

## Älvrummet

In Älvrummet, the valley framing the river Göta älv and the waterfalls in Trollhättan, spectacular geological formations jostle with valuable natural habitats and a fascinating history. Älvrummet is a rift valley with a big difference in altitude between the valley bottom and the highest point, Kopparklinten. Despite rapid development, with industrialisation bringing dramatic changes to the countryside, areas of magnificent landscape have been preserved. Today, Älvrummet is a blue-green oasis for plants, animals and the people of Trollhättan.

The nature reserve is divided into two parts, one on either side of the river Göta älv in the central area of Trollhättan. The eastern part of the reserve consists of the area around the path Kärlekens stig. The western part comprises the western precipice and surrounding forest from Forngården and south to Talbo. The highest point is Kopparklinten, around 77 metres above sea level.



## Interesting countryside

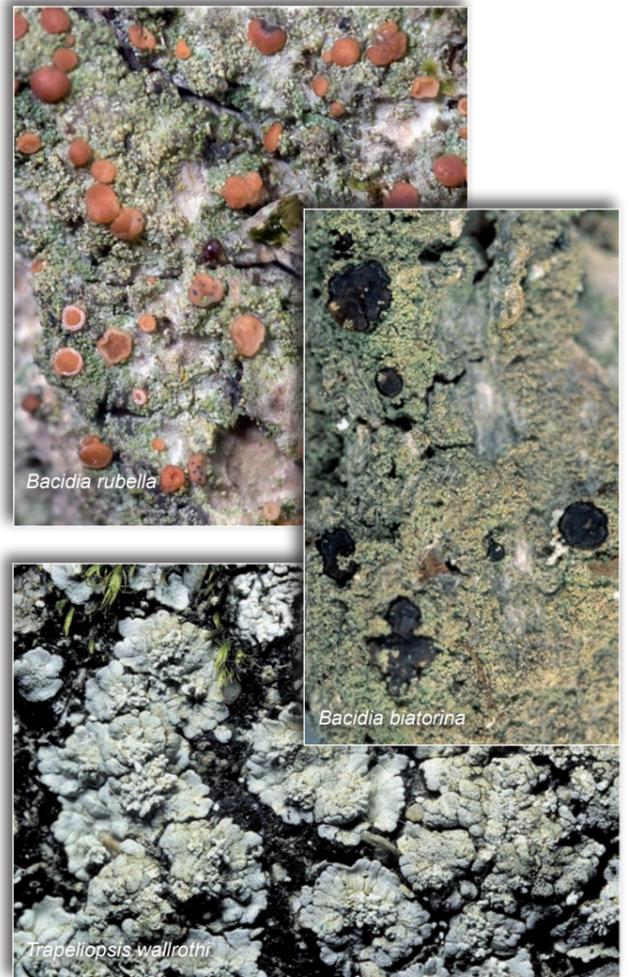
The tall spruce forest growing east of the river on the slopes down towards the path Kärlekens stig provides a wonderful feeling of wilderness. Towards the river, the spruce forest gives way to rocky terrain. The forest resembles a pillared hall and has only a sparse layer of shrubs, mainly hazel. The ground flora contains species such as male fern, broad buckler-fern, bilberry and wavy hair-grass. Oak, pine, birch and spruce grow close to the river. Here, the shrub layer is denser and includes dwarf serviceberry, juniper and goat willow. The ground layer includes orpine, wood hawkweed and rock campion, as well as greater butterfly-orchid occurring in a small marshy creek.

The slopes to the west of the river contain exposed rock, talus slopes and precipices, alternating with grove-like deciduous forest. Knotty pines and slow-growing oaks hang over the precipices. Rare plants such as ivy, pale St John's-wort, wild marjoram, false brome and wood melick grow in the talus. The shrub layer contains glaucous dog-rose,

Before the river was tamed the water flow was 900 cubic metres per second. The falls were 32 metres in altitude and stretched as far as the Olidehålan inlet, the lowest part being called Hell's Falls.

Today, the water is only permitted to follow its natural course on certain occasions, for example to regulate the water level in Lake Vänern or as a spectacular tourist attraction. During the Waterfall Days the water flow is around 300 cubic metres per second. Otherwise, the water is used to generate electricity in the hydropower stations Hojum and Olidan.

dog-rose and dwarf serviceberry. Interesting lichens and fungi grow on rocks and trees. On the steep slopes at Kopparklinten you can find, for example, the lichen *Trapeliopsis wallrothii*, which doesn't occur anywhere else in Sweden. The beefsteak fungus *Fistulina hepatica* and the crustose lichens *Bacidia rubella* and *B. biatorina* grow on old oaks.



