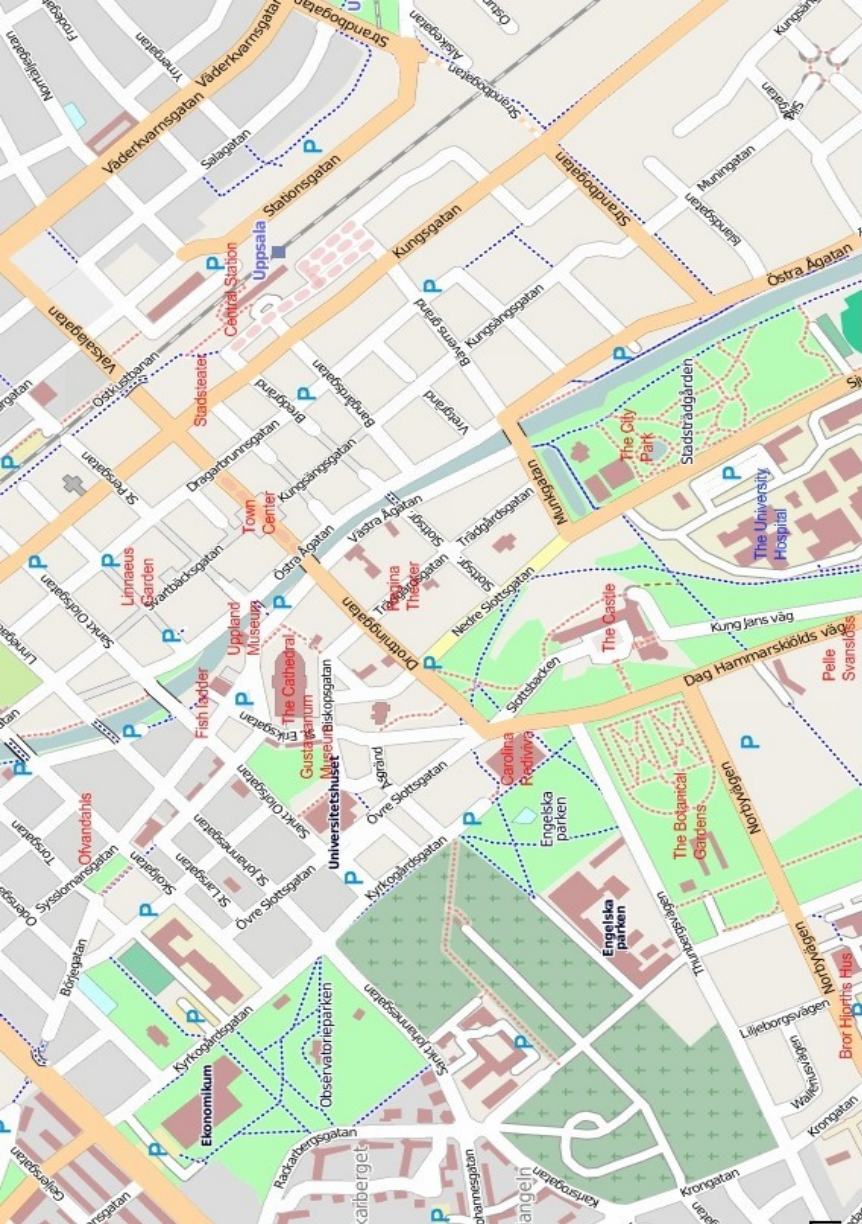




UPPSALA

A TOUR GUIDE

By Suzanne Pathkiller



Väderkvarmsgatan
Statensgatan
Kungsgatan

Central Station
Uppsala

The City Park
Stadsrådsgården

The University Hospital

Town Center
Uppland Museum

The Castle

Linnaeus Garden
Fiskbodder

The Cathedral
Gustavianskum

Carolina Rediviva
Engelska parken

The Botanical Gardens
Gårdens

Otvandahis
Svanslös

Universitetshuset
Museum

Engelska parken

The Botanical Gardens

Ekonomikum
Observatorieparken

Observatorieparken

Engelska parken

The Botanical Gardens

Ekonomikum

Observatorieparken

Engelska parken

The Botanical Gardens

Uppsala

A Tour Guide



By Suzanne Pathkiller

All photos by Suzanne Pathkiller unless otherwise stated.

1. Photo this page: Welcome to Uppsala sign.

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<http://www.openstreetmap.org/>

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Preface

This book is intended to be a helpful guide to all who come to Uppsala and wish to learn more about the ancient city. I have made every effort to make it easier to find and enjoy everything that Uppsala has to offer. There are maps placed inside the front and back cover and the photos have been numbered throughout the book.

Hoping to facilitate understanding about the people and places discussed within this book, I have written the Swedish names with the original spelling, including the three extra Swedish letters, Å, Ä and Ö. If you are new to Sweden, you may wish to know how they are pronounced. The letter å is like the “oa” in *road*. The letter ä resembles the “a” in *bad*, and ö is a bit like the “oo” in the word *look*.

I will start with some general information about the city, its geography, climate and historical layout before beginning a descriptive tour of the many important places that are well worth a visit. Although there are a number of places where one could begin a tour, I decided to start from the central train station. It is easy to imagine that someone would arrive there and

then wonder where to go. I hope this book will be a useful source of information about the many historical venues you will be seeing and point you in the right direction!



2. Snow covered steps leading to the cathedral.

Introduction

First, here are some quick facts about Uppsala. It is the fourth largest city in Sweden with the municipality of Uppsala reporting a population of approximately 190,600 in 2008. Roughly 150,000 of those people live in the city, which developed around the banks of the Fyris River winding through it.

Uppsala is also the home of two universities. And while the city is probably best known for Uppsala University, which was founded in the 15th century, it has been an important place for much longer. By the 6th century, Uppsala was already a center for religious and political activity. Heathen kings reigned from Uppsala.

There is a legend that every ninth year the mid-winter sacrifice was held in Gamla Uppsala and that there was once a splendid temple there. People from all the other provinces of the Kingdom of Svea came there in order to sacrifice to the Nordic gods. Today there are royal burial mounds standing as a permanent symbol of its important past. The Aesir cult eventually gave way to Christianity, and

Uppsala became the seat of the archbishop for Sweden.

The city boasts having the largest cathedral in Scandinavia, *Domkyrkan*. The impressive cathedral, along with the pink-colored castle, dominates the city skyline. Read further to gain more insight into Uppsala's unique history.



