

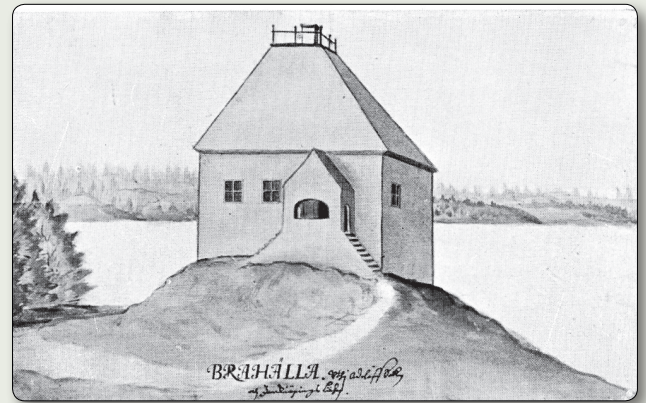
# BRAHÄLLA CASTLE RUINS

On a high cliff over Lake Noen lie the ruins of count Per Brahe the Younger's hunting castle Brahälla. This was Per Brahe's last building project within the county of Visingsborg before his death in 1680. The following year, the Crown revoked the Brahe family's properties, among them Näs seat farm, on whose land Brahälla was built. The hunting castle was completed in a couple of years. The walls were constructed in the summer of 1680, and the roof shingles were laid in 1681. The rendered façade was in a red colour from the start.

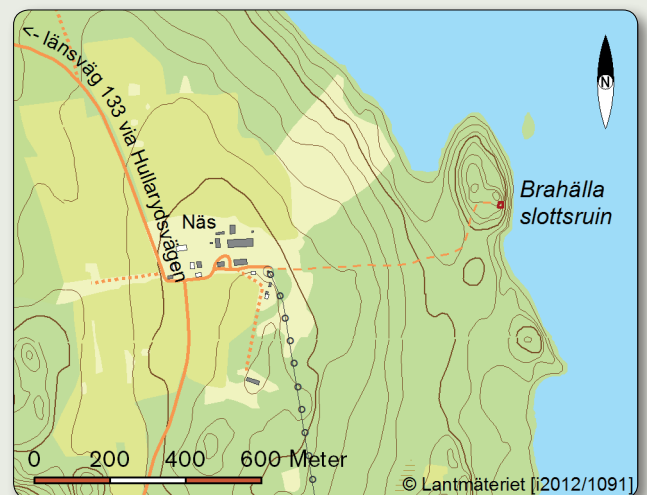
It was hardly a hunting castle in the true sense of the word. The scale was modest, with a basement, great hall, foyer and chamber. Just like the more impressive Brahehus, the high roof had a balcony, allowing visitors to enjoy the expansive views. Per Brahe liked to choose dramatic and scenic locations for his luxury castles "for the sake of the Prospects", as he himself wrote.

Brahälla was probably never used to any extent. After 1681, the seat farm passed through several noble families. In the late 18th century, tiles were stolen from the building, and in the 19th century, the roof blew off. After that, the Brahälla Castle soon went into disrepair.

Different images from the 19th century illustrate the decaying process of the building and how the walls gradually fell. The ruins were restored in the 1930s, and parts of the fallen walls were rebuilt. Sods of grass were placed on top of the walls as protection. The latest preservation measures were carried out in 2010.



Erik Dahlberg's drawing of the castle, made in the 1690s for his book project "Suecia antiqua et hodierna".



## HIDDEN GEM 35

### HOW TO GET HERE

Take Road 133 between Gränna and Tranås. At Adelöv, turn southwards towards Lekeryd, around 4 km until you come to the sign "Slottsruin". Parking area by information board. From here, there is a footpath, approx. 1.5 km, partly in very hilly terrain.

Coordinates:

N 6427930 / E 483781  
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°  
59' 33.70", E 14° 43' 32.40"  
(WGS84)



Brahälla Castle Ruins by Lake Noen. Photo: Leif Gustavsson/L.G.foto.

JÖNKÖPINGS LÄNS  
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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

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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

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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.

