

Discover and enjoy the Stångån/Kinda Canal in Linköping between Landeryd and Roxen

The Stångå valley is full of beautiful places to visit – the Kinda Canal with its locks, bathing places, marinas, parks, cafés and restaurants, recreation areas and walking routes. It's all easy to discover and enjoy, however you choose to travel.

Activities, outdoor life and clubs

The Stångå valley from Slattefors lock through Linköping to Roxen lake is 14 kilometres long and full of possibilities, whether you want to cycle, walk, fish, canoe, exercise or take part in various events.

Cycling
From the centre of Linköping you can ride north all the way to Roxen lake in around 15 minutes (4 km) and south to Landeryd (Spången) in around 30 minutes (9 km). The Linköping cycling map will help you find the best route. linkoping.se/cykla

Boating
There are many ways of taking to the water along the Stångån/Kinda Canal. You can take a cruise on the M/S Kinda, paddle down the canoe route, hire a kayak in the centre of Linköping, go out with the Canoe Club or even take your own boat from the motor or sailing boat marina. linkoping.se/battiv-kindakanal.se

Fishing
There is no charge for fishing with a rod on the Stångån/Kinda Canal between Slattefors lock and the mouth of the Stångå river. Fish stocks are managed by the Stångån-Linköping fisheries conservation society. If you are a member of a fishing club you can indulge in your hobby.

Running
Along the Stångån/Kinda Canal you can plan your own running route or choose the one marked in yellow on the map on this page. In Åbysäcken you have access to a whole recreation area with prepared tracks.

Walking
If you want to hike or just stroll, the possibilities are limitless. Take your lunch to the park Nykvärnsparcken or pack your rucksack and walk as far as you like. ostgotaleden.se
naturkartan.se/linkoping

Guided tours
Tours with a guide are a good way of making new discoveries. You can find the current programme at naturguidning.se

Naturkartan (nature guide)
Naturkartan is a digital leisure guide with details of nature sites and recreation areas. There is also a good app you can download. naturkartan.se/linkoping

Free wi-fi
From Drottningbron bridge in central Linköping to Tannefors locks, work is in hand to expand free wi-fi.

Places to discover and enjoy

- You will find more information on the places marked in red on the back of the map.
- South from the centre**
- 1 Ladugårdskälla (drinking fountain)
 - 2 Snugganparken (park)
 - 3 Tannefors locks
 - 4 Johannelundsbadet (bathing area)
 - 5 Åbysäcken recreation area
 - 6 Hackefors lock
 - 7 Hjulsbro lock
 - 8 Slattefors lock
 - 9 Landeryd golf courses
 - 10 Landeryd church and Spången
 - 11 Landeryd open-air museum
- North from the centre**
- 12 Nykvärns lock and Nykvärnsparcken (park)
 - 13 Snöbryggan (jetty)
 - 14 Motor boat marina
 - 15 Sailing boat marina
 - 16 Stångå river mouth
- Events and tourist information**
Many different events are arranged along the Stångån/Kinda Canal. You can find details at visitlinkoping.se

