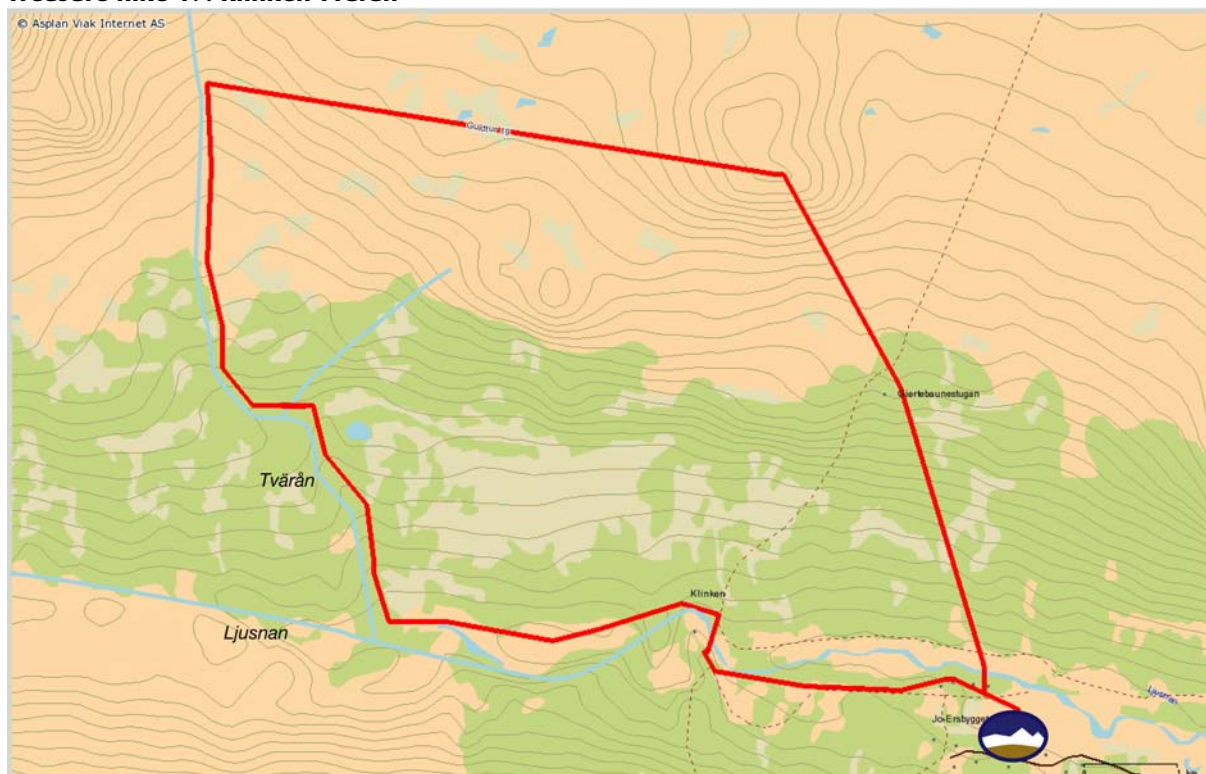


Treasure hike 19: Klinken Tvärån



A hike in scenic surroundings along the River Ljusnan up to the fascinating waterfalls in the River Tvärån. Beautiful alpine views of Mount Skarsfjället as soon as you are out of the birch forest. Some map reading skills are necessary to ensure safe return back to Kungsleden.

From the carpark at Slättansvallen, the path starts along the southern shores of the River Ljusnan. The first 2.5 km to Klinken is very easy to walk, following a clear path. During the peak season, July and the first half of August you are treated to enchanting flora, including several rare orchids. Once arrived at Klinken, cross the suspension bridge to the northern shores of the River Ljusnan, and the well-known Kungsleden trail.

Here you can choose either the cross-marked trail northbound towards Fältjägarstugan and Helags or the southbound trail towards Fjällnäs and the Rogen area. But this tour continues further along the valley of the River Ljusnan; on the small path here turning sharply left.

Here is an old summer farm, reminiscent of the old days. You will soon find yourself out on the old fields along the river, in the month of July featuring the rare black vanilla orchid, (*Gymnadenia Nigra*), the county flower of Jämtland.

After about 2 km walking, the River Tvärån will join the River Ljusnan from the right. Continue up along the right side of the river to experience all the great bubbling waterfalls that make the River Tvärån so special.

Another km upstream, the river turns sharply left. Continue along the right side and pass across the small brook running down from the right. A few hundred metres on, the river turns uphill again and you soon reach the waterfall called 'the Tvärån pool', a stunning waterfall creating a natural jacuzzi. A dip here on a warm summer's day will be a memory to cherish.

