



**A walking tour on  
your own**



## A WALKING-TOUR IN TOWN ON YOUR OWN

Starts and ends at Alingsås museum, Alströmerska magasinet at Lilla torget

**1** Alströmerska magasinet is the oldest of the secular buildings in the town, built by Jonas Alströmer about 1730. The storehouse, belonging to the Alingsås textile mill, kept various raw material, e.g. wool, flax, cotton, silk, dyer's weed and dye-stuff. Products ready to use were also stored here; above all fabrics and ribbons in different material as well as hosiery and caps.

The Alingsås textile mill was founded in 1724 by Jonas Alströmer (in connection with Adolf Fredrik's coronation in 1751 he was raised to the nobility and took the name Alströmer).

After the winding up of the textile mill in 1767, the building has served various functions, among others there was a dairy here between 1871–1918. In 1918 the Alingsås council bought the building and established a library and a museum (founded in 1928).

Since 1939 Alingsås museum has had entire disposal of the property. In 2010 the exhibition was closed down.

Alströmerska magasinet was designated a cultural heritage building in 1983.

**2** On a granite column in Stora torget there is a head and shoulders statue of Jonas Alströmer (1685–1761). It is designed by the sculptor Aron Sandberg and made by Otto Meyer's foundry for art works. A subscription among the inhabitants made it possible to obtain the statue, which was erected on 2 June 1905.

**3** From the end of the 1880's up to 1974 (when Alingsås town council bought the properties) a merchant, Alfred Hedén and his family owned the properties along the east side of Stora torget. The buildings are called Hedéns långa. The buildings in the south and the north parts of the square are from the 19th century, whereas the small building between them (despite its exterior) is from 1932. In the courtyard there are rustic back buildings, earlier used as storehouse, outhouse and stable.

After a town fire in 1749 the northern site was destroyed, but was built upon again. The present house was built in the beginning of the 19th century. However, parts may be from the 1750's. Four painted sections of drapery were discovered during repairs in 1996. They were probably from the 1850/60's and hidden behind two blind windows in the gable facing Kungsgatan. Reconstructions of the draperies can be seen in the first floor windows in the gable.

The southern part of the block, partly built upon, partly used for growing root vegetables, escaped the fire in 1749. The property was erected in the beginning of the 19th century and did duty as a trading house up to the beginning of the 20th century.

The building is an example of contemporary affluent town houses and was designated a cultural heritage building in 1983.

**4** This pink building, Storegården, was built in 1769 by Patrik Alströmer, Jonas Alströmer's son. At that time it was a residential block. The site was previously used as a tobacco plantation. In 1831 the Alingsås council bought the house from Nils August Silfverschiöld. Thereafter the building was used as town hall and dwelling for the mayor, as a school and also served as a home for the headmaster. In 1901 the school activities were moved to the newly built grammar school (today Gustav Adolfsskolan) in the block Svanen.

In 1911 the interior of the Town Hall was reconstructed in order to accommodate additional local government administration and the remaining 18th century interior was then torn down.

The building is one of Sweden's oldest panelled wooden buildings and its exterior is well preserved. The Town Hall was designated a cultural heritage building in 1983.

**5** Christine kyrka, the town parish church, was erected during the years 1624–1651. During 1788–1791 it was renovated and rebuilt; the walls of the nave were made higher, a new roof was put on and the tower was built. In 1962 the old vestry was demolished and a new one was built in the northern part of the chancel.

The pulpit is from 1791, while the pews are from 1930 (given a new colour scheme in 1986). The altar-piece is made by artist Bo Beskow in 1945 and during a renovation he was commissioned to design new chancel windows. Among the movables is the first altar-piece from 1658.

**6** Since the 1980's the block Alströmer is built upon with houses trying to emulate the old ones. The block has got its name from Jonas Alströmer, who owned property in the southwest corner in the 18th century. That house burnt down in 1861. After the fire a new house was built on the site. Today it is the oldest preserved building in the block.

**7** During the 19th century Drottninggatan was the street of handicraft. In no. 24, in the block Korpen, August Bruno had his tannery. He lived with his family on the first floor of the house facing the street and had his shop on the ground floor. The house front wall was painted in oils and the wall facing the back yard was painted with the traditional red ochre paint (which was cheaper). This was customary in the 19th century. The house was designated a cultural heritage building in 1983.

**8** The estate is called Nygrens gård after the family Nygren who owned it and ran a grocer's shop there between 1922–1982. The shop occupied the ground floor facing Kungsgatan and the first floor accommodated the family.

The original building was demolished in the town fire in 1749 and a new one was built on the same site. The present house was rebuilt in the 19th and the 20th centuries.

Today the court is open to visitors from the entrance in Drottninggatan. Remains from outhouses and stables are still to be seen there.

The whole estate was designated a cultural heritage building in 1983.

**9** Up to the middle of the 18th century, Nygatan marked the eastern border of the town. It was then called Östra Ringgatan (the town's eastern toll was located where Kungsgatan opens up today). When the town expanded eastward after the fire in 1749, the street got its present name.

Originally Kungsgatan was the main road – dating back to the 18th century – between Göteborg and Skara. Up to the 1960's the extension of Kungsgatan connected with highway 6, today E20 towards Stockholm. When the farmers from Bälinge (just east of the town) headed for the Alingsås market, they gathered here and the junction Kungsgatan–Nygatan is therefore called Bälinge torg (square).

