The Unesco Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

What do the Grand Canyon, the Galapagos Islands, the Citadel on Haiti and the Engelsberg Factory have in common?

They all are defined by UNESCO as treasures of our common world heritage. They are the unique evidence of the history of the earth and humankind. The UNESCO World Heritage Convention for the protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage was established at the UN general conference in 1972. Its purpose is to protect the world's most valuable cultural and natural environments from decay and destruction.

Since its establishment, 185 States Parties have ratified this important international agreement, which binds them to follow its demands and obligations. Those countries have accepted the responsibility of maintaining and preserving important places of cultural and natural heritage within their own territory and of supporting other countries in their efforts to preserve our universal world heritage.

Management and preservation of Sweden's world heritage sites is carried out by The Swedish National Heritage Board and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency in cooperation with Swedish county and municipal authorities and with respective site owners. These actors cooperate with regional and local groups in the work of nominating suitable cultural and natural sites to UNESCO's World Heritage Committee.

UNESCO's World Heritage List includes 851 properties in 141 countries, including 660 properties of cultural importance, 166 properties of natural importance and 25 properties of cultural and natural importance.

Fourteen Swedish sites, considered by UNESCO as having outstanding universal values, currently are included in the World Heritage List. In 2007, the Farms and Villages of Hälsingland were nominated by Sweden as a new candidate for inscription on UNESCO's List. The nominated buildings are particularly well-preserved examples of the characteristic vernacular architecture the countries of northernmost Europe.

Where to find more information

More information about Sweden's world heritage sites may be obtained at the Swedish National Heritage Board and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. See also www.raa.se and www.naturvardsverket.se.

Information on all world heritage sites may be found on UNESCO's homepage at www.whc.unesco.org. Information from the office of the Nordic World Heritage Commission may be reached at www.nwhf.no. Visit also the Swedish National Commission for UNESCO at www.unesco.se.

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The Naval Port of Karlskrona

The need for a naval base in southern Sweden grew in the 1600s, when Sweden was a great power. The foremost experts on fortifications were called to Karlskrona to construct a state-of-the-art, efficient naval base in Europe. The town of Karlskrona was established in 1680 and its shipyards, architecture and town plan, with its structure and technique of defense, attracted much attention from Europe. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1998.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

Karlskrona is an exceptionally well preserved example of a European planned naval town which incorporates elements from earlier establishments in other countries and which was in its turn to serve as a model for subsequent towns with similar functions. Naval bases played an important role in the centuries during which naval power was a determining factor in European Realpolitik, and Karlskrona is the best preserved and most complete of those that survive.

The Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland

The medieval land division and land use of the agricultural landscape of southern Öland is unique. Its important values lie in the early historical landscape with linear villages, fields and pastures. The limestone bedrock and grazing animals have created the conditions for the important biological values of the Great Alvar and the island's wetlands. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

The landscape of Southern Öland takes its contemporary form from its long cultural history, adapting to the physical constraints of the geology and topography. Southern Öland is an outstanding example of human settlement, making the optimum use of diverse landscape types on a single island.

National Heritage Board tel. +46-8-5191 8000. www.raa.se
Environmental Protection Agency tel. +46-8-698 10 00.
www.naturvardsverket.se

1. The Naval Port of Karlskrona Blekinge County Administration tel. +46-455-870 00. Karlskrona Maritime Museum tel. +46-455-359 300. Karlskrona Municipality tel. +46-455-30 30 00. www.navalcity.org

2. The Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland Kalmar County Administration tel. +46-480-820 00. Ölands Turist AB tel. +46-485-56 06 00. www.h.lst.se and www.morbylanga.se

The Hanseatic Town of Visby

Visby is the characteristic image of a Hanseatic town, complete with a defensive wall, church ruins, well-preserved early street plan and small-scale buildings from the Medieval period and later. Because of its particular character, the central part of Visby has an extraordinary atmosphere. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1995.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

Visby is an outstanding example of a Northern European walled Hanseatic town which has in a unique way preserved its townscape and its extremely valuable buildings, which in form and function clearly reflect this significant human settlement.

