

Tuna herding path

Walking trail, geological sights and GPS-guided walk

A hilly path rich in history. The path goes from the village of Tuna to the herding stations east of the Mjällån river. Parts of the original herding path have been replaced with a modern forest road, so the walk starts at the beginning of the footpath. There are various walks to choose from along this route, depending on how far you want to walk. One of the most popular walks is between the two bridges Petter Norbergsbron and Jällviksbron. Attractions along the path include a cold spring, trapping pits and a geocache. This path can be combined with the log driving path to make a circular route.



Neckera moss can be seen along the path.

Photo: Lena Liljemark

Fact box The geology of the Mjällån valley

During the final part of the last ice age, about 10,000 years ago, the flow of water through the Mjällån river valley was significantly higher than today. There are two reasons for this.

One reason is that the river known today as Faxälven originated as a glacial river running through what is now the Mjällån river valley. The other is that the glacial river was much larger than Faxälven is today because it was fed by the melting inland ice. This explains the large quantities of sedimentation along the valley today, which can seem disproportionate in relation to the river's size.

The prehistoric glacial river transported vast amounts of debris in blocks and smaller fragments. This debris was deposited across the entire width of the sea bay in multiple layers. As the land continued to rise, the Mjällån river began carving into the underlying layers of sediment.

This is how its river cliffs were formed. When a running waterway flows through a wide valley at a slight inclination, it develops a winding course. This process is known as meandering. The bends, called meanders, constantly change shape as the water flows through them. Over a few years, the meanders become progressively tighter. Eventually the river takes a shortcut and runs in a straight course over the meander. The meander becomes cut off from the river and forms an oxbow lake. The word for this type of lake in local dialect is "Surå". The loose sediment is very prone to erosion. Even very small tributaries running towards the trunk waterway carve out deep ravines. When two parallel tributaries run close together, a flat area forms between them with a ravine on either side. This area is called a ridge. In some places, the area erodes away until only a narrow strip is left with a steep ravine on either side. This is known as an esker.

(These facts are taken from *Geology of the Mjällån valley* by Lennart Vessberg.)

Nature

The Mjällån valley's distinctive geology and the fact that Mjällån is an unregulated waterway are two factors that have contributed to the area's unique and beautiful natural environment. The valley is home to many rare plant and animal species.

The rare dune tiger beetle lives on the banks of Mjällån. A large number of rare lichens and fungi grow here, including neckera moss which can be seen growing along the path. Neckera moss has only been found in six places in the County.

Certain bird species find a safe haven on the steep cliffs. For example, sand martins burrow almost a metre into the loose earth of the cliffs to build their nests. The Mjällån valley also has excellent fishing waters. Just remember to buy a fishing licence.

Route description

Starting from the north. From the car park, cross the road and walk over the Petter Norbergsbron bridge. After the bridge, take the path to the left.

1. Here you can see a patch of quick clay, the result of a landslide beside the modern road higher up in the forest.
2. There is a trapping pit to the left of the path.
3. There is an oxbow lake to the left of the path at the bottom of the slope. Shortly thereafter, a possible alternative path, mountain walking trail.
4. In autumn, you can see the rare coral tooth fungus growing here on an aspen log.
5. 50 m further on, a path branches off to the right. A detour along this path will take you to a tree with rare Neckera moss growing on it.
6. There is a large trapping pit on the right-hand side.
7. After the trapping pit, you can take an alternative route past a cold spring.
8. Suggested picnic spot before continuing onto the forest road. Follow the forest road down to the river. There is an alternative path here (green), but it is in

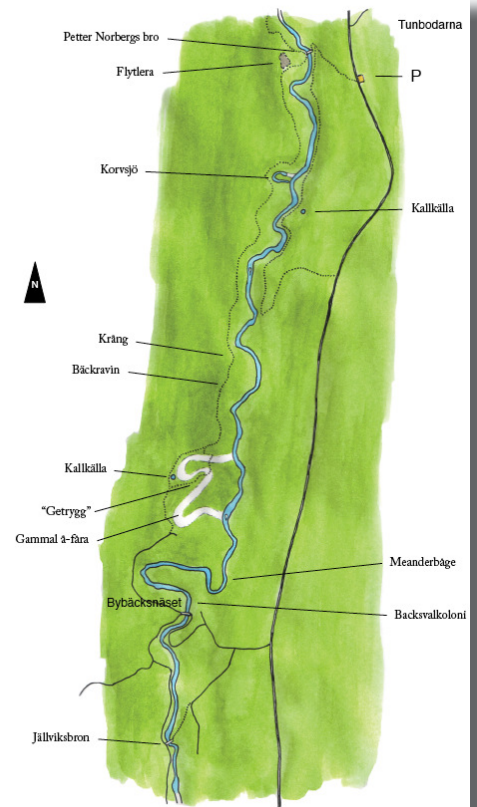


Illustration Lennart Vessberg, from *Geology of the Mjällån valley*

- poor condition so not recommended.
9. Jällviksbron bridge with alternative parking facilities further along the road.
 10. Old sawing station beside Bybäcksnäset (a stream) 250 metres before the start of the path in the direction of Tuna.

History

If you take the path starting from Tuna, you will see an old sawing station at the beginning of the path. Further on you will pass two trapping pits. Trapping pits played an important role in the farming economy of the past, since trapping

Fact box Herding paths

The herding path was an important route to and from the village. The route was used regularly by farm workers and herding maids transporting dairy products such as butter and cheese, or during the hay harvest. They went barefoot and often hurt their feet on the path.

(Material from Ljustorp Local Heritage Society.)

