

Sustainability work at Ösjönäs

Even though we have not yet reached a certification as “Nature’s Best”, we have long been members of the Swedish Ecotourism Association (Naturturismföretagen). Jessica has been on the board for many years and is appointed forest spokesperson of the association. It is therefore natural that our work strives to meet the criteria of the association and below you will find some personal reflections on what they mean to us.



Stylish figure, isn't it? But what does it all boil down to?

1. Respect the limitations of the destination – minimize the negative impacts on local nature and culture.

In reality it means that we limit wear and tear on and around Ösjönäs through continuous flexibility in how we set up the experiences and activities we provide and arrange, and where we keep our animals. This means that we adapt, for example, the routes of the rides based on the capacity of the ground at the time of the ride. If it is wet, we avoid trampling down sensitive soil sections and choose a different path. This applies not only to horses, but also to where we recommend our visiting hikers and cyclists to go. Another example is that we adapt the number of kayaks and canoes for hire, not based on demand, but instead based on the number of users, to avoid too much pressure of visitors on beaches around the lake in the National Park. Therefore, it is important that you book a canoe or kayak well in advance - when the sun shines they simply run out.

Another example of our attempts to minimize negative influence on nature is that we try to get our guests to stay longer and minimize their use of cars during the stay. The packages we offer, for example, always contain two nights instead of just one. Some of the neighbors experience disturbance from traffic, on the road outside their properties, by visitors to the National Park and to us at Ösjönäs. So, we would therefore also like to take the opportunity to ask you to drive carefully and slowly on your way to and from us, please.

2. Support the local economy.

A single company does not create a complete destination and does not alone become an attractive place to spend a lot of time / live at. We need to collaborate with others, lift each other and share our experiences. We try to make this happen in different ways.

For example, we suggest to our guests to experience whatever is on in the area. Everyone who rents a bike will get suggestions for where to go for their bike ride. We refer to open restaurants and cafés and if we do not have suitable accommodation at Ösjönäs, we are happy to tell you about other local alternatives, which may offer rooms. We communicate with others in the area, so we can tell you if and when places are open. For example, you have the nearest stores in Sannerud and in Udenäs.

Ösjönäs

Tivedens aktivitets- & äventyrscenter

The coffee roastery in Sannerud and the coffee house at Tivedstorp can easily be reached by bike, and we explain that you have the possibility of a good dinner experience at Luripompa and/or at Tivedens Mat. Granviks Pub also offers a lot of fun. For opening hours, check with us or Google. Besides trying to get our guests to consume at a variety of locals businesses, we also try to cooperate with others regarding staff issues and we, of course, buy local products. We also always have had the ambition to attract guests that we ourselves would like to have as neighbors. And make an effort on all levels to help create a good place to live in. Tived has shifted from a place drained of people to a growing and thriving community.

3. Making all our activities environmentally sustainable.

Well, new products appear all the time and we do our best to follow developments when it comes to which ones are the most environmentally friendly. Of course, we comply with legislation on, for example, environmentally hazardous substances. We conduct a multifaceted business that involves anything from animal feed to waste management, from ingredients in food to transportation, we furnish rooms and build /renovate, etc.

Can we reuse? Recycle? What are the consequences for the climate and biodiversity? These are questions which are constantly on our minds. If you have suggestions on exciting new locally produced and/or organic alternatives to what we already serve/use, please get in touch! We try to think in new, creative and, sometimes, different ways.

4. Contribute actively to nature and cultural conservation.

Ösjönäs is the only property in Sweden (as far as we are aware) which is totally surrounded by Sweden's highest form of protection for nature – the national park. This knowledge comes with a huge sense of responsibility, that we take seriously.

We have an active and continuous dialogue with the county administrative board and municipality regarding a variety of issues. Locally we participate, among other things, in the Nature Conservation Council for the National Park, in a coordination group working for 2000 ha of forest which is not to be clear cut (and we were one of the initiators of this project), and in the regional forest programme for Örebro County. Nationally, Jessica is on the board of the Swedish Forest Agency's sector council, and on the board of the national forest programme, as well as participates in other regional forest programmes, in addition to being the forest spokesperson within the Swedish Ecotourism association. And much more. We also run a sister property, at which we run a biodiversity project under the working name "Höjens hagar". There's a project involving wild pollinators going on there right now.

5. Promote knowledge and respect and the joy of discovery.

If you have carried on reading this far, perhaps by now you have understood that we are passionate about nature in general, and Tiveden in particular? Our goal is for all our guests to get a little closer to nature, a little closer to the essence of themselves and what is really important in life.

We believe that knowledge leads to commitment – if you know that it is a starling singing, you are more likely to stop and listen to it, then you also care a little more about its living conditions. That's the way we think, what are your thoughts on that? Please share your thoughts with us when we meet. In the company of new people that generously share their point of view, we get the opportunity to redefine our views on reality and grow in all aspects of ourselves. So welcome to us, and to spend time with us and we'll discover Tiveden in new ways together.

6. Quality and safety all the way.

To be honest, we've been doing this for a long, long time. More than half of our lives we have been responsible for the safety and wellbeing of groups of guests. Nobody wants it to go wrong, neither do we. Therefore, we have tried to learn from every experience/challenge and we constantly ask ourselves if we can do something different, or better, and what we may need to top up in our toolboxes of competence. Do we need to repeat first aid skills, or get better at offering gluten-free food, or get stronger horses, or have faster funnier kayaks? We are our own and each other's greatest critics. In addition to that, we, of course, listen to all feedback we get.

We try to be clear about our cancellation policy, what is included and what is not, also if there is something that you need to know and prepare before visiting us. In these pandemic times we, of course, reflect on how to keep everyone safe from that perspective too. A large part of our business is subject to permits – we follow laws and regulations, and have all the necessary permits. We are, of course, inspected in accordance with the rules of each sector. The animals are registered, the trees in the high ropes course are checked, the fire safety is inspected, etc. If there's anything else you wonder about, please feel free to ask us.

We wish you an amazing stay with us.

The Ösjönäs Family