



Moose with calf

Welcome to Halle- and Hunneberg Ecopark and Sveaskog



The table mountains called Halleberg and Hunneberg are sharply outlined as dark silhouettes against the sky over the Västgötaslätten plain at the southern point of Lake Vänern. The Halle- and Hunneberg Ecopark's natural surroundings are magnificent and mythical, and have been a source of fascination to visitors throughout time. Hiking through the powerful precipices in the barren, windswept forest with the fertile plain far below is a powerful experience.

Halle- and Hunneberg is also well-known for its mooses. Thousands of visitors are attracted to the mountains every year to see the splendid king of the forest in the area where it belongs. To conserve and develop the area's natural and cultural values, Sveaskog has chosen to turn the area into an ecopark.

Quick facts

Opened: 2004

Don't miss: Hallesnipen, outlooks Älvsutsikten and Floklev, Grinnsjö meadows

Suggestions: Moose safari, Royal Hunt Museum with Ecopark Center, Spiskupan restaurant

Interesting species: Red deer, sea eagle, marsh gentian

Size: 5,300 hectares

Location: At the southern point of Lake Vänern, just east of Vänersborg



Lake Kvarnsjön

Sveaskog's ecoparks – for nature and people

The ecoparks are one of Sveaskog's tools for working with nature conservation. Our aim is to preserve, recreate and develop high natural values. At least half of the productive forest land is used for nature conservation. Wood production is conducted in most ecoparks, albeit adapted to the area's particular natural and cultural interest. At the same time, focus is placed on the significant role the forest plays in outdoor life and human well-being. Sveaskog has developed 37 ecoparks throughout the country. The Halle- and Hunneberg Ecopark was inaugurated by King Carl XVI Gustaf in 2004.



The ecopark conserves and changes

Conserving biological diversity requires a number of different methods – everything from active management to abstinence. By well-planned nature conservation, Sveaskog will recreate natural pine and deciduous swamp forests, free up areas for oaks, restore wetlands and restore ancient crofters' holdings. About half of the ecopark's productive forestry land area will be used to produce timber; however, consideration will be taken of values related to natural, cultural and outdoor living. Halle- and Hunneberg Ecopark comprises around 4,800 hectares of productive forest. The table below shows Sveaskog's long-term conservation ambitions for the ecopark.

Conservation ambitions in Halle- and Hunneberg Ecopark

Nature types with high natural values	Starting point 2004	Restoration	In the future
Coniferous forests	4%	7%	11%
Birch forests	4%	3%	7%
Oak forests	2%	3%	5%
Nature reserves	7%	7%	14%*
Sum of forests with high natural values	17%	20%	37%

* Halle- and Hunneberg's nature reserve has been expanded since the ecopark's inauguration.

With the enhanced and general consideration for natural, cultural and recreational environments, which is also given to the remaining production forests, the total nature conservation area is 51 percent.

Old windswept forest

Wrapped like a cloak around the precipices of Halle-Hunneberg lie a completely unique mixed forest, the Randskog forest, that contains old pine and oak trees. The forest is left over from the time forestry began. The protective 'cloak' around the mountain was saved in 1830 to protect new plantings on the plateaus from wind and dehydration. The trees are often far older than 200 years of age and are characterized by the barren and windswept setting that has given them their imaginative shapes. Sveaskog will expand the forest through active management.



The strenuous life of a mountain crofter

Halle-Hunneberg's beautiful crofters' holdings with their ancient giant oaks and rich meadowlands testify to the lives led by the settlers in the 16th and 17th centuries. We can only guess at the difficult lives the crofters who came to the mountains were faced with. They came to break out land to cultivate and to live on what the land had to offer. There were 28 crofters' holdings at one point, and several hundred cows grazed in the forest. Only a few of the buildings remain today, and many of the crofters' holdings have been replanted. Sveaskog reinstated the old holdings through felling and managing the land with hay making and grazing animals.

More giant oaks

The open crofters' holdings benefited the oaks which were allowed to grow gnarly and old. The giant oaks are extremely important for biological diversity. Over 1,000 species live on, in and off the oak trees – everything from the smallest insects and larvae to birds and deer. As crofter's holdings were abandoned, however, the fields became overgrown and

spruce trees took over. In order to save the oak trees, Sveaskog has chopped over 2,000 oaks free in both ancient and young forests. These efforts will continue in order to ensure the availability of giant oaks in the future as well. Today there are nearly 30 giant oaks with a diameter larger than 1 meter.

Wetlands rich in bird life

In the search for productive forestry land, extensive drainage took place in the 20th century. In order to drain wetlands for forest production, 330 kilometers of ditches were dug in the mountains. Today, we know that wetlands constitute one of the most species-rich environments in the forest landscape with a great many insects, plants and birds. Wetlands also serve as biological treatment works when they clean water as it passes through the landscape. Sveaskog, thus, is working to recreate wetlands by damming areas that have been drained. One such project is the recreated lake Fågelsjön that currently has a rich bird life with snipes, green sandpipers and cranes, for example.

