The UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

The High Coast/ Kraken Archipelago, Ångermanland

The High Coast is the only fully stretch of coast along the Baltic. The area provides a clear, concentrated picture of the geological forms and the development of vegetation conditions and the cultural history characterizing the area, which moved out of the sea after the last Ice Age. The High Coast was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000. In 2006, the area was expanded to include the Kraken Archipelago in Finland—a flat, rocky landscape with traces from the Ice Age and continued land uplift. Both areas together form a geologic whole where high meets low.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

The Laponian Area, Lappland

The Laponian Area is one of Western Europe’s few remaining areas of wilderness. Four national parks and two nature reserves are combined in this large area of 5,400 km². Laponia is situated in the municipalities of Guillelxe and Jokkmokk. This area of high mountains and open mountain plateaus, endless forests and wide-stretched swampy land is both untamed and without roads. This is also the cultural landscape of Sweden’s indigenous Sami people. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1996.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

The Nordic World Heritage Foundation: www.nwhf.no

The Nordic National Commission for UNESCO: www.unesco.no

Swedish National Heritage Board

The Decorated Farmhouses of Hälsingland

The Decorated Farmhouses of Hälsingland consist of seven timber houses from the 13th century. They show how independent farmers who had accumulated wealth through forestry and flax production built new homes with special rooms and separate buildings designed for festivities. The timber houses with adjacent farm buildings represent the zenith of timber building and folk art traditions, the wealth and social status of the independent farmers who built them, and the final flowering of a long cultural tradition in Hälsingland.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

The Nordic World Heritage Foundation: www.nwhf.no

The Church Village of Gammelstad, Luleå

A church village is a collection of small houses and stalls at a parish church in northern Sweden, where churchgoers from distant areas could stay when attending church. The village at Gammelstad dates to the early 13th century. It is unique in combining the Nordic wooden architecture of church village and the commercial town. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1996.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

The Church Village of Gammelstad is a unique example of the traditional church town found in northern Scandinavia. It illustrates in an outstanding way the adaptation of traditional towns planning to the distinctive geographical and climatological conditions prevailing in a difficult natural environment.

Engelsberg Ironworks, Fagersta

Engelsberg is a well preserved ironworks with its eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings and industrial structures still intact. This type of ironworks was the foundation for Sweden’s international position as a producer of high-quality iron. Today the property is part of the museum complex Ekomuseum Bergslagen. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1995.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

Engelsberg is an outstanding example of an important European industry from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries, with important technical remains and with both offices and homes preserved.

Birka and Hovgården, Ekerö

Birka and Hovgården are the sites of a Viking age town and royal estate situated on the islands of Birka and Addo in Lake Mälaren. Its cultural landscape, ancient monuments and museum, with models and finds, give a good picture of the towns former appearance and lifestyle. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1993.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:

The Church Village of Gammelstad is a well preserved example of the Vikings’ trading networks during the two centuries when they expanded economically and politically in Europe. Birka is one of the most complete and untouched Viking Age trading sites from the years 790–950 AD.

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The Hanseatic Town of Visby

Visby is the characteristic image of a Hanseatic town, complete with a defensive wall, church ruins, well-preserved early street plan and small-scale buildings from the Medieval period and later. Because of its particular character, the central part of Visby has an extraordinary atmosphere. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1995.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was:
Visby is an outstanding example of a Northern European walled Hanseatic town which has in a unique way preserved its town-cape and its extremely valuable buildings, which in form and function clearly reflect this significant human settlement.

The Royal Domain of Drottningholm, Ekerö

The Royal Domain of Drottningholm is an exceptionally well-preserved example of seventeenth and eighteenth century architecture, building on French prototypes. The Chinese pavilion and the royal theatre are particularly outstanding and unique. The theatre’s auditorium has remained unchanged since the time of its construction in 1766. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1991.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was: The Royal Domain of Drottningholm – the castle, the theatre, the Chinese Pavilion, and the park – is the best example in Sweden of a royal eighteenth-century residence, representative of all European architecture from this period. Drottningholm Castle was influenced by the French king’s Versailles, as were many other castles in Europe at this time.

The Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland

The medieval land divisions and land use of the agricultural landscape of southern Öland is unique. Its important values lie in the early historical landscape with linear villages, fields and pastures. The limestone bedrock and grazing animals have created the conditions for the important biological values of the Great Alov and the island’s wetlands. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2010.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was: The landscape of Southern Öland takes its contemporary form from its long cultural history, adapting to the physical constraints of the geology and topography. Southern Öland is an outstanding example of human settlement, making the optimum use of diverse landscape types on a single island.

The Rock Carvings in Tanum

Tanum is part of an area with rock carvings from the Scandinavian Bronze Age, currently with 1,500 known carvings. These rich and extraordinary pictorial treasures from prehistory were carved into the exposed and smooth bedrock surfaces of the landscape. This property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994.

The justification of the World Heritage Committee was: The rock carvings in the Tanum area are unique examples of Bronze Age art of the highest quality. The range of motifs provides rare evidence of many aspects of life in the European Bronze Age. The interaction between continuous settlement and land use as reflected in the rock carvings, the cemeteries and the landscape make Tanum into a unique example of continuous human settlement during eight thousand years.

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