

City Tour – Script

Welcome to a tour with Ystad Volunteer Fire Brigade founded in 1839. This fire engine is a Volvo from 1939 (or 1933) with a six-cylinder petrol engine. The driver on my left side is ...



This is the Main Square with the Old Town Hall. About 500 years ago the town hall was located in the middle of the present square. At that time the province of Scania was Danish. The town was looted by the Swedish troops and the town hall was burnt to the ground together with the city archives in 1569.

The new town hall was completed three years later. The building was reconstructed in 1840 in the French style. The oldest part of the town hall is of course the cellar which was a beerhouse in the 15th century. Today it is also a beerhouse!



Ahead is the Latin school from the year 1500. Thus it was not destroyed by the Swedes as the old town hall was. The building was used as a school until 1841, i.e. about 350 years!

The famous Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe did probably go to school here.

Stora Västergatan

This is the old Trade street with numerous business houses.



The beautiful half-timbered house to the right is about as old as the Latin school.

The plate informs us that the Swedish king Charles XII has visited the house twice.

At this street of Kikaregränd once a watch tower used to look out for enemies at the sea.

The Guns



In the old times the sea reached this street.



The Swedish army commanded by the king Charles XII was defeated by the Russian army in Poltava, Ukraine, in 1709.

Of course the Swedish military power was severely weakened and the Danish Army almost immediately attacked to take the province of Scania back, but was later defeated in a big battle near the city of Helsingborg in 1710.

The King was also afraid of a Russian invasion from the sea and ordered all harbours in the province to be strengthen. A fortlet was constructed in 1712 with a large number of guns, some of them are still here. Thus the guns are more than 300 years old. Neither Denmark or Russia invaded Ystad.

On the left site you see fishermen's houses from the 18th and 19th centuries.



The Theater was inaugurated in 1894. The former theater by the Main Square was destroyed in a fire three years earlier. The Volunteer Fire Brigade was not able to save the theater but did save the adjacent buildings.



The street of **Lurendrejaregränd**. It means "alley of smugglers."

During the centuries many inhabitants have become rich thanks to smuggling. Today the customers still have a hard work when the ferries arrive from the other side of the Baltic Sea.



In front of this hotel and down the docks all of the export goods have been handled, e.g. oxen (living cattle) and barrels with herring. During the Middle Ages Ystad was the most important harbour in Scania, but was later surpassed by Malmö.

The railway was inaugurated in 1874.



Hôtel Continental du Sûd got its rights in 1829 and is Sweden's oldest hotel still in operation.

RIEGÅRDEN

The half-timbered house to the right is from the end of the 18th century. It once was a blacksmith's workshop and Sweden's first automobile – with a steam engine – was built here.

Fiskaretorget

The museum of **Charlotte Berlin**.



Charlotte Berlin was an industrious woman who made money on the stock market. She collected a lot of different items and she donated her home and personal properties. When she died in 1916 her home became a museum.



The half-timbered house to the right is from the 16th century.

Pilgränden



The oldest part of this half-timbered house is from 1480, i.e. more than 500 years old, and town's pharmacist did run his business here.



We do now cross the shopping street of today.

Aspelinska gården dated from 1780 has housed three generations of gold smiths named Aspelin. In the picturesque and charming yard there is today a Danish-Swedish restaurant with local dishes.

Blekegatan

We will now arrive to the street of Blekegatan. During the late Middle ages a moat (i.e. water filled deep trench) was dug here. We will later on this tour see remnants of this moat.



We do now approach the square of **Österportstorg**. Earlier the eastern gate of the town was situated here.

Österportstorg:



The large trees are planes, common in squares in southern Europe.

During the Middle Ages a nursing home for lepers was situated nearby.



This is the new Town Hall which originally was built by the wealthy businessman Mr. Lundgren. He made a lot of money on doing business with the English Navy during the Napoleon Wars.



The quarter to the right is the oldest quarter with half-timbered houses in Scandinavia. The oldest part is from the 17th century.



Gamla Brandstationen:



The old fire station with its tall tower used to dry hoses (tubes).

Per Helsa-kvarteret.



The foundations of this yellow building is the remnants of an old wind mill. Later the first Police Station was operating here.

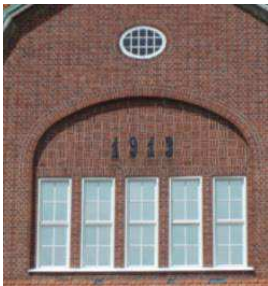
Besökaregränd.



A squadron of cavalry was stationed in the quarter to the left in 1773 and became the first permanent military force in the town.

The troops moved to the new Regimental area east of Ystad in 1897.

Blekegatan



On the right you will see the secondary grammar school from 1914. The numerals above indicate that the construction of the school was finished in 1913, but the construction was delayed and apparently it was too expensive to correct the mistake.



