

TRAIL GUIDE: **Áhkális**

Height 784 m.a.s.l. WGS84 66°7'29.4"N 17°39'27.4"E SWEREF99 TM 7336369, 620001

Áhkális, Akkelis, is one of the mountains nearest the main town, Arjeplog. The view is magnificent, featuring the lake landscape with deep Lake Hornavan and the shallower Uddjaure, rich in islets.

Directions: 10 km west of Arjeplog along the Silver Road, E 95. Turn right by the village Bukta. Just south of the village, after 8 km, there is a parking area and an information board on Áhkális nature reserve.

Distance to the top: 3.5 km.

Difficulty: Easy and moderate. Prepare yourself for a stretch of 400 m that is slightly steeper after the first 400 m. Above the tree line the mountain heath is easily traversed. Recommended for children.

Equipment: You will pass some smaller bogs midway through the hike. If the weather is dry you can walk in trainers. Midway there is a stream with fresh water. It doesn't hurt to come prepared with a packed lunch, mosquito repellent and rain gear.

Path: A clear path takes you to the tree line, then head north-east up onto the bare mountain towards the peak. There is no path here.

View: Lakes Hornavan – Sweden's deepest – and Uddjaure with its mountain archipelago. On a clear day you can see the border mountains in the west.

Shelter/cabin: 1 km south of the peak, at the forest limit, there is an open cabin run by the local snowmobile association.

Ancient monuments: From the top you can see Buktholmen. Here, and around the southern parts of Hornavan, well-drained soil and rich fishing waters have invited to uninterrupted use of the area for several thousand years as shown by abundant remains of cooking and trapping pits.



Moss bell heather *Cassiope hypnoides*



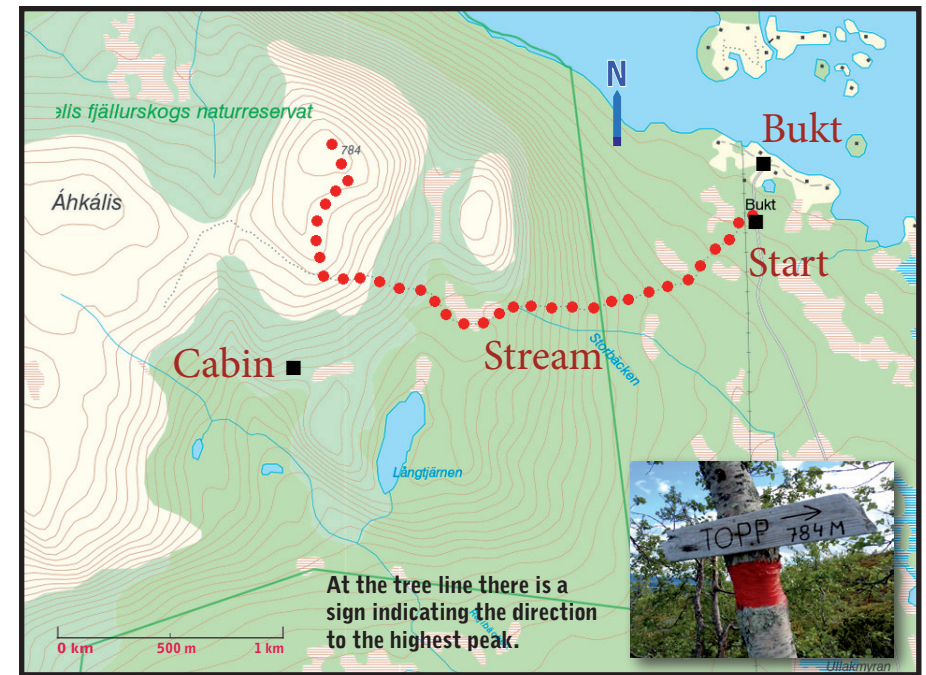
The path to Áhkális takes you through forest dominated by old spruce trees.



View from Áhkális of Buktholmen and Hornavan.



Top cairn
784 m.a.s.l.

