

# Kulturhus längs Säfte Kanal



1



Medborgarhuset

2



Länsångården

3



Turistbyrån

4



Säfte kommunhus

5



Kanalvillan 1

6



Stenmagasinet

7



Kanalvillan 2

8



Slussvaktarbostaden

10



Sjöfartsverkets magasin

10



Sjöfartsverkets magasin

11



Trätäljaskolan

12



Wahlhall

13



Vattentornet Minnesstenen

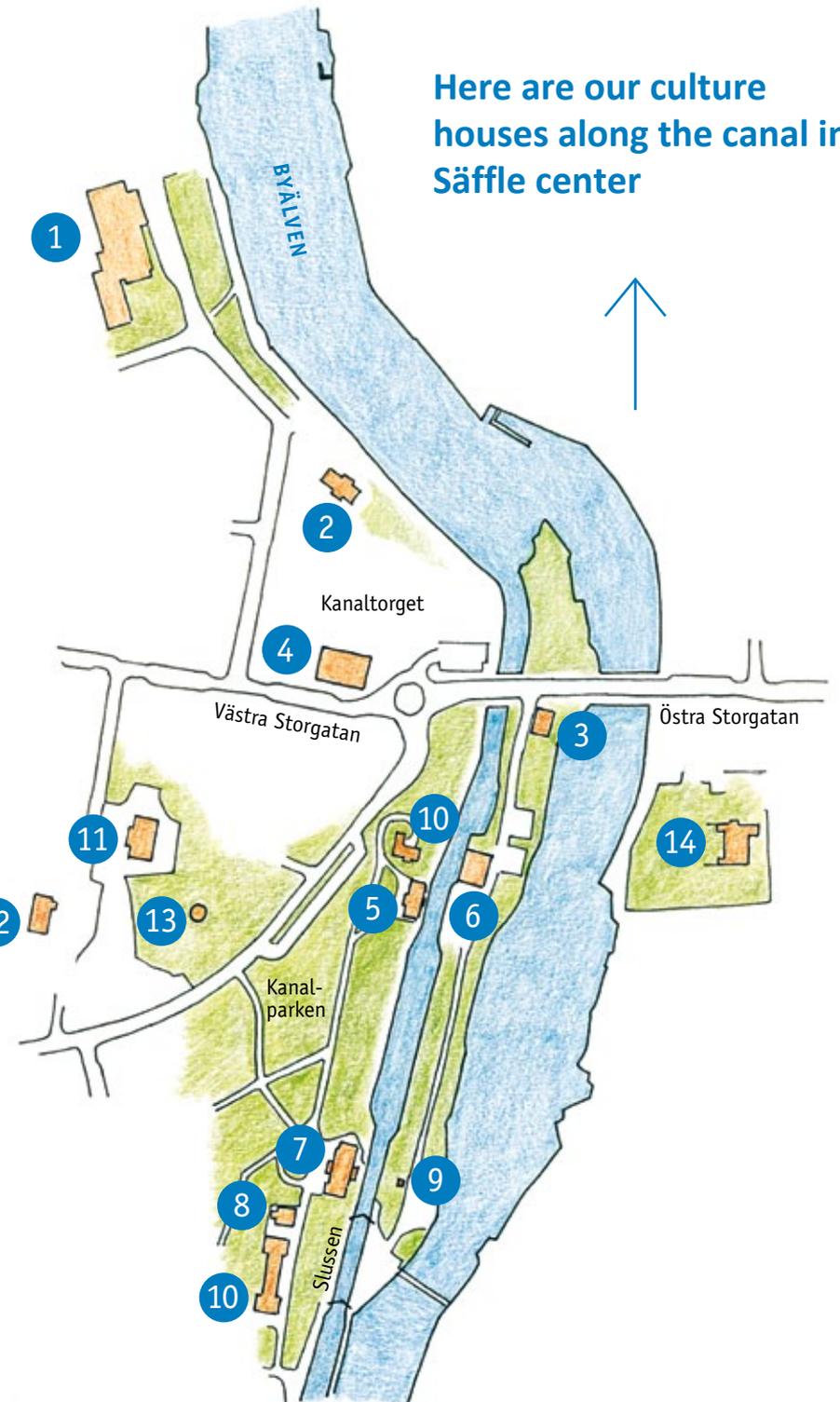
9

14



Silvénska villan

Here are our culture houses along the canal in Säfte center



## Medborgarhuset



Situated in the left shore of the river Byälven stands the Citizens Hall (Medborgarhuset), inaugurated on New Years Eve in 1965. The building and its stage – Olof Trätäljateatern has been the very heart of Säffle-Operans

community since the early 70's. Year after year they have with a mixed crew of both amateurs and professionals arranged musicals, operas and operettas.

