



NATURE RESERVE IN ÖREBRO COUNTY

# Sveafallen



Photo: Elisabeth Karlsson, Länsstyrelsen

Sveafallen is a key area for geological research into the former outlet of the Ancylus Lake during the latter part of the glacial period. Today the area is covered with forest, but there is evidence of glacial melting in the form of features such as potholes and stone blocks called erratics.

## Interesting geological history

Here you can find many signs of the last ice age and its melt water. At a time of uplift of the land, a small strait was formed here in Degerfors, through which water from the Ancylus Lake flowed out towards the lower-lying Skagerrak and Kattegatt. In the 1920s, scientists believed that there was once a great waterfall here. They named it Sveafallen (Svea Falls) and it has since attracted many tourists. More recent research shows that the height difference was not so very great. The five clear channels in the area were probably formed by melt water and subglacial streams.

## Giant's kettles (glacial potholes)

The area's many giant's kettles were created by water flowing beneath the ice. Projecting obstacles increased the speed of the water flow, which quickly slowed again after it had passed the obstacle. Bubbles of gas in the water were then released and scoured out the rock like a hammer. Swirling gravel then helped to polish the edges of the pothole.

## Erratic boulder

The erratic boulders were brought here during the last ice age. Like a giant chisel, the glaciers broke boulders out of the bedrock and carried them along over

the landscape. Boulders that became frozen into the ice were carried the furthest. Only when the ice melted did they fall down to the beds of the sea or lakes that existed at the time.

## Nature in Sveafallen

In Sveafallen you will find coniferous forest on flat, rocky ground that is dominated by pines. Parts of the forest are actively kept open here to give a good overview. As well as woodland there are bogs and a typically Swedish forest mere. In the southern part of the area, both ground and rocks are covered in moss. Look out for the little, ten centimetre high orchid *Goodyera repens*. A natural watershed runs through a part of the reserve, dividing the water flow in two directions. On one side, water flows towards the Baltic Sea, on the other side towards the Skagerrak and Kattegatt.

## Hike in Sveafallen

There are four marked trails of varying lengths in the nature reserve. "Grytrundan" is the shortest and easiest trail. To reach Bergtjärnen avoiding the hilliest parts of the trail "Skogsrundan", use the eastern part via the shortcut.

### Facts

Established: 1975

Area: 88 hektar

Landowner: Sveaskog and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Managed by: the County Administrative Board (Länsstyrelsen)



Länsstyrelsen  
Örebro län



#### **In the nature reserve it is forbidden to:**

- damage the ground or vegetation
- light fires
- drive motor vehicles
- camp or park caravans
- pick flowers, grass, mosses or lichens
- set up notice boards, posters, signs or similar
- set up orienteering control points or mark trails

#### **How to get there**

The nature reserve lies by the ironworks in the south-east part of Degerfors. From the town centre, follow the signs towards Svartå (road 205) and look for the signpost immediately before the bridge under the railway.