

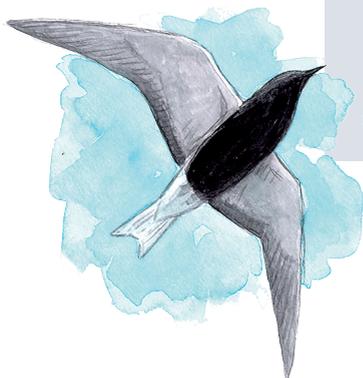
Ore backar

A flying walk from leafy bowers to wide vistas

Children, birdwatchers and families enjoying their picnic are equally catered for at Ore backar. The path runs along the edge of a steep, winding esker. It makes you feel as if you were flying through the landscape.

The walk begins in a green copse with hazel, oak and elm. Whirring wood warblers and shimmering fern distance you from the surrounding world, but after some hundred metres you step back into the light and the rolling oak pastures that run along the shore where there are fallen tree giants to climb on or have your picnic at. Children and biologists have a field day in hollow oaks, along the lake shore or on dunes dotted with bees' nests.

If you can wait until the end of your walk, you could have your picnic at the observation tower situated at the far end of the promontory that takes you to the centre of Lake Hornborga and its birdlife. You might spot a black tern or white-tailed eagle. Cormorants are as good as guaranteed; they nest in the dead willows that were submerged when the water level in the lake was raised. On the other side is the Naturum information centre and Ytterberg, and behind them Mount Billingen.



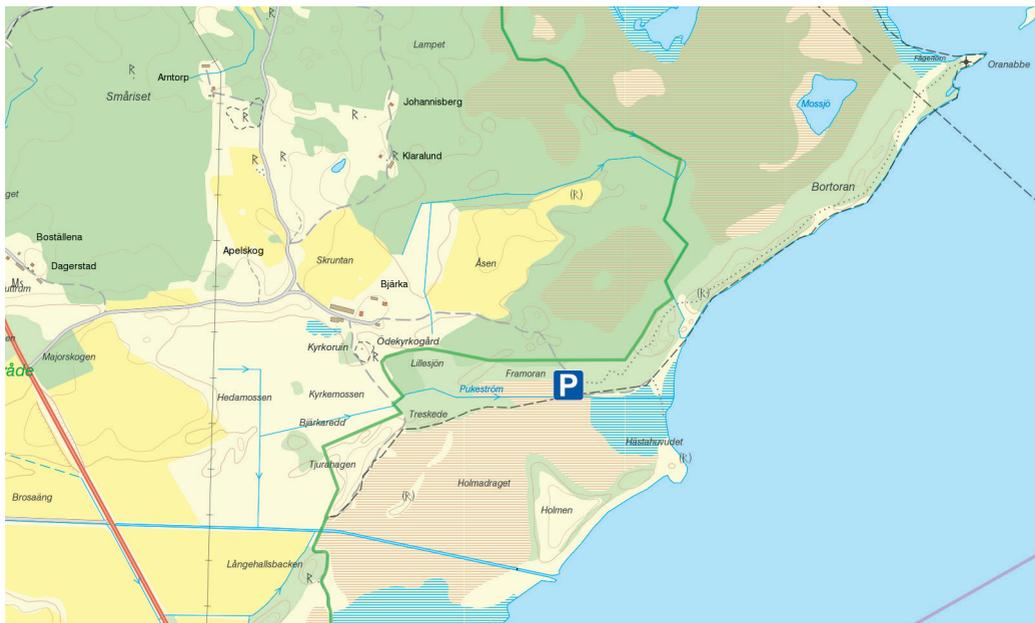
 **Don't miss:** Spring and summer are of course the best time to visit Ore backar, but autumn can be pleasant as the leaves turn yellow and the cranberries ripen on the moor.

 **Children:** It is easy to get children to run along the path at Ore backar. They can fly along the steep ridge and there are plenty of fallen trees to climb on and hazelnut shells and beach finds to discover.

 **Wildlife:** Mullein, hare's-tail cottongrass, moschatel, yellow flag, baneberry, herb-paris, black-headed gull, white-tailed eagle, spotted nutcracker and black tern.

 **Getting there:** Road 184 between Skara and Falköping. Immediately north of the exit for Trandansen is a sign for Ore backar. Drive two kilometres on the gravel road to reach the car park. Or catch the no. 203 bus from Skara. Alight after ten minutes at Bjärka and continue approximately 350 metres along Road 184 until you see the sign for Ore backar.

The black tern belongs to the genus *clidonias*, or marsh terns.



Return via the path that runs along the ridge above the shore. You can switch between northern and southern Sweden with just a turn of the head. Coniferous woods and hare's-tail cottongrass dominate west of the ridge. To the east, the southern landscape beckons with its undulating wildflower meadows and giant oaks.



The most diverse biotope in Sweden is hollow oaks. They are also an excellent biotope for playing in.

At the very end of the esker, everything feels close: the sky, the lake and the foliage of the giant oaks. The shrill call of the terns that sounds across the wet meadows is mixed with the summer song of the blackcap in the lush vegetation. There are few places where you get as close to Lake Hornborga as here. And just across the ridge is the cottongrass marsh. The esker forms a boundary between the green hills and the dark coniferous forest to the west.