

## In Linnaeus footsteps: orchids, fossils, and birds of southern Sweden



**Objectives:** Learn about biodiversity and its history and preservation in Scandinavia, especially with regards to birds, orchids, and fossils, and experience the rich cultural heritage of Vikings, fishermen, farmers and sustainable living in southern Sweden.

**Duration:** 9 days in mid-May to mid-June

**Overnight stays and food:** Möckelsnäs Mansion (Småland), Solberga organic farm (Öland), Aspö historical marine pilot station (Blekinge) Degerhamn, and Agda Lund farm (Skåne), all in B&B or well-equipped smaller hostels in historical

buildings in beautiful surroundings. Breakfasts are hearty Scandinavian breakfasts, lunch will either be at local restaurants or as lunch boxes in the field, and dinners will be at local restaurants or hotels. Fresh, local and organically produced food will be emphasized.

**Itinerary:** Denmark: [Kastrup airport](#) (Copenhagen) – Sweden: Skåne: Malmö - Småland: Råshult, Lake Möckeln, Möckelsnäs Mansion, Stenbrohult, Strömbergshyttan Glass Studio, Växjö Cathedral, Örarevet – Öland: [Ölands Skogsby](#), Mörbylånga Trail, Bergsstigen, Degerhamn [Ottenby Bird Observatory](#), Lunden, [Alby](#), Eketorp, Stora Alvaret, Köpings Klint, Byrum, Neptuni Fields, Troll Forest, [Borgholm castle](#) – Blekinge: archipelago, Aspö, Drottningstårn's Fortress, Karlskrona – Skåne: Kivik, [Ale's Stones](#), [Haväng](#), [Stenshuvud National Park](#) - Denmark: [Kastrup airport](#) (Copenhagen).

**Overview:** This early summer seminar will be discovering the native land of the Norse seafaring traders and warriors known as the Vikings as well as tracing the footsteps of the world-famous naturalist Carl Linnaeus, the world's first ethnobotanist and the father of modern taxonomy. The areas of Skåne, Småland, and the island of Öland in southern Sweden are famous for their migrating birds, orchid meadows, and rich cultural history, reaching back 10 000 years to the stone age. The area is characterized by its large biodiversity, both living and fossilized, and variety of habitats, from sandy beaches to limestone cliffs, meadows, steppe, and deciduous or conifer forests. Öland is of special importance for flora and fossils since it is one of the few places with Cambrian and Ordovician limestone, which creates unique vegetation types that affect the bird fauna as well. Sweden is among the most environmentally friendly countries in the world and examples of sustainable and highly developed 'green' projects will be visited. The tour will fully integrate information from cultural and natural history with field experiences and guided tours by local experts.

**Activities:** Field trips to national parks, nature preserves, working farms and fishing villages, environmental education centers, research stations in ornithology and ecology. There will be good opportunities for bird watching, fossil hunting (permits are required for collecting), and nature photography. Additional activities will be eating of local, traditional, and organic food, sustainable agriculture demonstrations, and introduction to native medicinal plants. No formal lectures are planned, all activities are either hands-on and integrated into the field trips. The best migrating bird area in the Nordic countries (Ottenby) will be visited and there will be ample opportunities for photography of native plants, birds, cultural and archeological artifacts, and landscapes. We will visit the quaint birthplace of the founding father of biological taxonomy Carl Linnaeus in Småland, which is also part of a large emigration area to the US about 130 years ago, and now famous for mossy, virgin forests, old-fashioned agricultural heritage, and art glass production (Kosta-Boda and Orrefors).

**Tour Leader:** Dr. Lena Struwe, Associate Professor in plant evolutionary biology, Rutgers University; PhD in systematic botany from Stockholm University, Sweden; B. Sc in Biology and Earth Sciences, Stockholm University (fluent in English and Swedish), 30 years experience in Swedish field studies with special expertise in botany, ornithology, geology, and cultural history.

