

## RITAMÄKI FINNETORP IN SVEDEN – 4. JUNE 2023

On this day we suddenly decided to drive to Ritamäki Finntorp in Sweden. We looked at Google maps and found out that there is a road almost all the way to the [torp](#) (a small farm or croft).



This is in a small car park with information about the Finntorp. We thought it was too far to walk from here as there is a road all the way to the croft. We therefore drove on.



This is another Finntorp along the road. It is called Lomstorp and is located at the northern end of the lake which is called Lomsen. [Ut.no](#)

When we got as far as the side road that goes up to Ritamäki, there was a big sign saying that it was forbidden to drive on this road. We didn't want to defy the ban, so we drove on.

We include some pictures from [Wikipedia](#). [Facebook](#)

The croft was built in the 1840s and was used until 1964. It is one of Sweden's best-preserved Finnish crofts and the last croft in Sweden that was inhabited and used in the traditional way. The torp is only a few kilometers from the Norwegian border. The buildings are today owned by [Lekvattnets hembygdsförening](#).



Overview image.



The [smokehouse](#) (a house without a chimney but with an opening in the roof to let smoke out and light in).



An earth cellar.



Interior of the smokehouse.





We drove on on a bad forest road until we got to [Mitandersfors](#). This picture is of a part of the manor which is currently used for conferences in connection with outdoor life and nature experiences.



Mitandersfors is located between the northern end of [Bogstjärnet](#) and the southern end of [Varaldsjöen](#).



Bogstjärnet. It is dammed in connection with the industry here and at Sikåa.



Strawberry flowers.



At the end of Bogstjärnet there is a that dam where we drove across. Here stands this stone. John Mitander was born in Filipstad in 1799 and married Beda Johanna Schneider. She died two years before he moved to Bogen with his two children. He stayed only two years in the manor. He also owned the ironworks in [Fredros](#) and also started a nail factory in 1858 at the outlet of the Sikåa in Norway. [Austmarkahistorielag](#)



This is the main house, which was built approx. 1840. Mitandersfors was founded in 1841 when John Mitander started an ironworks here with a hammer forge, mill and saw. The ironworks produced iron bars and nails for export to Norway. The mill was closed in 1874. Mitandersfors manor was intended to be the residence of [Prince Carl Philip](#), since he is Duke of Värmland. The royal couple visited Mitandersfors manor in 1981. In November of the same year, word came that the royal couple were not interested in the manor.





This is the southern end of Varaldsjøen.



We drove in the direction of Austmarka until we got here. Then I found out that I wanted to see the remains of the nail works at Sikåa.



Here we have arrived at the Varald dam.



On the upper side is Varaldsjøen.



View downwards Sikåa.



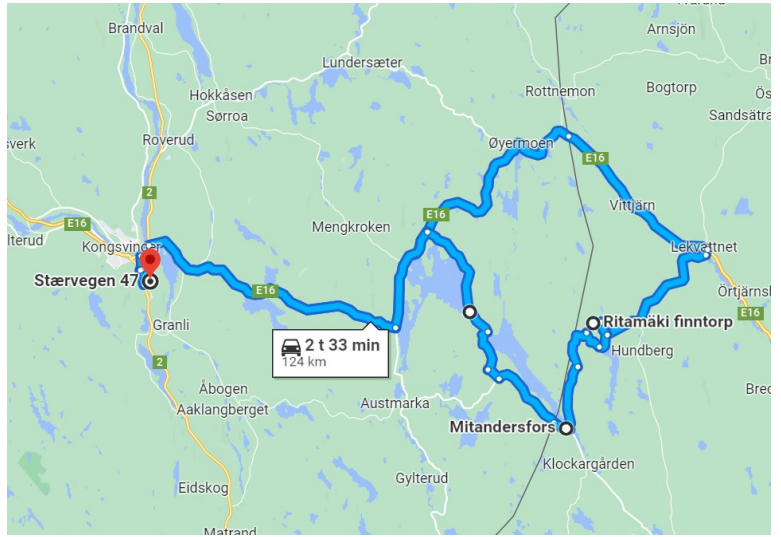
The Sikåa flows into [Møkeren](#).

Where the Sikåa flows into Møkeren there was an industrial community, [Bedafors](#), of which we can still see remains. Dam constructions in the river started in the 1690s and the first head saws were ready in 1703. The planks were floated and rowed to Masterud. The nail factory was built in 1849. It was John Mitander who built it and he called the place Bedafors after his wife, whose name was Beda. A worker's residence was set up in 1854. At that time, more people lived there than in Kongsvinger town. School was also held here for a maximum of 32 children. Most of this has been demolished and you can only see the remains of the foundation walls.





What is most visible here is the foundation wall of the sawmill.



Our driving route was like this on this day.