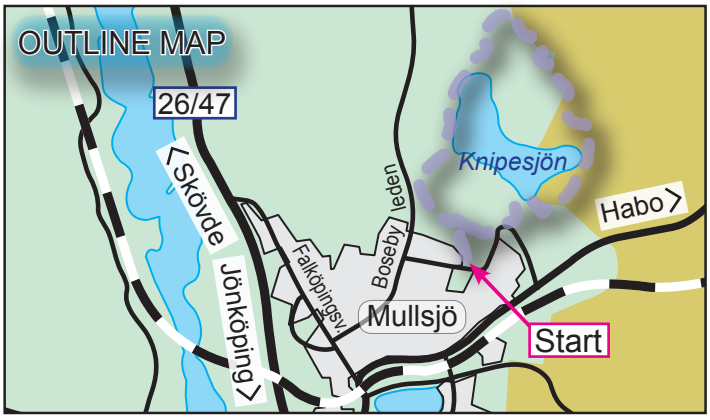
KNIPESJÖLEDEN

9km

UK www.skaraborgsleder.se

27 March, 2026

A warm welcome to a great hike around Lake Knipesjön. The trail takes you through a landscape of dense coniferous forest and influences of cultural heritage in close proximity to the lake. You will even find traces of the lowering of the lake which took place in the 1850s and had a great influence on the surrounding flatter area. The drainage of the lake was also changed and remnants of the old dyke can still be found today. The level of difficulty for this trail is medium and it takes about three hours to circle the lake at a moderate pace.



THE HIKING TRAIL

The ca. 9 km long hiking trail runs in a partially flat, partially hilly region. If you circle the lake anti-clockwise, you will feel the change in altitude significantly less. The Knipesjöleden follows beaten paths, simple tracks, goes through sheer woodland, and has footbridges in the wetter areas. Sturdy shoes are recommended. The trail has violet markings.

Driving instructions: 1) From Falköping/ Skövde follow road 26/47, exit at Mullsjö N and follow Falköpingsvägen. Exit Falköpingsvägen into Bosebyleden and reach the MSOK-hut where you can park your car. 2) From Jönköping follow road 26/47, exit for Mullsjö and continue on Falköpingsvägen after the roundabout, opposite of Ingo/Frendo, northbound. Exit Falköpingsvägen into Bosebyleden and reach the MSOK-hut where you can park your car. 3) From Habo exit in the direction of Havstenshult before you reach Mullsjö and follow the trail until you reach the MSOK-hut.

LANDSCAPE AND NATURE

The region shows many traces of the last ice age. Especially, the different structures of moraine deposits shape the area. On trails and forest paths you can often sense the hard soil and sometimes see erratic boulders in the landscape. These stones were knocked off from the rock foundation by the gigantic glacier, and were either flushed out at the rim of the melting ice cap, or were trapped within icebergs to end up far from their origin.

The lowering of lakes in the country was mostly done in the 1850s to gain land. In the year 1854 Lake Knipesjön was lowered by two meters which had a great influence on the landscape. As a result ca. 70 hectare land was freed. The drainage to the west leading to Lake Vänern and Kattegatt was stopped while the drainage to the east via Knipån leading to Lake Vättern and the Baltic Sea had an increased flow. On the west side of the lake, the trail leads past the old dyke, meaning you are walking on the bottom of the former lake.

The coniferous forest dominates the region with singular or small groups of pine trees. These help create a good soil for mushroom and berry growth.

In the bay near the farm Knipan you can, among other plants, find bur-reeds (sw. flotagräs). The thin grass-like leaves are ca. 2m long and float on the water. Carl von Linné wrote about the bur-reed in his Flora Lapponica: "Cows and horses enjoy these leaves more than those of any other kind of grass" and hence the Swedish proverb: "han lefver som ko i flotagräs" (he lives like a cow in the bur-reeds), meaning he lives a great life in abundance.

HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE

Several of the farms around Lake Knipesjön are known to date back to the 16th century, some are probably even older. Boseby, Sjöbo and Liabäck, for example, were once owned by Erik Abrahamsson Leijonhufvud, governor of Västergötland in the year 1512 and married to Ebba Eriksdotter Vasa. He was one of the nobles who were invited to the negotiations with the Danes in Stockholm 1520. Instead of negotiations, however, the invited nobleman became party to what was later known as the Stockholm Bloodbath. Even Knipan is known since the 16th century and Hovmanstorp was mentioned in the 17th century.

The trail passes several old cottages that once served as soldiers holdings. Kärret dates back to the late 17th century and Lövhagen to the early 19th century.

The ground around Lake Knipesjön is relatively stony and not suitable for agricultural purposes. Therefore, forestry and the keeping of livestock play an important role in farming. Furthermore, remains of water-mills can be found, even if these were uneconomic since the water flow in the streams was only sufficient enough to supply them in spring and autumn.

Cranes at Lake Knipesjön (GL)

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Kulturled Gyljeryd, 6km
- Blå Spåret (The Blue Track), 6km
- Eriksgatuleden, 7km (14km return)
- Ryforsleden, 7km
- Stråkenleden, 10km (easy to combine with Ryforsleden)
- Röda Spåret (The Red Track), 9km
- Mullsjö Runt, 22km
- Södra Vätterleden, Hotel Mullsjö-Bottnaryd, 28km
- Västra Vätterleden, Fagerhult-Hotel Mullsjö, 31km

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- **Mullsjö City Hall**, tel. 0392-140 00
- **Directory inquiries**, tel. 118 118
- **Emergency**, tel. 112
- **Medical Aid**, tel. 010-242 47 00

DIRECTIONS

1. The Mullsjö Ski and Orienteering club (MSOK) was founded in 1954, after it had been a part of Mullsjö IF. The club has produced several Swedish champions. The hut was built in 1989 and stands at about 300m above sea-level. The club house is the starting point of several cross-country tracks. Snow-cannons guarantee good skiing conditions in the wintertime - provided it has been below freezing for several days in a row. Throughout the season, late August to early June, the hut is open in the evening hours, Tuesday and Thursday with a Swedish "fika" (coffe). Feel welcome to join in.

2. Lake Knipesjön probably got its name through the bird species "knipa" (goldeneye) which is common here. The lake surface was lowered by two metres in 1854 freeing up 70 hectares of land. On the other hand, the maximum depth of the lake was set at four metres and the shallower parts of the lake tend to regrow. The inflow of the lake is relatively small and uneven which often leads to the surrounding streams drying up in the summer.

The lakes in the Mullsjö-region tend to have a sandy bottom. Lake Knipesjön, however, is nutrient-deficient and has a muddy bottom which is a typical environment of the **bur-reed** (Sparganium gramineum) that grows at the eastern side of the lake near the farm Knipan. Bur-reed belongs to the bulrush family. The ca. two meter long and thin, grass-like leaves swim on the surface of the lake, hence the Swedish name "flotagräs", similar to the English "floating gras". Carl von Linné himself named this plant.

3. Erratic boulders. At the crossroad lie big boulders stemming from the last ice age. 13 000 years ago the border of the glacier was located in the Mullsjö-region. When meltwater formed a gigantic inland sea, the Baltic Ice Lake, stones embedded in enormous ice bergs, could be moved great distances.

4. Knipan probably got its name thanks to the lake. The farm was first mentioned in the Visingsborgs land register of 1572 and became a royal, state-owned farmstead. Today's manor house was built in the beginning of the 19th century and was later renovated. The barn building was erected in 1905. The farm is idyllically situated near Lake Knipesjön.

West of Knipan, the trail follows a gravel road towards Hovmanstorp. The stone wall on the eastern side indicates the former path of the road.

5. With the lowering of the lake in 1854 the **Knipån river** was made deeper and stones were set to reinforce the banks. Afterwards, the drainage of the lake followed the Knipån Creek through Furusjön into Lake Vättern. From there on, the water flows via Motala Stream to Bråviken (Norrköping) at the Baltic Sea. The additional water now following Knipån Creek was greatly appreciated to run the water-mill further downstream at Julared farm.

