

# COURSES IN GRÄNSFORS 2018



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## Gränsfors Bruk

For more than 100 years, Gränsfors Bruk has built up a business based around handcrafted axes and axe expertise, with a focus on quality and environmental responsibility. Today, around 40 people work here in production and sales. 80 percent of production is exported around the world. The company is located in the Swedish village of Gränsfors in northern Hälsingland, around 10 km west of the E4 highway, between Hudiksvall and Sundsvall. The forge lies at the heart of the village and you can hear the rhythmic pounding as you approach. In addition to the forge and a factory shop, there is also an axe museum and during the summer, a café and craft courses in subjects such as forging and log-building.

## Gränsfors village

In some places, history and tradition converge with modern times in a completely natural way. One such place is Gränsfors. Firmly established along a meandering river, Gränsfors is situated in the north of Hälsingland. Just a short detour off the busy E4 highway and you will find yourself in a world you thought no longer existed. A vibrant culture of craft and industry has thrived here for hundreds of years. Mills, tiled stove builders, breweries, sawmills, forges and much more have been in operation along the river at one time or another. Two of these fine craft-based industries still remain in full operation: the works at Gränsfors Bruk and the Gränsfors flowerpot factory. Gränsfors is a living place above all, a place where the wings of history contribute to the modern-day pulse.



## Forging Courses

For many years we have been arranging forging courses at the Gränsfors Bruk axe forge. These courses are led by Fredrik Thelin, a well-qualified and skilled blacksmith. Fredrik has been working as a professional blacksmith for 20 years and has a long experience of different forms of cooperation with Gränsfors Bruk.

Many people have taken their first steps into the fascinating world of hot forging at the well-equipped course forge in Gränsfors over the years. Gloves, ear defenders, goggles and aprons are provided on all forging courses.

## Log-building Courses

The course leader will take course participants through log-building from log to finished building. Participants have the opportunity to try out and use various broad axes, other axes and traditional equipment for log-building. Instructions are also given in modern equipment for sawing logs for building log houses.

The log-building courses are led by Andreas Hipf, a skilled carpenter with many years' experience in this field and is a trained building carpenter from Germany. Andreas has also been a journeyman within the carpentry field and has worked with others in ten different countries. In addition to Swedish, Andreas also speaks German and English.

The course books are 'From Log to Log House' by Sven-Gunnar Håkansson and 'Knuttimring' [Timber Jointing] by Jan-Ove Jansson.



## Forging Course – Wrought iron basics 5 days

Instruction in Swedish & English

The basic course is for those who want to learn basic forging skills. With the assistance of the course leader together with examples and instructions, you will be given a step-by-step introduction to the fascinating world of hot forging. Over the 5 days of the course, you will also be given a basic knowledge of a forge and its various tools, and learn some of the most common tasks and methods within the field of forging. You will learn to light and use a forge as well as how the hot iron can be worked with the help of a hammer and anvil. The course also includes the basics of materials science and a little of surface finishing. During the course you will have the opportunity to forge hooks, barbecue skewers/forks, nails, hasps with cramps, door handles, hinges and a candlestick. There will also be time for your own ideas and suggestions during the course. No previous knowledge is required.

### Course Information

Price: SEK 9500 including VAT

Content: Practical instruction, including materials  
Lunch, coffee and dinner  
'Nya Järnsmidesboken' (Swedish book)

Date: July 2-6



## **Forging Course – Wrought iron continued** 5 days

Instruction in Swedish & English

This is a more advanced course that continues on from our 5-day basic wrought iron course. During this course you will learn even more techniques and obtain a deeper knowledge of forging. You will forge objects that comprise several assembled parts, such as a two-light chandelier and objects with moving parts, such as a forge tongs or a swinging, wall-mounted candlestick. There will also be time for your own ideas and suggestions during the course. Recommended previous knowledge is our Forging Course – Wrought iron basics or equivalent.

### **Course Information**

Price: SEK 9500 including VAT

Content: Practical instruction, including materials  
Lunch, coffee and dinner  
'Nya Järnsmidesboken' (Swedish book)

Date: July 9-13



## **Forging Course – Axes** 5 days

Instruction in Swedish & English

Quite a few tools are needed in order to forge an axe and in this course you will learn more about axe forging and how to make and use the tools that are required. You will forge two tools – one to open the eye of the axe head and one to shape it. In order to forge the axe you will also need to make two tongs and a bushhammer. At the end of the course you will forge an axe using the tools you have already made. This is a preparatory course for our Forging Course – Forging a bearded axe. Recommended previous knowledge equivalent to our continued Forging Course.

