



DESTINATION Glasriket

MAGAZINE 2025/2026 GLASSWORKS • HOT SHOPS • NATURE • FOOD • SHOPPING

The Kingdom of Crystal's rebel celebrates

Mats Jonasson at 80
– with 50 years as a designer.

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The Kingdom of Crystal is waiting for you

Hot shops, craft and unexpected discoveries around every corner.

ORREFORS IS HEATING UP AGAIN

The reconstruction of Orranäs Glasbruk.

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BABY TAKES THE STAGE

Hanna and Kakan exhibit in Kosta.

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CREATIVITY FOR KIDS

At The Glass Factory.

→ Page 25

Glasriket 

The Kingdom of Crystal – a love affair to explore

The love affair often begins in the hot shop. Where the heat hangs in the air, the glass glows and skillful hands shape masterpieces from liquid glass. But they rarely end here. Because the Kingdom of Crystal, located in the heart of Småland, is more than just glass. It's a world of experiences where design, nature, food and history meet.

One moment you're in a shop full of Scandinavian glass art, the next enjoying a delicious food experience, with attention given to every detail. Forests call with their quiet paths, lakes glitter in the sunshine, and in the galleries you meet artists taking tradition into the future.

In this magazine we guide you through the Kingdom of Crystal – from the glowing kilns to the hidden gems of nature. Watch the master craftspeople at work, try blowing glass yourself, hike through the forest or find bargains you didn't know you needed. Taste, feel, experience. Our guess is that you'll stay for longer than you intended.

Welcome to this year's Glasriket Magazine. Let the journey of discovery begin! →

Glasriket 

Glasriket Magazine is a collaboration between: Destination Glasriket AB, Emmaboda Municipality, Lessebo Municipality, Nybro Municipality, Uppvidinge Municipality and glassworks in the region. Production, photography and text: GoBrave, gobrave.se. Printing: H2Group. Translation: SPRÅK&CO. Circulation: 150,000 copies. Photo: Alexander Hall, Destination Småland, GoBrave, Region Kalmar län, Shutterstock. Thanks to Svenska Glasbruksföreningen. glasriket.se

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Discover the Kingdom of Crystal by bike
 – through forests, past lakes and right into the heart of glassmaking.



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 Nybro and Pukeberg carry on the tradition.

TOWARDS
JÖNKÖPING

**The Kingdom of Crystal is
alight all year round**

Discover everything from tiny studios
to huge glassworks, from everyday
objects to world-class art glass.
Every place has its own story to tell
– so why stop at just one?



TOWARDS
VÄXJÖ

TOWARDS
KALMAR

TOWARDS
KARLSKRONA

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Scan the QR code with your
phone to visit glasriket.se,
where you can plan your trip.



Glass in the Kingdom of Crystal

BERGDALAHYTTAN / BERGDALA

Attractive industrial environment with red wooden buildings and a shop offering exciting glass art. Phone +46(0)478-101 53, +46(0)70-514 36 30 • Bergdala Glasbruk, 365 92 Hovmantorp bergdalahyttan.se • Page 17



CARLOS R. PEBAQUÉ DESIGN / GULLASKRUV

Carlos R. Pebaqué has created his own technique for art glass; CARA, which is a way of painting glass during the blowing process. Phone +46(0)481-321 17 • Glasblåsarvägen 6, 380 41 GullaskrUV carlosartglass.se • Page 27



KOSTA GLASBRUK / KOSTA

Glass art from our best known artists, plenty of shopping opportunities and activities all year round. Phone +46(0)478-345 00 • Stora Vägen 91, 365 43 Kosta kostaboda.se • orrefors.se • Page 18



MICKEJOHANS KONSTGLAS / ÖRSJÖ

The master creates world class art glass in the blowing room on his farm. Phone +46(0)70-922 87 86 • Örsjö 134, 382 90 mickejohnskonstglas.se • Page 34



MÅLERÅS GLASBRUK / MÅLERÅS

Blown and cast glass with high artistic skill. From sketch to finished object. Phone +46(0)481-314 01 Mackamålavägen 7, 380 42 Målerås • maleras.se • Page 9



