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Unnaryd: 1361482 E,
6316525 N
The small beach:
1361487 E, 6316105 N



Unnaryd now

The economic life of Unnaryd has developed considerably in recent years. This is especially true for the tourism and for the high-tech manufacturing industry that has been established. Service facilities like restaurants, banks, a centre for care of the elderly, clinic and shops still remain. A new small high school specialising on “wilderness” is in operation. Unnaryd has evolved very positively as compared to many similar villages and is now an important centre for quite a large surrounding area.

Visitors are welcome





Unnaryd is a decent place for living. A range of basic services are offered. Some restaurants offer local foods. Accommodation is offered by Alebo Inn, Vallsnäs Camping and others.

Tourist information is provided in “Saluhallen” at the “central square”.

Four nice walks are suggested. They all have the central square as the starting point.

- “The Folk Museum Walk”; a tour around the village, passing the church and the library to the folk museum and bonad museum.
- “The Lake Walk”, passing the sports hall towards the best place for outdoor bathing in Unnaryd. It continues through the forest along the lake shore.
- “The Brunnsbacka Tour”; from the square, passing the folk museum, through Åsköljet and the beech forest to Brunnsbacka with the picturesque old combined sawmill and mill for grains. Then follow the road back to Unnaryd.



- “The Folk Museum Walk” 
- “The Lake Walk” 
- “The Brunnsbacka Tour” 
- “The Kvarntorpet Tour” 

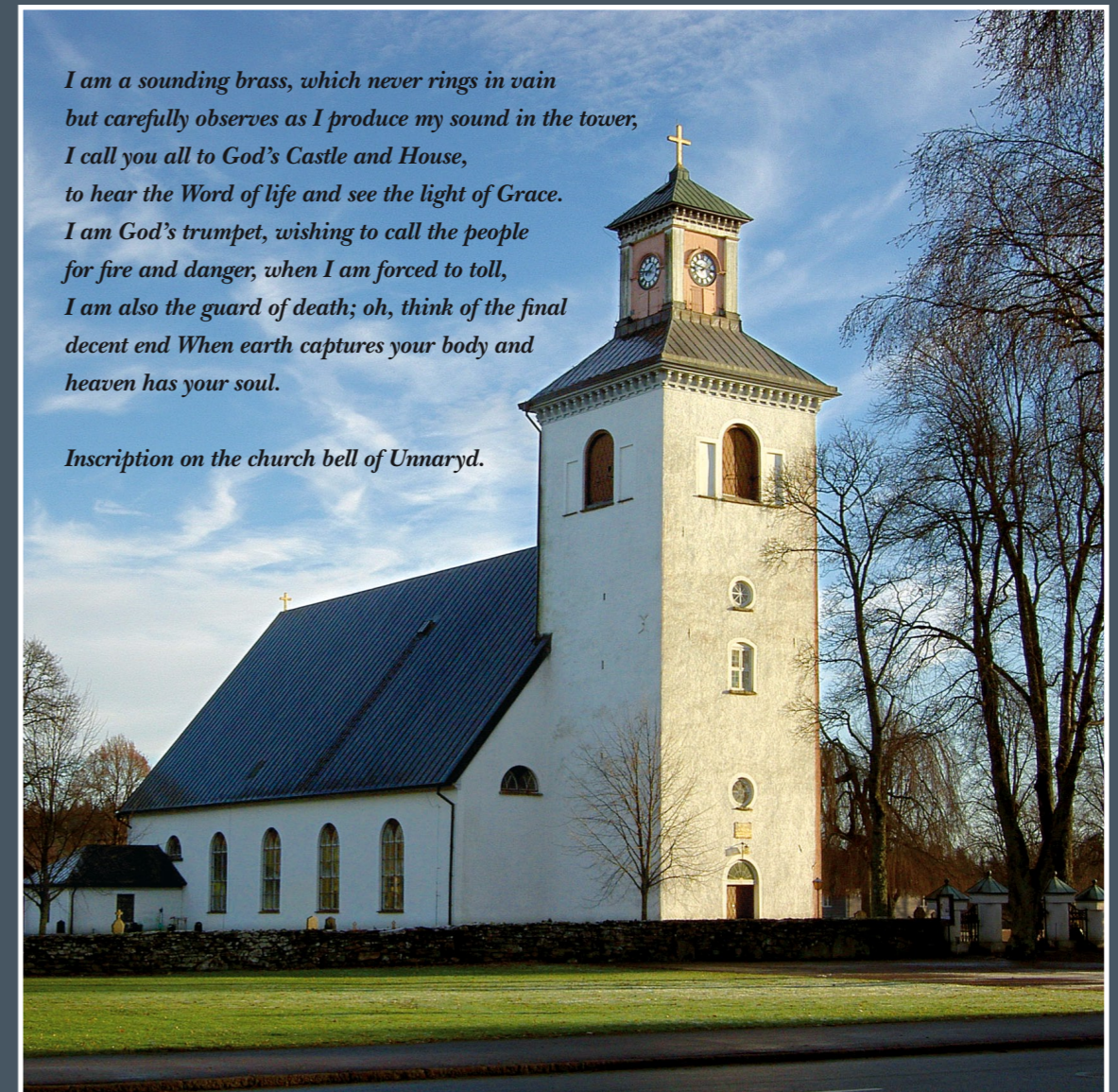
- “The Kvarntorpet Tour” from the square, passing Kvarntorpet and back along the Hylte road.

