

1. Introduction

Welcome to Ystad Voluntary Rescue Corps and our veteran fire-engine from 1939.

The man behind the wheel is..... and I am

We are going to tour Ystad in the footsteps of detective chief inspector Kurt Wallander, as closely as we can in this car. Please excuse me for pronouncing the name in Swedish: Wallander with a V!

Kurt Wallander was born in 1991. He is at that point already 42 years old! He first appears in the crime-novel *Faceless Killers* by well-known Swedish author Henning Mankell. Thus it is 25 years since Wallander was born. Mr. Mankell made Wallander his hero in twelve books.

These books have been published in 43 different languages!

The Main Square in the middle of the town occurs of course in several books. Wallander frequently visits a café at the southern side of the square, as well as the Asian restaurant ahead. Many scenes in the movies have been shot here, often with explosives involved.

During our tour, the streets will determine which book (that) will pop up and it will be in a slightly haphazard way.

Hamngatan

Kurt Wallander starts his police-career in Malmö. He gets married to Mona and they have a daughter but his wife Mona leaves him and he has since had a difficult relationship with his rebellious only child, Linda.

He also has issues with his late father, an artist who painted the same landscape 7,000 times for a living; the elder Wallander strongly disapproved of his son's decision to join the police force, and frequently mocked him for it.

Skansgatan

2. The Pyramid (1999)

Wallander's first adventure as a policeman in Ystad is one of the short stories in *The Pyramid*. A Piper Cherokee airplane crashes on the beach west of Ystad. The plane catches fire and the pilot and a passenger are killed instantly.

When Wallander starts to look into the origin of the plane, he finds something very peculiar. There is no airplane missing! It is in fact impossible to identify the plane; it was an illegal flight!

Shortly after this, the fire-brigade is alerted to a fire. It is the house on the corner to the right (L. Strandgatan/Skansgatan) where the two old spinsters Eberhard have a knitting-shop. The shop is on fire, and when the fire is put out, the police find the little old ladies killed by a bullet each in the head. And there is money, lots of money...

Långgatan

3. The Fifth Woman (1996)

The story starts in Africa, where four nuns and a fifth visiting woman are murdered in a terror attack. Then it all moves to Ystad. A sadistic serial killer has been preying on wealthy widowers.

It starts with a retired car salesman whose interests appear to be limited to bird watching and poetry. His body is discovered partially eaten by crows. It appears that he has been out at night bird-watching and fallen from a bridge. Under the bridge someone has placed sharpened bamboo-poles, and the man has been impaled!

The second victim is a flower shop manager, found starved and garrotted in the woods.

Wallander soon realises that both their wives mysteriously vanished several years ago, and after another man is drowned in a lake, he goes on the hunt for an avenging angel...

(håll vid Sekelgården)

He calls in the son of the florist as a witness, and the witness is lodged at this hotel, where the cross-timbered building dates from the 18th century.

The third victim is a scientist at the Department of Allergy at Lund University, and the fourth victim is pushed in front of a train but is miraculously saved by Wallander and his colleague Hansson. Wallander leads a massive investigation to find a killer whose crimes are the product of new realities that make him despair.

This hotel is also used in the book *Dogs of Riga*, when a Foreign Office representative lives here, as well as in *Sidetracked*. Obviously Mr. Mankell liked this hotel!

Långgatan (Runnerströms torg) – Stanna!

4. Firewall (1998)

Stopping to get money from a cash machine one evening, a man, by name *Tynnes Falk*, inexplicably falls to the ground: dead.

His apartment is ransacked and Wallander finds out that Falk has another, unknown, apartment, here in Runnerströms square. Maybe up there.

Wallander finds a computer which seems to count down to an unknown event and Wallander and his colleagues have to get help from a hacker. Apparently a virus attack on the global financial system is approaching.

But they do not know that they are surveyed by a man from South Africa hiding in the shadows to the right. He eventually tries to hunt Wallander and the hacker down in order to kill them.

Mot Stora Västergatan – V Vallgatan

5. The White Lioness (1993)

This is the third Wallander book. The story takes place in 1992.

Henning Mankell said: “I was still not sure if I should write any more book about Wallander. But, the 9th of January 1993 I sat down in my small apartment in Maputo in order to write a third book. The title should be *The White Lioness* dealing with the situation in South Africa. The ANC leader Nelson Mandela had been released from the prison but the situation in the country was tense. The fear of a civil war was strong. The worst thing that could happen, was of course that Mandela would be assassinated.”

