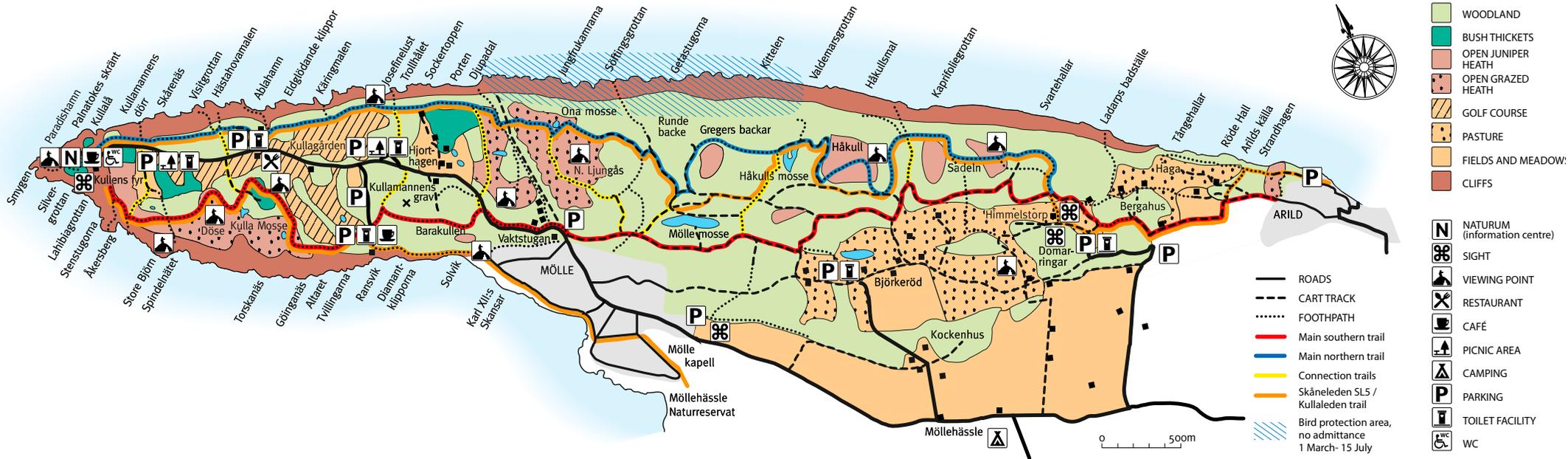




Kullaberg nature reserve



KULLABERG

No matter where you are in northwestern Skåne (Scania), you can usually see Kullaberg headland silhouetted against the skyline, the promontory rising prominently with steep precipices towards the straits of Öresund and bay of Skålderviken, and sloping down towards the flat plains to the south. Woods, fragmentary heathland and wild escarpments stand in stark contrast to the otherwise predominantly cultivated countryside. Lying at the foot of the escarpment are the idyllic settlements of Mölle, Arild and Brunnby old church village. To the south, near the shore of Öresund stands Krapperup keep with moat and mounds, surrounded by a large park, which is open to the public.

Important information!

The landscape of Kullaberg is varied and exciting, including steep slopes – particularly out towards the sea. Keep an eye on your children! Precipices and cliffs might look like attractive places to play, but they can be extremely dangerous.

Bedrock

Kullaberg consists of ancient bedrock, primarily comprised of gneiss, in complete contrast to the surrounding plain which rests on younger, stratified sandstone. The gneiss is mainly reddish to reddish-grey, but otherwise can vary greatly in appearance. Rough crystals of quartz, feldspar and mica also occur. Folds and cracks form interesting patterns in the rock. The larger cracks are filled with black to brownish types of rock. These intrusive rocks lie in bands, mainly across the peninsula from south to north, and consist mainly of amphiboles and porphyrites. Along the length of the peninsula are fissures with a similar type of rock known as diabase, or, in its special form, "kullaite". These dark areas occur, for example, at Josefinelust, Käringmalen and at the Diamond rocks south of Ransvik.

Types of terrain

The accentuated mountain ridge, known as a horst, has been formed through cracks occurring in the earth's crust, with the bedrock sinking down on either side of the middle section. The mountain ridge has then been sliced through by vertical intrusive rocks, some of which have expanded into deep ravines such as Josefinelustdale, Djupadale and the dale east of Håkull. Peaks rise between the ravines. From the highest point of the mountain, Håkull, 187 meters above sea level, there are extensive views over the surrounding countryside. The second highest point is N. Ljungås, 175 meters above sea level. A most interesting type of terrain has been formed by the sea, which steadily eats away at the high cliffs, which in some places rise to above 60 meters. Because of the fissures in the mountain, and the varying durability of the rock stratas, bays, rock clefts, cliff tunnels (Porten), rocky islands and skerries, as well as stone columns or "rauks" (Sockertoppen) have been formed.

