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experience

The Park Promenade

Parkpromenaden - English version

LOkala
NAturvårds
satsningen



Kalmar kommun

kalmar.se/promenadslingor



We wish you a
wonderful walk!

Walk in Kalmar's green oases!

Welcome to the green and beautiful park tour in our beautiful city, where the city history is woven together with the park's past and today's lush oases. This walk takes about 1.5 hours at a slow pace, and you can track it on your smartphone, see the link at kalmar.se/promenadslingor

You can find the map of the trail and more information on the middle page of the brochure.



A hot tip is to go under the treetops and watch the light seeping through them. Here you see a Caucasian wingnut!

1. Stadsparken



In 1861, a decision was made to build a trail outside the city center, and 64 linden trees were planted as a first step. The people of Kalmar love this fantastically beautiful avenue! The reason why so many parks began to be built in the 19th century was that people moved to the cities to work in industries and factories. They lived crowded, often in an unhygienic environment, and it became more important to have recreational opportunities outdoors. Most of Sweden's city parks were laid out during the second half of the 19th century. Here, people would breathe fresh air, enjoy the

greenery, and participate in parties, dancing, theater and music in the parks. Wholesaler Johan Jeansson donated a large sum to the park, which began construction in 1877 and was inaugurated in 1880.

The park was laid out in the way that was modern then, with alternating open and closed rooms, winding corridors, flowering shrubbery and duck ponds with picturesque small bridges. There was also a Nordic part, with meadows and light birch groves. Several exotic trees were planted.

2. Byttan / Park Hermina and Kalmar Art Museum



A really nice city park can't be complete without a restaurant. An octagonal pavilion was built here, popularly called "Byttan" (swedish word for bucket) because it resembled an old wooden butter bucket. Four small horse chestnuts were planted around the pavilion, and the large beautiful horse chestnut we see today is one of these.

The name "Byttan" is still associated with it, even though today's building does not have much in common with a butter bucket. It is instead a

stylish example of functional architecture by the architect Sven Ivar Lind.

The large house with a black facade is Kalmar Art Museum. An international architectural competition was won by Videgård & Tham in 2004, and the winning proposal was much debated here in the city. Votes were raised that it would destroy the entire City Park. But now, after 10 years, it has become an indispensable part of the City Park.

3. The gazebo



The gazebo (Lusthuset) has not always stood in the park. It was originally built in one of Kalmar's oldest known gardens, which was located on Söderportsgatan, roughly where the southern cemetery is today. In the 18th century, there was a tobacco farm there. Later, one of Linnaeus' disciples, Johan Gustaf Wahlbom, lived there. He was probably the one who built the gazebo, and it was moved here in the early 20th century when the garden was demolished and villas and a cemetery were built in the area.

On the way to point 4, you pass tulip trees as well as southern beech and handkerchief trees.

In 2022, the gazebo will be moved to Skansparken, which you will find a little further in the track (point 11)

4. The perennials and the elm



The large perennial plantation was designed by one of Sweden's most famous landscape architects Ulf Nordfjell. He is also internationally known. For example, he has won the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show in England. The planting consists of 3,300 plants that take turns in flowering throughout the season. We are very proud to have one of his creations here!

Until the 1930s, the city's greenhouses were located here. They were then moved to

Skälby. The white wall is from one of the greenhouses.

The elm from 1795 is the park's oldest tree, planted only 3 years after Gustav III was shot at the Masquerade Ball! We are grateful that it has survived the elm disease which resulted in taking down many elms in Kalmar and the rest of Sweden. It is gorgeous! And if you wonder what it has to say - think of the so many people and events that have passed before the elm's "eyes"!

5. The walnut tree



When the City Park was being built in the 1870s, there were already some trees in the area. Over by the high hedge stood five walnut trees that were already almost 100 years old! In July 1931, a storm destroyed the entire park. About 40 trees were destroyed, about one-third of the park. Of the five walnut trees, only one survived. It is the tree standing over there by the hedge and braced with iron bands. It has been damaged but survived nonetheless.

This walnut tree was planted in 1799, and it still produces fine edible walnuts every year.

6. The Gustav Vasa Monument, the pyramid oaks and the caucasian wingnut



This hill, with the Gustav Vasa monument, has existed since the park's early days. In fact, the monument was originally erected in Stensö udde when Mr. Ericsson, as he was then called, landed there. But when the park was built, it was moved here so that more people could enjoy the lavish monument. In 2020, it will have been 500 years since the landing, and we will celebrate it with pomp and circumstance!

