

Hiking trail

GPS coordinates (WGS84):
Start/Finish
N62 16.864 E21 22.749

Tegelbruksbacken-
Norrjärden

Kristinestad

OSTROBOTHNIA



October 2014

Tegelbruksbacken - Norrfjärden

Nature Trail 6.2 km

This nature trail within a Natura 2000 site, close to the centre of an idyllic small town, is an excellent destination for the whole family to explore the outdoors. When hiking along the gravelled and natural paths, you will be able to experience a variety of things, including crossing small wooden bridges, climbing a bird-watching tower, balancing on duckboards, pausing by the information boards, walking along the hanging bridge and taking a break by the riverside. In summer, lucky visitors may even catch a glimpse of cattle or sheep in the pasture areas. This is a circular trail running from Norrfjärden to Tegelbruksbacken and continuing along Tiukantie Road, the town bridge and Merikatu Street to the bay of Norrfjärden.

Trail rating: Medium

Suitability: The trail is suitable for day trips for novice hikers and families with school-aged children. Not suitable for the disabled.

Duration: 3-4 hours (incl. short pauses and one half-hour break) 1.5 - 2 h without any breaks.

3 Facts

- Nature conservation area with a rich diversity of habitats and landscapes
- Small and large bridges
- Easy accessibility from the town

Trail markings: The trail has been clearly marked with signposts, blue trail marks and trail maps with “You are here” signs. The street section (1.5 km) has not been marked.

Getting to the trail:

Parking area 1:

Address (approximately) Merikatu 1 (on the opposite side)

64100 Kristinestad

N62 16.864 E21 22.749

Parking area 2:

Roughly 900 m north of the Merikatu parking area.

Drive along the road (the 'Naturstig/Luontopolku' sign) branching off from Kristiinankaupungintie Road for about 200 m until you arrive at the parking area.

N62 17.274 E21 22.693

Parking area 3:

Address (approximately) Tiukantie 10

64100 Kristinestad

N62 16.512 E21 23.443

Trail description

The starting point of this trail description is the bird-watching tower at Norrfjärden along Merikatu Street. First, the trail runs close to a residential area in a narrow herb-rich forest between the sea bay and the road, whereafter it proceeds along the perimeter of a pasture area to the second starting point of the trail. From there, the trail continues to follow the perimeter of the pasture area until it enters a mixed forest dominated by spruce, and finally a spruce mire. There are many small wooden bridges along the trail that will take you across the wet sections and the brook.

The trail crosses the river along a hanging bridge made of steel. There is a campfire site on the other side of the river. From there, the trail ascends along a forest path onto the hill at Tegelbruksbacken. The trail continues along a forest road, a meadow path along pasture areas, then along small wooden bridges, a path in a herb-rich forest by the shore, and along duckboards to the third starting point, which is located in the parking area by Tiukantie Road. From there, the trail proceeds along Tiukantie Road, the town bridge and Merikatu Street back to the bird-watching tower at Norrfjärden.

The trail includes a nature-trail section, which is 4.7 km long (Norrfjärden - Tegelbruksbacken), and a street section in town 1.5 km (Tiukantie Road - the town bridge - Merikatu Street). The forest section of the trail is uninhabited. In summer, lucky visitors may even catch a glimpse of cattle and/or sheep in the pasture areas. On the hill at Tegelbruksbacken, you will find a handsome pine forest as well as an historical relic. Tegelbruksbacken is one of the traditional Finnish landscape sites.

In the yard of the Jungman Restaurant, you will find information on the history of Kristinestad.

Level of difficulty

The trail runs, for the most part, on quite even ground along paths by the roadside, along forest and meadow paths and along a forest road. Small bridges and duckboards will take you across the wet sections. Some of the duckboards are located more than half a metre higher up than the surrounding terrain. The trail includes a few rocky and root-filled sections and one steeper section, where walking is slower. The steps taking you to the hanging bridge are also rather steep. There is only a little variation in altitude on the trail. The section by the side of Tegelbruksbacken is easier to walk than Norrfjärden.

Good to know

You will be fine wearing normal outdoor clothing to suit the weather and a pair of trainers.

There is no organised waste management along the trail, so take a plastic bag with you. This way, you will be able to take away everything that you bring with you.

You can hike the trail either clockwise or anticlockwise. It has a couple of narrow duckboard sections crossing the wetlands, so you must be ready to "make room", if necessary, for oncoming hikers.

The hanging bridge and the short section of duckboards that are located higher up than the surrounding terrain may pose a problem for those who easily feel dizzy or suffer from a fear of heights. However, they will be able to walk the initial part of the trail, i.e. roughly 1.2 km from the bird-watching tower to the bridge crossing the brook and then return the same way. Another option is to walk from the Tiukantie parking area to the campfire site of Tegelbruksbacken and back.