### Preliminary Program

	<b>What we will visit and experience</b>	<b>What we will learn</b>
Day 1, May 29	Copenhagen, Skåne: visiting cutting-edge sustainable living in architecturally award-winning neighborhoods in Malmö. Transportation to Småland and Möckelsnäs Mansion, tour of neighborhood. Tour of medicinal plant garden; field trip to area around Lake Möckeln with raptors, ancient cultural landscapes, geological glaciation artifacts and mossy and lush deciduous and evergreen forests.	Introduction to Carl Linnaeus' life and scientific importance, history of agriculture in temperate areas, the history of botany and medicinal plants, how to read the history of a glaciated and historical cultural landscape.
Day 2, May 30	Småland: Tour of the orangery at Möckelsnäs Mansion, Stenbrohult church and its history center, Guided tour of Linnaeus' birthplace <a href="#">Råshult</a> , an 18 <sup>th</sup> century self-sufficient farm, similar to many of the farms Swedish emigrants left in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century for a new life in America.,	Macro- and landscape photography. Heritage of Linnaeus in biology and ethnomedicine, The history of glass works and emigration.
Day 3, May 31	Småland: Guided tours of the glass works at Strömbergshyttan, Växjö Cathedral, and the Caroliner House where Carl Linnaeus went to school. Öland: Drive over the several mile long bridge to The Baltic island of Öland. Field trip to northernmost tip of this long island, with fossilized coral reefs (raukar) at Byrum, Neptuni Fields (rocky costal fields named by Linnaeus), and the ancient ' <a href="#">Troll Forest</a> ' with an interactive museum. Rich fossil beds, good bird watching, and examples of sustainable ecotourism. Optional night listening of night-active birds.	Introduction to Cambrian and Ordovician fossils and historical geology; coastal environmental protection. Current environmental issues with the Baltic Sea, sea level changes due to glaciations, migration patterns of Scandinavian birds, orchid pollination, introduction to the unique flora and geology of Öland.
Day 4, June 1	Öland: visit to the historical agricultural area included in UNESCO's World Heritage, tour of <a href="#">Alby</a> , a 19 <sup>th</sup> century farm village with roots in bronze and Viking ages, guided tour at iron age fortress <a href="#">Eketorp</a> with historical museum with demonstrations, hike on Stora Alvaret and its orchid meadows. Optional evening tour to nearby nature preserve with orchids and fossils at Köpings Klint.	Ecological restoration of industrial and other disturbed areas, possibilities in actions against invasive species. Experience life 1000 years ago.

Day 5, June 2	Öland: Hike along Mörbylånga Trail, mixed habitats on western shore of the island. Visit to Uppsala University's Ecological Research station <a href="#">Ölands Skogsby</a> and "Porten till Alvaret", with guided tour of steppe with orchids, Viking and bronze age cultural artifacts, and unique flora. Visit to Bergsstigen, a self-guided trail in a historical industrial heritage area of a lime plant closed in 1932. Tour of <a href="#">Borgholm castle</a> on Öland, founded in the 12 <sup>th</sup> century and ruined after a fire in the 1800s.	How humans changed landscape and vegetation over thousands of years of history, Orchid observations. Organic and sustainable farming today, challenges and opportunities.
Day 6, June 3	Öland: Full day at <a href="#">Ottenby Bird Observatory</a> , best birding in Sweden, guided tour of bird banding facility, visit to light house and museum, hike in nearby oak forest (Lunden) rich in migrant birds, shorebirds in the coastal marshlands. Småland: Field trip to coastal marshland at Örarevet, a mile-long esker stretching out into the Baltic Sea, the largest brackish sea in the world, with nesting of coastal birds, rocky fields, and salt marshes. Blekinge: Karlskona marine history town, ferry to island of Aspö, in the middle of the Baltic archipelago. Dinner at Drottningkärs Castle.	Migratory bird research in Scandinavia, bird song identification, bird photography. The role of the ruling (royal) class in science and environmental protection (through wars with the Danish and the Russians).
Day 7, June 4	Blekinge: Boat tour in the archipelago in the morning, good bird watching and possibly seals. Skåne: Transportation to Skåne's eastern coast with Kivik, a small fishing village with a large bronze-age royal grave. Evening movie: "Äppelkriget", classic Swedish 70s comedy filmed in this area about the clash between environmental protection and business interests.	Baltic fishing heritage. Overview of the geologic and natural history of southernmost Sweden, conflicts in preservation of biodiversity and land development, Nordic mythology.
Day 8, June 5	Skåne; visit to <a href="#">Stenshuvud National Park</a> , which sometimes has amber washed up on the sandy beach, visit to rich orchid meadows and deciduous forest with many warblers. Visit to Kivik's Apple Cider Co., Haväng glacial hills, and tours of local ecological living. Optional boat tour with M/S Klara-Marie to look at sunken forests and shipwrecks with university researchers.	Orchid pollination and species conservation. Contemporary sustainable living – is it possible?
Day 9, June 6	Transportation to Kastrup airport (Copenhagen).	

**Cost per person, double occupancy:** \$4,975 single supplement applicable

**Number of participants:** 10

**Duration:** 9 days

**Reservations:**

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