

Härnösand



Every place name
hides a story.
This is an account
of what happened.
Read and learn.
And come and visit!

From exciting history to living heritage.





In Härnösand, the church lies in the centre of the town. An eye-catching white feature, the majestic cathedral rises over the old wooden buildings of Östanbäcken. Power and learning have always been of central importance here.

Härnösand is an old town. It was founded in 1585 by King Johan III and soon became an administrative centre for much of Norrland. It became a cathedral city in 1647 and three years later opened a school for upper secondary education. Härnösand became the site of the county government, housing the administrative board offices and county governor's residence in 1778. The yellow Classical style residence on the main square has been in continual use since 1790. Härnösand became a centre that enjoyed both esteem and influence, which is reflected in its architecture.

The Old High School with its pillared rotunda and the majestic white cathedral from 1846 rose above the contemporary tightly packed wooden buildings. Härnösand's older town plan still survives in Östanbäcken. At present there are 24,000 residents in the municipality and Härnösand still administers a great deal of the important aspects of Västernorrland society.

1. Town Hall, Old High School.

RÅDHUSET.
NOT OPEN to the public.
ADDRESS Storgatan 30.

2. Härnosand Cathedral.

DOMKYRKAN.
OPEN daily 10-16.
ADDRESS Franzéngatan.
TELEPHONE 0611-245 00.
www.harnosandsdomkyrka.se

3. Bronze Age cairns.

BRONSÅLDERSRÖSENA.
www.murberget.se

4. Murberget County Museum.

MURBERGET LÄNSMUSEET.
OPEN Tues-Sun 11-17.
ADDRESS Murberget.
TELEPHONE 0611-886 00.
www.murberget.se

5. Library.

SAMBIBLIOTEKET.
OPEN Mon-Thurs 09.30-19,
Fri 09.30-18, Sat 11-15.
ADDRESS Universitetsbacken 3.
TELEPHONE 0611-865 30.
www.sambiblioteket.se

6. Tullport park.

TULLPORTSPARKEN.
ADDRESS Södra vägen.

7. Northern Archive Centre, ACN.

ARKIVCENTRUM NORD.
OPEN Mon-Thurs 09-16, Fri 09-12.
ADDRESS Kusthöjden, byggnad 46.
TELEPHONE 010-476 80 52.
www.arkivcentrumnord.se

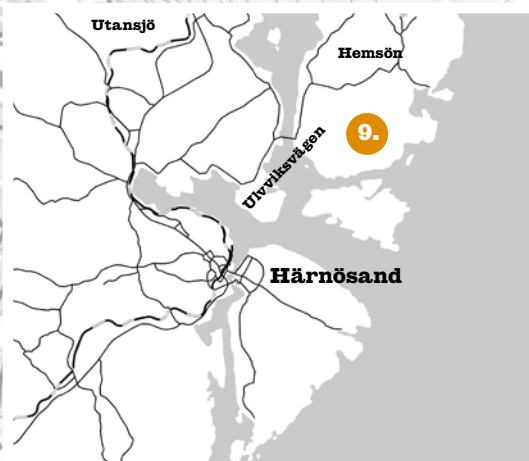
8. Provincial Record Office.

LANDSARKIVET.
OPEN Mon-Thurs 09-20, Fri 09-12,
Tues 09-20 (Sept-May).
ADDRESS Jonas Bures plats, Rosenbäckshallén.
TELEPHONE 010-476 80 00.
www.statensarkiv.se

9. Hemsö fortress.

HEMSÖ FÄSTNING.
OPEN all year round for groups
upon reservation.
TELEPHONE 0611-690 02.
www.hemsofastning.se







1. City Hall, Old High School.

RÅDHUSET. In 1650 Härnösand became the first town in Norrland to receive a school for upper-secondary studies. For two centuries, the High School in Härnösand was alone in offering this level of education north of Uppsala. It attracted students from afar. The school building was built in 1790, designed by the architect Olof Tempelman. Its most striking feature is the magnificent pillared rotunda marking the entrance in an otherwise strictly classical façade. Less than a century after the school was opened, the building became too small for the growing number of students. It became the Town Hall instead. Today it contains municipal offices and the municipal assembly hall. ↻

2. Härnösand Cathedral.

DOMKYRKAN. Christianity has been practiced in Sweden since approximately 1000 AD.



Thousands of churches were built over the whole country in the Middle Ages alone – large and small, in town and countryside. In 1647, three years before Härnösand opened Norrland's first upper secondary school, the town was appointed as a cathedral town and became the administrative centre for all the Church of Sweden parishes in the whole of Norrland. The existing medieval town church was considered too modest for this appointment and an extension was begun. But the church was burned down by the invading Russian army before it could be completed. Valuable fittings such as chandeliers and silver objects were saved by being hidden under the church floor. A new church was quickly built in the same place. A century later, in 1846, this was replaced by the new cathedral, erected in Classical style. The chandeliers that were saved from the medieval church still hang there and spread their light on dark winter nights.

