

Key to symbols

www.visitfegen.se



FIA Fegen Inspiration Area
Lilla Fegen 121 22 Fegen
Phone 0702 98 44 35
www.visitfegen.se

Photo: Heidi Group

English



Visit Fegen

Free map



Here are some signs to look out for:



Speed limit (applies to the whole area): 5 knots from April 1 until July 31.

Please help us to protect our vulnerable bird species by keeping to the speed limit and respecting the bird protection measures!



It is forbidden to go ashore or to stay within a distance of 100 m to the seashore.



Staying overnight and lighting fires are only permitted in designated areas of the Fegen Nature Reserve. From May 1st to September 30th, it is forbidden to light fires in the Lake Kalvsjön, River Lillån, River Åtran and River Stångån area.

Rangers are present to maintain service and good order in the area.

0 1 2 3 4 5 km
Skala 1: 50 000 1 cm = 500 m

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Allemansrätten – legal right of access to private land

Allemansrätten gives all of us access to the nature, but there are rights as well as duties. The basic principle is to use the allemansrätten with reason. You use the allemansrätten when you go for a walk, paddle a canoe or sitting on a stone thinking. The allemansrätten is a unique opportunity for everybody to move freely in nature. But we also need to take responsibility for the nature and animal life and show consideration for the landowner and other visitor. In other words do not disturb – do not destroy.

Read more about allemansrätten here www.visitsweden.com





Fishing in the Fegen area

The Fegen area offers fantastic fishing! Everything from zander and pike to perch. Read more about fishing licences, retailers and rules at www.visitfegen.se/english/visit-fegen/activities/fishing

For some lakes, you can also buy your fishing licence digitally via www.ifiske.se



iFiske



Visit Fegen/fishing

Camping tickets

Purchase your camping voucher online at www.ifiske.se or find current retailers on www.visitfegen.se. All the revenues from the campus coupons will directly be reinvested in continuous development of the camping sites in the area.



iFiske



Visit Fegen

How to call Sweden

The international dialling code for Sweden is +46. Replace the first zero from the Swedish number with either +46 or 0046, depending on the type of phone you're using (on most phones, you just hold down the '0' button to make the + symbol appear). Then dial the rest of the number.

FBG



www.visitfegen.se

Service in the Fegen area



- Hostel**
- 1 Backa Loge, Övre Backa, Kalv 070-453 93 39
 - 2 Fegens vandrarhem, Fegen 0702-798 909
 - 3 Förläggargården Lerbäcksbyn, Östra Frölunda 076-473 31 66
 - 4 Kalvs skolhus, Kalv..... 0730-572 735, 0768-467 244



- Camping & Motorhome pitch**
- 19 MTS Fegenkiosken, motorhome pitch, Fegen..... 0346-611 95
 - 6 Kalvs Familjecamping, Kalv 0730-512 58, 072-505 21 51
 - 4 Kalvs skolhus, Glamping, Kalv 0730-572 735, 0768-467 244



- Cabins**
- 8 Alvhaga Vildmark, Fegen 070-590 64 15
 - 5 Påarps Gärd, Häcksvik..... 070-572 25 00
 - 9 Joarbo Gärd, Kalv 070-252 11 70
 - 10 Kätabo Hunting Lodge, Burseryd 070-873 07 50
 - 11 Torborg Gustavsson, Kalv 070-622 33 65
 - 12 Åtråns Turist & Fritid, Åtrån..... 0346-604 95



- Bed & Breakfast / Rooms to let**
- 13 Hemma på Klev, Mårdaklev..... 070-605 22 64
 - 16 Parksåters Bed & Breakfast, Häcksvik..... 070-289 06 82

More options for accommodation can be found at each tourist office/municipality web site.