“I was sick in hepatitis and had to spend a long time at hospital. I made up the story in my head during the nights. When I was well again and returned to Maputo and wrote down the story. I actually began with the last page, and the subsequent writing aimed to the last page.”

“On the 10th of April the script was already sent to the publisher. I then got unpleasant confirmation that I was right: A fanatic apartheid supporter assassinated the ANC top Chris Hani. No civil war broke out thanks to Mandela’s politics. But I still wonder what would have happened if the victim would have been Mandela himself.”

In the book two professional killers are doing shooting practice and planning of the assassination near Ystad at a remote farm. Unfortunately, a female real-estate agent by accident arrives to the farm and is brutally killed. Her missing is investigated by Wallander.

One of the professional killers, Mabasha, is horrified by the unnecessary and cold-blooded murder, and takes flight. After a series of incidents, he eventually contacts Wallander and asks for protection.

In the film with Rolf Lassgård a police-car arrives with two policemen to pick Mabasha up, another car drives up, out jump two men, who shot the policemen and force Mabasha into the car.

This scene was shot here outside the cross timbered house, which in that scene is supposed to be Wallander’s lodgings. As we will later see, he lives in the opposite end of the town.

At the end of this story, Wallander chases and kills a Russian agent by the name of Rykoff on the misty shooting-range Kabusa, east of Ystad. His death will affect Wallander deeply.

L. Västergatan – L. Norregatan

6. One Step Behind (1997)

Two young girls and one young man, inexplicably dressed as the nobility of Sweden did during the end of the 18th century, are found dead, all slain with a single bullet, their bodies half consumed by animals in the wilderness.

Wallander is horrified when he makes a connection between the crime and his close friend Svedberg, and after the latter is found savagely murdered in his own apartment in this house, the tormented detective finds himself up against a deranged, merciless killer who remains just one step ahead of him and Wallander always one step behind!

Norreport – Kristianstadvägen – Blekegatan – Sankt Gertrudsgatan

7. Faceless Killers 1991

Inside an almost isolated Skåne farmhouse in Lunnarp, an old man, is tortured to death and his wife savagely beaten and left for dead with a noose around her neck.

During the investigation the police team concludes that foreigners probably are involved.

Mankell said: “It was in the spring of 1990 and I arrived to my house outside Ystad after a long visit in Africa. I realised that racism had become obvious in the Swedish society. I felt that I should write about that racism. Since I regard racist acts as criminal acts, it ought to be about a criminal investigation, thus a police novel. The police character was created in my head during a long walk in the fields around my house. I found the names Kurt and Wallander in the telephone catalogue.”

About nine months later after the creation in Mr. Mankell’s head, Kurt Wallander was born – i.e., when *Faceless Killers* was released!

“My intention was never to write more than one book about Wallander. But the book was very well received and it was also awarded a prize. I realised that I possibly had created an instrument to play. So, I wrote the second book, *The Dogs of Riga*, dealing with the situation in eastern Europe after the fall of the Berlin Wall. “

8. The Pyramid – The Death of the Photographer

The photographer Simon Lamberg had his studio ahead at the Square of Saint Gertrud. One morning his cleaner finds him killed. Wallander investigates the studio and realises that the photographer apparently had some strange interests.

The studio is put under surveillance and one night a suspicious man enters the studio. Wallander arrives to the square when the man leaves the studio and runs in that direction (Surbrunnsparken). Wallander immediately follows him in the dark. We will return to this story later during our tour.

Fridhemsgatan – Herrestadsgatan – Aulingatan

9. The Police Station and Wallander’s colleagues

To the left is the real police-house in Ystad. This is where Wallander and his colleagues work in the books. For dramatic reasons other buildings are used in the films, and we will see them later.

The characters in the first book are:

- **Björk**, head of police in Ystad. He is lazy, bragging and Wallander thinks he is highly incompetent. But Björk is later promoted to a high international post in Bruxelles and in comes
- **Lisa Holgersson**. Wallander feels uneasy about her, as he always does with strong women. But he soon realises her qualities, especially when dealing with the press, which Wallander loaths. She is also a good and caring chief.

