

TRAIL GUIDE: Veälbmábuovdda

Height: 710 m.a.s.l. WGS84 65°53'7.4"N 18°2'55.8"E SWEREF99 TM 7310510, 638953

Veälbmá means calmly flowing water. It's easy to feel that calm when you reach the top of Veälbmábuovdda. This is one of the most visited destinations in the municipality.

Directions: 25 km from Arjeplog towards Mellanström. Leaving from Mellanström: 3 km. Signposted Veälbmábuovdda. There is a small car park where the trail begins.

Height: 710 m.a.s.l.

Distance to the top: 2.2 km

Hiking: Easy and intermediate. Some parts of the path are steep with loose stones and gravel, but you can also walk on the side of the trail.

Shelter: On the top there is a cabin with a fireplace. Not for over-night stays.

Equipment: You walk past a small marshland and a stream near the tree line, but you can walk dry-shod in trainers. 200 m from the summit there is a smaller stream.

View: Lake Uddjaur fills the view with its islet-crowded archipelago landscape. The nearest villages are Mellanström and Kasker, south and south-west of the peak. In Sámi *veälbmá* means calmly flowing water, a backwater, possibly with much greenery around. *Buovdda* means 'bald head'. From the north side of the peak you can see Lake Hornavan and in the north-west the border mountains in Norway.



The path begins in a pine forest. After a kilometre the ascent begins. The steepest section features gravel and small stones.



Open cabin just by the top.

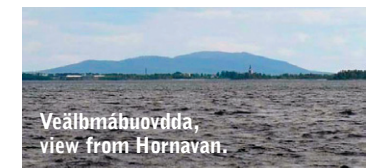
Nature: From pine forest at the starting point with blueberries, lingonberries and crowberries, where extensive logging and planting has been carried out, to natural forest with traces of older, selective logging closest to the top. At the tree line there is a small marshland where the moorland spotted orchid grows, then mountain heath with shrubs and willow takes over. By the cabin at the top there are rock outcrops and boulders, mountain birch and purple mountain heather.



Moorland spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata* and moor-king lousewort *Pedicularis sceptrum-carolinum* grow by the tree line.



Uddjaur: Uddjaur: The lake is located in the Skellefte River lake system, in the low mountain zone. Surface: 252 km². Together with Storavan, Uddjaur constitutes an important magazine for hydroelectric power, with a regulated height of two metres. Largest depth 25 m. Source: Nationalencyklopedin



Veälbmábuovdda, view from Hornavan.



Animals: There are plenty around Veälbmá, but they may be difficult to spot. Lynx, wolverine, elk, fox, reindeer and very rarely bear. If you bring a dog: remember to always keep it on a leash, respecting the reindeer husbandry in the area and birds that nest.



The golden eagle can be as long as 90 cm with a wingspan of up to 220 cm.



The willow warbler is the most common bird in Norrbotten. Its intense chirp makes it sound very cheerful.

Birds: Wood grouse, black grouse, kestrel, Siberian jay (in Arjeplog known as *gagsagka*), fieldfare, mountain finch, willow tit, greenfinch. The cuckoo is around in May and June, with its characteristic cuck-oo call. With a bit of luck you might spot a golden eagle or peregrine falcon. Peregrine falcons were found by Uddjaure up until the 1950s, nesting on steep, rocky precipices. Then they disappeared, mainly as a result of the use of DDT in forestry and hunting. Projects like Projekt Pilgrimsfalk and other similar actions have helped turn the situation around.

Sources: Peregrine falcon projects www.naturskyddsforeningen.se and www.nordensark.se.

Accommodation: Contact the Tourist Office in Arjeplog for ideas! These are some options in the surrounding area.

- Mellanströms Stugby, tel. +46 (0)70-630 95 11 info@mellanstromsstugby.se.
- Slagnäs Camping tel. +46 (0)960-65 00 93 info@slagnascamping.com www.slagnascamping.com
- Båtsuoj Skogsamecenter, Slagnäs, tel +46 (0)70-642 31 66 samecenter@telia.com, www.batsuoj.se



The trail guide series is published by Arjeplog Municipality using state aid for local nature conservation projects (LONA) through the County Administrative Board of Norrbotten. Feel free to use the mountain map to plan your hikes: www.kso2.lantmateriet.se. The guides are available for download here: www.arjeplog.se/utflyktsguider. Arjeplog Municipality © the Swedish National Land Survey, Geo-Data Cooperation.



Veälbmá, at the southeast corner of Uddjaure, meets Dväljan, Storavan, by the bridges at Mellanström.

A glimpse of history: Before there were roads to travel on, most transports were made along the lake systems. As early as the 10th century there was a trade route in place between Arjeplog and the Norwegian coast. Among the older trails are those established in connection with operations at the Nasafjäll mine in the 17th and 18th centuries. You can still encounter corduroy roads from that period. But most transports were done in winter, on frozen lakes and marshland. Some of the first settlers in Arjeplog municipality came to the shores of Uddjaure towards the end of the 17th century, many of Sámi descent.

In the beginning of the 20th century a fire watch tower was built on the peak. In summer there was staff on site. Operations ceased



Fire tower from the 1950s.

FOTO MAX SÖDERBERG

during the 1960s when the tower blew down. Veälbmábuovdda used to be a popular hiking destination, especially during summer weekends. **Further reading:** *Mullholm – in the middle of Lapland* [Mullholm – in the middle of Lapland], by Lise-Lotte B Modig (2006).



Boat traffic used to be regular on Uddjaure, as well as timber rafting.



What does the right of public access mean?

The main rule of the unique right of public access is **do not disturb – do not destroy**. Please keep the following in mind:

- You are allowed to hike almost anywhere, but not on plots and plantations, and around private residences.
- Use provided fireplaces when making fires, if possible, and never light a fire when it is dry or very windy. You are not allowed to use fallen trees for fuel, or cut down trees or shrubs, or remove twigs, branches or bark from living trees.
- You are not allowed to hunt, disturb, capture or harm animals, their young, their nests or their eggs. Dogs are not allowed off leash from 1 March until 20 August, when animals have their young. Dogs must be prevented from running loose in areas with game and reindeer.
- Show particular respect to reindeer husbandry in the mountains and forests near Arjeplog. Experience reindeer from a distance. Respect reindeer herders' working space and privacy near dwellings and reindeer enclosures. If you are caught up in reindeer herding, keep away and try to make as little noise as possible until the heard has moved on.
- You are allowed to pick wild flowers, berries and mushrooms, but first check which plants are protected. Specific rules apply in reserves and national parks specific. It is not allowed to chip or knock stones out of place, or carve your name onto stone slabs. You may take a few smaller, loose stones.
- If you see any rubbish – please pick it up!

Source: www.naturvardsverket.se. You can download the brochure: "Protected species of plants and animals in Sweden" (2012).



Natura 2000 is a network for Europe's most valuable habitats. In Arjeplog municipality there are 22 areas, including Akkelis, Björknäs, Daita, Granberget, Hornavan-Sadvajaure, Laisdalen Valley, Laisälven River, Långsjön-Gåbrek, Märkberget, Nimtek, Pieljekaise, Pite River, Rakåive, Ramanj, Ståkke-Bårgå, Sulitelma, Tjeggelvas, Tjälmejaure, Udtja, Veddek and the Yraf delta.



You are welcome to contact us at the Tourist Office in Arjeplog! The Silver Museum, Guld Klas Torg, 938 31 Arjeplog, tel. +46 (0)961-145 20 turist@arjeplog.se www.arjeplog.se