



Experience the table mountain region

— SWEDEN'S FIRST UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK



 PLATÅBERGENS GEOPARK

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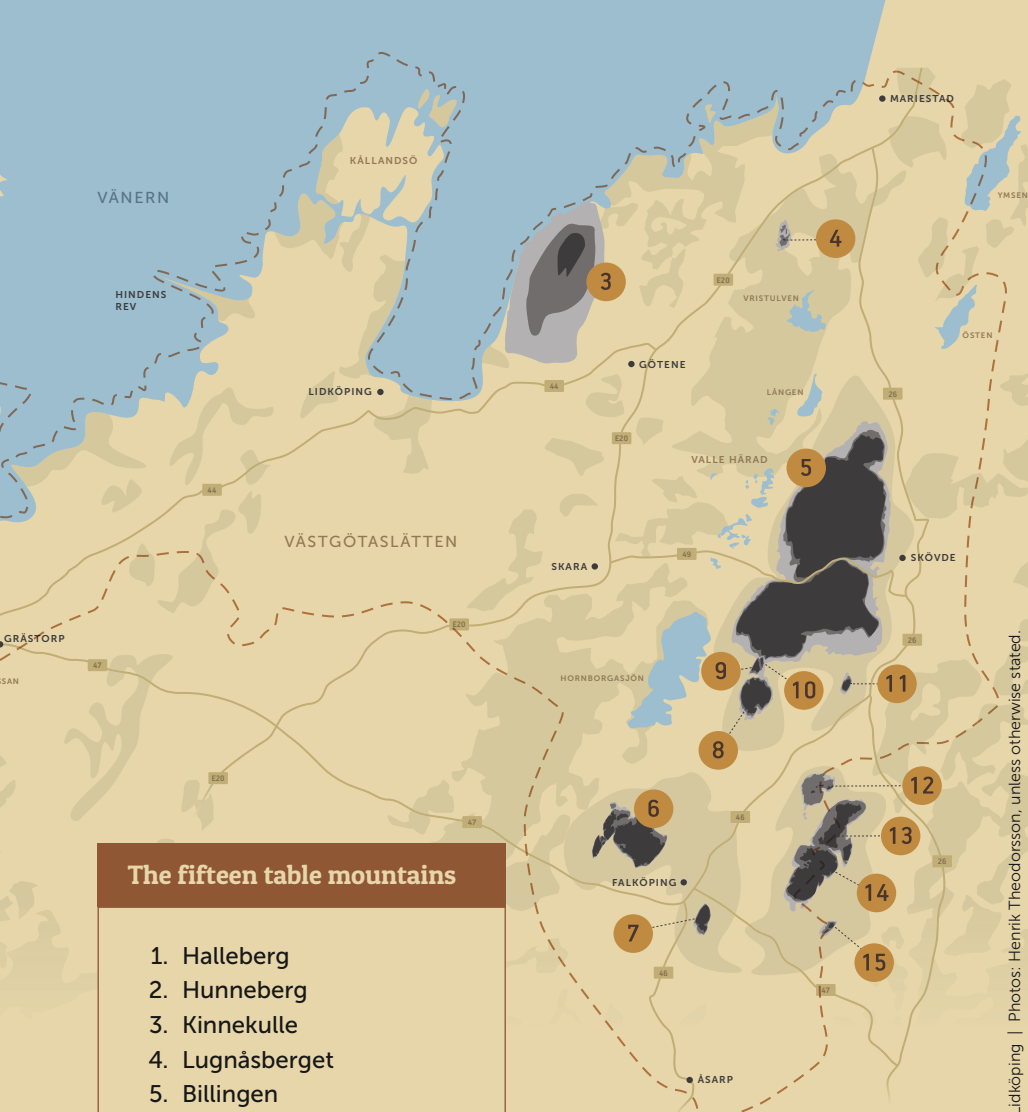
The table mountain region is located between Sweden's two largest lakes, Vänern and Vättern. Simply put, the area consists of the Västgöta Plain and the fifteen table mountains that frame it.

There is no doubt that the region is a special one. Bon vivants and outdoor enthusiasts of all periods have been captivated by the beautiful landscape. Dignitaries like Carl Linnaeus and polar explorer S. A. Andrée were fascinated and amazed by the region's biology and geology.

Platåbergens Geopark is the product of a collaboration between nine municipalities in the province of Västra Götaland. The area of the geopark stretches across 3,690 km² and its boundaries are set according to geological values – not the municipal boundaries.

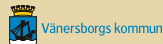
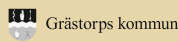
Platåbergens Geopark has been given status as Sweden's first UNESCO Global Geopark. This means that the table mountain region contains geological sites and landscapes that are considered unique and of international importance. ♦





The fifteen table mountains

1. Halleberg
2. Hunneberg
3. Kinnekulle
4. Lugnåsberget
5. Billingen
6. Mösseberg
7. Ålleberg
8. Brunnhemsberget
9. Tovaberget
10. Myggeberget
11. Borgundaberget
12. Plantaberget
13. Varvsberget
14. Gerumsberget
15. Gisseberget



WHAT IS A GEOPARK?

A geopark is an area that tells the story of our planet's development. The geological processes that have been going on for millions of years – and are still going on – have given the area the geological phenomena and environments that can only be found here, or in only a few places globally.



Today there are 177 geoparks across 46 countries. These geoparks collaborate via the Global Geoparks Network, which aims to connect geoparks all around the world. Being part of this network also puts our region on the world map.

