

SWEDEN - LCC (Lakeland Canoe Club) Canoe Trip – Rivers Langen-Gryckan Loan and Voxnan – May 10th to 24th 2024

By Pete Riley

LINK TO PHOTOS - [Pete's Flickr](#)

Organised by Mike Hayward – 7 of us went on the trip. We had this fabulous adventure over 8 paddling days, assisted by an outfitter in Voxnabruk. I've written this article to assist others in planning something similar.

A unique experience and relatively accessible from the UK. The trip went particularly smoothly because of the flexibility of the outfitter, Christoffer, who hired us boats, provided decent accommodation and food, gave us advice and did numerous shuttles.

General Logistics

DAY 1 - Flew to Stockholm from Manchester – 09.45. SAS – 2 hrs 20.

Train to Sonderhamn direct from the airport (2 hours 10) – 14:30 to 16:40. There is a bus service too, which would save £30 each, return.

Walked from Sonderhamn station to Best Western hotel with luggage – 800m. Meal, beer and sleep.

DAY 2 - Shopped at nearby Lidl's in morning for 7 meals wild camping.

Outfitter collected us and took us back to his base at Voxnabruk - 1hr 20 – marked Voxnabruks Kanot & Camping on Google Maps – via his hotel in Ebdsyn – for a simple lunch.

Spent the rest of the day packing and sorting gear for an early start the day after. We probably could have been driven to the start of our first river on the same day, but we elected for the more relaxed approach.

Walked to the 'mansion / museum / restaurant' (Voxnabruk Herrgard – marked on Google Maps) for evening meal and refreshments. An excellent and bizarre experience with a tour of the enthralling museum / waxworks after dinner.

Stayed at his base in the basic but wholly adequate accommodation with twin and double rooms.

DAY 3 – (Paddling day 1) Short drive to the start of the Langen Gryckan river at Gropabo. Camp at excellent site at crux grade 3 rapid Lilldjupbackstrommen on Langen Gryckan. An easy start to the trip. [Langen Gryckan](#)

DAY 4 - (Paddling day 2) Easy 3.3km finish of Langen Gryckan. Take out at bridge at confluence of Voxnan. Met Christoffer at 09:00. He took us to the Loan put-in at Samuelsfallet. Paddled all of the Loan (16km) and camped at Blommaberg on the Voxnan, just after the confluence. [Langen Gryckan to Confluence of Voxnan](#) [Loan to Voxnan Confluence](#)

DAY 5 - (Paddling day 3) Lower Voxnan and then lift to Voxnan start at Lake Siksjon. a) From Blommaberg to crux rapid at Vinstrommen – 1 hour. 200m Portage up hill to campground to be picked up by Christoffer. Lift at 14:00 via his base to pick up the remaining food and dump unwanted items. Driven to Lake

Siksjon (top of Voxnan). Could get a pick up from Blommaberg. b) Late afternoon start and circa 2 hours to a the first proper camp (marked as a 'shelter' on the canoe map). A very scrapy gd III rapid which made us wonder at the 48 cumecs at Voxnabruk. [Loan / Voxnan](#) [Top of Voxnan from Siksjon](#)

DAY 6 - (Paddling day 4) Voxnan 2. A lot of lakes today – into a headwind, which took a toll on our only solo paddler! Camp on rough ground, river right just above the road bridge in Rullbo (there is nothing below here for a while). Not the best camp but worked ok. 45 cumecs at Voxnabruk. [Voxnan 2](#)

DAY 7 - (Paddling day 5) Voxnan 3. 25 or so rapids today! Some decent challenges. [Voxnan 3](#) Camped at the dam at Storlugnet. 250/300m portage around the dam to the start of the next day.

Day 8 - (Paddling day 6) Voxnan 4. 25 or so rapids again. Camped at Kronstuban. Not a formal camp, but comfy enough. [Voxnan 4](#)

Day 9 - (Paddling day 7) Voxnan 5. Only a handful of rapids today – and an interesting backwater as part of the portage around gd 6 Hylstrommen. Christoffer kindly met us at this beauty spot to save us a 2km portage. Camped at rather decent Blommaberg site (for the 2nd time) just beyond the Loan confluence. 38 cumecs today. A nice level. [Voxnan 5](#)

Day 10 - (Paddling day 8) Voxnan 6. Repeated 90 minutes worth of the Voxnan, done on Paddling Day 3. Lined the top and paddled the bottom of the crux Vinstrommen rapid (IV). A wonderful 23km to finish a superb adventure in the Swedish wilderness. An early afternoon finish and quick drive back to base. Beers and a meal in the 'mansion' / museum / waxworks. [Voxnan 6](#)

Day 11 – Relaxed start and Lift to Sonderhamn for train to the airport. Checked in hold luggage – then meal, refreshments and bed at the Comfort Hotel.

