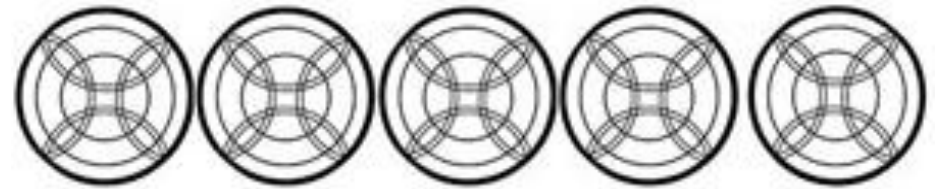


The footpath is 3, 5 km long and marked with white bars and 17 yellow arrows.

1. Vålgruvan
2. Ulasgruvan
3. Hampräta
4. Östermalmsgruvan
5. Lindågruvan
6. Malungsgruvan
7. Skojergruvan

The Grindstone Museum and The Grindstone Mines

Cultural Heritage – Industrial History – Adventure Tourism
Working Museum in Dalarna
Orsa Grindstone Museum



Open daily in summer

Tel: 0250-550255

Take a walk along the footpath through the mining area influenced by mining activities from the past. Today the forest grows over the quarries and stone waste mounds and offers a dramatic and beautiful

Orsa Grindstone Association

In cooperation with:

Wårdshuset Slipstenen, Siljan Turism, and Orsa Sockensamfälligheter.



Sandstone mining in the old days – Industrial History

Quarrying of sandstone to manufacture grindstones and knife grinders was done in the past under the Mining Regulation. Every village in Orsa ran their own mining team that included 20 – 30 household. All mining teams had their own mine shed in the area, often with stables and smithy. They worked their own mine, and named it; Example: Pina (pain), Smälla (bang).

Up to 500 people worked here at the same time. The mining team consisted of grown men. Women and youths were also welcome, although they had to pay a fee to participate. The youths started to learn to cut and hack grindstones at about 12 years old. The young children had easier chores like minding the horses. Mining teams selected their own foremen.

The Orsa Parrish meeting decided when to start mining each year – in 1730 it was six weeks after fast and six weeks after harvest. The parish meeting paid the mining marshal, *Sturfajtn*, who divided the grindstone material as fairly as possible between each and between the mining teams. After the deduction for the year they all took the materials at home, where the grindstone manufacture started took place by hand.

In February the grindstones were collected to be transported by horse and sled and sold throughout the country. In the beginning of the 1900s, several industrial persons started manufacture sandstone building materials for facades and portals. Skilled stonemasons were hired and even imported from other countries.

Today's mining and manufacture

Industrial manufacture and sandstone mining is carried out today in Malungsgruvan by Lenners Orsasten. Nowadays the production is mostly building materials, but the company also make souvenirs and sandstone tiles for gardens as well as factory made modern grindstones. The Orsa

Slipstensgrupp still excel in the old skill to cut and hack grindstones by hand. Summertime they also arrange public workshops and evening events at Lindågruvan, where everyone can try their hand at the old handicraft. There is also the craftsmen's own smithy where they make all the needed tools for making grindstones.

History – Cultural Heritage

The grindstone production in Orsa is very old. Archeologically findings show that the special Orsasandstone were used as grinding tools already in the Viking days and probably even earlier. Traces of grindstones have been found at excavations of houses from early Iron Age. For the farmers in Orsa the manufacture of grindstones was vitally important but at the same time grave. Hacking and cutting took place in the midwinter and indoors. They inhaled the stone dust, which caused silicoses or Oskallsjoka as they called it in the old days. It affected most adult men and a lot of them died in their 40's. In some of Orsa villages only women and children remained

Museum operations today – Experience industry

The Grindstone mines and the Museum are owned today by Orsa parish communities. Orsa Slipstensförening is responsible for the Museum's operations and its members work as volunteers in both the Museum and in the app. 2 square kilometers large mining area. There is also a Mine shed and a cutters lodge preserved. During summer History Tours with role playacting and skilled guides is arranged. Museum hostesses is in place at the Museum. Footpaths are available, see the map on next page. Cultural and music event is arranged all year, ex. Ghost night at the mine shed, concerts in Malungsgruvan, Mother Christmas visit.

More information at: **www.orsaslipsten.se**

Orsa Slipstensförening cooperate with Studieförbundet, Wärdshuset Slipstenen, Siljan Turism, Orsa Kommun, Orsa Musikkompani and Orsa Sockensamfälligheter.