

# TÖLLSTORP INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

A number of small industries powered by water were located on the Töllstorp estate in the 18th and 19th centuries. Today, you can still see a preserved wire-drawing mill, an ear handle hammer, a few mechanical workshops and a smithy.

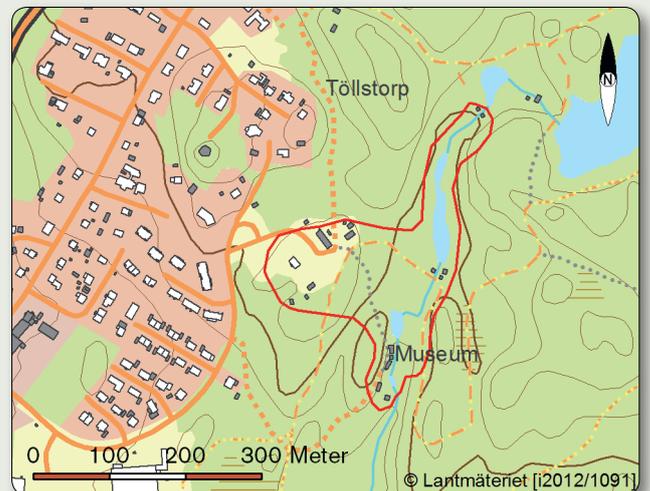
Töllstorp Open Air Museum was founded in 1965 by Gnosjö Local Heritage Society in collaboration with the municipality of Gnosjö. The original buildings have been restored, and gradually other old buildings have been added to the museum. What you see here today, is the cradle of Gnosjö's entrepreneurship.

Wire was the basis for many of the workshops and products. The knowledge of wire drawing is said to have come from farm boys who had been employed at the gun factory in Jönköping, subsequently Huskvarna, and who went on to set up small hammers and wire-drawing mills along the water courses in their home districts. Trip hammers were used for forming forged iron from the iron works into thin lengths, for drawing. A so called drawplate, a hardened steel disc with a number of conical holes with decreasing diameter, was used. The wire was drawn in turn through the holes until the desired thickness was achieved. In the 19th century, there were a few hundred wire-drawing mills and trip hammers in the Gnosjö district. They were often used as a supplement to farming. Hook-and-eye fasteners, cords and different types of needles were made from the wire; simple everyday items that sometimes involved the whole family in the production. Tools and aids were developed to rationalise and simplify production. Fabric was also woven from the wire. Flour sieves, flyswatters and many other items were made from the wire cloth. During the end of the 19th century, handicrafts gradually evolved into small industries.

In Töllstorp, you can follow the entire chain of production from trip hammer and wire drawing to hand looms for making metal fabric, as well as various simple machines for the production of hairpins, chicken eyeglasses, pot handles, and other items. The local heritage society keeps the museum open during the summer months and arranges guided tours.



Interior from the ear handle hammer 2011. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



## HIDDEN GEM 79



### HOW TO GET HERE

Töllstorp Industrial Museum is located north of Gnosjö, but is reached from Road 151, via the western approach to the centre of Gnosjö and the exit for Åsenhöga. Here, you find signs for "Töllstorps Industri-museum".

Coordinates:

N 6358556 / E 425265  
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 57°  
21' 49,05, E 13° 45' 27,14"  
(WGS84)



The seemingly simple buildings contain both history and technology. In the foreground, the Andersfors industrial building from 1908 in its original position. Behind, you see a glimpse of Lill-Andersa's workshop, which housed Gnosjö's first hairpin factory and a smithy. 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

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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.

