

## Photo Safari in Uppsala

Here are 17 interesting places in Uppsala, all marked out on the map, described below, and within walking distance from *Ekonomikum* (E) and the city center (the map roughly covers a 2km\*2km square). Each of the places is also located in a neighborhood with character. We invite you to visit a few of them individually or with a group to capture the peculiarities of Uppsala. We also have a bonus challenge described in the last section: to discover the students' Uppsala. We will meet up from 19.00 in the restaurant Hamnpaviljongen (M on the map) to share our photos and experiences. Those who want can order dinner from 20.00 (self-financed). Note that the places in B and E overlap with places covered in guided field trips 6 and 4 on Thursday.

### A. University architecture

**1. The old observatory:** Located in Observatory Park next to Ekonomikum, the old observatory is worth a visit both for the building itself and for its setting in the park. Gustaf Svanberg (1802-1882) revitalised astronomy in Uppsala. He restored Celsius's dilapidated observatory from 1741, then used his skills as an organizer and strategist to obtain support for a completely new astronomical observatory, which was inaugurated in 1853. Svanberg travelled through Europe and familiarized himself with the latest astronomical research, including visiting researcher Carl Friedrich Gauss in Göttingen. On his return he was able to put forward a well-considered proposal for a new observatory in Uppsala. He worked hard to gain the necessary financial support and then directed the entire 12-year building project. The observatory was inaugurated in 1853, though it was not until 1860 that funds became available to purchase the instruments. During Svanberg's tenure the observatory became something of a meeting point for the society of Uppsala, where current issues relating to the university, city and society would be discussed. The instruments are still used by amateur astronomers and occasionally also shown to the public.

**2. Segerstedthuset:** Uppsala University is the oldest university in the Nordic region and Segerstedthuset represents one of its latest additions in terms of larger buildings (2017). It is named after Rector Magnificus Torngy Segerstedt, who served as Vice Chancellor 1955-1978. Located near the castle and next to the botanic gardens and the new campus area Blåsenhus, it was contested when planned and has been criticized after being completed. The building won for instance the prize for being the "ugliest new Swedish building" in 2016. Another group of architects stated that it looked like "a mix of a ferry and the old type of (non-flat) TV". The exterior was designed by a Danish architectural firm, 3XN, which declares on its Swedish website that "We believe that architecture shapes behavior". The building is a modern workplace primarily for university administration and it is certainly a visible landmark in its historical surroundings. What kind of behavior we can expect from the university administration remains to be seen.

**3. Gustavianum:** Located just opposite the cathedral's western entry and next to the main university building, Gustavianum is Uppsala University's oldest building, with the anatomical theater beneath the distinctive cupola crowning the roof. The building contains one of Uppsala University's museums. Museum exhibits include the Augsburg Art Cabinet, Viking swords, Egyptian mummies, historical scientific instruments, and much more. You will also find scientific instruments and other objects that reflect the history of the university itself. At the very top of the building is the anatomical theater, built in the 1660s for dissections carried out before medical students and a paying public.

### B. City center planning

**4. Main square:** The unusual shape of Stora Torget, a distinct city square with closed corners, dates back to the city plan of 1643 carried out to celebrate the coronation of Queen Kristina. This was meant to be the new main square in the city, thus replacing the old one (Gamla torget) that had been in use since 1300. The shape of the square is old but most of the buildings that are surrounding it today were built in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with façades demonstrating the different ideals valid in different periods of the century. The square got its present look in a renovation 1998-1999, striving towards a more historically looking square with less dominating traffic. The reinstallation of the lamp in the center of the square was the main piece of this theme.

**5. Department store Åhléns:** Åhléns of today is the result of a renovation in 2011-2015 by architects Tham & Videgård. The original building by Backström & Reinius was built in 1960 and was at that time the most controversial building at Stora torget. It is one of the first examples in Sweden of a kind of department store façade that was later to become standard in Swedish cities, with a homogenous pattern covering the entire building and not giving away anything of the building's inner life. The building technique with large concrete elements was in 1960 a sign of new rational times. The building was heavily criticized at its opening for not being well adapted to the older buildings of the site. Interestingly the new façade from 2015 carries on and deepens the themes of the original façade rather than trying to blend in among the other buildings. With its softly curved walls clad in perforated glossy steel panels it strives rather toward reflecting the exterior than revealing the interior. (Originally it was meant to be covered in mirror glass but this was abandoned due to high costs). This new façade has also been the target of a lot of criticism, but mainly before its completion.

**6. Forum plaza:** In connection with the renovation of Åhléns, a competition was held in 2011 for the design of Forumtorget. The competition was won by White Arkitekter. The recently completed result involves three main elements that work together to strengthen the square's identity: subdued paving tiles, a stage for seating and performance, and a 65 meter long bench. The idea of the design is to develop the lively character already present in the square and to enhance its welcoming quality. The bench that besides providing great variety in terms of seating possibilities also bridges the different ground levels at the site. The bench is composed of more than 3500 uniquely shaped water-cut elements.

### C. Old and new in Fålhagen

**7. Apartment building with the solar cell façade:** The distinguishing feature of this 90-meter long arch-shaped house (2013) is its façade. Made up of 1200 solar cells, it is the largest façade of this kind in Scandinavia. The house produces enough electricity to cover more than half of the demand in the common areas, such as ventilation, elevators and lighting in the stairwells. The house has a mixture of uses with shops at the street level and a kindergarten in the backyard. There are 70 public rental apartments.