NYBRO GLASBRUK / NYBRO

The speciality is colourful factory glass which is hand painted in Nybro. Shop affordable presents. Phone +46(0)481-428 80 • Herkulesgatan 2, 382 45 Nybro nybro-glasbruk.se • Page 33



ORRANÄS GLASBRUK / ORREFORS

Attractive modern blowing room in the traditional park setting of Orrefors. Get close up to the process of creating glass art. Phone +46(0)735 358 358 • Bruksområdet 1, 380 40 Orrefors orranasglasbruk.se • Page 31



PERSSON & PERSSON / ÖSJÖBOL

Reused glass with a unique style and references to old traditions. Here you can also find Morgan Persson's art glass. Phone +46(0)474-170 35 • Ösjöbol 5, 360 33 Åseda perssonochpersson.com • Page 7



PUKEBERGS GLASBRUK / NYBRO

Traditional glass industry site with attractive brick buildings. In the shop you will find colourful, playful glass. Phone +46(0)481-169 00 • Pukebergarnasväg 24, 382 34 Nybro visitpukeberg.se • Page 33



SKRUFVS GLASBRUK / SKRUV

Stylish glass that has made a big name for itself in the design world, not least through the collaboration with Svenskt Tenn. Phone +46(0)478-201 33 • Kajvägen 4, 360 53 Skrufv skrufsglasbruk.se • Page 29



THE GLASS FACTORY / BODA GLASBRUK

Museum and studio blowing room, where exciting young artists and designers have the opportunity to experiment. Phone +46(0)10-353 10 80 • Storgatan 5, 361 97 Boda theglassfactory.se • Page 25



MAGMA ART GLASS / TRANSJÖ

In the idyllic village of Transjö, Dan Clausen and Lars Skulberg create unique, high quality glass art in small series. Phone +46(0)478-507 00, +46(0)72-559 81 55 Transjö, 360 52 Kosta • magmaartglass.com • Page 11



GLASSBLOWING



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GALLERY/MUSEUM



FOOD/COFFEE

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and opening hours

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**Kosta
Glasbruk**
1742

Old bottles are given new life
in Persson & Persson's glass studio.

PERSSON & PERSSON



Morgan and Elin were named 2024
Designers of the Year by Svensk
Form Småland, for their challenging
and transformative designs.



At home with Persson & Persson

They call it the northern gate to the Kingdom of Crystal. Husband-and-wife team Morgan and Elin run a recycling business and glass studio in the forest. 'Reused glass could be a huge thing,' they say.

We're in Ösjöbol near Åseda, an hour's drive from the areas around Orrefors, Kosta and Boda – as far north as you can get in the Kingdom of Crystal.

This is the home of Persson and Persson: Elin and Morgan. And also three of their four children, together with hens, dogs and cats.

'We've gone for a homely feeling. Some of our visitors can't tell whether or not we live in the house. We have a large collection of reused glass, a gallery, café and hot shop. But we actually do live here too!' Elin says.

In the summer, Morgan loves moving the kilns outdoors so he can work in the garden. That way visitors can enjoy a snack while watching the glassblowing – simultaneous relaxation and excitement.

A new life

The Perssons met at the Swedish National School of Glass in Orrefors, in the early 2000s. Morgan made the somewhat unlikely career change from volleyball player and car painter to glassblower. He went through adult education while Elin was at glass school.

'I wasn't interested in being in a factory making mass produced objects, so we moved around the country working in different hot shops. But then we finally came back to the Kingdom of Crystal again,' she says.

As well as Morgan blowing his own art glass, they've made a feature of re-using glass. They quite simply blow new objects from old bottles, or other used glass objects.

'People want their possessions to have a history. When they buy from us, they want to know where the glass comes from,' Morgan says.

