



EKOMUSEUM BERGSLAGEN

Site:	Surahammars bruk Surahammar Ironworks, old area already producing bar iron in 16th century.
Opening times:	Self-guided tour. Well signposted. Rapids and canal, manors and storehouses. The "Sura Days-market" in end of June. The Motorbike museum "The Golden Wheel" open weekends, +46 (0)220-337 42. The Stone House "Stenhuset" open daily during summer, with café and shop, Theme park for children, Homestead museum and tourist office Surahammar +46(0)220-390 83. The "Stonehouse", Blacksmith's dwellings, Summer café, Motorbikes, First Swedish car, Manors, Rapids, The Sura Days market



As long ago as the 16th century there has been a bar-iron works at the Strömfallet waterfall on the river Kolbäck. In 1637, the lord high chancellor, Axel Oxenstierna, had a new bar-iron forge built.

But the heyday of the works came much later, in 1845, when the eminent Stockholm goldsmith, Eric Adolf Zethelius, purchased the works. He modernized the factory and introduced the Lancashire method for refining the pig iron, which involved the use of puddling furnaces. In the English model, the furnace was coal-

fired, whereas fuelwood was used in Sweden. The Swedish method is unique to the Zethelius ironworks.

Production of wheels and axles for railway rolling stock started in 1865, and became Surahammar's best-known product. Tram wheels and wheels for tube trains were also manufactured here in the 20th century. The Surahammar works museum, which was established in the 1950s, is housed in the old 1840s' factory. Some of the factory machinery still stands where it always stood. The museum offers an excellent opportunity to see the entire production chain, from the making of pig iron through to the finished wheels.

In 1897, an engineer by the name of Gustav Eriksson designed the first Swedish car at these works. He believed that mass production would be possible at Surahammar, but the management thought otherwise. Instead, production of the car was started at what was then a subsidiary of the works: Vagnfabriks-aktiebolaget i Södertälje (VABIS). Today, the Vabis car of 1903, one of the first to go into mass production, is the centrepiece of the museum.

Opposite the museum, on an island in the river, is the old mansion house that dates back to the 19th century. It was moved there when a new mansion house, which looks more like a castle, was built in 1858. The building, known today as the Stenhuset (stone house), was built as a home for the families of six forge workers in 1847. Each flat consisted of a large kitchen and a smaller bedroom—considered to be spacious accommodation in those days. The house was lived in until 1962. One of the flats has been preserved and is furnished in the style of a home at the beginning of the 20th century.



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In the past, large two-storey, timber-built blocks of flats, erected in 1870 and painted in the traditional Falu-red wash, lined the straight works road. Living conditions were cramped inside these homes, but they also stood for conviviality and strong social communion. All these blocks of flats were subsequently demolished. The former Gyllene Hjulet (Golden Wheel) inn has been preserved and inside can be seen paintings by Jerk Werkmäster.

There is also a sizeable motorcycle museum here. On the far side of Bruksgatan (the old works road) is a park, and the old octagonal music pavilion stands as a reminder of the brass-band concerts and the midsummer celebrations that used to take place there.

Inside the Stenhuset is a café that is open throughout the summer, together with a Tourist Information Office. Outside is a children's theme park that looks at the many ways that industrial products and techniques have also spilled over into everyday life—egg whisks and rolling pins being just two simple examples.

