



*World Heritage*  
**BORTOM ÅA**



HÄLSINGE  
GÅRDAR

**B**ORTOM ÅA is secluded in the forests of Fågelsjö on the border between Dalarna and Hälsingland. The area was colonised by the Finnish in the 17th century and the farm, which is one of the oldest in the village, dates from this period.

The stream that separates the farm from the village has inspired the name Bortom Åa (beyond the stream), although it is also called Fågelsjö Gammelgård (old farm). The entire house is preserved with a complete set of furniture and household utensils – including in the kitchen where there are shelves with plates and serving spoons in their original places. Rifles are also hung from the walls that were forged in the farm's own smithy.

The house's oldest room for festivities is situated on the ground floor. Here the walls have flower motifs, landscapes and figures that are not common in Dalarna or Hälsingland. The festivity room on the upper floor is characterised by painting from Dalarna with rose painting in bold colours. There are also chambers, decorated with printed wallpaper. The owning families were successful and wealthy for centuries, mainly through trading trips and selling rifles from their smithy among other things.

The farm's history is unusually well documented thanks to farmer Jonas Olsson who detailed everything in his diaries. Kristina Persson who was the daughter of Jonas Olsson and last owner, was known as an eccentric person who saved everything. In 1910, together with her husband she built a new, more modern residential building called the "American House". When the couple moved in they left the old farmhouse intact with all its contents.

The farm is today owned by Ljusdal municipality and is managed by Fågelsjö local history society as a display exhibit and for courses. There is a shop, cafe, baking cottage and a nearby opportunity for overnight stays all year round.

The Bortom Åa world heritage farmhouse can even be visited virtually. Read more: [fagelsjo.nu](http://fagelsjo.nu)





*Gästgivars*



*Kristofers*



*Pallars*



*Jon-Lars*



*Bommars*



*Erik-Anders*

## WORLD HERITAGE IN BRIEF

A world heritage site is considered to be unique in the world and therefore important to all of humanity. World heritage sites are designated globally by UNESCO following nomination from member states. When a site is added to the World Heritage List, the member state must maintain it for posterity.

The farmhouses of Hälsingland were inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List as "Decorated Farmhouses of Hälsingland" for the folk building and interior art; that ordinary farmers built such large houses with so many and large rooms solely for the purpose of festivities. In Hälsingland, more decorated interiors are preserved than elsewhere in the world.

### THE SEVEN WORLD HERITAGE DECORATED FARMHOUSES OF HÄLSINGLAND

**Erik-Anders** i Asta, Söderala | **Jon-Lars** i Långhed, Alfta | **Pallars** i Långhed, Alfta | **Gästgivars** i Vallsta, Arbrå | **Kristofers** i Stene, Järvsö | **Bommars** i Letsbo, Ljusdal | **Bortom Åa** i Fågelsjö, Los

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.varldsarvethalsingegardar.se](http://www.varldsarvethalsingegardar.se)

### The farmhouse website:

[www.fagelsjo.nu](http://www.fagelsjo.nu) (in Swedish):

### The farmhouse Visitor Center

[www.stenegard.com](http://www.stenegard.com)

[www.varldsarvetgastgivars.se](http://www.varldsarvetgastgivars.se)

[www.ol-anders.se](http://www.ol-anders.se)

[www.erik-anders.se](http://www.erik-anders.se)

**UNESCO World Heritage Centre - World Heritage List** [whc.unesco.org/en/list](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list)

**Facebook:** [varldsarvethalsingegardar](https://www.facebook.com/varldsarvethalsingegardar)

**Instagram:** [@varldsarvet\\_halsingegardar](https://www.instagram.com/varldsarvet_halsingegardar)

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### Photo

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