3. Rune stone located near the University Hall.

The climate

Obviously, the ideal time to visit Uppsala will depend on what you like to do. The weather during the winter is cold, yet temperate due to its proximity to the coast. In January the average temperature is 0°C (32°F), not often falling below -10°C (14°F). Near the time of the winter solstice, the sun rises late and sets early in the day, resulting in many hours of darkness. It is during this time that snowfall brings welcome brightness.

Nevertheless, the summer months are most inviting with extremely long days in this season. During June and July the sun sets late at night and can rise at 3:30 AM, so that it never becomes truly dark outdoors. The warm weather is welcome after such long winters and people gather in the city to celebrate, basking in the rays of the sun. The average temperature in July is 18°C (64°F).



4. (top) A wintry day along the Fyris River.

5. (bottom) Celebrating Midsummer at Disagården.

Geography and historical layout

The place where Uppsala stands today was once known as “Östra Aros” and was a trading port situated on the fertile flatlands around the banks of Fyrisån (Fyris River) a few kilometers south of Old Uppsala. The area was once covered by glaciers, as evidenced by the 30 meter glacial ridge which the castle is built upon and the huge boulders which can be seen strewn about the fields and forests. The Swedes call these stones “jättekast”, which harkens back to a folktale that they were thrown there by giants.

The retreat of the glaciers over the last 11 thousand years or so has also made great changes to the landscape and to nearby Lake Ekoln, the northernmost gulf of Lake Mälaren, which the Fyris River empties into.

Lake Mälaren is the third largest lake in Sweden. During the Viking Age, it was a bay of the Baltic Sea and at that time it was possible for long ships to sail far inland. However, due to post-glacial retreat, the bay eventually became a lake, and although it is now too shallow in some places for seafaring ships, it is still possible to

travel by boat from Uppsala to Stockholm and many other Swedish cities.

Lake Ekoln is also a popular place for swimming and boating in summer and ice skating in the winter. Each February, if the weather permits, there is an ice-skating contest called Vikingrännnet (the Viking Run), where hardy individuals skate 82 kilometers from Uppsala to Stockholm.



6. Participants in the Viking Run, February 2009. Photo by Erik Grandin

The Viking Run may serve to remind one of Uppsala's medieval past, along with various other artifacts, such as rune stones that are present around the city. However, there is very little architecture remaining from that time, primarily due to fire.

In 1702, a fire devastated the city, leaving the castle in ruins and destroying most of the buildings, like the observatory and valuable historical objects such as the life work and notes of university nobles. (See engraving depicting Uppsala as it appeared at that time) After the fire, the layout for the city was completely redrawn so that only the area around the cathedral remains as it was back then.

7. (opposite) Uppsala as it looked before the great fire of 1702. Engraving by Fredrik Akrel. Public domain.



8. (top) Detail of a building in the town center.

9. (bottom) The new concert house, opened in 2007.

Fire was not the only means by which Uppsala lost many of its finest architectural achievements. Many unique buildings disappeared because of progress. During the period from 1969 to 1975 over 400 of the city's buildings were demolished in the center part of town. What remains today is a city with a split personality, clearly divided in two by the Fyris River.

The most well-preserved older buildings and nearly all of the university buildings are located on the west side of the river, while the east side is devoted to industry and trade. The east side holds an eclectic mix of buildings dating from the early 1800s and forward. The central part of the city continues to draw people as seen by the number of thriving commercial businesses.

During the past 20 years, however, other commercial centers and shopping malls have been built on the outskirts of the city. The surrounding suburbs are growing rapidly and increasing population has led to a demand for more housing.

Uppsala Central Station

The first thing you notice about the train station will undoubtedly be the six-meter high statue called “Näckens polska” by the artist Bror Hjorth. The colorful statue features a young couple dancing among flowers, while Näckén plays his fiddle.

Näckén is a spirit which takes the form of a naked man playing a violin. Much like the Pied Piper, the legend of Näckén is that through his music, he bewitches dancing people, luring them into the water where they will drown. The statue is not without its share of controversy and it is said that the artist was forced to make alterations to the Näckén after complaints that smiling fiddler’s penis was too prominent.

The train station was inaugurated in 1866 by King Karl XV, and since 2005, the station is in the process of being rebuilt to become a travel center, making it easier for travelers to continue their journey by taxi or bus.

10. (opposite) Näckens polska.





11. Uppsala central station



12. The Lenna locomotive prepares to roll.

Another noteworthy attraction at the Uppsala train station is the vintage steam locomotive Uppsala-Lenna Railway, more fondly known as “Lennakatten” which means the Lenna Cat. For a reasonable price, you can ride the little train 32 kilometers through the countryside of Uppland County. It is a great way to spend a summer day, perhaps even stopping off at the popular lake, Fjällnora to swim or have a picnic. The Uppsala-Lenna railway runs from June through September.

Perhaps from Central Station, before making your way into the city center, it would be logical to begin with a short bus ride to the place where the city had its beginnings – in Old Uppsala.

Gamla Uppsala (Old Uppsala)

Located just north of the city, Gamla Uppsala is one of the most historically significant places in Sweden, and has been a center for religious and political activity since the 5th century AD. The most striking feature of this area is the three impressive burial mounds rising up from the ground, called Kungshögarna (the Royal Mounds).

Although it has never been scientifically proven, stories abound that sacrifices, both animal and human were once made here to appease the Nordic gods. The oldest written account of the periodical midwinter sacrifices was written by a German missionary named Adam of Bremen in 1075.

Bremen wrote about a nine-day festival in which everyone attended, even the Christians. He also described a heathen temple adorned with gold, and a large evergreen tree with a nearby spring where the sacrifices were carried out. He stated that the bodies of males, including dogs, horses and men were then hung in a sacred grove of trees near the temple.

While it is unclear if the heathen temple ever actually existed, what is known is that the

Royal Mounds are the largest of the many burial mounds found around Uppsala, and that there are upwards of 2,500 graves in the area surrounding the mounds. It is also uncertain just who is buried in the mounds, but excavations carried out in the 19th century led to the conclusion that they must have been very important noblemen.



13. The Royal Mounds in Gamla Uppsala.

The first excavation was made in the east mound, also known as Oden's Mound in 1846. The dig revealed a cairn containing a few burned bone fragments and pieces of helmet.

The west mound, or Tor's Mound, was excavated in 1874. This led to the discovery of the remains of burned bones, both human and animal, along with small pieces of amber and gold.

Directly east of the Royal Mounds is another large mound, flattened on top, where people once gathered for religious and political meetings. This mound is called Tingshögen (the Ting Mound). *Ting* is a Viking word for a legislative assembly and a court. Criminals would have been brought here to decide their fate. This place may also have played some part in the election of a king. It is said that King Gustav Vasa addressed his subjects on more than one occasion from the Ting Mound.