- Tourist offices**
- 17 FIA – Fegen Inspiration Area (june–aug)..... 070-298 44 35
www.visitfegen.se, info@visitfegen.se
 - Falkenbergs Tourist office 0346-88 61 00
www.falkenberg.se
 - Isabergsregionens Tourist office 0371-844 98
www.isabergsregion.se
 - Svenljunga Tourist Office 0325-180 00
www.svenljungatranemo.se



- ATM**
- 28 Burseryd

Cash machines are also available in Falkenberg, Ullared, Överlida, Svenljunga, Smålandsstenar, Torup and Gislaved



- Restaurants/cafés**
- 16 Café Parksäter, Häcksvik 073-883 81 70
 - 13 Hemma på Klev, Mårdaklev 070-605 22 64
 - 19 MTS Fegenkiosken, Fegen..... 0346-611 95
 - 20 Restaurant Buregården, Burseryd 0371-502 50
 - 21 Summer café Sockenstugan, Sandvik..... 0371-836 50
 - 22 Åtråns Restaurang och Pizzeria, Åtrån 0346-606 46
 - 1 Backa Lodge,, Övre Backa (sommarcafé) 070-45 39 339



- Canoe and boat hire**
- 8 Alvhaga Vildmark, Fegen 070-590 64 15
 - 1 Backa Loge, Övre Backa, Kalv 070-45 39 339
 - 6 Kalv's Familjecamping (canoes/kayaks), Kalv..... 0325-512 58, 072-505 21 51
 - 19 MTS Fegenkiosken, Fegen..... 0346-611 95
 - 23 Siggebergs loppis, (canoes), Häcksvik..... 070-696 85 19
 - 11 Torborg Gustafsson, Kalv..... 070-622 33 65
 - 12 Åtråns Turist & Fritid, Åtrån 0346-604 95



- Bike rental**
- 4 Kalvs skolhus, Kalv..... 0730-572 735, 0768-467 244
 - 6 Kalv's Familjecamping, Kalv 0325-512 58, 072-505 21 51
 - 23 Siggebergs loppis, Häcksvik..... 070-696 85 19
 - 24 Glenn Ljung, Fegen..... 0705-19 78 28



- Provisions**
- 19 MTS Fegenkiosken, Fegen..... 0346-611 95
 - 25 Handlarn i Kalv 073 786 10 54
 - 26 Handlarn i Åtrån 0346-600 52
 - 27 Ica Nära, Burseryd 0371-500 02



- Buses**
- Hallandstrafiken, www.hallandstrafiken.se 0346-712 500, 0771-33 10 30
 - Jönköpings länstrafik, www.jlt.se 0771-444 333
 - Västrafik, www.vastrafik.se 0771-41 43 00



- Police**
- Emergencies 114 14
 - 112



- Medical info,**
- Medical care advice – around the clock 1177
 - Emergencies 112

Welcome to Fegen’s nature reserve

When you paddle a canoe, fish, swim or hike by Lake Fegen, the feeling of wilderness and tranquillity is an important part of the experience. The spring-spawning cisco or Coregonus trybomi has its only home here in Sweden and the many small islands and islets are the breeding ground for the black-throated loon and osprey.

Lake Fegen covers an area of 24 square kilometres and is one of the largest lakes in southwestern Sweden. It lies in a rift valley on the southern Swedish highlands and has an maximum depth of 38 metres. The beaches offer diverse habitats that provide suitable conditions for abundant flora and fauna in secluded coves, bays, marshes and many small islands and islets. Many rare and redlisted plant species such as bog hairgrass, floating club rush, marsh club moss, six-stamen waterwort and marsh gentian grow on the seabeds and beaches.

The spring spawning cisco's last outpost

The spring spawning cisco lives in Lake Fegen. It is only found here and in three other lakes in the world. It used to be present in three more Swedish lakes, but has disappeared from there and this is why, we in Sweden, have an international responsibility to protect the spring spawning cisco in Lake Fegen.

You can also find the more common autumn spawning vendace here. Vendace are salmonid fish that live in shoals in deep, naturally nutrient-poor clear water lakes. The spring spawning fish lives at greater depths than the autumn spawning fish. For the fish's survival, it is important that the water quality in Lake Fegen does not degrade from overfertilizing nutrients that can cause a lake of oxygen.

