

16. The Nissan

The Nissan River rises in the highlands of Skåne, just southwest of Taberg, in a bog with the appropriate name of Nissakälla ("source of the Nissan"). There are several different explanations for the name of the river; for example, the river is said to have been called the Niz in Old Swedish, possibly from the Latin verb nitere, meaning to glitter. There is also a theory that it comes from the word nidh or nidwa, in reference to the Nissan's dark, mossy waters. With a length of 186 km, the Nissan is one of southern Sweden's longest rivers. The famous Halmstad salmon has been caught in these waters for export since the seventeenth century.

17. Slottsparken

In the park next to Halmstad Castle, you can see the last remnants of the old moat that surrounded Halmstad's Fort. Traces of the old fortifications can be seen in the castle wall, which incorporated the old section over Södra Vägen. You can also see the tree-covered hillocks where the crescent of the embankment began. And don't miss Fredrik Wretman's artwork $0 + 0 = 8$, known locally as "The Zero".

18. Halmstad Castle

Halland was Danish up until 1645 and was ruled by the Danish king Christian IV during the 17th century. King Christian was a successful developer and wanted to modernise his fortresses on the border with Sweden, including Halmstad. Halmstad's fortifications were therefore completed at the start of the 1600s, and Halmstad Castle was finished in 1619.

