



Nature Travels

outdoor experiences in Sweden



BEAVER SAFARI AND TIMBER RAFTING - 4 DAYS

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BEAVER SAFARI AND TIMBER RAFTING: 4 DAYS	3
DAY 1: CHECK-IN AND BEAVER SAFARI	3
DAY 2: EXPLORING THE AREA AND PREPARATION FOR TIMBER RAFTING ON KLARÄLVEN	4
DAY 3: TIMBER RAFTING ON KLARÄLVEN	4
DAY 4: CHECK-OUT	4
DATES FOR 2010 SUMMER SEASON:	4
PRICE:	4
<i>Accommodation:</i>	5
<i>Food:</i>	5
<i>Equipment</i>	5
<i>Instructor:</i>	5
WHAT THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:	5
OPTIONAL EXTRAS:.....	5
EQUIPMENT/CLOTHES NEEDED:	5
<i>Packing list (recommended):</i>	6
HEALTH REQUIREMENTS/EXPERIENCE:	6
GROUPS:	6
INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAMPSITE AND SURROUNDING AREA:	6
VÄRMLAND:	6
THE KLARÄLVEN RIVER AND VALLEY	7
COMMON SENSE AND THE RIGHT OF PUBLIC ACCESS	7
<i>Respect others' privacy</i>	7
<i>Camping</i>	8
<i>Do not litter</i>	8
<i>Blossoms and berries</i>	8
<i>Protected natural areas</i>	8
GETTING THERE:	8
<i>By Air:</i>	8
<i>Without flying</i>	8
TRAVEL WITHIN SWEDEN:	8
WHAT TO DO NEXT:	9
ADDITIONAL NOTES	9

Beaver Safari and Timber Rafting: 4 days.

Experience Code: VV4MS1

A fun experience combining unusual nature activities with accommodation in cabins by the Klarälven shore.

Explore the gently flowing waters of the longest river in Sweden on this multi-activity water adventure suitable for the whole family. You will stay in small simple cabins at a campsite and combine this with a timber rafting day tour and a guided beaver safari. You can also rent a canoe for a day, try fishing in the local lakes and streams or book a wood-heated sauna at the shore.

In the evening of your first day you will go on a beaver safari and learn all about the life of the beaver. You make coffee and grill something to eat over an open fire and hear tales of beaver. When the dusk arrives you will silently glide through the water scanning the river for beaver. If you are quiet you have very good chances of spotting one. There are now thought to be more than 100,000 beavers in Sweden as a whole, and the Klarälven is one of the best places in Sweden to see these fascinating and industrious animals.

The river is an excellent area to spot beaver, but of course we can not guarantee sightings. We promise however that you will have an unforgettable experience as the dusk falls over Klarälven!

Floating peacefully down river Huck Finn style on a timber raft is surely the stuff of childhood dreams. On day three you will get a chance to try our popular timber rafting experience, building a raft from nothing but logs and ropes and piloting it down the river for a day.

Beaver Safari and Timber Rafting is an ideal family experience, combining the challenge and adventure of a day's timber rafting with a chance to learn more about one of Sweden's most interesting mammals.

Day 1: Check-in and Beaver Safari

Check in to your accommodation from 15.00.

At 18.30 (17.30 during August) you will start your beaver safari. Meet outside the reception. You will then travel with pre-arranged transport (please see Optional Extras) or in your own cars a short distance north to the starting point. During the beaver safari you will travel on Klarälven in a rubber boat (or possibly canoes) which you help to paddle down the river. After a while on the water it is time to break and make a fire and barbecue sausages over the open fire. Your guide will tell you about the beavers. After the break it is time to really keep your eyes open. Silence is your best friend, because the beaver is a very shy animal. There is a good chance of seeing beaver in Klarälven, but of course we can not guarantee sightings. We promise however that you will have an unforgettable experience as the dusk falls over Klarälven. At approximately 23.30 you arrive back at the camping cabins. You help to get the boat on shore and rented equipment is returned. If you travelled by your own car, you will be transported back to the starting point to collect your cars.

NB: If beginning on a Sunday, activities take place in a different order. Sunday begins with building of timber raft at 16.00. During Monday you will out on the river on your raft. Beaver safari takes place on Tuesday evening.

Day 2: Exploring the Area and Preparation for Timber Rafting on Klarälven.

During the day you are free to explore the surrounding area as you wish. Please note it is possible to rent canoe(s) as an optional extra and spend the day canoeing on the Klarälven river.

