A place near nature

Vallsnäs camping is located on the shores of Lake Unnen and offers varied recreational and leisure activities, for example canoeing, tours with rowing boats and fishing. Autumn and spring are the best seasons for fishing. There are also good opportunities for a swim in Lake Unnen. There are several small beaches at different locations along the lake shores.

A good tip is to rent a cottage at Vallsnäs. Make use of your free time for sightseeing and explore the lake and its surroundings.

Hire a canoe for a visit to Kungsholmen. Swim in Lake Unnen’s clean water. Enjoy a tasty meal at Tiraholm some 7 kilometres away or at the Alebo Inn which is just nearby in Unnaryd! Make an outing to the ancient graveyard Bedja Rör. Bedja Rör and several other interesting places are well within cycling distance so bring your bikes!

More reading!

About Vallsnäs Camping: www.vallsnascamping.se

How to get there?

Drive from Unnaryd towards Bredaryd and Reftele. Follow signs towards Vallsnäs Camping. You may also reach Vallsnäs by boat on Lake Unnen.

GPS (RT 90 2.5 gon V)

Vallsnäs: 1361800 E, 6314800 N
Vallsnäs udde: 1361667 E, 6314684 N
Kungsholmen: 1362223 E, 6315322 N
Kvinnaholme: 1361900 E, 6313994 N

The wind whispers in the trees, there is fairytale and mysticism over the King’s Isle. Our ancestors’ deeds are forgotten, their names are not inscribed in the historical records. Only a few stones remain. These are our reminders of past times. Mosses have covered the ground and the paths, ground where once the local people of Finnveden struggled to exist. The King’s Isle is now peaceful and tranquil, well protected from strong winds by its old and magnificent pine trees.

A scenic and mysterious place

Valnäs is a beautiful peninsula at Lake Unnen. The area offers rich opportunities for memorable moments close to nature; a get-away from hectic daily life. A visit to Valnäs brings you near to both forest and water. The number of permanent residents in this small settlement is again increasing and Valnäs has become a popular place to visit with a camping ground as well as a place for a swim in the lake.

The buildings of Valnäs are now located on the peninsula but that has not always been the case. There is a small island called Kungsholmen (“The King’s Isle”) nearby. Fairytales and stories about this islet have been passed on from generation to generation. People have visited it with deep respect and a degree of curiosity, wondering what the sparse remnants of buildings really indicate. Generations have tried to reveal the secrets of the islands.

The remains of a rectangular building are clearly visible on Kungsholmen. It has been argued and speculated that these are remnants of a temple for the old A fire

Remnants of his fortress dating back to the 5th to 9th century. These kings lived a relatively primitive life and were often in a state of war with kings of neighbouring regions. For protection it was common that they lived on small islets. The last king on Kungsholmen was, according to tradition, a wild and cruel ruler. The local people feared him and hatred was widespread. He lived the “high life” on his fortress and continued building it even higher. But, according to legend, his adventurous life came to an abrupt end. One evening, as he sat looking out from the fortress, he saw a large group of warriors approaching. He gathered his men immediately and a fierce fight followed. In the end, the fortress was captured and demolished.

A medieval farm designed for defence. Beyond legend certain facts have been verified scientifically. The earth and stone ridges on Kungsholmen are remnants of the old Valnäs settlement. There is written evidence that there were buildings and habitation here in the 15th century. In documents dated to 1429 Valnäs was recorded as “Valnaes”. However, it is likely that there was a farm here with defences already in medieval times. From a defence perspective, the location on an islet was a wise choice. Subsequently the farm was inhabited by a series of men with great influence in Finnveden.