- Soul and mother of everyone in the office is **The receptionist Ebba**, trying to keep track of all the staff and be an extra mother for everyone. She is a middle-aged, overweight lady.
- **Rydberg** is detective and an old hand. Wallander admires him and his analytic mind. Unfortunately, Rydberg suffers from rheumatism, which turns out to be cancer and he dies. Wallander misses him a lot, and when trying to solve a problem, he often says to himself “what would Rydberg do?” As replacement for Rydberg.
- **Ann-Britt Höglund** comes in. And for once, Wallander finds it easy to cooperate with a woman, and they become good friends.
- **Svedberg** was born in Ystad 40 odd years ago and has never left his native town unnecessarily. He is a bachelor and is cruelly murdered in the novel *One Step Behind*.
- **Nyberg** is a crime scene investigator. In the films with Krister Henriksson as Wallander, this peevish colleague of Wallander is played by Mats Bergman, a son of the late film director Ingmar Bergman and brother to Eva Bergman. Henning Mankell was married to her from 1998 until his death.

Herrestadgatan – Aulingatan

10. The Death of the Photographer, cont.

We left Wallander while he pursued a suspicious man in the dark at the Square of Saint Gertrud. Right here on Aulingatan he almost catches up with the man. The man, however, hides behind this hedge at Giöddesgränd and when Wallander arrives he is knocked to the ground. The man escapes in the dark while Wallander tries to recover. Later the man turns out to be the murderer – actually a priest with a mental disorder, as well as a jealous husband to an unfaithful wife.

Surbrunnsgatan - Oscarsgatan

11. Wallander himself

We are now heading for Wallander’s home at the street of Mariagatan.

Inspector Wallander has few close friends and is known for his less-than-desirable lifestyle; he consumes too much alcohol and junk food, exercises very little, and sometimes struggles with anger.

Mr. Mankell said (about Wallander): “I wanted to create a man much like myself and the unknown reader. After the third novel I asked Victoria, a friend and doctor, who had read the books:

– Which national disease would you attribute to this man?

She replied without hesitation:

– Diabetes.

Thus Wallander was diagnosed diabetes in the fourth novel *Sidetracked*. And it made him even more popular!

No one can imagine James Bond stop in the middle of the street, during a hunt for a villain, injecting insulin. But Wallander can do that, and is thus just like anybody else suffering from diabetes or any similar illness.”

In *The Troubled Man* Wallander is also diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease.

He lives here in Mariagatan. In the books he lives at No 10, on the right side of the street, but the film-director moved him to the other side, at No 11 C, second floor. You will often hear opera-music played from his open window.

His taste for music is conservative. He likes the big composers, Puccini, Verdi and so on.

Regementsgatan

12. The Wallander films

We are now heading for Ystad Studios.

Nine of the books have been filmed in Swedish with the Swedish actor Rolf Lassgård.

In the BBC productions Wallander has been played by the British actor sir Kenneth Branagh, 12 films in total. The last films were shot two years ago, 2014: *The White Lioness* and *The Troubled Man*. The latter was split into two: *A lesson in Love* and *The Troubled Man*. These films were first released in Germany December 2015.

Another 32 (!) films have been shot in Swedish with Swedish actor Krister Henriksson as Wallander. Two of those films are based on the novels *Before the Frost* and *The Troubled Man*, respectively, but the other 30 films are based on scripts by different authors. Those scripts were, however, approved by Henning Mankell.

The location for the books and films are mostly Ystad and its surroundings, but the TV series *Faceless Killers* and *Firewall* were shot elsewhere in Sweden.

Regementsgatan – Dragongatan - Nils Ahlins gata

13. The Cineteque and Ystad Studios

The regiment was closed down in 1997 after one hundred years of housing cavalry, infantry, armoured troops and eventually an anti-aircraft artillery regiment.

Right in front of us are the large workshop for tanks and cannons. It was transformed to film studios and that is where almost all the Swedish films and parts of the BBC-films have been made.

The indoor scenes in the Danish and Swedish TV series *The Bridge* were also shot in this building. It has been released worldwide in more than 60 countries!

On the left side as we drive is the Cineteque, where one can study how the films were made, how the stunts were made and different props. You can even make your own film there. It is open daily from 10 AM to 4 PM during the summer.

We will make a brief stop so you can take pictures of Wallander on the studio wall.

Regementet

The building to the right is the Military and Police Museum.

And every second year Ystad International Military Tattoo takes place here. A large arena is built up in the old Parade Ground and hundreds of military musicians march in! The next Tattoo will take place in August 2017.

