



A settlement unique in the world

The Church Town is unique in its settlement with some eighty South-Sami huts, cabins and church. The entire area is marked by a simple character near the mountains. It is easy here to experience the place's unique history. In addition, a welcome hut is kept open for visitors and a church cabin shows the exhibit "To meet in Fatmomakke". Other huts and cabins are for the most part owned by private persons, of which you as a visitor should be considerate.

The oldest huts have been successively replaced by new ones, most of them from the 1900s. There are two principal types: the older curved pole hut and the circular hut from the time after 1930. The Sami gathering house was built in 1927, the same year as the County Administrative Board's official residence. Twenty years later the Salvation Army's prayer hut was erected. Oldest at the church's site are now the timbered cabins and the church, built during the 1800s. There are traces of even older structures, in the form of hearths and storage pits. Some of these are legally protected antiquities.



A cultural reserve

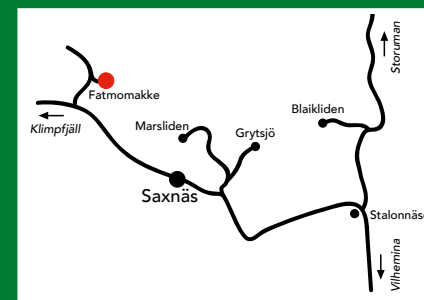
In June 2014, Västerbotten's third cultural reserve was established. Fatmomakke Church Town. The others are Rörträsk's water meadows in the province of Norsjö and the Sami cultural environment Atoklimpen in the province of Storuman.

The purpose of the cultural heritage site Fatmomakke Church Town is to preserve and show the significance of the church town as a spiritual and multicultural meeting place in the interior of Norrland, with continuity from the 1700s up to today.

In order for the cultural reserve to function well, certain investments are needed, which are set forth in a management plan. The reserve is managed by the County Administrative Board of Västerbotten. For more information: www.lansstyrelsen.se/vasterbotten

Please do visit in order to experience the unique and beautifully situated cultural reserve, where signs and an exhibit tell more about the church town's background. It is easiest to get to Fatmomakke by car. From the parking areas a 500 meters long paved walkway leads to the cultural reserve.

You are warmly welcome!
Buerie Båeteme!



Cultural Reserves
in the County of
Västerbotten

FATMOMAKKE
CHURCH TOWN

– a meeting place
in a mountain environment

A strategic meeting place

Fatmomakke Church Town consists of hut, cabins, sheds and a church – beautifully located at the shore of lake Kultsjön with a view towards the summits of Marsfjäll, about 120 kilometers northwest of Vilhelmina.

Relatives of Sami and newer settlers come here annually, but tourists and researchers who are captivated by the uniqueness of the place also come. Fatmomakke Church Town, which was established at the end of the 1700s, is one of Sweden's sixteen preserved church towns.

Fatmomakke has a long history as a gathering place for Sami, strategically situated in the middle of several areas of Sami habitation and of good fishing waters. It was easy to reach the place, not least by boat. Holidays in the Spring and Fall were important events, in which the church played a central role. Sami, and later farmers, went to mass, were baptized, got married, were gathered together for the annual inquiry into their church relationships, for meetings and for other assemblies, carried on trade and socialized in Fatmomakke. Many met their life companions there. They also met the authorities, such as the Sami sheriff, the county sheriff and the doctor.

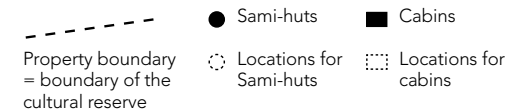
Political and independent church news was also soon spread here. Fatmomakke has changed its image many times, with new meanings for its visitors.



The church town tradition

A church town is a collection of buildings for staying overnight in connection with church attendance. The first church towns were established at the churches of the Middle Ages at the coast. The tradition has a connection with the Reformation – when the requirements of regular church attendance and knowledge of Christianity increased during the 1500s it became practical for visitors from far away to have a cabin in the church's vicinity. Often both church and church town were built at a place which was already being used for trade and for meetings. Of Sweden's approximately 70 known church towns more than half, nearly 50, were built in the cur-

rent provinces of Norrbotten and Västerbotten. Typical Sami church towns with huts in which to overnight during the church holidays have been found at chapels built in the mountains, as at Fatmomakke. Sami, too, were subject to a duty to attend church, even if to a limited extent as a result of their nomadic lives. When colonization got started beginning in the 1820s, the church site was also visited by the farmers resident in the area. The number of church holidays increased at the same time from two to four per year and a certain amount of trade began to develop at the end of the 1800s.



Church gathering at Fatmomakke in the 1890s.

