



### **The Swedish Right of Public Access – “Do not disturb, do not destroy”**

This document gives a summary of some of the main points of “Allmansrätten” (“Everyone’s Right”), the Swedish Right of Public Access.

It is not intended to be comprehensive or to give information specific to the particular experience you have chosen, for which there may be special considerations and guidelines (for example if your tour takes place in a National Park or other protected area).

Please see other tour documentation for specific information relating to your chosen experience.

Additional information may also be given locally. Please don’t hesitate to ask if you have any questions regarding how the Right of Public Access relates to your particular experience. You can also discuss any questions with your local hosts on arrival, when you can also receive latest updates on any temporary restrictions such as fire bans during dry periods.

We recommend that you also read the following for additional information:

- [www.naturetravels.co.uk/faqs-canoeing-kayaking.htm](http://www.naturetravels.co.uk/faqs-canoeing-kayaking.htm)
- [www.swedishepa.se/Enjoying-nature/The-Right-of-Public-Access/](http://www.swedishepa.se/Enjoying-nature/The-Right-of-Public-Access/) From here you can also download a PDF leaflet (available in English and a number of other languages) summarising the Right of Public Access.

### **Fires:**



*Photo: Ben Plunkett*

If you are doing a tour where fires are not restricted to designated fireplaces/locations:

- Choose the location of your fire carefully (e.g. consider the direction of the wind) so that it cannot spread and does not damage soil or vegetation and there is no possibility that the fire could reach tents or other equipment. **Gravel or sandy ground is best.**
- Unless other restrictions are in place, you are permitted to use cones, twigs and branches lying on the ground for fuel. You must never cut live wood or use fallen trees. Decaying wood is an essential part of the ecosystem and offers a vital habitat for wildlife.
- Do not light a fire on or near rocks and stones. This will scar the landscape permanently and also presents a safety hazard from cracking.
- During periods of dry weather when there is a high risk of forest fire, there may be a local fire ban in place. Check latest information when beginning your tour. If a fire ban is in place, no fires are permitted.
- Make absolutely sure the fire is fully out before leaving the area. **Always** douse it with water (use more water than you think you need), then douse it again with more and check very carefully to ensure the fire is completely extinguished. Fires can smoulder unnoticed and spread underground, particularly in mossy/peaty/humus-rich forest soil and you should avoid making fires where this is a risk.
- Please see [www.naturetravels.co.uk/faqs-canoeing-kayaking.htm](http://www.naturetravels.co.uk/faqs-canoeing-kayaking.htm) for more information on lighting fires and fire safety.

### Camping:



Photo: Jed Richards

If you are doing a tour where wild camping is permitted:

- You must camp well away from (and normally out of sight of) someone's house.
- Do not camp on farmland – avoid land used for grazing or growing crops.
- Do not camp at the same location for more than one night.
- Rights of Public Access apply differently to groups. If travelling as part of a large group, you may be asked to camp at specific locations which are suitable for your group size.

### Litter:

At minimum, bring home **all** your packaging/litter for recycling/disposal at the end point (if there have not been suitable facilities en-route of course). We encourage you if possible to bring home **MORE** than you started with – if every traveller in the outdoors cleaned up just a small amount of someone else's litter to bring home, this would make an enormous contribution to keeping natural areas clean and litter-free.

## **Fishing:**



*Photo: Ben Irons*

*The Right of Public Access does not cover fishing – this is governed by the Swedish National Board of Fisheries - but its guidelines influence fishing activities.*

As a non-Swedish citizen, you are permitted to fish without a licence in public waters provided you use hand-gear only. However, for most inland and some coastal waters, a fishing permit will be required and details will often be given in your tour documentation. If you wish to fish during your tour, you must check with your local hosts on arrival which fishing permits are required and ensure that these are purchased accordingly.

You are permitted to eat what you catch during your experience, but please do not catch more than you will eat – do not bring fish home.

## **Plants, Berries and Mushrooms:**



*Photo: Julia Marlow*

As a general rule, you can pick berries and mushrooms for your own consumption. However, you must be confident that you can safely identify edible species, as some species may be poisonous.

Many species are protected and level of protection depends on the particular species. For example, it may be permitted to pick but not dig up some plants, while for others (such as all orchids) protection may be absolute. As a general guide, please do not cut, damage, dig up or destroy any plant, bush or tree species.