

11.

Krukan area, "Metodistkyrkan/The Methodist church" – Hultabacken 4

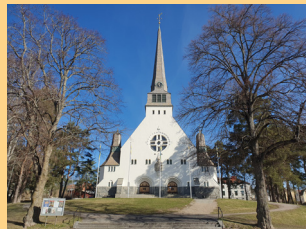
The emergence of the Free Church movement in Swedish society was an expression of democratic rights that was unprecedented at the time. The Arvika Methodist congregation was founded in 1906, and their church was completed two years later. It is constructed of wood and clad with beveled wooden panels designed to imitate stone. The tower features four gabled peaks and five spires. Today, the congregation has dissolved and the church functions as a residence.



12.

Trefaldighetskyrkan / The Trinity Church

Toward the end of the 19th century, Arvika's population was growing rapidly, and the Mikaeli Church, located on the southwestern outskirts of the town, needed to be complemented by a more centrally located church. The commission went to architect Ivar Tengbom, who designed the church in the National Romantic style—modern for its time and a reaction against the revivalist styles that had dominated 19th-century architecture in Sweden. The aim was to highlight and preserve Swedish elements in architecture, drawing inspiration from, among other things, castles from the Vasa era and traditional rural architecture. The church was built using materials from the local area, such as glass and slate from Glava, gneiss for the foundation from Dottevik, and timber from the church's own forests.



13.

Rektorn area– Solbergagymnasiet / The Solberga senior high school

As the population increased, the town's educational system developed accordingly. Solberga Upper Secondary School (A) was inaugurated in 1936 and has been expanded in several stages during the 1930s, 1950s, and 1980s. In the copper-clad tower, there was once a telescope for stargazing. The building (B) with two entrances on the southern short side is known by Arvika residents as "The Cathedral," but it was originally constructed to serve as a sports hall for the school's students. Today, it is also used for dance classes and other courses.



14.

Östra Esplanaden / The eastern esplanade

At the end of the 19th century, the city plan was expanded, and Östra Esplanaden was added. At that time, fires were a frequent occurrence in Swedish towns, particularly in those with predominantly wooden buildings. To address this problem, the Building Ordinance of 1874 was introduced, which recommended wide esplanades with planted medians to help prevent the spread of fire. Östra Esplanaden is a concrete example of the application of this principle.



15.

Klockaren area – Östra Esplanaden 6

In this director's residence lived Anders Östlind – CEO of the Östlind & Almqvist organ and piano manufacturing company. Anders Östlind began manufacturing organs in Arvika in 1888, and some years later, Anton Almqvist became a partner in the business, which was subsequently named Östlind & Almqvist. From the spacious residence and its balcony, Östlind could look out over his organ and piano factory, which at the time was the largest of its kind in the Nordic region. The piano factory was relocated in 1966, but remained until 1977 when it was shut down.



16.

Orgeln area – Orgelfabriken / The Organ factory

The organ factory, together with the tobacco monopoly and Arvikaverken, formed the economic backbone around which the market town of Arvika grew. Most of the buildings in the "Orgeln" block were constructed during the time of the organ factory and consist of several interconnected structures. The development spans from the 1890s to around the 1970s. The southern façade of the block, facing Östra Esplanaden, is the oldest.



17.

Fabriken area – Östra Esplanaden 13A, 15A och 15B

At address 13A – In the 1830s, 23 residential buildings with outbuildings were recorded in Arvika. Only a few of these remain today, and this house is believed to be one of them. According to available sources, the existing log house was relocated here from the countryside in the early 1800s. Its current appearance likely dates from the latter part of the 19th century.

At addresses 15A and 15B – These plots were developed with two residential buildings each during the second half of the 19th century. Around the turn of the 20th century, some alterations were made to the buildings. In the basement of 15B, there was once a shoemaker's workshop.



18.

