

# City tour guide

## IN VÄSTERVIK



## VÄSTERVIK

Explore the city



GUEST HARBOUR



VÄSTERVIKS GUEST HARBOUR



ARCHIPELAGO BOATS

### A. ST. PETRI CHURCH

The church was built in 1903-1905 as a replacement for St. Gertrude's Church (no. 27 on the map) by architect A. E. Melander, who also designed the Västervik station building. It cost 380,000 kronor to build the church, terraces and gardens, which is equivalent to around 39,500 euros. The baptismal font dates back to 1644 and was manufactured by the well-known foundry Gusums Bruk. Musical euphony in the church is still provided by two distinguished organs – an Åkerman & Lund organ from 1905 and a Marcusen & Son organ.

### B. BÅTSMANSGRÄND ALLEY

The alley is located in the part of town known as Gamla Öster (the old eastern quarter), which sits just above the harbour. It is home to eight timbered and wainscoted boatswain cabins in the traditional Swedish style. The cabins were built in the 1740s as homes for the boatswains and their families, who Västervik City was entrusted to look after on behalf of the Swedish Crown. In the first half of the 20th century, the cabins were used to house members of the citizen's fire brigade, and in 1970 the alley was protected as a site of national cultural heritage. At around the same time, some of the buildings began to be used as cafés and hostels. In the innermost part of the alley, you can find a bust of the Swedish actor and director Gösta Bernhard, who was born on Gröna Street in 1910 (now known as Gösta Bernhard Street).

### C. THE TJUST GALLERY

This is the site where businessman Göran Wimmerström ran a grocery store throughout much of the early 20th century. Today it is the workshop of artist Åsa F. Jägerhorn, who has had a longstanding impact on the cultural life of Västervik through her work with ceramics, paintings, public installations and the written word.

### D. JERNSKA HOMESTEAD

Listed merchant's yard from the middle of the 18th century with angled structure, storehouse and row of outbuildings around a culturally significant garden with warden trees.

### E. THE LEWENHAUPT HOME

The Lewenhaupt Home is a prime representative of the county estates that can be found all along Strömsholmen Street. In this part of town, just above the wharf, stately homes were built so that they could be seen from the water while remaining accessible to the harbour. Many of the estates were built by successful sea captains or ship owners, while others belonged to members of the nobility who lived in mansions around Tjust. For example, Lewenhaupt and Key had estates on Strömsholmen Street which they used as cosy homes in the winter.

### F. VÄSTERVIK CITY HOTEL

In 1844, a new building was constructed in Västervik at the behest of Baron Johan Nordenfalk. The building was intended to serve as a

residence for a new county governor should the Kalmar County split into two. No division ever occurred, however, and the local area did not receive its own county governor. As a result, the building was turned into a hotel, and a rather grand one at that considering the size of Västervik at the time. The original building was later demolished in 1988 and a new one was built in its place, taking inspiration from its predecessor. The entranceway of the new hotel is the same as the original.

### G. THE STADSKÄLLAREN CELLAR

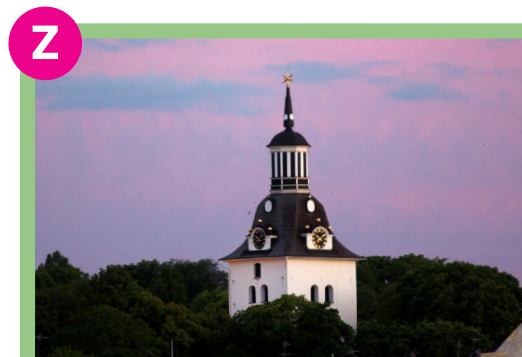
Before the city hotel was built, the Stadskällaren was the heart of the city's social life. This old cellar vault is still around today. In the mid-19th century, the locale was owned by the divorced brewery owner Gustava Sandberg – an enterprising woman who was murdered by her lackey in 1861. When her will was opened, it was revealed that a large part of her fortune was to be left to the Swedish Royal Court. The offer was politely turned down however, and it was instead divided amongst a number of different schools in the area.