Road directions

From the E4 motorway take the exit towards Bergeforsen. Drive along road 331 for just over 4 km.

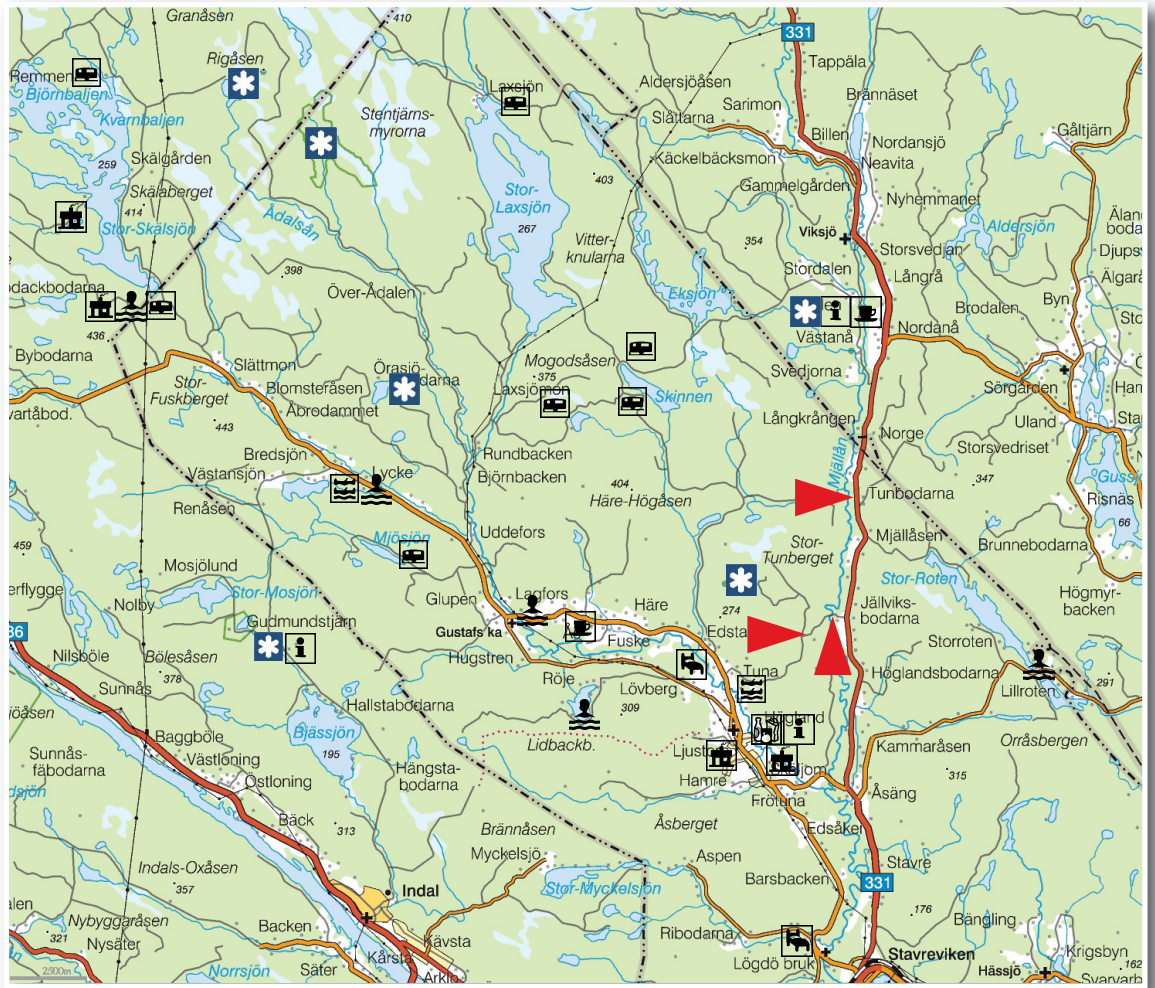
After the railway bridge turn left towards Ljustorp. Drive along road 681.

After about 12 km, turn right at the sign marked "Tuna". Drive along the gravel road for just over 4 km.

Alternative starting point. Drive along road 331 for 20 km. Park at the picnic area on the right-hand side.

Alternative starting point 2. Drive along road 331 for 16.5 km. Turn right at Jällviksbron bridge, drive for about 500 m.

Starting point



www.ljustorpsvandring.se

4 km E4
23 km Sundsvall

4 km E4
35 km Härnösand



- Beside one of the starting points
- Both about 5 hrs one way
- Between the bridges about 5 km, herding path about 5 km one way
- Up to 116 m.a.s.l, ascent 150 metres descent 150 metres. Hilly
- Panoramic viewpoint

GPS-guided walk

For information about sights along the way, see the walk description.

The trail is marked in yellow with paint.

	Latitude	Longitude
Car park 1	N62 41.117	E17 29.974
WP 1 POI	N62 41.151	E17 24.460
WP 2 POI	N62 41.089	E17 24.433
WP 3 POI	N62 40.813	E17 24.346
WP 4 POI	N62 40.616	E17 24.214
WP 5 POI	N62 40.095	E17 23.938
WP 6 POI	N62 40.021	E17 23.908
WP 7 POI	N62 39.953	E17 23.696
WP 8	N62 39.817	E17 23.617
WP 9 POI	N62 39.140	E17 23.646
Car park 2	N62 39.243	E17 23.782
WP 10 POI	N62 39.619	E17 23.111
Car park 3	N62 39.624	E17 22.887

WP = waypoint

POI = point of interest

GPS coordinates stated in WGS 84, lat/long

For more information about geocaching, see www.upplevljustorp.se. To register: www.geocaching.com