Sweden practices religious freedom and everyone is welcome to Härnösand Cathedral, regardless of faith or philosophy of life. 📍

3. Bronze Age cairns on Murberget.

BRONSÅLDERSRÖSENA. 2 500 years ago, the site of present-day Härnösand was covered by virgin forests. What is now Sweden did not exist then, but small tribes lived here in different parts of the country, including present-day Härnösand. Bronze Age people lived by hunting and fishing. Their traces are mainly gone now but here and there we find remains which can tell us how they lived. North of the open-air museum at Murberget, nine burial cairns were found along what was the Bronze Age (1800 – 500 BC) shoreline, on a promontory out in the bay. They now lie at an altitude of 30 to 45 metres above sea-level as a result of the postglacial land uplift. Archaeologists believe that these cairns were erected as monuments over persons of high status and that they also served as landmarks for boats that sailed along the coasts. Such burial cairns are very common along the Norrland coast and in Västernorrland alone about 700 are known. 📍





4. Murberget, Västernorrland County Museum.

MURBERGET LÄNSMUSEET VÄSTERNORRLAND. Here you will find the story of Västernorrland. A three-part exhibition describes the county's development from prehistoric times to the 1950s. Temporary exhibitions are regularly organised where musicians, dancers and artists meet with historical objects from the museum's collections. The open air museum is one of the largest in Sweden, with town and country dwellings and milieu. In the summer the houses are filled with guides who cook, bake and relate tales. Special activities are arranged for children. Murberget also offers good conference facilities, a well-stocked museum shop and a cafeteria which serves a lunch buffet of high repute. ↕ ↕



5. Library.

SAMBIBLIOTEKET. The library together with its branches in Ramvik, Viksjö and Älandsbro, is in fact three libraries under one roof: the municipal

library, county library and Mid-Sweden University library. The building also houses the LRC ADULT LEARNING CENTRE (Origo), consumer and energy advice bureaus, the organisation '5 in 12', Swedish Radio Västernorrland, a cafeteria, as well as programme and conference rooms.

The municipal library offers books, discs and films, information, activities and exhibitions – on everything from crossword puzzles to car repair, from regulations on settlements prior to marriage to historical dissertations. The staff will be happy to assist you with your queries.

Foreign immigrants are an important target group for the library. We have language courses, dictionaries and fiction in a wide range of languages, and provide multilingual brochures about our work. Activities such as knitting or language cafés gather Swedes and non-Swedes together. Our goal is to be able to offer something for everyone in the community. ↶ ↷





6. Tullport park.

TULLPORTSPARKEN. A thousand years after the mounds were erected on Murberget, man had learnt how to cultivate the land, and the first Härnösand settlers began to open up fields. Traces of a large cemetery, approximately 1,500 years old, have been found in Tullport Park. Most of its approximately 30 burial mounds were destroyed during the 20th century.

Today, nine mounds survive and have

produced skeletons and objects including a brooch and shears. Archaeologists are uncertain about the site's significance but believe that it may have been some sort of trading place. ➔

7. Northern Archive Centre, ACN.

ARKIVCENTRUM NORD. The ACN gathers several archives together in the one building complex. You will find documents here from the Västernorrland Local Societies Archives, Härnösand Municipal Archives, Provincial Record Office, County Council Archives, and the Norrland Trade & Industry Archives

Minutes of old meetings, photographs, documentation and writings provide a broad picture of social history, from the story of the labour movement including facts and photos of timber floating and old sawmills, to old town plans and designs of buildings. ⬅



8. Provincial Record Office.

LANDSARKIVET. Härnösand houses one of Europe's largest archives and Sweden's largest provincial record office. The archival material kept here comes from a vast area stretching from the Dalälven River to Sweden's most northerly border with Norway and Finland. An archive can be described as society's memory. It preserves all sorts of documentation, writings, minutes of meetings, descriptions, photographs and maps from different times and different aspects of society. The provincial record office contains many

smaller archives such as that of the law court, private documents, association and company files and church records. Private destinies await discovery in preserved diaries; the activities of the old ironworks can be traced through company records. You will find documentation and photographs from the great period when timber was transported by floating down the rivers. Church records beginning in the 17th century contain tantalising tales of births, baptisms, weddings, poor relief and schooling. Everyone is welcome to visit the archives and examine its records. ➔





9. Hemsö fortress.

HEMSÖ FÄSTNING. During the cold war between East and West several secret defence stations were built in Sweden. One of these was Hemsö fortress close to Härnösand. The whole station was built far below the ground to withstand nuclear attack. Large rooms and long corridors were tunnelled out of the rock to accommodate heavy artillery and the 320 soldiers who manned the station; along with their sleeping areas, kitchens, dining halls, site hospital, chief of staff offices, electricity, etc. In the event of war the soldiers were to survive up to 90 days underground. In 1989 the last soldier completed service at Hemsö fortress and in 1998 the site was made a national monument as it was considered to hold important information about the 20th century in Sweden.