Buses as well as “theatre-trains” travel regularly with audience to Säffle. Säffle-Operan has been a practical school for young talents. Nowadays, the municipal school of music is active within the walls of the citizen's hall. There is also a dancing hall.

## Länsmansgården



Taking a walk from the Citizens Hall to the Channel Square, it's most likely that you will pass an older tree villa that was left untouched when other aged buildings in the vicinity were demolished once upon a time.

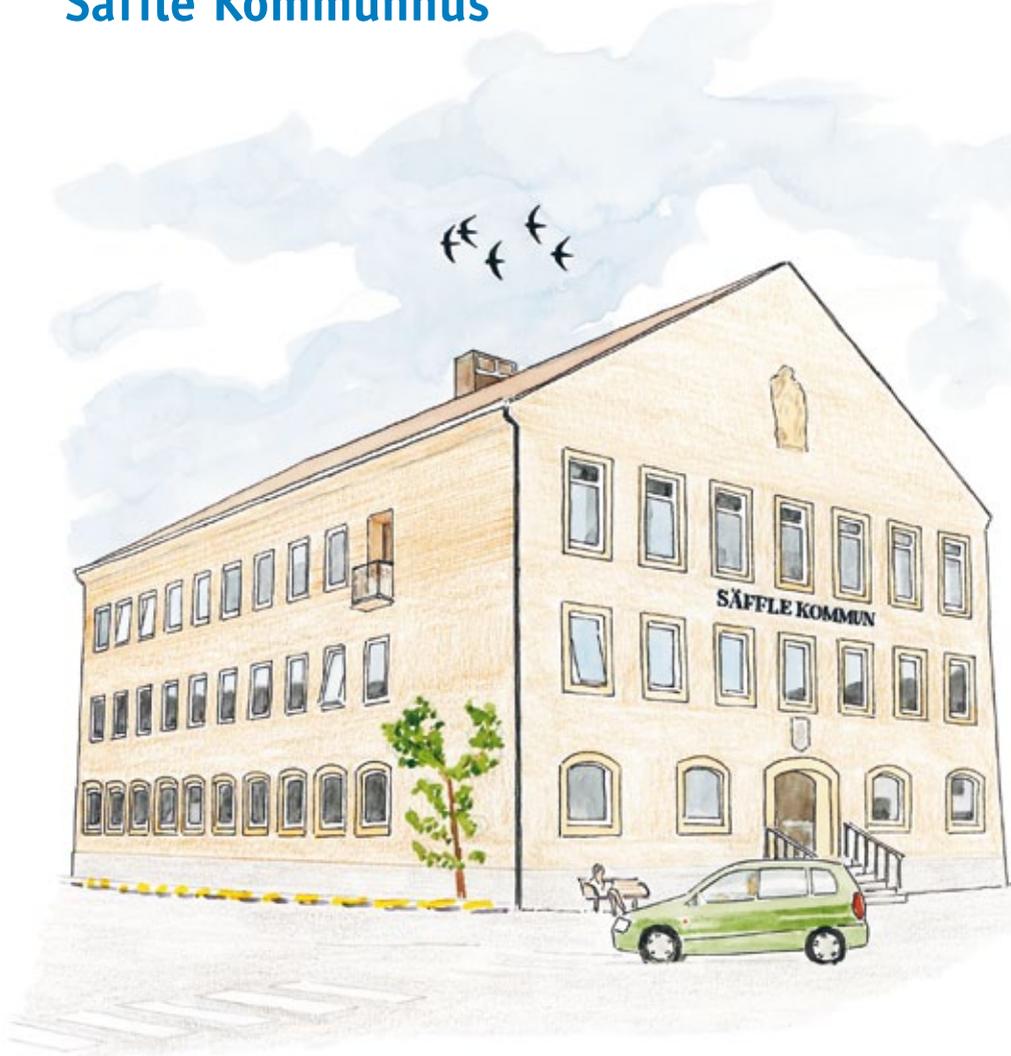
The villa was called Länsmansgården (Regional Mens Garden), due to the fact that it housed both an office and living space for the former country fiscal. As of today, the building is occupied by traffic school.

