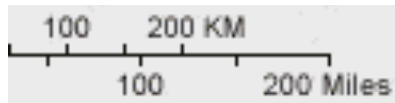


CHURCHES OF SWEDEN



Yorkminster Park Gallery
27 April to 27 June 2025
Paul R. Hill

CHURCHES OF SWEDEN



Lund Cathedral

This is one of the finest examples of Romanesque architecture in the Nordic countries. The main altar was consecrated in 1145. One of the unique features is that the crypt is partially above ground, this being where services were first held. The supporting columns were all individually carved of stone. The astronomical clock was installed in the 15 century and restored over time. Each day the clock features a procession at 12:00 noon and 3:00 pm, the music played is 'In Dulci Jubilo'.

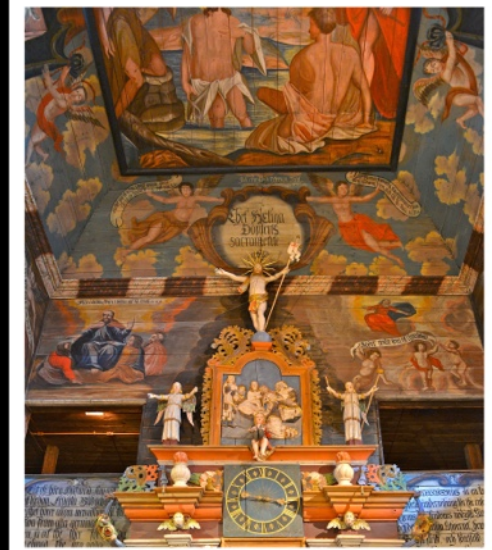
The altarpiece was donated to the cathedral in 1398. The central panel depicts the Coronation of the Virgin and is surrounded by 40 saints.



Habo Kyrka

Habo is a small village just north on Jonkoping. It was a larger urban area until the railway was built in the 19 century and since that time the village relocated itself some 10 km to the east; along Lake Vättern. The church, built in 1680, is sometimes called The Wooden Cathedral. It took two painters two years to complete the entire ceiling and walls of the Nave depicting scenes from the Luthern Catechism.

The exterior is painted Falun Red.



Bottnaryds Kyrka

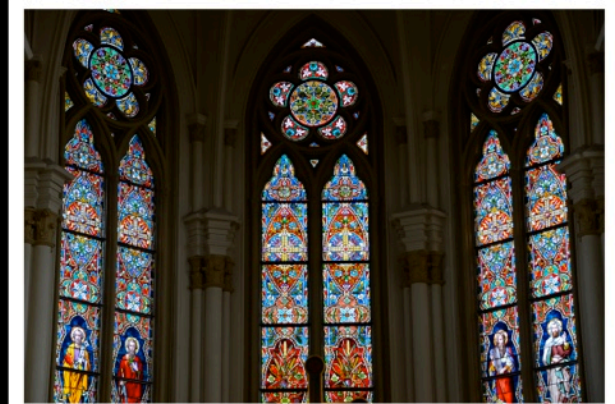
Bottnaryds is a small village located some 20 km east of the City of Jönköping and has a population of less than 1,000. The church is historic with the present structure being completed in 1695. The building is made entirely of wood with the ceiling and walls painted with Biblical scenes and other religious depictions. The organ pipe surrounds have musical figures decorated with gold.

It is located next to Lake Gårdsjön, and in the summer is surrounded by leafy trees and flower covered slopes; a rural idyl.



Sofiakyrkan

Sofiakyrkan is a large city church which takes up a whole city block near downtown Jönköping (population 140,000). It was completed in 1888 with a major renovation in 2005. The exterior is visually attractive with a white and salmon colour motif. The use of colour, along with gold trim, continues in the interior being highlighted in the arches. There are three 12 m (40 ft) stained glass windows in the chancel.



