



www.umeaelvdal.se

The Umeå River Valley is an area that stretches along of the banks of the Ume River, from Vännäs down to the river mouth, encompassing much of its beautiful natural and cultural landscape.

There are a number of great spots to visit, each with a variety of attractions. Experience the many cultural attractions and nature sites, fishing spots, bathing places, art installations, scenic views, cafes and much more. At many sites it is also possible to cook your own food over an open fire, with fire pits and firewood provided.

The River Valley can be visited by car, bicycle or on foot, via roads, cycling routes and footpaths. Accessibility has been improved in several locations, with further improvements planned for the future.



EXPERIENCE THE UMEÅ RIVER VALLEY

Backen, Baggböle, Brattby, Brännland,
Grubbe/Västerhiske, Grisbacka, Gubböle,
Klabböle, Käddis, Norrfors, Sörfors, Umedalen

Contact the Umeå Tourist Centre
for more information
about visitor destinations on
090-16 16 16



BACKEN - The Cradle of Umeå

The Backen area (the Church table or Priest table), located at the old harbor, is the cradle of Umeå, the birthplace for what would become Norrland's largest city. Already in the early 1300s there was a wooden church on the site where Backen's current church stands.

Backen Church, the local church for the Umeå congregation, was opened 1508 and is today the second-largest medieval church in Upper Norrland. The churches that were built in this period were all of the same kind: single-naved, gable-roofed and with walls 1.5 metres thick. Of the church's possessions, three are considered to be from the 14th century church.

The church has burned down and been restored several times, most recently in 1986. On that occasion, the church was so badly damaged that only the outer walls and vaults remained. In 1990 the church was reopened. Around the church there used to be a *church village*, with several hundred church cabins, which saw use as a field hospital in the 1808-1809 war against Russia. A *war cemetery* can also be found in the area.



At *Kyrkholmen* there is a pleasant resting spot where you can grill food.

Read more at umealvdal.se or contact the Umeå Tourist Centre

BAGGBÖLE - the whole world in plantlife

The Baggböle visitor area comprises the two parts of the medieval village of Baggböle, the eastern part closest to the Umeå valley, and the western part adjacent to Baggböle Manor and its surroundings.

Arboretum Norr is a forest garden where trees and shrubs from around the world have been planted and tended to since 1981. The arboretum covers about 15 hectares and contains more than 1,400 exotic plants representing about 250 different species or varieties.

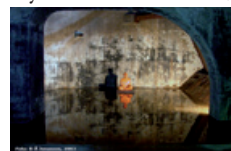
Baggböle Manor was completed in 1847. The manor functioned as a residence for the management of Baggböle sawmills. By the river below the manor house, by the ford, lay the big saw. Today the manor house is a restaurant and location for conferences.



The Baggböle power plant was built in 1916 by Holmsunds AB and provided electricity to the Obbola Factory. The power plant was demolished when Stornorrforss power plant was put into operation in 1958.

In an abandoned turbine sump there is a work of art by Fredrik Wretman, representing the artist seated in the lotus position. The installation is commonly known by the name Buddha, while the correct name of the art-work is 811.

Read more at umealvdal.se or contact the Umeå Tourist Centre



SÖRFORS - formed by the water power

In 1543 Sörfors had seven homesteads and was one of the larger villages in the Umeå parish. Sörfors was the largest of the upper river valley villages, and after 1882-83 there were 43 homes and three small residences for soldiers.

The village of Sörfors is located south of Umeälven. The oldest part lay just south of Norrforsen on the northern part of Sörforssidan.

The area stands 50-100 meters above sea level and is characterized by hilly terrain. The *dam building* to Stornorrforss power plant characterizes the adjacent area, which is a popular excursion destination for locals and tourists alike. There is a newly built fish ladder and a view platform, *Laxhoppet*, from where you can see the salmon jump. Visit our website, umealvdal.se, to see what is possible to visit at different times of the year.

In an area by the old bridge pier, upstream of the bridge at Sörfors, are a number of giant's kettles. *Giant's kettles* are formed by the grinding action of sand, gravel and stones in strong swirling waters. The spherical stones and blocks that remain in the bottom of the giant's kettles are called runners.

In Sörfors there have been three different bridges throughout the ages. The first of these, made of wood, was built 1800-1802 and was the first bridge over the Umeälven. The current bridge made of iron was built 1910-1912.

Read more at umealvdal.se or contact the Umeå Tourist Centre

UMEDALEN - sculpture park and business park

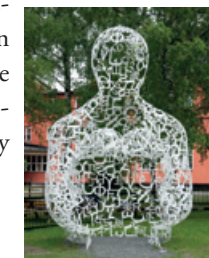
Umedalens Sjukhus, later Umedalens Hospital, was closed in 1986 and has since then been reborn as a lively business park.