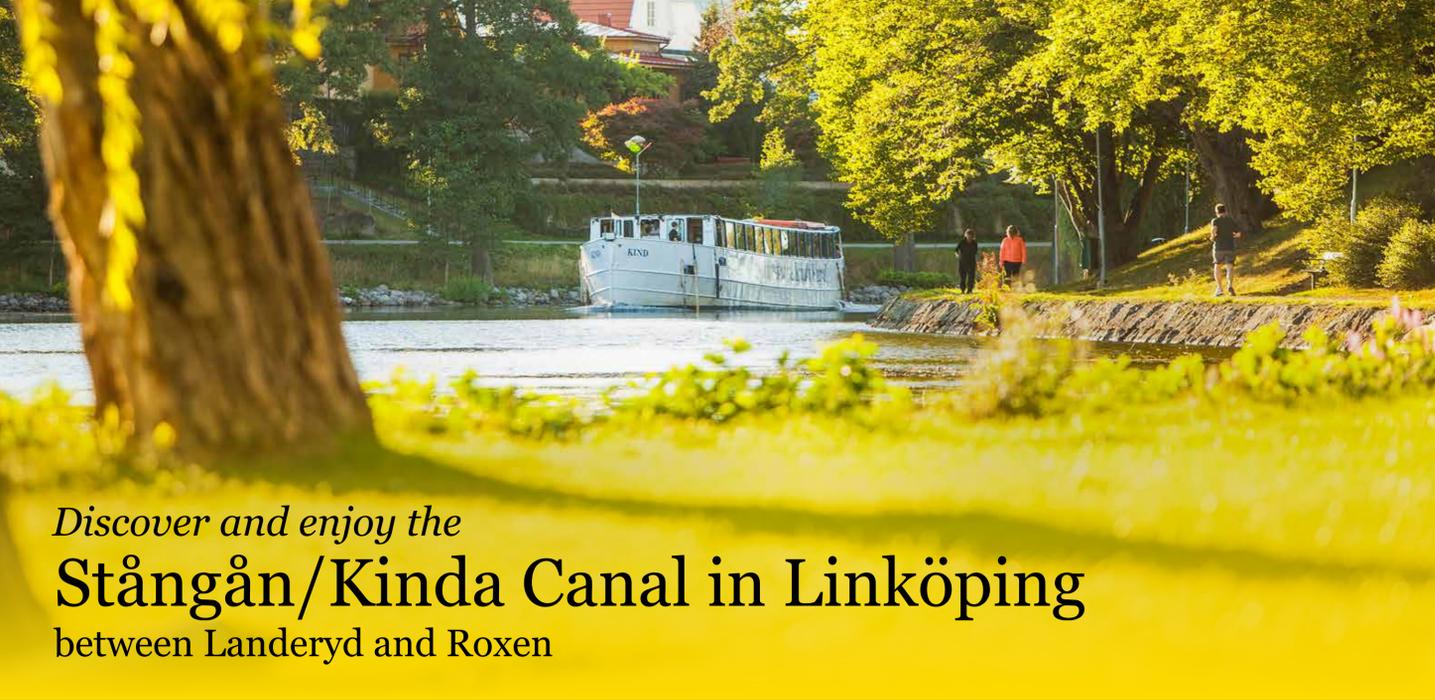
Map symbols

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- Natura 2000** is a network of protected nature conservation areas across the EU for species or habitats that are especially worthy of preservation at the European level.
- The Ramsar Convention** is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
- You can read more about the Ramsar Convention and Natura 2000 at naturvardsverket.se

Key

- Walking trails and cycle paths
 - Walking routes
 - Walking and cycle routes, open 01/04 to 30/09
 - Running route, 6.3 km
 - Illuminated trail
 - Sverigeleden trail/cycle path
 - Bigtälleden trail
 - Östgotaleden trail
 - Hembygdleden trail
 - Oak trail
 - Parks
 - Area of natural beauty
 - Oak forest
 - Square
- Spångerum 8.7**
Cycle and walkways along the Stångå riverside are symbolized on signposts by a white bicycle on a blue background.





Discover and enjoy the Stångån/Kinda Canal in Linköping between Landeryd and Roxen

Passenger ship M/S Kinda on its way south by Östra Strandpromenaden.

The Stångå valley is full of beautiful places to visit – the Kinda Canal with its locks, bathing places, marinas, parks, cafés and restaurants, recreation areas and walking routes. It's all easy to discover and enjoy, however you choose to travel. Walking and cycle routes take you easily out of central Linköping, to the south and to the north. Slightly more distant destinations can be reached by public transport or by car. Or why not take to the water, in a hired kayak or passenger vessel?

