

## 20. Vista kulle

**The climb to the top of Vista kulle and Stallaberget on a windless day is well worthwhile. Up at the summit there is a magnificent view over Lake Vättern and the surrounding landscape.**

Vista kulle is a nature reserve, about 5 km north of Huskvarna. The hill rises steeply from Lake Vättern 150 metres above the lake, just 400 metres from the shoreline. From the top of Vista kulle one can see the Jönköping valley and Taberg in the south, Hökensås in the west, Visingsö in the north and Skärstaddalen with the Landsjön Lake in the north-east. The view includes the variations of natural types, land formations and environments that the countryside offers here, with considerable geological, biological and limnological diversity.

The rock here consists of greenstone (diorite and gabbro), and one can find

plants which otherwise prefer limestone. Along the path up towards the top there is grove flora and fine rocky meadows, with spiked speedwell, fern-leaf dropwort, butterfly blue, kidney vetch, common milkwort, oregano, peach-leaved bellflower and harebell.

The trees are mainly Swedish whitebeam, pine and oak, also ash, birch, wild cherry, mountain ash and crabapple. Many are old and knotty.

For those interested in birds, the top of Vista kulle is an excellent place for observation during autumn migration. On the top of Vista kulle there is also heritage including the remains of an ancient fortification and a sacred

spring. There are benches and tables in the rather open area up on the hill.

In the early 20th century, building stone was quarried on the west side of Vista kulle, which consequently is very steep. If you want to go down to the eastern side of the hill, there is a path down to the road which one can follow back to the parking place.

Southwards from Vista kulle the deciduous forest continues on the Gissebranten slope, with ash and elm in the lower part and oak and pine in the higher area. On the steep slope there are especially large elms, lime trees and oaks. For those who wish to climb the steep slope, there are interesting



#### WORTH KNOWING

A path leads from the parking area over a bridge to the other side of the old railway embankment, to a viewpoint where there is a small pavilion with benches, accessible for wheelchairs and prams. There one can enjoy the beautiful view without needing to go up to the top.

**HOW TO GET THERE:** Drive from Huskvarna towards Skärstad. Turn left in Gisebo and continue about 2 km to the parking area on the right-hand side.

**PARKING:** There is a parking area below Vista kulle.

**BUS:** Bus stop Gisebo, from there a walk of about 2 km northwards.

**DIFFICULTY:** ● *Medium*



Reflexed stonecrop

vascular plants, mosses and lichens, and beetles.



Butterfly blue

