

COURSES IN GRÄNSFORS 2020



It is easy to ask questions and register for a course

Questions or registration can be sent to courses@gransfors.com

The information we need, besides which course(s) you want to participate in, is name, address, telephone number and email address, along with additional information about individual accommodation and food requests.

After sending a registration form you will receive a confirmation, along with additional information and an invoice.

Questions or registration can be sent to courses@gransfors.com

Gränsfors village

There are certain places where history and tradition are melded with the pulse of modern life in a completely natural way. One such place is Gränsfors. Established along a meandering river, Gränsfors is situated in the north of Hälsingland between Hudiksvall and Sundsvall and about 10km west of Gnarp/E4. A culture of handcraft has thrived here for hundreds of years, including mills, tiled stove makers, sawmills, smithies and more. Two of these craft-based industries still remain in full operation: Gränsfors Bruk and Gränsfors Blomkruksfabrik. Besides production, which is open for visitors, there are factory gift shops, the Gränsfors Axe Museum, Restaurant Augustus and Bed & Breakfast.

Gränsfors Bruk

The Gränsfors Bruk axe forge has been in production for over a hundred years. Today about 40 employees work with production and sales. Products consist of 15 different axe models, and more than 90% of production is exported to over 20 countries.

Forging courses

Over the years, many have gained their first glimpse into the fascinating world of blacksmithing in the Gränsfors Bruk course smithy. The well-equipped smithy lies directly connected to Gränsfors' axe production. The forging courses are led by the North Hälsingland Blacksmith Guild with Fredrik Thelin, an experienced and highly qualified smith, as head instructor. Courses are available in different degrees of difficulty and vary in length. Custom courses can be arranged. Minimum age is 16 years. Instruction is offered in Swedish and English. Pictures from previous courses can be viewed at www.gransforsbruk.com

Log-building courses

We have two log-building courses to choose from – a short “try-out” course of three days and a longer five-day option. Courses are led by Andreas Hipf, a carpenter and teacher with many years of experience. The courses are a combination of theory and practice, with focus on the practical construction of log joints. The log-building takes place outdoors under a roof, near the Gränsfors Bruk axe forge where the forging courses are also held. You will work with axes made by Gränsfors Bruk. Minimum age is 16 years, no previous experience required. Instruction is offered in Swedish, English and German. Pictures from previous courses can be viewed at www.gransforsbruk.com

Timber Framing courses

New for Gränsfors this year are two courses in timber framing, an alternative to the traditional log-building for constructing large or small houses. Courses are led by “the timber framing experts” Rupert Newman and Johannes Kästel in collaboration with experienced carpenter Andreas Hipf. Minimum age is 16 years. No previous experience required. Instruction is offered in Swedish and English. Information on timber framing can be found on the Swedish website www.stolpverk.org or in Robert Newman's book *Oak-Framed Buildings*.

Forging Course – Foundation 5 days

Instruction in Swedish and English. No previous experience required.

The foundation course in forging is for those who wish to learn some of the fundamental skills of blacksmithing. With the guidance of an experienced smith's step-by-step examples and instruction, you will gain a glimpse into the fascinating world of forging hot steel. During the course's five days you will gain an understanding of the smithy and its tools, lighting the forge and the art of working the hot steel with the help of hammer and anvil. Also addressed is a basic understanding of steels and finishing methods. During the course you will forge hooks, a grill skewer/fork, nails, a hasp and staples, a door handle, hinges and a candleholder. There is even room for your own ideas.

Course information

Date: June 29th – July 3rd 2020

Price: 9,500 SEK. Request for individual room an additional 1,000 SEK.

Included: Practical instruction and materials for 5 days
Breakfast, lunch, 2x coffee and dinner for 5 days; breakfast always 8:00.
Accommodation 5 nights, June 28th – July 2nd 2020
Swedish Blacksmithing book by Karl-Gunnar Norén & Lars Enander

Forging course – Continuation 5 days

Instruction in Swedish and English. Experience equivalent to Foundation forging course is recommended.

