

## Taberg has many visitors

So, please respect the following:

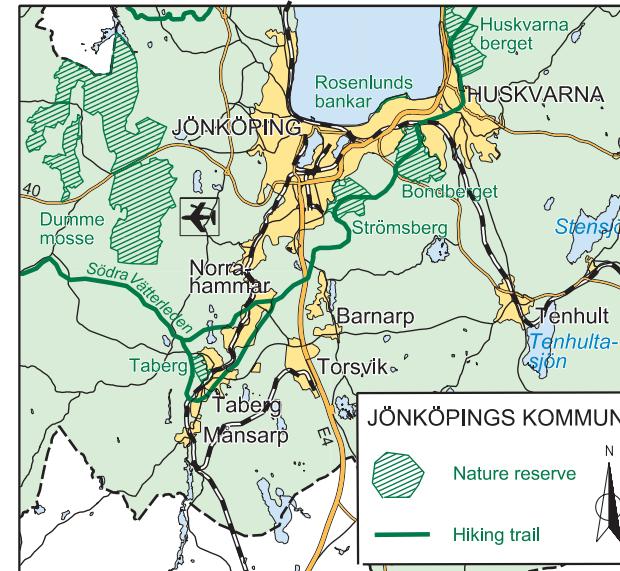
- only drive cars and other motor vehicles on roads where it is permitted
- park only in designated parking spaces
- do not camp or ride within the nature reserve
- only light fires in designated fireplaces
- dogs must be kept on a lead
- leave live plants, dead wood and rotting plant parts where they are
- do not enter mining galleries or pits, unless with a guided tour

The regulations for the nature reserve are displayed on information boards in the area. The regulations are laid down by the County Administrative Board.

### Taberg Nature Reserve

The silhouette of the rounded mountain of Taberg with its double peaks can be seen from far and wide. The peaks of the mountain rise 343 and 341 metres above sea level. The immediate surroundings of Taberg are legally protected for their importance to the landscape picture. Taberg is also of national interest for nature conservation and the cultural environment.

Taberg became protected in 1985 when the County Administrative Board set aside 64 ha as a nature reserve because of the mountain's rich plant and animal life, its striking characteristics and value to outdoor life. The ground is owned by Statens naturvårdfond (national fund for nature conservation) and the Municipality of Jönköping, and it is managed by the Municipality of Jönköping's technology committee.



**How to get there:** Taberg is situated 13 km south of Jönköping. From the E4 follow the signs for "Taberg". In Taberg there are signs for "Tabergs topp" and "Gruvan".

**Bus** Jönköping / Månsarp, bus stop Taberg centre.

**Train** Jönköping / Värnamo, Taberg station.

Jönköpings länstrafik (Jönköping County public transport):  
+46(0)771 444 3333; [www.jlt.se](http://www.jlt.se)

### Welcome to Taberg!

#### The nature reserve that offers:

- the historic sight of Taberg mine
- precipitous slope in old opencast mines by the southern peak
- deep spruce forest, winding paths and flowing spring water
- high-altitude meadows, birch and juniper hills
- rich flora with unique plants
- lots of paths and hiking trails
- Toppstugan with a cafeteria and views that stretch for miles
- the complete silence of the mine with its colourful display of minerals

## NATURE RESERVE IN THE COUNTY OF JÖNKÖPING



# TABERG



This folder was produced by the Municipality of Jönköping 2003. The picture on the front cover is a pen-and-ink drawing from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, signed Ad v Engeström

## Further information

The Municipality of Jönköping +46(0)36 10 50 00;  
[www.jonkoping.se](http://www.jonkoping.se)

The County Administrative Board of the County of Jönköping  
+46(0)36 39 50 00; [www.lst.f.se](http://www.lst.f.se)

Tabergs gruva (Taberg Mine) +46(0)36 642 23; [www.jonkoping.snf.se](http://www.jonkoping.snf.se)

## Sights and related services

[www.taberg.info](http://www.taberg.info)

Hotel Taberg +46(0)36 36 37 77; [www.hoteltaberg.se](http://www.hoteltaberg.se)

Toppstugan on the mountain +46(0)36 641 11



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OF THE COUNTY OF JÖNKÖPING  
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Tel: +46(0)36-39 50 00



**The Municipality  
of Jönköping**

## Taberg

Marvellous and imposingly towards the sky, Taberg is a rock face in the middle of the village. Ore mining went on for centuries here; stones were picked from the masses of rock that had fallen down and the mountain was hacked and blasted. The ore mining has given Taberg a strange precipitous and rocky profile to the south-east, while it is gently sloping and wooded to the north-west. The picture on the front cover dates from the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and shows "Views of Taberg towards the east – depicting the two existing iron ore quarries on this side..."