Remnants of a manor-house

In 1917 Mr. Bror Kugelberg started an archaeological excavation on Kungsholmen. He concluded that the ridges were remnants of a building that Jöns Larsson Bolja constructed as a manor-house in the 1530s. By then Jöns Larsson Bolja was the District Judge of Västbo Jurisdictional District. He was killed in the Dacke revolt in 1543 and the manor-house on Kungsholmen was demolished around that time. The name Kungsholmen (“King’s Isle”) is said to date back to a period after the attacks by the Danes in 1563. For some time thereafter Valnäs was state property. The remnants consist of 1–1.5 metres high ridges that surround a rectangle of 28 metres by 15 metres. As a long time has passed since the islet was inhabited trees have grown up — these old pine trees create a feeling of a “troll’s forest” if you visit it now. Fantasy is easily set in motion, moving the mind to a world of fairytales. The very observant visitor may find Yellow Bird’s Nest flowering in July and August. It is one of the few plants in the Swedish flora that lacks chlorophyll hence it is yellowish white colouring. Dams with Crucian carp In dams that they had dug on the mainland north-west of the islet. As the name implies the Crucian carp is a carp fish, closely related to the more common roach and the well-known goldfish. The Crucian carp can survive in a wide range of conditions and may constitute a good living source of food when needed such as in times of famine. The remains of the old dams can still be traced.

Kvinnaholme (“The Women’s Isle”)

Kvinnaholme is located quite far from Valnäs in a southerly direction on Lake Unnen. According to tradition it got its name from measures taken in times of unrest or war. During such periods women and children were taken to that islet for protection from the enemy. Tradition does not explain how they could survive there.

Good luck while fishing was certainly required in order to get supplements to the food that may have been brought with them.

In 1940 reeds had to be harvested for livestock feed

The agricultural conditions at Valnäs have been good. The ground consists of sand and is well drained and easy to work. However, in 1940 drought caused unexpected difficulties for the farmers. That year the livestock had to eat reeds instead of hay. Altogether, all farmers in Valnäs only managed to harvest 12 horse-cart loads of hay as compared to some 50 or 60 loads in a normal year. The farmers were forced to cooperate and they decided to try to harvest reed in the lake. The water table of the lake was so low that the reeds could be harvested by horse and a moving machine. The reed was dried and bound to sheaves. The sheaves were then distributed fairly among the farmers.

The christening font

There used to be a large loose rounded rock at the shore on the northern side of the peninsula, just below some of the current residential houses. It has a depression in the top and it is said to have been speculated that this might have been a bowl for offerings dating back to pre-Christian times. The depression was round as was the rock, indicating that its shape was the result of man’s work. According to tradition, blood from the sacrificial animal was placed in the bowl-like depression in the rock. From there the blood is said to have been splashed on people as well as on animals. Another theory is that the rock is an old baptismal font from the church in Unnaryd. An old record of items in the church dated 1659 includes a “funtkättel”, possibly the font that later ended up at Valnäs. It is quite possible that the font was discarded in the countryside as it was common that items from the churches were sold on when they were no longer needed. Whatever the real history may be, the font lay at the lake shore until the winter 1909–1910. That winter, the clergyman arranged for it to be brought over the ice to the church yard in Unnaryd. Later it was moved into the church where it is currently used as a baptism font. The rock’s mystery has still not been fully revealed and it may never be…

At the very westerly end of the peninsula there is an old cairn that tradition claims to be an “offering cairn”. There are plenty at Valnäs and that can set the imagination in motion…

vWould you like to take a walk in the woods? On the southern side of Kungsholmen is a beautiful pe

Gods or of a royal fortress. Ridges of earth and stone are still clearly visible on the south-western part of the islet. There are also remnants of an ancient jetty in the lake whose old oak timbers are anchored by big stones used as weights.

The King of Västbo

Valnäs is located in a region that once belonged to the ancient Kingdom Finnveden. Finnveden included the three old jurisdictional districts Östbo, Västbo, Sinnervo and some minor adjoining areas. According to local tradition, the King of Västbo once had his residence on Kungsholmen. The ruins could be

The District Judge of Västbo Jurisdictional District to locate it in the western part of the Province of Småland. A Judicial District represents an old administrative division and it used to be the larger unit comprising several parishes. A parish is an area where people belong to the same church.