With the arrival of Christianity, Uppsala became the seat of the archbishop of Sweden. By the year 1164, a cathedral was being built on the grounds where a heathen hall had once stood. The cathedral stood for the next hundred years or so, but after being partly destroyed by a fire, the bishopric was relocated to the village Östra Aros, which would become present day Uppsala. The parish church you see today was built in the 15th century and is only half the size of the original cathedral.



14. The church in Gamla Uppsala.



While you are in Gamla Uppsala, it would be worth the time to take the short walk over to Disagården, which is a museum farmyard from the 1800s. It is open from May through September and is free for visitors. It consists of a number of timber buildings decorated with period furnishings and tools. If you happen to be in Uppsala during the midsummer celebrations, Disagården is a great place to view and even join in the festivities.

Now that we have explored Gamla Uppsala, we will return to the city to continue our journey through Uppsala.

15. (opposite top) Gamla Uppsala Museum.

16. (opposite bottom) The walking trail near the mounds.

Linnaeus - Museum, Garden and Hammarby

The next stop before heading towards the cathedral and castle will be the Linnaeus gardens. Carl von Linné (usually called Carl Linnaeus in English) is probably Uppsala's most famous citizen.

In his book, *System Naturae*, he laid the foundation for a new system of classifying and naming plants. It was not long before other scientists saw the value of his ideas for organization, which replaced earlier systems that were complicated and difficult to use. His system, based on the reproductive systems of plants, is still being used today. He was a humble man as well, as evidenced by his motto "God did the creating, Linnaeus the arranging".

Like many great men of that period, Linnaeus had multiple careers. As well as his research and writing, he practiced as a physician and also was a member of the Faculty of Medicine in Uppsala. In addition to lecturing students, he led many people on excursions into the forests and meadows of Sweden to observe and study flowers and insects. If you have the opportunity to hike one of the many public trails

around Uppsala, it is quite likely that you will be walking in the footsteps of the king of flowers, Linnaeus.



17. The Linnaeus Museum and garden. Photo by Erik Grandin.

The Linnaeus Museum and garden is located on Svartbäcksgatan (see map) and is open from June through September. On display in the museum are a number of items collected during his travels. The museum is connected to the garden, which contains over a thousand plant varieties. The Linnaeus Garden is arranged according to the original plan by Carl Linnaeus in 1745.



If you are especially interested in the life of Linnaeus, it would be well worth a visit his country estate, Hammarby, which is located 15 kilometers southeast city. Linnaeus bought Hammarby in 1758 as a summer house where he and his family could escape the hustle and bustle of the city.

There were a number of buildings including the large main house, a tenant house, barn, stable, and even a couple of cabins where Linnaeus housed soldiers for the state (instead of paying tax). He used the property to experiment cultivating different crop varieties, those that were native to Sweden and more exotic crops as well. The estate and surrounding farmland has been kept to appear as it would have at the end of the 1700s. Furthermore, there is a two kilometer walking trail around the property.

18. (opposite top) Hammarby.

19. (opposite bottom) A sod covered roof.

Domkyrkan (Uppsala Cathedral)

The pride of Uppsala is its stunning cathedral, which can be seen from all directions when you approach the city. It is a magnificent building with twin towers reaching towards the sky, 118.7 meters (almost 400 feet) above the ground. It is, in fact, the largest cathedral in Scandinavia.

A real sense of history can be felt within the cathedral, which is open to everyone. A half a million people visit the church every year for various purposes, whether it be to attend a mass or wedding, listen to a concert or just experience the peaceful beauty within.

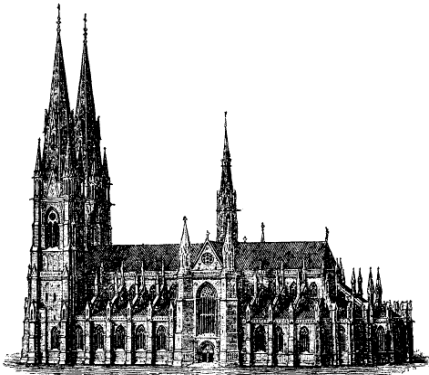
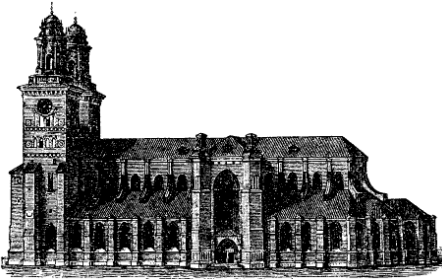
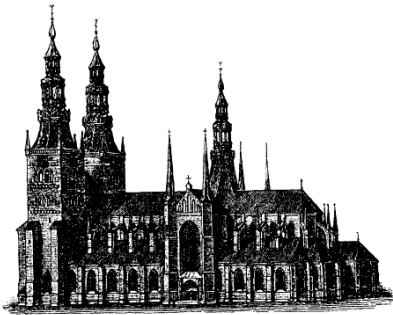
Swedish kings and queens were crowned in the cathedral at one time, during the 16th and 17th centuries.



20. The cathedral, Domkyrkan



21. Inside the cathedral during a confirmation service. Photo by Erik Grandin.



22. The Cathedral as it appeared: top, 1619-1702, middle 1747-1886, bottom 1892-present. Public domain

There is quite a history behind the cathedral, and it did not always have the form you see today. Construction began sometime around 1270 with the intention of replacing the cathedral in Gamla Uppsala.

The original medieval church was built in the Gothic style and it is believed that the north entrance was constructed by French stoneworkers. It was over 160 years later that the cathedral was finally consecrated in the year 1435, and even then it there was only one tower completed. The cathedral was damaged by fires in 1473, 1572 and 1702 and after restoration at the end of the 1800s took the form we see today.

Uppsala Cathedral was dedicated to three saints, Saint Lawrence, the Roman martyr, Saint Eric, who was King Erik IX of Sweden and buried within, and Saint Olaf the patron of Norway. Other nobles buried within the cathedral include King Gustav Vasa, Carl Linnaeus, Olaf Rudbeck and former UN Secretary General, Dag Hammarskjöld, who died in a plane crash in 1961.

Gustavianum Museum

Standing directly across from the main entrance of the cathedral is Gustavianum Museum built approximately 1620. The distinctive dome-topped building belongs to the University of Uppsala and houses an anatomical theater, which was added to the roof of the building around 1663. The copper-plated cupola allows natural lighting to enter the theater.