## Turistbyrån



With a history that dates back to 1820, the current tourist office is one of Säffle's older buildings situated between Strömbron and Kanalbron. Over the years it has undergone several changes Originally, it only had one floor but was later rebuilt with an additional top floor. A long time ago the building was called "Mjölmarstugan". It used to be a private estate that later turned into the tourist agency. Today it is a private office.

# Säffle Kommunhus



By the time when Säffle officially received the title of a city in 1951, the municipal committee were based in a wooden cottage near the channel that simply wasn't ideal. Decisions were made to build a city hall and in 1954 it was finished and functioning. By then it was believed that the local need would be satisfied for years to come, but that wasn't the case. Several corporations received other places to stay. Today it is no different. The city hall hasn't changed much since it was built. Kanaltorget (The Channel Square) in front of the city hall was rebuilt into its current layout in the summer of 2010.



On the facade facing the Channel Square, a relief designed by artist Stig Blomberg is clearly visible. It's called "Älven och staden" (The River and the City) and depicts a mother with her son. It is easy to see the symbolism in it. The river Byälven is the mother of the city, the main requirement for transport and general market. It started in old times with a marketplace that eventually with time developed into a social community. The addition of the Säffle Channel in 1837 together with the railroads in 1879 opened for industrial establishments and that is how the community continued to grow.

At the Channel Square received a fountain and a statue as decorative pieces. One of Säffle's own sculptors was given the task of making it. The sculptor's name was Vitalis Gustafsson and "The Neck-statue" (Näcken) was one of his very last creations. Vitalis passed away before his violin-playing sculpture was put in place on the square.

It has stood its ground ever since but in 2010 a rebuilding of the Channel Square was issued, giving "The Neck" a new position just a few yards away along with a brand new fountain. However, "The Neck" faithfully keeps on playing.



