

TRAIL GUIDE: Niebsurte

HEIGHT 918 m.a.s.l. WGS84 66°3'45.5"N 17°5'58.0"E SWEREF99 TM 7328483, 595039

The view of mighty Laisdalen valley extends from the top of Niebsurte. There is an old-growth mountain forest reserve here, one of our largest. It's 100 km long, located on both sides of the Laisälven river. The river valley also contains a 60-year-old mi-

Directions: Drive to the mooring spot in Laisvallby. It's located 4.5 km south of Laisvall. Parking available. On the other side of Laisan there is a path above a mooring and a homestead.

Height: 918 m.a.s.l.

Distance from berth on the western side of Laisan: 6.2 km.

Hiking: Easy and intermediate. Also recommended for the younger hikers. The trail begins 150 m east of the berth. Next to a dog pen there is a sign that reads 'Ammarnäs 50 km'. There are footbridges across some of the marshes. One stretch, known as Willow Hill, is steep. Turn off the path just before the tree line, then walk without path up towards a bog and the final ascent to the top.



Equipment: Boots or rubber boots are recommended as stretches go through wetland. If you want to fill your water bottle there are two streams before you reach the top.

View: A mighty view of Lake Laisan and the Laisälven river in the east. In the south-west you can see Björkfjället mountain with the highest peak reaching 1,135 m.a.s.l. Suora Tjiermat. From the top you can see Laisvallby, Laisvall and towards north Nadok and Luvllie Narrake. This is where 60 years' worth of mining history was written.

Shelter: None.

Nature: The old-growth mountain forest in the Laisdalen valley includes vast coniferous forests, rich in natural values, south-facing slopes and chalk areas of high botanical value. Plans for power plants on the Laisälven river in the 1960s were never carried out, so this is an unaffected water system. Sámi associations Svaipa, Semisjaur-Njarg and Maskaura use the area for reindeer husbandry.



Marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*



Dwarf cornel *Cornus suecica*



Hiking to Niebsurte involves a boat ride across Laisan.

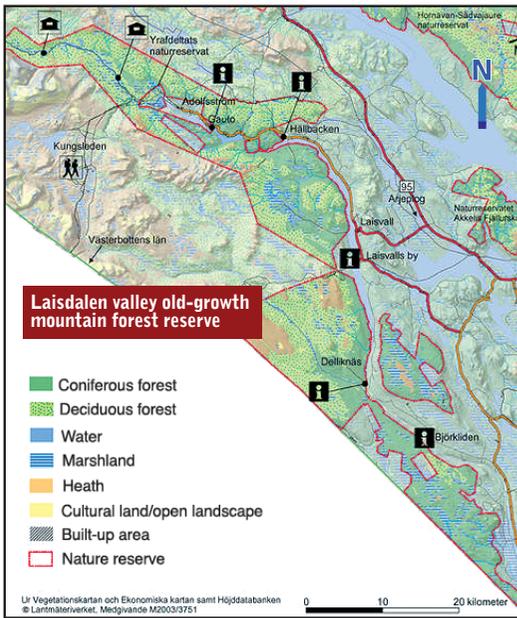
There is no tourist company nearby to guarantee a ride, but plenty to offer advice.

We suggest you first ask Arjeplog Tourist Office, tel. +46 (0)961-145 20.

In Laisvallby you can rent 'Stora Björnstugan' [The Big Bear Cottage], tel. +46 (0)961-614 66, latitude6607@mac.com.

In Laisvall there is the company Bröderna Sundström, selling snowmobiles and boats, tel. +46 (0)961-200 44.





The Laisdalen valley old-growth mountain forest reserve is largely covered in mountain pine forest. Downstream from Laisvall spruce dominates, upstreams pine.

Birds: Golden eagle, white-tailed eagle, rough-legged buzzard, willow grouse, blue-throat. Old pines with sturdy crowns are important nesting sites for many birds of prey.

Animals: Fox, hare, reindeer and elk. Lynx, wolverine and bear are present too, but it's extremely rare to see any of these shy animals.

Flowers: The flora is rich, with among other species marsh cinquefoil, kingcup, Arctic starflower, willowherb, twinflower, Arctic yellow violet, dwarf cornel, small cow-wheat, red campion, alpine sow-thistle, northern wolfsbane, moorland spotted orchid and marsh fragrant orchid. On the bare mountain you'll see more of Lapland lousewort, purple mountain heather, moss bell heather and alpine hawkweed.



Laisdalen valley: Sámi have lived in these areas for millennia, interacting with the reindeer. The 17th and 18th century mining epoch in Nasafjäll brought new inhabitants and cultivation of the land on many new homesteads. South of Niebsurte is Delliknäs, a homestead from 1892. Suggested reading: *Delliknäs – ett fjällhemman i väglöst land* [Delliknäs – a mountain homestead in roadless land] www.repriket.se/dellik/delliknas.pdf.

Fishing: The Dellikälven river that joins the Laisälven river is known for excellent trout fishing. One specific stretch is reserved for fly fishing. Storlaisan, more than 30 km long, is a lake where grayling, whitefish, perch and other species of fish share the waters with large trout and arctic char. Read more in Arjeplog municipality's fishing brochure, here: www.arjeplog.se



A glimpse of history: The Laisvall mine was opened in 1943 by the mining company Boliden. Five years earlier a boulder containing lead had been found by Laisan. The original Laisvall was a small village of homesteaders four km to the south, founded in 1789. Today that village is called Laisvallby. A new mining town was quickly built. Workers arrived to Arjeplog from the mining towns in Västerbotten, but also from Norway, Karelia, Finland, Germany and Holland. A cultural melting pot was created in Laisdalen valley, the like of which might be found in the municipal mining projects of the 17th and 18th centuries: the silver and lead mining in Nasafjäll mountain. In 1949 a new processing plant was built and the operations became permanent. In 1959 a new crushing station was

added and the following year the company opened the Kautsky vein. One of the major projects was the long tunnel under Laisan, completed in 1954. In the year 2000 more than 60,000,000 tonnes had been extracted since the start. Once the ore was depleted the mine was closed in 2001. At its height 300-350 people worked in the mine and 1,000 people lived in Laisvall. Today most of the housing and buildings in Laisvall have been maintained, thanks to recreational property owners, most of them from Norway. **Suggested reading:** *Blygruvan i Laisvall* [The Lead Mine in Laisvall] by Maria Söderberg (2008) and *För folk av friluftstyp. Bebyggelsen i gruv-samhället Laisvall* [For Outdoor-type People. Settlements in Laisvall Mining Society] by Lennart Koski, Norrbotten County Administrative Board (2005).

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



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.



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