## Taberg mining district

Iron trade has been carried on at Taberg from A.D. 900 to modern times. In Åsamon, north of Taberg, there are archaeological discoveries including charcoal pits, slag heaps and smelting furnaces for iron extraction from red earth. Some ten charcoal pits have been C<sup>14</sup> dated to A.D. 965-1310. The extraction of iron from Taberg ore began sporadically during the Middle Ages (15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century). It gathered pace when Taberg became a mining district by royal decrees in 1618 and 1621. Five smeltingworks teams were formed with a duty to mine, bunker and keep the blast furnaces running. In the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, 14 blast furnaces ran concurrently and there were several hammer mills. The mining industry in the area around Taberg and Gevärsfaktoriet in Husqvarna led to many skilled smiths in the area. Gevärsfaktoriet's bayonet smiths in Västbo came up with the idea of drawing the iron into threads. Wire drawing was born in Västbo Hundred, Gnosjö Parish. This became one of many innovative industries in western Småland.

## The mining industry boom

In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the blast furnaces were operating at full speed in the mining district of Taberg and almost 25 % of the inhabitants in the County of Jönköping were directly or indirectly dependent on mining for their living. The work was primarily in charcoal burning and transport, but also at the blast furnaces, hammer mills, foundries, ironware forges, etc. After that, mining waned and in 1888 Taberg's last blast furnace smelt was blown. Mining stopped in the mid-1890s. Mining resumed in connection with the Second World War, and for the next 15 years more ore was mined than during the previous 300 years put together. The interest in mining surfaced again in the 1970s, this time to extract vanadium. The prospect was thwarted by the oil crisis, and there was strong opinion in favour of Taberg's nature conservation values and historical features. In 1986, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation bought the mining rights and with that brought an end to the threat of exploitation.



## A mountain of titanium magnetite olivine

Småland's Taberg was formed in the weakness zone of the bedrock between the eastern and western parts of southern Sweden. About 1 billion years ago this zone was geologically active with recurrent earthquakes. Taberg was formed during one of these quakes when magma forced its way up through the earth's crust. The mountain consists largely of the rock type titanium magnetite olivine. The very large amount of this unusual rock type makes Taberg unique. Titanium magnetite olivine is composed of the mineral olivine and the iron ore magnetite, with streaks of the alloy metals titanium and vanadium. The green mineral olivine weathers easily and gives rise to a specific soil.

## Rare plants and lots of bats

Taberg and the surrounding country are extremely rich in species of vascular plants and mosses. The addition of olivine makes the soil ideal for certain plants such as green spleenwort (*Asplenium viride*), which otherwise belongs to the olivine and serpentine parts of the Scandinavian mountain chain. Alpine plants such as stickseed (*Lappula deflexa*) and clustered lady's mantle (*Alchemilla glomerulans*) also find suitable places to grow on Taberg. Another rarity is the adulterated spleenwort (*Asplenium adulterinum*), which is also a so-called serpentine plant. Adulterated spleenwort has its main spread in the mountain massifs of Central Europe and is found in few places in Sweden. On Taberg, the southern adulterated spleenwort meets the northern green spleenwort.

Taberg provides a home to nine of Sweden's 15 bat species, of which six spend the winter inside the mine. From October to March bats hang deep in sleep as if nailed to the ceilings and walls of the mine galleries. Out of regard for the bats, tours of the mine are limited to the summer. Another rarity is the sand lizard that lives on the precipices of Taberg. It is found in patches in Sweden, with the northern limit for its spread running through Central Sweden.

## Services and sights

It is easy to get to Taberg by train or bus. From Jönköping, you will pass Norrahammar, the location of Taberg's northern German forge. Today there is an industrial museum here. You will find the mine, with its guided tours, at Taberg. Toppstugan, which serves refreshments, lies on the southern peak. Bergstempelstigen (the mountain temple) lies on a plateau surrounded by spruce forest. Bergstempelstigen was an ecumenical place in 1920-1940. A 3-km hiking trail runs along Taberg River from the railway station in Månsarp to Taberg. It offers great natural beauty. Hotel Taberg, which also serves food is located close to the station.