At 16.00 you will meet at the river, where you will be given instructions and advice on how to build your raft and information for your timber rafting day. The raft is built from ropes and logs and will be 3 x 3 metres when completed and weight almost 1000kg. Each raft takes minimum 2, maximum 6 persons. When you have finished building your raft, you tie it up for the night. You will then drive (one person/car) your car to the end destination. The instructor will come along and transport the drivers back to the starting point, or if you do not travel by car you can pre-arrange transport from the end destination - please see Optional Extras.

Day 3: Timber Rafting on Klarälven

You can choose what time you would like to begin your journey on the river. You should bring along food for the day and clothes suitable for the weather conditions. During the day you will let the force of the river transport you downstream. You will need to plan ahead to negotiate the meandering river and watch out for backwaters and sandbanks.

You will have time to take a swim, enjoy the countryside, fish and eat the packed lunches you brought with you. When you get closer to your end goal, it is important that you look out so you do not miss the finishing point in Björkebo on Klarälven's eastern shore. You will dismantle the raft yourself, and the logs from the raft should be placed into the log trap. The rest of the equipment you place on the shore at the designated spot. Please take your rubbish with you back to the campsite (the birds gather quickly if you leave rubbish behind).

Day 4: Check-out

Please complete your end cleaning and check out by 12.00.

Please note that you are welcome to add additional days at the camping cabins before and/or after your tour if you wish – see Optional Extras below.

Dates for 2010 summer season:

Start: 06.07-12.08.10 Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays*

*If beginning on a Sunday, activities take place in a different order. Sunday begins with building of timber raft at 16.00. During Monday you will out on the river on your raft. Beaver safari takes place on Tuesday evening.

Arrival: 15.00 on the start day.

Departure: by 12.00 on the last day of your stay.

Price:

Adult: £175

Child 3-15: £88

NB: If you are not travelling by car, you need to add £75/group of maximum 8 persons to the total price to cover the two transports needed - one to the start of the beaver safari and one back home to the cabins from the end of the timber raft tour.

What The Price Includes:

Accommodation:

Accommodation in 4-person log cabins. The cabins are winter insulated and have two small bedrooms, with one bunk bed in each, a common room with a table, benches and kitchenette and one toilet. Size=16 m² + porch. The cabins have duvets and pillows and simple kitchen utensils for 4 people. You bring your own sheets, duvet covers and pillow cases and do the end cleaning, if you do not book these as optional extras in advance.

There are service houses with showers (small additional charge) at the campsite for you to use.

Food:

In your cabin there are facilities for simple cooking. However, the service house in the area has a kitchen that you are also able to use for this purpose. Groceries you bring with you or buy on site from one of the local convenience stores – e.g. Brigit's Lanthandel in Osebol, 3 km south of the campsite on the left side of the river - a small convenience store with anything you might need. You can also eat at the restaurant in the hotel, 300m from the campsite. They serve breakfast, lunch and à la carte. In Stöllet, 2 km from the campsite, there is a pizza place.

Equipment

The following equipment is included in the timber raft tour:
Timber, rope, life jacket, paddles, pole, map, life ring.

The following equipment is included in the beaver safari:
Rubber boat or canoe, paddles, buoyancy aids, food for the break.

Please be careful with the equipment! If some part of the equipment should break as a result of misuse or carelessness, you may be charged for the damage caused.

Instructor:

Services of experienced and knowledgeable instructor/guide before your timber raft tour and with you on the beaver safari and you will also be given help with the transport of your vehicles.

What The Price Does Not Include:

Food, bedding, end cleaning.

Optional extras:

If you do not travel by car, it is possible to arrange the transportation necessary to take you from the end of the timber raft tour and to the start of the beaver safari. Price: £75 for 1-8 people for both transports.

- Extra nights: £51/cabin
- Bedding: £12/set
- End cleaning: £28/cabin
- Rent a canoe for a day: £33/2-person canoe/day – enabling you to spend a day canoeing on the Klarälven river. You will pick up and return the canoe at the campground.

Equipment/clothes needed:

NB: We advise you not to buy equipment or clothes for your trip or to incur other non-refundable expenses such as flights until you have received confirmation of your booking from us in writing.

Packing list (recommended):

Toiletries:

Soap, toothpaste, plasters, moisturiser, sun-cream, painkillers, blister tape, mosquito repellent (see the "About Sweden" page on our website for further information about mosquitoes).

