



Welcome to Säterdalen!

Säterdalens has a varied landscape with steep ravines, billowy meadow hills and an almost southern lushness. The river Ljusterån meanders at the bottom of the ravine from the lake Ljustern and discharges itself into river Dalälven. The breathtaking beauty of Säterdalens has been depicted in many travel books for a long time. At the end of the 19th century, it was the most frequented tourist area of Dalarna along with the Siljan area.

Säterdalens is one of the country's leading examples of a thriving ravine landscape. Along the ravine a broad-leaved woodland similar to a jungle is growing with high biological values and a great variety of species.

The best way to experience Säterdalens is to walk on the path which runs along the beaches of river Ljusterån.

The nature reserve in Säterdalens was formed in 2001. The purpose of the reserve is to preserve biological diversity, to nurture and preserve valuable natural environments, and to fulfil the needs of the area for outdoor recreation.

Natura 2000

Parts of Säterdalens nature reserve are included in the European network Natura 2000. This network was created within the EU to halt the eradication of species and prevent destruction of their habitat. Additional information about the network is available on: www.naturvardsverket.se or on www.lansstyrelsen.se/dalarna/natura2000



www.lansstyrelsen.se/dalarna

Layout: Suzanne Hegert, County Administrative Board of Dalarna
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NATURE RESERVE IN DALARNA COUNTY



Säterdalens



Ravine

The valley comprises a five kilometre ravine system which from above looks like a verdant stretch which trails through the surrounding flat areas. The main ravine is ramified with approximately 35 side ravines. In the deepest areas the ravine crosses as long as 40–50 metres below the surrounding ground.

Säterdalens is the result of a geological process which began at the end of the most recent ice age. Then a large amount of fine-grained material was deposited at the bottom of the valley where the river Dalälven currently flows. These easily eroded soils have contributed to river Ljusterån and creek Hyttbäcken digging deeper towards the river Dalälven. When the streams reached below groundwater level, the erosion quickly increased as groundwater streams and outflow surface water started to dig out side ravines.

The ravine continues to grow and change as it has done for many thousands of years and slowly the surrounding agricultural landscape is eroding as it is exposed to the water processes of the valley. The ravine in Säterdalens is one of the country's leading examples of a thriving ravine landscape. The region attracts many visitors who study the geological processes of the ravine system.



Front: Wood anemone – *Anemone nemorosa* and Lesser celandine – *Ranunculus ficaria*



Upper left: Grey alder – *Alnus incana*
Lower left: Scarlet elf cup – *Sarcoscypha austriaca*



Upper right: Touch-me-not Balsam – *Impatiens noli-tangere*
Bottom right: Moschatel – *Adoxa moschatellina*



Vegetation

The nutritious ground, combined with the favourable local climate of the ravine, has contributed to Säterdalens boasting very luxuriant vegetation. The vast connected broadleaved woodland is unique in this part of the country. The grey alder dominates, but bird cherry, aspen, birch, elm and sallow also thrive here. The broadleaved woodland fosters a rich herbaceous flora. Several rare species can be found here.

The forest with grey alder which has a short rotation period provides a good supply of dead wood, which is decisive for the survival of many plants and animals. The wood serves as feed, habitat, settlement and protection. Several species are also linked to dead broadleaved wood.

A great variety of species characterise the area. Lily of the valley, wood anemone, alternate-leaved golden saxifrage, wood stitchwort, balsam, herb Paris, baneberry, drooping woodreed and ostrich fern are prevalent here. Various types of mushroom can also be found, for example, the unusual scarlet elf cup, a mushroom which grows as soon as the snow melts.



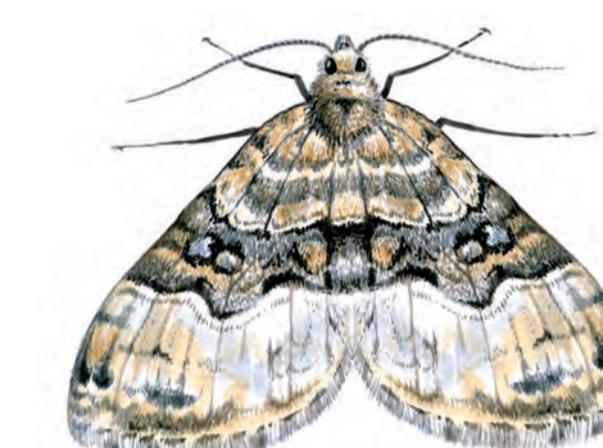
Drooping woodreed – *Cinna latifolia* is a protected species within Natura 2000.

Wildlife

Several species of insects in Säterdalens are directly related to the broadleaved woodland. Here you can find a range of rare ground beetles as well as many unusual butterflies related to the deciduous forest environment. Balsam is a host for three species of butterflies: balsam carpet, yellow headed phoenix and netted carpet. Säterdalens is nationally important for these species which have their largest area of distribution here.

The broadleaved woodland also fosters a rich bird life. The trees provide shelter for woodpeckers, redwings, icterine warblers, garden warblers, wood warblers and wrens. Grey wagtails, white-throated dippers and kingfishers can be sighted along the river Ljusterån.

You can also catch a glimpse of the rare Northern birch mouse in the valley. You will recognise it by the long tail and dark stripe along the centre of the back. The Northern birch mouse appears when dusk sets in and at night. During the winter it crawls into hollow trees to hibernate.