In 2005 Hemsö fortress became a museum open to the public. 📍 📌



St Petrilogen.

Öbacka lay mirrored in the water, small fires glowed along the shores, accordion music drifted over the bay, pleasure boats trailing long clouds of steam set course for the islands and every heart cooed and sang.

From *The Twelve Sundays* by
Ludvig Nordström.

”

Nattviken.

Why is history important?

How long have people lived in Västernorrland? What did they live on? What sort of existence did they have? What important events affected the inhabitants? Just how old are the buildings and cultural environments that surround us? What can they tell us?

Many questions can be answered by studying remains from the past which can help us understand how people adapted to the varying conditions of life at different times and why society looks the way it does today. This is why it is important to take care of our cultural heritage. It is a vital source of knowledge about the past.

Why this brochure?

This brochure has been produced by the County Administrative Board in Västernorrland. County administrative boards are government authorities that exist in every county and work with issues that extend across the whole of society. An important area of concern is the protection of valuable buildings, churches and ancient remains, ensuring that significant aspects of society's history are preserved and made accessible to the public.

There are several other bodies in Sweden that work with history and the cultural heritage. These include museums, archives and libraries. Through exhibitions, archival records and books they reveal the past, the ancient landscape and how people lived.

The aim of this brochure is to inform you about some of the places under the protection of the County Administrative Board. We have also chosen to include other places that are well worth a visit such as museums, libraries and archives.

Protection according to the Heritage Act.

Listed buildings are those that are protected by law. They must be preserved with care and cannot be altered or demolished.

There are approximately 70 such buildings in Västernorrland. They have been chosen because they are excellent examples of historic architecture or were important to the history of society.

Churches are also protected by the Heritage Act which means that they must be preserved with care and cannot be altered or demolished without permission from the county administrative boards. No church built before 1940 may be changed or demolished, but even churches which were built after that may be protected. As Christianity was Sweden's major religion for more than a thousand years, the Church has had a great influence on society. Church buildings are thus an important part of our cultural heritage.

Ancient remains are the traces of past human activity from all periods. These can include thousand-year old graves in the shape of stone cairns or large grass-covered earthen mounds, settlement sites, trapping pits for wild animals, paintings on rock faces, old mills, and much more.

There are no books from prehistoric times to relate how people lived in those ancient days. Therefore it is the ground under our feet which holds an archive full of information on past life. Ancient remains can provide much information which is hard to find otherwise. They too are protected from alteration or destruction by the Heritage Act.



Some terms.

Since this brochure is aimed at everyone regardless of background, here is a brief explanation of some of the terms used:

Culture includes not only music, theatre and literature, but also the way people live and organise their existence and their society.

History is the study of human activity in previous times.

Cultural heritage refers to the traces left behind by previous generations, such as buildings, houses, objects and customs.

Cultural environment is a very broad term and refers to environments influenced by man, such as towns and agricultural landscapes. It is often used in a narrower sense to refer to a limited environment such as a manorial estate.

Norrland is the northernmost region of Sweden and includes Västernorrland. The southern region is called Götaland and the central region Svealand.

A county (län) is a geographical area delimited for public administration, for example,

Västernorrland. Sweden is divided into 21 counties.

A municipality (kommun) is a smaller geographical area with responsibility for a large portion of our social services such as schools, child care, geriatric care, planning of roads and waterways, and integration. Sweden is divided into 290 municipalities.

Translation is important since there are many people in our province who speak languages other than Swedish. In order to reach out to as many as possible with information about our history and cultural heritage we provide this brochure in Arabic, Persian, Swedish and French. Brochures in the same series about other municipalities in the province are also available in Spanish, Russian, Somali and Amharic.

Welcome to Härnösand.

There is a history behind everything you see around you. All buildings, roads, fields and forest groves have something to relate. Every period had its events which affect our present surroundings.

Increased knowledge about our history leads to an increased understanding of the daily environment we live in with its mixture of old and new which makes our society exciting and interesting.

We present some places here that can help to explain the origin and growth of Härnösand; places which are well worth visiting today.



Länsstyrelsen i Västernorrland (Västernorrland County Administrative Board)
871 86 Härnösand. Phone 0611-34 90 00. www.lansstyrelsen.se/vasternorrland