Until the year 1766 dissections and anatomical exhibitions were carried out there on executed criminals in order to teach medical students. Gustavianum was originally built to be the main university building and was a teaching institute until everything was moved out in 1996 to make way for renovations.

Today, in addition to the anatomical theater, which was restored in the 1950s, the building contains the University's collections of Nordic and Egyptian antiquities, including artifacts from a Viking burial and a couple of mummies. A remarkable source of many of the Egyptian artifacts was Sweden's Queen Victoria (1862-1930), who collected them during her own excavations in Egypt, where she spent a great deal of time for health reasons.



23. Gustavianum Museum.

The entire Egyptian museum was eventually named in her honor.

One very interesting and unique object on display in the museum is the Augsburg Art Cabinet, given to King Gustav II Adolf in 1632. It is an intricately decorated cabinet that holds over one thousand objects in its many drawers and secret compartments. The museum also plays host to temporary exhibitions of all sorts so even if you visit Gustavianum on more than one occasion, you are sure to see something you haven't seen before.

Uppsala University

As previously mentioned, Uppsala's Cathedral was consecrated in 1435. It was the need for priest training that contributed to the formation of Uppsala University under the Catholic Church of Sweden. It was founded in 1477 making it the oldest university in Scandinavia. The political turmoil during the Lutheran Reformation in the 1500s led to changes in not only ideology, but the economic foundation of the University.

In the 17th century King Gustav II Adolf gave a boost to Uppsala University with his financial support and the donation of more than 300 farms. The properties continue to be owned and under the direction of the University. One very important character who shaped the university's direction at the time was Olof Rudbeck, a trained physician and scholar. He's the one who had the top built on the Gustavianum Museum.

It was also during the 1600s that a system in which students who came from the same region were joined together to form "student nations" or student clubs. Today there are 13 active

student nations, each named after Swedish province like Gothenburg, Norrland or Kalmar.



24. Olof Rudbeck was a key figure in Uppsala history.



25. Kalmar Nation, one of the 13 student nations at the Univ.

Much like student unions in other universities, the student nations manage different social activities like sports events, dances or operating pubs, restaurants and some housing. A 14th nation was formed, named after Skåne, so that students who do not wish to participate in club activities may become a member.

The 18th century was a time of growth for the University, especially in the area of natural sciences. King Gustav III donated the Royal Castle Gardens to the university, which was later renamed as the Botanical Garden. It was also during this time that Carl Linnaeus became a professor, gaining international acclaim, attracting visitors from all over the world, as well as sending his own students on expeditions to several different countries.

There were other well-known scholars beside Linnaeus making a name for themselves in this era as well. The astronomer, Anders Celsius devised a thermometer which we use today. Nils Rosén on the Faculty of Medicine was a pioneer in pediatric medicine. Torbern Bergman, a chemistry professor, collaborated with Carl Wilhelm Scheele to ascertain various elements, such as oxygen. Following in the footsteps of these notable scientists, there have

been eight Nobel laureates who have been affiliated with Uppsala University.

Many changes came under way during the 19th century. As the educated middle class took a more prominent role in political issues so too did the student body at the school. The student union was formed in 1849, directed by a board of consisting of representatives from each student nation. Women were permitted to study at the University beginning in the 1870s. Perhaps the most famous scholar of this era was Erik Gustaf Geijer, a historian whose statue stands in front of the main university building. The building, called University Hall was presented by the Swedish State to mark the 400th anniversary of the school and officially opened in 1887.

Today over 40 thousand students are enrolled each year at Uppsala University, with about half of them studying full time. The school's profile is as a research university and it has around 3,000 research partnerships around the world.



26. (top) The University Hall. Photo by Erik Grandin.

27. (bottom) Carolina Rediviva, or the main University Library.



28. (top) Botanical Garden with Linneanum.

29. (bottom) The Botanical Garden greenhouse.

Carolina Rediviva (University Library)

Carolina Rediviva, a name which means “Carolina Revived” in honor of a former library building, is perched on the top of the ridge at the end of street, *Drottninggaten* in Uppsala. It was inaugurated in 1834, and while it is the primary library building for the University, other, smaller libraries can be found in other departments.

The most important artifact on display in Carolina Rediviva is the Codex Argenteus, also known as the “Silver Bible”. The Codex Argenteus is what remains of a manuscript from about 360 AD by the Bishop Ulphilas, who translated the bible into the Gothic language. Four of the gospels are preserved, written in silver and gold letters upon purple-colored parchment.



30. First page of the Codex Argenteus "The Silver Bible". Public domain.

The Botanical Gardens

If you walk uphill from Carolina along the street towards the castle you will see the French Baroque style garden on the right side. Once a part of the castle grounds, this is one part of the Botanical Gardens and restored according to a plan from the 1750s. Today the garden sprawls out over 34 acres and is divided into many different sections. As previously mentioned, the property was donated to Uppsala University by King Gustav III in 1787.

King Gustav also donated the money to build Linneanum, the building standing at the end of the Baroque garden, which was inaugurated in 1807 on Linnaeus' 100th birthday. In addition to Linnaeus Hall, an ornate room with vaulted ceilings and a sculpture of Linnaeus, the building is one of the oldest constructions to be used as an Orangery. During the winter, frost sensitive plants such as oranges, figs and cactuses are grown there and then moved outdoors in the summer.

Along with the orangery, there is a tropical greenhouse nearby where thousands of species from warm-weather climates are cultivated.

Palm and cocoa trees, orchids and giant water lilies are a few of the plants grown inside.

Outside of the greenhouse there are many other sections where annuals and perennials are kept and studied. The Botanical Garden receives a multitude of visitors each year. Nevertheless, it is primarily a research and education facility charged with increasing public awareness about biological diversity.



31. Kungsängsliljan (*Frittilaria meleagris*) a checkered lily said to have been brought to Uppsala by Olof Rudbeck from Holland; now found throughout the area.



Akademiska sjukhuset (Uppsala University Hospital)

The University Hospital has a number of buildings located on the hill just southeast of the castle. It is the teaching hospital operated by the county council of Uppsala in cooperation with Uppsala University. The hospital offers a full complement of services from psychiatry and

emergency to neurology and surgery and patients are referred there from all over the country. In addition, it provides medical training with a faculty of medicine and a nursing school. It is one of the largest employers in Uppsala with over 7,500 employees.