In total, there are 17 different species of fish in Lake Fegen and those that are most important for fishing are perch, pikeperch or zander, pike, whitefish, autumn spawning vendace and eel.

Loons and ospreys

The black-throated loon is one of the birds nesting on the small islands in Lake Fegen and it places its nest near the shore, because it has difficulty moving around on land. Maybe you'll hear the beautiful,

solitary bird song during your visit here. The rarer red-throated loon comes to Fegen to fish. Ospreys also breed on the islands and build nests in the top of pine trees. Lake Fegen, and the lakes around it, are one of southwestern Sweden's major breeding areas for ospreys. In winter they migrate to tropical West Africa and return in late March to early May. The bird eats only fish and it keeps a look out from 10-40 metres' height and plummets when it sees suitable prey, often a pike or perch.

Natura 2000 site

Other birds that nest or forage by Lake Fegen are, for example, the lesser spotted woodpecker, black woodpecker, common tern, heron, great crested grebe, common goldeneye, merganser and common sand-piper. Fegen has been designated a Natura 2000 site and special protected area, SPA area (Special Protected Area) with the support of the EU Birds Directive. The numbers of nesting pairs of black-throated loons and ospreys are the reason for this.

Important Bird Reserves

Both black-throated loons and ospreys are very sensitive to disturbance during the breeding season, which is why bird reserves have been designated around Lake Fegen. It is forbidden to go ashore or come closer than 100 metres to the beach during the breeding season. The birds leave their nests if they are disturbed, which increases the risk of a bird of prey taking the opportunity to abduct the eggs. Studies have shown that black-throated loons have managed better with their breeding since the protected areas were designated around Lake Fegen.

Old borderland

When canoeing on Lake Fegen's waters or wandering along the beaches, you are moving along the old border region between Sweden and Denmark. Today, the boundaries between the counties of Västtra, Götaland, Jönköping and Halland meet in the lake.

Cultural heritage

In some places around the lake, there are historically valuable buildings and ancient cultural landscapes. In Gammalsjö lies a manor by the former border

between Sweden and Denmark, where you can walk out towards the Kummeludden through a natural park with deciduous trees. On the headland is a graveyard from the Iron Age (500 BC.-1050 BC.) with stone circles and cairns.

Mythical church of Sandviks

At Sandvik's church, you have a beautiful view of the lake. The present red granite church was built in the 1890s after an older wooden church burned down. A church was burnt down by the Danes in 1644, but the first church was already built on the headland in the Middle Ages. According to tradition, a wealthy lady from Sotånäs was on her way across Lake Fegen when suddenly a storm blew up. In her distress, she prayed to higher powers for help and promised to build a church as a thank you if she was rescued. The boat drifted ashore on the headland and the lady kept her promise. The church in Sandvik then became significant for the spread of Christianity in the region.

Valuable habitats

By Sandvik, there are also several valuable habitats; broadleaved forests where the redlisted lung lichen grows, pastures with deciduous trees and old beech forests with many protected species and deadwood. Many rare plants and animal species rely on dead wood, as either food or a habitat.

Log driving and water regulations

During the late 1800s, they began to float timber on the lake, to the wood industries in Fegen's community and for further transportation by rail. At about the same time, the water level was lowered so they could gain new farmland. During the early 1940s, the water level was raised, when Lake Fegen and Lake Kalvsjön became a water reservoir for the power plants in River Lillån and River Åtrån.

The nature reserve's aim

The aim of the nature reserve is to protect the fish and bird fauna, the quality of the water, the valuable deciduous forests and the habitats and species included in the Natura 2000. The reserve will also provide good opportunities for outdoor recreation.