Reuse is popular

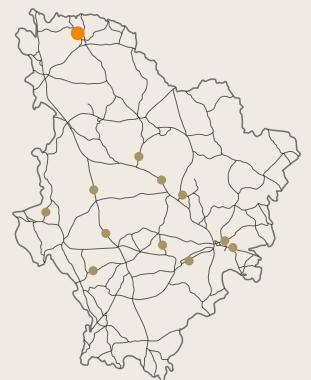
One fun assignment was when whisky manufacturer Johnnie Walker sent them a batch of old whisky bottles – which they then made glasses from. The glasses were sold as a

limited edition online, and were a big success.

Elin and Morgan noticed that this brought them a totally new type of social media follower – whisky fans.

'We'd love to make even more reused glass, but it's hard to find the time!' Morgan laughs. He already has several exhibitions of his art glass underway.

Visitors can eat their home-made ice cream and Elin's delicious cakes. And nearby, there's a pitch for mobile homes.



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Glassworking as freedom

Mats Jonasson is a multi-faceted Kingdom of Crystal icon who has shaped the history of Swedish glass. It was his determination that won the battle for Målerås and saved its glassworks from closure. And now he's the master engraver who captures the glass in a grip of iron.



Libra is a special edition produced by Mats for the 2025 anniversary.

As a designer, Mats has developed pioneering art glass with attitude, which has established Målerås as an internationally recognised brand. 2025 is a year of major anniversaries. He'll be turning 80 – and celebrating 50 years as a designer at Målerås Glassworks.

Mats Jonasson was born on March 20th 1945, not long before the white doves of peace would fly across Europe after years of war and sacrifice. Mats finished primary school after seven years, and was then hired as an engraver's apprentice at the glassworks. Over the next few decades he worked with many of the most respected contemporary glass artists in Sweden. During this period, he developed that distinctive style of his which he has since perfected.

Flying Free

With a deep devotion for his home town and with a belief that nothing is impossible, Mats Jonasson took up the fights against large corporations, centralisation and mass production. Målerås would not be ruled by stock market sharks with goals of streamlining and merged production units. With Mats at the helm, Målerås managed to escape the large corporations' clutches and fly free. With great precision and the keen eye of an eagle, Mats created animals in crystal. The collection of crystal animals was an instant success and was shipped worldwide from the

Caribbean to the Arctic Circle. Mats has since gathered skilled craftsmen by his side, from glass workers who cast the glowing crystal in the heat of the furnace to the engraver whose steady hand carves the squirrel's whiskers and tail. The respect for the human touch and the years of experience that no school in the world can teach is great.

Throughout his life, Mats has guarded Målerås by all means. Here under the wings of the hawk, Målerås Glasbruk has been given respite in times of economic turbulence. Mats' heart for his home town, nature and freedom has shaped Målerås Glasbruk into what it is today. Målerås is the rare bird in the Kingdom of Crystal that has gone its own way with courage, sharpness and a sense of freedom.



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Alison Kinnaird (Sco):
Ossian's Lament (detail)



Olle Alberius (Swe): *Spring Music*



Gunnar Cyrén (Swe):
Jazz Café



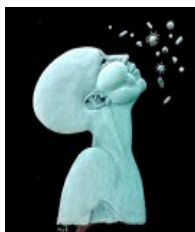
Vic Bamforth (Eng):
3 O'Clock Rock



Bertil Vallien (Swe): *Shaman*



Martti Rytkönen (Swe):
Running with Wolves



Nancy Sutcliffe (Eng):
Pollen



Kjell Engman (Swe): *Acrobatic Music*

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”

Falling in love is expensive – for your wallet at least, not for your soul.’

Lars Skulberg

Charmed by glass

Dan (left) and Lars, together in their hot shop in Transjö.

A Dane and a Norwegian – in deepest Småland. The two glass artists are happy here.

‘There need to be two of us. We work calmly, methodically but we have fun at the same time. That’s the Swedish tradition,’ say Dane Dan Clausen and Norwegian Lars Skulberg.



Artglass by Magma Art Glass.

At an early stage they realised that to work with glass they needed to be in Sweden. Now they run their own glass studio and live in Transjö, an idyllic place at the heart of the Kingdom of Crystal.