## Kanalvillan 1

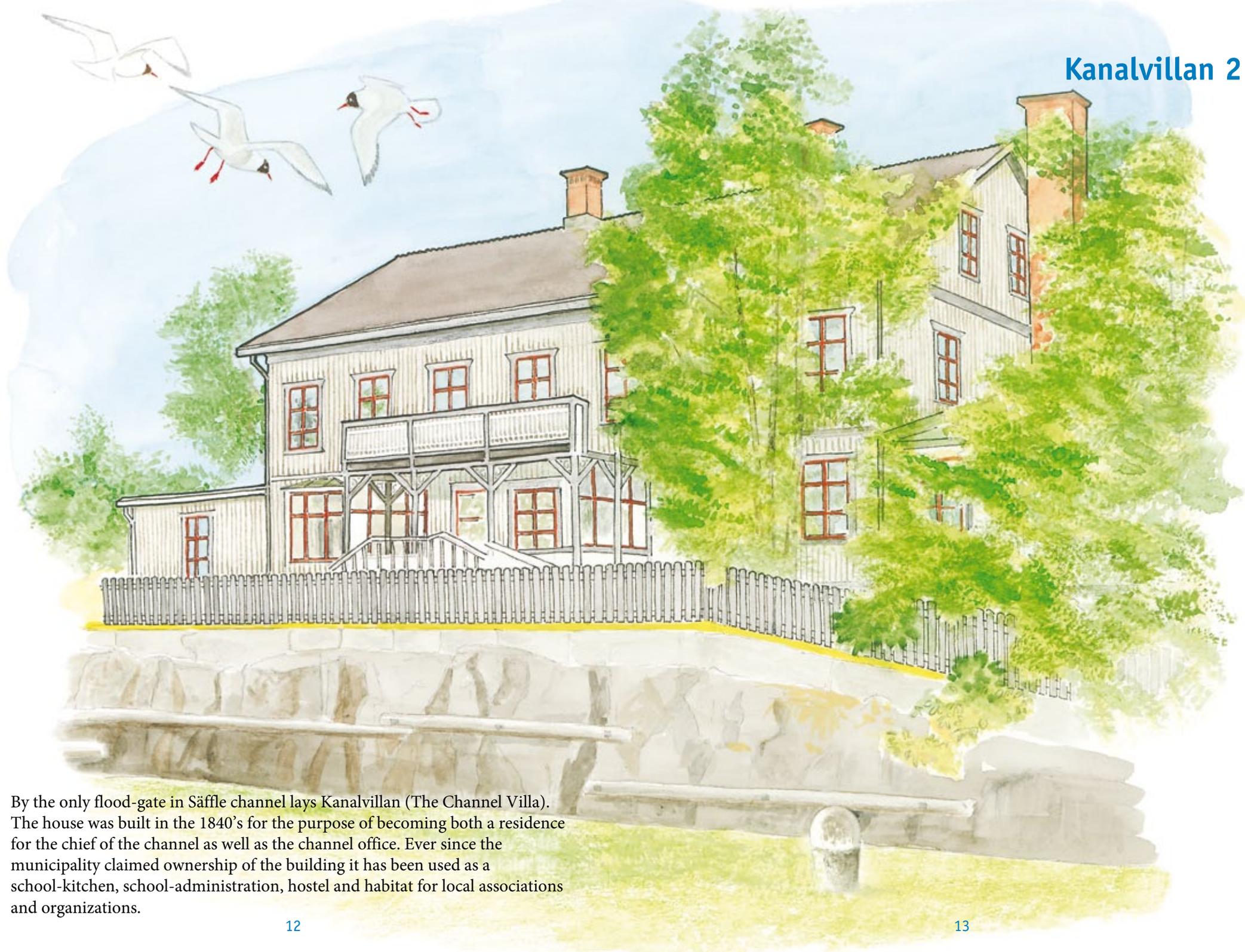


One of many buildings that once belonged to the managers of the channel is located opposite Stenmagasinet. Strong ties to the channelling history are preserved even though the structure today is a private estate.

## Stenmagasinet



Right beside the channel stands “Stenmagasinet” (The warehouse of stone). The facade says 1821. That is when the building underwent a renovation and received its current appearance. A part of the building however, is much older than that. A mill was built in the 1790’s and a smaller channel was created to supply the mill with water coming from the north. The mill was deemed a massive failure and things were not made much better when a steam-engine was built together with an additional floor for the building back in 1821. After the establishment of the channel, Stenmagasinet had a wide arrange of different uses, among them a granary. After extensive restoration in the 1990’s, it has been a restaurant.



By the only flood-gate in Säffle channel lays Kanalvillan (The Channel Villa). The house was built in the 1840's for the purpose of becoming both a residence for the chief of the channel as well as the channel office. Ever since the municipality claimed ownership of the building it has been used as a school-kitchen, school-administration, hostel and habitat for local associations and organizations.

## Slussvaktarbostaden



The channeling corporation once had a lot of employees. Many of the structures in the vicinity of the channel were once official residences of these employees. There were bridge-watchers, gatekeepers, dot-holders, workers and many other that were in service in the corporation. 111 years after the opening of the channel in 1837, it was a private joint-stock company but is since 1948 retained by the state.

## Minnesstenen



Closing in on the flood-gate, you are greeted by a memorial stone that was raised in connection to the celebrations of the 75-year old anniversary of the channel in 1912. The stone tells for instance of King Carl XIV Johan who visited SÄffle in October of 1837 to inaugurate the channel that was newly built at the time

## Sjöfartsverkets magasin



As of today, there are buildings in the vicinity of the floodgate that still belong to the channelling corporation. The Säffle Channel is a pass that stretches from the inlet of the river Byälven by Vänern via Harefjorden and Glafsjorden to the city of Arvika. A generous amount of space is required for winter-storing and maintenance. A part of the red building contains office-spaces for the Säffle Channel that today is part of the Swedish Maritime Administration.