This course is a continuation of the 5-day Foundation course, building on the basics of forging. You will learn several new techniques as well as a deepened knowledge of blacksmithing. Focus is on forging items consisting of several assembled parts or with moving pieces, such as a double-armed chandelier, wall sconce and blacksmithing tongs. There is always room for your own ideas and suggestions as well.

Course information

Date: July 6th – 10th 2020

Price: 9,500 SEK. Request for individual room an additional 1,000 SEK.

Included: Practical instruction and materials for 5 days
Breakfast, lunch, 2x coffee and dinner for 5 days; breakfast always 8:00.
Accommodation 5 nights, July 5th – 9th 2020
Swedish Blacksmithing book by Karl-Gunnar Norén & Lars Enander

Forging course – Axe making tools 5 days

Instruction in Swedish and English

Forging an axe requires a variety of different tools. In this course you will learn about axe forging from the perspective of making and using the tools involved. You will forge a punch and drift for opening and shaping the eye, along with two pairs of tongs and a top tool fuller. The course ends with forging an axe using the tools you have made. This course is a preparation for Forging Course – Forging a Bearded Axe, which requires all of the tools made during this week.

Experience equivalent to Foundation and Continuation courses is recommended.

Course information

Date: August 10th – 14th 2020

Price: 9,500 SEK. Request for individual room an additional 1,000 SEK.

Included: Practical instruction and materials for 5 days
Breakfast, lunch, 2x coffee and dinner for 5 days; breakfast always 8:00.
Accommodation 5 nights, August 9th – 13th 2020
Swedish Blacksmithing book by Karl-Gunnar Norén & Lars Enander

Forging Course – Forging a bearded axe 5 days

Instruction in Swedish and English

The double-lugged bearded axe is seen by many as the crown jewel of the ancient Scandinavian axes, respected and feared in the North and abroad for its beautiful shape and sharp edge. Characteristic of the bearded axe is its refined form achieved by forging the broadest possible edge with the least amount of material. Most importantly, the bearded axe had an edge of high carbon steel forge-welded in, a higher quality material that only the ancient Scandinavian blacksmiths had access to at the time.

This course is designed for those who have previous forging experience, ideally axe-making, who wish to deepen their knowledge and learn the process of forging a bearded axe. The axe forged in this course is modelled after an archaeological find from the 8th century.

Course information

Date: August 17th – 21st 2020

Price: 9,500 SEK. Request for individual room an additional 1,000 SEK.

Included: Practical instruction and materials for 5 days
Breakfast, lunch, 2x coffee and dinner for 5 days; breakfast always 8:00.
Accommodation 5 nights, August 16th – 20th 2020
Swedish Blacksmithing book by Karl-Gunnar Norén & Lars Enander

Questions or registration can be sent to courses@gransfors.com

Forging Course – Damascus 5 days

Instruction in Swedish and English.

Experience equivalent to Forging Course – Foundation is required.

With the guidance of an experienced smith's step-by-step examples and instruction, you will gain a glimpse into the world of forging Damascus, otherwise known as pattern-welded, steel. This course focuses on the making of this material through forge welding layers of different steels together, and manipulating the result to create patterns in the finished billet. Pattern welding is not only used to create beautiful patterns, but is also a means for a smith to combine the properties of different steels to serve a distinct purpose.

The emphasis of the course is creating the Damascus steel itself and learning and practicing the techniques required. During the course there will also be time to further explore forging one's own Damascus into such items as knives or jewellery. Finishing processes such as hardening, polishing, and etching are also introduced. Participants' own ideas are welcomed.

Course information

Date: September 7th – 11th 2020

Price: 9,500 SEK. Request for individual room an additional 1,000 SEK.

Included: Practical instruction and materials for 5 days
Breakfast, lunch, 2x coffee and dinner for 5 days; breakfast always 8:00.
Accommodation 5 nights, September 6th – 10th 2020
Swedish Blacksmithing book by Karl-Gunnar Norén & Lars Enander

Forging course – Forging an axe 2 days

Instruction in Swedish and English.

