

# RUMLABORG CASTLE RUINS

At the mouth of the Huskvarna river at Lake Vättern are the remains of Rumlaborg Castle. Rumlaborg was built in the 1360s by Albert of Mecklenburg, who was crowned king in 1364 at the Stones of Mora. Rumlaborg replaced Jönköping Castle, which had been burnt down by Duke Erik in 1309, and came to serve as a major “strategic lock” for the Holavedsvägen road towards Östergötland. Rumlaborg became a centre of power in a castle fief into the 16th century. During the 15th century, the power of castle wardens increased, something which led to the Engelbrekt rebellion in 1434, when many castles were invaded and burned, including Rumlaborg. In the Chronicle of Charles, some names appear of those taking part in the battles where Engelbrekt’s liberation army, under the command of Herman Beerman, forced Eric of Pomerania’s German castle warden Otto Snaps to flee.

King Karl Knutsson Bonde of Sweden renovated Rumlaborg in the late 1440s in view of forthcoming battles with Denmark. However, the castle warden Eggert Krummedike, appointed by the king, changed sides and invited the Danes to Rumlaborg on their way to Östergötland in summer 1452. For a while, the king’s troops besieged Rumlaborg until the defenders finally gave up.

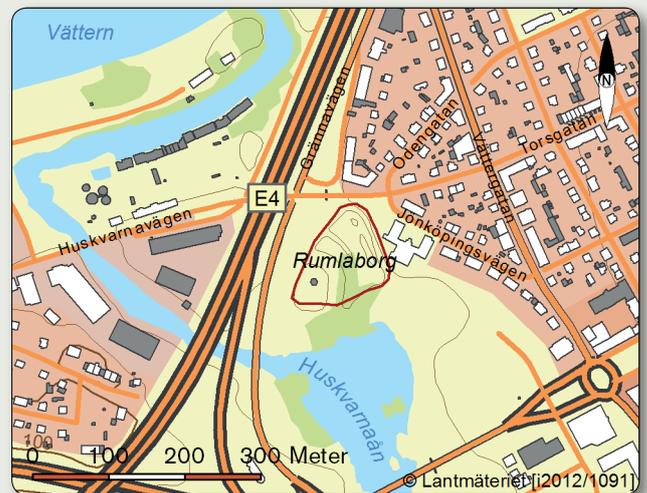
In battles between king Karl Knutsson Bonde and the Danish in spring 1464, Rumlaborg was besieged and possibly captured by bishop Kettil in Linköping. After that, Rumlaborg’s importance disappears from historic sources. The Rumlaborg fife was dissolved in 1544 under the reign of Gustav I Vasa, when a new castle was being built in Jönköping.

In 1611, the Swedish army, faced with threatening Danish troops, set up a fortified camp at Rumlaborg. This was the last time that war activities took place here.

Today, the ruins comprise a castle hill surrounded by three ditches and ramparts. On the hill is a gazebo built in 1845, and which for a time served as a library for the Rosendala estate. Finds from archaeological investigations at Rumlaborg in the 1930s are displayed in Huskvarna Town Museum in the Kruthuset building.



Rumlaborg Castle was built in the 1360s on land belonging to the Humblarum village and became a centre of power in a castle fief into the 16th century. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



## HIDDEN GEM 2 I



### HOW TO GET HERE

Rumlaborg is located just to the west of the centre of Huskvarna, close to the Huskvarna river. Parking is available in the adjacent streets.

Coordinates:  
N 6405752 / E 456418  
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°  
47' 30.01", E 14° 16' 0.93"  
(WGS84)



The ruins of the medieval Rumlaborg Castle in today's urban environment in Huskvarna, by the Huskvarna river. Photo: Leif Gustavsson/L.G.foto.

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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.