6. Lövhagen was built as soldiers holdings in the early 19th century. The cottage was subject to Julared´s file and was called Löfstugan (Hut of leaves). Once there was a shop here that was run by Bergbom. In 1904 he moved the store to Pustakulle-Anneberg near Julared and the residential building was moved to Marbäcken farm.

7. Marbäcken Creek is a rather capricious feeder stream. The water-mill, which existed on Hovmanstorp, only ran in spring and autumn when there was enough water. Marbäcken´s water stems, among other sources, from Kattefjällsmossen, a bog that lies a tad further north.

8. Kärret ("the swamp") most probably got its name from the surrounding marshy ground before the lowering of the lake surface in 1854. The soldiers holding is relatively old and was subject to the troops of the farms Rävåsen, St.Bråared and Hovmanstorp. Between the years of 1676 and 1894, the holding was home to 20 soldiers and their families. Life in a holding was hard and even more so in times of crises with plague and war. Following, you can hear about the fate of some of the occupants: The first soldier to live at Kärret was Lars Eskilsson. After several years, he was retired when he became too old and sickly. Jens Jonsson died on the battlefield under Karl XII in the war of 1703. In the great Nordic war (1700-1721) Denmark, Poland-Saxony and Russia allied against Sweden. The sources are unclear about where precisely he died, but in 1709 four confrontations between the forces all took place on Polish soil. Petter Andersson drowned in Lake Knipesjön in 1802. The soldier Anders Johansson Tjäder was captured by Napoleon´s troops in 1807 in Pomerania. About Magnus Jacobsson Tun it is written in the "Nykyrkeboken" (a heritage book) that he died in 1808 during the Norwegian campaign. The holding is privately owned nowadays, so we kindly ask you to be respectful and follow the path around the house.

9. The former brink. The trail follows the brink for a while which in former times marked the water edge of Lake Knipesjön. You are literally walking on the bottom of a lake, so to speak. The vegetation shows some variety when you walk towards the lake.

10. There was a lake drainage here until the lowering of the lake surface in 1854, which ran westbound through a high-moor and followed the flowing waters of Kvarnöbäcken, Mullsjöbäcken and Tidan to Lake Vänern and finally ran through Göta Älv River to Gothenburg at the Kattegatt.

The high-moor lies a little westward from the trail and can fleetingly be seen through the vegetation. Due to the lowering of the lake, the bog is nowadays much drier than it used to be. The fact that the water dyke near Kvarnön farm dried out, might not play such an important role after all, since the water-mill at Kvarnön was abandoned in 1627. On the other hand, the saw-mill at Bredared further downstream was affected by the decreasing water flow.