The two magnificent pyramid oaks have been around since the park was laid out and are

the oldest in Kalmar.

The large tree with its long swaying branches is a caucasian wingnut. An absolutely fantastic shade tree if you have room for it - it can grow up to 30 meters in both width and height!

7. The ginkgo



Behind the Vasa monument, among the conifers, and in the middle of the corridor in the dark, a ginkgo, or a chinese temple tree, as it is also called, stands there mysteriously. It is actually the oldest tree species known at all. There are ginkgo fossils that are 270 million years old. Ginkgo is one of the extremely resilient four trees that have even survived the Hiroshima atomic bomb!

Our ginkgo is said to be the oldest specimen in Sweden, planted around 1890. It is believed that some of these

trees can live for 1500 years, so this tree may still have many wonderful years to come!

The festive thing about ginkgo is that it is neither a conifer nor a deciduous tree. Or maybe both, because if you look closely at the "leaves" (feel free to hold up a leaf to the sun) they look like glued-together needles!

8. The castle and the katsura tree



The castle has always been strongly associated with the City Park. The part of the park closest to the castle was, from the beginning, arable land for the castle's needs. When the park was laid out, there was no moat, but the park went all the way to the castle walls. After the great storm of 1931, when one-third of the tree population fell, the park was renovated. Shrubs and arbors were removed, the corridors were straightened, and the park got its look today. The moat was dug so the castle got its own island and was separated from the park.

The large wide tree just inside the hedge is a katsura tree. It is a wonderful experience to go under the katsura tree and see the sky through its wonderful, clear foliage. In the spring, the rounded leaves appear like a string of pearls along the branches. An extra twist with the katsura tree is that the leaves smell of freshly baked cinnamon buns or gingerbread when the yellow autumn colors emerge!

9. Southern cemetery



The 19th century's scientific revolution of understanding hygiene and the spread of disease led to the construction of cemeteries outside the cities. They were given a more park-like appearance than before so that they could also function as trails.

In connection with the planting of linden trees along Slottsvägen in 1862, linden trees were also planted in straight rows on the land area closest to the castle. Since there was no church nearby, a chapel was built and completed

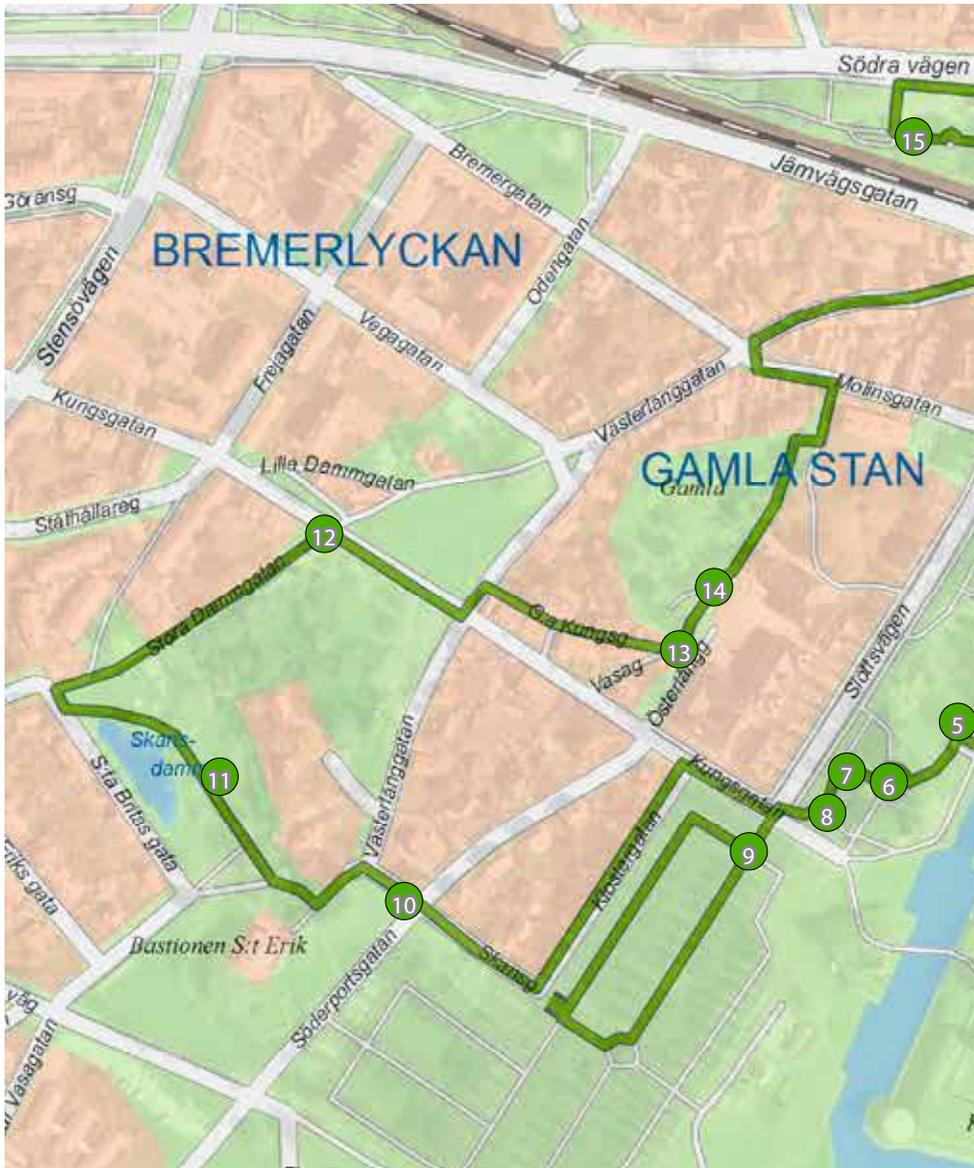
in 1863. The chapel was paid for by the city's Liquor Company, where Jeansson was the director. Yes, the same Jeansson who bore the costs when it came to the City Park's construction!