The Stångå river has been a main thoroughfare in the heart of Östergötland since time immemorial. People have passed through here for millennia, both for peaceful trade and on the way to war. The Stångå is the reason why Linköping is situated right here and has been the basis for the city's growth. From the early 19th to the mid-20th century, the Stångå was one of the major reasons for Linköping's rapid expansion and industrialisation. When the Kinda Canal was opened in 1871, it linked to the Göta Canal and turned Linköping into one of Sweden's biggest inland ports, with two customs houses and import and export rights. In the 1920s, Linköping was the home port for 12 vessels and around 1,700 large ships visited the port each year.

The Stångån/Kinda Canal runs right through Östergötland – a lifeline connecting the forest areas in the Småland hills to the fertile lands around Roxen lake and the world beyond. The rich plant and animal life is very varied, with lots to see along the winding waterway. The otter, the spectacular kingfisher and the rare asp fish are just some of the rare and endangered species that live along the river. The mouth of the Stångå into Roxen, together with the western part of the lake, is part of a Natura 2000 site, with habitats worthy of protection and conservation at the EU level. North from Nykvarn the Stångån/Kinda Canal is also part of a Ramsar area of exceptional wetlands.

Waterways have always been an asset to people's lives and to the development of the landscape and society – as transport routes, as sources of power for mills, machinery and electricity generation, and as a source of food. At the same time, the waterways formed barriers to overland routes, to be crossed with fords and bridges. The interplay between the city and the water has shaped the layout of Linköping, and as the inner city grows eastwards in the future, the Stångån/Kinda Canal will assume an even more central position – running right through the centre of the city.

Linköping municipality is working hard to make the Stångå valley more attractive and accessible. Since 2010, for example, 7.5 kilometres of new cycle paths have been laid. Three bridges have been renovated or rebuilt, three jetties have been constructed close to the town, and three bathing places have been refurbished.

Photo: Bild Linköping



Port of Linköping with harbour offices, to the north of Tullbron bridge, 1918. The boat 'Ejör' on the right of the photo, served Roxen lake from 1903-1938.

Water in the city centre

There are several ways of reaching the Stångån/Kinda Canal from the centre of Linköping. The most accessible and welcoming for walkers and cyclists is the continuation of Storgatan to the east towards the Stångebro bridge. This takes you directly onto the fine walking and cycle routes that extend far out from the city centre along the river.

If you are driving, you can leave your car in the Druvan multi-storey carpark, at Guldmynet or in the area by the Saab Arena.



Sun terrace at the Scandic hotel in the centre of Linköping.

Free fishing

Rod fishing in the Stångån/Kinda Canal is free between Slattefors lock and the river mouth at Roxen. In the autumn there are usually more fish than ever between Nykvarn lock and Roxen lake. Herds of bleak, roach and white bream swim upstream from Roxen, followed by hungry, predatory perch and pike. With a bit of luck you might also catch common bream, rudd and tench. But just sitting looking at the bobbing stream is also a pleasure.



Perch are one of the ten or so fish species that can be caught along the Stångån.

1 Ladugårdskälla (drinking fountain) Close to the city centre on the east bank of the river is Ladugårdskälla, where a springwater drinking fountain was established in the mid-1940s. Until 1921 there was also a dance hall and skittle alleys where Linköping folk could pass the time. The area around Ladugårdskälla was renovated in 2015 and the drinking fountain was re-opened, this time with municipal drinking water. Above the spring is a playpark with a flying theme, and next door is the Åbacka café.



2 Snugganparken (park) Right opposite Tannefors locks is Snugganparken, which took its name from the mill-owner's house called Snuggan in the southern part of the park. Snuggan mill, which belonged to house, was shut down in 1920 and demolished when Strandpromenaden was laid out in 1931.

Snugganparken has been renovated and developed into an attractive meeting place. An outdoor gym, football pitch, fine trees and shrubs and places to sit provide for both activity and relaxation. In the old mill channel below Snugganparken a recreated weir will improve the conditions for fish to breed, including the endangered asp which is one of the municipality's species that are given special attention.