The large brick building on the southern side of the square was built by local architect Gustav Frumerie in the gothic style in 1904. The building attracted a great deal of criticism for its strange design, with many commenting that the building would be better suited to a German Hansestadt. It wasn't the only building to find itself in the

firing line of the locales, with a new construction in 1959 receiving much attention when it first appeared. Its strict design, large panes of glass and metal façade were typical characteristics of the wave of demolitions and new builds that swept across the country in the 1960s.

### H. GAMLA VARMBADHUSET PUBLIC BATHHOUSE

The little island of Strömsholmen (literally stream islet) is named for its location between the Lilla and Stora streams. Older names for the same island include Tullholmen (customs islet) and Bränneriholmen (distillery islet). Today, the island is home to the Gamla Varmbadhuset Public Bathhouse, originally built in 1910 in an art nouveau style by Fredrik Anderberg. The bathhouse arrived to the city in a period characterised by new ideas and beliefs surrounding hygiene and





cleanliness. In the same spirit and more or less at the same time, the city also got its market hall at Fiskartorget Square and a water tower which brought clean running water to Västervik. The building ceased to operate as a bathhouse in 1975 and since then it has been used for a variety of functions, including the tourist office.

**I. SLOTTSHOLMEN & STEGEHOLMEN CASTLE RUIN** Stegeholmen Castle was likely established in the 1360s by Albert II, Duke of Mecklenburg, in order to secure Gamlebyviken and the town of Västervik, which at the time was located further up the bay, where Gamleby is located today. The town was moved in 1433 to its current position in order to ensure that the inhabitants of the castle would have access to provisions. Stegeholmen Castle was owned at one point by Märta Sture, the renowned widow of Svante Sture, who was murdered by Eric XIV in 1567. In the 17th century, Stegeholmen Castle was owned by Count Hans Christoffer von Köningsmarck, and during this time it began to be transformed from a Medieval castle into a baroque palace. Unfortunately, the building works were never complete and the castle was burnt down in 1677 in relation with the war against Denmark. The remains of the castle now play host to the city’s annual Song Festival (VisFestivalen), which has been taking place in Västervik each summer since 1966. From 2014 onwards, extensive work has been carried out on the castle, including the construction of both new buildings and bridges, turning the location into a natural meeting point for the city. Right behind the castle, the Unos Tower stretches out into the sky, 34 meters above sea level. The tower is situated on Kulbacken Hill, together with the Västervik Museum and the Naturrum Visitor Centre.

**J. LILLA STRÖMMEN**  
This little stretch of water was for a long time the main way to access Gamlebyviken, right up until the stretch between Strömsholmen and Slottsholmen was dredged in the 19th century, giving way to the Stora Strömmen. Back in the day, there was once a set of scales at the bridge-head, which was used to weigh all goods coming in to be sold in the city in order to determine the customs duty to be applied.

**K. STRANDVÄGEN PROMENADE**  
Strandvägen is lined with restaurants and is one of Västervik’s most popular promenades in summer time. It was once home to the Larsson Hotel, with its beachside pavilion and dancefloor suspended above the water. Just after the turn of the century, the area was plumped up and the bank protection was positioned in its current location. The largest and classiest house along the promenade is the so-called Häggbladska House, which dates back to 1910. It was established by the consul Gordon Häggblad, who earned large amounts of money at gold mines in Rhodesia.

**L. WIMMERSTRÖM HOMESTEAD**  
The Wimmerström family owned a bakery and patisserie on Storgatan Street from 1845 through to the middle of the 20th century. The homestead includes an inner courtyard and a house that can be accessed from Brunngatan Street. When Stina Wimmerström died in 1991, she left the property to the Kalmar County Museum. The home is now open to the public as a museum providing information on one of Västervik’s notable families.

**M. THE MARKET HALL**  
This building was constructed in 1910-11 in the same style as the old public bathhouse (see point eight). The building was used as a market hall up until the 1950s. The quarter in which the market hall is located goes by the curious name of Fläsklösa, which literally means to be without pork. The name can be traced back to an old pub that was once located there, long before the market hall was built. How the pub came to bear such a name is unknown.

**N. TORGGATAN STREET**  
Look up at brandväggen wall on the west side of the street. Above a painted bank entrance, you can see a roof and gable with a window containing drapery that flutters in the wind. Further up you’ll see a little cat, attempting to catch a bird in a roof window. All of this is part of a splendid optical illusion created by the architect Tommy Lyberg and the artist Henry Gustafsson.