The first hospital in Uppsala was opened in 1302 and was used until destroyed by fire in 1792. The hospital that was built to replace it was called the Uppsala County Hospital, which eventually moved out of town. The Faculty of Medicine was founded in 1708, the part of the university dedicated to medical training. Uppsala University Hospital is the result of both hospitals being merged at the end of the 19th century when its present location was established.

A point of interest: For the past few years a popular reality television series named *Sjukhuset*, is filmed on location at the hospital. The series follows paramedics and medical staff treating patients with a variety of injuries and illnesses.

32. (opposite) Flags outside the University Hospital.

Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)

Before we move on to the next landmark in Uppsala, it would be remiss not to mention the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). While it does not have quite as much history as Uppsala University, SLU does have an important impact on the city, with an international profile which draws in students and researchers from all over the world.

In the middle of the 18th century, steps were taken to establish education and research in the fields of forestry, farming and veterinary medicine. Sweden's first agricultural institute was formed in Degeberg in the county of Västergötland in 1833. Fifteen years later another agricultural institute was started in Ultuna, which lies just outside of Uppsala. Other institutes formed and in the beginning of the 20th century they were combined to form three agricultural colleges. Finally in 1977 the university received the name it bears today. The main areas of focus for SLU are food quality, animal husbandry, forestry and sustainability of both land and urban centers.



33. (top) The entrance to SLU's main assembly building.
34. (bottom) SLU specializes in agriculture.

Uppsala Slottet (The Castle)

Built on a ridge overlooking the city, the large pastel-pink Uppsala Castle is easily seen when you approach Uppsala.

As well as going into details about the castle, it would be helpful to include the people who helped to define its history. It was King Gustav Vasa, who ordered the castle to be built in 1549.

Gustav Vasa is acknowledged as the first native Swedish king who formed a sovereign state, although at that time the country was actually divided between different kingdoms and rulers. After years of war with Denmark, a triumphant Gustav Vasa was elected king on June 6th, 1523, now the Swedish national day. Five years passed by before he was officially crowned in Uppsala Cathedral.

The king's reign was not without strife and he fought off a number of rebellions in different areas of Sweden. The ruling powers had historically been very closely affiliated with the Catholic Church. However, the new king expelled the archbishop who he believed was allied with the Danes and appointed his own against the wishes of the pope. Under King

Gustav Vasa's reign, the Lutheran religion gained popularity and the pope eventually lost all influence over the church in Sweden.

The king was married three times during his life and is buried in Uppsala Cathedral with two of his wives. His first marriage produced one son, Erik XIV and after her death Vasa remarried and had 10 children with his second wife. The oldest son from that marriage was Johan III and the youngest son was Karl IX. The descendants of Vasa played key roles in the historical events at Uppsala Castle.

Standing on the castle grounds today will provide you with a fantastic view of the city. That view was part of the strategy behind the placement of the citadel, which was intended by Vasa, at least partly, as a fortress to defend against enemies. It is noteworthy and a bit ironic that the canons lined up in front of the castle seem to be pointed directly at the Cathedral, suggestive of the historical power struggle between the church and the state.

Over time, Vasa's sons expanded and reshaped the fortress into a renaissance style palace. The state hall within the castle was used as a site for meetings and royal festivities after the coronation ceremony in the Cathedral.



35. Uppsala Slott – The Castle.
35. Outside the castle dungeon



37. Canons seem to be pointed towards the cathedral.

38. Gunillaklockan (Gunilla's bell) donated by Queen Gunilla in 1588, refurbished in 1759.

The castle has also witnessed its share of unhappy events. In 1567, Erik XIV, who was Sweden's king until he was deposed, had become mentally unstable and had his half-brother Johan III imprisoned in Gripsholm Castle. In his delusional paranoia about being plotted against by the aristocracy, he captured three members of the very influential Sture family and imprisoned them in the dungeon at Uppsala. Before the nobility could decide their fate, the king and his guards murdered them in the night. Less than two years later, King Erik ordered Johan III to be released, but his madness had progressed to the point where a rebellion was organized. Erik XIV was overthrown and Johan III was proclaimed king.

Move forward in time 60 years and the throne belongs to King Gustav II Adolf. It was from Uppsala Castle that the king, who became known as the *Lion of the North*, announced that Sweden would join the *Thirty Years War* fighting on the side of the Protestants. In fact the king's reign was dominated by warfare and Sweden rose during this time to become one of the great powers of Europe. Sweden's territory expanded until it was the third largest nation in Europe after Russia and Spain. The king died in

battle, leaving the throne to his then six-year-old daughter Kristina.

Queen Kristina ruled the nation until June 5th, 1654 when her wish to abdicate was accepted. She had secretly become a Catholic and wanted to pursue her religion freely and therefore decided to give the crown to her cousin, Karl X. The ceremony was held in the State Hall of the Uppsala Castle. During the ceremony Kristina wore the full regalia, which were removed from her piece by piece until nothing was left but the crown. Dressed in a white taffeta gown, she removed her crown and gave her farewell speech. She later left the country, fleeing to Rome where she is buried.

In 1702 the great fire that destroyed so much of Uppsala also had an impact on the castle. Efforts were made to rebuild it, but it was a slow process, especially when stones from the building were appropriated to use in the Royal Palace in Stockholm. The castle was eventually rebuilt in a French classical style, with a north wing planned, but never finished due to lack of funding.

Today Uppsala castle is used as a residence by the governor of Uppland County. Official visitors are received in the apartments while the

room in the north tower is used for conferences. Dag Hammarskjöld, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations spent a good deal of his childhood at the castle while his father Hjalmar served as governor. In addition to being the Governor's living quarters the castle has office space available to rent, and also houses the Uppsala Art Museum and down in the castle dungeon is Vasaborgen (Waxworks Museum).



39. Castle entrance to the Art Museum.

On display in the art museum is Uppsala University's collection of fine art, plus works of art from its own collections and various exhibitions. The majority of artwork comes from Holland and France and is displayed by genre: still life, portraits and landscapes from the 16th century. However, there are also paintings from the 20th century done by Swedish artists and contemporary works purchased through the years.

In addition to the paintings and prints there is a display of ceramics from the Uppsala-Ekeby tile factory, which was the largest tile maker in Scandinavia in the early 1900s, but ceased to operate in 1977. In the dungeon there are period characters sculpted of wax which are meant to bring to life scenes from the Renaissance period.

Fyrisån (the Fyris River)

The source of the Fyris River is located approximately 80 kilometers north of Uppsala near the village of Dannemora. As previously mentioned, it flows into Lake Mälaren, with a number of tributaries joining it along the way.

Water from Lake Tämnaaren, 40 kilometers northwest of Uppsala is pumped into the Fyris River, and then later pumped out as the city's water supply.