3 Tannefors locks Tannefors locks are a popular place to stop for many people walking or jogging out from the centre. Here the river bends and divides into the northern channel and the magnificent flight of locks to the south, which is also a stopping place for the passenger boat M/S Kinda. The lock area takes in a fine park with a café, jetties and a gazebo situated at the far end of the jetty in the canal channel.

The mill town of Tannefors housed mills exploiting the power of the waterfall from the Middle Ages onwards. When the Kinda Canal opened in 1871 there were seven water mills, two sawmills, a knitwear factory, a cotton works, a snuff mill and a press for crushing animal bones to make fertiliser. The local authority's utilities provider, still manages most of the flowing water used to generate electricity.

The area contains one of the most important aquatic environments on the Stångå valley, with rare aquatic plants and four of Sweden's eight species of great freshwater mammals. The alders and willows that hang over the water provide shade, food and good conditions for fish and birds to breed.



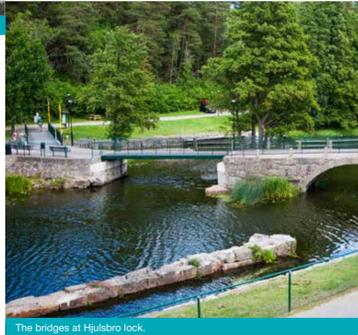
Tannefors locks. The view from the lock café is enchanting.



Johannelundsbadet.

4 Johannelundsbadet (bathing area) From the leafy riverside it is easy to reach the Johannelundsbadet bathing station. The bathing place is also close to the centre of Johanneland with stops on several of the city bus routes and access to car parks.

With a child-friendly lagoon, diving boards, outdoor showers and a ramp to make it easier for people with disabilities to enter the water, this is a pleasant place for swimmers of all ages. A kiosk, toilets and beach volleyball pitches provide all you need for those long lazy days.



The bridges at Hjulsbro lock.

5 Åbysäcken recreation area Where the Stångån/Kinda Canal bends to the south, by Ådala allotment area, the Åbysäcken recreation area extends along the east side of the river. There are many marked trails, from two to just over six kilometres, for walking, running and skiing. The main entrance is at Skidgården on Vintervägen, but you can also reach the area via a little gravel path just to the east of Spångerumsbron, or from Vårgård, between the bathing area and the barbecue site.

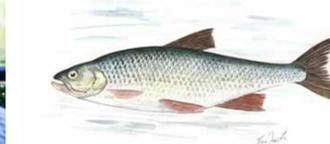
Åbysäcken contains several areas of exceptional interest within the municipal nature conservation programme. The diverse flora on the border between the forests and agricultural land to the southwest and Hagaberg's hollow oaks to the southeast are some examples. Near Vårgårdsbadet bathing area there are remains of two summer houses with imposing gardens and stone steps leading up to the exercise trail. The whole area is rich in archaeological remains, probably from an ancient settlement.

6 Hackefors lock Just to the south of Åbysäcken is Hackefors lock, with enchanting views from the power station bridge over the river to the south. The lock is a stopping place for the passenger boat M/S Kinda.

It used to be a high and wild waterfall on the Stångå river, which powered water mills and sawmills. Hackefors lock is a large single lock with an impressive 6.8 metre difference in levels. It is thought to be the only lock in the world with wooden gates of this size which is still in operation.

Between Åbysäcken and the lock there are marsh forest and wetland areas of great interest. The three oaks by the path to the south of the western bridge foundation are among the biggest oaks along the Stångå valley. Between Hackefors and Hjulsbro lock, just over a kilometre to the south, five of Sweden's eight species of mussels can be found.

Species that are given special attention are rare and endangered species that have a significant part of their distribution with a limited area. Linköping municipality has 12 such species. The work of preserving them is a long-term project supported by local action plans. Our protected species are the asp (fish), kingfisher, black-tailed godwit, sharp-leaved pondweed, horned grebe, Geyer's whorl snail, hermit beetle, woodland brown butterfly, pea vetch, witches' cauldron fungus, rattle grasshopper and Arthonia byssacea (lichen).



