The Tabergs-å-leden trail is a footpath close to a built-up area and offers both nature-based and cultural experiences. Enjoy leafy vegetation and rippling water, winding paths and remains of the cradle of industry. The trail is indicated by green waymarks on posts and trees, and runs between Månsarp station and Jordbron by Munksjön lake. The height loss between Vederydssjön and Munksjön lakes is approx. 143 m. At Gruvgården at the foot of Taberg, you’ll find a large picnic area with places for barbecues. From here, you can also walk up to the top of Taberg, the nature reserve, and enjoy the beautiful views.

The local people in the Tabergsådalen valley wanted to get closer to the river, spruce up their surroundings and offer visitors a nature-based experience close to a built-up area – hence the Tabergs-å-leden trail. The idea was first mooted in 2011 and has been realised by local volunteers in collaboration with Jönköping municipality. The trail is approx. 18 km long. You can walk all or parts of the trail, and it is close to public transport and housing.

The dams on the Tabergsån river are links to the cultural history of the area dating back to medieval mills, the opening of ironworks in the 17th century and the large-scale expansion of power stations in the early 20th century to meet the needs of industry. The legacy of the river’s rich industrial history is reflected by the remaining dams. Today, there are 12 dams/waterfalls from Masugnsdamm down to Kvarndamm by Hovslätt open-air museum.

Along the trail, you’ll find signs by sights of interest giving information on the dams and what used to be produced along the river. Picnic areas and other facilities are shown on the map.

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.
Things to see along the trail

1. Viewpoint at Månsarpasjön lake and info-board about the trail.
2. Månsarp’s derelict churchyard, the site of Månsarp’s old church. The strong stone wall is still standing, although the new church was completed in 1853. There is a picnic area south of the wall.
3. Northern part of Månsarpasjön lake, with lakeside picnic area. There was previously a ford here, later a bridge. If you cross the bridge, you can see an old sunken lane.
4. Hulufammar dam was built in the 1620s using natural stone. The dam is now self-regulating but continues to transmit some power to Hulufammar power station by the water being conducted through a cast inlet channel and wooden tank.
5. Taberg mill dam is now self-regulating but there are old buildings here and brick walls between the water and the fast-flowing rapids.
6. During the summer season, a café/restaurant, crazy golf and WC are available at the top of Taberg. There are fine views all year round.
7. Taberg mine and bat centre; starting point for guided tours of the mine; BBQ and shelter. At the foot of the hill, you’ll also find an info-board about Taberg and its mine, and starting points for footpaths up to the nature reserve and the top of Taberg hill. The long-distance lowland Sodra Västergötland trail also has an offshoot to/from Taberg.
8. Site of bridge and fishing place for Tokarp farm. Dating from the early 1900s. Crossing, old route between Tokarp and Ljungarum Church.
9. The Tabergsån river. These may be trees that have died of natural causes but some may have been felled by beavers.
10. The waterfall in Massadammen was called “Brusahl”, literally the “roaring hole”. This name derived from the roaring and crashing of the Tabergsån river in this narrow section of the valley. Today, the dam abutment has been removed, and there is a place to barbecue food, a jetty and a fountain.
11. The remains of the Matteskanalen canal are clearly visible, even though it no longer contains any water. It was built at the same time as the Jonssonadammen dam to provide the Mattesdammen dam with water, which then distributed hydropower to a wood pulp factory. The canal was approx. 580 m long.
12. The blast furnace dam was built in the 1830s. As many as 12,000 people gathered on the Tabergsån river. These may be trees that have died of natural causes but some may have been felled by beavers.
13. Norwegian industrial and local museum is located at the heart of Hovslätt on Dammgatan. The site dates back to the 17th century, when there was a hammer forge here. Records suggest that “Hofsflets kvarn” – Hovslätt mill – was shown on a map dating from 1664. Angsfors electric power station was installed in an adjoining building around 1910. Hovslätt local history society was formed in 1968 and took over the site. A number of old buildings have been demolished and new ones built. The open-air museum has collections of tools and machinery for agricultural, industrial and domestic use. The Hassafällsleden trail can be followed from the open-air museum.
14. The Tabergs Bergslag local history society was founded in 1928 and owns and runs Taberg open-air museum. The mine owner’s houses – Åsastugan, Benstampen and Båthuset – are just some of the old buildings at the park. You can also see traces of the inland ice which, as it melted, formed pits known as glacial kettles.
15. Jonssonadammen takes its name from the tinsmith Jonsson who lived right next to it. The dam had a 1.45 m drop but it was damaged and demolished as early as 1898.
16. The remains of the Matteskanalen canal are clearly visible, even though it no longer contains any water. It was built at the same time as the Jonssonadammen dam to provide the Mattesdammen dam with water, which then distributed hydropower to a wood pulp factory. The canal was approx. 580 m long.