## Trätäljaskolan



Just a few blocks away from the channel there is a brickbuilding built in 1899 standing on the west side. Originally the exterior of the building spelled out Folkskola (Elementary school). As time passed it went from being called Västra skolan (The Western school) until it ultimately was titled Trätäljaskolan. Much later, when the school was deemed to be redundant as an elementary school, the municipal school of music moved in. Today the building is a youth center.

## Wahlhall



Facing Trätäljaskolan stands yet another brickbuilding. Construction of it was finished in 1914 and the top floor was a gymnasium occupied by several generations of students over the years. When the school eventually became a contemporary school of music, Wahlhall as well underwent a change by constructing the gymnasium into an orchestral hall in order to further keep the incorporation between the buildings.

## Vattentornet

Almost wherever you are in central Säfte, the old watertower is most likely going to be the primary eye-catcher. It was built right on top of a burial mound. According to an old legend, the Viking king Olof Trätälja was laid to rest and buried in this mound. The completion of the watertower took place in 1915 and continued to supply the inhabitants of Säfte with drinking water until a new watertower was constructed in 1958.

The tower originally did not have the same appearance as today. A decision was made in 1944 to rebuild the top of the tower in order to be able to fit a new and bigger cistern. The engineering drawing for the watertower was made "following the sketch of Tengbom". That is, Ivar Tengbom who later went on to draw Stockholms Konserthus (The Stockholm Concert Hall) and Handelshögskolan i Stockholm (Stockholm School of Economics)

Since 2016, the water tower is an art space where many famous artists exhibit.

## Silvénska villan

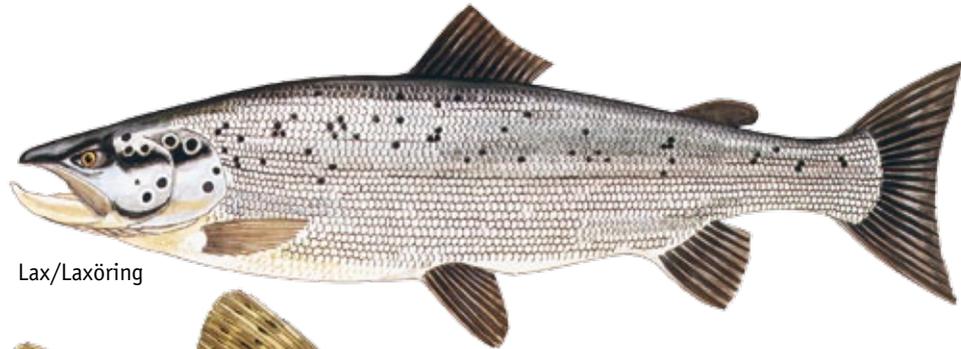


Silvénska villan (roughly translated as "The Silvénska Villa") stands right beside the Town Square and is a large epicentre for culture. Its name is derived from Hugo Silvéns, the previous owner who had the beautiful villa built and ready for inauguration in 1916. Silvéns ran a shipping company in Säfte and became a man of good wealth as a result of this. For three decades the villa was home to the Silvéns family as well as the office for the shipping company. A habitat that over time also became a dentist reception when new owners moved in. The villa faced threats of demolition in the 70s and an idea to make it into a car-park was put as a proposition. Those plans came to a halt and after many processes back and forth, the municipality



itself bought the villa and was declared the owner. Later in 1981 they proceeded making the building a place for associations and culture.

