

## GETTING TO OMBERG ECOPARK

### Car

Omberg Ecopark is located 8 km from Ödeshög where the E4 passes. Follow the signs from road 50. The ecopark is less than an hour drive from both Jönköping (80 km) and Linköping (70 km).



### Train

Mjölby is the closest train station (45 km). See bus connections for continued transportation.

### Bus

The bus that goes between Ödeshög and Mjölby stops at the Alvastra crossroads (crossroads at road 50, just west of Pålbyggnaden). [www.ostgotatrafiken.se](http://www.ostgotatrafiken.se)



Red squirrel



Guided tours in nature

## ECOPARK CENTRE/NATURUM OMBERG

Visit the Ecopark Centre/Naturum Omberg visitors' centre before you venture into the ecopark's forests. The staff can answer questions and give advice about hiking. Here you will also find an exhibition about Omberg's nature and culture and you can obtain information about a range of activities in the ecopark such as fishing, cycling, kayak paddling and riding.

+46 (0)144-332 45

[www.omberg.se](http://www.omberg.se)

## RESTAURANT, CAFÉ AND ACCOMMODATION

### 1 Stocklycke vandrarhem – Hostel

Offers accommodation year round; café and food service. Advance booking during the off season. +46 (0)144-330 44

### 2 Borghamns vandrarhem – Hostel

Offers accommodation year round; café and food service. Advance booking during the off season. +46 (0)143-203 68

### 3 Ombergs turisthotell – Hotel

Accommodation and food for large and small groups when booked in advance. +46 (0)144-330 02

### 4 Ombergsliden Mountain Lodge

Accommodation for large and small groups when booked in advance. + 46 (0)705-83 42 38



Summer swimming at Stocklycke harbour in Lake Vättern

## Right of access – freedom that entails responsibility

We are allowed to move freely through forests and across land in Sweden, provided we take consideration of nature and animals. The basic rule is not to disturb or destroy. Please note that there are special rules in the nature reserve. More information on right of public access – allemansrätten – is available from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency at [www.allemansratten.se](http://www.allemansratten.se).

## What is an ecopark?

An ecopark is a large contiguous forest landscape with high natural values and where ambitions include nature conservation. An ecopark consists of at least 1,000 hectares, and at least 50 per cent of productive forestland is nature reserve area. Ecological values take precedence over financial ones in the ecoparks.

## This is Sveaskog

Sveaskog is the leading forest company in the country. We own 15 per cent of Swedish forestland and have a turnover of just over SEK 7 billion. We are government-owned and employ around 730 people.



West Studios AB • Photo: Carl Lundberg (front), Per Petersson, Mikael Gustafsson/N  
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## For more information:

[www.ekopark.se](http://www.ekopark.se), [www.sveaskog.se](http://www.sveaskog.se) or

Sveaskog's Customer Service Centre +46(0)771-787 100

  
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Omberg Ecopark



# Welcome to **Omberg** Ecopark and Sveaskog

The Omberg Ecopark is located on the eastern shore of Lake Vättern.

Here you will be captivated by splendid orchids and enthralling myths.

You can wander among old giant oak trees and shady beechwood forests,

as well as enjoy the fantastic view from Hjässan – Omberg's highest point. We turned Omberg into an

ecopark in order to preserve and develop the natural values in the area.

## Sveaskog's ecoparks – for nature and mankind

An ecopark is a large contiguous land area that has high biological and ecological values. There is forestry work in most of the ecoparks, but at least half of the productive forestland is used for nature conservation.

Ecological values take precedence over financial ones in the ecopark. At the same time, the forest's importance in terms of outdoor activities and human well-being is in focus. Sveaskog is developing 36 ecoparks around the country. Omberg was inaugurated as the first ecopark in 2003.



### Mosaic of forests at Omberg

Omberg is one of the forest landscapes in Sweden that is the richest in species. There is a mosaic of broad-leaved deciduous, spruce and broad-leaved wetland forests, and we work to reinforce these environments. There is also a strong showing of giant oaks and deadwood. The Omberg Ecopark comprises 1,400 hectares of productive forestland. The table below shows our long-term nature conservation ambitions for the Omberg Ecopark.

### Rich in broad-leaved deciduous forests

Throughout history, Omberg has been rich in broad-leaved deciduous forests, but a great deal of these forests were replaced

Nature conservation in Omberg Ecopark			
Nature types with high natural values	Starting point 2003	Restoration	In the future
Broad-leaved deciduous forest	15%	30%	45%
Spruce forest	5%	10%	15%
<b>Total forest with high natural values</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>60%</b>
Production forest with intensified consideration	0%		40%
Production forest with general consideration	80%		0%

As a result of the intensified consideration for the natural and cultural environments, which are also left unmolested in the production forests, the total nature conservation area is approximately 70 per cent. Of this area, 2 per cent is nature reserve land.

by thick spruce plantations in the 20th century. Even so, the broad-leaved deciduous forest still has a prominent position at Omberg – just visit the beechwood forest nature reserve, for example, to see evidence of this. Our ambition is to recreate the deciduous forests in the ecopark.

### Old spruce forests

Omberg's inaccessible screes mean that the spruce forests located there have remained relatively untouched and been able to develop freely. In some cases, the spruce trees are a couple hundred years old. There is an abundance of dead trees and deadwood in the forests at various stages of decomposition. This is beneficial to a number of rare lichens and mosses, as well as to insects and woodpeckers.

### Giant oak trees

A great deal of Omberg was previously an open grazing landscape. This benefited the oak trees, which were allowed to grow extremely large and old. Omberg currently accommodates around 400 giant oaks, but many of these are extremely pressed by the young forest growing there. Since over 1,000 species live on, in and off the oak, it is important for biological diversity. As a result, our aim is to increase the number of giant oaks to 5,000.

### Queen Omma

Omberg's eternal sovereign is Queen Omma. Her most important task is to safeguard and manage the mountain, its plants and its animals, and there are numerous myths about her. For example, water seeps down to Lake Vättern through the ceiling of Rödgavel grotto, and myth has it that these are the tears of Queen Omma who is mourning a deceased suitor.

### Omberg's enthralling history

The mountain was used for farming as early as the Stone Age. The ancient castles were built at around the 5th and 6th centuries during the turbulent period of migration. The area became the centre of the House of Sverker (12th century) and, amongst other things, the Alvastra Monastery was founded. Omberg subsequently became one of the largest animal parks, which means it served as the king's private hunting grounds through 1805. A government forester training school was

opened at Omberg in 1859, and forestry became more organized. The forester training school closed in 1935. There was traditional forestry at Omberg up until 2003 when the ecopark was inaugurated.

### Outdoor activities

The Omberg Ecopark is a popular area for outdoor activities. Visitors can exercise, pick berries and mushrooms or just experience nature. A comprehensive hiking system takes visitors to most of Omberg's sights. Guided tours are offered during the peak season to visitors interested in learning more about Omberg's nature and culture.

### Upplev Omberg

Upplev Omberg (Experience Omberg) is a co-operative consisting of some twenty local companies which offer products related to nature, and culture and health including kayak rentals, guided tours, accommodation, food, culture, art and handicrafts.  
+46 738-735143  
www.upplevomberg.se



Resting in a windbreak



Six-spot burnet moth



Discover the ecopark from a kayak



Cattle grazing in the ecopark



Wild garlic



Chicken mushroom



Dragonfly