

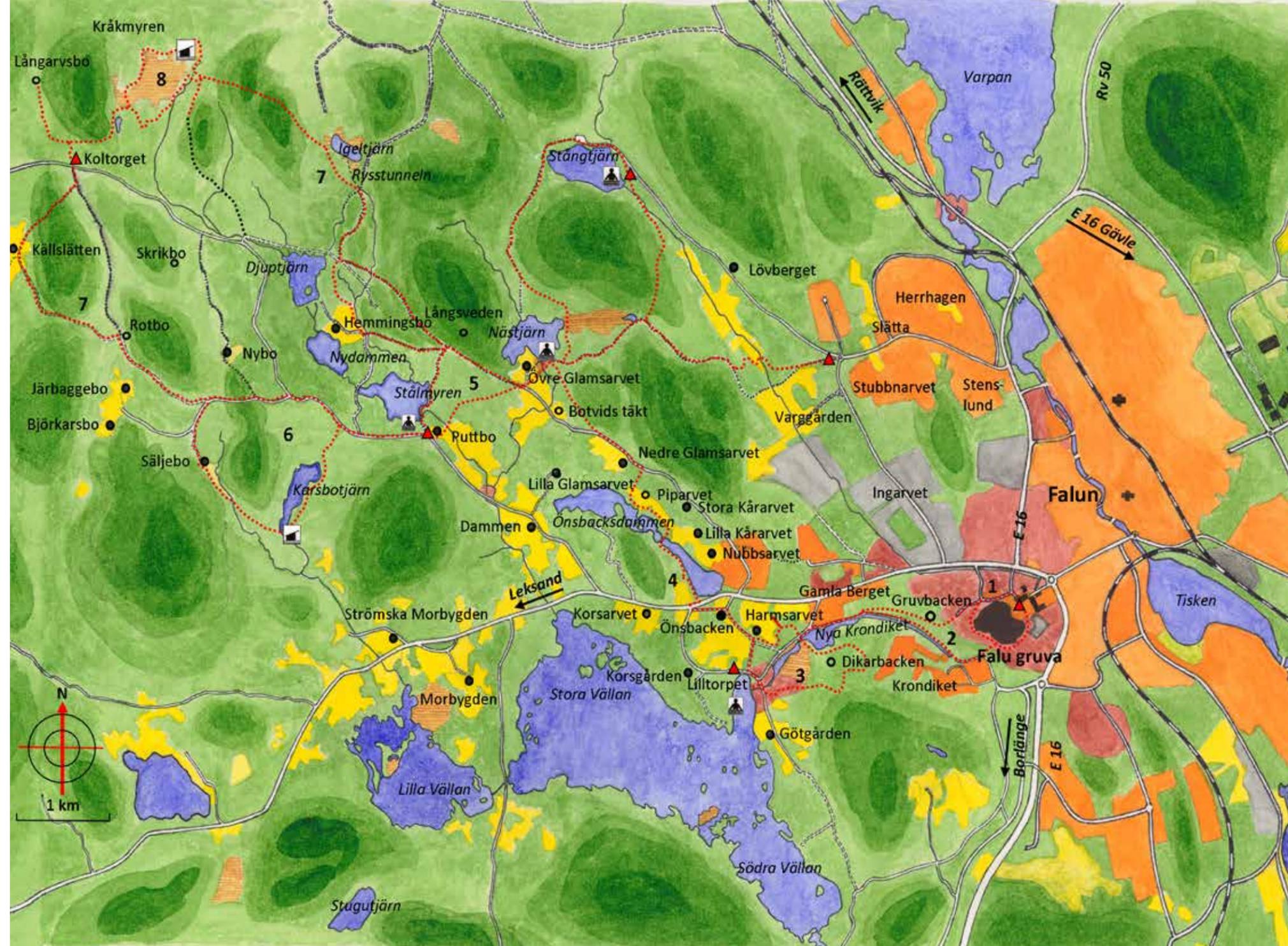


The bridge over the narrowest part of the Önsback pond, raised to allow rowing boats to pass.