No previous experience required.

With the guidance of an experienced smith's step-by-step examples and instruction, you will gain a glimpse into the world of forging hot steel. You will learn some foundation knowledge such as how to light the forge and about the tools and materials involved – a perfect introduction to blacksmithing and axe making.

Forging an axe is in many ways one of the most demanding projects in the forge, and this course focuses on introducing the basics of the different steps involved. Besides gaining a basic understanding of the forge and its tools, under the course of two days you will learn the step-by-step process of making an axe. Participants begin with forging the axe head, followed by the finishing steps of heat treating, grinding, and hafting. The axe model forged in this course is a smaller hatchet, similar to the Gränsfors Outdoor Axe. The goal of the course is that each participant can take home their very own hand forged axe.

Course information

Schedule: 2 days (from 9:00 on day 1 to 16:00 on day 2)

Price: 5,000 SEK. Request for individual room an additional 400 SEK.

Included: Practical instruction and materials for 2 days
Breakfast, lunch, 2x coffee and dinner for 2 days; breakfast always 8:00.
Accommodation 2 nights, night before the course and night of the 1st day.
Swedish Blacksmithing book by Karl-Gunnar Norén & Lars Enander

Dates 2020:

February 21st – 22nd, February 28th – 29th,

March 27th – 28th,

April 3rd – 4th,

May 1st – 2nd, May 8th – 9th, May 15th – 16th,

June 5th – 6th, June 12th – 13th,

October 2nd – 3rd, October 9th – 10th,

November 6th – 7th, November 20th – 21st

Questions or registration can be sent to courses@gransfors.com

Forging course – Forging a knife 2 days

Instruction in Swedish and English. No previous experience required.

With the guidance of an experienced smith's step-by-step examples and instruction, you will gain a glimpse into the world of forging hot steel. You will learn some foundation knowledge such as how to light the forge and about the tools and materials involved – a perfect 'try-out' introduction to blacksmithing.

The focus of this course is to give a basic knowledge and practical experience of the processes involved in knife forging. Besides gaining a basic understanding of the forge and its tools, you will be able to try forging several different styles of knife blades, including a traditional woman's knife, a hidden tang blade, and a full steel knife. The process is introduced step by step, from the lighting of the forge and working of the hot steel, to grinding and heat-treating. There is even the possibility to try forge-welding a laminated blade.

Course information

Schedule: 2 days (from 9:00 on day 1 to 16:00 on day 2)

Price: 5,000 SEK. Request for individual room an additional 400 SEK.

Included: Practical instruction and materials for 2 days
Breakfast, lunch, 2x coffee and dinner for 2 days; breakfast always 8:00.
Accommodation 2 nights, night before the course and night of the 1st day.
Swedish Blacksmithing book by Karl-Gunnar Norén & Lars Enander

Dates 2020:

March 6th – 7th,

April 10th – 11th,

September 25th – 26th,

November 13th – 14th

Forging course – Try out forging 2 days

Instruction in Swedish and English.

No previous experience required.

This is a course created for giving you the opportunity to try out forging and to gain a first glimpse into the fascinating world of blacksmithing. Participants get an introduction to the basic techniques of forging through practical instruction and demonstrations. You will learn some foundation knowledge such as how to light the forge and about the tools and materials involved in forging at the anvil. During the course you will forge several simple items which may include hooks, a skewer, barbeque fork, grill tongs or bottle opener. There is always room for your own ideas and suggestions as well.

Schedule: 2 days (from 9:00 on day 1 to 16:00 on day 2)

Price: 5,000 SEK. Request for individual room an additional 400 SEK.