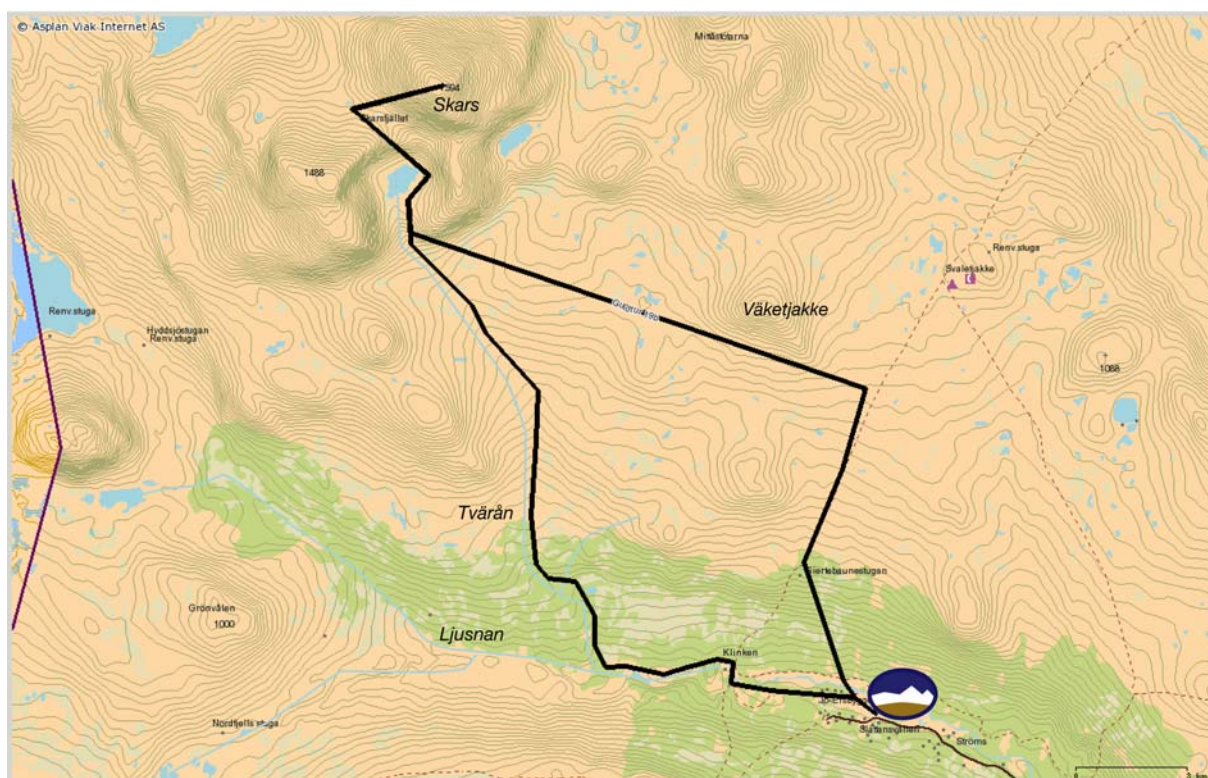
Continue a few hundred metres more uphill to find a perfect spot for a break, with a pretty waterfall, campfire and natural seats on the rocks. Enjoy a long break here, perhaps with a barbecue or some fried fresh chanterelles.

Continue the walk up along the river and you will soon reach the treeline and stunning views of Mount Skarsfjället. Here you can opt to leave the bubbling of the river and find your way northeast on the bare mountain towards Giertebaune.

Walk up on the mountain and aim back towards Kungsleden; in good visibility you will see the chalet Giertebaunestugan. Make sure you bring a compass and map 'Z8' to avoid getting lost. Here you are walking in unkempt wilderness and you need rubber or hiking boots.

Once arrived at Giertebaunestugan (a privately-owned cottage) you are once again on Kungsleden. Take the summer trail down towards the River Ljusnan along the easily walked fields. After two brief wades across the river you will soon reach the carpark at Slättansvallen.

Skarsfjället:



Rating: Black, about 25-30 km of walking, depending on the choice of route with a vertical variation of as much as 900 metres from the carpark up to the summit of Skarsfjället.

Description

Follow the description above up to the treeline by the River Tvärån and continue uphill on the right shores of the river, meandering towards the Skarsmassiv; about 4 km of walking up to the small lake situated between the highest peaks of the Skars massif. The last bit of the pass up to the lake is quite steep but it is certainly worth the effort getting up on the plateau and seeing the small lake surrounded by mighty faces of rocks. You are now at an altitude of 1,162 m with a tough final walk to make it to the summit.

Walk along the right side of the lake, to the farthest end of the pass and continue up the steep slope. Snow often remains throughout the summer and be careful of the snow bridge usually covering the small brook running to the lake.



Continue a bit further westbound along the plateau and then turn right uphill the steep section to the summit. From the lake and onwards, the walk is quite difficult, also including loose rocks so please take it easy. The feeling of reaching the summit at 1,594 m is great and in clear weather you can enjoy panoramic views. The Norwegian border is but a few km away and you will also have fine views of the massifs Sylarna and Helags. Even in the middle of summer, the temperature here can be quite low, so pack an extra sweater/jacket.

There are various alternatives for the descent, all of them steep downhill so please be careful. The best option is to return the same way you came up, past the lake and through the pass. Keep left here, slightly northeast across the mountain towards Väketjakke and further down back on Kungsleden to Giertebaunestugan (See map Z8). Thereafter the same return as the shorter 'red' route.

Making this black hike up to the summit of Skars is a tough undertaking to do in one day but if you have the physique, it is a wonderful tour. Failing that, you can hire a helicopter and catch the views from the summit before hiking back down!