The asp fish. Illustration: Vesa Juselius

12 Nykvarn lock and Nykvarnsparken

About a kilometre north of the centre is Nykvarn lock, completed in 1867. It is bigger than the other locks on the Kinda Canal and was built to the Göta Canal standard, so larger vessels could go all the way up to the port of Linköping.

Nykvarnsparken, laid out in 1867, is one of the most beautiful green spaces in the city. The line of heavy poplars in the south of the park used to go all the way into the centre. The area is rich in historical remains, including graveyards and rune stones. On the east side of the river is Östergötland's largest known ship burial site, and there is a huge rune stone at the bottom of Runstengatan. Where the hydro-electric station now stands there used to be the bridge that gave its name to the historic battle of Stångebro in 1598.

The weir at Nykvarn hydro-electric plant is an obstacle to fish which naturally migrate up the Stångån/Kinda Canal from Roxen lake. Tekniska Verken (the utilities provider) and Linköping municipality are therefore working to establish a 'by-pass' on the island between the plant and the lock, so fish and other freshwater species can pass both upstream and downstream. There will also be bridges, benches and information on nature and culture.



Nykvarnsparken.

13 Snöbryggan

Snöbryggan (the 'snow jetty') got its name from the jetty that was once used to dispose of snow from the city's snowclearing. A completely new jetty was built in 2012, made of oak and resting on 36 wooden piles. Snöbryggan is an excellent place for fishing and recreation where you can watch the boats in the motor boat marina next door and enjoy the natural environment. The jetty has a bird watching tower and is a popular bird-watching site, in winter time too. On the opposite side, Linköping municipality and Tekniska Verken have established artificial breeding grounds. This makes Snöbryggan the best place in Linköping to see the spectacular kingfisher. All the way from here to the mouth of the Stångå river there are fine walls of vegetation on both banks.



Bird watching tower at Snöbryggan.

14 Motor boat marina

The canal boats of the 1820s and 1830s could only reach the Cap Julie area, just to the north of the present motor boat marina. The round harbour basin was built in the 1930s. This was the site of the Linköping shipyard from the 1880s to the 1930s. The motor boat marina was renovated in 2016. Here you can go boating and take in the wonderful view from Flaggberget. In the angling store (at Roxengatan 4) next to the motor boat marina, you can also hire a kayak and explore the Stångån/Kinda Canal for yourself.



The motor boat marina.



There are fine facilities for exercise and recreation along the Stångån river.

Lifecycle of painter's mussels Two of the great freshwater mussel species found in the Stångån/Kinda Canal are painter's mussels. In the spring, the males discharge their sperm into the water to fertilise the eggs laid by the females. The eggs develop into little larvae which hatch out after a few weeks. The larvae quickly seek out a fish, attach themselves to its gills and live there as parasites while they develop into small mussels, without harming the fish. When the mussels are fully developed after a few more weeks, they let go of the gills and drop to the bottom. There they dig themselves in and hide until they are about a centimetre long. Then they crawl to the river bed and start filtering.



Lifecycle of painter's mussels. Illustration: Carina Lindkvist and Theres Johansson.

8 Slattefors lock

If you travel by boat from Hjulsbro lock, you come to Slattefors lock after just over two kilometres. The lock is in a beautiful setting surrounded by Sweden's largest area of oak woods. On the way there you pass natural wetlands and a diverse stretch of marsh forest, which is a major breeding area for birds and fish. An exciting place to visit is Uveberg with its ancient castle, a few hundred metres south of the lock – and Slattefors cliff, a vertical climbing wall that plunges straight down into the water. To the east of the lock and the power station is Slattefors minor house, dating from 1718.

