

Stumholmen



The furnisher of supplies and stores for the Naval Base

IN THE BEGINNING of the 1990's the Commander-in-Chief of the Swedish Navy decided that all the Navy's establishments on the island of Stumholmen would be phased out, and in 1993 the district finally became fully integrated into the town of Karlskrona.

TAKE A WALK around the island and explore how well the modern dwellings and commercial premises blend in with the naval environment. Explore the area where the victuals, stores and equipment for the Navy were produced during three hundred years. Look out towards the Naval Base and the archipelago from the Kungshall bastion, built during the 1680's. See the interior of the barracks that gives a feeling of life afloat. Visit the Naval Museum that presents a more extensive picture of Swedish naval history.

Naval Karlskrona





1. The Naval Museum (right)
2. The Sloop and Longboat Shed (left)

Sights on Stumholmen

1–2. The Naval Museum and the Sloop and Longboat Shed

The new Naval Museum (1) was inaugurated in 1997, and it is evident that its architects have been inspired by the 18th century neo-classical buildings in the Naval Base. The sloop and longboat shed (2) with its remarkable roof construction is from 1786 and was built principally as a shelter for the Navy's small boats. However, a hospital, the armoury, the Quartermaster's storeroom, a granary and some 15,000 water barrels were also housed in the building. To-day, it is a part of the Naval Museum, and is still used to store the sloops and longboats.

3–5. The Cholera and Quarantine Hospital

In the middle of the 18th century this part of Stumholmen was still a wholly separate island. In the building which is known as the Quarantine or Isolation hospital (3), gunpowder was prepared. During the 1830's Sweden was threatened by a cholera epidemic, and it was converted into a hospital. The "Disinfecting House" (4) with its mortuary and cremation furnace is from 1889, and the cookhouse (5) is from 1875. The buildings now serve as offices and workshops for the Naval Museum.

6 & 11. Hangars nos. 3 & 4

These are the only remaining hangars, which were a part of the Swedish Naval Air Service. Hangar no. 3 (6) is from 1926, the year when the Royal Swedish Air Force was established. In 1929, the Naval Air service decided to station a detachment in Karlskrona, the same year as hangar no. 4 (11) was erected.



3. Quarantine Hospital



12. The Coopers' Storehouse



Karlskrona

Stumholmen



6+11. Hangars nos. 3 & 4

7–8. The Kungshall bastion and the Kungshall Storehouse

The bastion (7) was originally on the separate island of Kungsholmen, and was built in the 1680's as a part of the new fortifications for the town. Nowadays ceremonial salutes are fired from the bastion. The Kungshall storehouse (8) from the 1780's was used to store grain, provisions, salt pork and fish. It is now a repository for the Blekinge Museum.

9. The Pilots' Cottage

The cottage was built in 1861 and was used as overnight accommodation for those pilots stationed in the archipelago.

10. The Torpedo Workshop

This red brick building from 1931 was used as a maintenance workshop for the Naval Air Service. Later the ground floor housed a torpedo workshop in which National servicemen received their specialist training.

12. The Coopers' Storehouse

This elongated white building from the 1720's was originally a storehouse for barrels, but when in 1808 the Navy returned from the campaign off the Finnish and Russian coasts, it was put into service as a hospital. It is now the Headquarters of the Swedish Coast Guard.

13. The Ratings Barracks

Sloping floors as on the decks of a warship, scuppers and hammocks gave the ratings a foretaste of life on board.

The barracks are from 1847 and have also been used as a storehouse for bedding and the ratings' civilian clothing. It now houses the Municipal Art Gallery and the Blekinge Museum Art Collection.



15. The Quartermaster's Stores



18. The Military Prison

14. The Main Clothing Manufactory

This industrial building is from 1921. On the ground floor almost 100 pairs of shoes were made daily, while on the first floor, cutters, tailors and seamstresses produced uniforms for the Navy.

15. The Quartermaster's Stores

It was here that the present king, Carl XVI Gustaf signed for his uniform when in 1966 he began life as a naval cadet. The building is from the 1730's, and was used by the Crown as a bakery until 1863.

16. The Guardhouse

This is one of the few surviving guardhouses in Sweden. The duties of the Guard were to regulate and control access to Stumholmen itself, and generally maintain discipline on the island.

17. The Bakers' Quarters

Originally there had been a cannon smithy on this site. The foundations of the house date from the end of the 17th century and as such it is one of the oldest buildings in Karlskrona.

18. The Military Prison

Prisoners were detained in this guardhouse from 1911, and it was in use until the 1960's. The original interior is still intact and is the sole remaining building of its type in Sweden. Officers were confined in the north wing, which had larger windows, and where the doors were often left unlocked!



A place of work and of schooling

COMPARED WITH OTHER military installations in Sweden, Stumholmen stands somewhat apart, for workshops and storehouses existed here almost from the beginning. The result was that while the military was responsible for the fortifications and the garrison as a whole, these specific units of production were completely independent entities.

GENERATIONS OF KARLSKRONA'S townspeople have worked on Stumholmen. During the almost 300 years of the Navy's presence there, cobblers, seamstresses, cutters, storemen, washerwomen, butchers, bakers, errand boys and hosiers, all have earned their living on the island in the employ of the Crown.

THE NEW NAVAL recruits came over "The Bridge of Sighs" to Stumholmen, before they would wend their way to the Quartermaster's stores to fill their sea bags with trousers, shoes, jackets and other necessities. Indeed, Stumholmen could provide the Navy with everything from paper and forms, food and clothing, kitchen and catering supplies to bedding, winter and sports equipment.

DRILL AND TRAINING has always been very visible on the island. Although life on Stumholmen has now completely changed, there are probably many who recall the rigid hierarchy of the Navy with some discomfort, and particularly those who had had to spend time confined in the military prison.



The Stumholmen Bridge “The Bridge of Sighs”

World Heritage Sites

THE NAVAL TOWN OF KARLSKRONA was included on the World Heritage List in 1998. UNESCO noted that “Karlskrona is an exceptionally well preserved example of a European naval base, and although its design has been influenced by similar undertakings it has in turn acted as a model for comparable installations... and of those that remain Karlskrona is the most complete and well preserved”.

THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST is based upon the agreements reached by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972, and which recognizes that these sites, natural or cultural, must be preserved and protected.

A WORLD HERITAGE Site is a natural or cultural area, district, building or object that is of such universal value as to provide a unique witness to the history of our planet and its peoples. The protection and preservation of these sites is therefore the collective responsibility of the entire international community. There are twelve World Heritage Sites in Sweden.



Seaplane, Stumholmen 1921

THE NAVAL MUSEUM has a Visitor Centre, the World Heritage Portal, which gives an introduction to the naval town of Karlskrona. It also provides useful information regarding various events and activities in this World Heritage Site.

Opening times

June – August daily 10 – 18.

September – May 11 – 17, Mondays closed.

Changes may occur.



MARINMUSEUM

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The Naval Museum, the Maritime Museum and the Vasa Museum both in Stockholm are divisions of the National Maritime Museums.