

« The Royal National City Park is an historical park landscape, and an oasis for activities and relaxation. The bike Administrative Board of Stockholm has signposted a 36 kilometre long bike route, from Ulriksdal to Blokhussudden. In this brochure, we will tell you about some of the many exciting places you might come across along the way. Take one of the routes presented in the brochure, or outline one of your own. Please visit our website for more tips about things worth seeing in the park. »



THE ROYAL NATIONAL CITY PARK  
*A Historical Bike Ride*



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## » Djurgården route «

The Djurgården route takes you through the beautiful park landscape of Södra Djurgården. Choose between routes of different length, from 3.8 km to 9.7 km. For long parts of the route you will follow the shores of Djurgårdsbrunn canal and the lake of Saltsjön, passing by interesting houses and groves of oaks and other deciduous trees. We also recommend that you combine the bike trip with a visit to one of the museums along the way. (No. 1–20)

- 1 Blå porten ('the Blue Gate') is similar in appearance to the gates leading to the fenced-in hunting park which existed on Djurgården in the 17th and 18th centuries. This actual gate is from 1848. A fee was charged for entering Djurgården as late as 1862.
- 2 Skånska gruvan is a pavilion from the Public Art and Industry Exhibition held in Stockholm in 1897. It belonged to Skåne's major tile and brick companies. The architect Gustaf Wickman designed the building. It has a café on the ground floor.
- 3 Rosendal was originally a dwelling for one of Djurgården's many game-keepers. Rosendal Palace was built in the 1820s for Karl XIV Johan. It was designed by Fredrik Blom, who became internationally famous for his invention of the prefabricated house. The palace was such a construction, with the walls, floors and ceilings constructed separately in Stockholm and then transported out to Djurgården to be assembled in situ. Rosendal was intended to be a summertime pleasure retreat and not a permanent residence. In pleasant weather it was customary to travel to Djurgården by carriage and stroll around the park, often receiving visitors there. The property contained woodland, hills and meadows, and in the summers a pontoon

- bridge was placed over Djurgårdsbrunnsviken to facilitate the King's visits to the military drills on Ladugårdsgärdet.
- The palace has remained almost untouched since the time of the first Bernadottes and is therefore a unique record of the European Empire style. The park on the other hand bears the traces of transformations at various periods. The palace is open to the public in the summer.
- 4 Rosendals trädgård (the Rosendal Garden) is always open to visitors. Cultivation and gardening has long existed in Rosendal. In 1861, Queen Josefina began to lease out parts of the palace grounds to the Swedish gardening society.
- 5 Storjakten ('the Great Hunt') is one of the more intriguing areas of the former hunting park. It is what was known as an 'étoile', after the French model, which was a separate star-shaped region with radiating channels for shooting game. Leave your bike and explore the hilly landscape with coniferous forest in the middle of the city.
- 6 Kungseken ('the Royal Oak') line the road of Djurgårdsvägen/Manillavägen. Djurgården has northern Europe's largest collection of ancient oaks, which are almost 500 years old. The oaks play a key role in the biological diversity of the park. An old oak can harbour up to 1000 species of insects. Bats, starlings, stock doves and tawny owls frequent the trees' hollows. The large building is the Manila School, built 1860–64. Until 2013 it was a bilingual school for children who were deaf or hard of hearing.
- 7 Nedre Manilla (Lower Manilla) was settled in the 1790s by the Spanish diplomat Ignacio Maria del Coral da Aguirre, who had received the property from Gustav III. The area was called Manilla after the Philippine capital which the Spanish had founded.

- Facts**
- The main part of the Royal National City Park is the Djurgården area. Since the late Middle Ages the area has been Crown land. In the 1680s, King Karl XI fenced in the entire Norra and Södra Djurgården and turned it into a hunting ground with deer. The hunting ground was in use until the mid-1700s, when the area was opened to the public. However, the park still houses memories of its royal past, such as Karl XI's fisherman's cottage, Djurgården's walking paths and the Ulriksdal, Haga and Rosendal palaces.
- The park has a rich plant and animal life. There are over 800 different types of flowering plants, more than 1200 beetle species and around 100 species of breeding birds. The many ancient oaks provide habitat to both insects and birds.
- The Royal National City Park is also a park of knowledge. In its vicinity you can find some of the country's best known museums, Stockholm University and more than ten other education and research institutes.
- 8 The impressive building of Tacka udden was erected in 1869–70 for Cederlund, the punch factory owner. In the 1700s the site was occupied by a magnificent summer villa.
  - 9 Blokhussudden has received its name from the blockhouse, a type of fortification, which in Gustav Vasa's time stood on this strip of land to defend the sea approach to Stockholm. A town customs station for seafarers was established here quite early on. Notice Stora Sjötullen, the yellow plastered customs house, situated close to the shore. It was built in 1727–29 from designs by the town architect of the time,