10. Bastionen Sankt Erik and Kalmarsundsparken

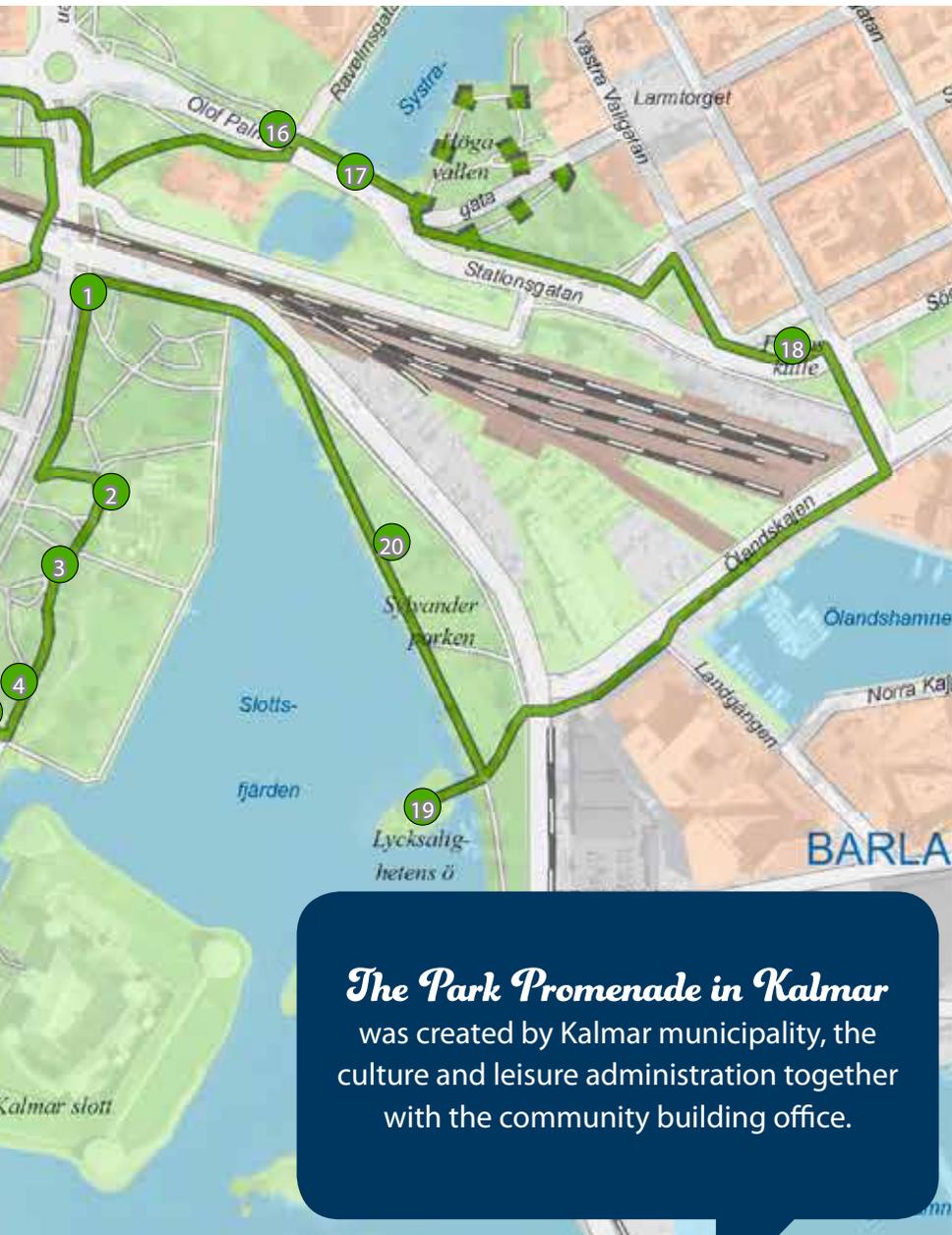


The Bastion Sankt Erik was built in the 16th century and was Sweden's most important defensive stronghold in the southeast. However, as early as the beginning of the 17th century, the Danes took the stronghold, the city of Kalmar was moved to Kvarnholmen, and the bastion began to decay. Eventually, the walls were upgraded to today's appearance. Villa Skansen, located on the fortifications, was built in the 1880s as one of the first large villas in this district. Today, both the bastion and the villa belong to our cultural heritage.

Kalmarsundsparken, which stretches along the beach south of the castle, has one of our most popular and close to the city beaches with a 180-meter long bridge out into Kalmarsund. Farthest to the south, there is a large popular beach sports facility. In Kalmarsundsparken, a completely untouched hidden battlefield from the 17th century has been recently discovered! Remains of Danish soldiers, as well as weapons and ammunition, have been found here. It is very unique that such a battlefield area close to the city has remained untouched and undeveloped for so long.



Solid line = Route with good accessibility
Dotted line = Route with stairs or cobblestones



The Park Promenade in Kalmar
was created by Kalmar municipality, the culture and leisure administration together with the community building office.

11. Skansparken and The Rose garden



Skansparken is located between Krusenstiernska garden and Bastion S:t Erik. Skansparken has, among other things, parts of an older street, which today is used as a trail. There are also preserved moats that surrounded medieval Kalmar. The moat in Skansparken was previously a popular drinking place for horse-drawn carriages on the way to and from Kalmar.

The construction of the Kalmar rose garden (Rosenträdgården) started in 2021. The rose garden is the result of a collaboration with the Nordic rose societies. Here you can find, among other things, several roses that

