# **APLADALEN**

he park Apladalen contains one of the largest rural community centres in Jönköping County. The centre comprises around ten buildings moved here from other locations, as well as animal pens, café, play area and stage. The museum is housed in the old vicarage from Mistelås. The ground floor contains furniture from different vicarages around Värnamo. On the first floor you find a large collection of tapestry paintings, of which the oldest is from 1754.

There is also a supplies store from the early 19th century in the park. In times of peace, all of Östbo Company's war material was stored there. This included e.g. ammunition, medical supplies, tent and pots. Two storage buildings with external ladder and so called gallery are also found in Apladalen. The ground floor was used for storing flour, grain and other food. The "loft" was used for storing clothes and as dormitory. Young unmarried farm workers slept here during the summer.

There are several buildings in the park that are linked to old crafts, such as a pottery, woodturning and shoemaking. In the pottery, you can see furnishings and a kiln from a workshop in Västhorja, which was in operation from the early 1800s until 1920. The Gelb foundry was a typical mechanical workshop from the1920s. Brass items were cast here. A water wheel operates the old wire-drawing mill from Götarp near Åsenhöga. Thin wire was made here from heavy iron-wire and sold to small industries in the district. The market stall, also called Mother Kajsa's Cottage, is one of the oldest buildings in Apladalen. It was originally one of 56 market stalls along the street Boagatan in Värnamo, where several markets a year were held in the 17th to the 19th centuries. The ridge cottage Ryggåsstugan comprises a porch, a kitchen and a front room. The walls are not more than one metre high, and therefore the ceiling is open up to the roof. Two rooms have been added at the gable ends. The cottage and its furnishings give a picture of living conditions more than 100 years ago.



The vicarage is now a museum, with e.g. a collection of tapestry paintings on the first floor. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



The wire-drawing mill and water wheel, where thin wire was made from heavy iron-wire. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



### HIDDEN GEM 75

#### **HOW TO GET HERE**

In Värnamo, drive along the road Nydalavägen. At the second roundabout, turn on to Road 151 and drive for 260 m. At the next roundabout take to Växjövägen exit and drive for 450 m. Turn left onto Tånnögatan. After around 60 m turn right onto Lagmansgatan. After 180 m, turn left onto Östra Kyrkogårdsgatan and continue for around 100 m. Continue straight ahead for around 70 m.

Coordinates: N 6337930 / E 442542 (SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57° 10' 51.439", E 14° 2' 58.265"

(WGS84)

JÖNKÖPINGS LÄNS MUSEUM

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## **HIDDEN GEMS**

There are so many things to discover in the countryside! Here, Jönköping County Museum presents some of the cultural environment and heritage attractions in the county.

They include well-known cultural monuments such as Habo Church and the Smålandsstenar Stone Circles, but also lesser known gems such as log-driving remains in the river Valån and Stengårdshult Church. Around the county you can find evidence of how people lived and worked in the past, everything from castles and manors to abandoned embankments and clearance cairns in forest areas.

The idea with Hidden Gems is to tempt you to make excursions in the cultural landscape – here you find our history, revealed in different ways in the physical environment. This heritage is worth experiencing and protecting. Bit by bit, we will be adding more sights under the heading Hidden Gems, both for people living in the county and visitors from further away. The more people who discover these gems, the better chance that they will be preserved for the future.

### **FACTS**

In Jönköping County there are more than 4 000 registered ancient remains, 87 cultural environments of national interest, close to 130 listed buildings, around 150 churches, some 100 rural community centres with old settlements, a large number of industrial heritage sites, and two cultural reserves. There are also a large number of cultural environments with buildings worthy of conservation. More information about the sites can be found on the websites of the County Administrative Board, the municipalities and the local heritage societies.

### **GOOD TO KNOW**

Access to the Hidden Gems varies. Some sites are well signposted, with easy access and proper parking facilities, etc. Others are more challenging to reach. Visitors may have to walk some distance, sometimes through scrubby forest, only to be met by a broken sign (if there ever was one) when they reach the site. All the sites, however, have an exciting and interesting history.

Please note that many of the cultural heritage buildings are privately owned and can only be viewed from the outside. Also, please respect private land. Many churches are open in the summer. During other times of the year, the churchwarden may be able to open the church for you.