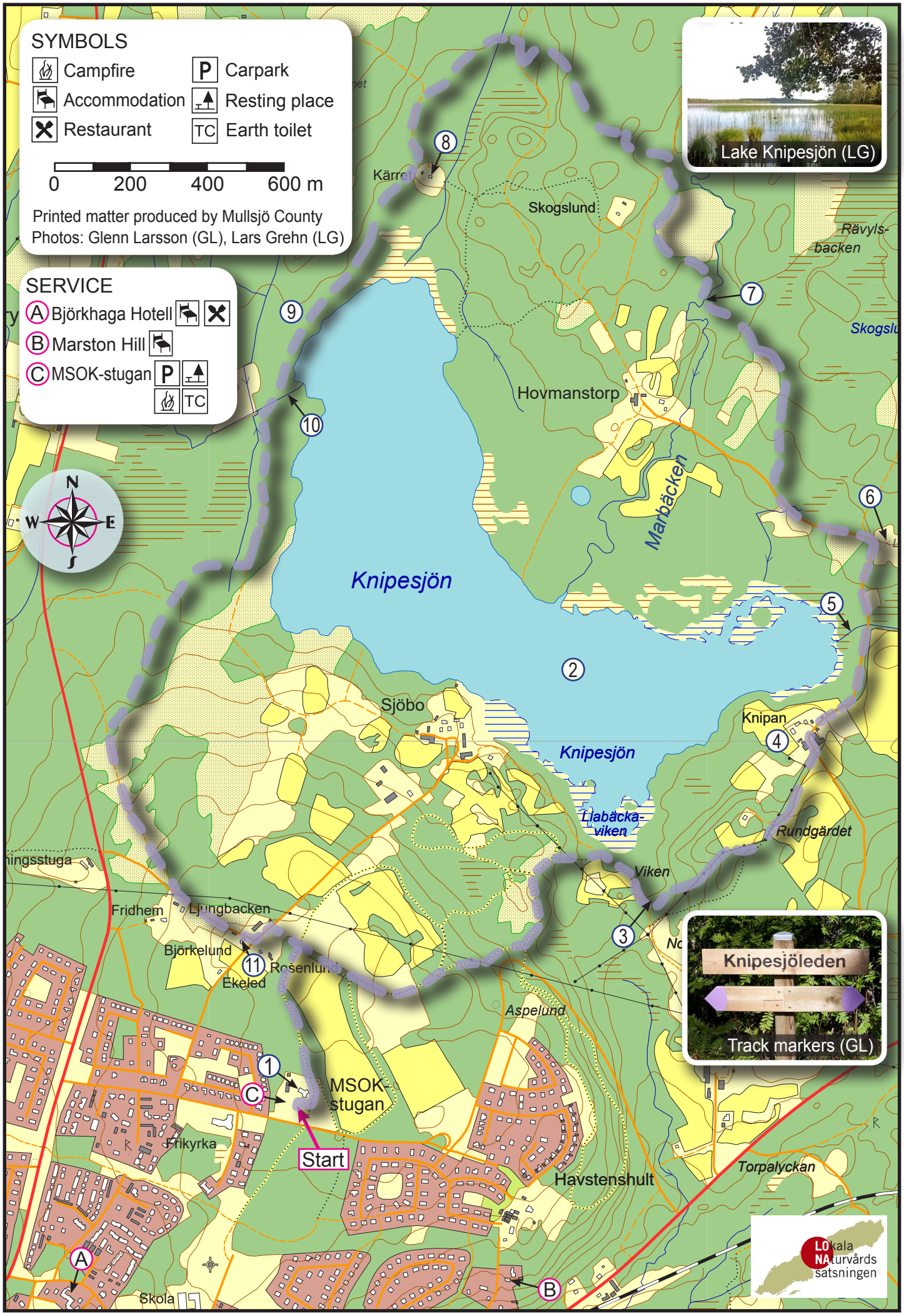
11. Björkelund is a small cottage from the beginning of the 19th century which once belonged to Havstenshult. In 1901 its title changed from cottage to house.

SERVICE

A. Björkhaga Hotell & konferens
(Bosebygdsvägen 13, tel. 0392-120 50, Restaurant, Lodge)

B. Marston Hill (Havstenshultsliden 12, www.marstonhill.com, tel. 070-336 60 37, apartment with self-catering)

C. MSOK-Hut (parking near the driveway, resting place with tables and barbecue on the east side of the house and toilet on the northern side)


SYMBOLS
Campfire
Carpark
Accommodation
Resting place
Restaurant
Earth toilet
TC
0
200
400
600 m
Printed matter produced by Mullsjö County
Photos: Glenn Larsson (GL), Lars Grehn (LG)
SERVICE
A Björkhaga Hotell
B Marston Hill
C MSOK-stugan
TC
Lake Knipesjön (LG)
Knipesjöleden
Track markers (GL)
Knipesjön
Knipesjön
Kärret
Skogslund
Rävyls-backen
Hovmanstorp
Marbäcken
Sjöbo
Knipan
Liabacka-viken
Rundgärdet
Viken
Fridhem
Ljungbacken
Björkelund
Rosenlund
Ekeled
Aspelund
MSOK-stugan
Start
Frikyrka
Havstenshult
Torpalyckan
Skola
N
W
E
S
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
A
B
C
LOkala NAturvårds satsningen