

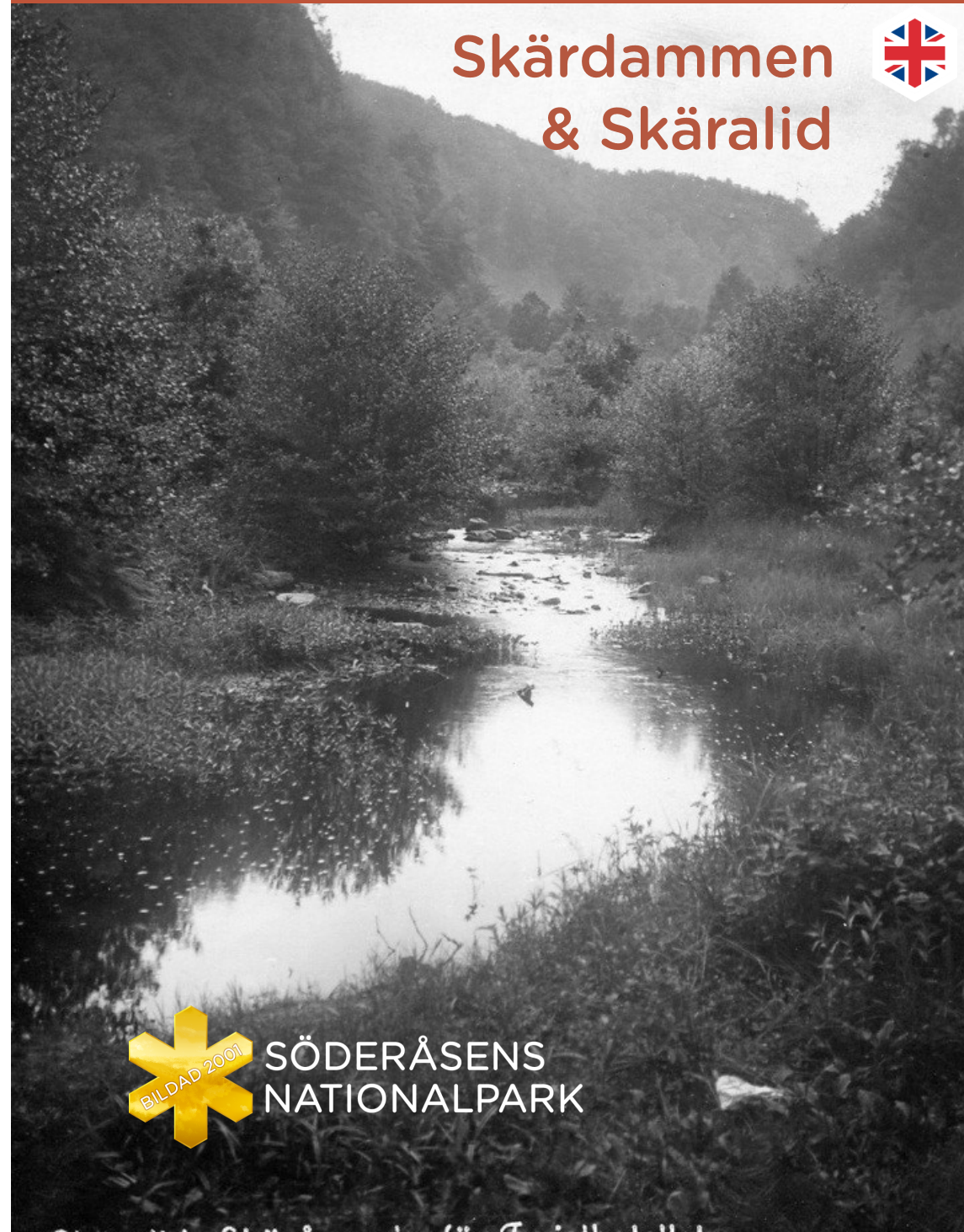
The path is marked with a grey hexagon



Guide yourself!