Storlön © Thomas Andersson



Fiskegärr © Thomas Andersson

Important bird protection areas – taking care of our vulnerable bird species

Both the black-throated diver and osprey are highly sensitive to disturbance during the breeding season, hence the creation of bird protection areas in Fegen. These stop people going ashore or getting within 100 m of the shore during the breeding season. The birds will leave their nests if they are disturbed, which puts the eggs at risk of being taken by a bird of prey. Studies have shown that the breeding success of the black-throated diver has improved since the protection areas were introduced in Fegen.

Black-throated diver

The black-throated diver's call is an important part of the experience at wilderness lakes such as Fegen. The mournful, desolate call may even have given the bird its Swedish name storlön: the Icelandic word lömr means to cry or call. You can recognise

the birds by their elongated body and elegant markings in black, white and grey.

The black-throated diver is a fairly shy bird that is best watched from a distance. If you get too close, it will react by sinking down into the water or diving. If the bird is frightened away from the nest while incubating its eggs, egg thieves such as gulls, crows and ravens may find the nest and steal eggs or young birds.

With its feet set a long way back on its body, the black-throated diver is an outstanding swimmer and diver, although rather ungainly on land, which is why it builds its nest right at the water's edge. This makes the nest vulnerable to backwash, which can wash away the eggs. If you're in a boat, keep your distance and don't travel too fast!

Osprey

The osprey is a bird of prey with long wings and white and brown markings. It has many fasci-

nating adaptations to enable it to dive and catch fish. It has valves in its nares (beak holes), and its plumage is dense and oily. The feet have long talons, spines on the surface and a reversible toe, which enables it to keep hold of slippery fish. Once the osprey has brought a fish to the surface and set off back to its nest, it holds the fish close to its body to decrease the air resistance.

The young are unable to fly until the end of July, which is why the bird protection arrangements remain in place until then. The birds will leave the nest if you go too near. If this happens, the eggs and young will get cold, and may die. The number of ospreys at the lake has fallen significantly in recent years. This is why it is extremely important that they are left in peace during the breeding season so that more young birds survive!

Attractions in the area

Falkenberg

- A – Swimming areas in Åtrån**
There is plenty of water in these areas regardless of weather the purpose is fishing, paddling or swimming. At Lake Esärd there are e.g. a nice swimming area with a lovely jetty and for those who prefer a smoother bottom, Sjövikens swimming facility with both a swimming pool, a children's pool and a splash pool is located in Åtrån.
- B – Linjevick beach**
This beach is a beautiful sand beach with a charming bathing area on the west side of Lake Fegen. To experience nature at it's best, take a short hike from Fegen youth hostel along the Solvik nature trail. The beach is also accessible by car and of course you can paddle here.
- C – Mother's brass pot**
At the lake's edge stands a wooden sculpture of Brohultarn. It depicts "Mother Johanna" with her brass pot and is connected to a (true?) story from 1869, retold by August Bondeson. The whole story can be read on the sign next to the sculpture.
- D – Fegens chapel**
The brick chapel was built in 1960 by Roland Hiibel. There is a lovely nature trail along the western shore of Lake Fegen. The trail starts by Fegen's hostel and is 2 km long.
- E – The square in Fegen**
With a beautiful view of the lake, the green area has been transformed into a well-visited picnic & barbecue area. Not least thanks to the social barbecue table and the tourist information that is housed at the site every summer. Here is also the fine wooden photo frame, perfect for those of you who want to immortalize your visit to Lake Fegen.
- F – Gunnarps church**
This timber church is built in 1755. The paintings in the church are by master Henrik Wibeck 1782. The baptisml font from the end of the 12th century is the oldest object in the church. The pulpit is made by Johannes Johansson, Tokabo.
- G – Krogsered Sägerunda legend trail**
Starting at Krogsered church, the trail takes in twelve legendary sites in the districts around Krogsered, each with its own tall story or legend. Find out more at visitkrogsered.se
- H – Camping site Ramsäng**
Perfect paddle destination for beginners and accessible only from the water. There is also a beach in this quiet area. Perfect place for camping and BBQ. New for this year are the two windshields, one traditional and one designed.
- I – Solvik Nature trail**
The beautiful trail starts at Fegen's hostel and stretches approximately 2 km along the western part of the lake.

