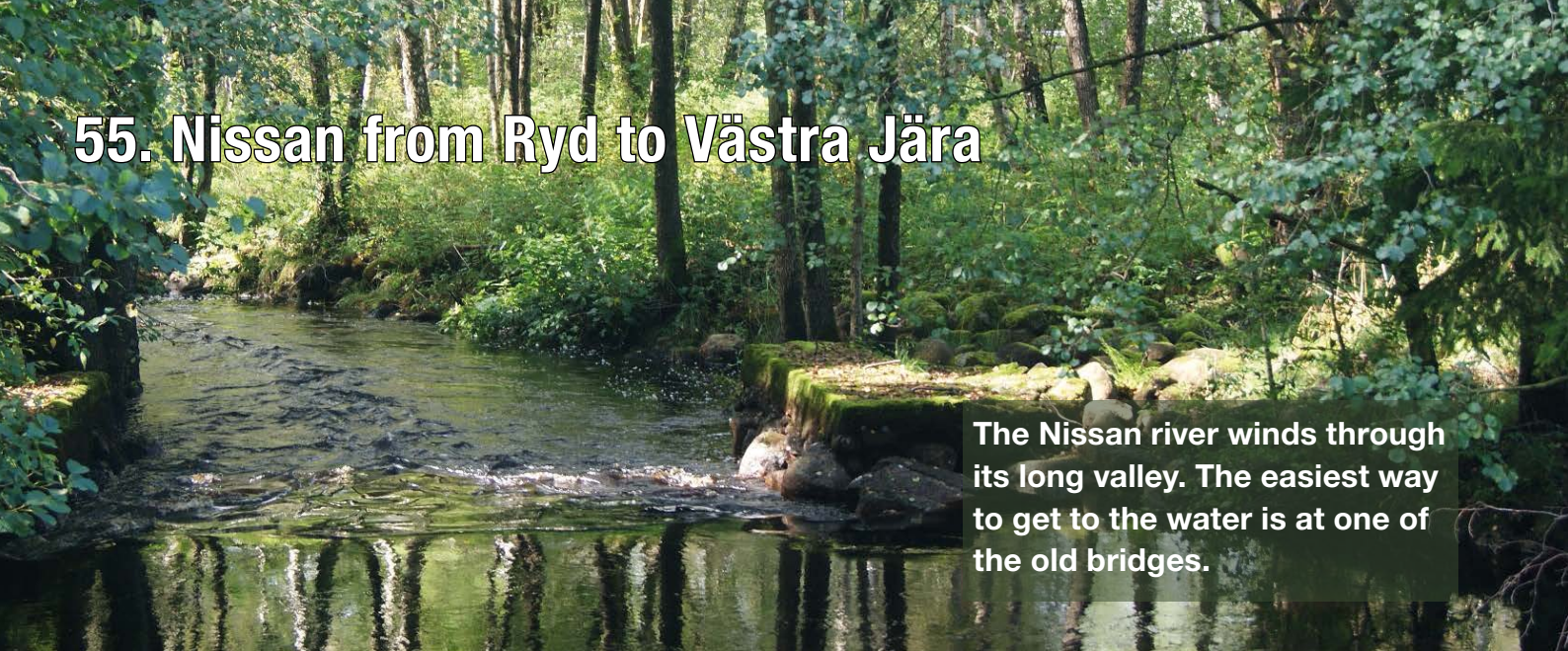


## 55. Nissan from Ryd to Västra Jära



The Nissan river winds through its long valley. The easiest way to get to the water is at one of the old bridges.

The Nissan valley is a rift valley which was levelled with sandy sediment by glacial rivers during the last Ice Age. Today, long stretches of the river flow through a flat, level plain at the bottom of the valley. The surrounding landscape consists mainly of woodland. The watercourse on the level areas forms meandering loops. An aerial photograph of the Nissan river shows a blue meandering ribbon surrounded by varied, open marshland and woodland.

The Nissan river starts in headland lakes and marshes in the highlands of Småland in the western part of the municipality. In the upper part of the Nissan river is a colony of salmon trout. Previously, the salmon trout in the

various stretches of the river were more separated because some old dams prevented them from migrating. The Jära water saw from 1862 is a heritage structure; salmon trout can pass it through a fish passage which has been constructed there.

Other heritage environments in the Nissan river are Spaafors south of Ryd and the Hoppebo mill at Unnefors.

The Nissan river has a rich wildlife. Apart from salmon trout and minnow, there are also perch, eel, alpine bullhead, brook lamprey, pike, burbot and roach. On the river bottom are various species of dragonfly larvae of which several are especially worthy of protection. Dragonfly larvae and other bottom-living animals are a favourite food for salmon trout.

There are also many birds in the various environments of the Nissan river. The red-throated diver nests in pools and meres in the marshland and in the headstream lakes of the Nissans river. The kingfisher fishes in the slowly flowing parts of the river. Another characteristic bird is the dipper.

In bygone times, the land closest to the river was often meadow and pasture. In the wettest areas are wet meadows where hay was grown as winter feed for farm animals. Some plants from this time are mat-grass, viper's-grass, bitter vetch and devil's bit scabious.



#### WORTH KNOWING

In Ryd one can get to the river along the old Mulserydsvägen (which nowadays is a cycle path). Another place is level with Västra Jära. Here, the banks are steep and the water flows faster. The Södra Vätterleden path follows the route of an old road over the Nissan river.

**HOW TO GET THERE:** From road 26, Nissastigen, turn off at the Västra Jära sign. After 150m you can stop at a small lay-by and walk up a path to the Nissan river and Södra Vätterleden footpath. Or continue the road to Jära Vattensåg. In Ryd, turn off at the northern roundabout to Mulserydsvägen to the old bridge over the Nissan river.

**PARKING:** There is no formal parking area.

**BUS:** Towards Gislaved to bus stop Västra Jära or bus stop Ryd.

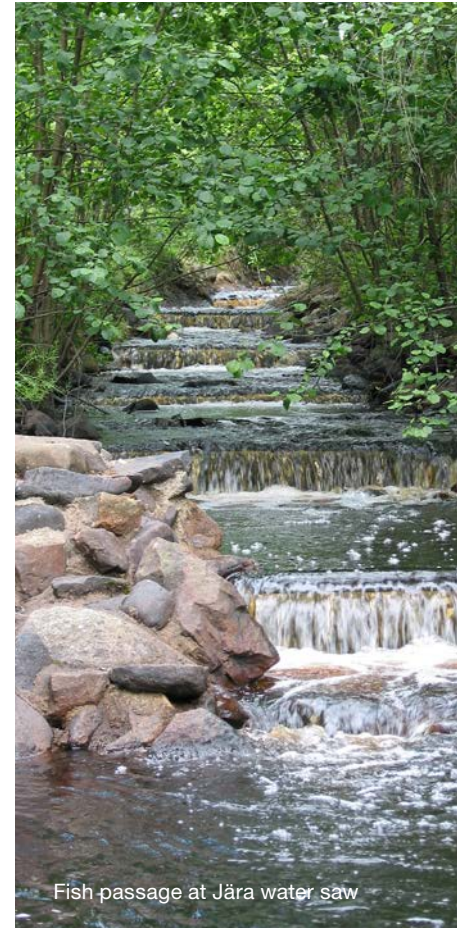
**DIFFICULTY:** ● Easy



Small tortoiseshell



Old Mulserydsvägen in Ryd



Fish passage at Jära water saw



The arched stone bridge at Västra Jära