

# ÅMINNE WORKS

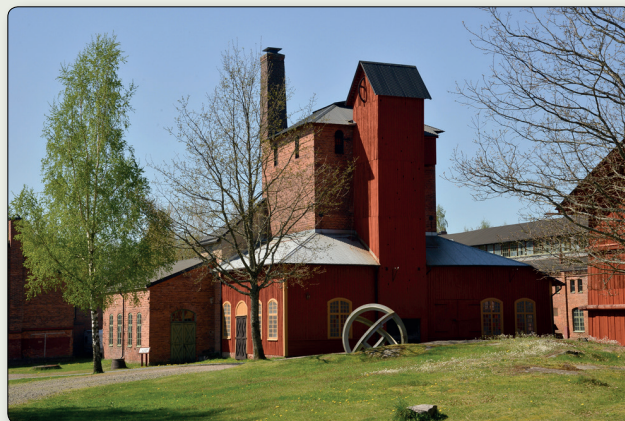
**A**minne Works is the best preserved lake ore foundry in Småland. In the early 1900s, the old Åminne iron works moved from Kärda parish to this location on the grounds of the Tjutaryd estate, between the Skåne-Småland railway line and Lake Vidöstern. New industrial buildings, such as a blast furnace and workshops, were built in brick, according to the latest technology of the time. The entire manufacturing process took place within the area of the iron works – from ore collection and iron making to the finished cast products.

The iron that was refined at Åminne came from lake ore. In the past, the ore was “fished” out with hand-held equipment from the bottom of the ice-covered Lake Vidöstern. From 1909, this was replaced by dredging. The ore was then transported by cableway from the quay to the works yard.

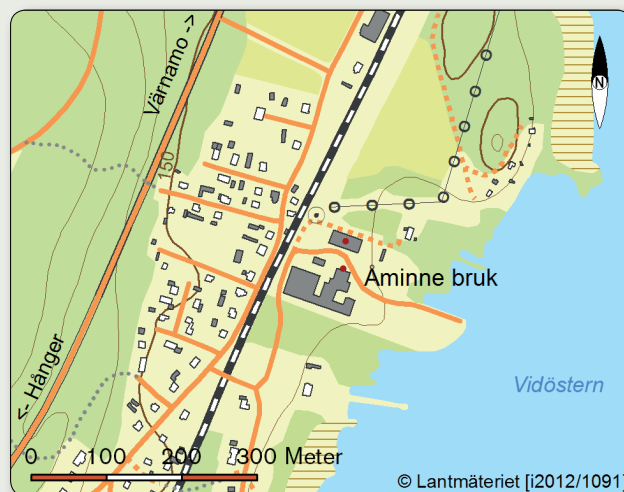
The blast furnace at Åminne with its cylindrical stack stands almost 12 metres high. It is built with fire bricks and rests on cast iron pillars. Iron ore, charcoal and lime were continuously transported by lift to the furnace platform. In the blast furnace process, air supply is necessary to ignite the charcoal and reduce and melt the ore into iron. In the 1830s, technology improved, and bellows were replaced by blowing engines. The blowing equipment at Åminne was made in 1900 at Bruzaholm Works and is one of the best preserved of its kind in Sweden.

Enough charcoal for an entire season was stored in the coal warehouse. Dry charcoal was a prerequisite for a smooth furnace operation. The charcoal was produced in stacks in the forests around Åminne. Charcoal production was an important sideline, and during winter hundreds of horse-drawn sleighs laden with charcoal arrived at the works.

In 1934, the blast furnace was fired for the last time. The foundry, however, was in operation until the 1990s. The well-preserved industrial environment with blast furnace, blowing machinery, charcoal warehouse, foundry and workshops make Åminne an interesting place to visit; here you find an important industrial heritage and a museum of iron production in Småland.



Åminne Works and the blast furnace which was first used in 1900. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



## HIDDEN GEM 45



### HOW TO GET HERE

Åminne Works is located approx. 7 km south of Värnamo. Take the southbound road west of Lake Vidöstern. Follow the signs.

Coordinates:  
N 6331687 / E 440124  
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°  
7' 28.47", E 14° 0' 39.69"  
(WGS84)



Åminne Works seen from the north-east. Photo: Leif Gustavsson/L.G.foto.

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

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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.

