

8. Estrid Ericson Memorial Site

At Hamngatan 12, design icon Estrid Ericson spent her childhood. In 1924, she founded Svenskt Tenn, an internationally renowned interior design company. The memorial site, known as The Spring (Källan), was created by artist Yvonne Nimar and invites visitors to pause, reflect and find inspiration. To learn more about Estrid Ericson and the memorial site, scan the QR code sign on the house wall.

9. Norrebro

The river Hjoån once marked the town's northern boundary here. At the nearby customs house, travellers paid duties on goods entering the town. In 1881, Norrebro was replaced by a stone bridge built by a local stonemason, creating a more durable and important entrance to Hjo.

10. Duke Johan's Jetty and the mouth of the river Hjoån

At the mouth of the River Hjo, the town's story began. This sheltered anchorage served monks, merchants and travellers as early as the Middle Ages. In the 17th century, Duke Johan commissioned the construction of a jetty here, strengthening trade and contributing to the town's growth. The timber post beside the site is one of the few remaining traces of the original jetty.

11. The harbour

The harbour is the heart of Hjo and has long been an important meeting place. In the past, Lake Vättern connected people and communities through busy boat traffic across the water. Today, that tradition lives on through the steamship Trafik and the vibrant marina, all set within a historic lakeside environment.

12. Bellevue Terrace

History and spectacular views meet here. In 1932, the original Hotel Bellevue was destroyed by fire, but the site still offers sweeping views across Lake Vättern, Omberg and the lakeside bathing area. During the late 19th century, Hjo developed into a popular spa resort, with the town park and bathing culture becoming important parts of local life.

13. Floragatan

Floragatan is Hjo's grand boulevard, lined with Art Nouveau villas dating from the late 19th century. Here, the "new town" emerged with broad streets and spacious plots, in contrast to the dense blocks of the older town centre. Many houses have retained their original character and tell the story of a new era in Hjo's development.

Scan to learn
more about the
Wooden Town



VISIT HJO, TURISTINFORMATION

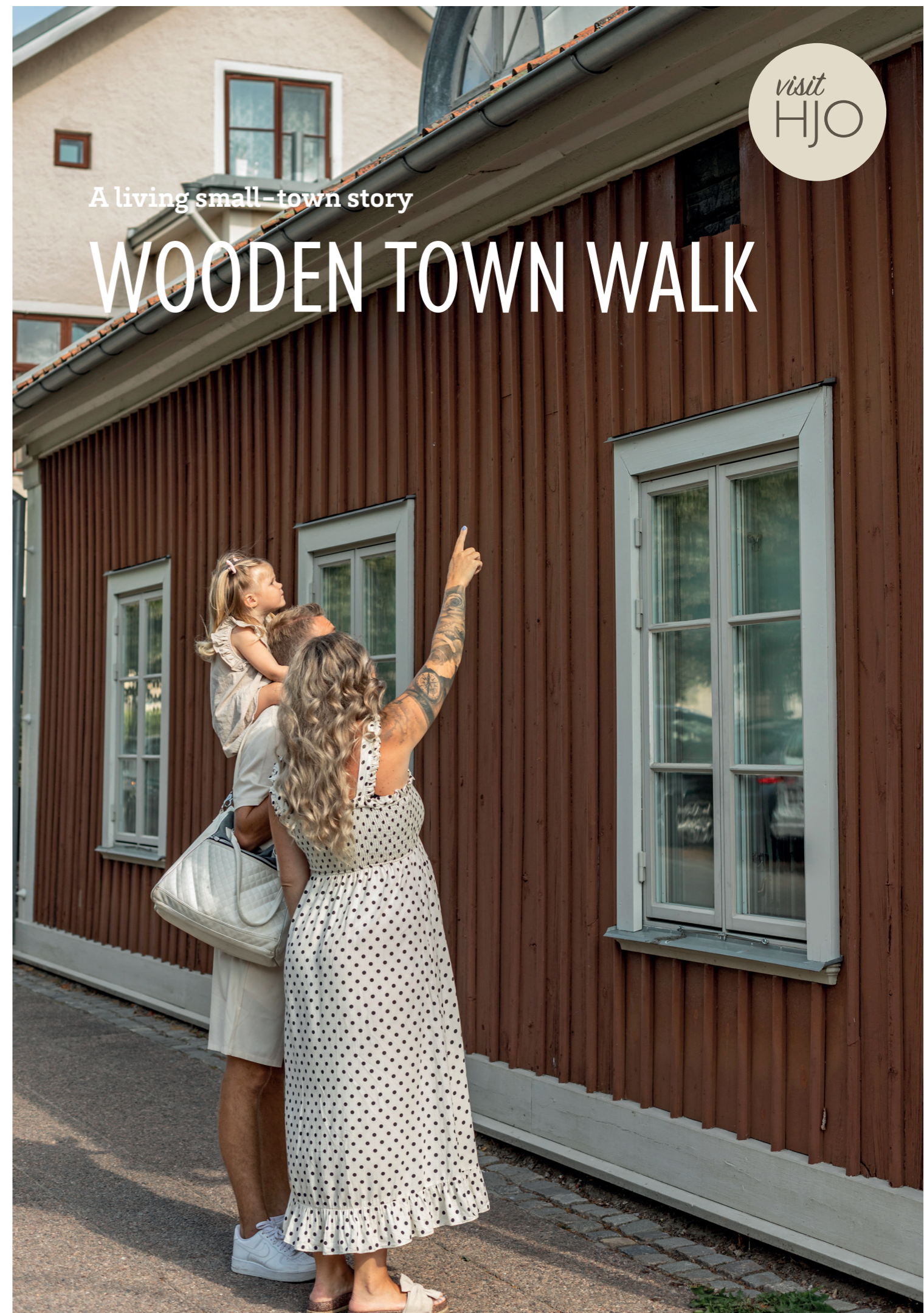
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HJO TOURIST INFORMATION OPENING HOURS

