

15 Disponentbostad/Östra Esplanaden 6. This residence was the home of the organ and piano manufacturer Anders Östlind, who began making organs in Arvika in 1888. A little later, Anton Almqvist became a partner in the company, which they named *Östlind och Almqvist*. From this sizeable dwelling, and in particular from the balcony, Anders could look out over his organ and piano factory, which was the largest in Scandinavia at the time. The Östlinds moved to Stockholm in 1912 after Anders resigned as M.D. of the company.

16 Orgelfabriken/The Organ Factory. The organ factory, along with the tobacco monopoly and the foundry and mechanical workshops of *Arvikaverken*, comprised the financial backbone around which the market town of Arvika flourished and grew. Almost all of the properties in this area, several of which are connected to each other, were built during the time of the organ factory, i.e. between the 1890s and 1970s. The façade facing south, towards the street *Östra Esplanaden*, is the oldest in this area.

17 Östra Esplanaden 13-15. There are three yellow, wooden houses on the street *Östra Esplanaden*. The first two (15 A & B) are from around 1900 and the third (13 B & C) from the early 1980s. Has the latter house been inspired by the first two, or is it just coincidence? What similarities can you see?

18 The Palladium Cinema, Hamngatan 1. Showing films to the general public was introduced in Sweden at the end of the 1800s. They were shown by companies that travelled between towns, but there were no specific buildings for the purpose. The first cinemas were built in the early 1900s and were modelled on theatres. The Palladium Cinema in Arvika was designed by the architect Wilhelm Eick in Neoclassic style and constructed in 1924-25. The Museum of Architecture in Stockholm has declared it to be unique in its genre in Sweden.

19 Folkets hus/The People's House, Hamngatan 10 & 12A. The "People's House" phenomenon originated from The Labour Movement's need of a meeting place after increasing interest in union and political issues at the end of the 1800s. In many places they had been refused access to suitable premises; some landowners even forbid them from holding meetings outdoors. The new People's Houses acted as ideological workshops: in order to finance them, they were also used for holding dances, showing films, theatre performances and evening study classes. Arvika's *Folkets hus* was designed by Werner Gjerming in 1967. The building departs from the Functional style that Gjerming used previously and is instead more Modernistic, which was typical for public buildings in the 1960s.

20 Stadsparken/The Town Park. Recreation and green areas became fashionable in Swedish towns during the second half of the 1800s. Parks made excellent environments in which wealthier people could walk around and show themselves off. The Town Park was laid out in the area that was created when the Arvika Expo was arranged in 1911. The aim of the expo was to celebrate Arvika's 100th anniversary as a market town by exhibiting local handicrafts, agriculture, art and industry. The area was later planted with trees, bushes and flower beds; a bird pond was made at the east end of the park. The bay *Tivoliviken*, with its fountain, was once a marina for small boats; it was a location that became protected by the railway embankment that was built at its southern end in the 1860s. The park has retained its main characteristics for over 100 years and can thereby still tell the story of its origin.

21 Stadshuset/The Town Hall, Östra Esplanaden 5. Arvika's old Town Hall stood complete in 1904 and housed not only the usual municipal functions but also the fire station and police station. Strategically located at the eastern entrance to the town, it was given an extravagant design that included large, pointed-arch windows on the ground floor, a clock and a tower. The new Town Hall was constructed in the early 1980s as an extension of the old. Note how the architects were inspired by the shapes and material of the old town hall when designing the new.

22 The Harbour Area. Arvika has Sweden's innermost harbour. The seven seas of the world can be reached from here by boat via the fjord *Glafsforden* and Lake Vänern. A number of warehouses that still stand today reveal the development of the harbour in chronological order. One warehouse, at the western end, is from the early 1800s (A) which makes it the oldest building in Arvika. Although it now stands a couple of hundred metres from the water, it was on the waterside when it was built, showing just how much the area has been extended. Four warehouses at the eastern end are from the 1850s: two are timbered and two are timber-clad. Close to those farthest east is the restaurant *Olssons Brygga*, designed by Cullberg Architects. Its style echoes the shapes of the neighbouring warehouses, thereby reinforcing the fact that the harbour was once a busy and lively place. Nearby there is a brick building, built in 1949 in the Functional style, which was a centre for handling goods.