Vasakyrkan

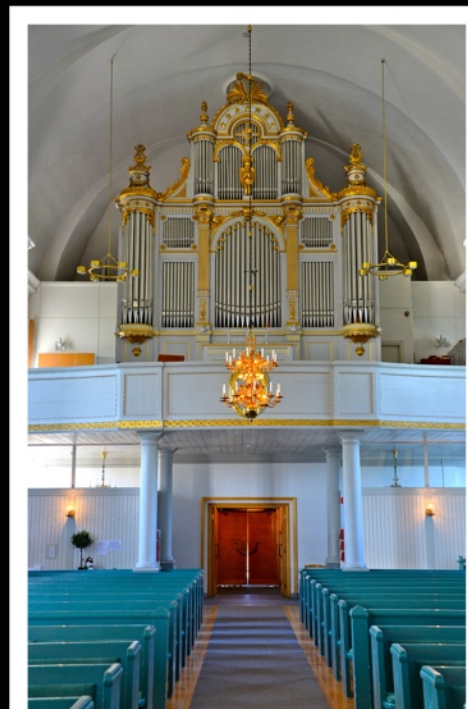
Vasakyrkan is located high atop a hill overlooking downtown Gothenburg - Sweden's second largest city, urban population of more than a million, located on the west coast of the country. The exterior is highly decorated both in stone and with colourful art work. The ceiling of the nave is plain white with painted pews and extensive decoration in the chancel area. The church was built in 1909.



Skellefteå Landsförsamling

This church or Country Assembly is located near the Skellefte River in an almost rural setting. This parish along with a wooden church building was established in the 14th century.

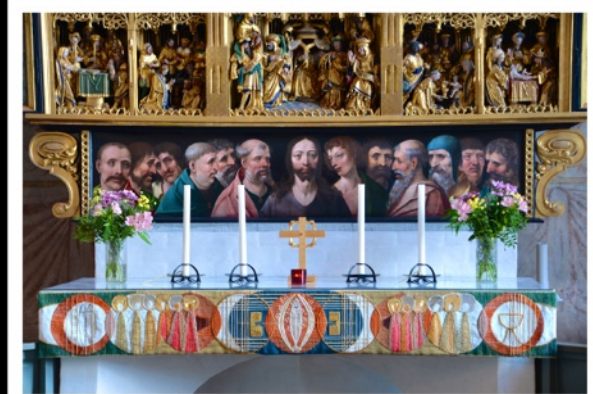
The sanctuary is painted white with gold decoration on the altar and around the organ pipes. The pews are painted a summer green.



Nederluleå Kyrka

The Nederluleå Kyrka is located in a countryside setting near Luleå (near the north end of the Gulph of Bothnia, Baltic Sea, just south of the Arctic Circle). The church was dedicated in 1492 and has undergone several renovations in succeeding generations. The exterior of the church building is made of two dozen kinds of stone. The interior is richly decorated and includes medieval frescoes; uncovered in early restoration work.

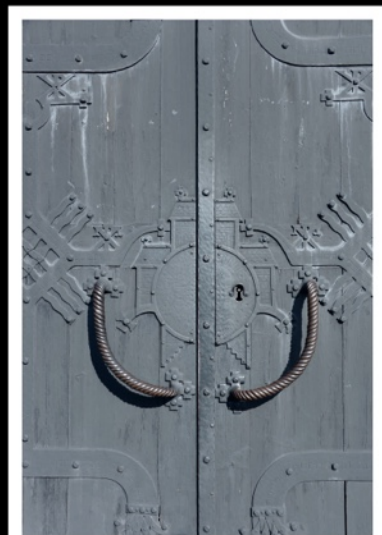
The church is at the centre of Gammelstad Church Town. Streets radiate out from the church building.





Kiruna Kyrka

The City of Kiruna is located some 200 km north of the Arctic Circle; the most northern urban conurbation in Sweden. It owes its existence to the very rich and expansive iron ore seam. Mining in the area started in the early 20th century and the building of the church shortly after. The exterior is shaped like a Sami hut with a wide base and tapered top. The bell tower, almost 20 m high, is supported by masts coming from Russian forests by the White Sea. It was voted the most beautiful pre-1950's building in Sweden.



When the mining operation began it was open-pit and some 250 m above ground level. Today the operation is more than 1,300 m below ground. The iron ore seam is on an angle and is now under a portion of the city. Due to subsidence approximately a third of the city, including the downtown, is in the process of being moved. The church building is to be moved intact some 5 km to its new home. This operation will take two days and requires the removal of a road overpass and the widening of several roads. It is scheduled to be done on 19 and 20 August this year. The moving will be livestreamed.