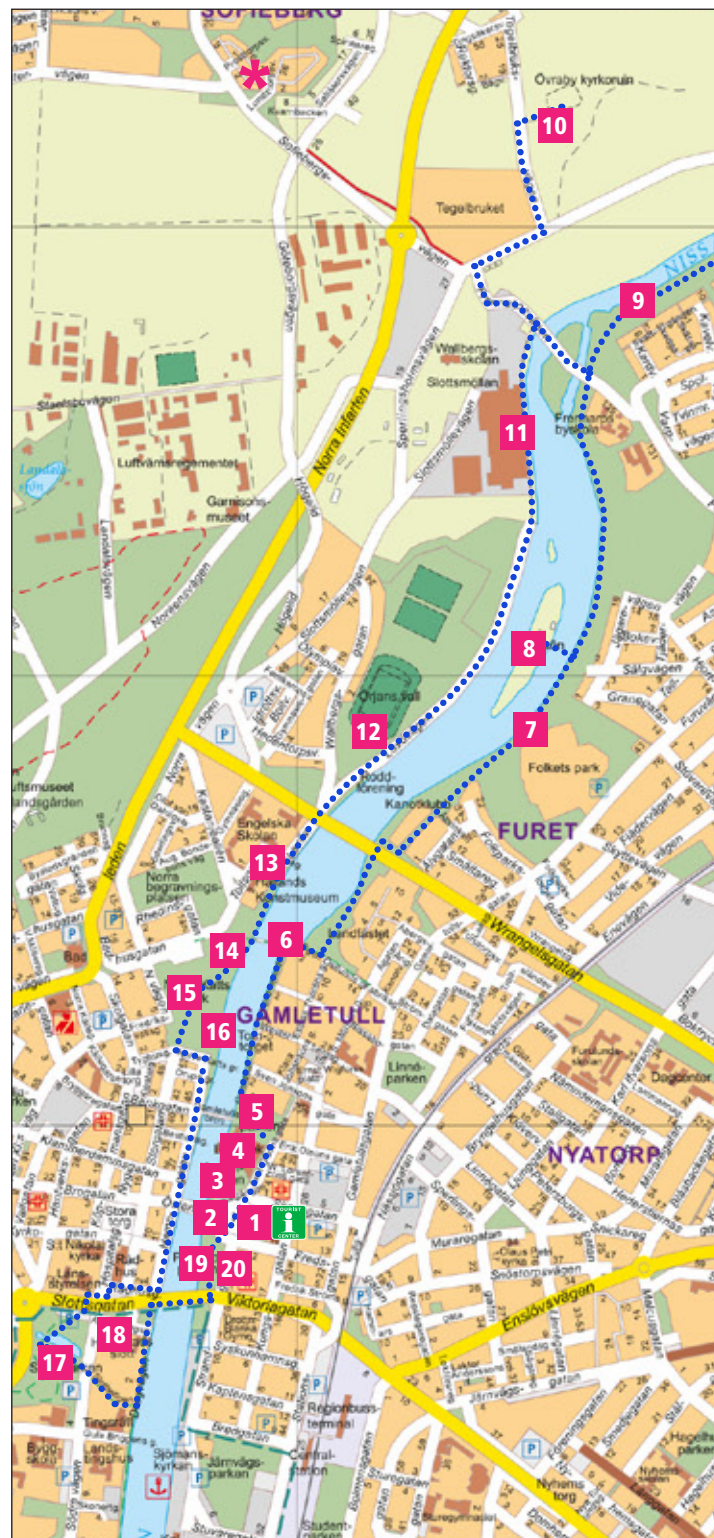
19. Picasso Park and Head of a Woman

The park, which has previously been called Figaroparken, Österbro-parken and Österbro Plantation, has long been the site of various works of art that have given rise to discussion. In 1962, Walter Bengtsson's "The Leaping Salmon" was erected. Despite some sceptical voices, the sculpture has become a popular work of art that is lightheartedly referred to as "Three Piss in Nissan". Picasso's sand-blasted concrete sculpture Head of a Woman was erected in 1971. This sculpture is a portrait of Picasso's last wife, Jacqueline Roche, who is said to have had an extremely expressive face, as you can see by viewing the artwork from different directions and angles.