Would you like to see more? Carry on walking eastwards and admire Arvika's court house and the houses around it, and *Sågudden*, the town's open air museum with its beautiful rural buildings that have been relocated here.

Answer: The building is the school's sports hall.

Further reading:
Arvika i gamla vykort - Leif Höök 1995, Förr i tiden förlag.
Arvikapärlor – Ylermi Mörnsten
Den moderna staden tar form. Arkitektur och debatt 1910-1935. Eva Eriksson, Ordfront förlag 2001.
Den moderna stadens födelse. Svensk arkitektur 1890-1920 - Eva Eriksson, Ordfront förlag 1990.
Hus i Arvika – Jessica Stuart-Beck & Jan Sandström
Om Arvika – Reidar Nordenberg, Arvika kommun

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1 Konsthallen/The Art Gallery, Storgatan 2. Built in 1903 as a bank, this property housed a café and beer house as early as in the 1930s. Run by the local council, the profits from the business went straight to the town's school and dental health service budgets (!). It has been the town's art gallery since the 1970s: the large windows allow natural light to stream in, making it very suitable for this purpose.

2 Läkaren area. Hantverksgatan 5. This palatial edifice is generally regarded as being the most beautiful building in Arvika. When it was constructed in the early 1900s its four floors and characteristic onion domes made it one of the town's most monumental buildings.

3 Torget/The Town Square. The location and size of the town square originates from the 1818 grid plan. Its original use as a place of trading lives on through the market days that are held throughout the year. The social function of the square should not be underestimated. It probably played an even more important role as a meeting place in the past, however, as today we tend to socialise in cafés or restaurants. Around the square are a number of buildings from the 1950s and onwards. These replaced many of the older, and lower, wooden buildings to better fulfil modern day needs of trade and commerce. The sculpture at the northern end of the square is "The Bird Man" by Liss Eriksson.

4 Järnvägsstationen/The Railway Station. A station was built in Arvika when the North Western Railway, connecting Stockholm with Kristiania (Oslo), was constructed in 1871. The station house was designed by Adolf Wilhelm Edelsvärd, the National Railway's principal architect, who placed the building outside of the grid plan, at the town's most important site. According to Edelsvärd's ideal town plan for a settlement with a railway, the church and the railway station should be situated opposite each other, since they are the two most important functions. However, there was no church in the town centre when the station was constructed. *Trefaldighetskyrkan* (The Trinity Church) was built later, in 1911, and thereby fulfilled Edelsvärd's ideal. Rumour has it that the plans for the station house in Karlstad were used by mistake, which is why the building in Arvika is much grander!

5 Wermlandsbanken/The Bank of Värmland, Torggatan 29. The golden era of building banks began in the 1890s; a total of 150 were built in Swedish towns during a period of 30 years. The banks chose the best locations and situated themselves on main streets and town squares. To manifest their status, banks were built with impressive façades in architectural styles that were popular at the time, e.g. National Romanticism, Baroque and Art Nouveau. The bank *Wermlandsbanken* was built in 1907 and follows the ideals of that time by being located on the corner of the street *Torggatan*. It is in the Art Nouveau style, which is expressed, for example, in the flowing lines of the building and the windows, which have central mullions and crossed bars in their upper sections.

6 EPA-huset/The EPA Dept. Store, Storgatan 32. In the 1960s and 70s there was a wave of demolition that swept across the whole country. It affected the centre of almost every Swedish town. The aim was to clear away old, outdated, stone and wooden buildings to make way for better homes as well as trade and business premises. The concept of the new department stores (such as EPA) was to offer customers everything in one and the same place, so that they did not have to visit other stores that were their competitors. The building had a car park, restaurant and bar, as well as food and clothes shops. The architectural style of these department stores was often Monumental; many, such as this one, were built in the Brutalist style. Although these buildings are only about 50 years old, they are often as despised as much as the older buildings they once replaced. Many have been given new façades, or even demolished and replaced by housing, when shops moved out of the town centre. Few regard these buildings as beautiful, or even worth preserving. We should, however, be careful and learn from past mistakes, when everything was demolished for the sake of it. You must agree that it does make a bold statement!