The Varberg Radio Station at Grimeton

The Varberg Radio Station at Grimeton represents a decisive step in the development of wireless communication. The long wave communicator with its gigantic multiple antennas is the only surviving example of the tens of similar stations which were constructed in many parts of the world in the 1920s. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2004.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

The Varberg Radio Station at Grimeton is an outstanding monument representing the process of development of communication technology in the period following the First World War. The Varberg radio station is an exceptionally well preserved example of a type of telecommunication centre, representing the technological achievements by the early 1920s, as well as documenting the further development over some tree decades.

The Rock Carvings in Tanum

Tanum is part of an area with rock carvings from the Scandinavian Bronze Age, currently with 1,500 known carvings. These rich and extraordinary pictorial treasures from prehistory were carved into the exposed and smooth bedrock surfaces of the landscape. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

The rock carvings in the Tanum area are unique examples of Bronze Age art of the highest quality. The range of motifs provides rare evidence of many aspects of life in the European Bronze Age. The interaction between continuous settlement and land use, as reflected in the rock carvings, the cemeteries and the landscape make Tanum into a unique example of continuous human settlement during eight thousand years.

The Woodland Cemetery, Stockholm

The landscape and architecture of the Woodland Cemetery blend together in unified harmony. This is a prominent place and concept constructed in the first half of the twentieth century, and it has become a prototype for woodland cemeteries throughout the world. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

Skogskyrkogården, created by Gunnar Asplund and Sigurd Lewerentz between 1914 and 1940, is an outstanding example of how architecture and landscaping from our century combine to make a cemetery. This creation has had a great influence on the design of cemeteries all over the world.

Birka and Hovgården, Ekerö

These are the sites of a Viking age town and royal estate situated on the islands of Björkö and Adelsö in Lake Mälaren, a main center in one of Sweden's early settled areas. Its cultural landscape, ancient monuments and museum, with models and finds, give a good picture of the town's former appearance and lifeways. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1993.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

The Birka–Hovgården area is a well preserved example of the Vikings' trading networks during the two centuries when they expanded economically and politically in Europe. Birka is one of the most complete and untouched Viking Age trading sites from the years 700–900 AD.

3. The Hanseatic Town of Visby Gotland County Administration tel. +46-498-29 21 00. Gotland Tourist Association tel. +46-498-20 17 00. www.gotland.info

4. The Varberg Radio Station at Grimeton Halland County Administration tel. +46-35-13 20 00. Grimeton World Heritage Site Foundation tel. +46-340-67 41 90. www.grimetonradio.se

5. The Rock Carvings in Tanum Västra Götaland County Administration tel. +46-31-60 50 00. Tanum Municipality tel.+46-525-18000.VitlyckeMuseumtel.+46-525-20950.www.vitlyckemuseum.se and www.tanum.se

6. The Woodland Cemetery Stockholm County Administration tel. +46-8-785 40 00. Stockholm Cemetery Department tel. +46-8-508 301 00. www.stockholm.se/skogskyrkogarden

7. Birka and Hovgården Stockholm County Administration tel. +46-8-785 40 00. National Heritage Board tel. +46-8-5191 8000. Birka Museum tel. +46-8-560 514 45. www.raa.se/birka

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Drottningholm, Ekerö

The royal estate of Drottninghom is an exceptionally well-preserved example of seventeenth and eighteenth century architecture, building on French prototypes. The Chinese pavilion and the royal theatre are particularly outstanding and unique. The theatre's auditorium has remained unchanged since the time of its construction in 1766. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1991.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

The Drottningholm site – the castle, the theatre, the Chinese Pavilion, and the park – is the best example in Sweden of a royal eighteenth-century residence, representative of all European architecture from this period. Drottningholm Castle was influenced by the French king's Versailles, as were many other castles in Europe at this time.

