

9. Grebban Mill

Here, the Hjoån stream forms a natural waterfall that has powered sawmills and mills for centuries. Industrial activity existed here as early as the 17th century. The mill built in 1902 later became a hydroelectric power station. Today, the restored building is used for culture and events, allowing history to live on in a new form.



Discover more about
the Nature Trail

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Step into Hjo's jungle
**HJOÅN VALLEY NATURE
RESERVE**



Marked trail
Follow the wooden signs marked "Nature Trail"

Toilets
At the start point, Kulturkvarteret

Terrain
Some hills, a few steps

Accessibility
Not suitable for pushchairs, walking frames or wheelchairs

Distance
4 km, from the mouth of the Hjoån river to Lake Mullsjön

Duration
Approx 1 h

Difficulty
Easy

Hjoån Valley nature reserve

Follow the Hjoån stream through what many locals call "Hjo's jungle" – a green valley in the heart of town. The nature trail takes you from the harbour on Lake Vättern towards Lake Mullsjön, passing flowing water, lush woodland and historic sites. A journey where nature, culture and traces of the past meet – just minutes from the town centre.

1. Start – the mouth of the Hjoån stream

Your walk begins where the Hjoån stream meets Lake Vättern. Just a stone's throw away, by the harbour car park at Strömparterren, you will find the remains of Duke Johan's jetty, a historic harbour structure dating from the 17th century. Where you are standing now grows one of Sweden's largest alders – an impressive tree that has watched over this place for generations. Follow the nature trail upstream and let the walk lead you from town to a lush green valley. Look for the wooden signs marked "Naturstigen".

2. The pavilion at the Setterbom estate

Nestled among the greenery is the Setterbom estate, created in the 19th century by Carl W. Settergren. Traces of a grand garden remain, including a pavilion and pond. Later, the spa physician Dr Bagstedt lived here. The site reflects Hjo's era as a spa town, when nature, rest and wellbeing were at the heart of life.

3. Ånabacken – butterbur and monks

Here, giant butterbur grows in abundance, with metre-wide leaves that give the area an almost tropical feel. In the past, the plant was used in traditional medicine and was believed to cure the plague. The dense greenery and historical stories create a special atmosphere where nature and ancient knowledge meet.

4. Maden meadow

Maden is a flowering meadow in the heart of the valley, created to support biodiversity. Traditional meadow plants such as wild strawberries and thyme thrive here, attracting butterflies and bees. Managed using traditional methods, the meadow forms part of Hjo's work to create a richer and more vibrant landscape.

5. Hjo Brewery and Källängen

This was once the site of Hjo Brewery (1875–1951), an important local employer that used the area's pure spring water. The brewery closed and the buildings were demolished in the 1970s as the Källängen residential area was developed. Today, the brewing tradition lives on elsewhere in Hjo. Hjo Brewery on Nolängsgatan is run by the fourth generation of the Blixt family and traces its roots back to a brewery founded in 1926.

6. Hammarn Mill

At Hammarn Mill, the power of water has been harnessed for centuries. A mill and copper hammer works stood here as early as the 16th century. Later, a large dam and

Hjo's first electricity plant were built. Today, traces remain in the landscape – a place where nature and industrial heritage meet along the stream.

7. The Knife Grinder's Workshop

In the 17th century, a grinding workshop stood here where knives and tools were sharpened using water power. The site tells the story of the craftsmanship that once shaped Hjo. Remains of structures can still be seen in the stream and along its banks – traces of work, water and technology from another age.

8. Strömsholm Woollen Mill

This was once the site of a busy woollen mill where wool was spun and woven into cloth. Part of the building stood above the stream and was powered by water. During the 20th century, electricity was also generated here. After a fire in 1922, the mill disappeared, but the site still carries memories of Hjo's industrial past.