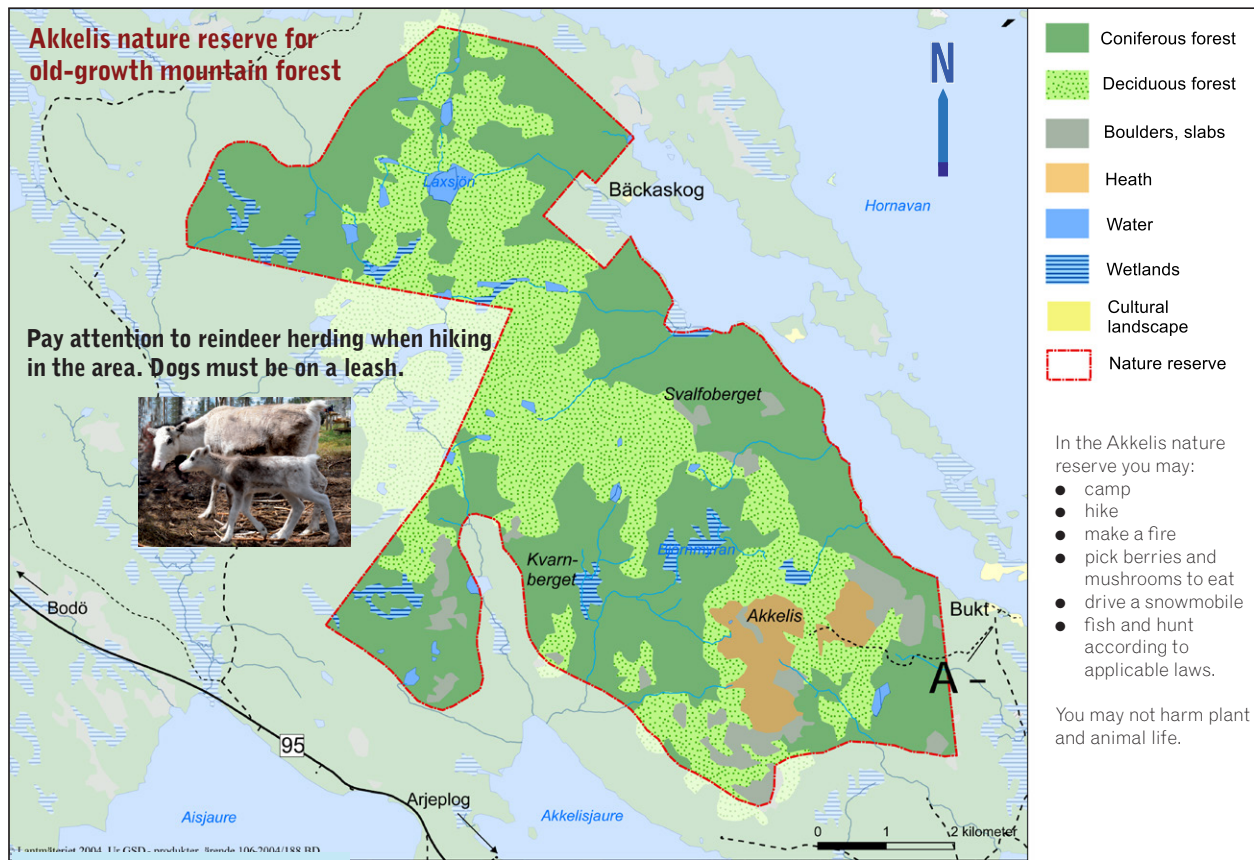




Spruce trees shaped by the wind by the top of Áhkális.

Nature reserve: Akkelis nature reserve for old-growth mountain forest is located between lakes Aisjaure and Hornavan. The upper parts consist of mountain heaths and in some places there are large areas of granite slabs polished bare by the inland ice sheet. Further down on Áhkális there is an ancient pine forest which mainly consists of trees that are around 100-350 years old. In moist, nutrient-rich areas in the northern part there are lush spruce forests with tall herbs. Apart from outdoor recreation the Áhkális area is used for hunting, fishing and berry picking. Reindeer husbandry is carried out by the Semisjaur-Njargs mountain Sámi association. They have their pastures in Arjeplog, Älvsbyn, Piteå and Skellefteå municipalities. The name Áhkális is believed to be derived from the name of a Sámi goddess: Áhkká.

Sources: County Museum of Norrbotten, the County Administrative Board of Norrbotten, the Tourist Office in Arjeplog and the book "Från kust till kust – Åhpegåttest åhpegåddáj", red. Bjørg Evjen and Marit Myrvoll (2015). See also www.site.uit.no/pite



Pay attention to reindeer herding when hiking in the area. Dogs must be on a leash.



Animals: Wood grouse, hazel grouse, willow grouse, golden eagle, various falcons, fox, hare, elk and reindeer are the most common animals you can spot in the area. Lynx and marten also move on the slopes in search of prey. Bears live in the area, but are extremely rarely seen.

Flowers: Kingcup, wood cranesbill, moss bell heather, cow-wheat, kinnikinnick, Arctic starflower, willowherb and the moorland spotted orchid, to mention some of the most common.



Petrus Laestadius with his horse Pompe. Drawing: A.C. Wetterling

A glimpse of history: Petrus Laestadius (1802-1841) was born on Buktholmen next to Áhkális. He was a priest and evangelised among the Sámi in the Pite Sámi area 1827 and 1832. Petrus Laestadius was the younger brother of *Lars Levi Laestadius* and son of the mountain bailiff Carl Laestadius (1746-1832) who worked in Adolfström and Nasafjäll. Lars Levi Laestadius was also a priest and became widely known as the founder of the religious movement *Laestadianism*. Petrus Laestadius wrote several books. One of the most famous ones is *Journal*. He died at age 39.

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

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



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.



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