The area also houses the *Umedalen sculpture park*, which has one of Northern Europe's leading sculpture collections. The park is open all year round and entrance is free.

Also in the area is the *IKSU Spa*, with a unique garden designed by the well-known landscape architect Ulf Nordfjell, as well as the Andersson / Sandström Gallery and the Umeå MC Museum. At most, there were approximately 1,000 patients, of which around 800 were from other hospitals in Norrland. The hospital was largely self-sufficient, with its own gardeners, shoemakers and basket makers. During the 1980s, debate broke out about the methods of psychiatric care employed and the hospital was subsequently shut down in 1986.

Balticgruppen bought the entire hospital area, which today is the location of a business park. Parts of the locale are also used as care centers, preschools, primary schools, community facilities and galleries.

Read more at umealvdal.se or contact the Umeå Tourist Centre





Kåddis - dating from the Middle Ages

Kåddis village was mentioned in historical sources already in 1324, when a certain Johannes and his wife Cecilia donated a homestead in Kåddis to Uppsala Cathedral, with conditions for the archbishop to compensate Cecilia's brother Jerud in Hiske for his claim for inheritance.

In 1346, Könik Skarlakan replaced the property against land he inherited in Uppland. The medieval settlement was located south of the present village. In 1543 there were five farmers in the village and 1750 it was the same number. 1846-47 there were seven farms.

Adjacent to the village were three permanent fishing huts. In the latter part of the 19th century, the village expanded and in the 20th century there are more residential buildings, such as homes and villas.

The County Administrative Board has rated Kåddis village as a national interest for cultural environment.

Read more at umealvdal.se or contact the Umeå Tourist Centre

NORRFORS - rock carvings at the river shore

Norrfors village is located 50-100 meters above sea level and the area characterized by a hilly terrain. The name refers to the great rapids in Umeälven and the settlement on the northern river side became Norrfors and the village on the south side was called Sörfors.

At Umeälven and Truthällorna, southeast of Norrfors fish farm, is Sweden's northernmost place with *rock carvings*. In total, there are 54 rockdrawings, representing boats, moose (27 pieces), human figures and bowl pits. The elk is depicted in profile with something similar to skeleton and organs.

Although there were plenty of salmon in the river there are no salmon depicted. The rocks were discovered in 1984 by a group of archeology students.

Norrfors Power Station at Brännland was built 1924-1926 by Vattenfall. The operation ended in 1958 when Stornorrfors power station was finished.

In Norrfors there is also Stornorrfors fish farm. This can, however, not be visited because of the risk of infection. Activities at Stornorrfors power plant are announced in the local press.

Read more at umealvdal.se or contact the Umeå Tourist Centre



BRATTBY - the village at the end of the road

Brattby is located in a wavy mountain range, more than 100 meters above sea level. Close mountains and hills are varied with sinks and plains of varying height. The village is situated on one south slope of Brännberget, approximately 200 meters above sea level.

The oldest village center is located in the area called Sommarbacken and was the end of the road several hundred years ago. Here the road to the inland ended. If you have carts, they needed to be left and kept on the Sommarbacken and you had to continue by boat, walk or ride.

A trail, Vännfors church road, was used by the inhabitants of Vännfors for church visits in Umeå until 1834 when Vännfors was incorporated in Vännäs pastorate.

Read more at umealvdal.se or contact the Umeå Tourist Centre

BRÄNNLAND - Soldiers cottages

Brännland consists of two main village groups that are adjacent to the old country road. The small streams with surrounding meadows have affected the village's location and thus the village's division into an eastern and western part. The eastern part can be considered a village center.

Originally, there were four soldier cottages four soldier cottages at Brännlandshällan. By them 63 Brannberg and 64 Allard still remain. The houses with associated land areas were purchased during the 1950s by the Umbygda hometown association.

The *soldier cottages* in Brännland is a popular excursion destination. An old manor house from Norrfors has been moved to the Brännland homesteads and is now called Rotebondegården, a typical Vasterbotten homestead, which has been internally adapted to its own new purposes. Today, you can order coffee and waffles or a gourmet meal in the cafe *Brännland Wärdshus*.

The ladder and the stairs, down from the soldier cottages down towards the river, leads to *giant's kettles*.