And as we pass you can see to your left the building with the archway, which was used as Police-house in the first Swedish films.

Regementsgatan – Fridhemsgatan – Österleden

14. The Man Who Smiled

Henning Mankell said: “Sometimes people say that the Wallander books anticipate real occurrences. I believe it is correct.”

“The basis in *The Man Who Smiled* is the worst property crime one can commit or be subject to, and it is not to have your belongings stolen. In this story parts of people, organs, are stolen and are sold for organ transplantations. When I wrote this book I was convinced that this phenomenon should increase. Today it is an ongoing trading increasing all the time.”

Österleden

The switching yard to the left is frequently seen in the films, especially during the dark part of the year. The film directors sometimes want to create a Nordic Noir feeling, and this area is very picturesque. You often see Wallander and his colleagues walking on the footbridge across the railway on their way to the police station.

Jennygatan

The former public bath to the left represents the police station in several BBC productions.

Tobaksgatan

15. The Police in Ystad

The very first police station in Ystad was housed in the very old building to the right. The green street door was the garage and the very first car, a black Volvo PV 60 which was later replaced by a Chevrolet, black as well. You can see pictures of them at the Police Museum we previously passed.

In the books Wallander drives a Peugeot and he does not take care of the cars as long as the stereo works and consequently the car occasionally breaks down causing much trouble. In *The Man Who Smiled* his car is destroyed by a bomb shortly after Wallander and his colleague have suspect mischief and abandoned the car. In *One Step Behind* he dares to buy a Nissan instead of Peugeot!

The building to the left is the district court, well known to all criminals in the city.

Bollhusgatan

The building to the left is of criminological interest. A notorious pyromaniac, called The Dawn Pyromaniac in the newspapers, baffled the police for many years and people in Ystad lived in constant fear. On December 2nd 2010 at 2:40 AM he was arrested after committing arson in the attic of this building. 37 people were evacuated. This pyromaniac had been watched over by dozens of police men for a long time. He was sentenced to eight years in prison.

Sankt Knuts torg

On the left side we will now pass Fridolfs Café, which is one of Wallander's favourite hang-outs. He often stops for a cup of coffee and an open sandwich with herring. And so can you if you go there tomorrow! They also offer Wallander pastries!

Hamnplan

Ahead/To the left is the harbour. In the Swedish Film *The White Lioness* there was a car-chase at winter time. As the film was made in the summer all cold-stores in the neighbourhood was emptied for ice to form the snow. In the chase the barriers to the railway were smashed.

16. Sidetracked (1995)

A young girl burn herself to death in a rape field outside Ystad. Later a series of murders occur. The murders are very odd and bewilder Wallander and his colleagues. For instance, a former Minister of Justice is found killed with an axe and – scalped! – at the beach a kilometre from here.

Another victim is found behind the railway station, in a road work pit. Apparently the murderer wants to provoke the Police. Eventually all events turn out to have trafficking business in common

Continental – Hamngatan

To the right is Hotel Continental. In *The Man Who Smiled* Wallander and his colleagues meet here in order to plan the investigation undisturbed. Wallander several times takes his daughter Linda for lunch at this hotel.

17. Before the Frost

In *Before the Frost* both Kurt and his daughter both have leading parts. He is surprised by her choice of profession: Police!

Pizzeria Fofu (Bröderna M)

For himself, Wallander prefers the restaurant on the next corner, which used to be Pizzeria Foffo. The owner Istvan often has information for Wallander.

In *The Dogs of Riga*, the Latvian patriot Lippman meets Wallander here. In *Firewall* several characters visit this place too.

18. Epilogue

Henning Mankell was born in 1948 in Stockholm but grew up in the town of Sveg in the northern province Härjedalen together with his father who was a judge. Henning thus learnt a lot of the Swedish judicial system from home. Sveg and its surroundings appear in the novels *The Man From Beijing* and *The Return of the Dancing Master*.

In 2013 Mankell said: “Maybe I will write a book or two about Linda Wallander, but I am not sure. There is so much I want to write but I do not know how much time that remain.”

“I do not regret a single line of the Wallander books. But Kurt Wallander has now retired and vanishes slowly in the haze together with his black dog Jussi.”

Henning Mankell passed away on the 5th of October 2015.

This is the end of the tour and I and the driver hope that you have enjoyed it! We hope you will have a nice stay in Ystad.