 1 hour

Skärdammen & Skärallid



SÖDERÅSENS
NATIONALPARK



Contact us at the Visitor center—naturum

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www.sverigesnationalparker.se/soderasen



Good to know

TOILETS are available by naturum Söderåsen, at the view point Kopparhatten, by the rest areas Liagården and Dahlberg and in the Nackarpsdalen valley.

WATER is available by the Visitor centre (naturum Söderåsen) in Skäralid, (water in the wells by the rest areas/camp sites is not tested)

PLACES TO BBQ are available in Skäralid by the Skärdammen pond, in Nackarpsdalen valley in Röstånga and by the rest areas at Liagården and Dahlberg. Firewood is available. It is not possible to book a fire place/BBQ grill.

TABLES & BENCHES are available at all BBQ sites, by the view point Kopparhatten and in the Nackarpsdalen valley in Röstånga.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION is allowed and possible only in our rest areas / camp sites.

Liagården: situated along the blue trail; In the garden you can pitch your tent or use the shelters. Toilets, water, fire place and wood is available.

Dahlberg: Along the orange trail: In the garden you can pitch your tent. Toilets, water, fire place and wood is available. Both free of charge but please keep it tidy and clean.

Killahuset: Killahuset: near Naturum, must be booked at +46(0)435-44 21 20 or naturum.soderasen@lansstyrelsen.se. 6 bunk beds and a sleeping loft for about 20. Toilets, water, fire place and wood is available. Costs 500 SEK per day. Please keep it tidy and clean.

Note that the Swedish "Right of Public Access" is limited in the National Park. Fires and fire places are permitted at prepared sites only.

Dead wood (8) *Death that gives life*

Walk up to the rough old tree behind the bench. Rub across the trunk and look carefully. Very carefully.

Here you can see tree fungi, bracket fungi, and different sized holes. The small round ones are the exit holes of wood beetles after life as larvae in passages inside the wood.

As fully-formed beetles they reject the wood diet to instead search for flowers packed with nectar on the edge of the wood or in the meadow.

In addition to being food and home for many kinds of beetle larvae, the old sick tree is the woodpecker's favourite restaurant. The larger holes are the result of their pecking in their search for scrumptious larvae. Dead and dying trees teem with life!



A woodpecker searching for larvae.



Old tree with tree fungi and wood beetles.

Entrance to the rift valley (1) *Look into the rift valley and see the history of the earth*

Söderåsen rises up around the lake. A deep rift in the mountain opposite, Skäralid's rift valley.

The history of the rift valleys is very old. Continental plates float on the lava in the earth's interior. When they break apart or collide mountain ridges, horsts, like Söderåsen are formed.

Söderåsen was born on the separation of the Pangea supercontinent 200 million years ago. At that time the dinosaurs still ruled the earth.

A new clash between continental plates 80 million years ago led to the formation of the Alps and the Himalayas. At Söderåsen the mountain broke up. The rift valleys were born!



Skäralid. Skärån nedanför Furishotellet.

Foto: Torpföreningen Skäralid

Nature tourism (2)

A glimpse of the childhood of tourism

Imagine a magnificent tourist hotel with gingerbread work, sun lounge and a smörgåsbord laid out where Skåne's holidaying citizens feasted.

Where the naturum visitor centre is situated today, there was a hotel between 1906 and 1969 to which tourists of the time came to eat well in beautiful surroundings.

They then gained strength by going out hiking over logs and stones in the superb nature.

For the fashionable ladies there was a special room at the railway station in Skärålid where they could change from their elegant travelling suits into more robust, long dresses.



Foto: Torpföreningen Skärålid

Rårödspågen spring (7)

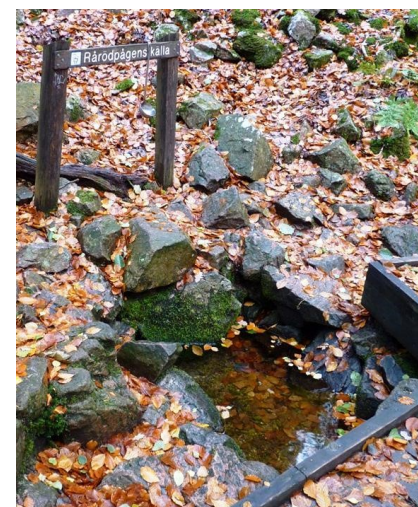
Fresh groundwater emerges from inside the mountain all of the time

See the rippling surface and the water streaming out into Skärån on the other side of the path.