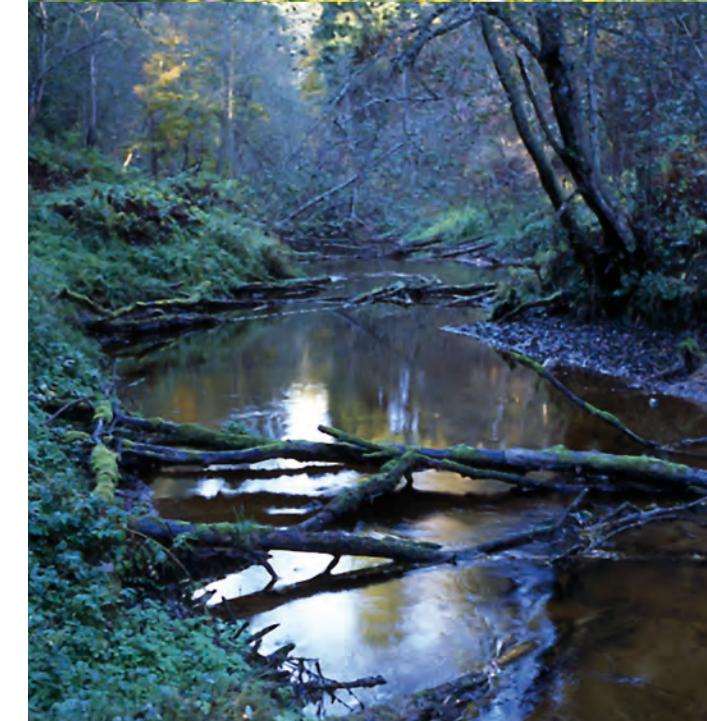
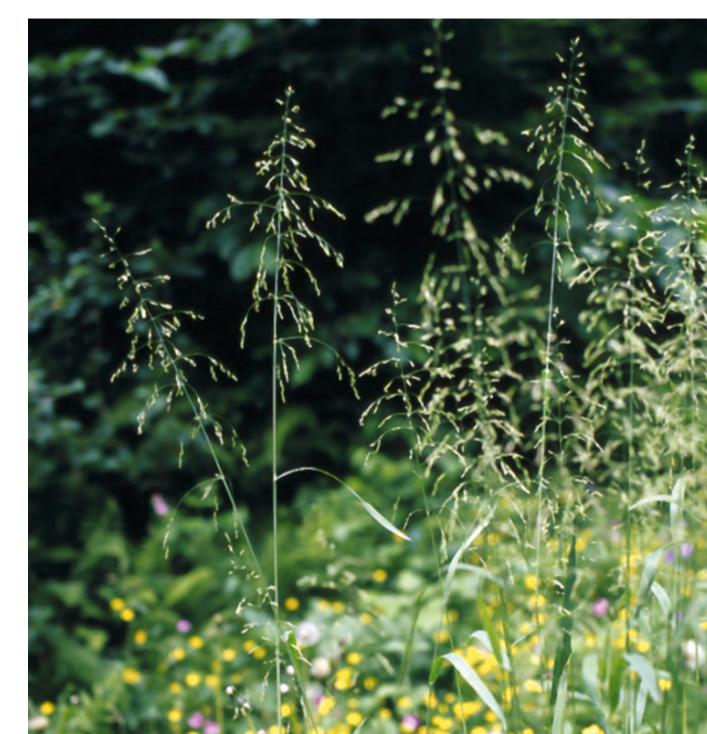
Upper left: Large meadow-grass – *Poa remota*
Lower left: River Ljusterån



Lesser spotted woodpecker – *Dendrocopos minor*

Everywhere you gaze across the river Ljusterån you can see traces of the beaver, our biggest rodent. You can sense its presence through all the felled trees, gnaw marks on the tree trunks and often large huts out on the water. Sometimes it may appear quite messy, but the dead wood in the water is home to countless small organisms. The beaver gives life to nature and vice versa.

Upper right: Ostrich fern – *Matteuccia struthiopteris*
Bottom right: Boulder uncovered from the silt



Säterdalens Nature Reserve



Trail

The trail through Säterdalens largely follows the beaches of river Ljusterån. It crosses most of the sights mentioned here and offers many natural wonders. In many places the trail is the only accessible path down in the greenery of the valley and it is easy to follow the orange markings. You can make short trips around the area next to Folkparken and follow the several paths here.

Säterdalens is ideal for hiking, but bear in mind that hiking is dictated by the conditions of nature. Erosion takes place constantly and consequently accessibility may vary from year to year. But this also makes each visit equally exciting.



Tour suggestions numbered on the map:

1. From Folkparken to Kônsta, continue on Stånggången and through Sördalen back to Folkparken. An adequately long walk where you can explore Näsäkersbussen containing Kärleksudden and go back across the ridge. 2.4 km.
2. Folkparken–Norddalen–Ljusterbron. A hiking trail down in the ravine along river Ljusterån through all of Säterdalens. The entire walk, there and back, takes approximately 5 hours at a leisurely pace. Occasionally the trail may be impassable. We recommend that you pack food for your walk. 6 km in each direction.
3. Troladan–Springkällan–Åbron–Troladan. A shorter trail, partially on the tractor path. Hilly terrain in some areas. 2.5 km.
4. Ljusterbro–Springkällan–Åbron and continue along the trail on the other side of the river back to Ljusterbro. Here the trail passes Pumphuset, Svartmyrorna and Franssons stugor, which is a wonderful place to grab a bite. A trail continues in Solvarboravinen between Svartmyrorna and Ljusterbron. 4.5 km.



The following are prohibited in the reserve:

- causing damage to growing, dead, standing or lying trees and bushes.
- digging up plants, collecting mosses, lichens and wood mushrooms.
- biking or riding in areas besides those labelled for this purpose.
- driving motor vehicles on bare ground.