

### 3. Visingsö ekskog



**Visingsö ekskog oak woods were first planted in the 1830s to ensure access to timber for the Swedish fleet.**

It can be a good idea to go to Visingsö when you have a day free. Leave the car at Gränna, or take the bus to Gränna harbour and from there the ferry to Visingsö. The narrow, flat island in the middle of the southern part of Lake Vättern is perfect for cycling and walking as there are no steep hills and the views are magnificent in all directions. Part of the

Vättern–Sommenleden path goes around the island, marked with red cycleway signs. There are also hiking trails of various distances, both in the oak wood and along the edge of the lake from the harbour down to the southern point of the island. The paths are clearly marked and pass interesting historical places, such as a grave field from the iron-age and Näs

Castle ruins from the 12th century.

Over 300,000 oaks were planted in the first stage in the 1830s. Other species of tree, such as spruce, larch and beech, were placed between them to ensure that the trunks of the oak trees would be tall and straight.

Oak timber from the wood, which is about 360 hectares in extent, was never used for its original purpose.





#### WORTH KNOWING

Particularly impressive trees are the Kungseken (King's oak), in the middle of the area, and the Stora Silvergranen (Great silver fir), an enormous tree 39 metres high.

**HOW TO GET THERE:** Follow the signs from Gränna harbour.

**PARKING:** Gränna harbour and take the ferry over to Visingsö.

**BUS:** To Gränna harbour. Ferry (about 25 minutes) to Visingsö ferry quay. Bicycles can be hired at the harbour on Visingsö.

**DIFFICULTY:** ● Easy

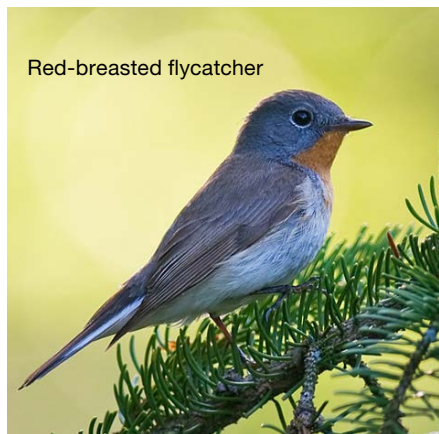


Potentilla sp.

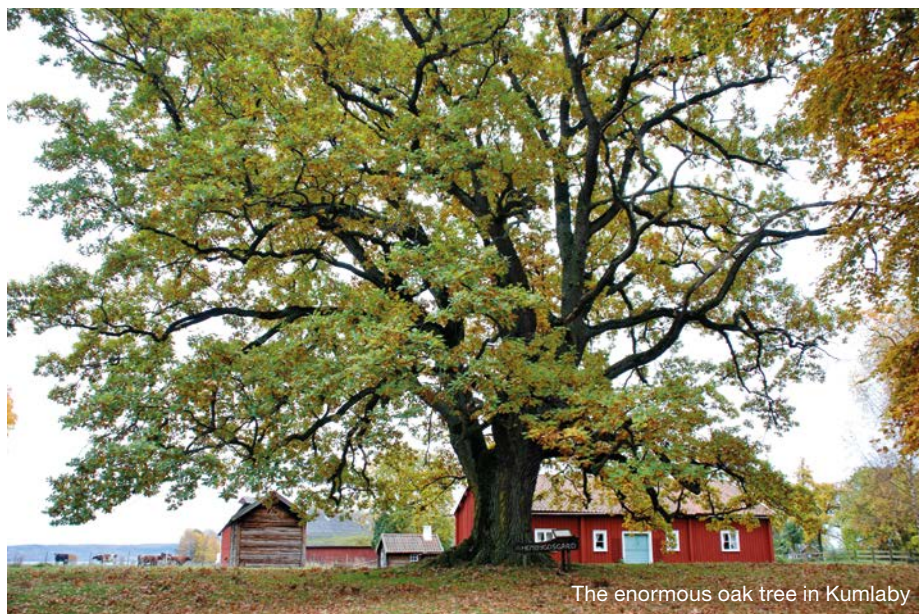
Instead, the timber was used for such things as interiors, floors and whisky barrels. The oak wood is harvested on a long-term basis.

There is a rich flora of herbaceous plants in the more open areas. In the oak wood there are also many tree-living lichens. Birds such as the red-breasted flycatcher nest in the wood, and the brightly coloured golden oriole has been seen in the area.

The largest oak on Visingsö is a very large old oak at Hembydsgården in Kumlaby.



Red-breasted flycatcher



The enormous oak tree in Kumlaby