Vakten area, "Palladium" – Hamngatan 1

When public film showings were first introduced in Sweden at the end of the 19th century, they were part of a travelling entertainment tradition, and no specific buildings were constructed for this purpose. In the early 1900s, the first dedicated cinemas were built, taking inspiration from theatre architecture. The Palladium cinema was constructed between 1924 and 1925, designed by architect Wilhelm Eick in the Neoclassical style. Palladium thus stands as a nearly unique example of its kind in Sweden.



19.

Arken area, "Folkets hus" – Hamngatan 10, 12 A

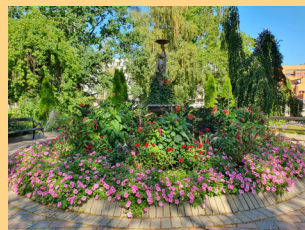
The building from the mid-1960s houses, among other things, offices, a stage, and assembly halls. Arvika's Folkets Hus (People's House) was designed in 1967 by Werner Gjerding. In this building, Gjerding departed from the functionalist style he had previously employed, moving toward a more modernist expression characteristic of public architecture in the 1960s.



20.

Town park

In the latter half of the 19th century, greenery and public recreation became fashionable in Swedish towns. In 1911, the Arvika Exhibition was held with the aim of showcasing craftsmanship, handicrafts, agriculture, art, and industry. Following the exhibition, a park was laid out in the area, with the planting of trees and shrubs, flowerbeds, and the creation of a bird pond. The pergola is 82 meters long and the longest in the Nordic countries.



21.

Styvern area, Stadshuset / The Town hall – Östra Esplanaden 5

The city's original town hall was completed in 1904 and, in addition to municipal administration, housed both the fire station and the police station. The town hall was strategically placed at the eastern entrance to the city and was given an elaborate design, featuring large pointed-arch windows on the ground floor, a clock, and a tower. In the early 1980s, a new town hall building was constructed and joined with the original structure.



22.