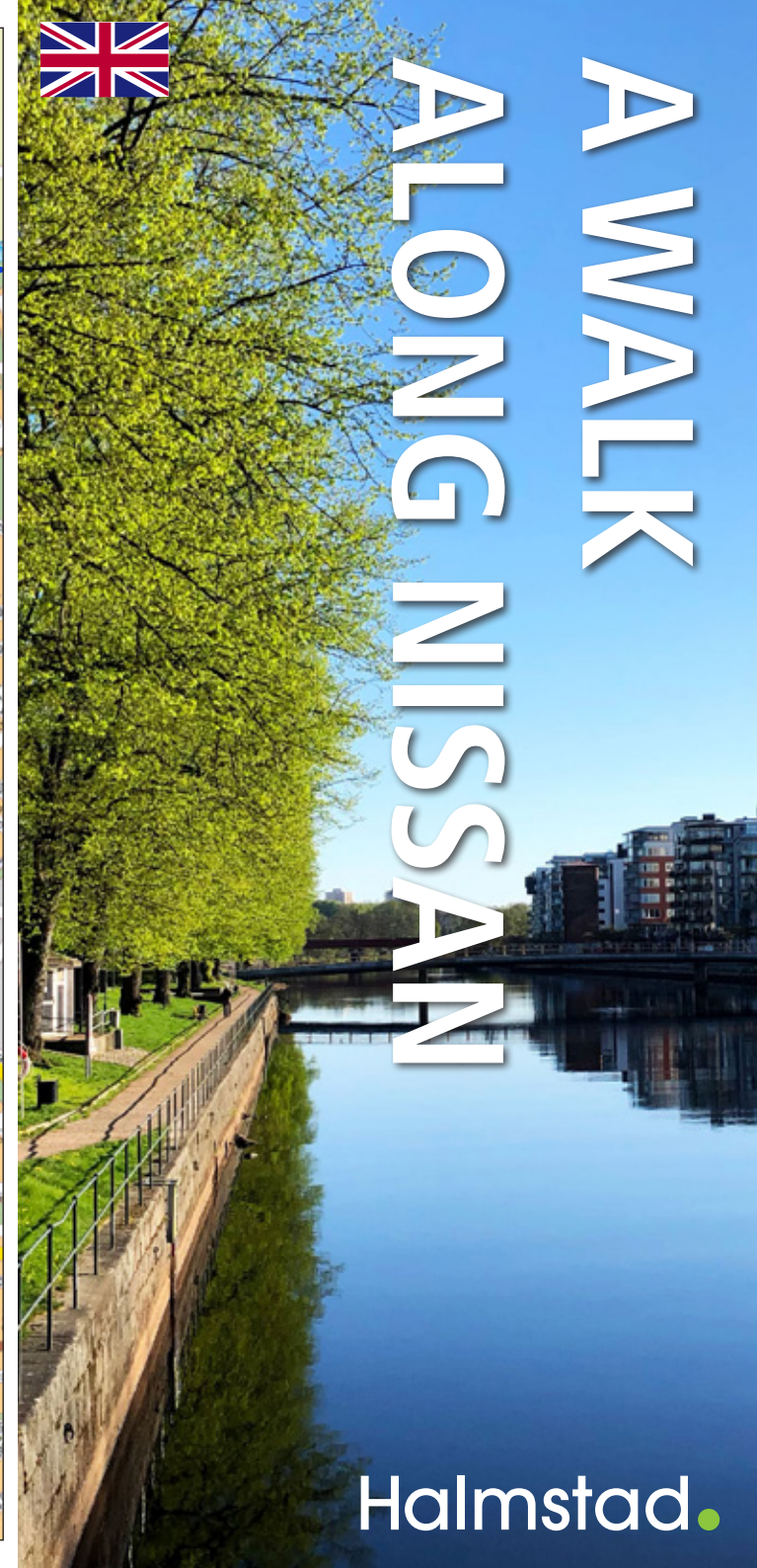
20. Immanuel Church

Immanuel Church was completed in 1900, following drawings by the architect Fritz Eckert. Halmstad's Evangelical Mission Society arranged for the construction of this grand church, which could hold many more than the number of people in the congregation. Inside Immanuel Church, there is a mural painted by Erik Olsson of the Halmstad Group.

For more information: destinationhalmstad.se



A WALK ALONG NISSAN



1. Halmstad Theatre

Halmstad Theatre first opened its doors in 1954. The construction of the theatre was planned as early as the 1930s, but World War II brought all construction to a standstill. The inside of Halmstad Theatre is richly adorned with art. Many of the artists who actively helped to raise the profile of the theatre to a national level are now famous themselves. A large mural was painted in the foyer of the theatre in 1953-54 to which all of the artists in the Halmstad Group contributed.

2. Österbro, Östre Port & Österskans

When Halmstad's fortifications were completed in the early seventeenth century, there were four city gates. The eastern city gate was located by Österbro bridge, the city's only connection across the Nissan and thus of great strategic importance. To protect the bridge, in 1612 it was decided to dig a moat with outer fortifications beside the eastern abutment. The artificial island, or redoubt, which was created when the moat was built, naturally became known as Österskans, the eastern redoubt. A section of the outer fortifications can still be seen in Kapsyl Park.

3. Östra Bryggeriet & Kapsyl Park

Until 1986, the brewery Östra Bryggeriet was located on what is now the site of the City Library. The only remaining brewery building is down by the Nissan, just north of the library. It has had a number of occupants since the brewery closed, including a culture school. The park just south of the library is known as Kapsyl Park, Bottle Cap Park in Swedish, as some of the brewery's thirstier customers didn't make it further than around the corner and into the park before opening their beer.

4. Halmstad City Library

The City Library was designed by architects Mette Wienberg and Kim Holst Jensen of Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects in Århus, Denmark. The library, which was opened in 2006, has both won and been nominated for several awards due to its unique appearance. The shape of the building is totally unique and was designed to take account of the trees that stood and still stand on the plot. Quite simply, the architects placed a piece of paper on the ground plan and designed the shape of the building according to the location of the trees.

5. Nordiskafilt & Nissastrand

The eastern bank of the Nissan was the site of the Nordiskafilt factory until 1991, when it relocated to Flygstaden and a new city district was planned at Gamletull. Nowadays, only the old water tower and office building remain among the new apartments in the Nissastrand district.

6. The railway bridge

The railway bridge over the Nissan acquired its current appearance in 1928, when it was converted from a truss bridge. During the 1970s and 1980s, the station was closed down and a new section of the West Coast Line was built northeast of Halmstad. After this, the bridge was converted into a pedestrian and cycle bridge, and is now a beautiful and welcome shortcut over the Nissan's glittering waters.

7. Sommarlust & Folkparken

As far back as the 1860s, the youth of Halmstad frequented Furet to play the fiddle and dance and it was not long until food vendors and attractions such as a carousel and swings began appeared on the site. In 1900, the Dane C A Freckman developed the area by starting Sommarlust, where visitors were treated to activities such as concerts and folk dancing. He also built tracks for athletics and a football field. The area was Halmstad's most visited sports facility until 1922 when Örjans Vall was inaugurated. In 1927, the amusement park was acquired by the Folkets Park Association and renamed Folkparken, attracting more than 80,000 visitors in the first year.

