

Sollefteå

From exciting history to living heritage.

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





Throughout the ages people have travelled from the interior of Västernorrland county to Sollefteå to shop and do business. The Old Pharmacy is a well-known landmark, whether you come from the forest or river.

By the time the waters of the Ångermanälven reach Sollefteå they have passed through many miles of deep forest and Norrlandic landscape. The river valley landscape around Sollefteå is ancient settled country where people have lived for several thousands of years on fishing, hunting and farming. The cultivated slopes, traditional settlements and medieval churches are all testament to the district's long history. During the Middle Ages small villages began to develop in the area and Sollefteå has had a central role for several centuries as a market place where goods transported by the river were reloaded. In 1880 the railway came to Sollefteå which opened up access to the interior and the coast for its inhabitants. In the 1880s two large regiments were positioned here. In the first part of the 20th century the development of hydroelectricity had a great impact on the community. The dams form fascinating structures stretching out like tiny modern forts along the river. Sollefteå has continued to grow in the last century. Today 20,000 people live in the municipality.

1. Court House.

TINGSHUSET.

ADDRESS Djupövägen.

2. Sollefteå Church.

SOLLEFTEÅ KYRKA.

ADDRESS Kyrk- och Sabbatsvägen.

TELEPHONE 0620-835 00.

(Sollefteå församling)

www.svenskakyrkan.se/solleftea-botea

3. Nämforsen.

NÄMFORSEN.

www.namforsen.com

4. Holm and the Björkå works.

HOLM AND BJÖRKÅBRUK.

5. Sollefteå Museum.

SOLLEFTEÅ MUSEUM.

OPEN Mon-Fri 10-17, Sat 10-14.

ADDRESS Storgatan 59.

TELEPHONE 0620-68 29 80.

www.sollefteamuseum.com

6. Sollefteå Library.

SOLLEFTEÅ KOMMUNBIBLIOTEK.

OPEN Mon-Thurs 10-19.00,

Fri 10-17, Sat 10-14.

ADDRESS Storgatan 59.

TELEPHONE 0620-68 25 00.

www.solleftease

7. Textile Archive.

TEXTILARKIVET.

OPEN Wed-Sat 12-16.

ADDRESS Nipan 22.

TELEPHONE 0611-886 00.

www.murberget.se

8. Sollefteå Municipal Archives.

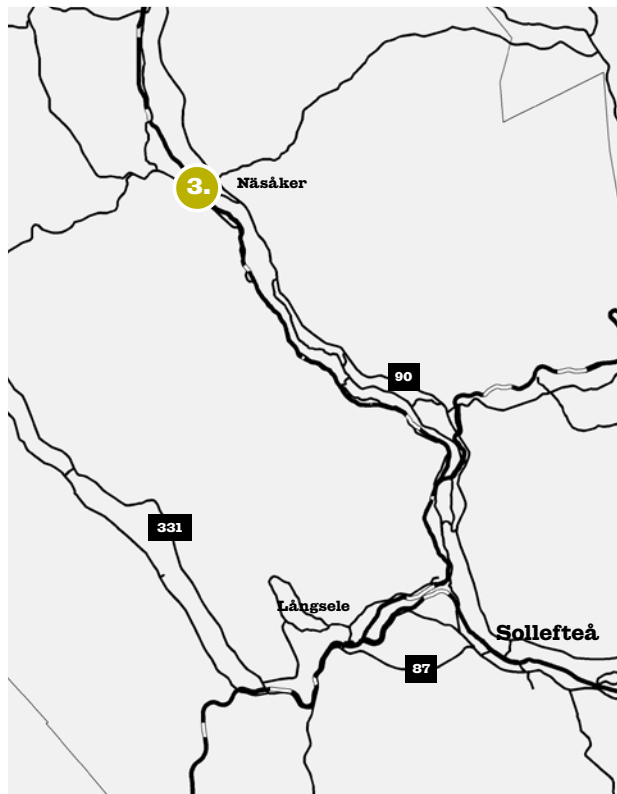
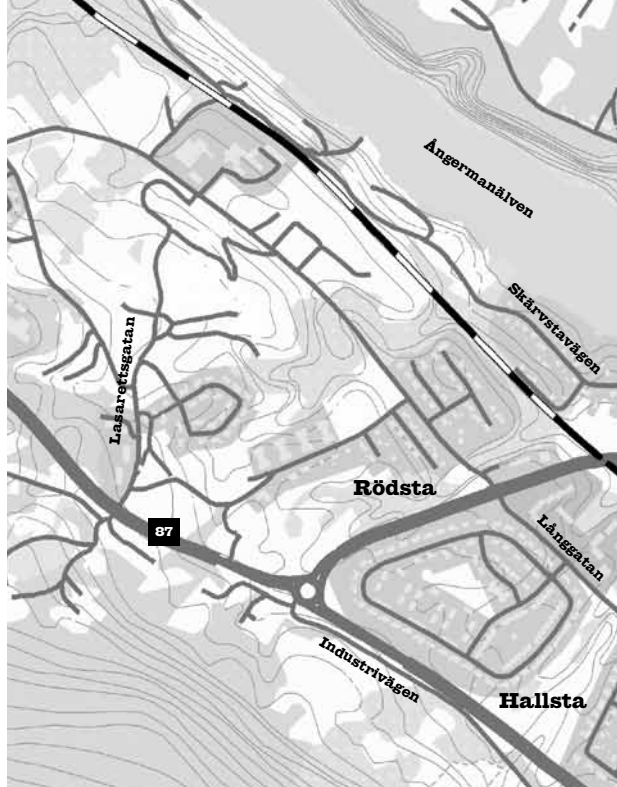
SOLLEFTEÅ KOMMUNARKIV.

