



DSC_7423.jpg

Welcome to *Skojareberget* («Pikey Hill - the history of a traveler village)

*Welcome to experience
Skojareberget, which in the 19th
century was a small village and a
home to a community of travellers.
From here, they travelled around
both Sweden and Norway, and sold
handicraft and services. In the early
20th century, several houses were*

burnt down by local residents, who did not want travelers near where they lived. Today, only the foundations remain, along with tales about the people who lived here.

The walking trail around Skojareberget is 1.5 km long and runs past five former dwellings.

There have been travelers in Sweden for at least 500 years. The number of people with a traveler background in the country today is unknown. Some say 30,000 others 100,000. Despite this, the culture and history of this people is almost entirely unknown to most of the majority population.

Skojareberget is part of Eco-Museum Borderland (Ekomuseum Gränsland), which includes a number of interesting visitor attractions along the Swedish-Norwegian border. The aim of the project The Scandinavian Traveller Map is to increase awareness about the culture and history of the travelers. Would you like to know more and explore other sites which are important to the travelers? Visit the exhibition Meet the Travelling People! at Bohuslän's Museum and on www.resandekartan.se

A wandering people

You are standing in front of the foundations of the house Myrane, a collage where members of the traveller community lived for around 90 years.

The travellers used to spend a large proportion of their lives on the roads, often as travelling salesmen uttering goods and services. Many made and sold handicraft and tools. Some were artists. Trading in horses was another common occupation. Today, there are travellers in all professions.

The journeys were necessary if the people were to support themselves and survive. Most had a permanent abode as well, even though they spent large parts of the year on the road. The travelling was a way of life, and is still part of the travellers' culture today.

In all ages, travellers have been discriminated against and oppressed by both authorities and local residents. In the mid-1900s, young travellers were sterilised, and many children from traveller families were forcibly placed in children's homes. Today, there is an ambition to make up for the unfair treatment the people suffered, for example by highlighting the history of places like Skojareberget.



DSC_1240.jpg

travellers used to live like this, slightly apart from the rest of the residents and favourably close to both the Swedish and Norwegian markets.

Life on Skojareberget

You are now standing in front of the remains of a partly dug in house, of a type which is fairly common in places where travellers are known to have lived. However, it was not only travellers who lived like this in the 1800s, but other persons without their own land as well.

The houses were built from what was freely available in the natural landscape, such as stones, moss, and peat. The thick layer of soil offered good insulation, and saved on building materials. We believe that houses like these were heated with small wood-burners or brick fireplaces. Not much is known about the rest of the construction, of which nothing remains. Perhaps the top part of the walls was timbered, like at Kvislerseter, which is on the other side of the national border, a short drive from here.

On the way here, you walked across a small ridge where there was once around 20 simple sheds with wooden walls. Today, there is no trace of these buildings, which were used as dwellings.

The people of Skojareberget

The people who lived here on Skojareberget lived both in small crofter's cottages and in brick buildings, which were partly dug into the ground. Some may also have lived in tents for shorter periods of time. Here we have the foundation of a cottage called 'Tryggre'. Further along the path are the remains of two dug-in houses. Both these were probably used as accommodation.

The site was probably inhabited from the 1820s, when a travelling family was given permission to settle here for one year, with the consent of local residents. No-one protested, and with time, this turned into a permanent settlement and a number of simple dwellings were added. One family became several, and by the end of the 19th century, quite a large number of people lived here. At most, there were around 20 houses here.

It was no coincidence that this was where the family was allowed to settle; at the edge of the parish and close to the national border. Many