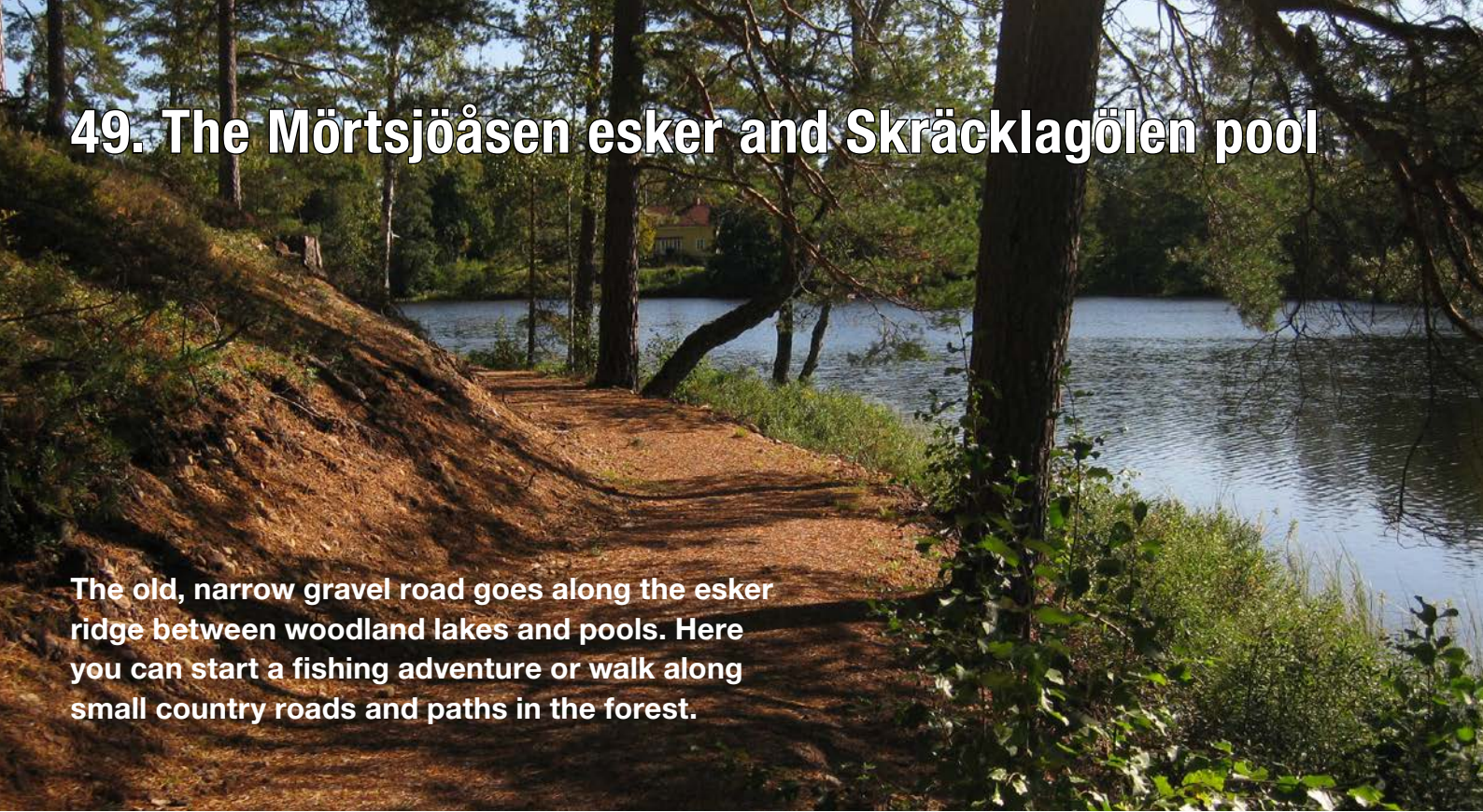


49. The Mörtsjöåsen esker and Skräcklagölen pool

A photograph showing a dirt path leading through a forest towards a lake. The path is narrow and appears to be made of gravel or dirt. The forest is dense with trees, and the lake is visible in the background. The scene is lit with natural light, suggesting a sunny day.

The old, narrow gravel road goes along the esker ridge between woodland lakes and pools. Here you can start a fishing adventure or walk along small country roads and paths in the forest.

The road through the wood goes along the Mörtsjöåsen esker which is a boulder ridge about 2 km long from the Västersjön lake in the south to the Skräcklagölen pool in the north. In the south, the esker ridge is very narrow; on it is Bottnaryd's local community centre. It is beautifully situated between the lakes of Västersjön and Gårdssjön. The local community centre is surrounded by sparse pine forest, where many of the pine trees are large and old.

The Mörtsjöåsen esker is an open-air recreation area in the diocese of

Skara, a so-called diocesan reserve. Here are small country roads, woodland paths and jogging tracks. The terrain is undulating and hilly with coniferous forest on the hills and marsh or small pools, and marsh in the valleys. The shore is mainly quagmire with bog moss, where bog myrtle, cranberry, cloudberry and bog bilberry grow. Bog myrtle has aromatic oil. On warm days, you can feel the fragrance of the bog myrtle. If you rub a leaf, it becomes more intense.

In some of the pine trees of the forest, the black woodpecker has pecked

holes to build its nest or look for food, for example, wood-living beetle larvae. Other birds or mammals like to take over the black woodpecker's old hollow holes. A marten can use a nesting hole, and in another hole a bat may rest during the day. Old hollow trees are also important for birds to raise their young in or find protection from the winter cold.



WORTH KNOWING

The Mörtsjöåsen esker is an open-air recreation area north of Bottnaryd. The woodland pools have jetties suitable for the disabled, fishing jetties and planked paths on part of the shoreline. Stopping places with windbreaks, barbecue sites and dry toilets are also in the area, and information about fishing permits.

HOW TO GET THERE: Take Kyrkvägen in Bottnaryd towards Bjurbäck. Turn right just outside the village at a small road sign, Stiftsreservat.

PARKING: After the road sign, 200m. And at the community centre on the promontory between Västersjön and Gårdsjön

BUS: Towards Borås from Jönköping. In Bottnaryd, Kyrkvägen, north about 400m, turn right at the road sign Stiftsreservat, walk 300m to Mörtsjön, after another 500m the road towards Skräcklagölen.

DIFFICULTY: ● Easy



Bog myrtle



Bog moss and sedge



Marten



Skräcklagölen