### **Course Information**

Price: SEK 9500 including VAT

Content: Practical instruction, including materials  
Lunch, coffee and dinner  
'Nya Järnsmidesboken' (Swedish book)

Date: August 6-10



## **Forging Course – Forging a two-lugged beard axe 5 days**

Instruction in Swedish & English

A two-lugged bearded axe is considered by some to be the crown jewel of the Old Norse axes, both admired and feared far outside the Nordic countries for its beautiful form and sharp edge. With an edge hard enough to split shields, even though its main area of use was in the fabrication of Viking longships, the bearded axe is characterised by its refined form which originates in the forging of the widest possible edge from the least possible material. Most important was that the bearded axe had a rolled steel edge of high quality (carbon steel), which only Old Norse smiths had access to at that time.

This course is for those with previous experience of forging, preferably axe forging, who wish to deepen their knowledge and learn the various manufacturing steps required to forge a two-lugged bearded axe. The model for the bearded axe you will be forging is a find from the 8th Century. Required previous knowledge is our Forging Course – Wrought iron continued or equivalent.

### **Course Information**

Price: SEK 9500 including VAT

Content: Practical instruction, including materials  
Lunch, coffee and dinner  
'Nya Järnsmidesboken' (Swedish book)

Date: August 13-17



## **Forging Course – Damascus** 5 days

Instruction in Swedish & English

Required previous knowledge equivalent to the Foundation forging course. With the assistance the course leader and examples and instructions, participants will be given a step-by-step introduction to the art and methods of Damascus forging, also known as pattern welding. So this is what the course is all about – creating various patterns in steel with forge-welding technology and layer upon layer as well as learn to control and steer patterns in the material. During the course, you will learn to mix different types of steel; carbon steel, nickel steel and pure nickel as well as gain an understanding for material properties and which materials to choose depending on what patterns you want to create, but also for which type of object you intend to use steel. Forge welding is not done only to create beautiful patterns but also to create a unique composition of different materials based on the smith's requirements.

The course objective is to fabricate basic Damascus materials and learn techniques for how to create it. There will be the opportunity of forging something from your own Damascus steel during the course, such as knives, jewellery, etc., to test how the material performs as well as hardening, polishing and etching. There is also plenty of scope for your own ideas during the course.

### **Course Information**

- Price: SEK 9500 including VAT
- Content: Practical instruction, including materials  
Lunch, coffee and dinner  
'Nya Järnsmidesboken' (Swedish book)
- Date: September 10-14

## **Forging Course – Bespoke forging experience**

Instruction in Swedish & English

Book your bespoke forging experience in Gränsfors. Tips for working groups and companies, group of friends or stag parties. Time for your own project planning and experiences may be included.

Max. 8 people and up to 5 working days.

**Call or email us for more information and a quotation.**



## Forging Course – How to forge an axe 2 days

Instruction in Swedish & English

Now you have the opportunity to forge your own axe. Together with Naturkompaniet, Gränsfors Bruk has developed a "have-a-go" course in axe forging. This is the perfect course for people who want to try something very different, or a group of friends who have already done "everything".

In a group of maximum 8 people, you will be given a step-by-step introduction to the methods and grips involved in hot forging with the help of examples and instructions. You will learn to light the forge and a little about the tools and materials that are used.

The course is intended to give a taste of the basics in axe forging and the various steps of fabrication, forging an axe is in many ways one of the most challenging tasks in a forge. Besides basic knowledge of forges and the tools that are used, for 2 days you will learn the process of axe forging step-by-step. You start by forging the head of the axe and then continue the process by hardening, tempering, grinding and fitting a handle on the axe. The axe being forged during this course is a small variant equivalent to the Gränsfors Outdoor axe. The course objective is that each participant will be able to take their own handmade axe home with them. No previous knowledge is required.

### Course Information

Price: SEK 5000 including VAT

Length: 2 days (from 9 am day 1 to 4 pm day 2)

Content: Practical instruction, including materials  
Breakfast, lunch, coffee and 3-course dinner plus accommodation (1 night)

Date: 16 – 17 March, 23 – 24 March, 6 – 7 April, 18 – 19 May,  
25 – 26 May, 1 – 2 June, 21 – 22 September, 12 – 13 October,  
19 – 20 October, 26 – 27 October



## Forging Course– How to forge a knife 2 days

Instruction in Swedish & English

Now you have the opportunity to forge your own knife. Gränsfors Bruk has developed a “have-a-go” course in knife forging. This is the perfect course for people who want to try something very different, or a group of friends who have already done "everything".