Included: Practical instruction and materials for 2 days
Breakfast, lunch, 2x coffee and dinner for 2 days; breakfast always 8:00.
Accommodation 2 nights, night before the course and night of the 1st day.
Swedish Blacksmithing book by Karl-Gunnar Norén & Lars Enander

Dates: March 20th – 21st 2020

Forging course – Tailor-made forging experience

Instruction in Swedish and English

Build your own custom-made course in Gränsfors. A great experience for team-building, business groups or friends. Time for your own project planning can be included. Maximum 8 people and up to 5 days.

Email for more information and a quote to courses@gransfors.com

Log-building course – Traditional log-building 5 days

Instruction in Swedish, German and English.

As a course participant you will be part of a building project, which may include anything from an “Attefallshus” to a simple outbuilding. Together we discuss project planning, ground and foundation, timber selection, truss solutions, window and door openings, roof construction and more, as well as study the construction of completed log houses. The course focuses on joining timbers with the “Dalaknuten” (Dalarna Joint, a.k.a. Siljan’s Joint) and the joining of wedge-shaped timbers. We use logs that are sawn and milled with a sawmill onsite to ensure plenty of time for practicing good quality joints. The course is a combination of theory and practical application but the focus is on building up the practical skills.

You will work with hand tools and axes produced by Gränsfors Bruk. After the course is finished you will keep the broad-axe you worked with.

No previous experience is required. Minimum age is 16 years. Instruction in Swedish, English, and German depending on the participants.

Pictures from courses can be seen at www.gransforsbruk.com .

What to bring?

Folding rule and pencil. Work boots with steel toes and reinforced soles recommended but not required. Heavy duty work clothing is also recommended.

Course information

Included: Practical instruction for 5 days.
Breakfast, lunch, 2x coffee and dinner for 5 days; breakfast always 8:00.
Accommodation 5 nights, night before the course and following 4 nights.

Price: 9,500 SEK. Request for individual room an additional 1,000 SEK.

Dates 2020:

June 8th – 12th,

June 29th – July 3rd,

July 6th – 10th,

July 27th – 31st,

August 10th – 14th,

September 7th – 11th

Questions or registration can be sent to courses@gransfors.com

Log-building course – Traditional log-building (try-out) 3 days

Instruction in Swedish, German and English.

If you are interested in trying out log-building as it was in the past, then this is the course for you. During 3 days you will gain a first glimpse of how traditional log-building works. The courses focus on joining timbers with the “Dalaknuten” (Dalarna Joint), and the joining of wedge-shaped timbers. We use logs that are sawn and milled with a sawmill onsite to ensure plenty of time for practicing good quality joints. You will work with hand tools and axes produced by Gränsfors Bruk. After the course is finished you will keep the broad-axe you worked with. No previous experience is required. Minimum age is 16 years. Instruction in Swedish, English, and German depending on the participants. Pictures from courses can be seen at www.gransforsbruk.com . Bring a folding rule and pencil. Work boots with steel toes and reinforced soles recommended but not required. Heavy duty work clothing is also recommended.

Course information

Dates 2020: July 17th – 19th, August 21st – 23rd, August 28th – 30th, September 18th – 20th

Price: 5,000 SEK. Request for individual room an additional 600 SEK.

Included: Practical instruction for 3 days
Breakfast, lunch, 2x coffee and dinner for 3 days; breakfast always 8:00.
Accommodation 3 nights, night before the course and following 2 nights.

Timber Framing course – Timber frame construction 7 days

Instruction in Swedish, German and English.

Timber frame construction has long existed in practically every country. Over many years it has been refined in places such as Great Britain, Germany, and Japan, and has become a carpentry technique which, together with skilled craftspeople, has resulted in architectural masterpieces, both functional and aesthetic.

In this course you will learn how to build a timber frame house. No previous experience is required. Minimum age is 16 years. Instruction in English, Swedish, and German depending on the participants.

Bring a folding rule and pencil. Work boots with steel toes and reinforced soles recommended but not required. Heavy duty work clothing is also recommended.

