

Timeline

- 1062 The Battle of Nissan. Sea battle between hundreds of Viking ships by Nissan's river mouth. The Norwegian king Harald Haradra defeats Sweyn II of Denmark.
- 1270 The Dominican monk and writer Petrus de Dacia visits the Dominican convent in Halmstad and writes a letter to his beloved Kristina of Stommeln. It is the oldest document known to be written in Halmstad.
- 1325-27 The old town is moved from Övraby to Brookthorp, where today's city centre is located. The Dominican monks start to build a new convent at today's Klammerdammsgatan/Hantverksgatan.
- 15th c. St. Nikolai church is built. It is the only medieval building left today.
- 1598 Christian IV assigns Hans van Steenwinckel to fortify Halmstad's fortress. The construction works are finished in 1605. Steenwinckel is buried in St. Nikolai church.
Halmstad Castle is built according to Christian IV's orders.
- 17th c. Some parts of the castle have already been there since the late 1500s.
- 1619 Halmstad suffers from a big fire that basically destroys the whole town, except for the castle, the church, and a few stonehouses. The reconstruction works start immediately and with a new cityscape which, overall, is the same as today.
- 1645 Second Treaty of Brömsebro. Halland is declared Swedish for the next thirty years.
- 1676 Sweden wins over Denmark at the Battle at Fyllebro. It is the last battle on Halland's soil.
- 1840-1870 Most houses in the old city centre are built.
- 1850 Halmstad has 2761 inhabitants.
- 1882 Inauguration of the railway traffic between Halmstad and Nässjö.
- 1885 The first conduits are put into operation.
- 1900 The town's population increases to 15 387 people.
- 1926 The fountain Europa och Tjuren by Carl Milles is installed at Stora Torg.
- 1950 The town's population increases to 34 886 people.
- 1953 The town library at Fredsgatan is inaugurated.
- 2007 Halmstad celebrates its 700th anniversary.
- 2008 The population exceeds 90 000
- 2018 The population exceeds 100 000

Halmstad's three hearts

Anyone has a heart, but Halmstad has three! There are many theories about how Halmstad got its crowned hearts. One of them is that they originate in the 13th century, when the Danish king Valdemar Sejv and his children and grandchildren ruled over this area. These royals had crowned hearts in their signets. When the Danish king Christian IV gave Halmstad a coat of arms 300 years later, crowned hearts were the obvious choice. They had symbolised Halland on the shield of Danish kings before.

THE NAME HALMSTAD

There are also many theories about how Halmstad's name came into existence. It has been documented since the 13th century.



One theory is that the town was built by a ford by the Nissan. Stad could be the Swedish form of the Danish sted, which means place (or possibly ford). Halm is seen as a synonym for grass or seaweed. It could also simply be the old name of a man who had a place in Halmstad.

Another, less believable, theory is that Halmstad's inhabitants defended the town against the Danish by putting tar onto sheaves and, then, throwing them from the town wall onto their rivals.