**8. Port Arthur apartment building:** Built for the employees of the State Railways in 1905, this fortress-like residential complex has 70 smaller apartments. Its façades in red brick, high pitched roof, masonry brick patterns, and anchor plates are typical for the Nordic national romantic architecture. The name harks back to the Russo-Japanese war (1904-1905) and the shelling of Port Arthur's fortifications (present northeastern China).

**9. Tripolis apartment building:** This four-story house with yellow façades and natural stone elements in the ground floor is a prime example of the art nouveau architecture in Uppsala. The house occupies the whole block and has a fully enclosed courtyard. It was completed in three stages (1911-1914) on three land plots, at the time of the Tripolitanian war (1911-1912). Make sure to walk around the block; note the contrast between the façades facing the city center and the outskirts.

**10. Uppsala Konsert & Kongress:** UKK (2007) is a concert hall and convention center designed by Henning Larsen Architects (Denmark). It is one of the contemporary symbols of Uppsala. The façade's keyboard-like aluminum sheets reflect changing light and colors, both at different times of a day and during the change of seasons. The main concert hall, with seating for 1,140 people, is reached via two long escalators. The foyer 20 meters above the ground gives visitors a magnificent view of the city and its classic silhouette with the castle, Carolina Rediviva library and the cathedral. Perfect place for a coffee break!

### D. Gunnar Leche in Höganäs

**11. Classicism meets functionalism:** From Höganäsgratan at its intersection with Salagatan you see the back sides of two buildings, one pink and one green, as well as buildings of similar design on the other corners of the intersection and further along the streets. These buildings were designed by the former city architect Gunnar Leche and built around 1934. They are an early form of cooperative housing, and in their design they represent a shift from the classicism of the 1920s to Leche's early expressions of functionalism. Move north along Salagatan to look at the front of the pink and green buildings. Observe Leche's characteristic use of windows above the entry ports to bring light into the stairwells. Here you can also see the original green yards still preserved; they have been converted to parking in other places.

**12. Park and adjacent allotment gardens:** Höganäs höjden is a nice place to sit and rest for a little while. As you look to the south and the west, you can see other buildings designed by city architect Gunnar Leche and built in the 1930s, like those described in (11). This was a time of great expansion in the housing stock in Uppsala, meeting pent up demand from the Depression years. Looking to the south and east, you will see that the design of the housing changes character, the simpler functionalism of the 1940s coming to the fore. Continuing to pan from east to north, looking beyond the allotment garden, you can glimpse newer housing, including some built in recent years in a new functionalist style.

**13. Residential densification:** Here you have some housing built in recent years in a new functionalist style. Note the increase in height compared to the buildings closer to the center, and the relatively small inner yards within the quarters. The city is encouraging higher residential densification, and this is expressed with such design measures in new housing on the periphery.

**14. New housing developments:** If you walk north along the bike path beside the train tracks, you will see a series of buildings either newly constructed or under construction, part of a strategy of development in which some older industrial and commercial buildings have been demolished to make way for new housing close to transport lines. Along the way you will also pass a small park with standard play equipment for children, and at that point you can get a sense of the high density of housing in relation to the green space.

### E. Residential architecture in Luthagen

**15. Old town border:** For a long time Ringgatan was a social border. The regulations of the building law of 1874 presupposed a municipal town plan. In Uppsala, the town plan of 1880 ended in Ringgatan. Consequently, on its north side, given more modest standard requirements beyond plan limits, housing for the popular classes was being erected, and often by small builders of the same classes. Much of this was demolished in the 1960's and 1970's, but here along Wallingatan, some of the better built properties have been renovated, and gentrified, and are still to be seen, together with row houses constructed in the late 1970's by property developers who systematically bought up land at the time (as in many other blocks on Ringgatan).

**16. Residential housing from the 1920's:** At three of the blocks at this street crossing you can see typical (for Uppsala) classicist buildings in three storeys from the 1920's. Note the blocks not being completely closed, the modest exploitation (and contemporary rent gap!), and the anti-urban location of the entrances (all facing the court). Particularly note the three properties by Leche (1924-1925) built together along Tegnérgatan (to the east) and their subtle variation in classicist motives. Here constructed for middle class people and academics, very similar constructions for the working class (but not its casual part) and the lower middle class are, however, found in several blocks on the east side, just behind the central station (built by cooperatives, easily gentrified in the 1970's).

**17. Residential housing by Gunnar Leche:** This building is one of former city architect Gunnar Leche's more impressive constructions in Uppsala, constructed in 1929, in the classicist style of the time, with a monumental central block and two wings. But notice modernism creeping in: the two wings are not quite symmetrical, though symmetry is the first impression. (Compare this with Leche's building from the late 1930's in the adjacent block to the north, Luthagesplanaden 24 A-E, more modernist in style – no ornaments, but expressive balconies – also this asymmetrical, yet with a similar monumental, central block.)

### *Bonus: Discover the students' Uppsala*

Among the most integral parts of student life in Uppsala are the student nations. There are 13 student nations, each dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Only students can become members of the nations, which are responsible for arranging activities and events specifically for students. Though each nation varies in size and character, they each provide a space for students to meet, socialize, and enjoy life outside of the classroom. Most nations have a café, pub and restaurant, and popular nation activities include club nights, formal dinners, balls and musical events. Students can also join a wide array of personal interest groups and sporting clubs.

Each nation is named after a specific region in Sweden, and traditionally students joined the nation representing the region they were from. Today however, students can join the nation of their choice. The nation buildings differ in style, but they are all fairly well-preserved pieces of architectural history.

*The 13 nations are all marked out on the map ("xxxx nation", e.g., "Stockholm nation"). They are all centrally located. Can you find and photo all 13 of them?*