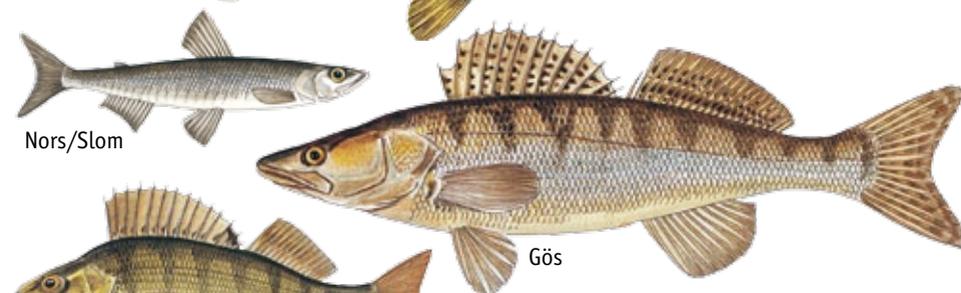
## Några fiskarter i kanalen



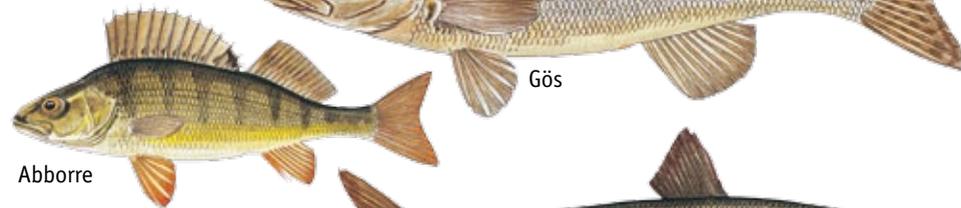
Lax/Laxöring



Gädda



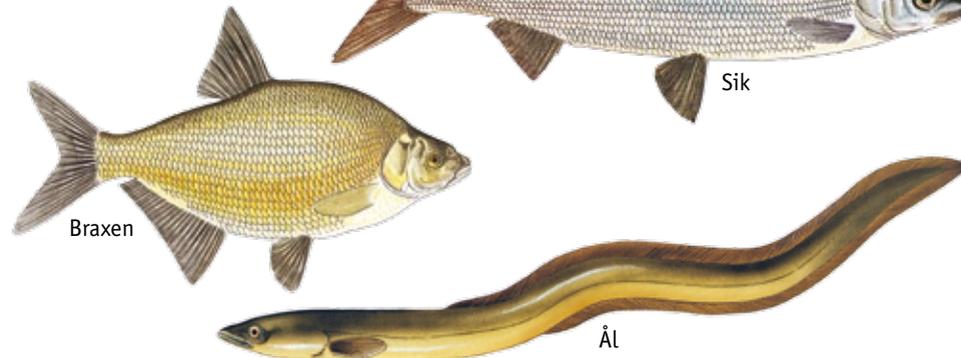
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Gös



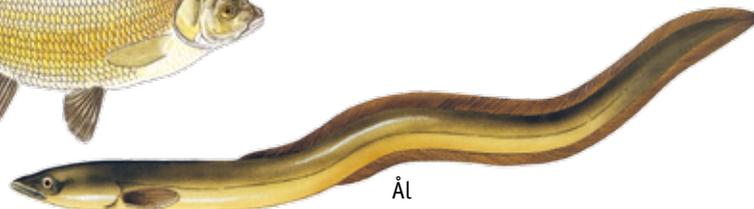
Abborre



Sik



Braxen



Ål

## Welcome to Säffle, the youngest city in Sweden, born 1951!

The municipality stretches as far as to “Gillbergadalen” in the north from “Lurö” in the south. A waterway once traveled upon by pilgrims and vikings still do to this day in the vikingship “Glad”. Regardless if you arrive through the lake or on land, Säffle always has a lot to offer the visitor. History and legacy from “Värmlandsnäs” testify and tells us that people were in business as early as the Stone Age and Bronze Age.

The municipality consists of villages Säffle, Svanskog, Värmlandsbro, Långserud and Värmlands Nysäter. Being characterized by water, agricultural land and forest has left a mark on industry: wood/paper, massive production of buses, advanced technology and life-necessities is the very foundation of economic living.

Säffle is home to one of Europe’s greatest fishing waters as far as Pike Perch goes – right in the heart of the town. Head south and you’ll find one of Lake Vänerns most appealing guest-harbours. Turn your attention to the north and west and you’ll find the wilderness.

Living culture blossoms - music, art, musicals, theater, cinema, festivals, motor rally, figure skating shows, midsummer celebrations, cultural environments, culture house Säffle has all this and more. Need a place to stay? No problem. There is plenty of highquality space. Get in touch with the Tourist Information located in the centre close to the city hall.





## SÄFFLE KOMMUN

Säffle Tourist information  
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661 80 Säffle

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