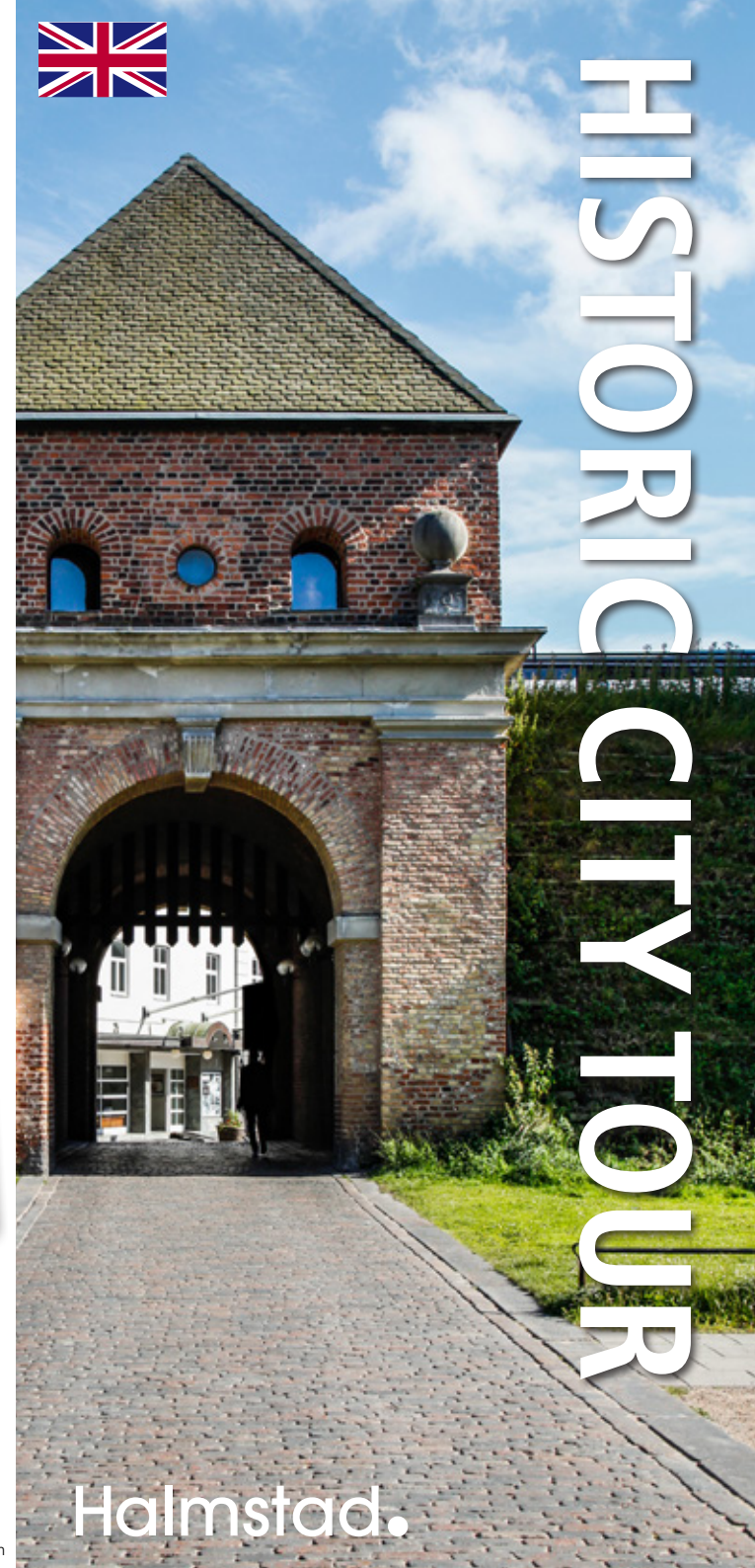
Other historical places you mustn't miss. Ask us and we tell you how to get there!

- Hallandsgården/Galgberget
- Danska fall
- Övraby church ruin
- Prince Bertil's Path
- Stonemasonry/Grötvik
- Battle at Fyllebro
- Ivars kulle
- Påarps graveyard
- Passage grave in Tolarp
- Särvals rescue centre
- Wapnö Castle
- Slottsmöllan's brickyard
- Garrison Museum and Anti-Aircraft Museum
- Tylön's lighthouse



destinationhalmstad.se/en

Halmstad Tourist Center
Fredsgatan 5
035-12 02 00



HISTORIC CITY TOUR

Halmstad.

Photo: Patrik Leonardsson

1. ALMSHOUSE AND FIRE STATION

The almshouse was built in two stages, the first one in 1857 and the second one in 1879. For 22 years, the building was used as a poorhouse with ten rooms for paupers, two cells for madmen and a workroom. It was a place for the "sick, crippled, insane and aments, as well as poor mischief-makers brought by the police". In 1903, the building became the office of the fire brigade, as the new fire station was opened.

2. LILLA TORG

Halmstad's convent was located at Lilla Torg and was built in the 1490s. If you look closely, you can see that the old walls of the convent have been preserved in the form of red-coloured stones.