Lily-of-the-valley  
*Convallaria majalis*

## Ancient remains and cultural heritage

Stone circles, rock carvings and two ancient fortresses can be found in the reserve. The strongholds, such as the one at Hälltorp, are among the oldest known fortresses in the country and date back to around 500 AD. The buildings at the open-air museum Forngården in the northern part of the reserve are also worth a visit. The reserve is part of the falls and locks area with several cultural heritage buildings and environments including the splendid hydropower station Olidan, one of the largest in the country, four locks, and old industrial buildings, e.g. the Nohab area. Together, the buildings and the landscape make an interesting whole.

## Outdoor life

The beautiful scenery around Göta älv, the rich countryside and cultural heritage together with the central location offer an ideal place for outdoor life and recreation all year round. There is a network of walking and cycling trails, small paths and trails and many fine places to fish. Many of the paths and trails also lead into other nature reserves and areas, e.g. Ryrbäcken and Åkerström. A system of paths was created on the western slopes as early as the 19th century, many of which remain today. The hanging bridge links the western slope with the system of paths around Kärlekens stig east of the river.

## Collaboration

Different activities work together in the falls and locks area. The aim is to preserve and develop the natural and cultural heritage values in the area alongside modern canal shipping operations and hydropower production. The nature reserve is one of the results of this collaboration.

## Find the way!

Exit the E45 towards Trollhättan centre. Follow the signs for the falls and the lock area.



**The purpose of the nature reserve is to preserve and develop forest environments along the river Göta älv and to safeguard the area for outdoor recreation and nature studies. The reserve comprises approximately 61 ha. The Swedish Maritime Administration, City of Trollhättan and Vattenfall are property owners. The nature reserve is managed by City of Trollhättan.**

**§ Regulations.** You are welcome to walk in the beautiful countryside in Älvrummet, but show care and consideration. Remember that you must not leave litter and that it is forbidden to:

- drive motor vehicles other than on existing roads
- put up tents or park caravans or camper cars
- light fires
- cut down or in any other way damage living or dead trees or shrubs
- bring unleashed dogs or other pets
- put up permanent signs, boards, placards, posters or similar, or make inscriptions, without permission from City of Trollhättan.



**Trollhättans Stad**

The nature reserve has been partially funded through State nature conservations grants.

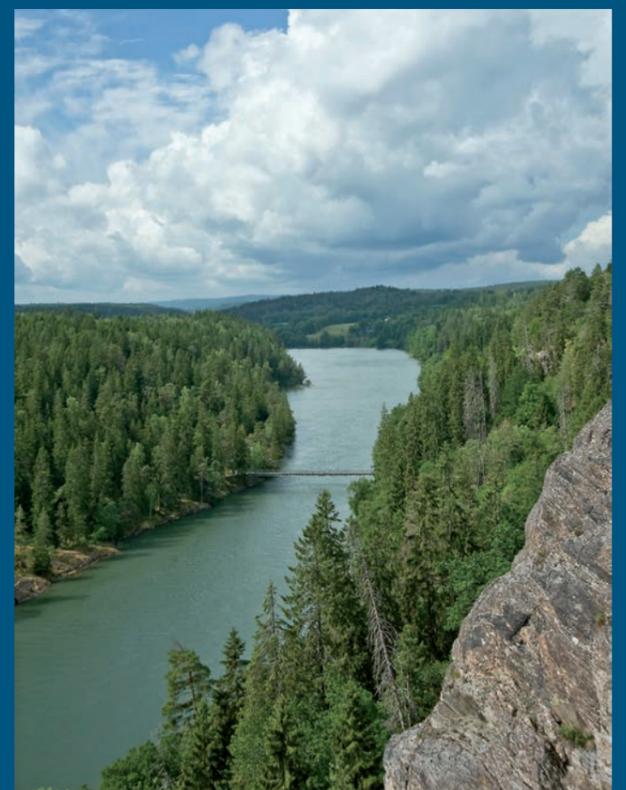
Production: Naturcentrum AB 2009. Map: Carina Lindkvist/Naturcentrum AB. Illustrations: Nils Forshed and Martin Holmer (pale St John's-wort). Photos: Ulf Arup (T. wallrothii) och Svante Hultengren/Naturcentrum AB (others). Translation: Stålen. The brochure is produced in collaboration with Innovatum Science Center and Visit Trollhättan Vänern AB.