Dan has travelled all over the world and is amazed by how many people make glass-blowing complicated.

‘I’ve seen them with 8 or 10 people in the hot shop. They get stressed and it doesn’t look much fun. In Sweden, things are different,’ Dan says.

Lars and Dan are often alone in the hot shop, and they think that works well. They occasionally bring in an assistant or collaborator.

Enchanted by the glass

They focus on artistic work – everything from the series of simple mushrooms they make together to large pieces that cost almost 50,000€.

‘I’m always happy to see people fall in love with our glass,’ Lars says.

In the gallery it’s often the same. Customers become emotional. Sometimes there are tears.

‘It might be the reflection cast on the floor. A thousand different things, but I can always tell when it’s happened. Then they have to have it. Some people leave the gallery without buying, but they might turn up again a year later having changed their minds. By then

they may have missed their chance, if we’ve sold a unique work to someone else.’

Dan says that their glass is like jewellery for the home.

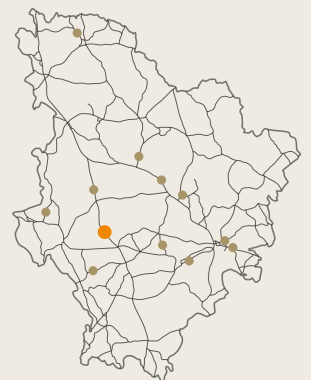
‘A Norwegian woman said as much when she bought a large piece. I thought that was great.’

Lars is logical about the fact that some people hand over large sums of money.

‘Falling in love is expensive – for your wallet at least, not for your soul.’

They blow glass in the hot shop six days a week. On the seventh they melt the glass.

‘I’m always around if people want to look at the gallery. They can just ring the number on the door,’ Lars says.



Småland's secret art center

The mirror factory comes alive with exhibitions



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and Älgshult
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OUTLET

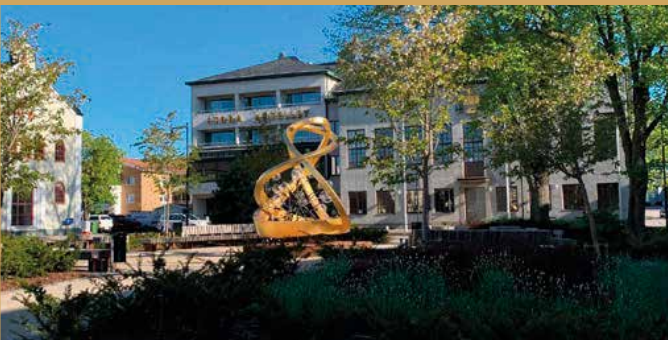
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A person with their back to the camera, wearing a bright orange sweater and blue jeans, stands on a rocky outcrop overlooking a calm lake. The sky is a soft, hazy mix of purple and blue, suggesting dusk or dawn. The water reflects the sky and the surrounding trees. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

Sleep well and wake up close to nature

In the Kingdom of Crystal you'll find peace, nature and places that make you want to stay a little longer. Sleep in a glasshouse with the forest outside your window, wake up beside a lake or enjoy a night in a charming hotel. Here you can relax, enjoy and simply be. And your days? You can fill them exactly as you like.

PAGES 14-16 →

Orranässjön, just outside Orrefors, is the perfect place for a hike, a morning dip or just a quiet moment by the water.

Accommodation



KOSTA SAFARIPARK, GLASSHOUSE

Stay in the Safari Park, surrounded by nature. In Kosta Safaripark, you can stay overnight in a glass building on pillars, four metres above the ground. Order room service from Kosta Lodge and have your dinner delivered direct to your door. It's hard to get closer to nature without compromising on comfort.



BRUNO MATHSSONS GLASHUS

Here you live in a 1950s world with design and light in focus. The large glass windows, mosaic floors and timeless furniture are perfect for anyone who loves form and function. The apartment has two bright bedrooms with space for four, plus a classic kitchen and bathroom.