Day 12 - Just a short walk from the hotel with cabin luggage, to check in for 09:20 flight to Manchester.

Water Levels

The river and lake systems get a large amount of water from snow melt. There is only one gauge that serves these 3 river systems; Nybro at Voxnabruk.

[earlyfloodalert.com](#) This gauge is circa 95km below the Voxnan put-in at the headwaters of Lake Siksjon; and many kilometres below the only 2 significant confluence rivers of the Loan and Langen-Gryckan.

A previous trip report suggested that a level of 30 cumecs is good for a descent of the Voxnan. However it is difficult to understand how this gauge can reflect the water levels high up the river, which passes through many long lakes and is controlled in various places by dams. Our 1st day on the Voxnan was at 48 cumecs, at the end of the snow melt. However we scraped down a gd.3 rapid early on in the day. We took out at Voxnabruk, after 6 days on the river, at a level of 31 cumecs, having had no rain at all. Apart from the scrapy early rapids, everything else was at a nice, manageable level. As I write this, just over a week after getting home, the level at

Nybro is 17 cumecs. Maybe there is only a small window of opportunity to paddle these magnificent rivers, unless there is significant rainfall?

Weather

A week before we left it was still snowing, however just before we arrived a high pressure system moved in. No rain throughout. Most days were full sun, with a bit of occasional cloud. The last day was cloudy. The nighttime temperature dropped to around 4 - 6 °C. every night, but quickly rose into the 20s by 0900 / 1000. Voxnabruk and Sveg are good locations to look up forecasts.

Water Temperature

Very cold! This caused active debate about appropriate river clothing. The air temperatures and hot sun suggested very light weight paddling wear, but the larger rapids in the wider and more powerful river, lower down the Voxnan, suggested something more protective in case of a long swim. We actually ditched drysuits on day 1!

Mosquitos & Biting Insects

Surprisingly few mosquitos, mainly in the evenings and early mornings. We took good protective net type clothing but it wasn't used. Most of the time we were trouble free, with slightly increasing numbers as the trip progressed. Black flies caused some painful bites. We were advised that in a week or so after our trip ended, the situation would be rather worse.

Mapping

There is a colour map of the 3 rivers, showing rapids, camps and giving some key information. [Swedish](#) [English](#). These maps are schematic. They are difficult to follow, but give reasonable, indicative information on most of the rapids, portages and position of camps etc. There are more rapids than marked, but generally easier.

We possessed printed, laminated maps at a more usable scale, but lacking detail. 2 or 3 of us used various phone Apps, including Outdoor Active, which shows contours and gives detailed information. Useful to confirm an exact fix. Despite the remoteness, we often had a telephone signal, although it might be useful to download the relevant maps. <https://minkarta.lantmateriet.se/>

Outfitter

We are only aware of 1 provider in the region. Christoffer runs [Voxnabruks Kanot & Camping](#) (Also see Facebook and Instagram). He was excellent and with reasonable charges. He provided shuttles to and from the railway station; and between the start and ends of the 3 rivers; and around a 2.0 km portage of a long gd.6 rapid at Hylstrommen. We used his accommodation at Voxnabruk and he provided evening meals at the start and end. Good advice on camping.

Equipment / Boats

Christoffer has a fleet of Novacraft Prospector 16s (Not Royalex). Limited freeboard when fully loaded & tandem, but coped fine. He doesn't provide bailers and painters and there are no lashing points extra to what is available in the basic boat. Paddles

are basic, but they were ok for the trip. He doesn't have barrels and his dry bags are basic and very limited. Bring your own. Recommended to bring your own PFDs too.

Camping gas (440g, C500 screw fitting) can be bought at Team Sportia in Sonderhamn.

Pete Riley

[LCC Trip Report](#)

STATS

Langen-Grychan	9.5km	A short day to a crux rapid and fantastic camp!
Langen-Gryckan.	3.5km	exit Langen-Gryckan. Nice ...with a gd3 obstacle. Drive to Loan
Loan to Voxnan confluence	16km	Another ace section, with plenty of beaver activity
Voxnan Day 1	6.5km	Some interesting rapids!
Voxnan Day 2	17.5km	Lakes, lakes and more lakes all day. Nice technical 400m gd. 3 rapid near Rullbo. Beautiful.
Voxnan Day 3	12.5km	A lot of rapids. The mileage didn't reflect the effort! Superb place.
Voxnan Day 4	24.5km	A full on - 30 rapids day. Some quite tricky.
Voxnan Day 5	11.5km	Another good, but short day, with a van portage! Camp at Bloomberg again - just after the Loan confluence
Voxnan Day 6	23km	An excellent experience in the Swedish wilderness, with a great crew.