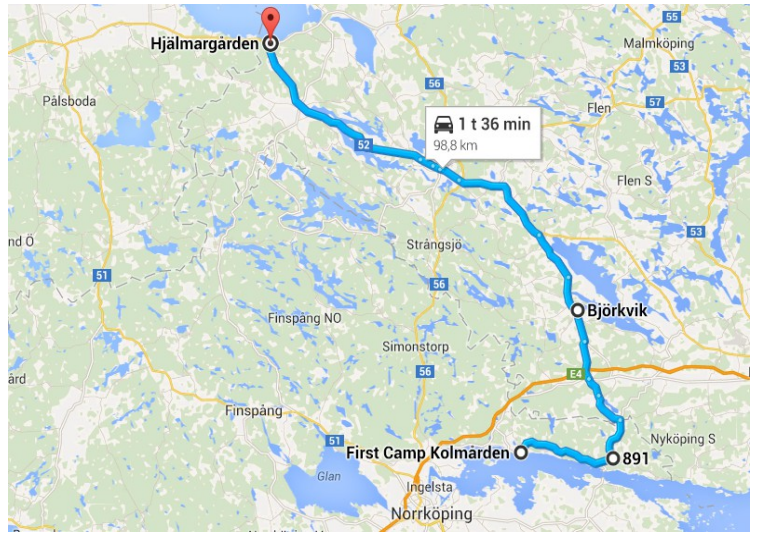
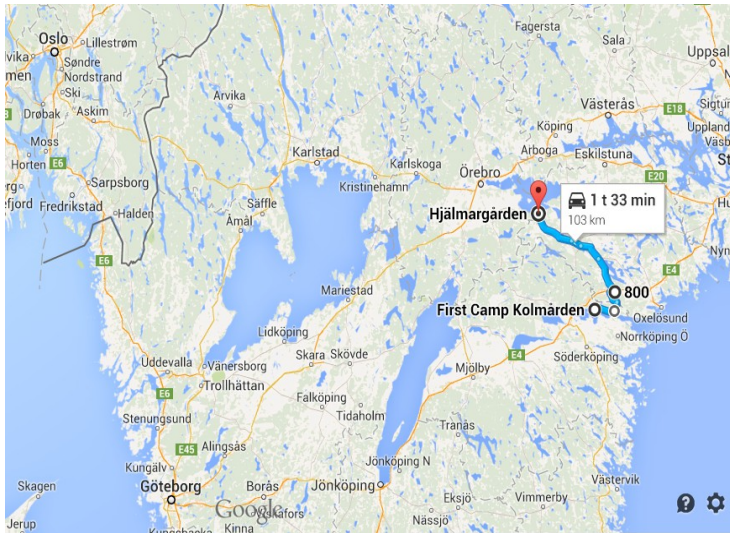


TROLLHÄTTE CANAL AND GÖTA CANAL IN SWEDEN 2. - 10. JULY 2014



The next day, day 8, the 9th of July, we drove this route on the way home after completing the canal trip. There were still a couple of stops, one in Forssjö and one in Vingåker before we stopped for the day at Hjälmargården Camping.



At the first stop in Forssjö we had a look at Vrå people settlements. These people lived 6,000 years ago. The houses are a reconstruction made by the parents of students in Forssjö school. The first cottage was completed in 1984.

The first discoveries made in the area was in 1934.

[The Vrå culture](#) is considered to be a part of [The funnelbeaker culture](#). It is a transition between a hunter based and a culture-based culture.



There is also formed an association called [Föreningen Vråfolket](#). They also have a [facebook page](#). They organize arrangements and they do guided tours of the site.



Next stop was in [Vingaker](#), [Sävstaholms castle](#).
Pages on [Vingaker.se](#) (Swedish)



Statue showing folk dancing.



There is a large [park](#) around the castle in English style. Behind the castle there is a [spice garden](#).

The castle is also known for the [apple tree](#). It was old in 1851 and it was protected by law in 1921.
It is the mother tree to the Säfstaholm apple trees. The mother tree still bears fruit.