Course information

Dates 2020: May 17th – 23rd (Rupert Newman), May 30th – June 5th (Johannes Kästel)

Price: 9,500 SEK. Request for individual room an additional 1,400 SEK.

Included: Practical instruction for 7 days
Breakfast, lunch, 2x coffee and dinner for 7 days; breakfast always 8:00.
Accommodation 7 nights, night before the course and following 6 nights.

Questions or registration can be sent to courses@gransfors.com

Charcoal burning course 2 days

Instruction in English, Swedish and German.

New for Gränsfors this year are courses in charcoal burning in “MiniMila”. Over the course of two days, participants will create charcoal which can be used in the grill or as bio-charcoal in the garden. Courses are led by Maurice Pale from Great Britain. Instruction is offered in English.

This course is a practical introduction to charcoal making and suitable for anyone wanting to learn the black art of charcoal burning to produce high quality charcoal.

Day 1 is a long one. We'll start at about 9 am and finish late into the evening at around 9 pm. We'll make charcoal in a 6' commercial steel ring kiln and a 'hobby' mini kiln.

Day 2 starts slightly later at 10am and finishes around 1: 00pm. During this shorter session, we'll open up the cooled kilns to assess the results, empty the kilns then grade and bag the charcoal.

We'll discuss the specification and characteristics of good quality charcoal suitable for the barbeque or use as bio-coal in your garden. Locally made charcoal is sustainable. You will of course take home a bag of the made charcoal.

What you need to bring?

Work overalls, work gloves, strong boots, warm evening clothes - and a willingness to get dirty!

This course will take place at Gränsfors regardless of what the weather throws at us.

Course information

Dates 2020: August 31 – September 1, September 2 – September 3

Price: 5,000 SEK. Request for individual room an additional 400 SEK.

Included: Practical instruction for 2 days
Breakfast, lunch, 2x coffee and dinner for 2 days; breakfast always 8:00.
Accommodation 2 nights, night before the course and following night.

General course information

Schedule

All courses begin with gathering and breakfast in Restaurant Augustes at 8:00.

2 day:

Day 1: breakfast 8:00 – 9:00, course 9:00 – 17:00.

Day 2: breakfast 8:00 – 9:00, course 9:00 – 16:00.

3 day:

Day 1: breakfast 8:00 – 9:00, course 9:00 – 17:00.

Day 2: breakfast 8:00 – 9:00, course 9:00 – 17:00.

Day 3: breakfast 8:00 – 9:00, course 9:00 – 14:00.

5 days and 7 day:

Breakfast every day 8:00 – 9:00.

Course every day 9:00 – 17:00.

Accommodation

Accommodation is included in the course price. You will be assigned to an accommodation after booking. Requests for specific individual accommodation (own room) for an added fee. Individual accommodations cannot be guaranteed for late registration. WC and showers are always shared by several course participants, even in the case of individual room. The rooms are not usually cleaned during the courses.

Food & Drink

All meals – breakfast, coffee, lunch, and dinner – are included in the course price and are served at Restaurant Augustus. During the summer the restaurant is also open to the public. Requests for extra meals and special diets must be notified when booking.

All courses begin with gathering and breakfast in Restaurant Augustes at 8:00.

Food prices for non-participants:

Breakfast	75 SEK
Lunch	95 SEK
Dinner	115 SEK

Getting to Gränsfors

Gränsfors is located in northern Hälsingland about 20 km from the Gulf of Bothnia, 350 km north of Stockholm, between Hudiksvall and Sundsvall and approximately 10 km from the E4 motorway.

Gränsfors is located in the Nordanstigs municipality in Gävleborg county. More information about Gränsfors Bruk can be found at www.gransforsbruk.com, and the surrounding area at www.nordanstig.se and www.halsingland.se.

By Car:

From the south/north: turn west off of the A4 motorway in Gnarp. By the OKQ8 fuel station is a sign for Gränsfors 10km. Gränsfors is located between Gnarp and Bergsjö along road 758.

