



Skokloster

Skokloster Castle, one of Europe's best preserved baroque castles, lies in a scenic setting on the shores of Lake Mälaren, close to Arlanda Airport, and between Stockholm and Uppsala. Skokloster Castle dates from the 17th century, Sweden's period as a great power in Europe. The Castle is the largest private residence ever built in the country. The building was commissioned by Field Marshal, Count Carl Gustaf Wrangel. The State Apartment is open for free flow, but you can also join a more extensive tour with a guide. Stroll through beautiful rooms with furniture, paintings and textiles. Guided tours end up in one of the largest and best preserved 17th century armouries in the world. In the Museum Shop you will find books, postcards and souvenirs. Enjoy a break in the Castle Café under 17th century vaults, or outdoors. Nearby is the medieval convent church of the Cistercian Order. Close to the castle, Skokloster Inn is offering good food and accommodation. Audioguide in english. Tel information och booking 08 - 402 30 60 sko.bokning@lsh.se
www.facebook.com/skoklostersslott
www.skoklostersslott.se
 GPS: N 59 42 11, E 17 37 16



Strömsholm

On an islet in the Kolbäck River, Gustav Vasa built a fortress in the early 1550s, which was largely dismantled in the late 1660s. At this time, Strömsholm was part of a cluster of properties at the disposal of Dowager Queen Hedvig Eleonora. It was her idea to tear down the old fortress and build something entirely new. Just as with Drottningholm, the Dowager Queen consulted the architect Nicodemus Tessin the Elder.

Strömsholm consists of a large edifice framed by four square towers. Facing the park, a central tower rises to a large dome. During the reign of Hedvig Eleonora, some twenty buildings were erected on the grounds. A large park, inspired by the French baroque, was also landscaped.

Open daily throughout the summer, when you can enjoy dining in the stone kitchen. The park is open all year.

Telephone: 0220-43035

www.kungahuset.se/stromsholm

GPS: N 59 31 29, E 16 16 16





Sundbyholm

Sundbyholm Castle is situated on the glimmering shores of Lake Malaren. Here you find a long sand beach, a prize-awarded marina, beautiful parks and fairytale forests.

The Castle was built by the Admiral of the Navy Carl Carlsson Gyllenhielm, the son of King Karl IX. Today, the Castle contains a reputable restaurant and banquet halls with a total capacity of 600 dining guests. The Castle is famous for its conference theme dinners, such as masquerade balls, viking dinners and murder mysteries. Jubilees and weddings are celebrated with red carpets and 18th century style cannon shots. During weekends, the castle is filled with guests seeking relaxation and exquisite dining.

Adjacent to the castle are 99 modern hotel rooms and suites, 12 having their own jacuzzi.

Nearby is also the world-famous 1000-year old rune stone 'Sigurd', an 18-hole golf course and a horse racing track. Summer-time, there are log-rafts for hire and during winter guests can relax in the saunas or in the outside spa's, or explore the lake on long-distance skates.

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 info@sundbyholms-slott.se
 www.sundbyholms-slott.se
 GPS: N 59 26 52, E 16 37 24



Taxinge-Näsby

Popularly referred to as the "pastry palace" thanks to its generous selection of cakes and pastries, and renowned for its annual Christmas market. The palace, and its first lady Ebba Posse, provided inspiration for Strindberg's "Miss Julie". The estate has also served as backdrop in a number of films (notably Ingmar Bergman's "Cries and Whispers"). In the 19th century, the estate constituted a community of its own, with post office, telephone, mill, dairy, sawmill, school, church and shop – buildings that are still intact. These days the palace is used mainly for conferences and team-building events.

And, of course, the café is still well worth a visit.