- Johan Eberhard Carlberg. Just above it stands the marine inspector residence, yellow plastered with out turned gables.
- 10 Isbladskärret is a marsh that offers many interesting encounters with nature. In particular, it has a very rich bird life, including a grey heron colony. Feel free to park your bike and explore the nature around Isbladskärret. Here you can find nice walking paths and great views.
- 11 Lilla Sjötullen was a customs house on Djurgårdsbrunn Canal built east of the bridge in the 1830s, to oversee and collect tariffs from passing boats.
- 12 Djurgårdsbrunn Canal was built in 1825–34 on the initiative of Karl XIV Johan, not only to facilitate transport, but also as part of the King's project to make Djurgården more attractive. Thinning out the vegetation, drainage, planting noble deciduous trees and creating walking paths created the pastoral landscape we see today.
- 13 The physician Urban Hjärne discovered the health spring of Djurgårdsbrunn in the 1690s. In 1742 it was opened to the public. The golden period as a health spa was during the 1830s and 1840s. Many of the buildings were associated with the drinking of the water, and other activities that were offered to the guests.
- 14 Kruthuset was built around the turn of the 18th century. It was one of several gunpowder magazines near the Djurgården shores. The magazines stored gunpowder and ammunition, and were separated from other buildings to avoid ignition and explosions.
- 15 Kaknåshagen is a varied forest area. Besides the calm and the greenery, you can also find great views of the sea. Kaknåsskärr often has many breeding birds.

- 16 Kaknås was a medieval village with lands that comprised a large part of Ladugårdsgärdet. The grave field west of the road indicates that people have lived here since the Late Iron Age (c. AD 550–1050). The tower, Kaknästornet, was built for the state telephone company in 1964–1967. The architects were Hans Borgström and Bengt Lindroos.
- 17 Ladugårdsgärdet is a former military exercise field. The pink building known as Borgen was designed by Fredrik Blom. It was built for Karl XIV Johan in 1820 to enable the King to follow the activities of his troops. Balls and suppers were also held here for distinguished guests.
- 18 Diplomatstaden was founded in the 1910s in accordance with a town plan conceived by P O Hallman. It consists of twelve magnificent villas designed by the leading architects of the day. Only low buildings were allowed in order to preserve the natural beauty of the surroundings.
- 19 Nobelparken was created at the Forest Institute, Sweden's first school of forestry, founded in 1828. The Nobel Park contains an arboretum, for the study of trees and plants. Almost every tree that grows wild within the borders of Sweden is represented here.
- 20 Gärdesstaden from the 1930s is one of the earliest examples of functionalist town planning. It contains the Tessin Park, the southern part of which is planned in a formal Baroque manner. The northern section has a freer layout and is inspired by nature.



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» Ulriksdal route «

The Ulriksdal route is 8,4 km long and fairly hilly. Along this route you will see for example the palatial environment of Ulriksdal, allotments, natural areas and modern Bergshamra. You will need to walk your bicycle a few hundred metres through the beautiful forest at the approach to Edsviken. And why not take a dip in the idyllic setting of Swedenbadet? (No. 21–34)