Until the 17th century, Fyris was known as "Sala", referring to the halls of the Swedish kings in Gamla Uppsala. The land along the river was once a marshy plain called "Fyrisvellir" or "Fyris Wolds" where travelers had to leave their ships in order to walk to those halls. In fact, if you happen to walk the trail along the Fyris River today, towards the area of Sunnersta, you will still see small boggy areas all along the way, remindful of that time.

Nordic legend states Fyris Wolds was the site of great battles between Viking kings. One such battle was fought at the end of the 10th century, where Styrbjorn the Strong, backed by Danish King Harold Bluetooth, tried to take the crown from his uncle, Eric the Victorious and lay claim to the kingdom in Svealand. Styrbjorn was defeated and fell in battle. Two of the rune stones found in other parts of Sweden referring to fallen warriors with the statements "He did not flee at Uppsala" lend credence to the myth.



40. The old pump house on Fyris River.



41. Students brave the falls in the annual raft race.



42. Wooden boats moored on the river.



43. The newly built fish ladder to aid Asp fish on their journey downstream.

The Sala River became the Fyris River in the late 1600s in remembrance of the Norse sagas, due in large part due to Olof Rudbeck.

In the mid 18th century Carl Linnaeus experimented successfully with the production of artificial pearls using fresh-water mussels in the Fyris River. The patent for his pearl-cultivating method was then sold to a man from Gothenburg, but was never utilized.

In addition to mussels, the Fyris River is home to other native Swedish wildlife, such as a protected species of eel, otters and the Asp fish. In 2007 a special fish ladder was constructed in the city so that the migrating Asp could bypass two weirs (man made falls), and more easily reach their spawning waters. It is the weirs which keep larger boats from venturing up the river, and makes for an entertaining spectacle each year when students attempt to navigate those falls in their home-made rafts.



44. The town square.

Stora torget (Town Square)

If you want to shop, eat, or just sit back with a cup of coffee and watch the people passing by, the city center is the place to be. There is an international atmosphere in downtown Uppsala. Almost every weekend there is something going on, from sidewalk musicians to dance groups performing for your entertainment. There are stores galore, with plenty of places to shop whether it be in one of the numerous clothing boutiques or styling salons, or visit a gift shop to find just the right souvenir. After the shops close for the evening, several pubs and bars open their doors, enabling you to meet the locals and dance the night away.

Museums and Theaters

Mentioned previously was Gustavianum, across from the cathedral, and the castle with its Museum of Art and Wax. However, there are other spots to see in Uppsala.

Gamla Uppsala Museum

Over in Gamla Uppsala there is a museum (see page 24) where you can learn more about the mythology surrounding the royal mounds and the history of the area.

Uppland Museum

On the Fyris River, inside a hundred-year-old water mill, is Upplandsmuseet (Uppland Museum), exhibiting folk art from all around Sweden. Its collections give insight into the history of the city from the Middle Ages until today.

Bror Hjorths Hus

If you enjoyed the statue “Näckens polska” at the train station (see page 17), you may want to visit Bror Hjorths Hus where about 250 of his works are displayed. Bror Hjorth, who died in

1968, is one of Sweden's greatest modernist artists.

Pelle Svanslöss

Another well-known figure that made his home in Uppsala was the fictional character of Pelle Svanslöss, the tailless cat who was the hero of 12 books written by Gösta Knutsson. The stories, set in 1930s Uppsala, depict Pelle the good-hearted cat and his struggle to overcome the mean tricks and bullying of evil Måns and his accomplices Bill and Bull. Nowadays children of all ages can visit Pelle's place near the castle decorated to represent his life.



45. Uppland Museum is the white building in the foreground.

Uppsala boasts two theater houses, Uppsala Stadsteater (City Theater) and Regina Theater, where one can see plays and musicals. Additionally, there are three regular cinemas where you can watch the latest films, Filmstaden (Film city), Spegeln (The Mirror) and Royal, all located centrally. Worth mentioning is Grand, a 1930s cinema, situated across the street from the Regina, which now hosts local concerts and dances.



46. The Regina Theater.



47. The miniature golf course near the City Park.

Stadsparken (The city park)

Although there are smaller parks sprinkled throughout the city, Uppsala's city park is the largest, with a play area for children and plenty of room for a picnic or stroll along the river. From the city park, one might visit the old pump house (see page 59) which once supplied Uppsala's drinking water, play miniature golf or watch the swans in the nearby pond. Concerts are held in the city park during in summertime and fine dining is available in Flustret, a restaurant located at the park.

Fika at Ofvandahl's

Swedish term “fika” means to take a break, drink some coffee or tea and maybe have a snack, such as a sandwich or cake. There are definitely many places where one might *fika* in Uppsala, however, one of the most popular is the historic pastry shop, Ofvandahls that has been in business since the 1800s.



48. Inside the historic pastry shop, Ofvandahls.



49. The entrance to swimming and sports complex, Fyrishov.



50. The outdoor pools at Fyrishov.

Fyrishov Recreation Center

If you come to Uppsala with children, an ideal place to visit would be Fyrishov, the indoor recreation and swimming center. The swimming pools are located both inside and out with hot tubs, saunas, diving boards and waterslides. In the large sports complex you might catch a basketball game, a fencing match, or some other sporting event. There is also a bowling alley and a nearby campground. Fyrishov is open year round and located near the city, about a 20-minute walk from the town center.

Cruise on Lake Ekoln

Directly across the river from the city park near the bridge “Islandsbron” you can board the King Karl Gustav or one of the other touring boats for a trip down to Fyris River out into Lake Ekoln to visit Skokloster castle. One-way and roundtrip day cruises are offered from May through August.



51. A dinner-cruise boat docked near the bridge, Islandsbro.



52. A swan on Lake Ekoln.

Skokloster Castle

Even if you do not wish take a ride on any boats, Skokloster Castle (see photo) is worth a visit. It is located on Enköping Road (E18) between Stockholm and Uppsala. As the name refers to, the property was once a monastery, founded in the 13th century by Cistercians, and later became a girls' school.

The original building was demolished in 1574, while the church was left standing, adjacent to the castle. The estate came under the ownership of Field Marshal Herman Wrangel, whose son was born in Skokloster 1613. It was this son, Carl Gustav Wrangel, who built the present castle in 1654 in the Baroque style.

The castle serves as a standing monument to Sweden's time as a great power in the world. Some rooms in the castle have been left exactly as they were in the 17th century including furnished chambers, an armoury and an unfinished banquet hall, which was left incomplete when Wrangel died. After Wrangel's death, the property was owned by two other families until the castle and its contents were purchased by the Swedish

government in 1967 who did extensive renovations.