King of the forest – the moose

Halle-Hunneberg is also famous for its mooses. Both Swedes and visitors from abroad come hoping to see the magnificent animal every year. The moose population has varied in size over the centuries depending on the availability of grass and hunting. The moose was extinct in the area during a period of time at the beginning of the 19th century. When moose later immigrated to the area again, they became such a threat to pine plantings that King Oskar II initiated the first official royal hunt in 1885. Fifty-three mooses were shot in a single day. Halle-Hunneberg still hosts the royal moose hunt about every other year. The availability of moose is not quite as good today, but there is still a good chance of catching sight of one when visiting the mountains.

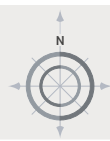
Active outdoor living

Halle-Hunneberg is an attractive area for outdoor living. Both Swedes and visitors from abroad come to experience nature, to exercise or to pick berries and mushrooms.

A network of hiking trails and paths make getting to the mountains' different sights easy. A description of hikes and a map of the trails can be purchased at the ecopark center at the Royal Hunts Museum at Bergagården (+46 (0)521-27 00 40). Moose safaris and guided hikes are appreciated activities on the mountains. The lakes Igelsjön and Kvarnsjön at Hunneberg offer the possibility of put-and-take-fishing with permit from the museum. Lake Hallsjön at Halleberg is also an important fishing water.

Points of interest

- 1 **Hallesnipen's** natural surroundings are magnificent with its ancient forests. The view over Lake Vänern is grandiose.
- 2 **Ovandalen** is a rift valley that cuts Halleberg's northern point off from the rest of the mountain. The ravine gives a bewitching impression with its ancient spruce forest.
- 3 **Ekebacken** offers a fantastic view over Lake Vänern. There are also abundant opportunities to see wild game here.
- 4 **Hallsjön lake** offers rainbow trout, char, salmon trout, perch and pike fishing. Fishing permits can be purchased at the Royal Hunts Museum Älgens Berg, among other places.
- 5 **Hallebergs fornborg**, an ancient castle, is considered to be the largest in Scandinavia. The ancient castle was built during the Iron Age. It served as a refuge during various wars, but is no longer visible.
- 6 **Toltorp** has rolling meadows and ancient broad-leaf giants. The largest oak on the mountain is found here.
- 7 **Bergagården** is a natural starting point for a visit to the ecopark. Information about the natural surroundings and culture on the mountain and about the ecopark can be obtained at the Royal Hunts Museum Älgens Berg. It is possible to purchase a map of the mountain's hiking paths in the museum shop. The shop also specializes in moose souvenirs.
- 8 **Byklevsfallet** is a beautiful waterfall located right next to the road from Vargön to Hunneberg.
- 9 **The Älvsikten outlook** offers a magnificent view of the Västgötaslätten plain and Göta Älv river.
- 10 **Ekelund** is an open, grazing meadow with ancient oaks. The recreated lake Fågelsjön is located in the near vicinity. It received its name ('Bird Lake' in Swedish) due to the rich bird life found there.
- 11 **Öjemossarna** is a 400 hectare large wetlands area that contains a couple hundred forest islets. Many are overgrown with spruce and pine trees that are several hundred years old.
- 12 **Randskogen's** natural surroundings are dramatic. The forest has pine trees that are hundreds of years old and which have been spectacularly shaped by the wind.
- 13 **Tunhem oak** grove is a beautiful cultural landscape that is reminiscent of times past. It is natural grazing land and has oaks that are hundreds of years old that characterize the area. Remains from the Iron Age testify to the long period of time that the land was cultivated.
- 14 **Prästeskvalt** is a model for a small water mill from the 12th century. The model was built in 2002 by Västra Tunhem local folklore society. A showing of it in operation can be booked in the museum.
- 15 **Grinnsjö** is a popular excursion destination. These beautiful recreated meadows offer orchids and characteristic plains vegetation such as marsh gentian and mountain arnica.



- Information
- Parking
- Ancient remains
- Cultural remains
- Botanical sights
- Hiking trail
- Wind shelter
- Fireplace
- Bird-watching tower
- Outlook point
- Café
- Restaurant
- Hostel
- Hotel
- Caravan park
- Point of interest
- Land outside the ecopark
- Forest
- Marsh
- Open land
- Paths/Trails
- Road < 5 m
- Road 5-7 m
- Railway
- Nature reserve

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Halle- and Hunneberg Ecopark





Västgötslätten plains



Walk between boulders



Brimstone butterfly



The Toltorp Oak



Crofter's holdings



Byklevsfallet

Right of public access—freedom with responsibility

The right of public access is a privilege which allows us to move freely through forests and across land as long as we show respect for the plants and animals. The ground rule is *don't disturb—don't destroy*. The right of public access also applies in nature reserves but can be restricted by the regulations of a specific nature reserve. You can find out more information on the right of public access from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency at www.allemansratten.se

Sveaskog

Sveaskog is Sweden's largest forest owner with sustainable development of forest as core business. This includes regeneration, wildlife management, and production of sawlogs, pulpwood and biofuel. Through land transactions, leasing and co-operation Sveaskog also develops the forest as a venue for nature-based experiences, hunting and fishing. Sveaskog is owned by the Swedish state.

For more information:

www.sveaskog.se

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