Walks through history

OLD PATHS and cart trails have been cleared, bridges have been built, and resting places have been arranged. At Nästjärn, just beside the restored dam house, there is a place where tired rambblers can bathe.

The project The Way of the Water to the Mine has been run by the Association of Friends of the Falun World Heritage Site in close collaboration and with funding from Dalarna County Administration, Falun Municipality, and Stiftelsen Stora Kopparberget. Additional support for the project was provided by LONA, AME, AF, and Visitsödradalarna.



-  **Vandringsled**
Hiking
Wandern
-  **Startpunkt**
Starting point
Ausgangspunkt
-  **Bergsmansgård**
Mine-owner's farm
Hof der Bergmann
-  **Försvunnen gård**
Location of mine-owner's farm
Verschwunden Hof
-  **Badplats**
Bath
Baden
-  **Slogbod**
Wind shelter
Windschutz

- 1** **Gruvpromenaden / The Mine walk**
Bergwerk wander **1,5 km**
- 2** **Krondikspromenaden / The Crown Ditch walk**
Die Staudämme der Krone wander **3 km**
- 3** **Harmsarvspromenaden / The Harmsarvet walk**
Der Harmsarvet wander **3 km**
- 4** **Önsbackspromenaden / The Önsbacken walk**
Der Önsbacken wander **4 km**
- 5** **Puttbopromenaden / The Puttbo walk**
Der Puttbo wander **3,1 km**
Handikappanpassad / Handicap Accessible / Behindertenzugänglich
- 6** **Karsbopromenaden / The Karsbo walk**
Der Karsbo wander **4,2 km**
- 7** **Stora promenaden / The long walk**
Der grosse wander **12,2 km**
- 8** **Kråkmyrspromenaden / The Kråkmyren walk**
Der Kråkmyren wander **3,3 km**

The way of the water to the mine



You are welcome to walk along paths and roads in Sweden's oldest surviving system of channels leading water to a mine: the lakes, ponds, canals, and ditches in the mountains north-west of Falun Mine. Here you can see the sites of medieval smelting houses, beautiful farms of the mine-owners, ponds, and dam houses in exotic Nordic countryside, an important part of the Falun World Heritage site.

Rambling trails offer routes of varying length, a total of more than 30 km. Informative signs, resting places, and log shelters can be found in the area.





Falun Mine in colour, by Johan Fredrik Martin, c. 1800.

The treasure chamber of the kingdom

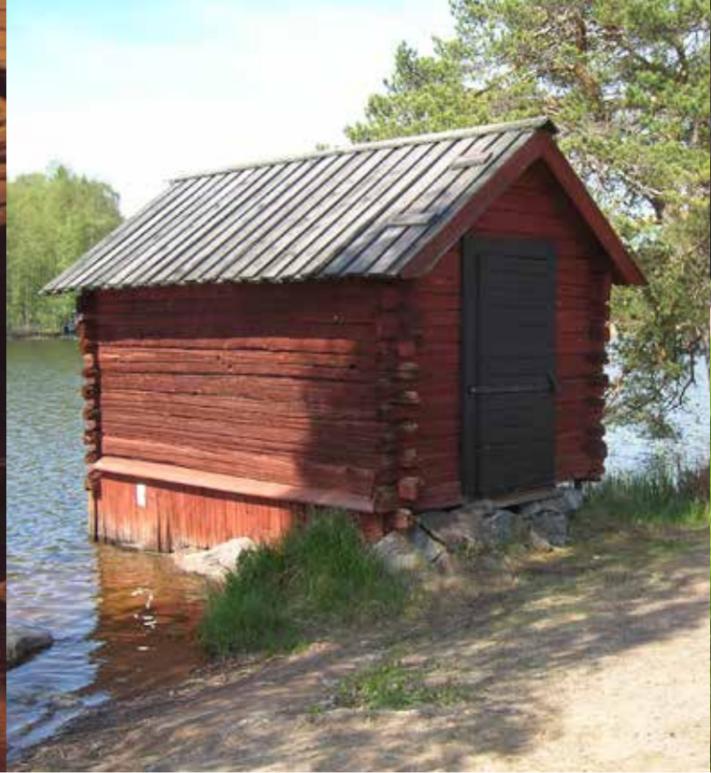
FALUN MINE is Sweden's oldest known and most important mine, now a part of the Falun World Heritage site. As much as 1,300 years ago, people extracted ore from the mountain to make copper. In the seventeenth century the mine produced more than 70 per cent of all the copper in Europe. Water power was essential for the expansion of the mine. Lakes and rivers were dammed, ditches and canals were dug. Water wheels were used to pump water out of the mine and to hoist ore. They were used at the mine until 1916.



