

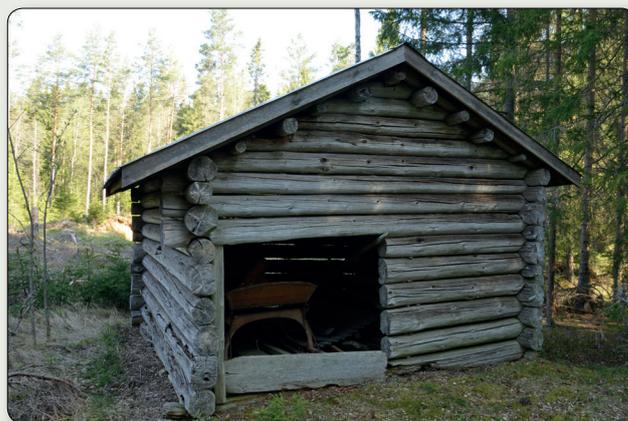
NÄS

Näs is in many ways a good representative for many of the old villages in the Småland highlands. A characteristic feature is that the best land for cultivation is found on the plateaus, whereas the valleys have more stony and marshy ground. The village fields were therefore located on the ridges, while the slopes and lowlands were used for grazing. Around Näs, the fields are located on the plateau north of the village.

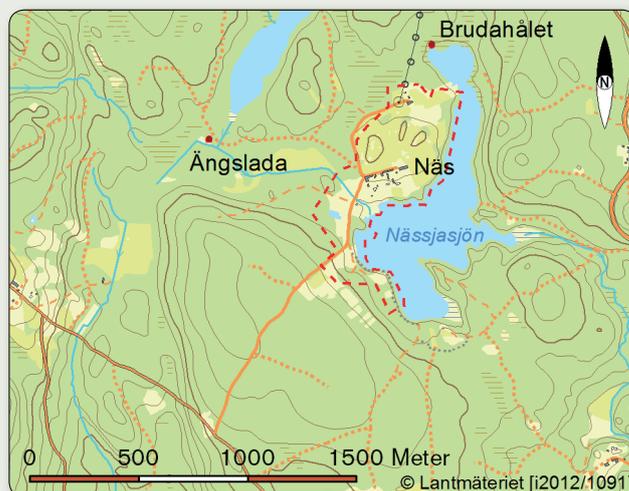
The original farm at Näs was probably established in the Middle Ages, when cultivation and settlements in the Småland highlands expanded periodically. Näs became a village as a result of farm sub-division, which was carried out until the 18th century. The original sole farm was divided into four smaller farms. In 1806, the village underwent a land reform known as "Storskifte" (Great Partition) where farmland was redistributed and connected into larger blocks. The next reform, "Laga skifte" was not implemented here, since the previous reform had been so radical. Had Laga skifte been introduced, Näs would have looked quite different today, with a much more scattered character. But instead, Näs has kept its old-fashioned layout, reminiscent of a row village with buildings along the main street. Each farm comprises several timbered buildings with different functions.

The fields surrounding the village contain many clearance cairns and some stone walls. In the 17th and 18th centuries, cultivation was based on the three-field system. This meant that one third of the fields were left fallow every year while different crops were grown on the other two thirds. The following year, another third was left fallow.

A few hundred metres to the west of the village is a meadow barn. Here the hay was stored in late summer and brought home to the farm in winter. In the northern part of Lake Nässjasjön, where the village is located, there is a site called Brudahålet (Bride hole). According to legend, a bridal procession went through the ice here and perished.



In late summer, hay was gathered and stored in the meadow barn. It was often easier to transport the hay to the farm in winter, when there was snow and the ground was frozen. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 5 I



HOW TO GET HERE

From Ingatorp Church near Road 40, drive north-west for 500 m, turn left and follow the road Sockenvägen for approx. 3 km. Turn right by the sign for "Näs". Continue for around 1.5 km.

Coordinates:

Näs:
N 6391356 / E 522080
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°
39' 50.143", E 15° 22'
12.301"
(WGS84)



The fields around Näs were cleared from stones, which were then deposited in clearance cairns. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.

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

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.