9 Landeryd golf courses Landeryd golf courses on the west bank of the Stångån/Kinda Canal are easily accessible via a well-developed system of paths and roads. At the entrance to the golf courses there is a restaurant, toilets and parking. In the winter, Linköping skiing club lays out ski trails in the beautiful oak woods in parts of the golf course area.



Landeryd community trail.



Landeryd golf courses are in a beautiful setting on the west bank of the Stångån/Kinda Canal.

11 Landeryd open-air museum

Landeryd community association looks after the community trail and arranges treasure hunts, National Day parades, theatre, a Christmas market and lots more in the open-air museum. The park contains restored buildings from the surrounding area where you can see how people lived and worked in former times. You can also see the Landeryd oak, an imposing tree a good seven metres in circumference. The community trail is a good way to get to the places around Landeryd described here. The 6 km loop, marked in blue and yellow, takes in Slattefors, Landeryd church and Spången. The 2.5 km loop, marked in blue, keeps to the west side of the river. Along the trail you will find information boards with details of ancient monuments, buildings and nature.

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Linköping municipality linkoping.se



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Environmental and reconstruction administration customer service: +46(0)13-20 64 00
www.linkoping.se
The municipality's work for the natural environment. The website also provides more information on the municipal programme 'Nature in Linköping'. Here you will find the excursion guide 'Nature in Linköping' to know more about Linköping's nature and rare and endangered species. The municipality's nature conservation programme records where valuable natural assets are to be found. Various kinds are carried out each year because we have a duty to care for our natural heritage.

Want to know more? Some natural environments need a little extra care if their inhabitants are to thrive. The recreation of small ponds and other migration routes are examples of such measures. The municipality also forms and looks after several nature reserves. Practical nature conservation work. The municipality's nature conservation programme records where valuable natural assets are to be found. Various kinds are carried out each year because we have a duty to care for our natural heritage. Here you will find the excursion guide 'Nature in Linköping'. The website also provides more information on the municipal programme 'Nature in Linköping'. Here you will find the excursion guide 'Nature in Linköping' to know more about Linköping's nature and rare and endangered species. The municipality's nature conservation programme records where valuable natural assets are to be found. Various kinds are carried out each year because we have a duty to care for our natural heritage.

Good for nature – and for you



15 Sailing boat marina

Just under three kilometres from the centre of Linköping, north of the E4 bridge, is the sailing boat marina on the west side of the Stångån/Kinda Canal. On the way there, right after the bridge, is Linköping canoe club. From the sailing boat marina it is less than a kilometre to the point where the Stångå river enters Roxen lake, which is connected to the east and west coasts of Sweden via the Göta Canal.

Around the sailing boat marina there are several picnic areas where you can watch the boats and admire the splendid wooded banks of the river. To the north of the marina is the Långa Lisa wetland area. It is one of the former meanders of the Stångå river, all of which are of great natural interest and lie alongside the main channel which was opened in 1857.

The marina, which was dug out in 1973, is owned by Linköping municipality and run by the association of Linköping boat clubs. This comprises Linköping and Roxen sailing clubs and Linköping motor boat club.



The sailing boat marina.

16 Stångå river mouth

The birdwatching tower at the mouth of the Stångå river offers fantastic views over Roxen lake. From here you can enjoy the rich bird life. The area around the river mouth with its great reed beds is very important for wetland birds. It is home to several red-listed species: the grasshopper warbler, bearded reedling, lesser spotted woodpecker, kingfisher and sea eagle. The red-listed common rivergrass also grows here. The river mouth is part of the Natura 2000 site and the 'Västra Roxen' Ramsar area.

Over the next few years, the area around the river mouth will be developed with new facilities for outdoor activities and recreation. It is also home to the dinghy sailing club.

Natura 2000 is a network of protected nature areas across the EU for species or habitats that are especially worthy of preservation at the European level.

The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. Among other things, the countries that have signed the Convention have to designate their most important wetlands and aquatic habitats as Ramsar areas and ensure that they are conserved.



The mouth of the Stångå river into Roxen lake.