

TRAIL GUIDE: Gáldesbuovdda

Gáldesbuovdda or Galtispuoda, known by many as one of Sweden's most beautiful vantage points. There is a road all the way up to the top, but why not enjoy the mountain even more, hiking up it?

Directions: 8 km from Arjeplog, towards Norra Bergnäs. A sign marks the beginning of the marked trail. You can park your car next to a shelter.

If you go by car or bike follow signs to the Galtispuoda ski resort. The paved road splits before you arrive: take the left fork to the ski slopes, or the right to get to the highest point of the mountain.

Height: 800 m.a.s.l.

Distance to the top hiking from Hällvik: 2.8 km.

Distance to the top from Arjeplog by car: 13.5 km.

Hiking: easy and intermediate. Recommended for children. The ascent is relatively marked towards the end, for a distance of approximately 300 m.

Equipment: In dry weather you can hike in trainers without getting wet. Remember to bring water. There is no stream along the path. Mosquito repellent can come in handy in the forest area.

Trail: The first 300 m follow a quad bike track. Then it turns slightly left, towards north.

View: The name *buovdda* means 'the bald head' in Sámi and it's easy to see how the mountain got this name. From the rounded top the mountain archipelago spreads out before you on Lake Hornavan and Lake Uddjaure.

Shelter: There is none at the top, but 200 m further down the paved road there is a large cabin with seating. An information board presents the Galtispuoda nature reserve.



Gáldesbuovdda with its nature reserve. During winter it's a ski resort with caravan pitches and a hotel.



Marsh grass *Parnassia palustris*

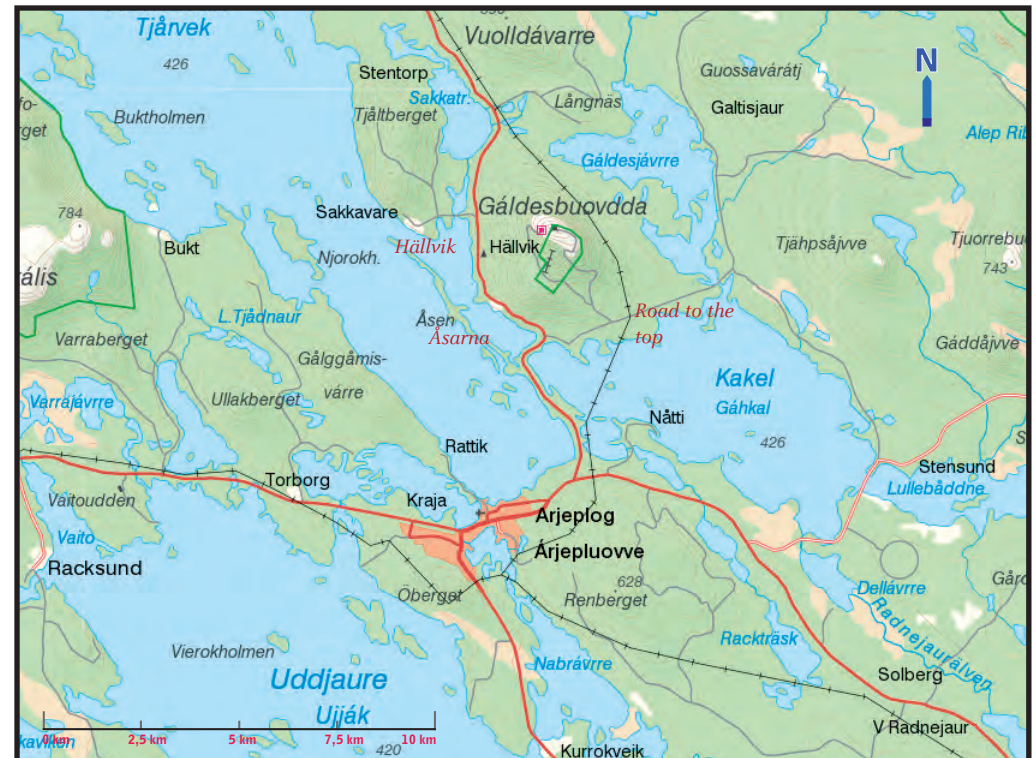


Grey willow *Salix cinerea*



Grey willow
Diapensia lapponica

Height 800 m.a.s.l. WGS84 66°7'9.0"N 17°56'10.7"E SWEREF99 TM 7336300, 632607



There are many prehistoric remains on the slopes of Gáldesbuovdda and at the shores of Lake Hornavan. They are up to 7,000 years old. Stone Age hunters lived and hunted here. Stay for a while and go hiking in the striking landscape created by the inland ice sheet: Åsarna (the Ridges). There is a path that leads to their furthest edge where there are picnic areas and shelters.