In a group of maximum 8 people, your course leader will give you a step-by-step introduction to the methods and grips involved in hot forging with the help of examples and instructions. You will learn to light the forge and a little about the tools and materials that are used.

The course is aimed at giving you basic knowledge and practical experience of the different elements of knife forging. Besides basic knowledge of the forge and the tools that are used, you will be given the opportunity to forge different knives and knife blades of carbon steel. Step-by-step, you will learn about the various elements, from lighting the forge to shaping and working the hot steel. During the course, you will also learn how to grind, harden and temper the knife blades. You will also be able to try welding a laminated knife blade. No previous knowledge is required.

### Course Information

Price: SEK 5000 including VAT

Length: 2 days (from 9 am day 1 to 4 pm day 2)

Content: Practical instruction, including materials  
Breakfast, lunch, coffee and 3-course dinner plus accommodation (1 night)

Date: 20 - 21 April, 4 – 5 May, 28 – 29 September

*\*Handle fastening*



## **Forging Course – Try out wrought iron forging** 2 days

Instruction in Swedish & English

This course has been developed to give you the opportunity to try out forging and give you your first insight and understanding in the fascinating world of hot forging. You will go through the basics of the various forging techniques through practical step-by-step training. You will learn to light the forge and a little of the tools that are used to work and shape the hot iron with hammer and anvil. During the course, you will forge some simpler objects such as hooks, barbecue skewer, barbecue fork, barbecue tongs and bottle opener.

There will also be time for your own ideas and suggestions during the course. No previous knowledge is required.

### **Course Information**

Price: SEK 5000 including VAT

Length: 2 days (from 9 am day 1 to 4 pm day 2)

Content: Practical instruction, including materials  
Breakfast, lunch, coffee and 3-course dinner plus accommodation (1 night)

Date: 13 – 14 April, 5 – 6 October



## Log-building Course – Timber Jointing 7 days

The course is conducted in Swedish, English and German

### Course content

- Building a simple log house
- Ground and foundation
- Log-building tools and how to sharpen them
- Obtaining, selecting, drying and sawing timber
- Notchwork
- Hewing technique
- The “Dalaknut”
- Dowelling
- Door and window openings
- Roof construction
- Different edges and their grinding techniques

### What to bring to the course

Folding rule and pencil. Steel-capped safety boots with penetration-resistant soles are recommended but not compulsory. Hard wearing clothing in the form of work overalls/protective clothing will also be good to have. All other equipment is available to borrow on site. It is an advantage if you have read the course books mentioned above before the course starts.

### Course Information

Price: SEK 10 000 including VAT

Content: Practical instruction in groups or individually  
Lunch, coffee and dinner

Date: 25 June – 1 July, 16 – 22 July, 27 August – 2 September, 10 – 16 September



## Log-building Course – Timber Jointing (Try out) 3 days

The course is conducted in Swedish, English and German.

Have you always wondered what it was like to build a log cabin in the old days? Then this is the perfect course for you. Together with experienced carpenter Andreas Hipf, Gränsfors Bruk has established a “try-it-out” log-building course. For 3 days, you will be given your first introduction and get a taste of traditional house building from yesteryear and how to use special axes and log-building implements.

### Course content

- Edging logs (both sides)
- Different hewing techniques
- Notchwork
- Timber jointing

### What to bring to the course

Folding rule and pencil. Steel-capped safety boots with penetration-resistant soles are recommended but not compulsory. Hard wearing clothing in the form of work overalls/protective clothing will also be good to have. All other equipment is available to borrow on site. It is an advantage if you have read the course books mentioned above before the course starts.

### Course Information

Price: SEK 5000 including VAT

Content: Practical instruction in groups or individually  
Lunch, coffee and dinner plus accommodation for 2 nights

Date: 15 – 17 June, 27 – 29 July



## General information about the courses

### Timetable

**2-days:** Course 9 am – 5.30 pm day 1, 8 am – 4 pm day 2.

**3-days:** Course 9 am – 5.30 pm days 1 and 2, 9 am – 2 pm day 3.

**5-days:** Course 9 am – 5 pm each day.

**7 days:** Course 9 am – 5 pm each day.

There will be an assembly in our factory outlet at 9 am.