represent the various Nordic countries and Kalmar's own award-winning rose "Royal Estelle", which is produced by rose breeder Rosa Eskelund in Denmark. In the rose garden there is also a plantation for POM roses (Program for cultivated diversity), which are cultivated plants that originate in Kalmar County.

In addition to the rose garden, there is also an inspiring playground with exciting play equipment with a flower theme.

Feel free to sit in the park and enjoy all the roses.

12. The Krusenstiernska garden and the old city wall



The Krusenstiernska garden is a bourgeois garden that was built after Kalmar city moved to Kvarnholmen. It is preserved in its 19th-century condition thanks to the last owner, who donated the farm to the city on the condition that it would be preserved as a cultural reserve. When you pass the gate through the red fence, it's like traveling 100 years back in time! Here you will find a beautiful 19th-century garden, a popular café (home-baked) and raised trees. Even in the residential house, it feels as if time has stood still and the residents have only recently moved out.

The rows of stones on the

ground outside the garden mark the old city wall and the western gate of the medieval city. Even the small yellow residential building had to adapt its extension to the stretch of the wall through a glazed section.

The large green space is called Gullbrandssonska lyckan after the man who had a nursery here in the 19th century. During World War II, the area was cultivated with potatoes and vegetables. It is an open central area that is attractive for both buildings and parking. The lawn is appreciated as a recreational area and highlights the surrounding beautiful old houses.

13. Gamla Kungsgatan and Old Town



Gamla Kungsgatan is a picturesque street that was originally a connecting link between Österlånggatan and Västerlånggatan in the old town. The street is lined with small wooden huts from the 19th century and is probably Kalmar's most photographed street!

The Old Town was rebuilt after the medieval Kalmar was moved to Kvarnholmen. There is an even older old town under the old town we see here today, and Gamla Kungsgatan could have its origins from that time.

