



Please let us share with you some of the places we like to visit when we're not enjoying the company of our guests.



KNYSTAFORSEN

# Things to explore around us

The first time we came to Knystaforsen, we fell for the surroundings and the contrasts. The wild waters and sublime nature, and the history of Rydöbruk, Halland's first industrial village. Our restaurant occupies a former sawmill that was originally an iron workshop. At the turn of the 19th century, there was also a paper mill here, but it vanished after World War II. Since then, various businesses have flourished the buildings opposite Knystaforsen. In the 1990's, they housed a working arts community. We love our little corner of the world, and we hope you will too.

Eva & Nicolai Tram



# Around Rydöbruk

## KNYSTAFORSEN (1)

Our restaurant takes its name from a little waterfall right behind Villa Knystaforsen - Brukskontoret. Year-round, it's an inspiring place to feel nature's powers, it's also our favorite spot to pick summer flowers. When we took over the house, there was a beautiful old dam on top of the waterfall, but it had to be removed as it was no longer practical to maintain. Such a shame. That said, Knystaforsen's wild waters are still spellbinding to watch.

While you're in the area, don't miss the art piece "Sågverkstomten" by artist Eric Andersson, which is a thought provoking proof of the arrogance we humans can have towards nature. You find it by the woods on top of the hill east of the waterfall. Continue downhill to the old industrial building next to Knystaria, to see what happens to buildings when they're left to languish. Though we admit it's intriguing, entering the building may be dangerous, so please don't!



## FIKA BY STEPH (2)

Right next to Knystaforsen, in the area's former fire station, you'll find one of Sweden's best bakeries, Fika by Steph. Stephanie once won the TV baking show "Hela Sverige Bakar", and for good reasons - her sourdough bread and pretty cakes are to die for. However, she keeps limited opening hours, so, to avoid disappointments, check her Facebook page before you go: [facebook.com/fikabysteph](https://facebook.com/fikabysteph)

*Rydöforsvägen 6, Rydöbruk*

## THE FOREST TRAIL (3)

Right after Ställverket you'll find a "Forest trail" sign, it's the start of a roughly 2 km walk through a deciduous forest with handsome old trees, as well as large and small water streams – and a tennis court (4) that is no longer in use.

*Kraftvägen, Rydöbruk*

## KNYSTAHALL (5)

In the village of Rydöbruk there's a huge rock, Knystahall. According to a local legend, it was thrown there by a troll living on Ramnåsberget (see below). He was trying to hit the ringing church bells in Långaryd, but the stone was too heavy and landed in Rydöbruk. No wonder, since it's 19 m long and 9.5 m high. From the 12th century until 1658, it marked the border between Denmark and Sweden. According to our youngest son, the view from the top is great – we'll take his word for it as we haven't climbed it ourselves.

*Nissadalsvägen, Rydöbruk (next to the playground)*

## RYDÖBRUKS KAPELL (6)

This quaint, Hobbit-like chapel used to be a meeting place for the villagers and is still an active church.

*Dammvägen 1, Rydöbruk*

## FORS BADHÅLA (7)

Fors badhåla (bathing hole) in the Klubbån stream is a natural pond with a wild infinity pool feel to it. It's wonderful for a dip, regardless of the weather. Even if you're not up for a swim, it's very much worth the short walk or drive. On the way there, you'll pass by the former workers' village (8) and the spot where the locals used to wash their clothes and meet for beers when they were done working at the paper mill (9). Behind the pond, there's a little forest path that offers a serene walk. We often come here to pick flowers, berries or mushrooms, depending on the season.

*Lahults kvarn, Rydöbruk*





# Around Torup

## BOSGÅRDSFALLET (1)

The majestic waterfall Bosgårdsfallet is a fascinating sight year-round, you can also bathe in it if you feel like a wild shower. We often come here for a very accessible, quick dose of untamable nature. Follow the trail to the right and walk to the top of the waterfall, then around it, or take the trail to the left for a longer, tranquil walk through the woods along a rippling stream.

*Bosgårdsvägen 39, Torup*

## BRÄNNÖBAGAR ´N

For a traditional Swedish fika head to Brännöbagaren, which is just around the corner from Torups Gästgivarregård, located across the railway tracks on the road towards Bosgårdsfallen. Open most days of the week.

*Bosgårdsvägen 5, Torup*

## SJÖGÅRDSSJÖN

No matter the time of year, you can always swim in lake Sjögårdssjön, or walk around it via a path that also takes you through the village of Torup. In front of Torups Gästgivaregård there's a little pier (2), and at Sjögårdssjöns badplats, on the opposite side of the lake, you'll find a sandy beach, as well as a larger swimming pier, open during summer months (3). That's when we come here to picnic, or to pick wildflowers and blueberries.