53. Skolkloster castle in the distance.



54. A medieval-style wedding procession.

Ulvakvarn (the Ulva Mill)

The Ulva mill is located about seven kilometers north of Uppsala on the Fyris River and is open year round. The word “ulva” means wolf as this was a common place for the animals to cross the stream. From the 14th century a water mill owned by the church was operated here until it was taken over by Uppsala University in the middle of the 17th century.

The mill continued to run until 1962 when it was sold to the municipality of Uppsala. Today there are a number of buildings on the site where you can see and purchase handcrafted items such as furniture, or hand-blown glass. You can also have coffee or a snack in the café or swim and picnic by a flowing waterfall. Each year, on the first weekend of September there is a large crafts market held at Ulva mill.

55. (opposite top) The Ulva Mill, located about 7 kilometers north of Uppsala.

56. (opposite bottom) The waterfall at Ulva Mill



Hågahögarna (King Björn's Mound)

On the western outskirts of Uppsala is another impressive burial mound from the Nordic Bronze Age. According to Norse legend, King Björn, who was known as Björn på håga (Björn at the mound), had his estate here. He reigned in tandem with his brother Önund of Old Uppsala.

The mound is approximately seven meters high and was constructed some time around 1000 BC. An excavation carried out in 1902 revealed various objects of bronze, including a sword and razor. Bones found with the marrow removed indicate that people were sacrificed here. Besides the mound, foundation stones mark the remains of a Bronze Age settlement.

The stone bridge, Battlefield, and Bronze Age graveyard

Approximately two kilometers northwest of King Björn's mound, bordering the forest and close to the Fyris River, lies a prehistoric cemetery containing about 50 graves and 30 raised stones marking an ancient burial ground. There is also a rune stone, rendered illegible either by time or by the inexperience of the stone carver.

The graves are dated to the last 100 years BC and bordered on the south side by the tracks of an ancient road. It is likely that the road once led to the river crossing where there now stands an arched bridge of stone. On one side of the bridge, a stone marker was placed in the year 1835 by Carl Johan XIV, to commemorate a battle which took place there in 1521. According to the stone, King Gustav Ericsson Wasa was rescued during combat by the bravery of his men



57. (top) Old stone bridge, site of a great battle.

58. (bottom) Ancient grave site, from approx 950 AD.



59. Rune stone in a Bronze Age cemetery.

The Mora Stones

Another place of significant historical interest lies approximately 10 kilometers southeast of Uppsala at Mora äng (Mora meadow) where ancient kings were elected. According to historical tales, once a king was elected here, he would hail his subjects from the Mora stone while his name was carved in a commemoration stone, placed there to document his election. That stone would be left so long as he reigned.

The elected king would then embark on a risky journey called “Eriksgata”, traveling throughout the kingdom to have his election confirmed. Some of the kings did not survive the confirmation process, possibly killed by an angry clan or a rival candidate.

Evidence of those elections can be seen in fragments of stone, inscribed with the names of some of those kings. It is not known exactly where the Mora stone was. Some suggest that it might be the large flat stone a half kilometer southeast of where the inscribed stones were found. The documental stones were destroyed in the 16th century, probably during a war against the Danes, with nine fragments remaining. One

of the stones contains carvings of three crowns, and is the earliest known example of what became Sweden's national symbol. A small building was erected in 1770 to house those nine stones and it is where they can be seen today.



60. The Mora royal election stones.

Enjoying Swedish nature

The forests around Uppsala are absolutely ideal for hiking, cross-country skiing, or even mountain biking and there are many trails to choose from. Furthermore, these kinds of activities are simplified for two reasons. Firstly, Sweden has a law called “Allemansrätten” (The right of public access) and secondly, there are organizations that have gone before and made many trails easier to navigate.

The right of public access means that anyone and everyone may visit a place in nature, even if it is on somebody else’s land. People have the right to cross someone’s property, swim, travel by boat, have a picnic or camp overnight, and may pick wildflowers, berries or mushrooms. Of course this right also comes with responsibilities, for example, not to invade somebody’s yard or home or cause damage to the property. There are also regulations regarding such things as picking protected flowers or starting a fire in times of draught.

Whether you are hiking in summer or cross-country skiing in winter, it is not difficult to find your way. Colorful markers have been

placed along almost every trail and there are even footbridges where the ground becomes marshy. In some of the forests small cabins open to the public have been built where it is possible to spend the night. Elsewhere, hand-pumped wells provide fresh water and there are areas available to grill a hotdog or just to stop and rest.



61. One of many helpful information boards to mark different trails all around the Uppsala area.



62. Beautiful forests surround Uppsala. It is the ideal place for nature lovers.

Trails around Uppsala

Here is a listing of some of the nature trails in the area in and around Uppsala.

Upplandsleden (Upland trails)

These trails are the most extensive, winding a total of 350 kilometers from Lake Mälaren in the south to the river, Dalälven, in the north. The trails cross forests, meadows and provide access to many historical sites along the way. These trails are easy to navigate, even for inexperienced hikers because of the orange paint that is used to mark trees and rocks along the way.

Gula stigen (The golden path)

Gula stigen, or the Golden Path is an approximately 10 kilometer walking trail that starts in the city, at the south end of the city park and ends at Lake Ekoln. It wanders through forests, meadows and fields in areas with names such as Rosendahl and Gottsunda. On this trail you can see old growth forests, meadows ideal for bird watching, or the remains of Iron and Bronze Age activity.

Hågadalen/Nåsten Nature Reserve

The forested area directly west of the Håga mounds is an area of about 17 square kilometers which includes number of different trails. Horseback riding is a popular pastime in the reserve. In addition to the burial field discussed on page 77, the reserve is home to several protected species of insects and funguses and there are other areas of interest. One of the trails is part of Linneaus' original eight teaching excursion paths where he and his students once documented herbaceous and animal life. In the southeastern part of the reserve there is a 15 meter cliff, known as Predikstolen (the preacher's chair), with the remains of an ancient dwelling.

North Lunsen

Directly south of Uppsala on Road 255 is an area called Lunsen. The reserve was formed in 2003 and rather unique with its numerous wetland areas, with footbridges built to allow access through them. It is also part of the Upplands Trail discussed on page 86. It is a popular place to pick mushrooms and berries and has a variety of wildlife within a blended

pine forest. About midway across the reserve there is a wooden cabin called *Lunsenstorpet* where you can stay over night. The cabin contains a wood-burning stove, including firewood, and fresh water from a hand pump outside. There is a grilling area located here as well. Further along the trail is another, smaller cabin called *Fläcktanstugan*, which has a wood stove and place to grill and picnic. At this place, there is also lookout tower that you can climb up into to observe the natural surroundings. Perhaps the best part is that these are open to all and there is no charge to use these facilities.