Those hiking with a dog must take into account the sheep and cattle in the pasture areas along the trail. An electric fence surrounds the pasture areas on the Norrfjärden side.

The nature-trail section from the bird-watching tower at Norrfjärden across the hanging bridge to the Tiukantie starting point is about 4.7 km, and there and back 9.5 km.

The information boards show a trail marked with red, which is slightly more challenging. It is also marked in the terrain with red signs.

Trail facilities

Parking areas and information boards at the trail's starting points; bird-watching tower, information boards, a campfire site, dry toilets along the trail.

In addition, there are cafés, pizza places, lunch restaurants and grocery shops at both ends of the town bridge, which is part of the trail. There are hotels very close to the trail, and you will find the bus station and a taxi rank along Merikatu Street.

Tourist information

[Kristinestad Tourist Office](#)

Handelshuset Corner

Rådhusgatan 2 A

64100 Kristinestad

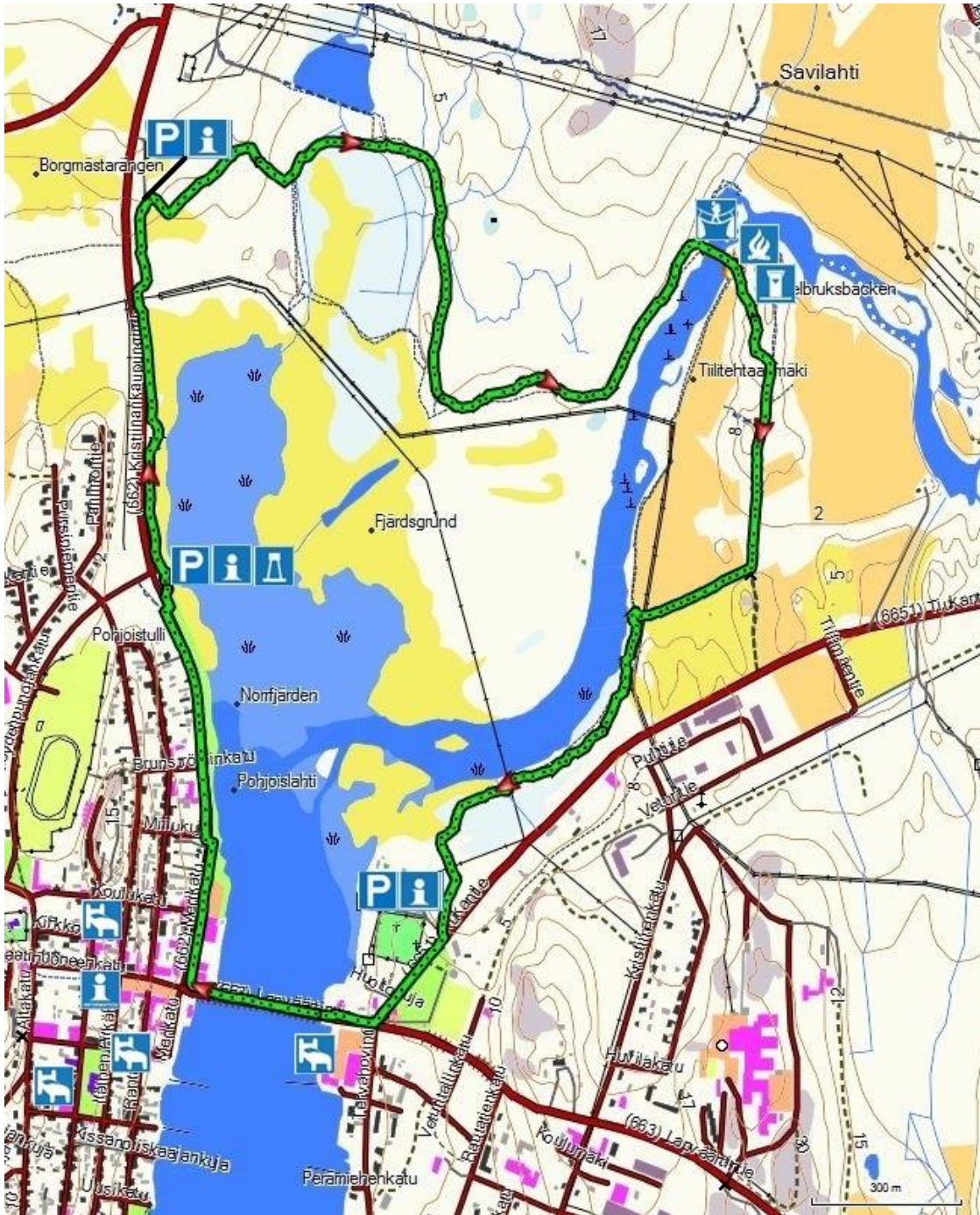
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Links

[A map brochure in English](#)

Trail map: the Tegelbruksbacken - Norrfjärden Nature Trail, 6.2 km, Kristinestad, Finland



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