Along the path are historical signs and there are also benches where you can sit and look out over the lake.

Gislaved

- J – Sandvik beach**
Beautifully situated on the eastern shore of Fegen, it offers a lovely sandy beach with magical views of Fegen Lake.
- K – Danhults mill**
The current mill in Danhult was built in 1767 and was in use until the start of the 1900's.
- L – Hembygdsgården Burseryd**
This is the location for Vikelsbostugan, which is an old high-attic cottage typical of those found in South Gothia. The cottage is home, amongst other things, to tapestry paintings, old household utensils and furniture from the 1700's.
- M – Klockebo**
Mill from the early 18th century. The mill is operated by water which flows northward, called magic water by the locals as it flows in the "wrong" direction.
- N – Rosendalsstugan**
It is an old, small cottage surrounded by hayfields and a typical Småland-style fence. It was probably built at the end of the 1700s. Step into the cottage and you find yourself transported to another time.

O – Sandviks church

A beautiful church in a beautiful environment near Lake Fegen's shore. In the parish hall adjacent to the church, you'll find a café which is popular during the summer months.

P – Älgarems sacrificial spring

In Älgarems sacrificial spring, it is said that many old coins have been found. In the past, it was believed that the water in sacrificial springs had healing power.

Q – Sandvik's parish cottage

The red parish cottage with white house knots is located on the eastern shore of Fegen. In summer, the cottage turns into a café with handicraft sales.

Svenljunga

- R – Kalv beach**
Place to swim with a long jetty and fairly large sandy beach perfect for families with children. Situated on the northern part of Lake Kalvsjön, and equipped with dry toilet, changing room and barbecue area.
- S – Förläggargården Lerbäcksbyn, Östra Frölunda**
One of many locate farms in Sjuhäradsbygden. All the houses from the 19th century still remains and forms a unique environment. You are welcome to visit us on one of our guided tours and we can relate about the interesting history of the farm and serve coffee and homemade cakes.

T – Gammalsjö mill, Häcksvik

Here you'll find a customs mill dating from 1850 with a huge millwheel - fully 7 metres in diameter! The door to the mill is always open and if you step in you'll find information signs about the mill on the walls.

U – Grave field Kummeludden

Kummeludden stretches into Lake Fegen by Gammalsjö farm. Below the beech trees is an Iron Age burial ground.

V – Kindahus/Kinnahus, Östra Frölunda

Where the River Åtrån makes a substantial bend lie the remains of Kinnahus. The location is well chosen, as Kinnahus was a fortified medieval manor house. Until 1645, the border between Denmark and Sweden passed through this region, which meant that many wars were fought. In peace time it was also a vast trading border. On the site today, you can see a path and two signs which talk about the "stronghold" and its remains.

X – Kalvs church

There has been a church in Kalv since 1671. The original wooden church was replaced in the 19th century and following a fire in 1896, construction began on the church we see today. The church stands in a beautiful spot by Kalvsjön.

Y – Klev's culture- and nature reserve

Unique environment with an old innkeepers farm and surrounding buildings from the 15th Century. Visit Hembygdsgården or stroll along the paths through the nature reserve. Enjoy the view from Kleberg where you can see the river Åtrån's valley.

Z – Klockaregården, Häcksvik

The upstairs area in Klockaregården is home to unique tapestry paintings. Tapestries from Southern Sweden were normally only put up during the major festivals, but in Klockaregården they could and can be seen all year round. In 1848, the tapestry painter Sven Erlandsson painted thirty biblical motifs directly on the four paper-covered walls. For many years, the tapestry paintings were covered by wallpaper, which has preserved them well.