63. An old barn located near the castle at Skolkloster.

Final Words

As you can see whether it be enjoying nature, learning about the history or the country, or simple absorbing the Swedish culture, Uppsala offers something for everyone. I hope this book will help you discover more about the city and its people. Enjoy Uppsala.

Advice for visitors: As a tourist, it is advantageous to look for the discount travel and entrance cards available for purchase at the local bus station and other locations, around the city, i.e. Pressbyrå. These cards can mean substantial savings for travel, parking and entrance to various sites.



64. Glunten and Magistern, student characters in a collection of songs written by Gunnar Wennerberg, whose statue stands nearby.

Helpful Internet Links

I have added helpful Internet links if the site has information available in English. On these sites you can find details like entrance fees and opening or closing times for different attractions.

Botanical Garden <http://www.botan.uu.se/Botaneng.html>

Carolina Rediviva <http://www.uu.se/en/node130>

City buses - <http://www.ul.se/en/>

Fyrishov <http://www.fyrishov.se/>

Gamla Uppsala http://www.raa.se/cms/en/places_to_visit/gamla_uppsala.html

Gustavianum <http://www.gustavianum.uu.se/en/>

Train station <http://www.sj.se/sj/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=10&l=en>

King Karl Gustav Cruise <http://www.uppsala.to/en/>

Lennakatten <http://www.srjmf.se/>

Linnaeus Hammarby

<http://www.hammarby.uu.se/LHeng.html>

Skokloster castle <http://sko.lsh.se/default.asp?id=4620>

SLU <http://www.slu.se/?ID=580>

Stadsteater <http://www.uppsalastadsteater.se/>

Reginateatern <http://www.reginateatern.se/>

Uppsala Cathedral <http://www.uppsaladomkyrka.se/>

The Art Museum

<http://www.uppsala.se/Uppsalase/English-startpage/Culture--libraries/Uppsala-Art-Museum/>

The Uppsala Castle

<http://www.uppsala.se/Uppsalase/English-startpage/Culture--libraries/Uppsala-Castle/>

The Linnaeus Garden

<http://www.linnaeus.uu.se/LTeng.html>

The right of public access:

<http://www.sverigeturism.se/smorgasbord/smorgasbord/natrecspo/nature/every.html>

Uppland Museum

<http://www.uppsala.to/en/DynPage.aspx?id=11246&fmid=1011>

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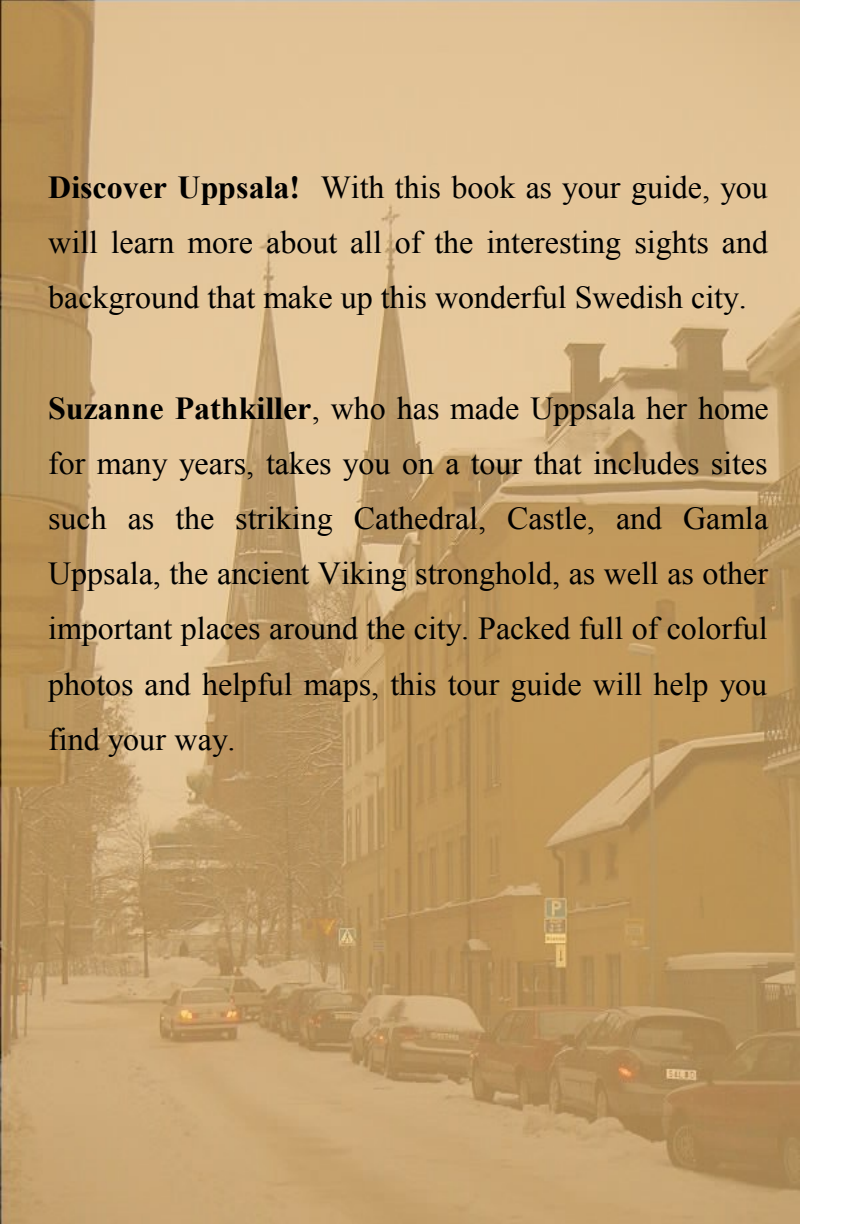
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Discover Uppsala! With this book as your guide, you will learn more about all of the interesting sights and background that make up this wonderful Swedish city.

Suzanne Pathkiller, who has made Uppsala her home for many years, takes you on a tour that includes sites such as the striking Cathedral, Castle, and Gamla Uppsala, the ancient Viking stronghold, as well as other important places around the city. Packed full of colorful photos and helpful maps, this tour guide will help you find your way.