### Accommodation

Book your accommodation when booking the course. Gränsfors Bruk offers different options for accommodation.

### Log cabin

Right next to the log-building area are four log cabins. The cabins have two to four beds, electricity, but no running water or WC/shower. The log-cabin area has a service building with kitchenette, refrigerator, microwave oven and running water. There is a WC building with shower and incineration toilet. The river that runs alongside the log cabins is good for bathing. There is also a wood-fired sauna there. Take a torch with you if staying here during the late summer or autumn.

### Bagarstugan

Right next to the Augustas restaurant is a large timber cottage called Bagarstugan (Bakehouse). This building is situated completely separately from other accommodation and has sleeping space for 2 people. There is electricity connected but no running water or WC/shower. These are situated close by on the ground floor of the restaurant building (about 10 metres on the other side of the road).

### Augustas

Augustas is a simple restaurant on the ground floor and two single rooms, and on upstairs are two single rooms and one double. There are also communal areas on the upstairs floor: toilet, shower, kitchenette and a small sofa with TV. Downstairs is where all the meals are served during the course and in the summer, the restaurant is also open to the general public.



## Dammstugan

Dammstugan (Pond House) is an old red cabin right next to the old pond. Dammstugan has two single rooms and one double. The larger room has its own WC/shower, the two small ones share a WC/shower.

There is also a communal area in Dammstugan with toilet, shower, kitchen and a small living room with sofa.

## Caravan/Tent

Caravans can be parked outside Restaurang Augustas or next to the log-building area. Tents can be set up about 30 metres from Augustas, on the opposite side of the river below the log-building area. There is an electrical socket outside Augustas. Toilet and shower are on the ground floor of Augustas as well as in the service building on the log-building area.

## Food & Drink

Restaurang Augustas serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. The restaurant is open to the general public during the summer. If you bring a guest or need any special food, please inform us when booking. See separate description for each course for more information on the included meals.

## Prices - Accommodation

Price per night, excluding breakfast and cleaning. Sheets and towels not included but can be ordered separately.

Log cabin	SEK 400/night	Bagarstugan	SEK 600/night
Caravan	SEK 100/night	Camping with own tent	Free
Augustas (single)	SEK 400/night	Augustas (double)	SEK 600/night
Dammstugan (single)	SEK 400/night	Dammstugan (double)	SEK 600/night
Set of sheet	SEK 100/set	Cleaning	SEK 100/room



## Prices – Food

Breakfast	SEK 75/day
Lunch	SEK 95/day
Dinner	SEK 115/day
3-course dinner	SEK 365/day

## Getting to Gränsfors Bruk

Gränsfors Bruk is located 350 km north of Stockholm, in northern Hälsingland near the Gulf of Bothnia, between Hudiksvall and Sundsvall around 10 km west of the E4 motorway.

Gränsfors Bruk lies in the municipality of Nordanstig in the county of Hälsingland. More information on Gränsfors can be found on [www.gransforsbruk.com](http://www.gransforsbruk.com) and the surrounding area on [www.nordanstig.se](http://www.nordanstig.se) and [www.halsingland.se](http://www.halsingland.se)

### By car:

From south/north: From E4, at Statoil in Gnarp follow sign for Gränsfors 10 km. Gränsfors lies between Gnarp and Bergsjö on route 758.

### By train & bus:

From south: Train to Hudiksvall and then bus to Bergsjö. There is then another bus from Bergsjö to Gränsfors. Bus journey time Bergsjö to Gränsfors around 15 min. From the bus stop in Gränsfors, it is a 5-10 minute walk to Gränsfors Bruk.

From north: Train from Sundsvall to Gnarp station. From Gnarp, take the bus to Gränsfors. Bus journey time Gnarp to Gränsfors around 15 min. From the bus stop in Gränsfors, it is a 5-10 minute walk to Gränsfors Bruk.

For timetables and bus numbers visit: [www.sj.se](http://www.sj.se) or [www.x-trafik.se](http://www.x-trafik.se)



## Sign up for a course

Apply on our website [www.gransforsbruk.com](http://www.gransforsbruk.com) or via mail to [courses@gransfors.com](mailto:courses@gransfors.com) or telephone 0652-710 90 / 070-2965808.