8. Laxön

Laxön was already a popular place to visit in the 1860s. At the beginning of the 20th century, the temperance movement IOGT took it over. The ambition was to offer the guests good "educational" music and entertainment in an orderly manner. A modern dance floor was built. In the 1920s, entertainment competition from Tylösand and the newly established Folkparken intensified, but Laxön stayed alive until 1938. In 2010, the IOGT restarted its summer operations on the island and you can now enjoy various types of events on this historic island.

9. Hjalmar Mellander Trail and Alfreds Källa

Take a detour along the Hjalmar Mellander Trail and hike among the beautiful, majestic beeches. Hjalmar Mellander was one of Halmstad's greatest athletes. At the 1906 Olympic Games in Athens, Hjalmar became Halmstad's first Olympic gold medalist when he won the athletic pentathlon, consisting of the events in the Ancient Greek pentathlon. The trail was a popular training area because slag from factories and brickworks made its surface particularly suitable for running. On this path you will also find Alfreds Källa, a spring which has been known since the 1870s. Alfred Wallberg had the water analysed and it proved to have a higher mineral content than the water at the other health spas of that time. The water was considered to be so good that doctors recommended their patients to "drink from the well" to cure several illnesses.

10. Övraby church ruin and "Old Halmstad"

The first church at Övraby is believed to have been an eleventh-century stave church called Saint Mary's. This was replaced by a stone church in the twelfth century, which underwent several changes. Ceramics and various coins found at Övraby suggest that the area was populated. The district around Övraby is where Halmstad was located until the fourteenth century, when the town was moved closer to the sea, where Halmstad city centre now lies.

11. Slottsmöllan

In 1850 Slottsmöllan was built to develop the clothing manufacture and fabric dyeing that Isak Reinhold Wallberg had started in central Halmstad. Soon after, Slottsmölle bricks began to be manufactured a stone's throw from here, in the place where today there are three high-rise buildings. At this time Halmstad only had about 3,000 residents, but the city began to grow bigger and bigger. Today, a variety of companies are housed in the old industrial premises.

12. Örjans Vall & St. Örjan's Monastery

In the thirteenth century, the site on which Örjans Vall now stands was occupied by a Dominican monastery, the chapel of which was dedicated to St. Örjan. When the city moved, the Dominicans followed and built St. Catherine's Monastery south of the present Klammerdammsgatan. After the move, St. Örjan's chapel was left intact and later became a hospital. In July 1922, the Örjans Vall sports ground was inaugurated by the then Crown Prince Gustav Adolf. Two group stage matches in the 1958 FIFA World Cup Finals were played here: Northern Ireland vs. Czechoslovakia (1-0) and Argentina vs. Northern Ireland (3-1). Örjans Vall is considered one of Sweden's most beautiful football stadiums.

13. Halland Art Museum

Halland Museum Association was established in 1886 with the aim of collecting objects of historical value and displaying them to the public. The association also bought and saved buildings such as Kirsten Munch's house, Brooktorpsgårde and the houses in the Hallandsgården Open-air Museum. The museum building was inaugurated in September 1933 according to designs by Ragnar Hjort. In 2010, it changed its name from Halmstad County Museum to Halland's Art Museum, and a substantial redevelopment and extension have been carried out between 2016-2019.

14. Norre Katts Park

This park is as central in the city geographically as it is in the hearts of Halmstad's residents. The land, which was once part of the old fortifications, was purchased in 1843 by the innkeeper A.J. Sjögren. He established an attractive leisure area for the city's residents, known as Tivoli. Over the years, the park has housed a botanical garden, a train station, several different restaurants, a hot and cold bathhouse and a bandstand. In 1912, an enormous applied arts and crafts exhibition was held in Halmstad and large temporary buildings were erected in the park. In 1918, the park was renamed Norre Katts Park. In 1968, Holger Blom, head gardener in Stockholm, submitted a design proposal for the park. The proposal made use of the historical nature of the area and its fortifications, and this underpins the current design of the bastion and the park.

15. The Rotunda

The only remaining older building in Norre Katts Park is the Rotunda, which was built in 1865 as a dining pavilion for the Tivoli restaurant. A café is open during the summer months and a number of concerts are held here each year. ▶