Global Geoparks are appointed by the UN agency UNESCO. Other examples of UNESCO concepts are World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves.

A UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK HAS THREE MAIN MISSIONS:

Geotourism

Developing tourism in the area in a sustainable way.

Geoeducation

Spreading knowledge about the connection between geology and natural and cultural heritages.

Geoconservation

Contributing to sustainable management of the area, with future generations in mind.

FIND OUT MORE ONLINE

www.visitgeoparks.org

Geoparks are areas with a unique **GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE** of international importance. The geoparks have places where visitors can experience and get to know the history of our planet – places that help us understand why the landscape looks the way it does.



Geoparks also contain an exceptional and rich **NATURAL HERITAGE**. Fascinating landscapes, varying ecosystems, and a rich biological diversity are major values that allow visitors to understand the challenges that our planet faces.

Geoparks are meeting places where Earth's history meets the history of mankind. Visitors can travel through time, from the first settlers via the industrial development to our modern society, which is a valuable **CULTURAL HERITAGE**.



The **IMMATERIAL HERITAGE** bears witness to the close relationship between the people living here and the land they have worked for thousands of years – stories, legends, and myths that we risk losing if they are not transferred to future generations.

WHAT IS IT THAT IS SO UNIQUE?

THE PENEPLAIN is the remains of an ancient mountain range that towered over the landscape around 1,700 million years ago. It has since eroded down to a flat surface, which now forms the basis of our landscape. This flat basement rock surface is laid bare in only a few places globally – and some of them are here in the geopark!



THE PENEPLAIN AT NORDKROKEN



ÄLLEBERG

THE TABLE MOUNTAINS in Västergötland are built up of layers of rocks, like the layers of a cake. These layers are: basement rock (granite/gneiss), sandstone, alum shale, limestone, clay shale, and dolerite. The hard dolerite at the top has saved the mountains from erosion. The various properties of the rocks have given the landscape a beautiful and varying nature, as different plants thrive on different bedrocks.

The ice has shaped the landscape we see today! **ICE AGE DEPOSITS** are, simply put, traces of the ice age. These traces can look, and be made up, differently and you have probably heard of some of them: eskers, kettle holes, end moraines, and sand dunes. These landscape types tell us how the deglaciation happened as the ice sheet retreated.

Photo: Johan Lindwert



THE KAME LANDSCAPE IN VALLE HÄRAD

EXPERIENCE THE TABLE MOUNTAIN REGION



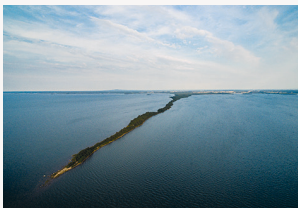
MUSEUMS

There are several interesting museums in the geopark, e.g. Ekehagen Ancient Village in Åsarp – one of Scandinavia's largest ancient villages.



QUARRIES

The table mountain region contains many traces of the stone industry. The Large Quarry at Kinnekulle is a popular destination.



VANTAGE POINTS

The mountains offer many beautiful vistas. One of them is Älv-utsikten at Hunneberg.

FOUR TIPS FOR A NICE EXPERIENCE:

1. Choose the right time. Read up on your destination beforehand. There is usually fewer people at morning and in the evening.
2. If the parking lot is full it is always good to have another nearby destination as a plan B.
3. Avoid battling for parking space. Ride a bike, walk, or use public transport to get to your destination.
4. Remember the Right of Public Access – do not disturb, do not destroy.



WATERFALLS

There are several mighty waterfalls along the table mountains that flow, rush, and cascade over the cliff edges, such as Silverfallet on Billingen.



OUTDOOR RECREATION

Several of the table mountains offer popular outdoor recreation areas. Mösseberg, for example, offers a zoo, an observation tower, jogging tracks, and winter sports.

NATURE RESERVES

All the nature reserves in the table mountain region, such as Hindens rev, have unique natural values.

YOU WILL FIND TONS OF INTERESTING DESTINATIONS ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.platabergensgeopark.se/en/sites-to-visit

LAKE HORNBORGA

is the largest lake (28 km²) that is wholly within the geopark.

THE RASPBERRY GIRL

The skeleton of a Stone Age girl whose last meal was raspberries.

THE FLOIAN

A global geological reference point at Hunneberg, named after the village of Flo.

LARGEST MOUNTAIN

Billingen is the largest mountain in the geopark, with a surface area of 130 km².

THE MEGALITHIC TOMBS

in Falbygden were built around 5,500 to 5,000 years ago – long before the pyramids of Egypt.

LARGEST HILLFORT

The Halleberg hillfort is the largest in Scandinavia, as basically the entire mountain was used as a fortification.

KATA FARM

The excavation of the farm church indicates an earlier date for the Christianisation of Sweden than previously believed.

HEAVY TREASURE

The Vittene gold cache is the third largest gold treasure found in Sweden by weight (1.9 kg).

OLDEST GARMENT

The Gerum cloak is dated to 360–100 BCE and is the oldest preserved garment in Sweden.

UNIQUE METEORITES

Kinnekulle is the discovery site of meteorites that struck Earth 470 million years ago.

ÅLLEBERG

is the highest table mountain in the geopark, with its 335 metres above sea level.

SKÄKTEFALLET

at Nordkroken is probably the tallest waterfall in the geopark with a 30 metre free-falling drop.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit our website and follow us on social media to learn about all that is happening, might happen, and have happened in the table mountain region.



**PLATÅBERGENS
GEOPARK**
Layers of history