- 21. Ulriksdal was built in the 1640s for field marshal Jakob de la Gardie, hence its name Jakobsdal. It was designed by Hans Jacob Kristler in the German-Dutch Renaissance style with ornamental gables and a steep saddle roof. Jakob's son, Magnus de la Gardie, transformed the gardens into a magnificent Baroque park. In 1669 the widowed Queen Hedvig Eleonora purchased Jakobsdal, which thereby became royal property. The palace was renamed Ulriksdal after her grandson Ulrik to whom she gave it as a christening gift. When Ulrik died, only one year old, the property returned to Hedvig Eleonora. In the beginning of the 18th century an orangery was erected, designed by Nicodemus Tessin the Younger. Between 1720–50 the palace and park were greatly altered following designs by the architect Carl Hårleman, and the palace received its present characteristic shape. During the same time Hedvig Eleonora's riding stables was changed and rebuilt to a theatre – Confidencen.
- 22. Around 1800 the gardens were transformed to suit the new Romantic fashion. Between 1822–49, Karl XIV Johan allowed the palace to be used as a rehabilitation hotel for war veterans. In the decades after the mid-19th century Ulriksdal flowered once more, as Karl XV's summer residence, and the Palace Chapel was built. In 1925–73 it was the home of Gustaf VI Adolf, and the park was changed into the form it has today. When you visit Ulriksdal, don't forget to look out for the sculpture "Blackamoors dragging nets" which originally stood in the Haga Park. Ulriksdal and the Orangery Museum are open for visitors in the summer.
- 23. Beautiful houses from the 18th and 19th centuries flank the road in the southern part of Ulriksdal. The oldest were residences for the palace staff. During 1860–80 summer homes were built here for friends of Karl XV. Note the copy of the late medieval cottage Ornässtugan, built as an exhibition pavilion for the World Exhibition in Paris in 1867. It was brought from Paris to Ulriksdal by Karl XV who put it at the disposal of his personal physician.
- 24. The cobbled road of Alnäsvägen is a remnant of the old main road to Roslagen. Walk down the road towards the water just north of two beautiful wooden cottages where you can see the fixtures of the first permanent bridge.
- 25. On Bockholmen hill you will find two graves in the form of stone settings, probably from the Late Iron Age (c. AD 550–1050). They might be graves of seafarers who travelled the fairway here. Edsviken was an important communication route.
- 26. Bergshamra allé originally lead up to Bergshamra Manor, known in the 16th century as a land-owning cottage. In the 17th century it became an estate and acquired buildings of a more refined style. From the end of that century Ulriksdal administered Bergshamra. The main building was demolished in 1929 to make way for the Swedish Seed Control Centre.
- 27. Bergshamra Allotment Gardens were built in 1919 at the initiative of Anna Åbergsson, one of the pioneers of the allotment-garden movement. The grounds of Bergshamra Manor were put at the disposal of the gardens.
- 28. The Tivoli peninsula is a good example of the type of landscape that Gustav III intended to create around Brunnsviken in the 1780s. The name Tivoli is inspired by the King's Italian journey in 1783–84. In the 1780s Tivoli was placed at the disposal



- 29. The Invalid Cemetery stems from the period 1822–1849, when Karl XIV Johan used Ulriksdal Palace as a nursing home for war invalids from the Finnish War. About 200 people are buried here.
- 30. Kraus' grave lies in a peaceful glade. The court composer Joseph Martin Kraus belonged to the circle of friends of the Barck family and often sought inspiration from his sojourns at Tivoli. He died in 1792 and was buried at Tivoli in accordance with his wishes.
- 31. The State Seed Control Centre, and the State Institute of Animal Breeding, were active around 1930, north and south of Pipers väg respectively. Bergshamra Manor was demolished to make way for the Seed Control Centre's building, which was built on its site.
- 32. Bergshamra village was previously called Karlsro. Its core is the three summer villas that Karl XV erected for some friends around 1865. The King ran experimental farming in Bergshamra. Övre Karlsro was home to the famous furniture designer Carl Malmsten 1920–72.
- 33. Kvarnkullen is a hill that forms part of the elongated Stockholm Ridge. Leave your bike and take a walk to the top where you will find the millstone from the windmill that once stood here. The botanically minded will be pleased to find dry grassland flora that formerly dominated the open parts of the ridge: pasqueflower, German catchfly, field wormwood, Nottingham catchfly and creeping thyme.
- 34. Mellanjärva gård (Mellanjärva farm) is located along the old main road to Uppsala in the centre of a large cemetery from the Late Iron Age (c. AD 550–1050). North of the property you will find two burial mounds from the 5th–6th century. Mellanjärva is one of the earliest settlement sites in Solna.
- 35. Igelbäckens harbours several protected species, of which a rare fish – the stone loach, is the best known. The stream also contains rare invertebrates including various species of dragonfly and mollusc. Its valley is an important distribution route and most of it is protected as a nature reserve.

