

Walking Trail Sjötorp – Harnäs – Surö – Sjötorp

Welcome to a walk from Sjötorp to Harnäs and Surö. This is easy walking terrain with clearly marked paths, which for the most part follow Lake Vänern. You can begin at different start points and then choose between a shorter or longer walk. The whole walk is 9.6 km. Please return the laminated maps when you have finished your walk.

Sjötorp

The gateway to Lake Vänern is an idyllic little community. Within walking distance there are eight locks to discover. Hamnmagasinet (the old chandlery) houses a canal and marine museum, which tells an exciting story of bygone shipping on the Göta Canal, Lake Vänern and Lake Vättern. In Sjötorp there are cafés, restaurants and several accommodation options. There is also a bathing beach, bicycle hire, small shops, passenger boats, artisans and a fish shop.

Timmerviken

For a large part of the 1900s, Lilla Harnäs headland was a storage place for the transportation of timber. There is a deep harbour where large ships were loaded with logs. You can still see the loading quay at the end of the headland. The old buildings that remain were then offices etc.

“Timmervikstrampen” was a popular cycling competition during the 70s with the start and finish here at Timmerviken. There was a party here after the cycle event with dancing and other amusements. In the evening many merry Sjötorp inhabitants came here by boat to enjoy themselves.

Stora Sandvik

Here you can choose to continue directly to Surö beech wood or to go via Harnäs.

The Viewpoint

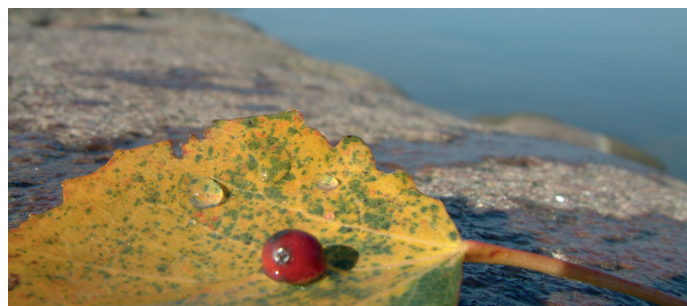
Take a well-deserved break on top of the hill and enjoy the view. From here you can see the island of Vadholmen with Sjötorp in the background. The white building straight ahead is a smaller boatyard. The white lighthouse on the right indicates the inlet to the Göta Canal and the yellow building is the canal office. In Sjötorp Bay lie a number of shipwrecks, now barely visible. At the beginning of the 1900s, Vadholmen was a timber storage and sorting site for logs which were later to be transported to Sjötorp's sawmill, which supplied the Sjötorp yard with planks etc. A least 500 large sailing and cargo vessels have been manufactured during the yard's 100-year history. If you want to know more, visit the museum in Sjötorp.

Harnäs

At the end of the Harnäs headland there are two lighthouses and an old lighthouse keeper's cottage.

Parking at Sandviken

You can start your walk to Harnäs or Surö from here.



Surö bokskog

Surö bokskog (Surö beech wood) is a nature reserve, which lies a couple of kilometres south of Sjötorp, by Lake Vänern. In some places blue wood anemones and coralroot grow, and over 300 different mushroom varieties have been



found here. Among the birds you may see here are sandpiper, merganser, wood pigeon, crested grebe and mallard. In several places you can see traces of inland ice in the form of large rocks and boulders.

- If you have a dog with you, remember to always keep it on the lead in the woods and countryside during the period 1/3-20/8.
- To avoid the main moose hunt you should not use the trails during the most intensive hunting period, the second Monday in October to the beginning of November.

Göta Canal

Göta Canal is one of the largest construction projects ever undertaken in Sweden. The Canal stretches from Sjötorp at Lake Vänern to Mem at Slätbaken, is 190 km long and has 58 locks.

Cycling and Walking

The old towpath along the Göta Canal offers lovely cycle tours with beautiful natural and cultural experiences on the way. Along the excavated sections of the canal you cycle on the gravel towpath, which was used by oxen that pulled the boats. The towpath is totally vehicle free and is of course also perfect for walking.

On the way you pass many places that invite you to pause. Whether you choose a bicycle or walking shoes it is a perfect way to experience the Göta Canal and its locks close up. The distance between Sjötorp and Tåtorp is 35 kilometres and the elevation is a total of 48 metres. Along this stretch are a number of rest areas, dining options serving lunch and access to toilets.

More information:
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You can also download the Göta kanal App.