The Bankerydsleden trail

STRECKE: Long-distance footpath: Circular trail

The Bankerydsleden trail is a 24.5 km long-distance 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 Vätter 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.

Find out more

Useful website for planning your trip:

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

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.

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

jonkoping.se
**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. **Spökessätta**: 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 Domnéån river, where it flows beneath the railway in a beautiful tunnel.
5. **Pover 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 Saxafabriken (1882) – the old scissor factory – and the site of Granbergstugan hall above the factory. Another factory, Gustafsson 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 Hallefors “soldier’s cottage” in Bosaryd. The cliffs above where the Domnéån river flows into the Klerobodemmen 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.
9. **Rödjekvarn** mill by the Domnéån 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 “Domnädary” appears in written records as early as 1387, and in 1389 Dompa Qvarn mill was gifted to Alvastra monastery. We’re now following the old mill road, passing Domnaryd Södgärden 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 earthen 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 Bjornamosen. The name probably refers to the common haircap moss (Swedish: bjömmossa) that grows here, which was previously used as a seal when building houses, as it is non-inflammable.
17. **Svinhaga**, previously Lilla (little) Svinhaga in contrast to Stora (big) Svinhaga, now Sjövik.
18. Just before Flaskebo, the trail crosses Bjornabäcken stream. There was once a simple watermill 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. 3000 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** 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 why 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 parish’s few remaining gravelled roads through a forest area.
23. **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.
24. **Labbarp village** has four farms. The trail continues up Labbarpsberget hill, or Kalvaberget as it is called on older maps.
25. Before the trail comes to an end, we pass **Bankeryds Östra folkskola**, a public school dating from 1915, and, next to the church, the church school, built in 1874.