Once you have signed up, we will send a confirmation together with information about Gränsfors, etc.

## Payment for courses

100% of the course cost is payable within 15 days of receiving a booking confirmation.

Together with your booking confirmation, we will send you an advance invoice with the whole course fee to be paid within 15 days. Failure to pay will cancel your booking and you will lose your place on the course.

The course fee may only be paid in advance after invoicing. It is not possible to receive payment via credit/debit card or in cash. Accommodation and any cleaning is to be paid on departure.

Accommodation, food for accompanying persons and other café and factory outlet sales can be paid for with cash or commonly accepted credit/debit card.



## Visit Gränsfors

### Gränsfors Bruk's Axe Forge

Open to visitors weekdays 9 am to 3 pm.  
The axe forge is closed at weekends.

### Gränsfors Bruk's Factory Outlet

Open to visitors weekdays 9 am to 3 pm  
The factory outlet is closed Saturdays and Sundays.

The outlet is open on Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm during the summer season.

### Axe Museum

Next door to the axe forge lies the Gränsfors Axe Museum, packed floor to ceiling with over 2,000 axes. And anyone who thinks an axe is an axe is in for a surprise – there are special axes for most purposes. The museum's collection includes root axes, notching axes, marking axes, mortise axes, packing house axes, adzes, pick axes, fire axes, battle axes, executioner's axes and double bit throwing axes, to name but a few. The museum also has on display axe models forged at Gränsfors Bruk and in Gränsfors before the time of the forge. The oldest axe from Gränsfors is a small stone axe that dates back around 3,500 years and was found on the river bank. At Gränsfors Axe Museum, visitors can try their hand at throwing an axe and chopping and splitting firewood. The museum is open weekdays between 9 am and 4 pm. The museum is closed Saturdays and Sundays.

### Guided Tours at Gränsfors Bruk

During the summer, from the week beginning 25 June until the week beginning 20 August, we will be holding guided tours of the axe forge on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 am and 12.30 pm with assembly in the factory outlet. There is no need to book in advance. Guided tours of the axe forge can be booked by telephone at any other time of the year: +46 (0)652 – 710 90 or +46 (0)70-296 58 08. A guided tour will last about 30 minutes and is free of charge.



## Around Gränsfors Village

### Lakes, bathing, forests and mountains

Upstream of Gränsfors lies a sizeable lake, Grännsjön, which is perfect for fishing and swimming. There are two excellent sandy beaches to enjoy – Krusbaden and Jägarviken. Around the lake stretch endless forests with mountain peaks at 200-300 metres above sea level. On a clear day, from nearby Klövberget you can see the Sea of Bothnia to the east and the bluey mountains of Hassela in the west.

### Bergsjö

10 km west of Gränsfors is the village of Bergsjö. The village has around 1500 inhabitants and the closest grocer's, cash point and petrol station to Gränsfors. There is also a bus station in Bergsjö from which buses depart daily to Hudiksvall and Sundsvall.

### Gnarp

Gnarp is 10 km east of Gränsfors, by the E4 highway. The Gnarpån river flows through here and you can visit Gnarp church from the end of the 18th Century. From Gnarp, there are trains and buses to Sundsvall and Hudiksvall, as well as coaches to Stockholm.

### Högen

The village of Högen is a peaceful spot just south of Bergsjö, beautifully situated beside the lakes of Kyrksjön and Storsjön and clearly illustrates the long history of iron in the local area. You can see graves and ruins and imagine life back in the 6th century. Access to the sea, the social life of the village and bog iron are essential building blocks in the history of iron. This was an import site during the Iron Age, as is shown in a small exhibition in a nearby log cabin.

Contact Nordanstig Municipality for more information. [www.nordanstig.se](http://www.nordanstig.se)

### The Sea of Bothnia

Twenty kilometres to the east lies the Sea of Bothnia with wonderful, often wholly unspoiled, beaches. You will also find a string of beautiful small coastal communities, including Sörfjärden with its beach and golf course, and Mellanfjärden, which has a hotel and the Sjömärket Restaurant. Running along the coast is Kuststigen, a hiking trail from village to village, stretching 60 km in total.

### Hassela Ski Resort

Hassela, 20 km west of Gränsfors, has 12 downhill ski runs, cross-country skiing trails, snowmobile safaris, dog sled tours and spa facilities during the winter season. During the summer, Hassela has a choice of two golf courses. [www.hasselaski.se](http://www.hasselaski.se)





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