14. The Old cemetery and medieval Kalmar (the square by the walnut tree)



The central square of medieval Kalmar was located in this place. In connection with the Valnötsträdets block being converted into housing, the square was also given a facelift in collaboration with artists and archaeologists. Below are lots of exciting remains from the Middle Ages. The squares of smooth stone that you see in the ground are markings of medieval cellars and the wall of rusty sheet metal is part of the contour of the old church - a church that was so powerful that our current cathedral had a good margin inside it! The

artwork in cast iron marks the hatch - the passage between the profane and the ecclesiastical world.

The old cemetery (Gamla Kyrkogården) was built as early as the beginning of the 13th century. There are many different and special graveyards left here.

15. Vänortsparken



A long time ago, there was a roadside restaurant here, where travelers could take a break before going through customs to visit Kvarnholmen. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the area was called "Tullyckan" and was privately owned. During the first part of the 20th century, the city had a nursery here, but in the middle of the 20th century, they began to build a public park.

The first evidence of the name Vänortsparken (swedish word for "twin city park") has been found as late as the 1970s.

In 1981, the first trees were donated by Kalmar city's twin towns.

There are various trees in every area, such as beech, oak, birch, spruce, larch tree, walnut tree and woolly green.

The statue is aptly named "Friendship" and was designed by Lithuanian artist Algimatis Vytėnas.

16. Dryaden and the dome



The wall remains we see here are from the very first fortifications from the 17th century. At that time, people were most worried about attacks from the land side, and therefore several fortifications were built outside Kvarnholmen to stop the enemy from reaching the end.

It was an important hub, where the access roads from both north and south met. There was also a customs house where all goods were cleared through customs.

When the customs were removed, and Västerport lost its significance as the city's gate to the countryside, the Tullbron bridge was built. In 1852, it was inaugurated. At that time there was a bridge fee, where one had to pay different fees depending on the vehicle. And the bridge fee was paid in the small dome. So, the Öresundsbron bridge is not a new invention with its fees!

17. The walls and the ramparts



These walls and ramparts are what is left here of Kvarnholmen's inner fortifications. In the early 1800s, when much of the walls were demolished, they wanted to turn the remains into green trails, and then rows of linden trees were planted along the dike. Then a "hole" was made in the dike on which today's Olof Palme's street was built. In this way, Larmtorget gained a completely new status as an "arrival square".

If you have the chance, go up the stairs behind the theater or

go up the stairs on the dike and follow the trail past the station, you will also pass the Union Monument to your left on the way to point 18.

18. Floras kulle



When large parts of the city wall were demolished in the 19th century, it was thought that it had served its purpose and was no longer needed. It was a different time indeed. But each time has its thoughts, and the ideals we have today may not be seen the same in the future either.

Piles of a demolished wall remained here. In old photos, it looks really boring. An associate professor Atterberg, who has been to Stockholm and seen a nice flower hill, wanted to do something similar here at

home and suggested a Floras kulle (swedish word for "flora hill") on the site. But that did not happen then. At first, it was thought that the new post office would be built here and then it became a petrol station. On the anniversary year 1997, the then park manager Bengt Skoog struck a blow, and we finally got our Floras kulle!

What happened to Atterberg then? Well, he got a park named after him! Atterbergska Garden, which is located at the intersection Södra vägen-Esplanden!

19. Lycksalighetens ö



The island with this lovely sounding name is an islet that has been around for as long as you can see. During a siege of the castle in the early 16th century, led by Hemming Gadh, it is said to have played a significant role. Today, the role is no less, but completely different. Here, many couples choose to get married, and it is a very popular picnic spot with a magnificent view of Kalmar Castle. The name Lycksalighetens ö (swedish word for Island of Bliss) is assumed to be taken from PDA Atterbom's story game.

20. Sylvanderparken



In connection with the construction of the City Park, at the end of the 19th century, the filled-in beach area along the eastern side of Slotts-fjärden was also prepared. With the green trail laid out here, a cohesive recreation area was created that surrounded the entire Slotts-fjärden.

Who then was this Sylvander after whom the park got its name? Well, Volmar Sylvander was a teacher and researcher, best known for having written the great work "History of Kalmar Castle and the City"

in five volumes during the years 1864-1874. He wrote this entirely out of self-interest and on his own without a typewriter or a "ghostwriter".



We hope that you
enjoyed the walk!

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You can find more about this
promenade and other **walks** at
kalmar.se/promenadslingor

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