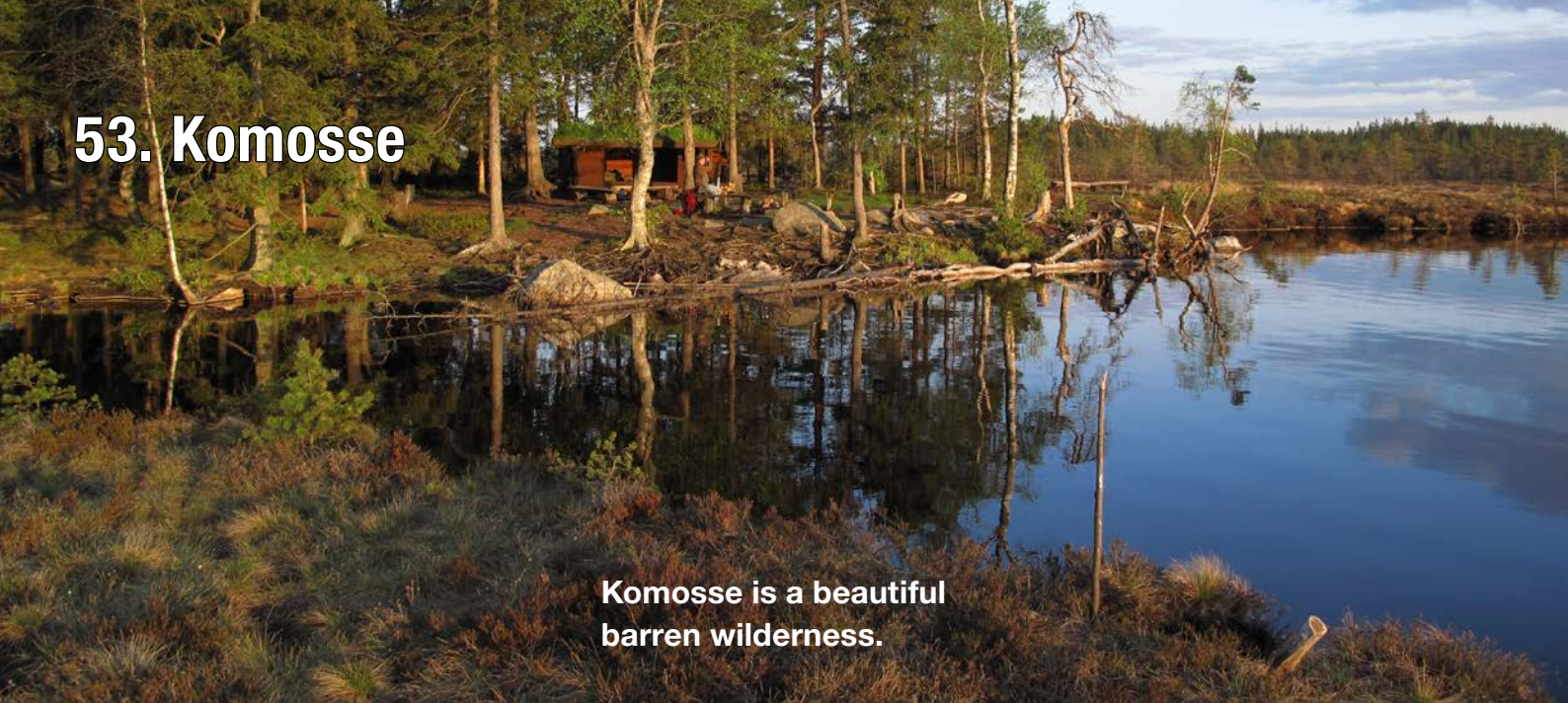


## 53. Komosse



**Komosse is a beautiful barren wilderness.**

Komosse is a complex area, with many habitat types, such as bare bog, marsh and marsh woodland. There are also islands of firm land, pools, small woodland lakes and a few larger lakes.

The County Administrative Board is working with an EU project “Life to ad(d)mire” which is aimed at restoring marshland. In Komosse, ditched land is to be restored to enable plants and animals of the marsh landscape to thrive.

Komosse is high up in the countryside between the long valleys of Nissan and Ätrans. The ground consists of bedrock with granite at the bottom, covered with sand, and the top stratum is peat earth. The highest parts of the marsh only acquire water

via rain. The most important plants of the marsh are bog mosses, in Sweden there are about 40 species. They have a low pH value, are generally difficult to break down. Bogs are built from peat, and the level of the marsh rises in consequence. Komosse is rising at about 0.5mm/year.

The Kalhögmosse bog has peat and, in between, water-filled hollows. In the peat are the various species of bog moss. Vascular plants include bog rosemary, black crowberry, hare’s-tail cottongrass and cranberry. One characteristic plant is sundew, which supplements its intake of nutrients in the nutrient-poor environment of the bog by eating insects.

Komosse has some large lakes. The

Trehörningen and Elsabosjön lakes are closest to Mulserydsvägen. Out in the marsh is Björnsjön lake where the red-throated diver can be seen. Additionally, there are pools and meres. Approach pools and meres carefully. Bog moss grows in the surface water. Along the shore are quagmires; there is the danger of going through them.

On the marsh you can hear golden plover. Other wading birds are wood sandpiper, green sandpiper, lapwing and curlew. A crane may trumpet to announce that it has seen you.



### WORTH KNOWING

Komosse is one of southern Sweden's largest marshes. 4799 hectares of it are a nature reserve, of which 1101 hectares are in the Municipality of Jönköping. Experience the various habitats of Komosse on the Björnsjöleden path, 5 km. At the Trehörningen lake there is a small bathing place.

**HOW TO GET THERE:** On the road between Mulseryd and Köttkulla. From Jönköping, road 40 westwards then road 26, Nissastigen, turn towards Mulseryd then towards Köttkulla.

**PARKING:** At the reserve entrance.

**DIFFICULTY:** ● Easy



Golden plover



Bog rosemary



Sundew

*“Visit Komosse in the winter on a bitter January day, or in the spring when there are skylarks over the open bare bog, or on a hot July day when the scent of bog myrtle is at its strongest and the mass of bog asphodel is golden-yellow against the brown marsh, or during the autumn when green turns to brown and red and the trumpeting cranes announce their presence.”*  
Lars Franzén from the book *Komosse – strövtåg i tidlöst landskap (Komosse - excursions in a timeless landscape)*, 1984.