



Minnenas stig

THE PATH OF MEMORIES

27 Kolbottnen & Viktoriastugan

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This place is called **Kolbottnen** and layers of black soil can be seen on the edge of the ditch. These are the remains of old charcoal making. The production of charcoal is an ancient activity. When our ancestors used lake and bog ore, charcoal was used to smelt the ore.

Later, when iron production was carried out more industrially, enormous quantities of charcoal. Charcoal is smoldering almost all over the country. The charcoal from the mills in this area is used in smelters (blast furnaces) for example in Herräng, Ortala and Edsbro.

A charcoal pit is a controlled heating of wood with limited oxygen supply. By covering a pile of wood with soil and peat and then lighting it, the charring process begins.

The coal mine is monitored day and night by coal miners who live in coal huts in the forest. The site of an old coal mine is often visible as a coal bed, covered in black lumps of coal. Coal beds often deviate from the surrounding vegetation and appear as large, shallow, and flat pits.

Viktoriastugan. Here at Kolbottnen, a lonely woman, Viktoria Fredriksson, lived until her death in 1951 in a simple hillside cottage.

on unoccupied land. The cottage was probably originally intended as a coal keeper's residence. The cottage is very old, from the late 18th century.

It has a stamped earth floor and in the hall part of the rock protrudes. It is said that she is knowledgeable in the art of healing, a so-called wise old woman.

Today, some ruins remain of what is known as the Victoria Cottage.

Coal beds can be seen in several places in the forest near the cottage. Follow the signs to Viktoriastugan.



Typical Kolmila and Viktoriastugan 2006