Engelsberg Ironworks, Fagersta

Engelsberg is a well preserved ironworks with its eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings and industrial structures still intact. This type of ironworks was the foundation for Sweden's international position as a producer of high-quality iron. Today this property is part of the museum complex Ecomuseum Bergslagen. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1993.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

Engelsberg is an outstanding example of an important European industry from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries, with important technical remains and with both offices and homes preserved.

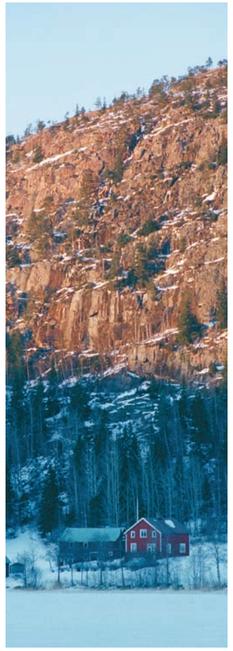
Falun and Kopparbergslagen

Shiny red copper metal was shipped from the Falun copper mine to become the roofs of churches and palaces all across Europe. Stora Kopparberget and its surrounding landscape are memorials to Sweden's earliest history as an industrial nation.This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2001.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

The historical landscape around the Great Copper Mountain and Falun is one of the world's most important areas for mining and metal production. Mining came to an end in the closing years of the 20th century, but it exercised a profound influence on the technical, economic, social and political developement of Sweden and Europe for many centuries.

The High Coast/ Kvarken Archipelago, Ångermanland



The High Coast of Ångermanland is the only stretch of the Baltic Sea coastline which is monumental and undulating. It gives a clear and unequalled, concentrated picture of the geological formations and the vegetation and cultural history which is characteristic for this land area which rose from the sea after the last glaciation. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

The site is one of the places in the world that is experiencing isostatic uplift as a result of deglaciation. Isostatic rebound is well-illustrated and the distinctiveness of the site is the extent of the total isostatic uplift which, at 285 m, exceeds others. The site is the 'type area' for research on isostasy, the phenomenon having been first recognised and studied there.

Riksantikvarieämbetet
National Heritage Board of Sweden

World Heritage Sites in Sweden

Fourteen sites inscribed on Unesco's list of properties of outstanding universal value

8. Drottningholm
Stockholm County Administration tel. +46-8-785 40 00.
Castle Administration tel. +46-8-402 62 80.
www.royalcourt.se and www.dtm.se

9. Engelsberg Ironworks Västmanland County Administration tel. +46-21-19 50 00. Fagersta Municipality tel. +46-223-440 00. Fagersta Tourism tel. +46-223-131 00. www. fagersta.se and www.ekomuseum.se

10. Falun and Kopparbergslagen Dalarna County Administration tel. +46-23-810 00. Stora Kopparberget Foundation tel. +46-23-78 20 30. Falun Municipality tel. +46-23-830 00. Dalarnas museum tel. +46-23-76 55 00. Visit Falun AB tel. +46-23-830 00. www.varldsarvetfalun.se

11. The High Coast/Kvarken Archipelago Västernorrland County Administration tel. +46-611-34 90 00. Mitt Sverige Turism tel. +46-611-55 77 50. Örnsköldsvik Tourist Office tel. +46-660-881 00. www.highcoast.net

Gammelstad Church Village, Luleå

A church village is a collection of small houses and stalls at a parish church in northern Sweden, where churchgoers from distant areas could stay when attending church. The village at Gammelstad dates to the early 1600s. It is unique in combining the Nordic wooden architecture of church village and the commercial town. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1996.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

Gammelstad Church Village is a unique example of the traditional church town found in northern Scandinavia. It illustrates in an outstanding way the adaptation of traditional town planning to the distinctive geographical and climatological conditions prevailing in a difficult natural environment.