Read more at umealvdal.se or contact the Umeå Tourist Centre



GRUBBE/VÄSTERHISKE - the rescue from the Russians

Located close to the city, this area is an old agricultural community bordering the residential areas of Backen, Grubbe and Västerhiske. The area west of Tvärån is called Kungs-ängen (king's field) and originated from the Kungsgård (royal estate) founded by King Gustav Vasa in 1556 in order to "provide better insight into agriculture". Moreover, Kungsgården was envisioned to be a military supply base to meet the demand for grain.

Located south of Häradsvägen, between Backen Cemetery and Gran, down by the river, was the *Governor's Residence Gran* from the early 1720s and until the mid-1830s.

During the Russian attack of 1720 the city was torched, and the residence with it. The governor and his officials were forced to relocate to Grans Ladugård in Grubbe.

The *bird platform "Gran"* is reached from Häradsvägen between Lundåkern, and the Backen church is reached by following Älvtået down towards the river or by taking the Cammererarens footpath. The platform itself is accessible to those with reduced mobility, and provides a fine view for bird watching and for enjoying the landscape of the Umeå River Valley, complete with singing birds, water and greenery.

Read more at umealvdal.se or contact the Umeå Tourist Centre



GRISBACKA - a prosperous settlement

The 1543 land registry for Grisbacka mentions six homesteads: Olaff Jonsson, Ion Ollson, Iöns Griis, Ioon Griis, Nills Griis and Per Swenske. The village name at the time was Backe.

The Griis farmers may well have been brothers or cousins. They were well-off and put their mark on the village of Backe. The name Griis was commonly tied to Backe, which led to the village being called Griisebacke. In the mid-18th century, the name was changed to Grisbacka, and the village has kept the name since then.

A 1693 map of Grisbacka identify three mills. A wheel mill was built in 1795 at Tvärån and became the parish's first taxable flour mill. A new mill was built in 1833. In 1962, the mill was sold to the municipality of Umeå, who had it torn down the same year.

Grisbacka church is a cooperative church between the EFS (the Swedish Evangelical Mission) and the Swedish Church. Grisbacka EFS is responsible for the running of the church.

Umeå became home to a *Kungsgård (royal estate)* in 1556 when King Gustaf Vasa commissioned the building of "avelsgårdar", a kind of large farm, which would supply resources to the Crown and at the same time act as the center of local administration.

Read more at umealvdal.se or contact the Umeå Tourist Centre

GUBBÖLE - mill by mill, by mill

The word "böle" in Gubböle means place of residence. "Gubb" likely comes from a surname, Gudbjörn. Gubböle is characterized by its rocky, hilly terrain, at an altitude of 100-120 meters above sea level. The varied landscape consists of mountains, hills, hollows and plains.

The oldest inhabited area, between Ilbäcken and Gubbölebäcken/Kvarnbäcken, has a preserved agricultural character, while infill occurred during the 1900s in the newer area.

In the 19th century there were as many as 13 water mills in Kvarnbäcken /Gubbölebäcken. In Pehr Stenberg's book *Umebeskrivning* (description of Umeå) you can read about Gubbölebäcken and the mills. During the 19th century, Dickson & Co had a sawmill at the bottom of the stream by the river. Today there is a walking trail, *Kvarnbäcksleden*, where you can explore Kvarnbäcken and its surroundings.

In October 1935 a Junker F13 aircraft crashed on Håkersberget. The pilot, Widell, lost his way in the fog and rain, flying the plane too low and consequently hitting the treetops. The plane ended up hanging in a tree. You can still see the broken trees on the spot today. The crew survived the accident uninjured.

Read more at umealvdal.se or contact the Umeå Tourist Centre



KLABBÖLE - an early power station

The village of Klabböle lies a few kilometers west of Umeå on the southern shore of Umeälven. In prehistoric times the sea reached all the way up to the surrounding mountains to the south and penetrated the coves in the valley. The name of the village dates from the 16th century and is believed to mean "new building" or "new cultivation". The village may have emerged in the 1200s and 1300s.

Umeå Energy Center is a popular visitor destination. The plant is owned and operated by Umeå Energi. In the summer, Umeå Energy Center offers guided tours of the old power plant museum. Klabböle power plant was built by the Umeå city administration and was the first power plant on Umeälven when it was first put into operation in 1899. There are also an adventure park, café, experimental workshop and a creative recycling workshop for children of all ages.

Log flumes were built at the dams. The 6-km log flume was built in connection with the power plant building at Stornorfors in 1959. The flume went from the Stornorfors intake duct to the outlet in Klabböle. The flume has since been torn down, but a short section remains at the runoff by Klabböle.

In Klabböle there are also well-kept log houses and barns.

Read more at umealvdal.se or contact the Umeå Tourist Centre