*Nissastigen, Torup*

## RAMNÅS UTSIKTSTORN (4)

When we feel like stretching our eyes, we head to the watchtower Ramnås utsiktstorn. The five-story tower was built in the middle of the forest, on Ramnås hill, by the artist Bengt Isacsson. It allows you to see all of Rydöbruk and Torup from above. Follow the sign "Ramnås", and, right before Ramnås gård, turn right onto the forest trail and keep walking until you reach the top. Then watch how the tower seems to magically appear out of the blue. Around the tower there are various paths suitable for shorter or longer walk in the woods.

*Ramnås, Torup*



# Things to do after your visit with us

Our guests often ask us for advice on things to do when they leave us. We think it's an excellent idea to extend your experience with a bit of exploration in the wild – and very easily accessible – nature around us.

Quite often, we take the kids for fire-cooked picnics in the woods, loading the car with what we need to light a campfire, plus a few things to cook over it. Then we just drive until we feel like making a turn; we've discovered some pretty amazing places that way.

This is our strategy, if you want some safer bets, here are some tips for little excursions in the area, all about 20-45 minutes' drive from us.

## GUNNARS KARUSELL

Gunnars karusell is a short distance from Torup and really worth the drive. In 1972, at the age of 65, a farmer named Gunnar built himself a carousel in the wilds to relive a childhood dream. It no longer runs on waterpower as it did when Gunnar constructed it, but you can give it a whirl, close your eyes and imagine the pride he must have felt when he saw it spin for the first time. The carousel is just beyond Drängsered (the easiest way to find it is to look it up on Google maps.)

*Gunnars Karusell, Drängsered*



## FEMSJÖ

In Femsjö there are marked hiking trails of various lengths. They'll take you through a pretty forest, with historical sights along the way. You can park opposite the church, where you'll also find a little open-air museum that honors the village's most famous son, Elias Fries. Often referred to as "the Carl Linnaeus of Mycology", Fries is recognized internationally for describing and assigning botanical names to hundreds of fungus- and lichen species.

*Femsjö, Hylte*

## IBRO

At Ibro Badplats you can take a dip in lake Färgen. In the summer, there's a public swimming pier here, the rest of the year you can access the lake directly from the sandy beach. Even if the weather doesn't inspire swimming, Ibro Badplats is still worth a visit for a stroll through the woodlands, along the water's edge. If you go to the right, just beyond the parking lot, you'll find a footpath that'll take you there.

*Ibro, Hylte*







## SIMLÅNGSDALEN / DANSKA FALLEN

In the area around Simlångsdalen there are many hiking trails and beautiful spots to visit, foremost among them, Danska Fallen, or the Danish Falls. For us Danes, the origin of the name is maybe not so pleasant, it comes from an incident in the 1670s when a Danish military troupe was fooled to cross a wobbly bridge which of course broke, sending the soldiers tumbling into the waterfall's rushing streams. But the falls are majestic, and if you just need an instant dose of breathtaking nature, you can follow the short 800 m trail from the parking lot. Or, if you have a little more time, take the longer trail through a beautiful deciduous forest.

*Danska Fallen, Simlångsdalen*

## WOODS

The woods and lakes of Eastern Halland

In the wooded inlands of Halland, you'll find many wonderful places to visit, especially during the summer months. Some of our favorites: the VJ Vilt farm shop, Bäckhästen bakery and Tiraholm's fish restaurant where you can also stop for an ice cream and learn more about their sustainable eel project. In Unnaryd village, Peterssion & Ströms Handelsbod, a quaint, old fashioned trading post, sells organic clothes and local goods, they also run a little café. If you have time to travel further east, don't miss our favorite flea markets, Bolmsö Loppis and Annas Kuriosa.





## BEACH

The beach promenades in Falkenberg and Varberg are worth a visit year round, though they're most spectacular in summer, when they're buzzing with life and lined with eateries that offer many delicious choices for the hungry or thirsty. The same goes for Halmstad's famous beach, Tylösand. Tracing the coastline, Prins Bertils Stig is a splendid 18 km trail that you can explore in full or in stages. If you're wondering, it's named after HRH Prince Bertil, the Duke of Halland who had a summer home in the area. We particularly like the part that leads to the picturesque harbor of Grötvik, our kids love to climb the cliffs here, and maybe you will too. When heading west toward the coast, don't miss Slättåkra Närproducerat, a charming farm shop.

Do you need more inspiration?

Download the app "A day in Halland", it's a great resource for things to do, see and eat in our province.