The driver will now turn the indicator to the left out.

The car is a Volvo from 1939 and it is a tough work for the driver to handle the steering wheel as well as the gear box.

The car was bought by us in 1985 and was in a rather poor condition. It was then renovated by our skilled mechanical team to this splendid condition.

Lite FBC-historik



The Ystad Volunteer Fire Brigade was founded in 1839 by a Mr. Fåhraeus from the island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea. The Fire Brigade of the Town was not very effective and a Volunteer Brigade became an important reinforcement.

The first Saturday in August every year Ystad Volunteer Fire Brigade muster for inspection on the Main Square. The inhabitants of the town gather at the square and all fire engines and fire pumps spray water over the children gathered in the center of the square.

This is a very old Ystad tradition!

Efter antikvariatet:

On the left side you'll see three half-timbered buildings which were a pharmacist building during the 17th and 18th centuries. The yard was a large garden with medicinal plants.

Bäckhästgränd

Previously a rivulet was streaming through Ystad, right here at the pedestrian crossing a small bridge was found.



To the right: In the half-timbered house from the 18th century our Museum is found. It is open two days a week during the summer.

The building is a former tannery.

Bilen börjar rulla:



The magnificent half-timbered house to left is dated to 17th century, or 1640 to be more precise.



This is a narrow passage. Please watch out and withdraw your feet.



We are now heading for the monastery and the adjacent abbey.

The Franciscans began to build the Monastery in 1267 and the construction was ready about 300 years later.

At that time town was of course Danish. In the year 1536 the Danish king Christian III decided that Protestantism should replace Catholicism.

The Mayor of Ystad visited the capital Copenhagen and received from the King a letter which permitted the Town Council to evict the monks. The monks were brutally thrown out and a couple of them later died from injuries due to ill-treatment.

The monastery was transformed to a hospital, as instructed by the King. Two hundred years later it was transformed again – to a distillery with a huge capacity to produce vodka – probably for medical use, I guess.



By the abbey you see the monastery garden.

Börja vid Församlingshemmet /Hospitalsgatan



Mr. Gustav Hagerman was one of the four millionaires in Ystad during the 19th century. He probably made much money on smuggling. According to rumors, there is a tunnel between the harbour and the cellar of this house.

To impress on other people this building was construction. Mr. Hagerman's brother was a banker in Paris and provided the construction plan in the modern French style.

The northern gate of the town was located to the right. When it was demolished in 1812 the bricks were used to build stables to the squadron

Norra Promenaden



In this park we can see the last remnants of the moat. The moat was in contact with the sea in the east and in the west. Originally it was constructed in order to protect the town from attacks from Sweden, but Ystad was never attacked. Scania became Swedish after the peace treaty in then Danish town Roskilde in 1658.

Later the moat probably was used to prevent farmers to illegally enter the town. To enter the town with their goods they had to pay duty at one of the three gates of the town.



This is where the western gate of the town was situated.

The street of **Västra Vallgatan** was the street of storehouses.



You'll see one of the huge storehouses to the right.

Further ahead a lot of different craftsmen were working in the workshops.



The street of **Lilla Västergatan** is a real gem with small houses from the 18th and 19th centuries and the church of S:t Mary in the rear. It is probably the most photographed street in Ystad.



To the right you will see the market hall from 1907. It was no longer allowed to sell i.e. fresh meat outdoors on the square.

Lilla Norregatan.



The famous Swedish author August Strindberg visited his friend Dr. Eliasson in the end of the 19th century. He lived in the house to the left.

At this time the author's life was almost in chaos, as described in the novel *Inferno*. However, Mr. Strindberg's sleep was probably disturbed by the printing press in the adjacent building and maybe it gave him nightmares. One night he jumped out of the window and wandered about on the streets – naked. Eventually a police stepped in to help the author.

Stora Norregatan



The street of **Stora Norregatan** was a trade street connecting the northern town gate with the Main Square.



The House of Brahe of our left side is from about 1500. The architecture is similar to the monastery. Brahe was a rich Danish noble family with estates on the countryside.



The House of Angels to the right is slightly newer than the House of Brahe and is one of Ystad's famous buildings. The house was carefully renovated about sixty years ago.



The church of S:t Mary in Roman style was constructed in the 13th century but has of course been partially reconstructed.

The Tower Watch Man has blown his horn since 1748. His mission is to scout from the tower and ring the bells in case of fire or other threats. Also a lantern was hanged outside the tower to indicate the point of compass of the threat.

If everything was calm and in order he blows the horn every fifteen minutes in four directions. You can still hear the watchman from 9 PM.



The name of the present watchman is Roland Borg and he is a member of the Ystad Volunteer Fire Brigade.



Me and the driver hope that you have enjoyed the trip! We hope you'll have a nice stay in Ystad. Thank you!