In the bays, the waves roll masses of stones against one another, so that they become smooth and round. These stretches of wave-eroded stones ("malar") can best be described as "cannon-ball grinds", and are to be found at Ransvik, Kåringmalen and Håkullsmal.

The sea has also ground out caves in the cliffs at Visit cave, Josefinelust caves and at Söfing cave. They are not particularly deep, and were formed when the sea level was approximately 5-10 meters higher than it is today.

Land history

Originally the mountain was probably wooded, with small fens and bogs in fissures and ravines. In view of the geobotanical aspect, it may be assumed that oak wood was the dominant cover. Man had already occupied Kullaberg during the stone age, and remains have been found for example in the caves such as at Visitgrottan. Other ancient remains in the form of burial mounds and stone circles at Kockenhus, Himmelstorp and Bränneslyckan tell of further activity both on and near the mountain.

During the 1500's, the owners of Kullaberg were obliged to maintain a beacon furthest out on the point. During this time, probably all the woodland was felled, and when the first detailed maps of Kullaberg were produced in the 1700's, the mountain was as good as treeless. It was only in the vicinity of Kullagård and Himmelstorp that there was any continuous woodland, and even this was strongly influenced by cultivation. Beech woods were encouraged, and in among them were hay meadows and arable fields. Otherwise juniper heath predominated, scattered with stunted oaks and bushes, where cattle, sheep and goats grazed. At the turn of the twentieth century, land utilisation changed completely. Nearly the whole of the heathland was planted with conifers, predominantly black pine, and with this arose the woodland landscape which today characterises the area. Open countryside is found only in the vicinity of the village of Björkeröd, on the golf course on Western Kullaberg and on the heights and hillocks, where scattered fragments of the old ling heathland remain. About 1980 most of the planted woodlands were stormfelled. Since then large areas of heathland have been restored, both between Kulla mosse and Fyren (The Lighthouse), and at Norra Ljungås, as well as at Djupadal.

The land is fenced and grazed by sheep and highland cattle.

Vegetation and flora

Kullaberg is characterised by a thin and species-sparse vegetation. The reason for this is partly the meagre gneiss bedrock, and partly the earlier extremely intensive exploitation of the land.



Beech forest

The exception is the vegetation associated with the bands of more nutritional rock strata, with the boggy areas and with the precipitous cliffs. The land use history also is very variable. Thus, Kullaberg is an area rich in variety, containing approximately 70% of all Swedish non-alpine flora species.

Woodland

Kullaberg boasts a rich variety of woodland scenery, with deciduous forests that change with the seasons: bare trees in the winter, pale green in the spring, bright green in the summer and a blaze of golden red in the autumn. Oak, lime, ash and alder are all found on Kullaberg. The Gyllenstiernska Krapperup Foundation carries out some forestry on eastern Kullaberg.

Animal life

The marine life around Kullaberg is similar to that found along the rocky shores further north along the west coast. As well as a wealth of fish, there are also various crustaceans, sea urchins, molluscs and mussels, several species of which are very rare. Marine mammals – porpoises and harbour seals – can sometimes be seen from the land when the surface of the sea is still.

The hilly terrain provides plenty of opportunities for badgers and foxes to build their sets and dens. Hares and rabbits are often spotted, either alone or in groups. Otherwise, the most typical woodland creatures are roe deer and red deer. They often graze out on the open land. Wild boar can also be seen occasionally on Kullaberg. Sheep, cows and horses also graze on open land. Birds can often be seen in and around bushes, including shrikes, white-throats, lesser whitethroats and linnets.

The treetops and bushes are also home for chaffinches, various warblers, great tits, blackbirds, robins and wood pigeons. Woodpeckers – including black woodpeckers, great spotted woodpeckers and green woodpeckers – forage for food in dead tree trunks. Both grass snakes and adders can be found on Kullaberg, and lizards are common. Frogs make their homes in the marshlands. Smaller creatures on Kullaberg include many species of insects, spiders, worms and snails, several of which are extremely rare. The oak and linden thickets on the steep slopes make particularly good habitats for these creatures. For example, the southern slopes are home for the purseweb spider, the only relative of the tarantula to be found in the Nordic region.

Caves

There are more than 20 caves along the coastline, all of which can be visited by boat. Visiting the caves from the shore involves taking great care among the loose boulders and stones of the steep slopes. The most visited caves on Kullaberg are Silver cave, Lahibia cave, Visit cave and Josefinelust caves.



