

STIERNGRANAT'S MONUMENTS

Stjärneborg Castle by Lake Ralången was built in 1915 as a private residence for baron Malte Liewen Stierngranat – a man who was widely engaged in the development of the region. The architect was Torben Grut, who was already known for his design of the Stockholm Olympic Stadium in 1912. Another grandiose building was added to the estate when Stierngranat's Dutch friend Jacoba van Spreekens built Hollandhus, inspired by the tower-like castle Gelderse Toren in Brummern in the Netherlands.

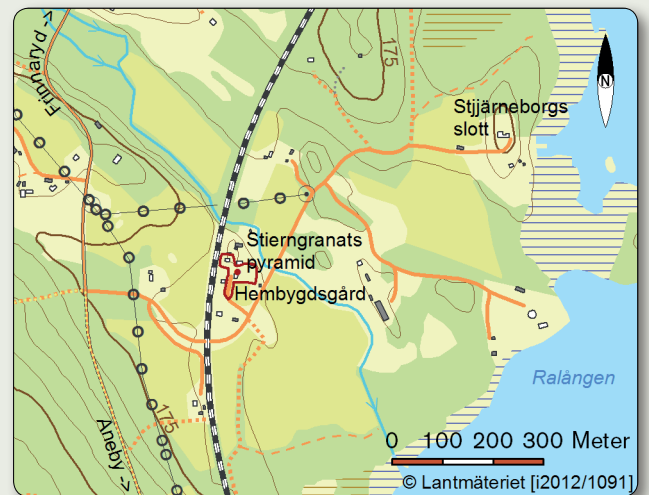
The eastern main line passed a stone's throw from Stjärneborg, and Stierngranat managed to persuade the railway to make a stop on the estate. He built Sweden's only private station house, also designed by Torben Grut. The building was demolished in 1965.

Stierngranat took a great interest in art and developed close friendships with artists such as the sculptor Carl Eldh and the painter Prince Eugen. At the same time, he wanted to contribute to popular education, and in 1926 he initiated a local history and art museum near the railway station. The wing moved here from Viredaholm contains a cabinet of curiosities and a small gallery with art by e.g. Nils Kreuger and Olle Hjortzberg. Outside, is the original model that the artist Carl Eldh used for his sculpture The Olympic Runners. Stierngranat also started Lommaryd local history society and the open air museum in the museum park.

Stierngranat commissioned the construction of his own mausoleum. Inspired by a visit to Egypt in 1908, he had the idea of creating a small-scale copy of the Cheops pyramid. The pyramid was cast in reinforced concrete in 1923 and was planned to be clad in granite panels. The burial chamber itself, in the style of a Gothic chapel, has richly decorated vaults by the artist George Trapp from Gränna, with images from Stierngranat's life. The sarcophagus was ordered in the 1920s and Stierngranat took it with him on longer stays abroad "just in case". He was entombed in the sarcophagus in 1960.



Stierngranat's pyramid tomb. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 2

HOW TO GET HERE

From Aneby: Drive north on the road west of Lake Ralången. Follow the signs.

Coordinates:

N 6418080 / E 488192
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57
54' 15.71", E 14° 48' 2.74"
(WGS84)



The museum at Stjärneborg. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.

JÖNKÖPINGS LÄNS
MUSEUM 

036-30 18 00 ▪ www.jkpglm.se



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

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

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.