KORPABOET TREEHOUSE

This tree house is 6 metres above ground and is just 1 kilometre from Kosta Glassworks in a large, leafy garden on the edge of the forest. Wake up to birdsong and enjoy the sunset from the terrace.



RUGSTORP GLAMPING

Glamping at its best – close to nature, climate-smart and fun. Live in a simple A-frame building with solar-powered lighting and everything you need. Relax, cool off in the pond and enjoy the farm produce.



MUNDEKULLA ECOTOWER

This unique accommodation offers a panoramic view of Småland's forests from its 25 metre vantage point. Stay in a double or triple room, or rent the whole tower for up to 8 people. Constructed from local timber and designed by architect Stig Bengtson.



Meet the king of the forest

You're sure to spot the king of the forest at Glasrikets Älgpark in Nybro and Grönåsen Älg- och Lantdjurspark in Kosta. There are also moose in Kosta Safaripark, where they share the park with European bison, deer, mouflon and wild boar.

Hiking trail

Whether you're looking for a long or short hike through the Kingdom of Crystal, there are plenty of trails to choose from.

Södra promenaden, Fröseke

A pleasant hike through the landscape south of Fröseke. The trail also runs through the village and passes many points of interest, such as the water mill.

Upplevelseleden

The 16.5 km Upplevelseleden [the Experience trail] introduces you to the natural environments of Svartbäcksmåla in Nybro municipality.

Stampaleden

6 km trail through the valley of the Lyckeby River, starting and ending in Broakulla.

The Future Trail

38 km trail between Älghult, Alstermo and Målerås.

Bielkeleden

6 km trail around Grimmansmålasjön, on boardwalks and bridges that take you to the legendary Rostockaholme, where well-known Swedish statesman Nils Turesson (Bielke) lived in the early 1300s.

Lindshammarleden

11 km trail along small roads through forest and industrial areas.

Kosta friluftsområde

On the very edge of Kosta you can find several trails between 2.5 and 8 km.

Gråstensmon

Visit Gråstensmon's 7 km trail near Målerås. Two counties, three municipalities and three parishes meet at the centre of the Kingdom of Crystal. Glass art by Mats Jonasson adorns the site.

Örsjö vandringsled

Two round trails around Lake Örsjö, of 5.6 and 2.1 km. Walk one or both – they form a figure 8.



The Emigrant Trail

Feel the breath of history and visit locations from Moberg's novels. The Emigrant Trail is a 110 km circular trail that takes you to places such as Korpamoen, Ljuder, Moshult and Duvemåla.

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NATURKARTAN.SE



Ready for an adrenaline rush?

PACKRAFTING VIDINGE GÅRD

Paddle in white water on the Alsterån in an inflatable pack raft.

SWEDEN ZIPLINE

Europe's longest zipline course, at 2.6 km. Adventure awaits in the air, on hiking trails and canoe tours of the nearby lake.

VÄXJÖ HYRKART

Book your race on this go-kart track near Bergdalahyttan.



Canoeing or kayaking

As you glide silently in the water, you can get close to birds and animals.

Kanotlyckebyån The 100 km long Lyckebyån River offers excellent canoeing. Hire of canoes and kayaks.

Alsterån, set off from Alstervik Café and Minigolf, which has canoes for hire.

Lake Orranäsasjön in Orrefors: canoe this beautiful lake. You can hire a canoe at the camp site.

Kosta Rental Center, canoe hire on Lake Stampensjön.

Ödevata Fiskecamp: hire a canoe and explore Lake Ödevaten – and maybe stop off at Love Island? You can also hire fishing equipment here.

Gökaskratts Camping: canoe hire to explore Lake Rottnen for a few hours – or for several days as you paddle along the Ronnebyån.

Fishing

Do you have the patience to wait for a bite? Here are our top tips for great fishing places.

Alsterån Strömfiske

Trout fishing with a wilderness feel in fast flowing water.

Hofmantorp Säteri

Zander, pike and perch in Lake Rottnen. You can also hire a cabin and rowing boat.