Further reading

About Unnaryd: www.unnaryd.com
Please visit the library. There is a lot to read but most historical documentation is in Swedish



IN THE WAKE OF EBBE SKAMMELSON



*I am a sounding brass, which never rings in vain
but carefully observes as I produce my sound in the tower,
I call you all to God's Castle and House,
to hear the Word of life and see the light of Grace.
I am God's trumpet, wishing to call the people
for fire and danger, when I am forced to toll,
I am also the guard of death; oh, think of the final
decent end When earth captures your body and
heaven has your soul.*

Inscription on the church bell of Unnaryd.

Illustration on cover: The Church of Unnaryd. **Main sources of information:** Södra Unnaryd-Jälluntofta Fornminnes- och Hembygdsförening; Sören Kabell, Unnaryd. **Research:** Malin Ekwall. **Text:** Sören Kabell and Karin Tengnäs. **Photo:** Bo Tengnäs. **Logotype:** Lars Lidman. **Design:** Tecknaregården/Willy Lindström. **Production:** Naturbruk AB/Bo Tengnäs. **Project coordination:** Bitte Rosén Nilsson, Hylte kommun. **Copyright:** Naturbruk AB. **Year:** 2006.

The brochures “In the Wake of Ebbe Skammelson” are available on www.unnaryd.com and www.hylte.se

A rich nature



The area around Unnaryd has a rich and varied nature. A well managed agricultural landscape is mixed with extensive forests, lakes and wetlands. Routes for walking and cycling as well as a network of small roads give access to forests rich in wildlife and freshwater bodies rich in fish.

The formation of the landscape

The village of Unnaryd is located on thick layers of sand deposits which were left behind by the inland glacier that once covered the area. The glacier once moved over the landscape as a giant wood plane. The surface of the underlying bedrock was ground and large rocks were split away from the bedrock. The pressure on the land was tremendous. The 1,000m thick ice moved over the landscape from northeast to southwest with a speed of 300m per year. Rocks that were stuck in the ice made deep scars in the bedrock. Such scars still remain and indicate the direction the ice movement had.

The ice melts and nature recovers

Climate changes caused the ice to melt more rapidly. About 12,700 years ago the ice margin was right across Unnaryd. The glacial rivers formed by the water from melting ice, brought along earth, crushed rock, rounded stones and gravel. Boulder ridges and ice margin deltas were formed. Where the glacial river had its mouth at the ice margin the pressure was reduced and material brought by the river deposit-

ed. Rocks and stones settled near the river mouth. Finer sand was transported further away and ended up as sediment in deltas and on bottoms of lakes. Nowadays, these sand sediments offer people relaxation at the small beaches that can be found here and there around Lakes Unnen. Large blocks of ice remained in the area south of the ice margin and large depressions were formed in the landscape when they finally also melted. An ice margin delta under the village of Unnaryd explains why the area is smooth and rather flat. From Unnaryd it is possible to follow a boulder ridge all the way to Kållerstad.

Gradually plants started to colonise, first mosses, lichen, sedges and crowberry, later to be followed by trees like dwarf birch and willow. Insects and rodents followed too and then also wild reindeer, moose and other kinds of deer. With those came predators and finally also man.

The first inhabitants of Unnaryd

The first people coming to Unnaryd were the hunters and gatherers of the Stone Age. These were nomadic tribes who made their living from what the forests and

water bodies could offer. They entered the region from continental Europe which had by then a land connection with the Scandinavian Peninsula. Areas with sandy soil on a gentle southerly slope were their preferred choice for settlement. The bay near Åsköljet constituted a perfect site for a healthy settlement. Fresh water flowed in the stream and fish spawned in the rapids. This was an ideal place for a decent life.

