



The road to a destination that surprises

14th Century: The city is born (1384)

Norrköping was founded in 1384 as an important trading town. Its strategic location by the Motala ström (Motala River) made it a hub for commerce and shipping, laying the foundation for future growth and development.

17th and 18th Centuries: Industrial growth

During these centuries, Norrköping flourished, largely thanks to the booming textile and paper industries. This industrial heritage has become a key part of the city's identity and continues to attract visitors interested in industrial history and architecture.

19th Century: Urbanization and cultural development

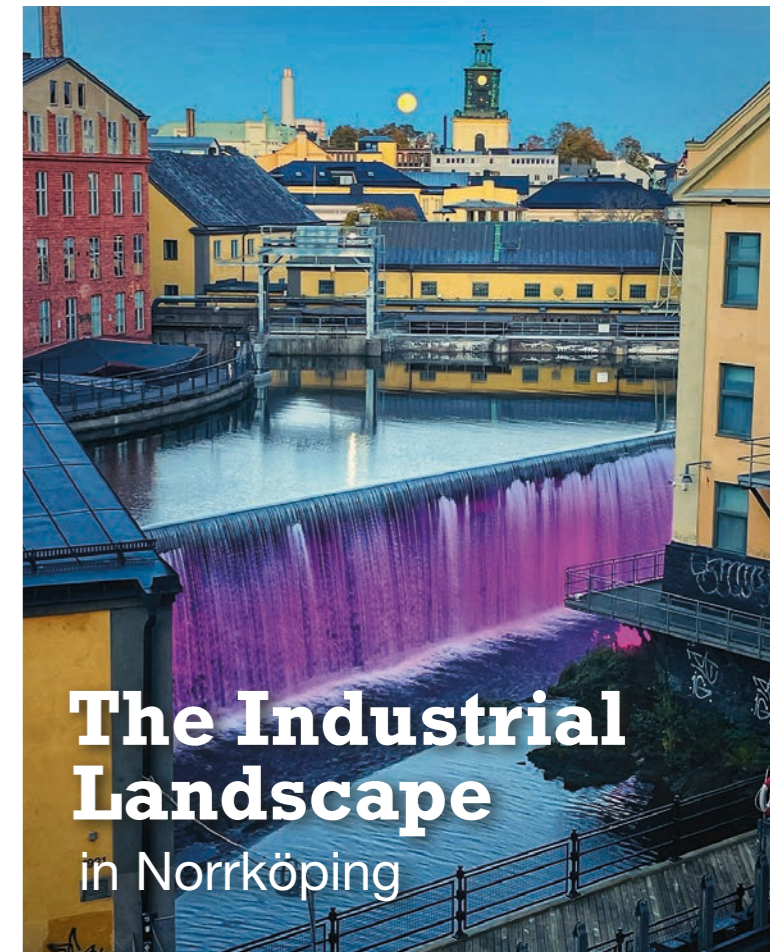
With the Industrial Revolution came rapid urbanization and a growing population. The city also began to develop cultural institutions, laying the groundwork for the museums and theaters that enrich Norrköping's cultural life today.

20th Century: Modernization and heritage preservation

Throughout the 20th century, Norrköping continued to modernize while carefully preserving its cultural heritage. The ancient rock carvings were protected, the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra was founded, and many old factories were transformed into university buildings, cultural centers, and galleries. Kolmården Wildlife Park was inaugurated and became a major tourist attraction. Together, these developments enhanced Norrköping's appeal as a travel destination.

21st Century: Norrköping today

As the city has evolved into a modern and attractive destination, Norrköping now offers visitors a rich and varied experience. The city center is often described as a "small big city," where most places are within a 15-minute reach. Parks, countryside, and the archipelago provide a wide range of high-quality nature experiences, and the restaurant scene is both diverse and vibrant. A mix of small and large events are held throughout the municipality, creating a city full of contrasts—one that often surprises its visitors.



The Industrial Landscape in Norrköping

What is the Industrial Landscape?