Telephone: 0159-701 14
 info@taxingeslott.se
 www.taxingeslott.se
 GPS: N 59 14 49, E 17 18 34





Uppsala

The castle has a dramatic history dating back to King Gustav Vasa, he began to build the castle in 1549 – at that time primarily as a defence structure. Dramatic events in Swedish history have taken place in the castle – here the coronation of King Erik XIV took place in 1561, the murder of the Stures in 1567 and Queen Kristina abdicated in 1654 in the Hall of State. After the 1702 Uppsala fire, architect Carl Hårleman was commissioned to reconstruct the castle. The art and the castle's history are woven together in the Museum's guided tours in a holistic experience.

The museum collection is characterised by designed ceramics from the renowned factory of Uppsala-Ekeby, shown in permanent exhibitions.

Swedish and international contemporary art, often with a Nordic connection, is shown in occasional exhibitions that create exiting meetings in the historical milieu of Uppsala Castle.

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Uppsala-Ekeby. Vase from the Penguin collection by Hjördis Oldfors.



Västerås

Västerås Castle is one of the earliest, with parts from the 14th century. Originally a late medieval stone house, the castle has been greatly changed and expanded over the centuries.

Västerås Castle was one Gustav Vasa's favourites. This was the site of the famous Diets where Sweden was made into a hereditary Protestant kingdom. It has been a workplace and power centre for the region, a bailiff's castle, county governor's residence and county museum.

The castle underwent major changes in 1918–1926, with the addition of the monumental stone staircase leading up to the State Room. The doors and entrances were then given their present form.

Today the castle houses a mini-exhibition, a licensed restaurant serving lunch and à la carte, a café and some of the town's most elegant venues for meetings and events. The castle is equally suited to a small meeting or a large party. The State Room, the Governor's Room, Erik XIV's room and the Lounge can be booked for up to 200 people.

Telephone: 021-480 04 67
 info@vasteras-slott.se
 www.vasteras-slott.se
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Wenngarn

Wenngarn Castle is situated in a beautiful parkland.

It has been home to many historical figures including Magnus Gabriel de la Gardie and Maria Eufrosyne under whose ownership the castle is said to have had a period of splendor. Preserved from that time is the beautiful castle chapel, which today is considered to be one of Europe's best preserved chapels from the Baroque period.

The castle has had owners from the royal family, to German counts and other people of power. Traces of this varied history remain clearly visible today and help to form Castle's remarkable environment.

In the early 1900s part of the castle grounds housed an institution for the rehabilitation of alcoholics. Today, in the same spot, stands a hotel and restaurant whose name Anstalten - 'the institution' reflects this period.

The castle now is as it was 400 years ago and forms the heart of Wenngarn society with room for everyone. The proximity to Stockholm, Uppsala and Arlanda Airport make it an easily accessible excursion.

Within the Castle and its grounds there is a café, meeting and banquet rooms, a hotel, restaurant, picnic areas, chapel, an accessible manor park and many other places and activities to experience and explore.

Tel 08-592 501 10,
info@wenngarn.se
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GPS: N 59 38 55, E 17 43 11



The castle chapel, Wenngarn



Ekebyhov



The Engso chain



The countess bedroom, Skokloster



Ekebyhov mansion and garden



The Ballroom, interior from Engsö



The armoury is well stocked with weapons and exotica from all over the world, Skokloster



The Library, Grönsöo



Interior from Ekebyhov



Interior from Rosersberg



Tables laid at Sundbyholm



Interior from Taxinge-Näsby



The Countess's drawing room, interior from Engsö



Interior from Skokloster



The white drawing room, interior from Grönsöo



A guide to the
Stately Homes
around Lake Mälaren





Welcome to the grandest tour of Lake Mälaren

Is there any other place on earth where so many beautiful stately homes are situated so close to each other? The Mälaren Valley is dotted with some twenty palaces – all within a 150-kilometre radius, from Stockholm in the east to Strömsholm in the west. Each has its own splendour and treasures, but all are open to the public – some during summer, others the year round.