Hamnområdet / The Harbour area

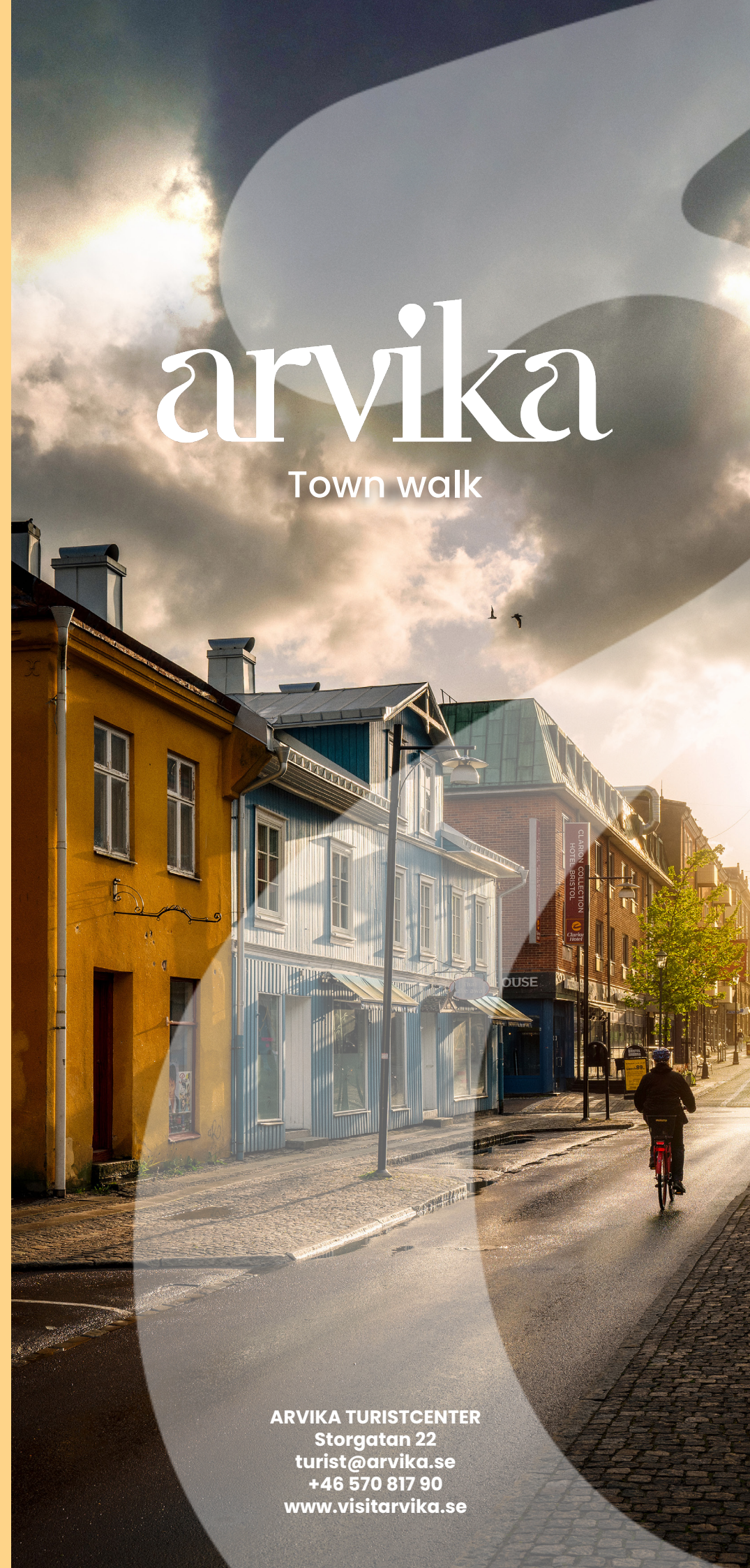
Arvika is Sweden's innermost harbour, and via Lake Glafs-fjorden and Lake Vänern, one can, in fact, reach all seven seas of the world. In the western part of the area stands a warehouse (A) from the early 1800s, located a few hundred meters from the water. Originally, however, the building stood directly on the shoreline – evidence of the extensive land reclamation that has taken place in the area. In the eastern part, four warehouses from the 1850s (B) remain—two constructed of log and two clad with paneling. Next to the easternmost warehouses, you will find the restaurant Olssons Brygga (C), designed by architect Håkan Cullberg, whose design echoes the forms of the adjacent warehouse buildings.

Also nearby stands a freight terminal (D) built of brick in the functionalist style, designed in 1949. The Hantverkermagasinet (E), or Craftsmen's Warehouse, was built in 1937 for the "sale of agricultural necessities." Today, the building houses several local artisans and serves as a venue for events.



arvika

Town walk



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Photo: Peter Nilsson, Therese Myhrin, Visit Arvika

The information in the folder is taken from Arvika Municipality's cultural environment program and inventory of individual objects.

1. Pilen area, "Konsthallen/ The Art gallery" – Storgatan 22
The building was constructed as a bank in 1903 but became, in the 1930s, the premises for the public café company that served beer, with profits from the business intended to support the city's school and public dental care services. Part of the profit also went to cultural purposes—for example, the purchase of Christian Eriksson's sculpture Somnardopp in the city park was financed with such funds. Since 1973, the building has served as the city's art gallery, with its large windows providing excellent natural light for the purpose. The building is designed in a Baroque-inspired style, but with elements of Art Nouveau.



2. Läkaren area, "Tornhuset / The tower house" – Hantverksgatan 5
The palace-like building has often been referred to as the most beautiful in Arvika. It was also known as the 'LP Svenson House' after Lars-Petter Svensson, who had it built. When it was raised around the turn of the 20th century, it was one of the city's most monumental buildings, with its four stories and characteristic onion domes.