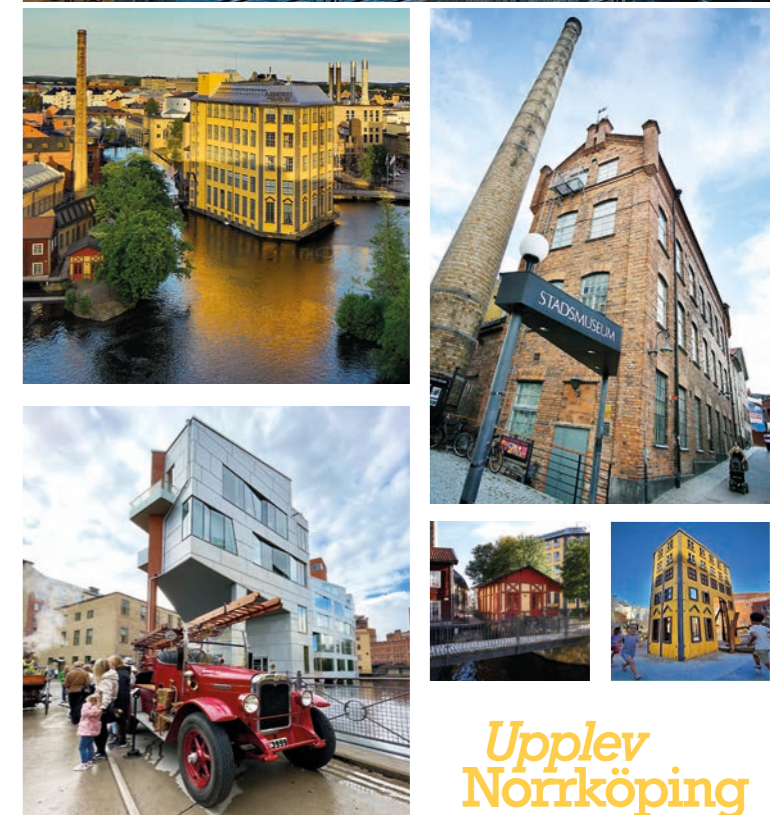
The Industrial Landscape around Motala ström (Motala River) is unique in Europe. It consists of the central parts of the city and is dominated by the rushing water of the stream and by stately factory buildings.

Most factories were built between 1850 and 1920 but the rapids and falls of the stream have been utilized ever since the middle ages. Thousands of people worked with spinning and weaving in wool and cotton in the factories. Until 1870, the city remained in a leading position concerning textile industry but then followed many cyclical fluctuations. In the 1950s the textile crisis was a fact and in 1970 the last of the city's wool companies closed down.

In the early 1970s, the industrial landscape was a closed and decayed factory area. But instead of tearing it down and build new modern buildings the Norrköpings municipality decided to preserve the area. Today you can roam freely in an industrial landscape which has become the inhabitants in Norrköping's pride and joy and that has become a centre for knowledge companies and universities.

Modern businesses have moved into the old buildings that used to be industries. Nowadays you will find for example Linköping University, Norrköping Science Park and Visualization Centre C here. Visualization Centre combines research, experimental 3D performances and innovation culture.

In the middle of the industrial landscape there are also museums, cafes, restaurants and a concert hall where historical iron beams meet current design to timeless tones.



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Uppliv
 Norrköping

Holmen tower 1917, photographer Gustaf Söderlund
 Photo from Holmen's Bruk's archive, stored in Norrköping's city archive

Water pipe to Kråkholmens power station 1915, photographer Gustaf Lidberg
 Photo from Gustaf Lidberg's personal archive, stored in Norrköping's city archive

Holmen's Bruk 1910, photographer unknown
 Photo from Holmen's Bruk's archive, stored in Norrköping's city archive

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1. Gamla Torget (The Old Square)

On Gamla Torget stands the statue of the Dutch financier Louis de Geer who was considered the father of Swedish industrialism. He came to Sweden in 1627 and Carl Milles created his statue and placed it in the heart of the medieval village which gradually turned into the city of Norrköping. The industrialist gazes down from an adorned plinth at his factory: Holmens Bruk.

2. Louis De Geer Concert & Congress

This former paper factory is today a unique concert hall and home to the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra. The hall takes 1300 conference guests with a restaurant capacity of 1100. Cultural experiences meet business in these flexible premises with views over the waterfalls.

3. Holmentornet (The Holmen Tower)

The yellow Holmen Tower is one of the entrances in to the Industrial Landscape. The tower dates from the 1750s and stands on the site where the Holmen paper mill was first built in the early 17th century.

4. Flygeln

Flygeln is a modern multi-arena, part of Louis De Geer Concert & Congress (see number 2). Business trade events as well as concerts are arranged here. The hall has removable tiered seating and can accommodate 1200 standing or 600 seated visitors.

5. Bomullsspinneriet

The building was built by Holmens Bruk as a cotton mill in the 1850s and was the largest industrial building in Norrköping at that time. The building was renovated and expanded in 1998, and today houses a gymnasieskola (upper secondary school).

6. Illuminated waterfall

The waterfall at the Cotton Mill spreads light in different colours every half hour during the winter. Nowadays, you can also turn on the light yourself with a button if it is not already on.

7. Värmekyrkan

The old boiler centre is today a unique arena with room for both entertainment and conferences. There is capacity for over 1300 people in this austere industrial environment and in December four lights shine on the roof in one of the world's largest Advent candlesticks.

8. Strykbrädan

The "ironing board" building was the workplace of the first paper makers in the 17th century, and used to house the Laxholmen textile mill. Today, you find Norrköping Science Park and the business incubator LEAD in the building, making it a place of innovation where promising entrepreneurs, business ideas, and researchers have the opportunity to develop into robust new businesses. The building also houses a restaurant.