By train and bus:

From the south: Take the train to Hudiksvall and then bus to Bergsjö. From Bergsjö there is a bus to Gränsfors which takes about 15 minutes. Alternately take the train to Gnarp and then bus to Gränsfors. From the bus stop in Gränsfors it is about a 5 – 10 min walk to Gränsfors Bruk.

From the north: Take the train from Sundsvall to the Gnarp train station. From Gnarp there is a bus to Gränsfors which takes about 15 minutes. From the bus stop in Gränsfors it is about a 5 – 10 min walk to Gränsfors Bruk.

Timetables can be found at: www.sj.se and www.x-trafik.se

Course inquiries and registration is easy

Questions or registration can be sent to courses@gransfors.com

The information we need, besides which course(s) you want to participate in, is name, address, telephone number and email address, along with additional information about individual accommodation and food requests.

After sending a registration form you will receive a confirmation, along with additional information and an invoice.

The courses are arranged in collaboration between Gränsfors Bruks AB and Gårdar i Nordanstig AB, which runs Sagaliden Camping & Courses, B&B and other courses in Nordanstig.

Gränsfors Bruk axe forge

The axe forge is open to visitors on weekdays from 9:00 – 15:00.
Gränsfors Bruk is closed weekends.

Gränsfors Bruk factory giftshop

The shop is open to visitors on weekdays from 9:00 – 15:00.
Gränsfors Bruk is closed weekends.

The factory giftshop is open Saturdays from 10:00 – 14:00 during the summer season.

Axe Museum

Next door to the forge lies the Gränsfors Axe Museum, packed with over 2,000 axes from floor to ceiling. 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, fireman's 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 company. 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 from 9:00 to 16:00. Admission is free.

The Axe Museum is closed on weekends. However, during the summer season the Museum is open on Saturdays from 10:00 – 12:30.

Guided factory tours

From week 26 – 34 during the summer Gränsfors offers guided tours of the axe factory on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 and 12:30. Tours start in the factory giftshop. No registration is required.

Tours can be booked at other times of year by telephone: 0652 – 710 90. Tours take approximately 30 minutes and are free.

Restaurant Augustus, Gränsfors

Beginning spring 2020, Restaurant Augustus will be open for the public.

For more information contact the owner/proprietor Hasse by telephone: 070-557 19 61.

Area around the village of Gränsfors

Lakes, beaches, forests and mountains

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

There is both a hiking trail and canoe route from Hassela to the sea. Both are a little hidden but worth exploring.

Bergsjö

10 km west of Gränsfors is the village of Bergsjö, population about 1,500. Here you can find a supermarket, hardware store, ATM, apothecary, Systembolaget (liquor store), two restaurants and a petrol station. In Bergsjö is also located the bus station where buses run daily to Hassela, Gnarp, Hudiksvall and Sundsvall.

Gnarp

10 km east of Gränsfors, at the motorway E4, is the village Gnarp. Here you can find a supermarket, hardware store, petrol station and ATM. From Gnarp you can also take the train and bus to Sundsvall and Hudiksvall, bus to Gränsfors and Bergsjö, and long-distance buses to Stockholm.

Sagaliden Camping in Högen

Sagaliden Camping is found 3 km south of Bergsjö and about 20 minutes' drive from Gränsfors, located in a small but beautiful nook by the lake Storsjön. Sagaliden is owned by Gårdar i Nordanstig AB, which runs courses in collaboration with Gränsfors Bruk.

The Gulf of Bothnia

Twenty kilometres to the east lies the Gulf of Bothnia with wonderful, often wholly unspoiled, beaches. You will also find a string of beautiful small coastal communities, including Sörfjärden with its beach, restaurant *En Liten Sjöökrog* and golf course, and Mellanfjärden, which has a hotel, the *Sjömärket* restaurant and camping. Running along the coast is Kuststigen, a walking 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, scooter safaris, dog sled tours and spa facilities during the winter season. In the summer, Hassela has a choice of two golf courses. www.hasselaski.se