7 Furan area. Köpmansgatan 3. Arvika, which was founded in 1811, was called Oscarsstad, after King Karl XIV Johan's son, for the first ten years. The town had problems in increasing its population even though the Industrial Revolution in the mid-1800s meant that a number of people moved here. There was still a lot of land available in the 1860s so plots were offered, free of charge, to anyone who moved to the town. It was thanks to this measure that all of the sites in Arvika were developed by 1899. It was common for people who lived in the countryside to dismantle their timber houses and rebuild them in the town. Many of them were old, dating back to the 1700s; those that still remain are probably the oldest buildings in the town. The courtyard of each house has a row of outhouses, with outdoor toilets, stables and store-rooms. Feel free to go into the courtyard here, and get an idea of what it looked like.

8 Musikskolan/The Music School, Solbergs gränd 1.

Public baths were common in all Swedish towns before houses and flats were equipped with running water. Arvika's bath house was constructed in 1924 as a combined baths and library. This building was designed by K.J. A. Albiñ, who had specialised in just bath houses. It is in the Neoclassical style, expressed by the rendered façade in a colour that is characteristic of the period, the plaster decorations and the decorative windows. It has been the home of the municipal music school since the 1980s.

9 Bocken area. Kyrkogatan 38/Magasinsgatan 9. In the 1960s-talet cars were regarded as the means of transport of the future. This was reflected in town planning and resulted in all towns being adapted to motor traffic. The Bocken area is from 1962 and was designed by Havstad, Hollström & Lindell. It clearly demonstrates the ideas prevalent at that time, by combining trade and commercial premises at street level with rooftop parking.

10 Tigern area. Magasinsgatan 4. Functional style had its breakthrough in Sweden during the 1930s. The idea was to create better living conditions for people by making sure that buildings and objects had clear functions. It meant that façades did not need to be ornate: the decorative nature that was characteristic of earlier architectural styles was seen as being unnecessary, false and sentimental. Instead of looking back towards historical architecture, machines and boats could be used as models for buildings, because they were designed according to function and without decoration. This particular building is a good example of Functional style. Designed by Werner Gjermning, Arvika's town architect, it was constructed in two stages: the first in 1938 and the second in 1941.

11 Metodistkyrkan/The Methodist Church, Hultabacken 4.

The entry of the Free Church movement into Swedish society was an expression of democratic rights that was unequalled at the time. Arvika's Methodist community was established in 1906 and, two years later, their church was completed. It is built of wood and clad with bevelled wooden tiles that imitate stone, and the tower has four gable heads. The five spires resemble crossed-over dumbbells, which led to it being known locally as the "Athletes Church". The Methodist community no longer exists here and the church is now a dwelling.