The landscape: Gáldesbuovdda is a mountain, but not geologically connected with the mountain range. It consists of Arjeplog-granite with streaks of richer igneous rock and belongs to the older bedrock, created 2,000 million years ago. Our mountain range Skanderna was formed 'merely' 400 million years ago and starts around 30 km to the west, by Jäckvik. Gáldesbuovdda is a low mountain surrounded by the Skellefte River streams and lakes. The largest lake is Hornavan, Sweden's deepest lake with its 224 m.

From the top you can't see many human traces at first, but the landscape can hardly be said to be a 'wilderness'. The Sámi have herded reindeer on this land for many centuries. The ridges and islets you can see are full of prehistoric remains, some up to 7,000 years old. Stone Age hunters lived and hunted here, enjoying the ample supply of fish and game. There are many traces of settlements on the sandy ridges. Gáldesbuovdda is located south of the Arctic circle, but you can easily see the midnight sun from the top between the 12th and 30th of June.

Plants: After the forest hikers encounter open mountain heath on the peak. There are many alpine plants here, such as pincushion plant, alpine azalea and alpine bearberry. Dwarf willow, moss bell heather and several grass and sedge species thrive in the more protected hollows where the snow melts very late.

Birds: On the mountain heath you can hear meadow pipits, northern wheatears and golden plovers. Willow grouse can also be found here all year round. In there area there are golden eagles and rough-legged buzzards as well. Other species found in the forest land in varying amounts are: Siberian jay, mountain finch, bluethroat, willow grouse, redpoll, willow warbler, redstart and redwing.

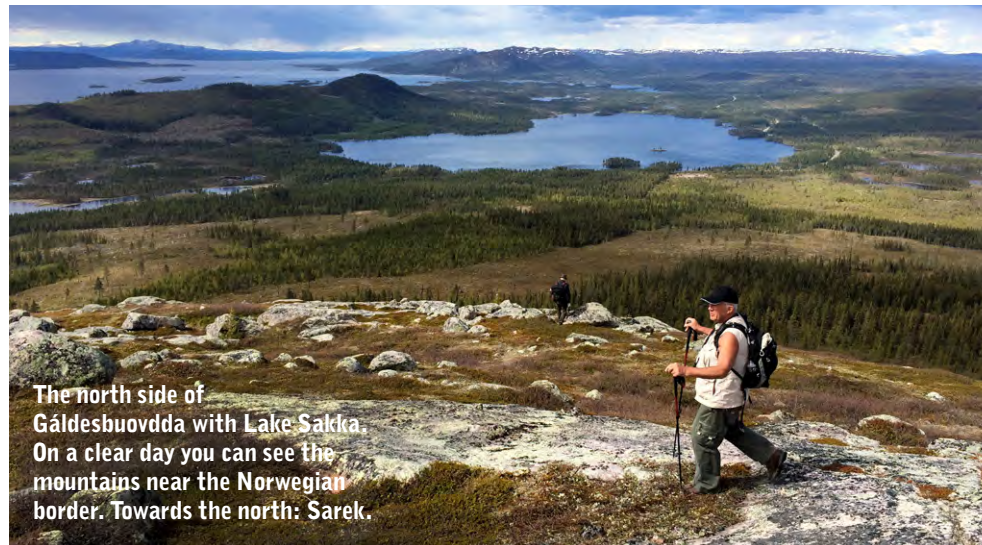
Source: County Administrative Board of Norrbotten.



View towards the south-east. Hornavan has been used as a transport route for millennia. Humans and animals have travelled on the ice, or by boat in summer. Hornavan is Sweden's deepest lake with a depth of 224 m.



