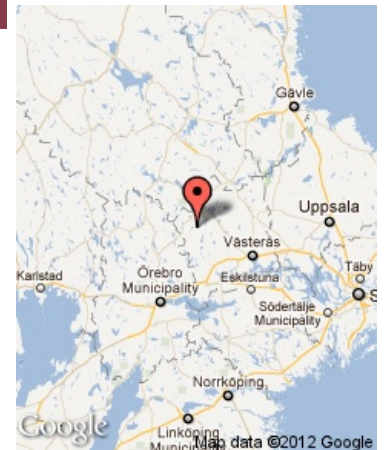


Kolarbyn Wildlife Adventure



Highlights

A genuine Scandinavian adventure where you will have the chance to encounter the king of the forest, the mighty moose and see beavers in their natural habitat. Staying in unique forest huts, this is a your experienced guide will take you on an unforgettable journey through the dense forests of Bergslagen, a region known for its many little lakes, evergreen woods and amazing wildlife.

Central Sweden is famed for its beautiful lakes and pristine forest, which is home to a plethora of wildlife, including moose, beavers, wolves. This tour gives you a real chance to get away from it all. With no electricity or running water, you will be left to fetch water from the springs and cook over an open fire. With acres of untouched forest and a beautiful lake on the doorstep, you will have ample opportunity to commune with nature and forget the everyday worries of modern life. With mornings at leisure to relax and explore, the afternoons are spent with a local wildlife guide who knows the region like the back of his hand.

You will get the chance to visit a moose's own home ground, a perfect environment to learn more about moose and the other inhabitants of the forest in a practical way. Your guide shares his knowledge of Moose tracking and you will search for hoof prints, fresh droppings and bite marks. You will also be demonstrated different ways of communicating with moose, some of which have been used by hunters in the region for thousands of years. As the night falls the forest is brought to life and moose awake from their daytime slumber to feed. This means prime time for moose watching in the glades and meadows.

The beaver tour starts off by the lakeside, eating a meal together by a fire. After you have finished and it is dusk, you will get on a small rubber boat for your beaver safari. Travelling in complete silence so as not to scare them, you will cruise on the lake, waiting to see ripples in the water and a beaver emerge.

Kolarbyn Eco-lodge has 12 rustic forest huts (based on the design of traditional charcoal burners huts) and is located in a woodland glade by the beautiful lake Skårsjön. Each hut has two hard beds with sheep skin rugs for sleeping bags. There is no electricity but live candles and a crackling fire place that will guide you asleep. After a silent night you slowly wake up to birds' song and a swim in the lake. Kolarbyn is a true nature experience for both couples and families.

Is it for me?

The recommended minimum age is 10 years. Please note that the long sun hours during June and July means you will have to stay out until late, often after midnight, but you will get the chance to sleep in the mornings! Participants should be able to walk in the forest without difficulties. The amount of walking is dependent on the current wildlife situation. Walking level is medium. You may walk 1-3 hours on gravel roads as well as in uneven terrain off track. Walks include many stops along the way.

There is a maximum of 8 guests per guide.

Accommodation

You will be staying at Sweden's most primitive hotel where you leave the modern world and comforts behind and live in harmony with nature for a while.

The twelve forest huts are simple, elegant and basic. Each hut has two hard beds (child beds available on

Prices from

290 GBP (4 days) per person

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request), cosy sheep skin rugs and a wood heater. There are no ensuite facilities or showers. There are several shared toilet outhouses and for showers your choices are to take a wash in the lake or nearby creek. If you are desperate for a hot shower there are shared facilities available at Borntorpet, 3 kilometers away.

There is no electricity in Kolarbyn, but oil lamps and candles are readily available. Fresh drinking water is available for you to fetch in the forest well (which is regularly tested and government approved as excellent drinking water).

Kolarbyn is self catering and has several fire places for outdoor cooking where you can cut your own fire wood and light a fire. Pans, cutlery and other primitive kitchenware is available for your use from the storehouse. Basic dry foods are available at fair prices if you would like to cook your own lunch or dinner. The nearest supermarket is in Skinnskatteberg just 3 kilometres away. Self service breakfasts can be provided for an additional charge.