Stora Hindsjön: pike, zander, perch etc.

Orrefors: perch and pike in Lake Orranäsasjön and game fish in the pool.

Skrusv fiskeklubb

Game fish close to Skrusv Vildmarks-camping.

Ödevata Fiskecamp

The natural destination for fishing enthusiasts, whether beginners or experts. Fish for perch, pike, bream, tench etc. Hire a boat or canoe and relax in the sauna or hot tub.

Destination Kosta

Fish for rainbow trout in Vitgöl, Djuggöl or Björkgöl, or pike, zander and perch in Stampen or Läen. You can buy a fishing licence at Kosta Lodge, and hire a boat for the day.

Björkesjöns fiskevårdsområde

Here you'll find pike, perch, tench and roach. You can also hire a boat or raft.



Cycling and mountain biking

Cycle between the glassworks and experience both history and nature.

Destination Kosta

There are many cycle and mountain bike trails of varying difficulties around Kosta. If you set off from Kosta Lodge, the trail around the Safari Park is 11 km long.

The Emigrant Trail

Cycle through the area immortalised in Vilhelm Moberg's books. This 150 km circular route runs through Emmaboda, Lessebo and Tingsryd. Choose to take the trail by yourself or with accommodation and food included – you're following in the footsteps of history either way.

Draisine

Hire a draisine and pedal along the railway to your heart's content. Draisines for hire in Åseda.

Nybro–Orrefors ToR

Pleasant circular route between Nybro and Orrefors that mainly follows the old railway line.

Målerås– Orrefors Glassworks Trail

A cycle trail through 47 km of the Kingdom of Crystal's deep forests and beautiful landscapes, stopping at historic glassworks. There's also a shorter version at 34 km. Perfect for a day combining activity and sightseeing.

Kostabanan

The Kosta–Målerås cycle trail runs partly along the former narrow-gauge railway line.

Old railway lines have been made into excellent cycle trails.

Here are just a few sections:

Åseda – Klavreström 16 km

Lenhovda – Sävsjöström 8 km

Sävsjöström – Målerås 15 km

Sävsjöström – Åseda 20 km

Målerås – Nybro via Orrefors 65 km

Rottnen runt, 42 km trail around a lake, 70% on roads and 30% on good quality gravel tracks.



MOUNTAIN BIKING

Målerås, three short, intensive and technical MTB trails.

Strömbergshyttan, 3 km undulating MTB trail with easier alternative routes around the more difficult sections.

Svarbäcksmåla, Nybro, six mountain bike trails totalling 26 km with varying degrees of difficulty.

Orrefors, technical trail and five forest trails, from 700 m to 12 km around Lake Orranäsasjön.

Kosta Safaripark: set out to discover the forest trails around Kosta.

Sträva Activity Area: six MTB trails of different difficulties – including one with reflective markings for night-time cycling.

Burning for genuine craftsmanship



Roger Johansson assesses the product. For ten years, Bergdala Glass Studio has been his passion.

Seen by many as an outstandingly skilful glass grinder, Roger Johansson took over Bergdala Glass Studio ten years ago. So this year is a jubilee year. 'I'm passionate about genuine craftsmanship,' Roger says.

He arrives at 4.30 every weekday morning and goes home eleven or twelve hours later. Although he has cut back a little.

'I no longer work at the weekend too. I might just pop in and sort something out,' says the 61-year-old who has devoted his life to glassmaking. Taking over Bergdala Glass Studio was a good choice.

'I haven't regretted it for a single second.'

The glassworks experience

Visitors to Bergdala get a genuine glassworks experience. The hot shop looks as it has for many years. It's on ground level and is made of wood. And around it are red factory buildings.

'Glass has been blown in Bergdala since the late 1800s. The timber hot shop gives a very

special feeling. And when you work here it's nice to walk on the wooden floor,' he says.

Blå Kant

The Blå Kant series was discovered in the 1970s by then owner, Elving Conradsson. He was known as "Småland's last factory owner" and created what even now is the glassworks' most popular product. The blue colour of the rim was chosen to repel flies.