3. Järnvägsstationen / The railway station
When the Northwestern Main Line opened in 1871, it con-

nected Stockholm with Kristiania (Oslo), and a station was established in Arvika. The station building was designed by the head architect of the Swedish State Railways, Adolf Wilhelm Edelsvård, and placed outside the city's grid plan on its most prominent site. According to Edelsvård's ideal city plan for railway towns, the station and the church should face each other as the two most important poles of the city. In 1911, the Trefaldighetskyrkan (Trinity Church) was dedicated, fulfilling Edelsvård's vision.



4. Torget / The square
The square's location originates from the 1818 grid plan. Its original use as a marketplace continues today through regular market days throughout the year. Surrounding the square are several buildings constructed from the 1950s onward, replacing many older, low wooden structures to better meet the growing needs of commerce. The sculpture at the northern end of the square is called Fågelmannen ("The Bird Man") and was created by Liss Eriksson.



5. Juvelen area, "Wermlandsbanken / The Bank of Wemland" – Torggatan 29
The golden age of bank architecture began in the 1890s. Over a span of 30 years, 150 bank buildings were construc-

ted in Swedish cities. Banks chose the most prominent locations, positioning themselves along main streets and town squares. To assert their status, the buildings were designed with grand facades in styles typical of the time, such as National Romanticism, Baroque, and Art Nouveau. Wermlandsbanken, dating from 1907, reflects the ideals of the era with its placement on the corner of Torggatan. The architectural style is Art Nouveau, expressed, for example, in its flowing forms and the type of windows with central mullions and decorative upper panes.



6. Juvelen area, "EPA-huset / The EPA dept. store" – Storgatan 32
During the 1960s and 70s, a wave of demolitions swept through the city centers of almost all Swedish towns. The aim was to replace cramped wooden and stone buildings with expanded spaces for housing and commerce. The architecture from this period is often monumental, and many buildings—such as the former EPA department store in Arvika—were built in a style known as Brutalism. Today, these structures are often criticized just as harshly as the older buildings they once replaced. Few consider them beautiful or worth preserving, but it may be wise to reflect carefully so as not to repeat the same mistakes made during previous rounds of urban renewal.



7. Furan area – Köpmangatan 3
These buildings represent and can tell the story of an unparalleled era in Swedish urban development. The courtyard environment is one of the few preserved settings that illustrates what the early development of Arvika's city center may have looked like. Just like this one, courtyards in the town typically contained rows of outhouses, stables, storage sheds, and warehouses. The latter speak to Arvika's role as a market town and center of commerce. Since the 1970s, some of the buildings have had their original slate roofs replaced with sheet metal.



8. Badhuset area, "Musikskolan / The Music School" – Solbergsgränd 1
Before running water was introduced in private homes, public bathhouses were common in Swedish towns. This bathhouse was designed by K.J.A. Albihn and built in 1924 to serve as a combined public bath and library. Since the 1980s, it has housed the municipal music school. The building is designed in a neoclassical style, expressed through its plastered façade with typical period coloring, plaster pilasters, and mullioned windows.



9. Bocken area – Kyrkogatan 38/Magasinsgatan 9
In the 1960s, the car was seen as the transportation mode of the future. This vision was reflected in urban planning, which adapted to the growing importance of car traffic. The building block known as Kv. Bocken, constructed in 1962 and designed by Havstad, Hollström, and Lindell, clearly mirrors the ideas of the time by combining street-level commercial spaces with rooftop parking.



10. Tigern area – Magasinsgatan 4
In the 1930s, the Functionalist style had its breakthrough in Sweden. The aim was to improve living conditions by ensuring that buildings and objects had clear, practical purposes. In line with this thinking, façades no longer needed decorative elements, and the ornamentation that characterized earlier architectural styles was seen as unnecessary, false, and sentimental. Instead of looking to historical architecture for inspiration, machines and ships became role models—designed purely for function, without embellishment. This building, designed by Werner Gjermning, is a clear example of Functionalist architecture. It was constructed in two phases, in 1938 and 1941.