You have access to your huts from 1pm (13h) on arrival day up until 12 noon on day of departure. Kolarbyns reception is not always attended but one of the hosts/guides will meet you for a welcoming at around 4pm (16h) if nothing else has been agreed. Please let us know about your estimated time of arrival and call if you are late.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival at the reception in Kolarbyn and meet with one of the hosts for a short introduction to the facilities. You cook your own evening meal over open fire. Kolarbyn provides outdoor kitchen equipment and a supermarket is available 3km away. Fetch water in the spring, chop your own fire wood and do the dishes in the stream. In the evening you can go hiking, fishing, swimming in the lake or just rest by the fire with the other guests. Night in forest hut.

Day 2: Self-service breakfast at any time. After breakfast you have a whole day to explore the surrounding forest. You cook your own lunch. In the evening one of our wildlife guides will take you for a guided Moose Safari tour. The forest near Kolarbyn is exceptionally good for Moose watching and our guides have succeeded in showing Moose to every guest for the past eight years. The tour lasts 4-6 hours and we return to Kolarbyn late at night. An outdoor dinner is included in the tour. Night in forest hut.

Day 3: Self-service breakfast at any time. Another free day of outdoor activities on your own or with other guests. You may choose to swim in the lake, take one of the Canadian canoes for a paddle, or indulge yourself on the floating Swedish sauna. Lunch is on your own. In the afternoon you will meet up with our wildlife guide again and this time for a Beaver Safari tour (4-6 hours) on the lake with big chances to see wild Beavers. The tour takes 4-6 hours and we are using a rubber boat with electric engine to increase our chances to get near to the Beavers during sunset. An outdoor dinner is included in the tour. Night in forest hut.

Day 4: Self-service breakfast at any time. Free time on your own, stay as long as you want, then departure.

Details

Getting there

This tour is based near to the town of Skinnskatteberg. You will need to fly to an airport near or in Stockholm. You can then either rent a car, or reach the accommodation by train and bus.

Fly to Stockholm...

Airlines that fly regularly to Stockholm include: SAS, British Airways, Norwegian, Ryanair and Vintage Props. You have three choices of airport; Stockholm Arlanda, Stockholm - Vasteras, or Stockholm Skavsta

Stockholm-Arlanda airport (ARN) is the the main airport with Worldwide connections. Located 20 minutes from Stockholm City, 2 hours from Skinnskatteberg by car (3 hours by train) Catch a train from the airport to the main station in Stockholm and then catch a train to Koping and then transfer on the 500 bus to Skinnkatteberg. You can buy bus & train tickets on board by card.

Stockholm-Västerås airport (VST) is a small airport with RyanAir connections to London Stanstead. Located 1 hour from Stockholm City, 45 minutes from Skinnskatteberg by car. (2 hours by train) From Vasteras, you will need to get a taxi to the train station and then catch a train to Koping and then transfer on the 500 bus to Skinnkatteberg. You can buy bus & train tickets on board by card. If you want to book train tickets in advance go to this website [Sj](#) You can be met off the bus and transferred to your accommodation.

Stockholm-Skavsta airport (NYO) is a small airport with several budget airline connections to many European cities. Located 1.5 hour from Stockholm City, 3 hours from Skinnskatteberg by car (3.5 hours by train)

By car...

Rent a car from Stockholm and drive to Kolarbyn along road 233. Kolarbyn is 3 kilometres southeast of Skinnskatteberg. Follow signs from the village.

Price includes

2 guided evening tours with dinner. Accommodation in forest huts with sleeping bags 3 nights at Kolarbyn Eco-lodge with self-service breakfast.

When is best

May-September is usually good for the above mentioned wildlife although the chances to see certain species vary during the season. May means more Moose sightings because the calves are born. Second half of August

and all of September means bigger chances to see Moose bulls with antlers because of mating season. Beavers can be seen during the entire period.

Comfort level

Down to earth (hostels, camping, huts)

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed

Travellers should bring

Outdoor clothing for hiking (please avoid bright colors and rustling/noisy materials) Warmer clothing for cold nights (for example thermo underwear) Extra pair of socks (in case you get wet) Warm hat for cold nights
Waterproof/rubber boots (at least medium high boots, can be stored in our minivan) Rain proof clothing (full set with hood) Camera (turn off any sounds) Binoculars (at least 8x recommended) Head lamp (with new batteries)
Water bottle Snacks