OPEN Mon-Fri 08-16.

ADDRESS Djupövägen 3.

TELEPHONE 0620-68 23 70.

www.solleftease





Remsle

Norra Ådalsvägen

90

Fotbollsplan

Einar Edströms väg

Överste Hallströms väg

7.

Remslemon

Skedomsmön

Hågestaön

Pettersborg

Strandgatan

Kyrkvägen

Järnväggsgatan

Storgatan

Borgen

Hantverkargatan

Billsta

Bangatan

5,6

8.

Centrumplan

Gudlav Bildersgatan

Storgatan

Djupön

Ådalsbyn

Gunillagatan

Flemminggatan

Idrottsplats

Djupövägen

1.

Nipvallavägen

Ringvägen

Trästa

Nipstaden

Regementsvägen

Önsta

Storgatan

Hågesta

Kyrkvägen

2.

Sabbatsvägen

Hullsta

Söderleden

Prästbordet

Spannsjövägen

Lummervägen

Tomashällan

90

4.

334



1. Court House.

TINGSHUSET. For almost a century in Sollefteå court house people were sentenced to various punishments depending on their crime. It was at the end of the 19th century that the need for a new court house arose. The rapid emergence of the sawmill industry attracted workers and between the years 1860–90 the population in the county almost doubled. This sudden increase in people also meant an increase in crime. The court house stood ready in 1906. It mainly dealt with minor felonies but some major trials were conducted. One of the more notable was that of the soldiers responsible for shooting five workers during the demonstration in Lunde in 1931. Since 2002, Sollefteå court house has housed private companies. The building is erected in the National Romantic style with a unique structural design. It is a protected building. In 2001 it was chosen as one of Sweden's ten most beautiful houses! ➡





2. Sollefteå Church.

SOLLEFTEÅ KYRKA. Christianity has been practiced in Sweden since approximately 1000 AD. Thousands of churches were built over the whole country in the Middle Ages alone, and more – large and small, town and country – have been built since then. Sollefteå Church had an important role to play for a long time. People came here to celebrate and to grieve. The church served as a major meeting place for the community especially on Sundays. Some sections of Sollefteå Church date to the 13th century. During the 18th century the old church was considered too small and a large renovation was carried out. The church changed from a small medieval parish church to a large airy rococo building with sectioned roof on all sides.

Sweden practices religious freedom and everyone is welcome to Sollefteå Church, regardless of faith or philosophy of life. ➡

3. Nämforsen.

NÄMFORSEN. 2,500 engraved figures are cut into three 'islands' of rock out in the middle of the Ångermanälven river at Nämforsen, making this place one of the richest locations for rock art in the whole of Europe. The images have been formed by people who lived here at different periods. The earliest are 6,000 years old. Images of elks dominate, but people, fish, footprints, axes, and 'sun-crosses' are also represented. Some of the images show people carrying poles with an elk-head resting on the top. Traces of prehistoric settlements have been found on both sides of the river and archaeologists believe that the location was a meeting place for large groups of people when the images would be cut. The best time to see them is in the summer. In Näsåker there is a Rock Art Centre where you can find out more about this unique site. ➡