At the castle.



Here we are at [Hjälmgården](#) Camping by [Hjälaren](#).



Idyllic place.

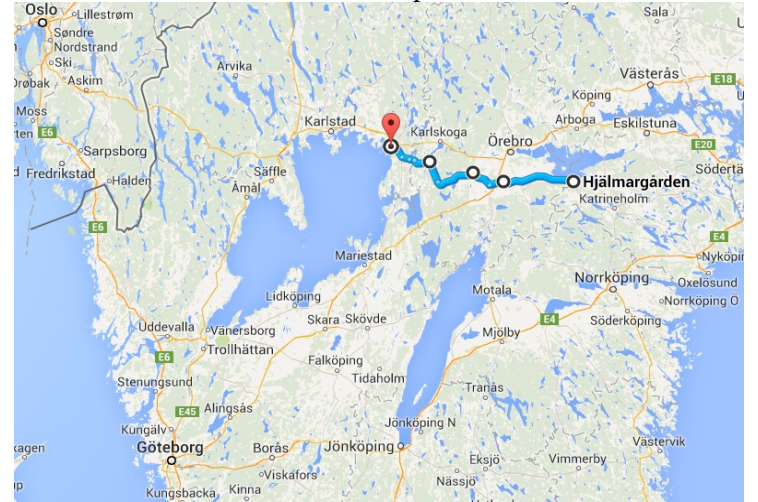




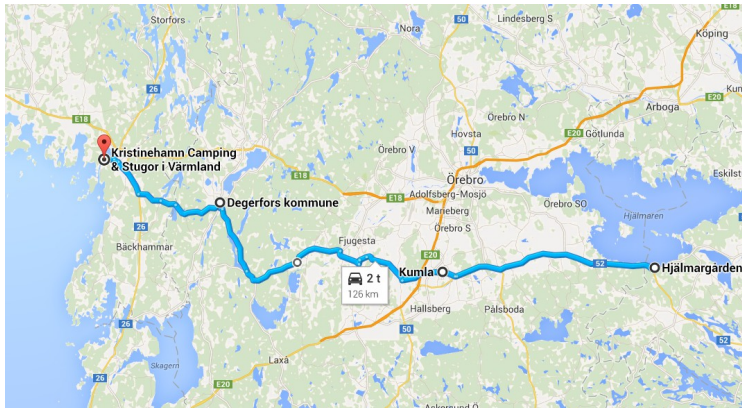
Here are we parked.



The reception area.



The travel route day 8, the 9th of July.



This day we traveled via [Kumla](#) og [Degerfors](#) to Kristinehamn Camping.

We made a stop in Riseberga to have a look of the ruins of [Riseberga abbey](#).

Earl Birger Brosa gave the farm Riseberga to some nuns in the late 1100s, and founded a monastery there. The nuns ruled for 350 years, but in 1527 the Reformation came, and the abbey's estates were forfeited under the crown. Eventually, they were given away as a reward to people who had made the monarchy a favor.

In 1546 the monastery was struck by lightning and it burned down.



This wall is mostly what is left.



The wall seen from various angles.



The most of the foundations are still there.



Flowers at the foundations.



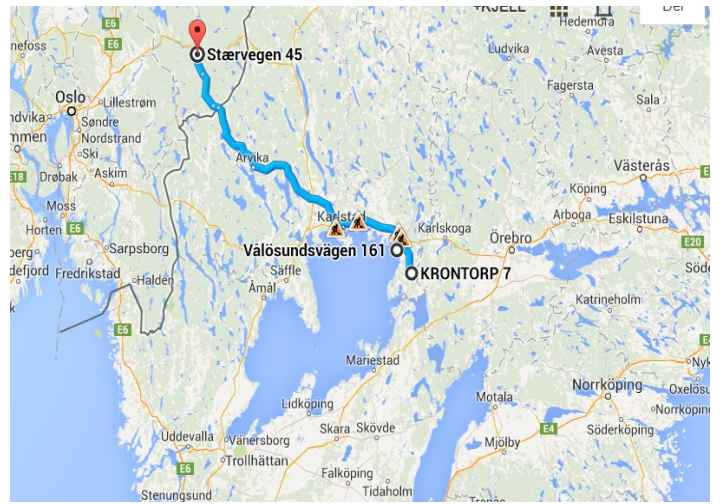
Time to travel on.