Laponia, Lappland

Laponia is one of Western Europe's few remaining areas of wilderness. Four national parks and two nature reserves are combined in this large area of 9,400 km2. Laponia is situated in the municipalities of Gällivare and Jokkmokk. This area of high mountains and open mountain plateaus, endless forests and wide-stretched swampy land is both untamed and without roads. This is also the cultural landscape of Sweden's indigenous Saami people. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1996.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

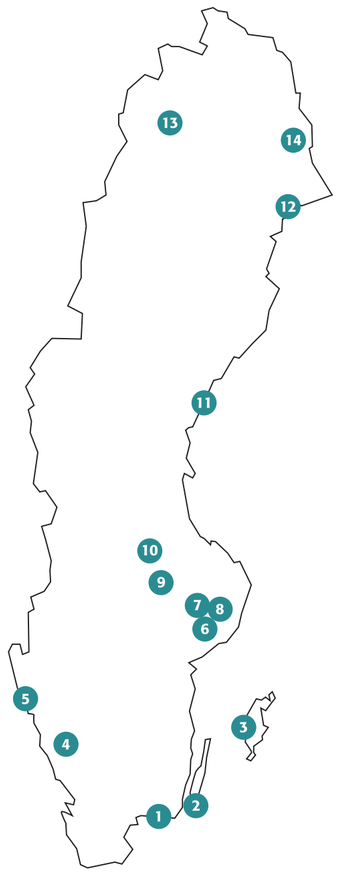
The area is an outstanding example of how the earth has developed, especially geologically, and how ecological and biological changes happen today. There are also unique natural phenomena of exceptional natural beauty and significant natural localities for the protection of biological diversity. The area, which has been inhabited by the Saami since prehistoric times, is one of the best preserved examples of a nomadic area in northern Scandinavia. It contains settlements and pastures for large herds of reindeer, a custom that was once very common, going back to an early stage in human economic and social development.

Struve's Meridian Arc, Norrbotten

Wilhelm Struve's geodetic measurements at many places along a meridian showed that the earth was flatter at its poles. They were the earliest of their kind. Between 1816 and 1855, a total of 265 measurements were made, stretching from the Arctic Ocean to the Black Sea. A total of 34 places in 10 countries compose this serial world heritage. Four places are located in northernmost Sweden: Perravaara, Pajtasvaara, Pullinki and Kerrojupukka in the respective municipalities of Haparanda, Kiruna, Korpilombolo and Pajala. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2005.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

Struve's triangulation of a long meridian segment has contributed to establish the precise size and shape of the globe. The measurement meant a great step forward to science. Measuring Struve's Meridian Arc is also a good example of collaboration between scientists in different countries.



World Heritage Sites in Sweden

	Date of visit
1. The Naval Port of Karlskrona *Blekinge*	.....
2. The Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland *Öland*	.....
3. The Hanseatic Town of Visby *Gotland*	.....
4. The Varberg Radio Station at Grimeton *Halland*	.....
5. The Rock Carvings in Tanum *Bohuslän*	.....
6. The Woodland Cemetery *Södermanland*	.....
7. Birka and Hovgården *Uppland*	.....
8. Drottningholm *Uppland*	.....
9. Engelsberg Ironworks *Västmanland*	.....
10. Falun and Kopparbergslagen *Dalarna*	.....
11. The High Coast *Ångermanland*	.....
12. Gammelstad Church Village *Norrbotten*	.....
13. Laponia *Lappland*	.....
14. Struve's Meridian Arc *Norrbotten*	.....

12. Gammelstad Church Village Norrbotten County Administration tel. +46-920-960 00. Gammelstad Tourist Office tel. +46-920-45 70 10. World Heritage Office/Luleå Municipality tel. +46-920-45 51 11. www.lulea.se/gammelstad

13. Laponia
Norrbotten County Administration tel. +46-920-960 00. Ájtte, Swedish Mountain and Saami Museum tel. +46-971-170 70. Tourism in Laponia tel. +46-971-170 80. www.laponia.nu and www.laponia.info

14. Struve's Meridian Arc
Norrbotten County Administration tel. +46-920-960 00.
Pajala turism och evemang tel +46-978-100 15.
www.pajalaturism.bd.se.

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