Groups and individuals are just as welcome. Why not visit these buildings of great cultural significance, from dazzling royal abodes to privately owned estates? Most of them can be reached by boat – often the mode of transport at the time they were built. Some serve as hotels with conference facilities, while others are museums.

If you happen to be in the vicinity, why not stop by to enjoy a cup of coffee in unique surroundings. That way, you'll make our history part of your own.







Ekebyhov

The manor of Ekebyhov was founded in the 1620s by Claes Horn. Construction of the present manor house was begun around 1670 by the field marshal Count Carl Gustaf Wrangel. After 1701 the estate had several owners before it was acquired by chancery head Albrecht Ihre, whose family would own the castle until 1980, when Ekerö Municipality purchased the property.

In the twentieth century Ekebyhov flourished yet again when the cavalry captain Johan Ihre and his wife Sigrid extended the gardens and started a plant nursery. Today's apple cultivation in the castle park constitutes one of 16 apple gene banks established in Sweden. In the castle there is a painted wooden ceiling from Wrangel's time with martial decoration, suits of armour, and the field marshal's own coat of arms. The same room has an impressive fireplace which tradition says was brought home by Wrangel from Prague. The Wrangel Hall has been fully restored today.

Ekebyhov is used for courses, conferences, and cultural activities. Lunch is served on weekdays, with a large salad buffet, and a traditional Christmas table in December. Many couples choose to hold their weddings at Ekebyhov, especially in spring and summer. At weekends, various associations in Ekerö arrange cafés, events, and art exhibitions.

Telephone 08-12 45 72 01
ekebyhovs.slott@ekero.se,
www.ekero.se/ekebyhovsslott
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Engsö

Some 30 islands in Lake Mälaren forms Engsö archipelago. The main island Engsö, is renowned for its beautiful scenery and rich wildlife. Engsö Castle, dating from the 1100s, is centrally located on the island. Together with the medieval Engsö Church, the castle offers many historical and cultural experiences.

The castle acquired its present appearance in the 1740s, when the architect Carl Hårleman created a representative home for count Carl Fredrik Piper. The fourth floor, as well as wings and farmhouses, was built and the park was laid out. The castle was inhabited by the Piper family until 1959.

Today Engsö castle is a living museum, where art and furnishings reflect different eras. The castle is open to visitors between May and August. Visitors can book guided tours and candelabra-tours when the castle is shown in candlelight. It is also possible to pre-book conferences, dinners, parties, weddings and other events.

In the castle kitchen light meals, homemade bread and ice cream are served. Gifts, memorabilia and souvenirs are for sale.

Telephone: 0171-44 40 20

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GPS: N 59 31 54, E 16 51 24



Fiholm

In 1640, Axel Oxenstierna, Sweden's lord chancellor, ordered the construction of a new palace on his family estate, Fiholm. The two magnificent wings in French-Dutch Renaissance style, were completed in 1642 after drawings by the french architect Simon de la Vallée. The main building was never erected. Although Axel Oxenstierna did state in his will that Fiholm was his proudest estate, he also made a point of warning to his successors for: "large houses that bring little gain but come at great cost." Nicodemus Tessin completed the building work. In 1785 Joachim Beck-Friis bought the estate. He had the interior of the south wing redecorated in accordance with the fashions of the 18th century.

Fiholm is still actively farmed under the present ownership of Charlott and Göran Mörner. The Mörner family reside in the south wing, which is open to visitors after pre-booking. Annual concerts are given in the summer.

Telephone: 016-395064

morner.fiholm@telia.com

www.fiholm.se

GPS: N 59 26 10 , E 16 44 34





Gripsholm Castle

Gripsholm is named after one of the great Swedish personalities of the Middle Ages, Bo Jonsson Grip, who, in the 14th century, built its first tower. In 1537, Gustav Vasa initiated the building of this Renaissance castle as part of a national defence chain of fortresses (and as a suitable home for himself). During the reign of Gustav III (late 18th century), the estate prospered, which is readily apparent in the elaborate decoration of the theatre. Today, Gripsholm houses a unique collection of portraits, an impressive collection of furniture as well as art exhibits from the 16th century onwards.