'The blue rim is added by hand and it can take many attempts before it comes out perfectly,' says Roger.

He's very proud of the series, which is mouth-blown and shaped using traditional methods. Genuine craftsmanship

'It sells very well. I'd go so far as to say that it's the soul of the glass studio. People come in year after year to buy more of it. Either to expand their own collection or because a piece has been broken.'

As well as the classic Blå Kant, the studio also makes exciting art glass. The shop is right next to the hot shop, and here visitors can buy glass at factory prices.



A carafe and bowls from the Blå Kant series. One of Bergdala's best-known products.



KOSTA BODA ART GALLERY



... with Kakan Hermansson.



Hanna Hansdotter exhibits from 26 April to the 30 September...

Baby – imagined by Hanna and Kakan

A series of unique art glass by Hanna Hansdotter and Kakan Hermansson will be shown at Kosta Boda Art Gallery. This joyful collection was created in collaboration with the master glassblowers in the hot shop.

'It's been great fun,' says Hanna Hansdotter.

Artists Hanna and Kakan grew up just a few hundred metres from each other in Lund – something they only discovered as adults. They met at art school in Stockholm, where Kakan taught Hanna pottery.

'I was blown away by her and her design language,' Kakan says.

And they've stayed in touch ever since.

Hanna is one of the most celebrated glass artists in Sweden – a style-setter amongst the new wave of Swedish contemporary artists, with their emphasis on craft. The idea was to allow their creative conversations to take on physical form.

Shared references

The result is an eye-catching collection of "extremely impractical", sculptural vases and containers, created together with the master glassblowers at Kosta. The unique works in the series offer a rich spectrum of colours, marbling and patterns.

'We share many reference frameworks because we come from the same background and culture,' Hanna says.

She's used to taking all the decisions solo when she's working, but is enjoying relinquishing control and allowing Kakan's ceramic world to bring new elements to the glass.

'It's been great allowing our visual worlds to meet and blend, and expressing them together with the glassblowers,' Hanna says.

'We didn't want to compromise, but instead to find a style and objects that feel right to both of us,' Kakan adds.

Deep love

Kakan thinks the collaboration is one of the best things she's ever done. And it wasn't

merely fun, but also easy.

'Hanna represents everything New Glass, while I'm really a potter. My work originates in a deep love of historical and contemporary craft,' she says.

Baby by Hanna Hansdotter and Kakan Hermansson will premiere at Kosta Boda Art Gallery in Kosta during the Art Glass weekend. The exhibition runs from 26 April to 30 September.



Tradition and future – 300 years on

Kosta is home to almost 25 glassblowers with so much experience they can be called masters. They manufacture products for Orrefors and Kosta-Boda but also their world-famous art glass. The kilns have been burning here for almost 300 years.

'We attract people who love craft, design and culture, and anyone who enjoys a bargain,' says Lina Nieminen, the exhibitions manager. The master glassblowers belong to five

different workshops, all with their own focus. For example, wine glasses, art glass or cast glass objects.

'The visitors get to be creative too, blowing their own drinking glass or a carafe,' Lina says. Anyone visiting Kosta will find many different types of accommodation, from elegant rooms in the design hotel to wooden cabins in the safari park.

Experiences at Kosta Glasbruk

Open hot shop

Experience the glassworks and see glass being blown from close up.

Prices: adult 70 SEK, student/pensioner 50 SEK, child 7–16 years 30 SEK, under 7 free.

Guided tour

Expert guides tell the story of glass and the glassworks.

Prices: adult 150 SEK, student/pensioner 120 SEK, child 7–16 years 70 SEK, under 7 free. Languages: Swedish, English, German.

Try your hand at glassblowing

Book your place to make your own glass object – to take home when it's cooled.

Prices: glass ball 500 SEK, drinking glass 550 SEK, bowl/vase 750 SEK, carafe 850 SEK.

Glass shows

Several times a year, the hot shop becomes a stage, and music accompanies the master glassblowers. Tickets are required for each occasion, and prices can vary.