Å – Kvarnagården, Häcksvik

In Kvarnagården, there is a waterwheel which operates a variety of different machinery. At the end of the 1800s, the brothers Mårtensson built up a furniture business in Kvarnagården. Beds, tables and chairs were produced there. There are three small houses with a smithy, lathes and engraving planers. The waterwheel and buildings were recreated at the end of the 1900s. In the summer, Kvarnagården is open to visitors on some Sundays. You can pay a visit yourself to see the implements.

Ä – Olofsbygget, Häcksvik

Olofsbygget is a cottage with a grass roof dating from the end of the 1700s. It is located to the south of Häcksvik's community centre. Formerly, Olofsbygget was located above Dräved on the road towards Sjötorfa, but in the 1960s, Olofsbygget was relocated to Häcksvik. In July and August, coffee is served with homemade products every Sunday between 2pm and 5pm. A wonderful place to unwind and feel good.



R



T



V



Z



A



A

Cycling

- Åtrånbaneleden trail**
Stretches between Fegen and Ullared and is 22 km long. It travels along old embankments which were formerly railway tracks. Along the cycle path, there are rest areas, information signs and new red and white signposts.
- Åtrådsaleden trail**
Open landscapes, miles of forests and lovely lakes. Åtrådsaleden is a future national cycle path between Falköping and Falkenberg. The trail is a total of 200 km long, where about half goes on a completely car-free track embankment. The trail is Sweden's 5th national cycle route and has clear red and white signage with the number 5.

Hiking

- Backa Loge hiking trails (2,5 km; 5 km & 7 km)**
Starting at Backa Loge lodge and café three hiking trails let you experience unspoiled nature by the lake shore and deep in the forest.
- Gislavedsleden trail (8,5 km)**
The trail stretches from Kinnared in the south to Isaberg in the north and passes through two nature reserves, Fegen and Isaberg. Gislavedsleden trail goes through both deciduous forests and coniferous forests, alongside lakes and through small villages with farmland and pastures.
- Hallandsleden trail (360 km)**
The trail has a westerly and an easterly section and comprises a total of 24 stages. The trail passes through both forests and arable land.
- Solvik Nature trail (2 km)**
The nature trail starts at Fegen's hostel and stretches along the western shore of Lake Fegen.
- Pilgrimsleden Kindaholm (44 km)**
Walk between Kindaholms four churches and experience cultural heritage and historical locate farms along the way.
- Knavrabo nature trail (3 km)**
Knavrabo nature trail runs through a magical forest landscape with four lakes. Along the trail you pass several streams with small bridges and a rest cottage with barbecue facilities. During the hike you will walk past the remains of an old mill as well as a beautiful vantage point.



Canoeing

- The Kalv-Fegen tour**
Suitable twenty-four-hour tour with one overnight stay and the possibility to fill up with food and water in Kalv. The most convenient start and end of the tour is at the parking lot next to Lake Norde Svansjön. The trip then continues among other places through both Lake Fegen, Lake Kalvsjön, River Kättarpsån and River Stångån. It is also perfectly fine to have Backa Loge or Kalvs familjecamping as a point of departure and in that case rent the canoes there.
- Häcksvik-Lake Fegensjön/Lake Kalvsjön**
Nice and cosy tour down the River Stångån that meander through a varying and beautiful landscape. Difficult to paddle at low water level. A bit after Kläggshult you can choose to paddle to the right out towards Lake Kalvsjön, or to the left down towards Lake Fegen. It takes about 3 hours to paddle Kläggshult-Kläggshult and the distance Kläggshult-Kalv takes roughly an additional 3 hours. The distance Kläggshult-Gammalsjö takes about 2 hours. Notice that the lighting of fires is prohibited on the stretch south of Kläggshult.
- Torstaholmen-Kummeludden**
The route starts in the Lake Torstaholmen and takes you through Kvarntorps stream down towards Lake Fegen and Kummeludden. Difficult to paddle at low water level. Beautiful places to stop at on the way are Tullkvarnen and Gammalsjö. The distance takes 2-3 hours and if you like you can continue to paddle in Lake Fegen that can offer many nice campings sites for overnight stays.

Read more at visitfegen.se