



Part of PILGRIMSLEDEN, stretch through Arvika municipality, 56 km



Terrain: mostly easy, one major elevation
Markings: post with the S:t Olof's Cross
Updated: 2023-07-11

Nature: varied
Recommended shoes: for hard surface

Summary

The pilgrim trail, Pilgrimsleden Västra Värmland, starts in the Lurö archipelago of Lake Vänern and continues across Värmlandsnäs through Säffle, Arvika and Eda municipalities to the Norwegian border. On the Norwegian side it continues to Trondheim, known as Nidaros during the Middle Ages.

The continuous stretch through Arvika picks up in Stömne (south), by the Säffle border and goes to Krokebol (north west), by the Eda border. The marking is common to other pilgrim trails in Sweden and Norway, the S:t Olof's Cross attached to wooden posts. However, the posts indicate only where you switch roads or directions, so do not expect to see from one post to the other, as for ordinary orange marked hiking trails. Bringing a map, gives you the chance to plan ahead.

Most of the trail goes through easy terrain on wide paths or carriage roads, but prepare for some stretches along roads with car traffic – a necessity to make the trail continuous throughout the municipality. You pass through various kinds of terrain, meadows, farm fields, forest roads or paths, small villages, gravel roads, asphalt roads and past historic landmarks.

A PDF map is available for download. An elevation profile is presented at the end of this description, but please note that the profile shows the direction north to south, contrary to the text.

There is normally mobile phone coverage along most of the trail.

Suggested starting point

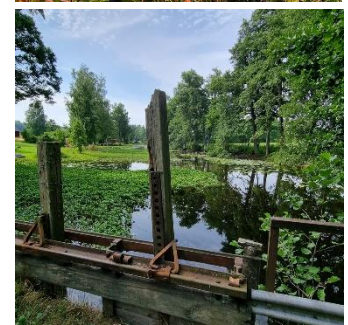
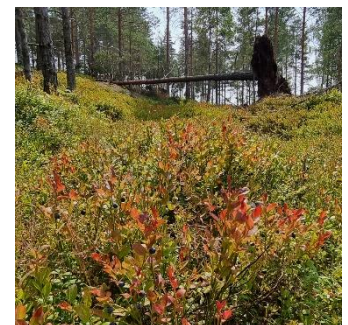
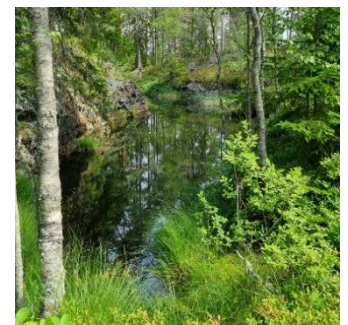
Border crossing towards Säffle municipality, (WGS84) lat 59,406/long 12,782
This is where you enter Arvika, if you walk in from the south. The crossing point is on a small gravel road, along Torrgårdshöjden. The closest public and spacious parking space is about 2 km north of the border at Stömne Nature Reserve. This is also accessible by bus 103 Arvika-Stömne. For time tables, see [Värmlandstrafik \(varmlandstrafik.se\)](http://varmlandstrafik.se).

If you are headed south, the crossing point from Eda municipality is at Krokebol, (WGS84) lat 59,699/long 12,326. The bus connection 104 Arvika-Koppom-Årjäng passes by Krokebol. For time tables, see link above. You can also choose to start at any of the stretches described below.

Description from the south to the north

Stömne-Sölje, 11,3 km (bus connections 103 or 108 from Arvika)

At the border crossing Säffle/Arvika the pilgrim trail provides a fabulous view over the lake Glafsforden from Torrgårdshöjden. The forest road passes by a trinity well just south of Stömne Nature Reserve. Through Stömne the trail





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mostly follows small country roads. A timber road past the tarn Hammartjärnen, softly takes you uphill to the height Delafjället. A lush carriage road takes over and passes by the tarn Igeltjärnen. Next to the trail there are remains of mining (WGS84 lat 59,465/long 12,709) and a waterfilled open pit.

Across the plateau Majsaklätten, peaking at 188 meters above sea level (MASL), you are at the highest point of the trail through Arvika. This is also where you find the most profound wilderness feeling of this trail. The surface goes from needle covered path to gravel road, taking you down hill to Sölje.

Sölje-Hillringsberg, 10,9 km (bus connection 108 from Arvika)

After the descent from Majsaklätten to Sölje at 70 MASL you see the lake Stora Lesjön in the west, Sölje Camp ground and a swimming area. Nearby the trail is Sölje Local Heritage Center and remains of the glassworks. After 500 meter on an asphalt road, a gravel road leads to Näs and Västra rud through large fields and meadows. By a short detour off the trail and marked with blue plates, you can see burial mounds from the Bronze Age and the Iron Age, ranked of National Interest.