For current opening hours, please visit www.visithjo.se.



The wooden town walk

Welcome to a self-guided walk through Hjo. At your own pace, you can explore our beautiful wooden town and discover a history spanning more than 600 years. Along the route, you can scan QR codes on several buildings to enrich your experience. Each stop reveals a chapter of Hjo's story – from monks coming ashore to trade, crafts-manship, fire and the town's development over the centuries.

1. Ånabacken

This is where the Hjo River Valley Nature Reserve begins – a unique stretch of urban wilderness at the very place where Hjo's history started. The river has powered mills and forges for centuries and is now an important habitat for plants and wildlife, including brown trout, which migrate upstream each autumn.

2. Hantverksgatan

Many of Hjo's craftsmen lived and worked here during the 19th century. At the time, the town had a thriving craft tradition, with trades such as rope-making, coppersmithing and pewter casting. The cobbled street is lined with enclosed courtyards and well-preserved wooden façades, providing a clear glimpse into the town's past. Along the street, QR code signs offer further historical insights.

3. Sjögatan

Sjögatan is a fine example of Hjo's preserved wooden architecture. On the corner of Trädgårdsgatan and Sjögatan stood the town's coaching inn during the 19th century, an important meeting place for both travellers and local residents. The street is home to historic buildings such as Bergagården and bears traces of the town's early newspaper history and craft traditions.

4. Skolbryggan

This is where Sjögatan begins – or ends. The name comes from the nearby school that stood here during the 19th century. The jetty was once an important place for daily life and work, where laundry was rinsed in the lake. It was also the site of an early harbour facility known as "Krabben", parts of which still remain beneath the water's surface.

5. The square – junction of Långgatan, Torggatan and Hamngatan

Here, where important roads once met, Hjo began to take shape as early as the 13th century. Its location between Jönköping and the inland regions to the west made it a strategic place for trade and travel. The town's name is believed to derive from the River Hjo, although other interpretations exist. This was the site of the town's earliest settlement.

6. The square – by the church

This is the historic heart of Hjo, with roots reaching back to medieval times. The town has largely escaped major fires, but in 1794 the church burned down and a few nearby buildings were damaged. The square remains an important gathering place, retaining its historic layout and character. Take a moment to notice the Europa Nostra plaque set into the limestone blocks outside the church. It commemorates Hjo receiving the Europa Nostra Medal of Honour in 1990 for its outstanding preservation of the wooden town.

7. Hamngatan

This street was once home to Hjo's prosperous merchants and master craftsmen. Wide carriage gateways allowed horse-drawn wagons to enter the courtyards, and the properties stretched all the way down towards the lake. During the late 19th century, the area changed as trade and specialist shops gradually replaced older activities.



Length
Approx 1,5 km
through Hjo
town centre

Duration
Approx 1 h

Difficulty level
Easy

Trail marking
Unmarked, please follow map

Toilets
At starting point,
Kulturkvarteret

Terrain
Urban - paved surfaces, cobblestones, gravel paths

Accessibility
Suitable for pushchairs, walking frames and wheelchairs