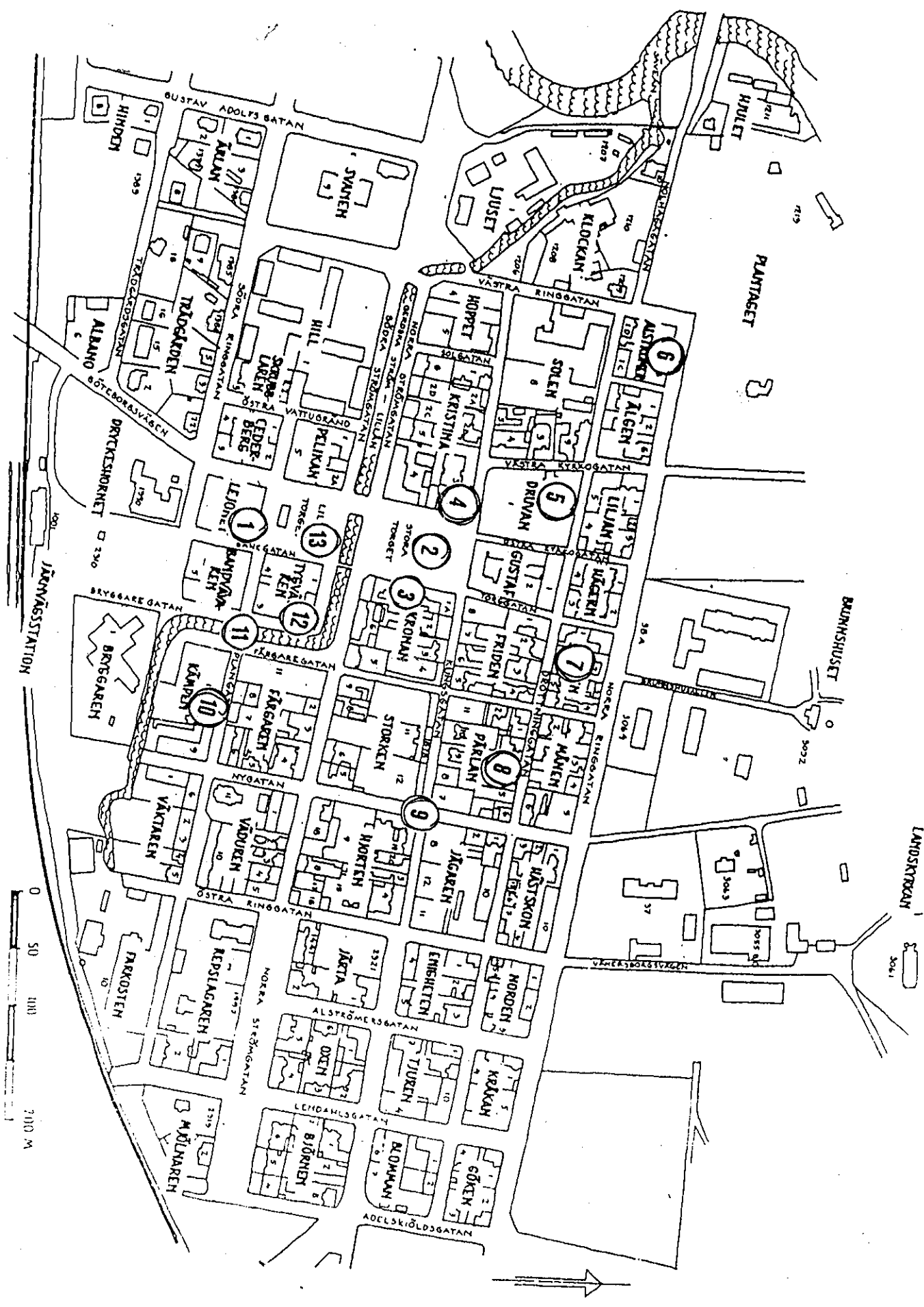
**10** Plangatan no 23 is a town estate with buildings facing the street, a minor back building, terraced outhouses and a garden.

**11** There are two arched stone bridges across Lillån (Gerdska ström). This one, built in 1825, is called Färgeribron or Fattighusbron. Before 1825 there was a wooden bridge. Its first name originated in one of the textile workshops, a wool dye-house (färgeri), situated in the block Färgaren. The second name comes from the poor-house (fattighus), which – at the turn of the century – was situated in the corner of Plan-gatan and Färgaregatan in the block Färgaren. The pursuit of the poor-house was moved in 1908. The building facing Färgaregatan today was built in the mid 1960's.

The other stone bridge is situated at Västra Ringgatan in the block Ljuset and is called Gasverksbron; up to the mid 1950's the town gas works was placed on the spot where the energy authority is placed today.

**12** In the block Tygvävaren is the Nattsén estate, originally a tannery from the 18th century but reconstructed and enlarged in the 19th century. In the south gable there is a so called blind window. At the time of construction, symmetry was essential and therefore a fake window with curtains (sometimes even a potted plant) was painted on it.

**13** The walking-tour ends at Lilla torget, which used to be a market place. Especially furniture and handicraft was sold here and sometime the square has been called Trätorget (trä; wood). During the latter part of the 18th century, the place was called Fredriksplan, named after king Fredrik I, who supported Jonas Alströmer in his enterprise to establish Alingsås textile mill.



LANDSKRYBBAN  
3061

BURNHUSSET

PLANTAGET  
3

0 50 100 200 M

ADELSKJÖLDSGATAN

LEIDANLUGGATAN

NORRA STROMMORGATAN

REDSLAGAREN

VÄKAREN

KÄRANT

BYGGARE GATAN

DRICKSHORNET

BÖTEBORASVAGEN

ALBANO

HINDEN

GUSTAV ADOLFS GATAN

SVANEN

LUSSET

BLUMMAN

GÖKEN

KOKKAN

NORDEN

EMISJETTEN

JAKTA

STORSTEN

FRIDEN

MAHLEN

PARLAN

DRIVAN

SÖLEN

KLOCKAN

VÄSTRA STROMMORGATAN

NORRA RINGGATAN

VÄSTRA SYKLAGATAN

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