» Brunnsviken route «  
with Norra Djurgården

The Brunnsviken route runs through the heart of the Royal National City Park. The trip is 14,5 km long but an easy ride. At Norra Djurgården you travel through the former hunting park with its open landscape and lakes, oak-covered slopes and forests. There are many exciting environments around the route, such as the Bergius Botanic Garden and the University campus site in Frescati. (No. 26–31, 35–50)

- 36. Frösundavik is characterised by the great number of barrack buildings for the Svea Engineering Corps in the early 1920s. All military activities were phased out in the 1970s.
- 37. Haga Park is one of Europe's finest English-landscape parks. Leave your bike and stroll around, listening to the audio guides you will find in the park. Here more than anywhere else you can experience the mood of Gustav III's era. In 1771 he purchased the southern part of the park containing the Haga Manor – Old Haga, which lay on the slopes of Vasaslätten. Picturesque pavilions were to be found on the islets that then existed out in the water and there were tree-lined avenues along which to stroll. In 1785 the King bought the neighbouring manor of Brahelund and his lands more than doubled to the north. The Great Lawn was constructed and channels and artificial islands were built off the shore. The dwelling house of the Brahelund property was incorporated into Gustav III's Pavilion. In the late 1780s most of the other well-known buildings in the park were built: the Turkish Pavilion, the Chinese Pagoda, the Copper Tents, and the Temple of the Echo. Work on the park ceased after the assassination of the King in 1792 and was never completed. Gustav III's Pavilion is open for visitors during the summer months.
- 38. Finnstugan, from the mid-1700s, is one of the oldest buildings in Haga Park to still stand on its original site. It was a part of the Old Haga lands which Gustav III bought in 1772.
- 39. Stallmästaregården harks back to the 1640s and is the oldest inn in the Stockholm region. The present yellow wooden building is from the 1740s.
- 40. Bellevue Park was built by Count Carl Sparre. Desiring to create a pleasure park of similar character to Gustav III's Haga, he engaged the landscape designer Fredrik Magnus Piper. From the hill you get a magnificent view of the surroundings. South of the railway there are residences such as Sparre's wooden house. Bellevue Park also houses Carl Eldh's Studio Museum from 1919, designed by Ragnar Östberg.
- 41. Wenner-Gren Center is an international centre for visiting scientists and a well-known city landmark. It was built between 1959–61.
- 42. Kräfricket ("the Crawfish Kingdom") was once an inn named after the large crawfish that were to be found in Brunnsviken. The building you see today was built for the Veterinary College that moved here in 1912. Note the details on the façades.
- 43. Uggleviken ("the Owl Bay") is wet broadleaved woodland noted for its interesting flora and rich birdsong. On spring evenings you will hear the blackbird, song thrush, redbird, willow warbler, garden warbler and wren. Don't miss the flight displays of the woodcock.
- 44. Ugglevikskällan (Ugglevik Spring) has been famous since the 18th century. On Trinity Night, the first Saturday after Whitsun, it was customary for Stockholmers to gather here to drink the water and celebrate the arrival of summer. In the late 19th century it became a popular public rendezvous. The pavilion was built in 1902.
- 45. Fiskartorpet is the oldest building in the National City Park. It was built as a fishing cabin for king Karl XI in the 1690s. Because of the land upheaval it now lies at quite a distance from the water.
- 46. Fiskartorpets Ski Jump was constructed around 1900. Stockholmers used to travel out here to see some of Sweden's best and bravest ski jumpers throw themselves into the air and land on the ice of Laduviken.
- 47. The dwellings on Stora Skuggan ("the Great Shade") were built in the 1790s by Abraham Niclas Edclerantz, who was granted the lease of the land by his friend Gustav III. The main building is located on a hill east of Laduviksvägen. The remarkable octagonal building served among other things as an orangery.
- 48. Stora Skuggan is a popular recreational venue with wide-open areas for leisure and sports, cafés, fine oaken groves and pastures and a 4H-farm with animals. Edclerantz used the land in Stora Skuggan for experimental cultivation, and was one of the initiators of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture.
- 49. Lappkärrret is an excellent little bird lake that came about by accident. When student accommodations were being built here in the 1960s a groundwater reservoir was exposed and the marshland and lake was formed.
- 50. Stockholm University campus is situated in the Frescati area, which in the 19th century used to be the site of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture's Experimental Station, where cultivation trials and new tools were tested. The university moved here in 1970. If you stroll through Frescati you will discover outstanding examples of architecture from the last three decades of the 20th century. You will also find several buildings from the agricultural experimental period such as the main building, Blom's House.
- 51. Brunnsviken is the largest lake in the National City Park. It became a bay of the Baltic Sea when the Älkistan canal was built in 1863–64, lowering the lake by 1,25 metres and destroying the idyllic shore landscape of Haga Park with its artificial islets and channels.

