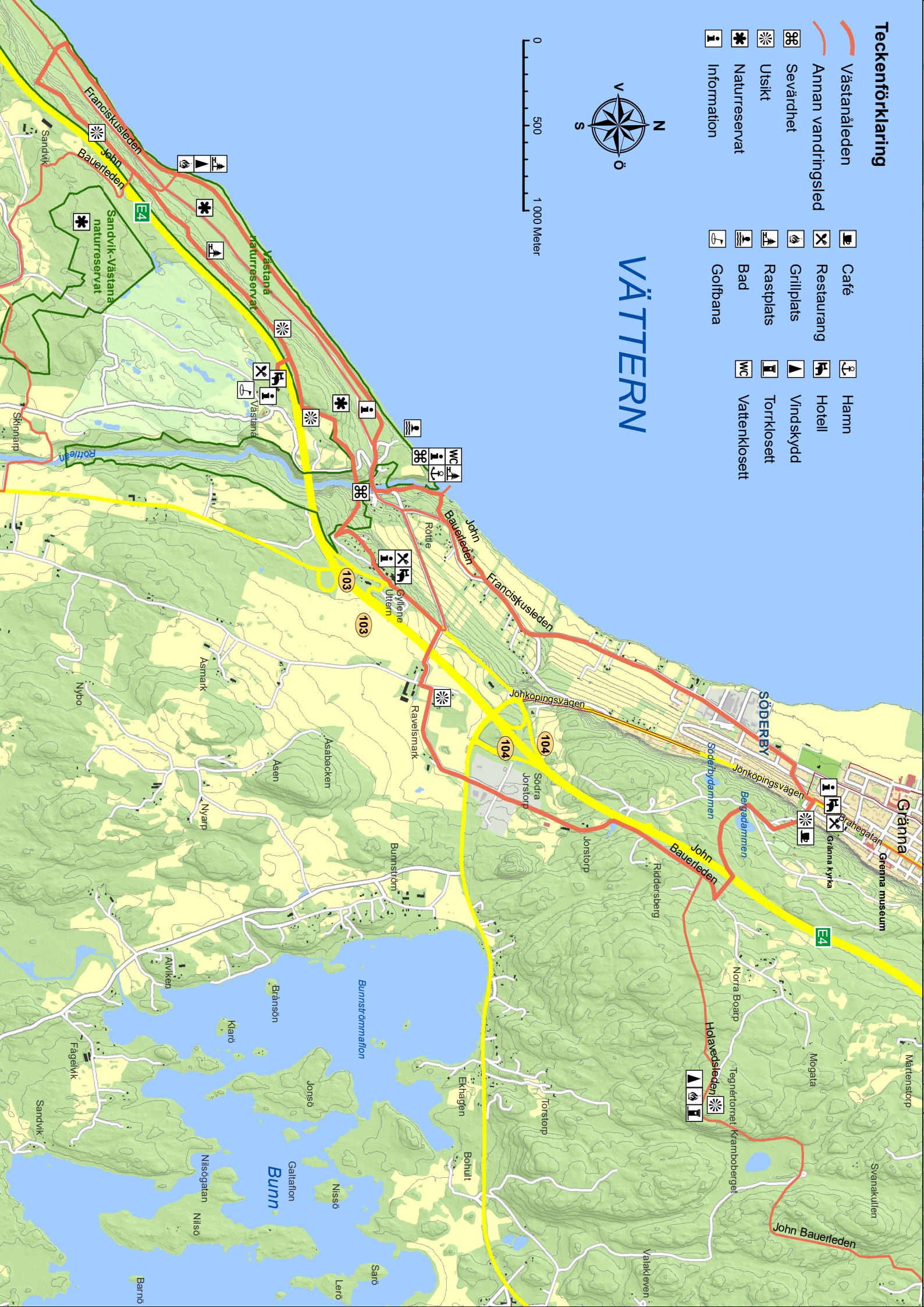
Teckenförklaring

- | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|------------|---|---------------|
|  | Västanaleden |  | Café |  | Hamn |
|  | Annan vandringsled |  | Restaurang |  | Hotell |
|  | Sevärdhet |  | Grillplats |  | Vindskydd |
|  | Utsikt |  | Rastplats |  | Torkklosett |
|  | Naturreservat |  | Bad |  | Vattenklosett |
|  | Information |  | Golfbana | | |



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VÄTTERN



Things to see along the trail

1 Lake Vätter is Sweden's second-largest lake in terms of both area (1,893 km²) and volume (77.6 km³), and the sixth-largest in Europe. The lake is long and narrow, and extends in a south-north direction. The surface of the lake is 88.5 m above sea level. Its deepest point is 128 m, immediately south of Visingsö.

Lake Vätter is known for the Vätter char, a relic from the Ice Age that is otherwise found only in mountain environments. Anglers fish for perch, pike, zander, grayling, burbot, salmon, char, trout and signal crayfish.

2 The countship of Gränna-Visingsö unfurls like a sail between Västana Manor and the castle ruins of Brahehus and Visingsborg. This was once Sweden's most powerful countship, and the enterprise of the aristocratic Brahe family is still much in evidence. Gränna boasts many beautiful heritage buildings in wood, cobbled streets and Count Per Brahe in bronze on the square at the heart of the village. Down from the square, Brahegatan runs south to north with places making traditional peppermint rock and crispbread, along with shops, cafés and restaurants.

The harbour bustles with activity in the summer, with frequent departures to Visingsö.

3 The village of Röttle, south of Gränna, is beautifully situated and has many culture-historical remains. In the 17th century, the village was Count Per Brahe's "industrial village" and home to Småland's first paper mill, a drill works and other workshops. The Röttleå river provided the power. In summer, you can see the water-powered Rasmus mill in operation and buy Röttle flour, milled from organic grain.

4 Västana Manor lies south of Gränna. Västana was crown land in the mid-16th century. It was acquired by Per Brahe the Younger in 1641, who had the manor house furnished and decorated. Västana was an entailed estate from 1778 until 1967. It has been a hotel since 1948. Next to the manor house is Gränna golf course.

5 Gyllene Uttern is a hotel and restaurant south of Gränna, next to the E4. The original café was built in 1932 by Major Gyllensvaan, who owned the land. A few years later, the hotel was extended to look like a fortified castle, inspired by the castle ruins at Brahehus and Visingsborg.

6 Tegnértornet tower (Forest Tower). At 27 m high and situated 262 m above Lake Vätter, the tower affords extensive views. It was built in 1973 at the initiative of the well-known athlete Torsten Tegnér. To get to the car park by car, turn off from National road 133 east of the E4 and follow the road for approx. 1.5 km. From here, there is a path of approx. 1.3 km to the tower. The path is part of the Holavedsleden trail, which connects to both the Västanaleden trail and the John Bauerleden trail. You can walk from Gränna, but it's uphill...

FACILITIES

There are several picnic areas and many fine viewpoints along the Västanaleden trail. There are WCs in Röttle and a dry privy at Tegnértornet tower. At Röttle, you can also take a dip in Lake Vätter.