12 Trefaldighetskyrkan/The Trinity Church.

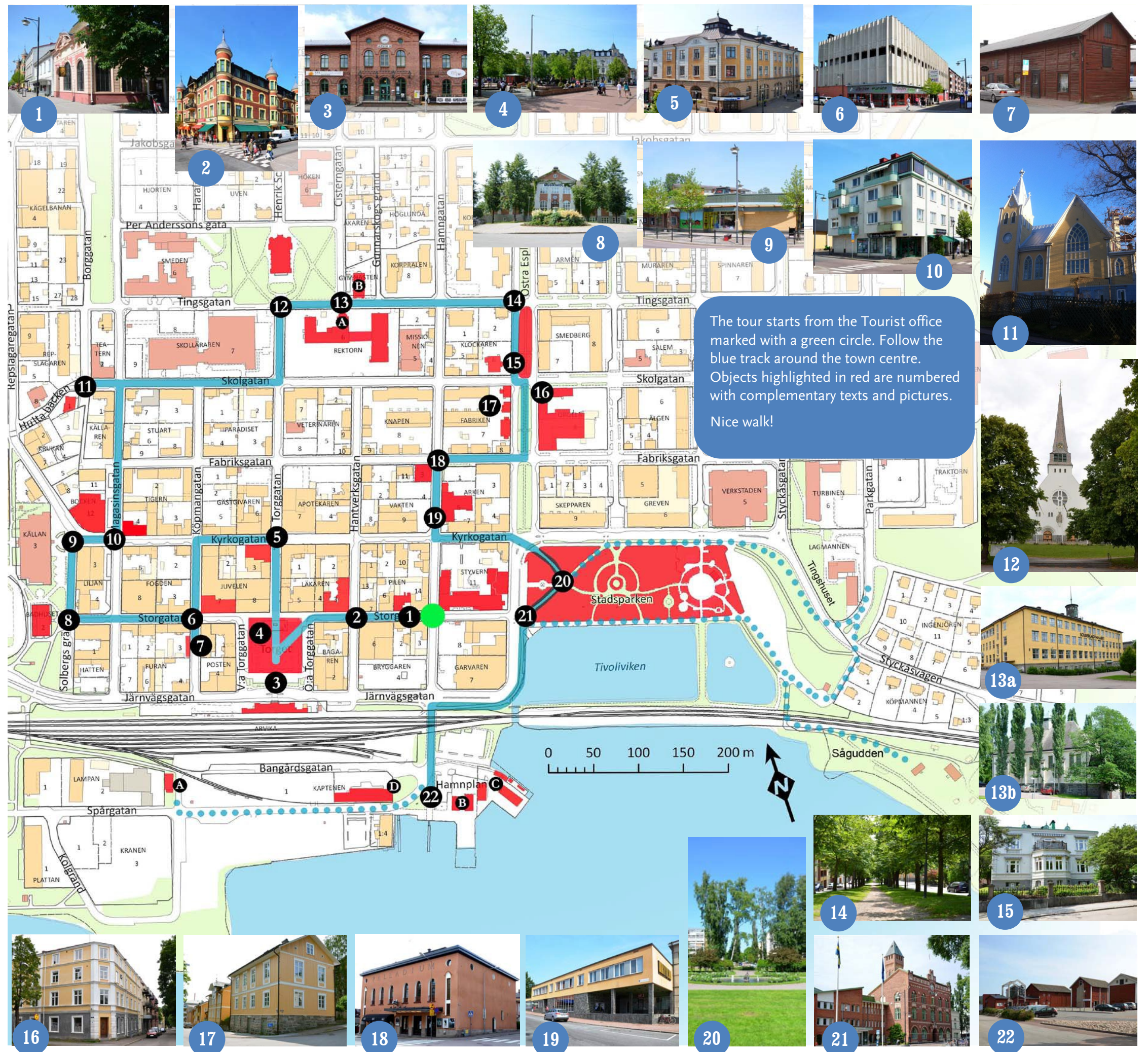
The population of the town grew rapidly up to the end of the 1800s. The Mikaeli Church, at the south west end of the town, could not meet the needs of the people. A new, more centrally-located church, was required and the architect Ivar Tengbom was engaged. He designed a church in the National Romantic style, which was modern at that time. This style developed during the early 1900s as a reaction to all the new styles that had found their way into Swedish architecture in the 1800s. It was time to promote and emphasise Swedish heritage in architecture; inspiration came from the castles of King Gustav Vasa's era in the 1500s and traditional rural buildings. Based on these ideals, Trinity Church was built from locally-sourced materials: glass and slate from Glava, granite for the foundations from Dottevik and timber from nearby forests. The church was inaugurated in 1911, the same year that the town celebrated its centenary as a market town.

13 Solbergagymnasiet/Solberga High School.

The town's educational system developed in tact with the increase in population. The high school *Solbergagymnasiet* (A) was inaugurated in 1936 and has been extended several times since: in the 1930s, 50s and 80s. The beautiful copper-clad tower used to house a telescope so that you could look up at the stars. The building (B) with two entrances on the southern gable end is very special and is known locally as "The Cathedral". It's not a cathedral, of course, but can you guess what it is? (See below for the answer.)

14 Östra Esplanaden/The Eastern Esplanade.

The town plan was extended at the end of the 1800s and included the addition of the street *Östra Esplanaden*. Fires were very common in Swedish towns at this time, and especially in those where there were many wooden buildings close together. This problem was addressed by establishing the 1874 building regulations, which recommended broad esplanades, with plantations between them, to prevent fires from spreading. *Östra Esplanaden* is not only a concrete example of the application of the regulations but also a beautiful stretch of greenery.



The tour starts from the Tourist office marked with a green circle. Follow the blue track around the town centre. Objects highlighted in red are numbered with complementary texts and pictures. Nice walk!