

Trångfors

part of Ekomuseum Bergslagen

Trångfors forge

In the early 1600's, when Sweden needed iron, Swedish business men invested money in the iron industry. In 1628 a Västerås business man named Adolph Willemsson installed a waterpowered forging hammer. He employed one mastersmith and two helpers.

The Strömsholm canal was completed and ready for barge transports by 1795. When the canal was being built, it's route was through the forge owners property and was so close to his home, that it was torn down and a new one was constructed at Åsby and completed in 1787. The forge, as it stands today, was built in 1799 and received the right to forever use water from the canal.

National regulations limited the production to 135 tons per year. When the Lancaster method was introduced in 1875, the iron production increased and molten pieces were made. They were further refined by Hallstahammar's factory and others. In 1900 Trångfors was producing 3.100 tons per year.

The introduction of the Bessemer and Martin processes in the late 1800's caused the forge to shutdown production in 1915.

The charcoal barn was built in the 1800's and is one of the few left in Sweden today. Horse drawn sledges were used in the winter months to bring charcoal to the forge. The barn has a ramp from the outside to a bridge system that goes around the inside of the barn just under the roof. The bridge system allowed the horses and sledges to enter the barn, go around on the bridge, dump their loads where needed and then exit the way they came in as the horses and sledges could only go forward.



Trångfors powerstation

In 1897 Trångfors power company was founded by ASEA, Nordiska Metallaktiebolaget in Västerås and Hallstahammars Bruk AB. The following year they started to build a dam for the power station. In 1900 the power station was producing electric power to ASEA and "Nordiska" via a 22 km long cable to Västerås. The power station was designed and built by engineers, Quist and Gjers from Arboga. ASEA designed and delivered the six generators. Prior to being installed at the powerplant, one of the generators and its turbine was taken to the Swedish exhibit at the Paris Worlds fair. The generator received a grand prize nomination and the turbine won a gold medal. Power production ceased in 1980s. A new modern power station has been built inside the rock to replace the old one. The Trångfors power station is now a museum where you can see how electricity was produced using water power.



Ekomuseum

Trångfors forge and Trångfors power station are two tourist attractions in Ekomuseum Bergslagen.

Guided tours are given Saturdays and Sundays in summer. Information:

www.svedviberg.se

Tours can be booked at tel 0220-174 09.

A group was founded in 1988 to restore, protect and give life back to the forge and charcoal barn at Trångfors. The members include representatives from the Hallstahammar community, trade and industry, unions and the local historical society.

In 1995 work was started to restore Trångfors with a reproduction of the big waterwheel that powered the hammer. It became operational in 2006. The restoration crew is made up of retired men who have many skills and a love of history. They usually meet and work on the project every Monday morning during the warmer months. Visitors are welcome.



1. Trångfors forge
 2. The dam
 3. Trångfors powerstation and museum
 4. Hallstahammar powerstation,entrée
 5. Hallstahammar powerstation service tunnel
 6. The factory dam
- Public footpaht