



## ABOUT THIS ITINERARY

Kullaberg has changed a lot throughout the years. Forestry, agriculture and farming have had a great impact on the landscapes of the Reserve and the way the people see the mountain has changed over time. Would you like to learn about the history of this land and how humans shaped Kullaberg to create an unintendedly unique landscape in this corner of Scania?

This itinerary begins at the Josefinelust parking lot in the depths of the Reserve. Let us start by heading south through the yellow trail (please, be careful when crossing the main road!) and follow it while noticing the trees that reach up to the sky around you. **Did you think this mountain was always covered with trees?** During the 16th century the owners of the land had to cut wood to keep the light of the Kullens Fyr alive, and because of this the first maps of the mountain appear treeless. Even if any woodland remains persisted (Carl Linnaeus described the beech woods at Josefinelust in 1749) these were strongly influenced by cultivation.

When you reach the southern red trail, turn left and continue walking towards the east. The oaks start to replace the beech trees, then a temporarily floodable zone surrounded by maple trees appears on your left and finally a beautiful opening comes into view. Can you find the traditional plough resting there after years of hard work? It was once used to prepare the land by dragging it over the soil to turn it over and cut furrows where the seeds were planted. Now leaving this ancient farming land behind you and heading back north following the wall of rocks that will lead you to the main road. Before crossing the road carefully, you will find on your right a few steps that lead to nowhere. They were once the entrance to traditional cabins that are missing today, recently removed due to age and decay. They were similar to the beautiful cabins standing in the distance beyond the sheep enclosure in front of you. Are there any sheep inside of it? Say hi and they will surely bleat happy to meet you. If they are not there at the moment, they will probably be out looking for fresh pastures in the Reserve. Cattle, sheep and goats have grazed at the different pasture areas in Kullaberg since the 18th century. Have you happened to come across any of the red deer that live at Kullaberg? They used to live in this enclosure until a fierce storm caused a tree to fall on the fence, breaking it and allowing them to escape. They have been roaming around Kullaberg ever since, so you might be able to see them while walking around the Reserve. If you do, please remember to avoid disturbing them as they are free animals living in the wild and they like to live peacefully.



TYPE	Circular itinerary
DURATION	30 minutes
LENGTH	1.300 meters
TOPOGRAPHIC ELEVATIONS	62 masl -
LLEVATIONS	94 masl
ABSOLUTE SLOPES	min: 0 %
	max: 35 %
DIFFICULTY LEVEL	Easy
INTENSITY	Low

## KULLAMANNEN'S LEGEND

According to legends and local myths, Kullamannen was a Danish knight astrologer and soothsaver called Thord Knutsson Bonde. He foretold the fate of the sons of the Danish King Valdemar Sejrs and predicted that they would become kings whose reign would be marked by wars and lawlessness. This prophecy became true, as the whole Nordic region was wild and lawless at the time. The legend has expanded throughout the years and it is said that Kullamannen became the ruler of the mountain. Having the power to decide about the fate of those who fall from the cliffs of Kullaberg, and watching over the ships that navigate around the peninsula, taking the decision whether to allow them to pass through or make them sink in the sea at his whim. There are many places at Kullaberg named after Kullamannen and after all this years he still remains a mystery.



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Around the tiny but charming village of Björkeröd you can find almost every kind of landscape from the Reserve (except for the marine ones). In this second chapter about the history of how Kullaberg developed you will learn a bit more about the changes that forestry, agriculture and farming provoked in the shaping of this beautiful land.

This last journey through the landscapes of Kullaberg begins at the parking lot located in Björkeröd. Walk towards the east following the road until you reach the farms and look at the beautiful buildings. **Some of them still have the historic half-timbered roof and are painted in "Falun red"**, a traditional dye used on wooden cottages and barns all over Scandinavia. Agriculture and farming are still very important economic activities in the region of Scania and you will be able to see cattle, sheep and farming lands all over the Reserve, though especially in the eastern part of Kullaberg.

Turn left and walk north **admiring the lovely view of Björkeröd's lake** until you reach the red southern trail. Follow it to the west while marvelling at the different trees that stand majestically around you. The thin trunks of the young oak and beech trees on both sides of the trail reveal that they have not been there from ancient times and that Kullaberg, as you might already know, was almost treeless at the beginning of the 18th century. The few woodland that remained was situated on inner land, and you will find some of it just a bit forward, where the tall and thick beech trees stand solemnly in the forest. Between them are some ancient oaks and, if you look closely, you will discover some evergreen trees too. This are the conifers from the massive planting that took place during the 19th century all over Kullaberg to meet the demand for wood. **This lead to the peninsula being mostly wooded by the beginning of the 20th century.** During a fierce storm in 1981, the strong winds brought down most of the conifers of Western Kullaberg and they were later replaced by oak trees, even though some of the conifers still rise majestically on the eastern part.

When you come to a crossing of paths, turn left and walk east towards Björkeröd's lake until you see the wooden steps that will bring you back to the starting point at the parking lot. This is the end of the journey through the recent history of the landscapes of the Reserve. Are you curious about how Kullaberg became a Nature Reserve? Turn the page and learn all about it before leaving this beautiful protected area!









## KULLABERG. THE STORY BEHIND THE NATURE RESERVE

Affected by human exploitation over the centuries, Kullaberg has experienced the great cultural transformation of its extraordinary landscapes. But because of its unsuitability for intensive cultivation, the mountain has retained more original vegetation than its surrounding area. This ridge full of nature stands over the horizon above the Kattegatt and the southern lowlands of Sweden, acting as a magnet for many types of visitors that have something in common: to be nature lovers. **Kullaberg was also a magnet for the first travellers that visited the mountain, like the famous Carl Linnaeus, and for the visitors that began to arrive in the 1860's.** The number of visitors has increased throughout the years and it is believed to continue to do so in the future.

During the 1870's, Kullaberg was transferred into the Krapperup ownership and later on, as a result of a popular request to save nature from exploitation, Kullaberg was eventually designated a Nature Reserve. This is one of the most common ways to protect nature in the long run in Sweden. Eastern Kullaberg was designated a Nature Reserve in 1965 and at the moment it is owned by the Gyllenstiernska Krapperup Foundation but the County Administrative Board of Scania has the right to administrate the forest. Western Kullaberg became a Nature Reserve in 1971 and was maintained by Kullaberg's Nature Ltd. until 1997, when it was acquired by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Now it is managed by the County Administrative Board of Scania.

Since the protection of Eastern and Western Kullaberg, the principal objective has been the conservation of nature. In order to achieve this, some management works based on scientific knowledge are developed in the Reserve. But not all conservation is undertaken on land, since the Marine Reserve (350 ha) was added in 1986.