Gripsholm enjoys the status of Royal Palace. It is open May 15 - September 30, with numerous daily tours during the summer. There are scheduled ferry departures from Stockholm (on the steamer "Mariefred").
 Telephone 0159-101 94
info.gripsholms-slott@royalcourt.se
www.gripsholmsslott.se
 GPS: N 59 15 22, E 17 13 10



Not only the oldest national portrait gallery in the world, but also one of the largest. Today it houses some 4,200 pieces, mostly oil paintings.



Grönsö

Built in 1611 by privy councillor Johan Skytte, Grönsö Manor is beautifully situated on a hill overlooking the glittering bays of Lake Mälaren. Home to a rich and varied collection of furniture and artefacts, Grönsö is one of Sweden's few inhabited stately homes (the von Ehrenheim family live here). The well-preserved interiors represent three centuries of Swedish craftsmanship and art history.

The original gardens soon evolved into the unique park found here today. Well worth noting are rarities such as "the Queen's lime trees" of 1623 and 2003, as well as a "Chinese conch-pagoda" from 1786. Don't miss the Wagon Stable, where you will find thematic exhibitions featuring objets d'art from the estate's substantial collections. The grounds also offer high-class art exhibits, and the Yard Distillery houses a cafeteria. All activities are open to groups from May through October. Tours of the building, the exhibits and café are open to public all summer.

Telephone 0171-870 84
gronsoo@gronsoo.se
www.gronsoo.se
 GPS: N 59 28 30, E 17 15 01



The Chinese conchpagoda





Mälsåker

Mälsåker Manor is conservation at its best. Traditional materials and craftsmanship have been used to restore this magnificent building, which dates back to the Middle Ages, to its former glory. Prosperity allowed the Soop family, aided by Nicodemus Tessin, to transform the building to its present aspect.

The Norwegian legation purchased the palace in 1943, ostensibly for police education, but in reality it was used as a training camp for the infantry. Two years later, however, the building was almost destroyed by fire. Fortunately, there were photographic records of all the rooms with stucco. During the 1990s, the interiors were painstakingly restored as part of an education programme under the guidance of Sweden's Heritage Board.

Open to the public from May 28 to August 28 between 11 am and 4 pm on Wed, Thur, Sat and Sun. Guided tours on Saturdays and Sundays at 1 pm, in July Wednesday-Sunday.

Mälsåkers Framtid, phone 0708-234517
www.malsaker.nu

Strängnäs Turistbyrå, phone 0152-296 99
 GPS: N 59 23 2, E 17 18 24



Rosersberg

Gabriel Bengtsson Oxenstierna, Royal Treasurer, built the palace in Renaissance style between 1634 and 1638. By the end of the 17th century, his son Bengt had it redesigned by his brother-in-law, Nicodemus Tessin the Younger, possibly the greatest architect of the Swedish baroque.

In 1762, Rosersberg opened its doors to Prince Karl (younger brother of Gustav III); it has been at the royal family's disposal ever since. The middle floor was redecorated in the 1770s, and another transformation in the 1790s turned Rosersberg into one of Sweden's most important neo-classical buildings.

After the death of Karl XIII and his wife Hedvig Elisabeth Charlotta in 1818, the estate passed on to adopted son Karl XIV Johan and Queen Desideria. Since the Dowager Queen's death in 1860, little has been modernized. A result of great care, Rosersberg today boasts one of the best-preserved interiors in Europe from the period 1795-1825.

The palace is open to the public daily from June 1 to August 31 between 11 am and 4 pm.

Telephone 08-59035039
info.rosersbergs-slott@royalcourt.se
www.kungahuset.se

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Stucco (detail) from the Hall of Knights.





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www.malarslott.se