**O. FISKARTORGET SQUARE**  
The square got its name from the lively fishing trade that took place here over the centuries, thanks to the many boats that would land here with their catch after traversing the archipelago. Even if the fish market no longer remains, its memory is kept alive by the Hasselörodden rowing race, which kicks off in mid-July each year. Hundreds of rowers arrive at Fiskarhamnen Harbour in old-fashioned boats, after having rowed from Hasselö Island in the Västervik Archipelago.

**P. GRÖNSAKSTORGET**  
The yellow house looming over Grönsakstorget Square was built in the 1790s, and is the site at which the poet and composer (not to mention the county governor of Skaraborg County) Gunnar Wennerberg was married to his wife Hedda, the daughter of Admiral Claes Cronstedt, in 1852. The house has served many purposes over the years, having played host to both a library and the local singing academy. It was also the meeting place of Club Mageliso in the 1960s, whose students organised the first Song Festival (VisFestivalen) at Slottsholmen in 1966.

**Q. STORA TORGET SQUARE**  
This central square in Västervik has been dominated by the town hall from 1793. The building replaced an older town hall at the same location and functioned as a meeting place for the city’s magistrature. It was also home to some detention rooms and provision stores. Today, the town hall is home to the Västervik Tourist Center. At the other end of the square sits the Enander Department Store, which was built by Sven Johan Enander, who chanced upon the town when travelling around peddling goods. In 1887 he founded SJ Enanders Manufacturing Company and in 1908 he commissioned the construction of the building to be used as a very modern department store which even had lifts and central vacuum cleaners. All manner of goods could be purchased at the store, from clothing for men and women, shoes, hats, sewing materials, rugs, curtains and tailored goods. Upon his death in 1919, Sven donated his fortune to a fund for tuberculosis – an illness which still claims many lives today. The large brick building on the south side of the square was built by Västervik architect Gustaf de Frumerie in a Gothic style in 1904. The building was heavily criticised for its special style, with many stating that it would be well suited to a German Hansestad, but not to Västervik. The building in the northern part of the square also came in for criticism when it was built in 1959. Its strict design with large glass panes and sheet metal façade was typical of the wave of demolitions and new-builds that swept across the country in the 1960s.

**R. GAMLA NORR**  
Gamla Norr is the part of town located between Gamlebyviken and Västra Kyrkogatan Street. When Västervik was practically burnt to the ground by Danish troops in 1677, a new city plan was established as soon as 1678. Despite the fact that an ordinance from 1644 had prohibited beach-side streets of 20 ells in length, the city planner (fortification engineer Anders Berg) permitted new buildings along the coastline at Gamlebyviken. Up until the 1960s, the beach was lined with seaside homesteads, from Fiskartorget Square all the way down to the end of Hamngatan Street. A few properties remain, offering the possibility for visitors to moor their boats to the fences.

**S. MAECHAELSKA HOMESTEAD**  
This building from the end of the 18th century was owned by the Maechael family, who immigrated from Germany in the 17th century and came to play a crucial role in the city’s economy and development. The building is a typical example of the large trading homesteads that dominated the northern part of the city in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the mid-1970s, many outbuildings were demolished in this area and modern apartment buildings were constructed in their place. These new modern buildings were all constructed on solid foundations, whereas when the Maechaelska Homestead was built the water line was much closer to the house.

**T. SALT STOREHOUSES**  
The storehouses date back to the 18th century and have been used to store a number of different goods, including salt, which has long been considered an important import product in Sweden. Västervik has historically had status as a staple port, meaning that merchants in the city have had the right to trade with other countries. In return for this privilege, the city has been required to store salt for the supply of the nation.

**U. KOLLBERGSKA AND NORÉNSKA HOMESTEADS**  
The Kollbergska Homestead is located right beside the salt storehouses. It has a typical design for an older seaside homestead in the city. The main house on the Norénska Homestead, which was a trading homestead, was built in 1796. The row of buildings on the homestead along Hamngatan Street were built in 1814 and included a bridge house, a storehouse, a shed for carriages and some stables. The homesteads along Hamngatan Street have often had direct access to the water, which was very important considering that travelling by boat was the most effective means of transport at the time.

