



1\_Elgfossen brisler seg\_Med full vannføring er fossen et praktfullt skue\_Foto-S Norheim\_DSC\_8924.JPG

## ELGÅ WATERFALL

*The Elja is a 17 km long stream. Before the Elja joins the larger river Enningdalselva it cascades down in a 46 meter waterfall - Elgåfossen. The name Elja is recorded from late 14th century. Forestry and farming have provided the traditional livelihood here.*

### A new border

As a result of the great 17th century wars, Sweden in 1658 received several Danish provinces, among them the former Norwegian in Bohuslän. The new frontier meant that old countrymen at times suddenly should be regarded as enemies. In 1743, as an example, the farmer Anders Jensen Gribstrød was shot by a Swedish official as punishment because he had transported oak timber past the border.

### The Second World War

During 1940-1945, however, the situation was quite the opposite. There are illuminating stories telling how intertwined the border population became. In the middle of this critical time a Norwegian girl married her Swedish love on the Elja, just above the waterfall.

### The waterfall and a mill

At the bottom of the waterfall we can see the remains of the homestead Saga. The house is decayed, foundations of the barn are visible but the cow-house is still standing. People living in the neighborhood used to come here in April to watch the roach spawning. The fish gathered by the waterfall and the water just boiled with fish. Those were days of celebration at Saga.

In the water parts of the mill's foundations can be seen. Close to the foundations lie several old millstones. By the upper stream there are remains of older mills. A row of stone pillars climbs the slope at the homestead. These are relics from an iron flume, which ended down at Saga. Old locals can still recall going down the flume as kids.

### The eel-trap

A remarkable construction, made of weak fir logs, is found by the upper waterfall - an eel-trap. Here eel on its way upstream was caught. This is an old traditional method of catch.

Northeast of the waterfall are the remains of an elderly homestead called Dammyr. The farm was inhabited throughout the 19th century. Across the river on the Swedish side is the homestead Berget situated.



When crossing by the bridge above the waterfall to the Swedish side it is possible to follow a road southward to the farm Ällelien. There are several Stone Age sites in this area. There are also remains of burial mounds close by.

*Elgåfossen\_Skilting av husmannsplassen Saga er utført av Idd og Enningdalen historielag\_Foto-S Norheim\_DSC\_5403.JPG*