The first farmers

Gradually, the climate improved and the arctic vegetation was replaced by lush forests of lime, hazel, alder, oak and elm. During the latter part of the Stone Age and during the Bronze Age, the people of Unnaryd started to grow crops to produce their daily bread. Stone axes and various other items made from flint stone are from that era. A cleared farming area, long since known as a "Ryd" emerged at Unnaryd from the end of the Bronze Age, about 500 B.C. This opening would eventually evolve into the village Unnaryd as we know it today.

Hunting and fishing remained important for a long time to come. Foot paths

and small roads provided connections in different directions. Lake Unnen also offered chances for relatively convenient transport and trade: Skins and dried meat in exchange for flintstone and metals.

Gradually, the settlement grew. Soils that were relatively fertile and easy to cultivate were found on the low moraine hills on the western side of the stream where there is now a beech forest. There are remains of early cultivation in this area. Its old name, Ödegårdet, implies cultivation although there has been no farming in recent times. Items found in the area are as old as from 500 B.C., just when the Stone Age was succeeded by the Bronze Age. Apart from ancient terraced fields, also graves and remnants of early roads can be found there.

The impact of Lake Unnen

The water level of the lake used to be much higher than today. Melting ice, land elevation and human activities have all had an impact. The slope just south of Unnaryd's square, where there are currently bank buildings, is a remnant of an early lake shore at a higher level than now. This old lake shore is very visible along the road towards Odensjö eastwards past the church.



The combined sawmill and mill for grain at Brunnsbacka.

The black rock on the Unnaryd square The Unnaryd rock in the middle of the square at the centre of Unnaryd is a piece of amfibolite with pebbles of quartz crystal. It has been split off from the bedrock by the glacier. Its edges have been smoothed by running water, gravel and stones. This kind of rock was once red-hot glowing magma.

Unnaryd's church

The present church is located on the same site as an earlier church. The 30m high tower stretches itself towards the sky. The church measures 48m by 17.5m. It

has decorated the centre of Unnaryd ever since 1833. The earlier church dated back to medieval times.

There are several interesting items in the church. Two runic stones were found when the old church was demolished. They were put aside to be kept, but two young masons secretly fetched the stones and used them for the walls in such a way that the runic inscriptions were no longer visible. It was only much later that it was discovered that one of the stones served as a window sill at one of the windows near the pulpit. In 1912, it was removed from that position and studied. The inscription is made to commemorate Mr. Ingebrekt's son Knut. The stone is from around 1300.

Another interesting item is the baptismal font made of stone. It might originally have been a bowl for offerings. Its history is only partly known.

Where is the church bell?

According to local tradition, a Danish army unit reached the church one early winter morning during the Nordic Seven-year War (1563—1570). They removed the church bell from the belfry and brought it along as they departed on the ice of Lake Unnen. But they were observed and the Danes were chased. When they realised that they would not succeed in their endeavour they let the bell sink in the lake outside a point called Unnehallar. Possibly it still remains there? The current bells are from the 17th century. A crack was noted in the oldest bell in 1765. That bell had been cast already in 1603. It was taken to the clock manufacturer Elias Fries Toresson in Jönköping for recasting in 1766. Elias Fries Toresson was the father of the clergyman Theodor Fries who later worked in Femsjö and grandfather to the famous botanist Elias Fries.

The folk museum

The Unnaryd-Jälluntofta Society for Cultural Heritage was formed in 1945. It takes

Sävsåstugan, one of the buildings in the folk museum.



This bonad, painted by Johannes Nilsson, illustrates the wedding in Kana.

care of the folk museum with its buildings and collections of items of local historical interest. Some 7,000 different items from Unnaryd and Jälluntofta are kept in the buildings.

The bonad museum

The bonad museum forms a part of the folk museum as it is located within the same area. It contains about thirty well-preserved wall paintings on cloth (bonads). This art was developed in south-west Sweden and was practiced mostly between 1750 and 1850. Unnaryd was one of the centres for artists practicing this school of art. Ten of the bonads originate from the farm Sjö from where they were donated to the museum.

The Stone Age, the Iron Age and the Viking Era.

In the Nordic countries the Stone Age commenced with the colonisation of the area by people more than 10,000 years ago. It was followed by the Bronze Age 1800 B.C.– 500 B.C. which was succeeded by the Iron Age. The Viking Era coincides with the latter part of the Iron Age, 800–1050 A.D.

The Nordic Seven-Year War

lasted from 1563 to 1570. Sweden, supported by Poland fought a war against Denmark and Lübeck. The Swedish King Erik XIV was interested in gaining control of the Baltic Sea. The Danish King Fredrik II wanted to re-establish the union of Nordic countries which had been there earlier.