4. Holm and the Björkå works.

HOLM AND BJÖRKÅBRUK. The landscape around Sollefteå with its forested slopes, medieval churches and old wooden buildings is very impressive. There is much to explore here. The countryside opens out at Holm manor and the Björkå ironworks – sawmill. Holm is a large estate and has much to tell about the privileges of the nobles in the 18th century. Beside it, by the shore of the Ångermanälven river, lies a large prehistoric cemetery. Some of the graves contain the skeletons of warriors with their shields, swords, spears and arrows. Skeletons of women, buried with many articles for the journey to the next life, were also found. Another cemetery with over 50 graves lies to the west. Archaeolo-



gists believe that this must have been a meeting place. Perhaps it was a trading place for the exchange of goods. 📍

5. Sollefteå Museum.

SOLLEFTEÅ MUSEUM. Sollefteå Museum is situated in a building from 1880 which was formerly a pharmacy and private dwelling. Today it is protected as a listed building and stands out among the town houses with its medieval façade. With its small towers, stepped gables and round arched windows it is clear that the architect was inspired by a medieval castle. Sollefteå Museum houses an exhibition of local history divided in four sections including prehistory, forests, the river and the defences. There are also temporary exhibitions, more than a hundred picture shows, and considerable activities for schools. ➡ ➡



6. Sollefteå Library.

SOLLEFTEÅ KOMMUNBIBLIOTEK. The library is the living room of society, open to all. There are books in many languages for both children and adults, as well as news-papers, magazines, language courses, computers linked up to the Internet, music and films. Everything besides films can be borrowed free of charge. Simply bring your ID documents in order to obtain a library card from the staff at the library.

The library also contains rooms for adult study and the staff will happily show you how to search for information in the various data bases and how to find books in the library catalogue which is available on their website. ↕ ↕



7. Textile Archive.

TEXTILARKIVET. The Swedish home arts and crafts movement began at the end of the 19th century when industrialism swept over the country. There was a fear that modern products would stifle the traditional folk art and that the old techniques would be forgotten. In 1909 Ångermanland Home Arts and Crafts Society was founded and immediately began documenting the textile heritage. The public organised a large exhibition in 1910 which led to the creation of new premises for preserving the collection which is the basis of the current textile archive.

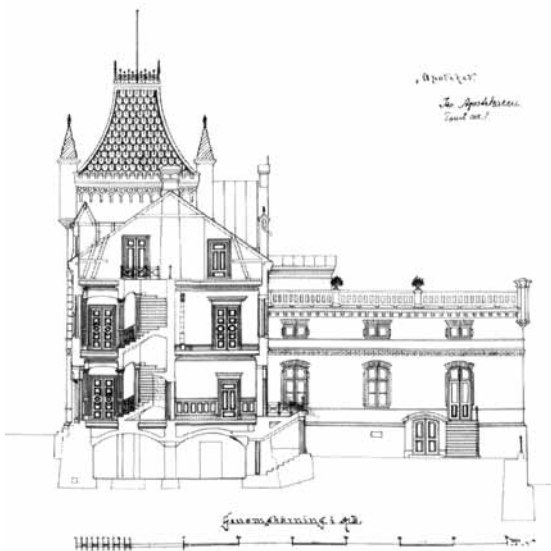
The Textile Archive has been a part of Murberget, the Västernorrland County Museum since 2009. The archive offers a number of different exhibitions, guided tours, and courses. An important activity is the care and preservation of the textile objects, sketches, patterns and photographs and making these accessible to the public. The collections are continuously updated with items of local interest within the county. The Archive aims to stimulate new creativity within home crafts so as to keep traditional skills alive and developing. The Archive has responsibility for the knowledge and care of the county's traditional folk costumes. Textile conservation, of both its own and others' collections, is also a major concern of the Archive. ↻ ➡





8. Sollefteå Municipal Archives.

SOLLEFTEÅ KOMMUNARKIV. Sweden has a system of independent municipalities which goes back to 1862. All decisions, records and investigations from municipal activities are preserved and archived. According to the Swedish Access to Official Information Act these are all accessible to the public and everyone has the right to search information in the central municipal archives. The oldest records provide information about how society was governed more than a century ago. The records archived here include drawings of older buildings, plans for new housing areas, old school class lists, and decisions concerning poor relief. The Municipal Archives are housed in the Municipal Buildings on Djupövägen. 📍 📍





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Ingrid Thulin loved to dream that she was back in Storgatan, at the river, the ski slopes, the forests, the blueberry beds. She called the town 'la mia cit  Sollefte '.

Said of actress Ingrid Thulin (1926–2004).



Tourist route towards N s ker.



Multr  Church.

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 Spanish. Brochures in the same series about other municipalities in the province are also available in French, Russian, Somali and Amharic.

Welcome to Sollefteå.

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 Sollefteå; places which are well worth visiting today.



LÄNSSTYRELSEN
VÄSTERNORRLAND

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

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