Clothes:

Take clothes you are not afraid to damage. Quick-drying materials are best. Pack raingear (jacket and trousers), boots, shoes, a pair of warm socks, something to cover your head in case of heat or rain, a pair of gloves/mittens, a warm sweater, sweatshirt, T-shirt, shirt, trousers, long underpants, a pair of shorts, beachwear, underwear, anorak (or similar) and something to sleep in.

Equipment:

Bedding (if not hired as optional extra).

Additional:

Compass, sunglasses, camera, binoculars and food.

Health requirements/experience:

Swimming ability required by adults. All participation at own risk. Minimum 2 adults/timber raft. You should be in good health and have a reasonable level of fitness and strength.

Groups:

It is possible to book this tour for larger groups. Please contact us for a quote.

Information about the campsite and surrounding area:

At the campground there are various facilities for you to use. There are service houses with toilets, showers (small additional charge), kitchen, laundry room and kiosk. There is a play area with trampoline, bouncy mat and swings. There is also a beach volleyball court, green areas to play your own games, barbecue spots, bathing in Klarälven and fishing in "Korvsjön". If you would like to try bathing in a wood-heated sauna by the Klarälven shore, you can book this at reception. You can also rent canoes and go canoeing on the Klarälven river.

Directly nearby is "Älvens Hus", which has an interesting exhibition about Klarälven. The exhibition is directed both at children and adults. On the other side of the road you have the hotel Värmlandsporten with a restaurant that is open daily. In the hotel you can also pay to use their leisure facilities with Jacuzzi and sauna. A basic kiosk is situated next to the reception. If you would like a larger selection you can go to the gas station on the other side of the road, which sells groceries.

Värmland:

Värmland is often described as the province of nature and culture. It is also a province of wilderness with unspoiled forests, distant blue mountains and shimmering wild waters for fishing and canoeing.

The people of Värmland are known for being friendly and helpful. Hospitality and obliging manners are also typical characteristics for a person from Värmland. Värmland is an

excellent recreation area. There are a lot of lakes, streams, high mountains and deep forests. And through it all runs the river Klarälven, the largest river in Sweden.

The Klarälven River and valley

Klarälven is the longest river of Sweden, about 270km long and runs the length of Värmland, from the Norwegian border in the north to Lake Vänern in the south. It has its sources in the Härjedalen from where it runs further on into Norway and the area of Femund and runs back into Sweden. In Norway it is more of a white-water river, slowing down south of Sysseleback and finally changes its character into a slow and calm river, heading for its outlet in the Vänern lake.

Klarälven is both of historical and geological interest. It is a typical example of an "old river" that has eroded and dug its way through the primary rocks for thousands of years. Today it winds its way through the rock and sandy soil of the valley in numerous meanderings (86 of them from Sysseleback to Gunnerud). In the northern part the forested valley side plunge steeply into the river, while further south the landscape is flatter and opens out onto meadows and cultivated land.

The special meanderings of the river also give the beautiful sand beaches along the way. The former Pilgrims' Way (Pilgrimsleden) runs alongside the Klarälven, it was used during the 11th century by monks and pilgrims on their pilgrimage to the grave of Olov the Holy in Nidaros, now Trondheim, in Norway. These pilgrimages have had its impression on the valley. The churches lay with a days walk (20-30 km) from each other. Apart from the religious function of the churchyards were a safe place to spend the night- safe from animals, ambushes and more (the pilgrim usually carried all their belongings with them). Around these churches, markets and small villages naturally developed, where the handling of all sorts of merchandise were common. Still, until this day, the valley reminds you of this.

Keep a lookout for wild animals. The forests of Värmland are home to elk, roe deer and foxes. At the border towards Norway there are wolves, bear and lynx, but it is very difficult to catch a glimpse of any of them. The biggest inhabitant of the river is the beaver and if you keep real quiet and still in the dusk you have good chances to see this fascinating animal.

Common Sense and the Right of Public Access

Do not disturb, do not destroy – that is the basic principle of Sweden's right of public access. It is not an unrestricted right. Here, you can read about the rules that apply.

The Swedish right of public access is not a law, nor is it an absolute right. It may rather be regarded as an opportunity, one that makes it possible for everyone to enjoy the countryside. But it is an opportunity that requires responsibility, consideration and good judgement. Rules describing the kinds of consideration that must be shown are incorporated into Sweden's environmental law, and apply to everyone who exercises the right of public access.