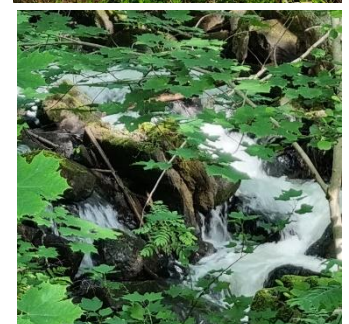
At the bay north of the burials mounds, there is a beautiful resting area with a wind shelter, 100 m off the trail. This used to be a wharf, when boat traffic was still running. The gravel road continues to the car traffic asphalt road, and after a short walk the trail goes along a forest road, before a new stretch on asphalt takes you to the historic church ground Gladisvall, by the river Glasälven close to Hillringsberg. There is an altar, where ceremonies are still held.

Hillringsberg-Glava, 7 km (bus connection 108 from Arvika)

The trail again stretches along the Glafs fjorden on a small gravel road. The passage by Bergsviken offers a public swimming area, but to access it you need to go off the trail a few hundred meters to the opposite side of the bay. A beautiful walk through meadows and a maple alley takes you to the road into Glava. This is the old railway embankment used by Glava Glasbruk. The trail leads through the village, to the Glava church. It was completed in 1736 and replaced the medieval church of Gladisvall.

Glava-Älgå, 15 km (bus connection 108 from Arvika)

After the church you follow an asphalt road to Semnebyn. By the Local Heritage Center it takes off onto a tractor road south west of the asphalt road only to join it again after 1 km, at Spässerud. After 1 km the trail takes off to the north west on a gravel road towards the beautiful lake Älgsjön. The western part of the lake is included in the Glaskogen Nature Reserve. Heading north you descend to Älgå, along some farms and the river Älgån with a pretty water fall beneath maples. Just before reaching the Älgå church there is an old smithy where nails were produced.





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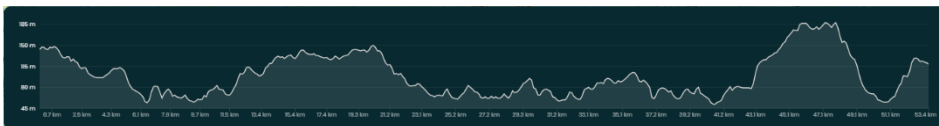
Älgå-Krokebol, 11,9 km (bus connection 108 and 104 from Arvika)

From the Älgå church the trail mostly follows the asphalt road with a few stretches on smaller roads where possible. After Sandsbråten it is about 3 km to Sulvik, where you find an ICA grocery store. Going straight through the intersection, crossing road 172, the trail continues through the village. A gravel road via Rådane, brings you to Torgeir's well, just by the road to your north. This is where Torgeir is said to have baptised the first locals to the Christian faith, in the 12th century. About 2 km later you cross road 172 again (asphalt), to follow a gravel road. Getting closer to Krokebol, you see the lake Ränken and the road passes into a forest road taking you to the border crossing of Eda municipality.

Elevation profiles for Pilgrimsleden, through Arvika

For an interactive map showing altitudes of different positions along the trail, look up the trail and mark it at naturkartan.se. Click on the circled symbol, positioned to the right of the web site. Move the cursor across desired area to get the altitude.

Elevation profile from Krokebol to Stömne (north to south, opposite of the trail description due to technical reasons), 56 km:



For more information

Download information material and maps of the Pilgrimsleden from Lurö to the Norwegian border:

www.svenskakyrkan.se/arvika

Pilgrim life and trails in Sweden:

www.pilgrimisverige.se

[Historic sites](#) along the trail in western Värmland

[The Bronze and Iron Age site at Västra Rud, Sölje, Arvika.](#)

Photos: 1. View south over the lake GlafsJordanen from Torrgårdshöjden, at the border crossing between Säffle and Arvika, 2. Remains of mining area at Majsaklätten, 3. Blue berry bushes on the descent towards Sölje, 4. Dam at Sölje, 5. Monument at Gladisvall, 6. View over GlafsJordanen from forest road north of Hillringsberg, 7. Bridge and path at Bergsviken, the old railway embankment, 8. The Glava church, 9. View over the lake Älgsjön, 10. Water fall of the river Älgån, 11. Historic nail smithy in Älgå, 12. The Älgå church, 13. Alley along the road at the Älgå church, 14. Torgeir's well in Rådane, 15. The carriage way towards Krokebol