Springs like this are important for Skärån's unusually pure water. In addition, the brook is not so affected by fertilizers & pollutants from private sewage, agriculture, forestry or industries. A calcareous bedrock, as well as many living & dead trees along the stream are also important reasons for the pure water.

The spring water, just like all the water on earth, forms a part of a global and constantly ongoing cycle of evaporation, rainfall and surface runoff, so Söderåsen's pure water has been drunk by humans, bathed in by dinosaurs and sailed on by explorers... Imagine if the water could speak!

According to one story the spring sprang from where a shepherd boy from the village of Råröd was found after falling from the cliff above.



Rårödspågen spring in the valley.

Scree (6)



A stone quarry? No – the remains of several ice ages

Once there was a near-vertical majestic cliff here. For thousands of years water trickled into cracks & crevices, froze, expanded and broke the rock apart.

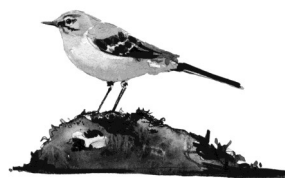
Today the screes you can see between the trees which laboriously cling to the stones are not the work of Man but the result of frost erosion, in the same way as a filled bottle cracks in the freezer.

Here in the stony wedges weasels, voles, lizards and other animals scamper in and out among the stones and logs. Perhaps you can see a grey wagtail wagging its tail before it flies to the brook to hunt for dragonfly larvae.

This south-facing slope is drier and warmer than the opposite side, so you can find many drought-resistant crustose lichens here.



Foto: Torpföreningen Skäralid



Grey wagtail

Dance at Skärdammen (3)



Summer, passion – and the occasional fight

Close your eyes. Imagine music from accordions and violins. The buzz of partying people, raised voices from a dispute over a woman. All against the background of rushing water and birdsong.

The dance pavilion was located here and in the summertime there was also an amusement park with shooting range and tombola.

Skäralid was known and infamous for its "Whitsun dances" at the beginning of 1900s, when the tourist hotel owner defied the ban on selling alcohol during the Christian holiday. The hefty fines were nothing in comparison with the revenues...

It was not unusual for people to cycle here from as far away as Simrishamn, Ystad and Trelleborg, more than 100 kilometres from here.



Foto: Torpföreningen Skäralid

Skärdammen (4)

Cosy relaxation or mosquito breeding

Look out across the pond and imagine when, less than a hundred years ago, it was a marsh with alder woods and buzzing mosquitoes.

The tourist hotel's owner dammed up the marsh in 1929 and Skärdammen was born. The light and airy environment with its shiny water surface was designed to enhance the hotel guests' aesthetic experience and willingness to spend.

When you walk alongside the pond now the surface of the water is broken by a swimming grass snake or by majestic, gliding whooper swans. Perhaps you can also see the pike stalking at the water's edge.



Foto: Torpföreningen Skäralid

The ice cellar (5)

Where does the ice for the punch and lemonade come from?

You are standing at the threshold of the ice cellar. The square stones are the remains of the foundations.

When the ice lay thick on the pond they sawed it into big cubes with a long timber saw. When wood-felling two men pulled at either end of the saw, but when ice was sawn you were by yourself. They joked that "It was worst for the person who was pulling down there!".

The ice cubes were dragged up with an iron hook and were kept for long periods under sawdust and straw in the ice cellar. Some of the ice was used by the hotel, but most of it was sold to dairies, inns and others in the area. One summer a man was seen wading in the lake. He was looking for "the litre" he had dropped when sawing ice...



Foto: Torpföreningen Skäralid