Respect others' privacy

You may travel through the countryside on foot, bicycle, horse or skis, and temporarily remain in one place, as long as there is no risk that your presence or activities will damage crops, tree plantations or other sensitive areas. But you must respect the privacy of others, and you may not cross or intrude upon private property.

Camping

It is permitted to set up a tent for a day or so on ground that is not used for agriculture and is far from the nearest dwelling. The closer to a residence and the greater the risk of disturbing others, the more important it is to ask the landowner for permission.

Do not litter

All sorts of littering are forbidden in the countryside. A cigarette butt in a dry summer forest can destroy resources worth millions. Glass, tins and bottle caps harm both humans and wildlife, and plastic bags cause great suffering to animals that ingest them. For this reason, bags full of litter should never be left beside rubbish bin if it happens to be full.

Blossoms and berries

You may not take such items as twigs, branches or bark from living trees, including birches. Obviously, you may not take entire shrubs or trees, either. But you are allowed to pick wild berries, flowers and mushrooms, as well twigs and branches that have fallen to the ground. Certain flower species are so rare that they risk becoming endangered. These species are protected and may not be picked. Information about them is available from county administrative boards. Orchids are protected throughout Sweden.

Protected natural areas

Protected natural areas, including nature reserves and national parks, usually have special rules that restrict the right of public access.

More information on the right of public access can be found on our website under About Sweden or on www.allemansratten.se

Getting there:

NB: We advise you not to buy equipment or clothes for your trip or to incur other non-refundable expenses such as flights until you have received confirmation of your booking from us in writing.

By Air:

You can choose to fly to:

- Stockholm (Arlanda, Skavsta or Västerås)
- Gothenburg Landvetter or City
- Oslo (Norway)
- Copenhagen (Denmark) with onward flight to Karlstad

For details of flight connections see www.naturetravels.co.uk/holidays-in-sweden.htm. Click on the airport icons to see connections to/from each airport.

Flight buses from Swedish airports into the city can be booked online through us – see www.naturetravels.co.uk/add-ons-flygbussarna.htm

Many airlines offer discounts on rental cars in connection with their flights.

Without flying

- **London-Karlstad by train:** Lunchtime Eurostar to Brussels, train to Cologne, overnight sleeper to Copenhagen and connecting trains to Karlstad.
- **Harwich-Karlstad by ferry and train:** DFDS ferry Harwich to Esbjerg (Denmark), then onward train to Karlstad via Copenhagen.

Travel within Sweden:

Travel to this experience via Karlstad and then on with bus or rental car.

From Stockholm: Train to Karlstad. Travel time 2.5-3.5 hours direct.

From Stockholm Arlanda (ARN): Flight bus to Stockholm (40 mins). Train to Karlstad, travel time 3-4 hours with one change.

From Stockholm Skavsta (NYO): Train to Karlstad. Travel time 4-5 hours with changes.

From Stockholm Västerås (VST): Local taxi bus to Västerås. Train to Karlstad. Travel time 3.5-4.5 hours with changes.

From Gothenburg Landvetter or City: Flight bus to Gothenburg Central (20 mins). Train to Karlstad, travel time approx. 2.5 hours. Direct or with changes.

From Oslo: Train or bus from central Oslo to Karlstad, usually direct. Travel time 3-3.5 hours.

From Copenhagen: Fly direct to Karlstad with SAS.

After arriving in Karlstad, you have the option to travel by bus to Värnäs (2 hours), or rent a car (1 hour 10 mins). More details and advice on local transport will be provided after booking.

Trains in Sweden are run by national train operator SJ. For train connections and to book your tickets, see www.sj.se. Click "In English" in the top right corner. Please note that the most affordable tickets are released 90 days before departure.

If you would like to drive, full driving instructions can be provided after booking.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

What to do next:

If you are interested in this experience, please make sure that you understand exactly what the experience entails and are confident that you will be able to take part fully in all activities included in the trip. If you have any doubts or questions, please discuss the matter with us and we will be happy to advise. Similarly, if you have any particular health or dietary requirements that we need to be aware of, please mention these at the time of booking.

If you feel confident that you will be able to take part, then download and read our TERMS AND CONDITIONS. Then, please contact us to make sure that your chosen dates are available, and feel free to ask us anything else you like: we are keen to ensure that your trip is an enjoyable and memorable experience for you – we love Sweden and we want you to too!

For more information on how to book this trip please visit our website www.naturetravels.co.uk/booking.htm or call us on 01929 463774

Additional Notes

This provider has received a prestigious Swedish Ecotourism award for its commitment to high standards to cultural and environmental sensitivity.