9. Arbetets museum (The Museum of Work)

This unique industrial building in Laxholmen boasting seven corners was once a cotton factory and is today known as Strykjärnet (The Iron). The building was built in a manner that utilises every meter of the little islet in the river effectively and has been described by Carl Milles as one of the most attractive industrial buildings in the country. Strykjärnet houses the Museum of Work which is a centre for exhibitions and research into work and its history. There is a café at the ground floor as well as a restaurant at the 6th floor where you can enjoy food with a great view of the city.

10. Skorstenen (The Chimney) by Jan Svenungsson

The artist Jan Svenungsson has devoted himself to chimneys for many years. Each chimney is one metre higher than the previous one and the chimney at Bergsbron Bridge is 14 metres tall and, like some of his earlier works its placement is somewhat unusual. The chimney standing in the river, his fifth out of a total of nine in the world, was donated to Campus Norrköping by the Municipality in 1999.

11. Katcha

A playful and unique housing that stood ready in 2015 and has been awarded prestigious architecture awards. The architects are Ingrid Reppen and Kai Wartianen. The name Katcha comes from an old fishing tackle.

12. Visualization Center C and Cnema

Three industrial buildings from the 19th century have been transformed into a modern centre displaying the things you cannot see. Take a journey into space or into the human body. Experimental 3D performances are shown in the centre's dome-shaped theatre. The exhibitions invite visitors to challenge each other to a game of mind ball or try their hand at virtual surgery. The centre also houses Cnema a three screen cinema, a media education centre and café and restaurant.

13. Moa Martinsson

Norrköping has honoured its own proletarian writer with a powerful bronze sculpture by Peter Linde at Grytstorget. The authoress now stands next to the neighbourhood where her mother carried out her daily labour in the textile factories.

14. Spinneriet Tuppen

Tuppen was a famous spinning mill known for making bedsheet fabric, and grew into one of the country's leading companies in the industry during 1850s-1960s. Today the old spinning mill is part of the innovative ecosystem of Norrköping Science Park. Hosting space for offices, coworking and science labs. The area is also home to training facilities, and a hotel.

15. Dragsområdet

Drags' buildings date from the late 19th century though woollen cloth has been produced in this location by the river for more than 300 years. Even earlier than that, this was where boats could be hauled over a neck of land between two streams, right next to the waterfalls.

16. Arbis

Since the late 19th century plays have been put on in master bricklayer Slättengren's house on Bredgatan and this is where Gideon Wahlberg's comedies had their first performances. The building was designed for the Workers' Association in Norrköping and lectures were given here. Arbis is today an important and well-established music venue.

17. Tappan

Tappan is the largest newly built university building in Norrköping. The building houses the Department of Technology and Natural Science and also the research institute Acreo, which has unique facilities for research and development in the field of organic electronics.

18. Kåkenhus

Kåkenhus is the headquarters for the university within Campus Norrköping. The building houses, among other things, a library, auditoriums and café. The older parts of the building were built in different stages between the 1890s and 1950s and were originally used as a textile mill.

19. Skvallertorget

At Skvallertorget the Industrial Landscape meets modern Norrköping. The sculpture in the square is called the Banner of Unity and is made by Pye Engström. The square is named after the water mills nearby.

20. Stadsmuseet (Norrköping City Museum)

Located in the heart of the Industrial Landscape stands a building that was once a textile and dyeing mill. Today it houses the museum which tells of Norrköping's impressive textile era. Here the thump of the looms can still be heard on certain days and the museum shop sells cloth with patterns from times gone by. The restaurant serves food in the cellar vaults as well as in the cobblestone courtyard.

21. Västgötebacken

The area by the Västgötebacken hill is home to several information and knowledge companies including Swedish Public Radio and Television. Västgötegatan starts from the Järnbron Bridge and is the only street in Norrköping still to retain its full medieval length. Today you will find modern housing mixed with cafés and restaurants here.

22. Playground

In the middle of the neighborhood Mjölaren is a play park consisting of Norrköping's most famous buildings in smaller format. Here the children can ride the slide in Värmekyrkan and climb up Strykjärnet.

23. Stålboms kvarn (The Stålbom Mill)

The mill was built in 1925 following drawings by the architect Knut Pihlström. During its active years the building had an ingenious system of transport tracks and chutes.

24. Ståhl Collection

The former factory buildings housed Nyborgs Woolfactory AB until 1957. Today you will find attractive apartments here and a unique art gallery, the Ståhl Collection – a private art collection with focus on contemporary art.

25. Strömparken

Strömparken was built in 1922 with stone extracted during the hydroelectric power station work in Motala Ström. At the turn of the 20th century there was an open-air bath here. In recent years, Strömparken has undergone a transformation, and today there is a brook with a fish ladder and different play areas for children.

26. Knäppingsborg

The district dating from the 18th century has a long history of flour and snuff manufacturing. Today, Knäppingsborg is a much appreciated and frequented district for its good food, charming cafés and shops.