INNOVATUM  
TEKNIKPARK

VISIT  
TROLLHÄTTAN  
VÄNERSBORG

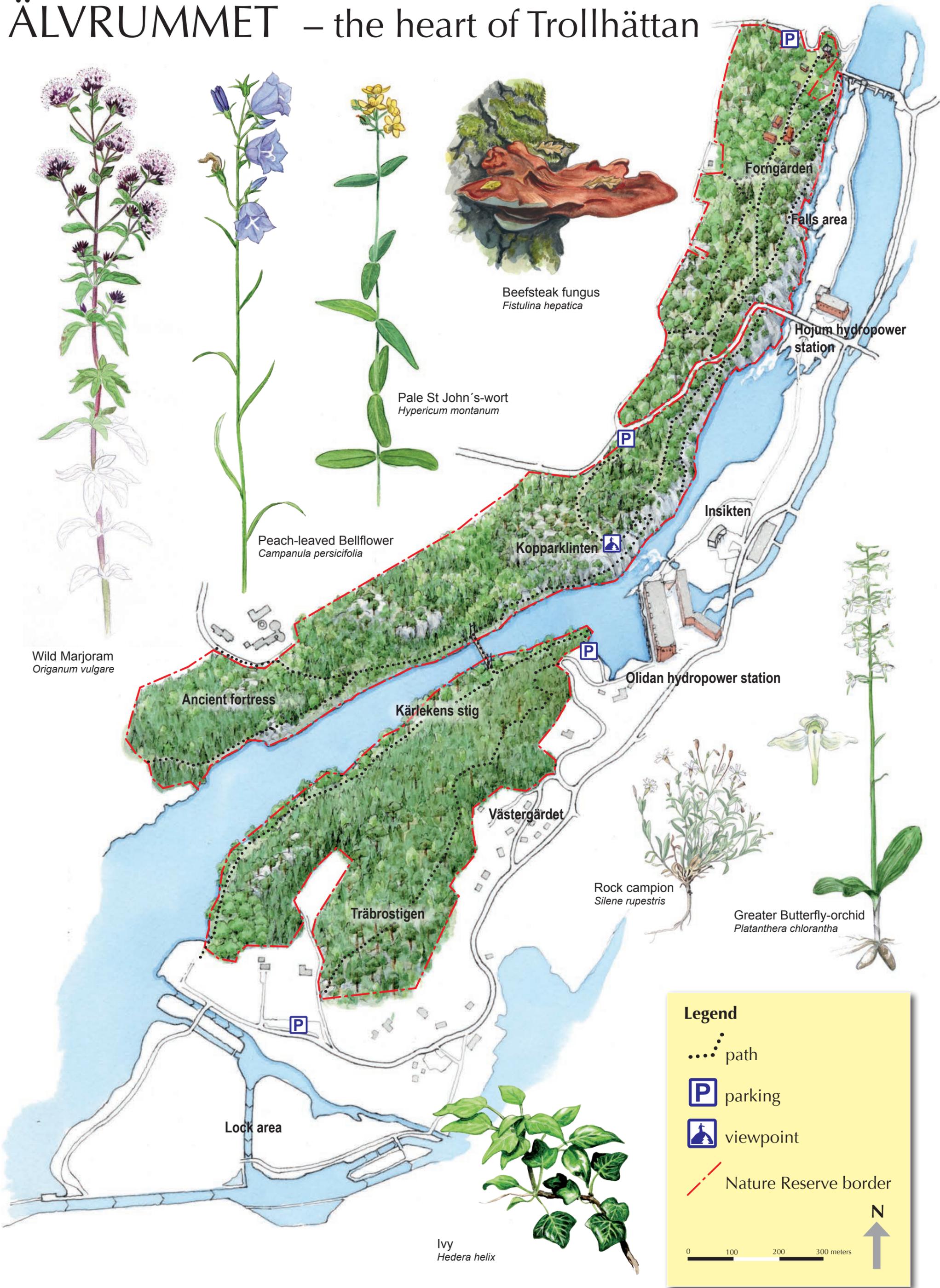


**Nature Reserve  
ÄLVNUMMET**



Welcome to Älvrummet Nature Reserve, the valley framing the river Göta älv and the waterfalls in Trollhättan. Here, geological formations jostle with valuable habitats and fascinating history. Impressive views are offered from the outlook on Kopparklinten, where knotty pines and oaks stretch over the surrounding precipices. Old buildings are found at Forngården. The lock area and hydroelectric power stations Olidan and Hojum are located just outside the reserve.

# ÄLVRUMMET – the heart of Trollhättan



**Legend**

- ... path
- P parking
- viewpoint
- Nature Reserve border

0 100 200 300 meters

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