The trail guide series is published by Arjeplog Municipality using state aid for local nature conservation projects (LONA) through the County Administrative Board of Norrbotten. Feel free to use the mountain map to plan your hikes: www.kso2.lantmateriet.se. The guides are available for download here: www.arjeplog.se/utflyktsguider. Arjeplog Municipality © the Swedish National Land Survey, Geo-Data Cooperation.



The north side of Gáldesbuovdda with Lake Sakka. On a clear day you can see the mountains near the Norwegian border. Towards the north: Sarek.

A glimpse of history: In the early days of tourism Gáldesbuovdda was a main attraction. In the late 19th century a timbered cottage was built on the peak. Dances and other events were arranged here. The author Janrik Bromé visited Arjeplog several times in the 1910s. He writes that you should "if possible not fail to climb" the mountain Gáldesbuovdda. "If the water is open you row across lower Hornavan to the foot of the mountain, from where you can reach the top in less than an hour. Furthermore, the path from the lake is easy to walk".

Bromé describes how the people living in the area gather on the mountain top during mid-summer nights to see the sun. When he gets up there himself he can see "the red, glowing globe of the midnight sun" and says this has got to be one of the most impressive vantage points in the country. There has been a paved road to the top since the beginning of the 1970s. The top of Gáldesbuovdda continues to be a popular spot, but usually visited by car.

The legend: The Sámi word *bouvdda* doesn't just mean a rounded top. It can also be a name for a man who is bald. According to Norse mythology it's the god of winds, *Biegga Galles*, who has swept and polished the mountain. According to the encyclopedia Nordiskt Familjlexikon *Biegga Galles* would "throw out wind and storms with his shovel (koivo)" to torment the Sámi on the mountains. The god of winds is depicted on the Sámi drum with a shovel in his right hand and a club in his left. Gáldesbuovdda *might* have been named after Galles. A more common spelling during the last 100 years is *Galtispuoda*, or colloquially: *Galtis*.

Accommodation: Contact Arjeplog Tourist Office on +46 (0)961-14520, turist@arjeplog.se. During winter visitors can stay overnight and eat here: *Silver Resort*, tel. +46 (0)961-35000. *Galtis AB* with caravan pitches, tel. +46 (0)76-817 13 58. The ski resort has a restaurant during the winter season.



You are welcome to contact us at the Tourist Office in Arjeplog! The Silver Museum, Guld Klas Torg, 938 31 Arjeplog, tel. +46 (0)961-145 20 turist@arjeplog.se www.arjeplog.se

What does the right of public access mean?

The main rule of the unique right of public access is **do not disturb** – **do not destroy**. Please keep the following in mind:

- You are allowed to hike almost anywhere, but not on plots and plantations, and around private residences.
- Use provided fireplaces when making fires, if possible, and never light a fire when it is dry or very windy. You are not allowed to use fallen trees for fuel, or cut down trees or shrubs, or remove twigs, branches or bark from living trees.
- You are not allowed to hunt, disturb, capture or harm animals, their young, their nests or their eggs. Dogs are not allowed off leash from 1 March until 20 August, when animals have their young. Dogs must be prevented from running loose in areas with game and reindeer.
- Show particular respect to reindeer husbandry in the mountains and forests near Arjeplog. Experience reindeer from a distance. Respect reindeer herders' working space and privacy near dwellings and reindeer enclosures. If you are caught up in reindeer herding, keep away and try to make as little noise as possible until the herd has moved on.
- You are allowed to pick wild flowers, berries and mushrooms, but first check which plants are protected. Specific rules apply in reserves and national parks specific. It is not allowed to chip or knock stones out of place, or carve your name onto stone slabs. You may take a few smaller, loose stones.
- If you see any rubbish – please pick it up!

Source: www.naturvardsverket.se. You can download the brochure: "Protected species of plants and animals in Sweden" (2012).



Natura 2000

Natura 2000 is a network for Europe's most valuable habitats. In Arjeplog municipality there are 22 areas, including Akkelis, Björknäs, Daita, Granberget, Hornavan-Sädvajaure, Laisdalen Valley, Laisälven River, Långsjön-Gåbrek, Märkberget, Nimtek, Pieljekaise, Pite River, Rakåive, Ramanj, Ståkke-Bårgå, Sulitelma, Tjeggelvas, Tjälmejaure, Udtja, Veddek and the Yraf delta.