3. NORRE PORT

Norre Port is the only town gate left of the original four gates built in 1601. Christian IV assigned Hans Van Steenwinckel to design the gates. The purpose was to modernise the fortresses on the boarder to Sweden. Norre Port is facing Galgberget, which was a natural spot for attacks from outside the town.



4. ROTUNDAN IN NORRE KATTS PARK

Rotundan is the only old building left in the park. The pavilion was built as a café in 1865. Around Rotundan, you can still spot the moat that surrounded Halmstad until 1735.

5. KIRSTEN MUNK'S HOUSE

Kirsten Munk's house has actually nothing to do with lady Kirsten Munk, lawfully wedded "secondary wife" of king Christian IV and mother to a dozen legitimate children of the king. The constructor of this house was Halmstad's mayor, Albrekt Pedersen Mackum. Shortly after the big fire in 1619, it was built of Dutch tile and today, it is Sweden's only house in this vein. Maybe the glazed façade stimulated the imagination about Kirsten Munk?

6. HALMSTAD CASTLE

Halland was still Danish when Halmstad's castle was built in the beginning of the 17th century. Christian IV was an enthusiastic constructor and commissioned several towns, castles and fortresses all over his kingdom. It was also he who ordered the building of Halmstad Castle. In Danish architecture history, Christian IV gave name to an architectural style called Christian IV's renaissance. Halmstad Castle is built in this special style and the small, tall tower with its roof still reminds of it.



The construction of the castle was presumably finished in 1615. It consists of four rows of houses around a courtyard. The southern row was probably built first and was used as quarters for the royal family. Halmstad's castle was built for pleasure and relaxation and can be compared to Danish country houses of that time. The Danish crown could not glory in the castle for a long time. In 1645, Halland became Swedish and the castle became the residence of Swedish kings during their visits.

7. NISSAN

Nissan is with its length of 186 kilometres one of the longest rivers in southern Sweden. The southern parts, right before the river flows into the bay of Laholm, have a long tradition of good fishing. The famous salmon of Halmstad has been caught in Nissan and in the sea outside of Halmstad since the 17th century.

8. TRE HJÄRTAN & STORA TORG

The first district hospital in Halmstad was established at Tre Hjärtan in 1784 and was driven in this house until 1835. In 1836, the building was acquired by Anders Julius Appelftoft, who made it a warehouse for beer and a pub.

9. KUNGAMÖTET & STORA TORG

On the stairway to the town hall is Edvin Öhrström's "Kungamötet" from 1952 located. It describes the meeting of Christian IV and Gustav II Adolf in Halmstad.

10. ST NIKOLAI CHURCH

The church was named after the patron saint of seafarers and was built during the 15th century. St Nikolai church is, beside the castle and Norre Port, one of the few buildings that survived the big fire in 1619. The fire destroyed the church's tower and roof. Both got their present shape during the years 1869-1872, after several restorations throughout the centuries. In the church, there are many crypts that date back to the 17th and 18th century, but there are also 58 slabs, of which 15 are medieval. Some of them are displayed in the church porch.

11. BROOKTORPSGÅRDEN

Brooktorpsgården is one of Halmstad's oldest houses and was presumably built in the beginning of the 18th century. The name points to the medieval predecessor of Halmstad: Brookthorp. The quarter is called the same name, which speaks in favour of the theory that the medieval town was located here.



12. VALLGATAN

To saunter along Vallgatan gives a good idea about what Halmstad's streets looked like in the 16th century. After the big fire in 1619, the town was restructured with Dutch influences. Remains of the old rampart can be seen from some parts of Vallgatan.

13. KARL DEN XI:S VÄG

The remains of the old rampart can even be seen from Karl den XI:s väg. The street runs where the old moat was located once.

14. APPELTOFTSKA BREWERY

The brewery was founded in 1836 and was located at Tre Hjärtan at Stora Torg. A new technique required bigger and better equipment and therefore, the whole business was moved here in the end of the 19th century. Before, Appelftoft's brewery had used the casemates at Västre Kavaljeren for storage since 1849.

