

Welcome to Storforsen Nature Reserve



The mighty rapids Storforsen on the River Pite is one of the largest rapids in Europe. In the nature reserve there are trails and fireplaces, some of them adapted for wheelchair users. In summer, the café is open and there is an outdoor stage. In the forest along the shores there are many flowers and birds to discover.

The history of Storforsen Rapids

People have always been attracted to the rivers for fishing, dwellings and transport. Around Storforsen too there are traces from olden times. Up until 1982, forestry companies transported timber on the river. The logs were on their way to the sawmills on the coast. In order for the timber to pass more easily, "side walls" were built along the rapids. Stretches of the river were also rerouted. In the dried river course, "The Dead Falls", you can hike across flat rocks worn smooth by the water. Here and there stones that were tumbled by whirlpools have made big holes called "cauldrons".



*On a viewing ramp you come close to the frothing masses of water.
Photo: County Administrative Board*



Life on the riverbanks

On both sides of the rapids, verdant spruce forest grows. Here you find the blooms of Arctic Bramble in early summer, among the other flowers. In August you can taste the wild redcurrants in the riverbank forest.

The river has brought seeds here all the way from the mountains. That is why Alpine Saw-wort and Alpine Meadow-rue are found in the old river course, which is now almost dry.

Acrobats of the rapids

The rare Otter can be found in the River Pite. To be able to fish and survive winter, the Otter needs rapids which do not freeze over. When there is snow you can see its tracks at the ice edge.

In winter time especially, you can see the lively little White-throated Dipper. It dives in the rapids and takes water insects on the riverbed

Above left: Arctic Bramble flowers. / Mats Fjellström.

Above right: White-throated Dipper. / E. Schön/N.

Below: Otter. Photo: Kenneth Johansson.

Vaulable nature

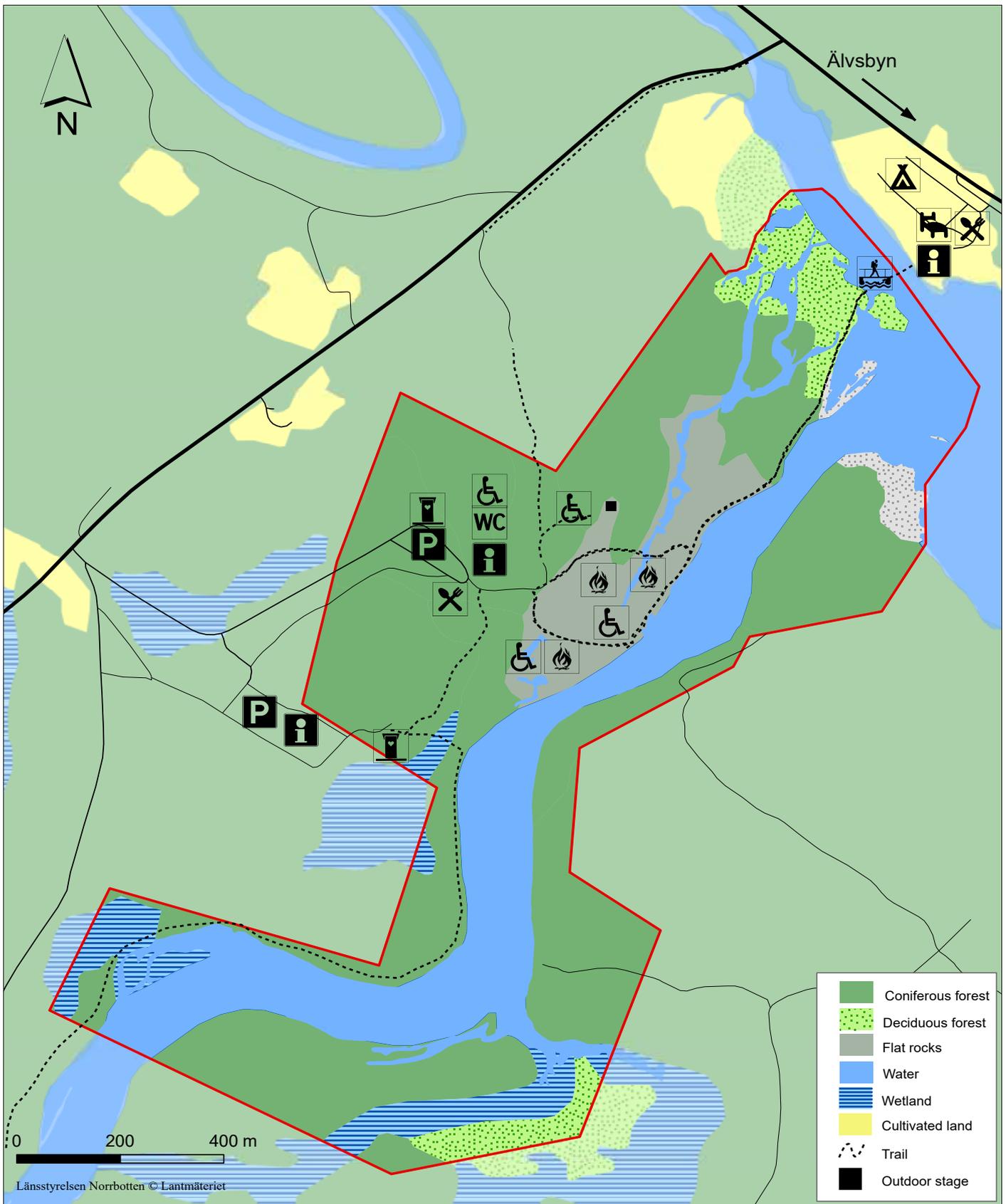
Storforsen Nature Reserve was formed in 1971. It is included in the EU network of protected areas Natura 2000. The purpose of the reserve is to protect a valuable landscape with living rapids and traces of the effects of water over millennia. The reserve also includes riverbank forest with rich fauna and flora.

At Storforsen you can find information, hiking trails and stopover sites. Much of the area is accessible to visitors with restricted mobility. Help us keep the reserve in good condition by being aware of nature and keeping it clean.

Regulations

§ It is forbidden to:

- damage ground or vegetation, including dead trees
- deliberately disturb wildlife, e.g. by climbing in nest trees
- light a fire, except in specially prepared fireplaces
- leave litter
- pitch a tent
- use a motor vehicle except on roads prepared for them
- ride a horse, except with the permission of The County Administrative Board
- cycle across terrain, or outside prepared roads.



The Right of public access in Sweden

The Right of public access means that you have the right to be in nature, as long as you do not disturb or destroy. Everyone has a responsibility to follow the regulations.

On naturvardsverket.se/allemansratten you can find more information in different languages.

Welcome to the great outdoors and take care of nature!

How to get there

Storforsen lie in Älvsbyn Municipality. From the town of Älvsbyn you travel 40 km along road 374.

Tourist information: visitalvsbyn.se
 Norrbottens Naturkarta (mobile Outdoor map)

Förvaltare

Länsstyrelsen i Norrbottens län
www.lansstyrelsen.se/norrbotten



Länsstyrelsen
 Norrbotten