**V. GELBGJUTAREGÅRDEN HOMESTEAD**  
This homestead operated a brass foundry which made brass fittings and ship bells for the ships that were built in Västervik in the heyday of sailing vessels. The business began in 1832 and operated for three generations. The actual workshop itself was located in the outbuilding to the north of the homestead by Rådhusgatan Street.

**W. KLOCKAREGÅRDEN HOMESTEAD (CLERK’S RESIDENCE)**  
The façade on the house at Klockaregården Homestead dates back to 1753, and the house has an old-fashioned design. The homestead was originally used as a place where hides, pelts and furs were prepared. The further away from the water you get, the smaller the homesteads become, and the more they tend to be associated with handicraft in comparison with the ones located closer to the water. This homestead was bought by the city in 1790 and used as a home for the city’s clerk up until 1888.

**X. THE FRUMIERE HOME**  
This plot of land was the site upon which Västervik’s first factory was established – a wool factory which gave its name to the adjacent Fabrikgatan Street (literally factory street). The part of the property which faces Östra Kyrkogatan Street was once home to Captain J. A. Frumiere, who commanded the pride and joy of Västervik’s trading fleet: The Indien sailing ship. In 1904, Frumiere’s widow, Laura Amalia Teresia, commissioned an extension to the property in the form of a three-story row of houses along Fabriksgatan Street. The architect who took on the job was the family’s son, Gustaf Frumiere.

**Y. ASPAGÅRDEN HOMESTEAD**  
The Aspagården Homestead is one of the oldest in the city. The building closest to the church is a panelled two-story farmhouse with a lined vestibule, built together with a storehouse and a

bakehouse. The homestead was likely built just after the fire of 1677. Two other houses from the 18th century are located on the plot. Today, a ceramicist and a textile artist have their workshops in the buildings.

**Z. ST. GERTRUDE’S CHURCH**  
When Västervik was established in its current location in the year 1433 by Eric of Pomerania, the city’s inhabitants were granted four tax free years in order to build a church. Over the years, the church has been rebuilt time and time again. By the beginning of the 20th century, the church had been holding services for almost 500 years and was becoming worn down. The last mass held at the church took place on the Sunday of Christ the King in 1905. On the first day of advent in the same year, the new church of St. Petri was used for the first time. St. Gertrude’s was then used to store grains, which led to it being stormed during the hunger demonstrations of 1917. As time went on, the idea of returning the church to its original use began to gain popularity and in 1933 St. Gertrude’s was once more inaugurated. The church’s original steeple was destroyed by a lightning strike which hit during a service in 1762. It was replaced in the 1780s by the current steeple, which was designed by the architect Carl Fredrik Adelcrantz. Amongst the items in the church’s inventory, of particular note is the Wistenius organ from 1743, which is considered to be one of the most valuable organs in Sweden.

**Å. THE CEDERFLYCHT HOUSE**  
Anna Cederflycht was born in 1684 as the daughter of the powerful merchant Hans Andersson. She went on to marry the rich ship owner Anders Cederflycht of Gothenburg. Unfortunately, the marriage was unhappy, and the pair refused to include one another in their wills. When Anders passed away, his entire fortune was left to their son Hans, however Hans himself died only one year later. The result is that Anna eventually inherited the money she never wanted, and so decided to donate much of it to various causes, including the Cederflycht House which was built in 1748 as an almshouse. The house had room for sixteen poor people, both from Västervik and from neighbouring parishes. In 1758, the town’s priest Henric Jakob Sivers noted that the residence was somewhat lavish for an almshouse, writing that in Västervik, “the poor live better than the rich”.

**Ä. THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE**  
The school building began to be used in 1809 after the older one was deemed unfit for purpose. Under certain periods in the 18th century, it had been completely impossible to hold classes in the old building, and the school was often left with no choice but to hire a room from one of the city’s cobblers in order to get on with lessons.

**Ö. THE OLD THEATRE**  
The theatre was built in 1815, making it one of the first theatre buildings in the country outside of the capital. The building functioned as a theatre up to 1917 when it was closed before later being reopened as a chapel during the religious revival. The building has continued to be used for such purposes and is currently a Pentecostal church.