KULLEN LIGHTHOUSE

Furthest out at Kullaberg Point, high up on the cliffs, 78.5 meters above sea level, stands Kullen Lighthouse. It was built in 1900, and is Scandinavia's most powerful light with a standard candle-power of 3.8 million. The first beacon dates back to the 1500's, and consisted of an iron hanging basket in which either wood or coal was burnt.



HIMMELSTORPSGÅRDEN

Luxuriant deciduous woodland surrounds the half-timbered, closed-yard manor farm of Himmelstorp, situated on the slopes of Eastern Kullaberg. The farm is already mentioned in 1491, but the present buildings, which are recognised as of historic importance, were erected during the first half of the 1800's. Kullen's local folk-lore society administers the farm, and visitors are welcome.

Recent history

Even if Kullaberg was earlier visited by many travellers - of whom Carl von Linné was the most well-known - the first tourists began to arrive in the 1860's. Visits became organised, and the owner of Kullagården began to run it as a country inn.

During the 1870's, the farm and thus all of Kullaberg, was transferred into the Krapperup ownership. Tourism nevertheless continued, gradually increasing. In the main it was Danes and Germans who visited the mountain. Mölle developed into a prominent tourist resort, and when Kullagården burnt down in 1900, all tourist activity became concentrated in Mölle. After the Second World War, Mölle ceased to be a fashionable tourist resort and the stream of tourists to Kullaberg declined.

Today, however, the Kullaberg nature reserves are the most heavily visited in Sweden. Western Kullaberg has more than 500,000 visitors per annum, and the promontory as a whole is visited by several thousand more. The whole headland is an open recreation area. The maintenance of the area includes increasing the acreage of broad-leafed woodland and restoring heathlands.

In Western Kullaberg, more intensive management lays particular emphasis on special attention towards scientific and cultural-historical values.

Naturum Kullaberg

Naturum Kullaberg is a visitors' centre located next to Kullen lighthouse, at the end of the peninsula towards the northern approaches of the Sound.

The centre is owned by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, and is managed by Skåne County Administrative Board.

The centre features the exhibition "The Gateway to Kullaberg", which showcases Kullaberg Nature Reserve – including the sky above it and the sea that surrounds it. Modules are located around the centre, where visitors can guess the bird calls, fungi, flowers or remarkable sea creatures. The seawater aquarium is always popular with children, giving them the opportunity to touch a starfish. The centre can provide suggestions for countryside walks and excursions. The idea is simple: Naturum Kullaberg will be the gateway to nature.

Walking trails

The main walking trails are marked with coloured symbols. Two main paths lead from Arild to Kullen Lighthouse and back. The red path on the southern slopes is relatively easy to walk along, while the blue path that follows the northern slope is more demanding.

Text: Lars Pålsson, revidering naturum Kullaberg. Webversion 2014.



Foto: Regina Malles

A 300 meters wide area around the coast was designated a marine reserve in 1986, with the aim of preserving the flora and fauna of the seabed and ensuring that it is disturbed as little as possible. The waters around the Kulla peninsula are where the saltwater of the Skagerrak meets the brackish water of the Baltic Sea, creating the ideal conditions for a wealth of different species.

The main paths are linked at regular intervals by yellow perpendicular paths, making round trips easier. The orange markings show the route of the Kullaleden Trail, part of the Skåneleden Trail's sub-trail SL 5 that runs around the Kulla peninsula from Helsingborg, via Höganäs, Kullaberg and Arild, to Utvälinge. The Kullaleden Trail is 70 km long, offering a wide range of experiences along its route. A brochure detailing a self-guided walking tour is available for sale at naturum Kullaberg. The guide can also be downloaded as an app for both Kullaberg and the Kullaleden Trail.

Maintenance

The area is maintained by the County Administrative Board of Skåne and the Gyllenstierna Krapperup Foundation.

Contact information

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Please remember!

- * Soil, rocks and stones must not be damaged
- * Flowers and plants must not be picked or dug up
- * Do not break any branches or damage bushes and trees
- * Do not take plants or animal life from the seabed
- * Animal life must not be harmed or knowingly disturbed (e.g. by playing loud music)
- * Motorised vehicles are only permitted on designated roads, and must be parked in designated parking spaces
- * Tents, caravans, motorhomes or similar must not be pitched or parked within the nature reserve
- * Fires/barbecues are only permitted at designated locations and at times when there is no fire ban in force
- * Posters, signs, placards or similar must not be erected
- * Dogs must be kept on a lead all year round
- * Don't drop litter

The regulations which apply in the reserves - somewhat different in Western and Eastern Kullaberg - are set out on the notices displayed at the entrances and along the trails.

Further information

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