Interior of a smelting house in Falun, painted by Pehr Hilleström in the 1780s.

From fire and smoke

THE COPPER SMELTING HOUSES where the ore was roasted and smelted were located in the countryside surrounding the mine and belonged to the men who owned the mine. In the mid-seventeenth century there were 132 smelting houses, which all received their ore from Falun Mine. Proximity to running water was important, and by the Middle Ages all the smelting houses were powered by water. Large water wheels made bellows blow oxygen into the furnace to smelt the copper. Most of the smelting houses were closed in the mid-nineteenth century. Along the way of the water you can see several places where smelting houses once stood, for example, at Korsgården, Gamla Berget, Dammen, and Övre Glamsarvet. They can be identified by their slag heaps and other remains.



The dam house at the Korsgård pond is the oldest surviving one, which existed before 1691.

Keeping the winter water

PONDS were probably built as long ago as the Middle Ages to supply sufficient water all the year round to the smelting houses closest to the mine. The Önsback pond is the oldest one, made in a valley where a small river ran originally. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries several small tarns and bogs were dammed above the Önsback pond, near Puttbo and Hemmingsbo. Three larger lakes to the south – Stora, Lilla, and Södra Vällan – were used early on as water reservoirs. In the seventeenth century they were dammed to make them into one lake, which became the main water magazine for the mine. At Korset (The Cross) it was possible to divide the water so that it could be shared by the smelting houses at Gamla Berget and Ingarvet and by the mine.



The New Crown Ditch was built on the basis of an idea by Polhem in the 18th century. The water in the ditch is still used today.

The Crown Ditches

THE CROWN DITCHES were built on the order of kings to ensure a supply of water for the machines and pumps at the mine. In the mid-sixteenth century a ditch named Konstdiket was dug from the river Hyttbäcken to the mine, a distance of 1.5 km. The water was led to a new pump machine at the Blankstöten pit in Falun Mine. It was a difficult job and there was often a shortage of labour. The ditch and the dams can still be seen.

In the 1730s a much larger new ditch was built higher up the slope of the mountain. The New Crown Ditch brought the water from the Korsgård pond to the mine, without any loss in the height of delivery. The water flowed from the ditch via aqueducts down to the water wheels at the mine.



The farm of Hemmingsbo still has buildings from the 18th century and it has been restored in recent years.

The mine-owners' farms

THE OWNERS OF THE MINE were originally farmers who had learned how to produce metals in their smelting houses. Many of them became rich and powerful men, who were able to build splendid farms surrounded by beautiful gardens. The land around Falun Mine was stony and barren. It took a great deal of toil to clear the fields, meadows, and pastures. Everywhere the stones were piled in large cairns and used to build field walls in this distinctive landscape.

Around the Way of the Water you can see several examples of mine-owner's farms, their cultivated lands, and the sites of their smelting houses. At Källslätten and Puttbo there are remains of old gardens.



There are plenty of birds in the area. The pictures show hawk owl, long-eared owl, willow tit, and lesser spotted woodpecker.

Nature and culture

FALUN is on the boundary between the central Swedish plains and the north Swedish coniferous forest. The bedrock is ancient and rich in minerals. Many mines have produced gold, silver, copper, iron, lead, and sulphur. The forests are rich in wildlife, with bear, wolf, elk, roe deer, fox, and hare, not to mention numerous other animals. Many different species of owl and woodpecker thrive in this area. The eagle owl, Europe's biggest owl and the provincial bird of Dalarna, breeds in the Great Pit at Falun Mine. Near the mine 47 different bird species have been observed. Here you can enjoy nature and culture combined.