Evening picture from the camping site.



We stayed at [Kristinehamn Herrgårdscamping](#).



Day 9, Thursday, July the 10th, we traveled first to Bäckhammar to visit a distant relative of Anne Berit, Lars Wahlmark. Both he and Anne Berit are decedents of the Gjervert family, a blacksmith's family that immigrated to Sweden in the 1600s.

After visiting there, lunch, coffee and ice, it was to get back home to Kongsvinger.



Lars Wahlmark and his mother together with Anne Berit.



Coffee and cakes in the kitchen.



Outside the house.



Ready to move on.



At first a picture down the stream beside the house.



The stream is coming down here, and in earlier times here have been a smithy. We are going up to the bridge, which we see at the top.



Here we are arriving at the bridge at the dam.



Here we are standing at the bridge and can look down on the concrete remnants of the smithy.



Looking down on the house.



The pond above the bridge.



The dam provided water power for the forge hammer. Close to Bäckhammar there are graves from the early Iron Age, then it is obvious that people have lived here a long time.

During the 1680s the Krontorp estate built a forge hammer at Visman brook, which flows through the place. It comes from the sea Vismen and flows into Lake Vänern.

Thus the place got the name (hammer by the stream – Bäckhammar). In 1871, the ironwork were rebuilt for the production of kraft pulp. Now also produces kraft paper. The paper mill is now called [Nordic Paper Bäckhammar](#) and is divided from the Krontorp farm a long time ago. [Homepage.](#)

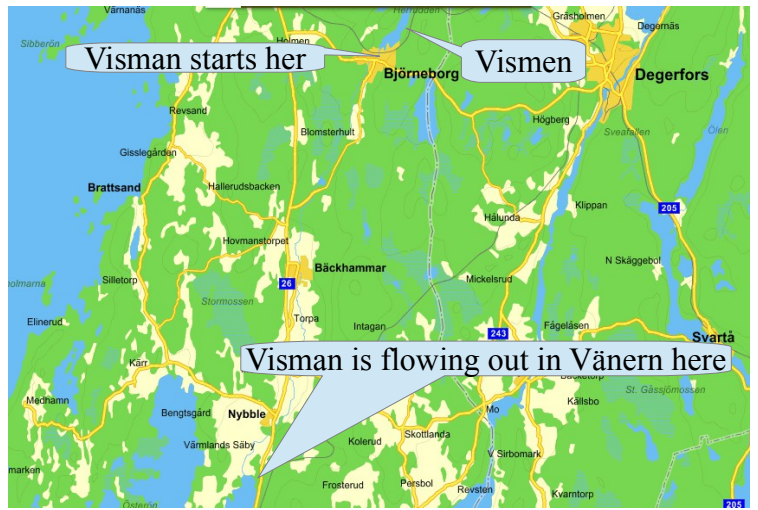
Krontorp estate operates with agriculture and forestry.



[Krontorps gård.](#)



On our way to have lunch.



Here we are at Vålösundet.



The view from the restaurant south to Vänern.



The view from the restaurant north to the entrance to Kristinehamn harbor.



Old house.



Coffee and ice at a cafe nearby.



Mmmmm!!



Lars' mother is 92 years old. One could not believe it.



Right besides the cafe is a bathing place.



Here is also the [Picasso sculpture](#). It is Picasso's first monument sculpture. It is 15 meters high and was given to Kristinehamn in 1964.



Picture of the cafe.

This was the end of this trip, and then it was back to Kongsvinger.