Educational workshop

Creative activities, particularly in school holidays or during selected events. Here you can paint glass, try your hand at fusing, make jewellery and much more.

Price: SEK 450 per person per hour, maximum 8 participants.

Courses

Book a longer course and get a deeper understanding of the glass while trying your hand at making glass objects

2-day foundation course: 11–12 October, 8–9 November. 2-day advanced course: 6–7 December, price: 6000 SEK.

Also available as a 5-day course.

Kosta Glasbruk is open every day 10.00–16.00 (closed Midsummer's Eve, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve).

For more information and to book, visit kostatglasbruk.se.

Offer – guided tour:

20% discount throughout 2025.

Cannot be combined with other offers.

The offer applies throughout 2025, with the exception of weeks 28–31, when we have guided tours with speakers for 100 SEK per adult, and no open hot shop.

Code: KostaGlasbruk_25



Flavour, shopping and creativity

The Kingdom of Crystal is an experience for the tastebuds as much as the eyes. Here you'll find cafés with the aroma of fresh bread, shops full of great design and restaurants with local ingredients in focus. And history and culture are everywhere – from exhibitions and art to glassworks with fascinating stories. What will you discover first?

PAGES 21–24, 30 →

Fiddekulla Trädgård near Vissefjärda is a floral oasis in south-east Småland. Why not pick your own cut flowers?



Design & Shopping



KOSTA OUTLET

20,000 square metres of shopping spread over 15 shops awaits you at Kosta Outlet, in the heart of the factory area. Here you can find wonderful bargains in glass, interior design, fashion, shoes and sport – together with the country's biggest hunting and fishing outlet store. And when you need an energy boost, there are several restaurants and cafés to choose from. Don't miss the unique glassworks environment just next door – a place where tradition meets world-famous design and craftsmanship.



ANTIKT & DESIGN, ORREFORS

A playful mixture of antique and 1950s–1970s interior decor. The owners are firmly committed to hand picking every object, and are always happy to talk about provenance. Glass from the majority of the Kingdom of Crystal's works can also be found here.



MÅLERÅS LÄDER

A really good quality leather bag is a must-have accessory. And one that only gets more attractive over time. At Målerås Läder, high-quality leather goods such as bags, wallets and belts are hand crafted. The family business was founded in 1947 and takes great pride in its leatherworking skill.



BUTIK NORREGÅRD

The dream of a lifetime came true here in a former stable. This well-stocked shop in Långsjö offers interior design, presents and clothes with a rustic feel. Browse amongst new and vintage.



BSWEDEN

The lighting company in Herråkra brightens up everyday life with well-designed lamps. BSweden is the company behind icons such as Manhattan, Cymbal and Fling. The majority of the glass in the lamps is blown at Bergdalahyttan. And you can find bargains in the outlet shop.



DESIGN BY KA, STRÖMBERGSHYTTAN

Interior design, art and reuse in beautiful surroundings. KA stands for Kerstin Ask, whose skilful hands create interior design pieces from unusual materials. Here you can also discover Kerstin's art – paintings with dreamy and minimalist motifs.



EMMABODA KONST

In Sweden's biggest art shop, you can find thousands of paintings by Swedish artists. It isn't hard to find your favourites, as the shop has sections with modern art, classical art, graphic design – and of course art glass.

Allt det gamla goda

Former village shop that's now a well-stocked retro store.

Margarethas Dockskåp

Dolls, teddy bears, dolls houses, miniatures and angels – with all the accessories you can imagine.

Mickans i Strömbergshyttan

Flowers, interior design, furniture and presents in rustic style – a stop well worth making along road 25.

Farm shops



FIDDEKULLA TRÄDGÅRD

Flower garden producing cut flowers you can pick yourself. The farm near Vissefjärda also has a garden shop and plant nursery.



QVARNLAMMENS GÅRDSBUTIK

Here you'll find products from the farm's animals – both items made from wool and sheepskin and cuts of meat for the barbecue.



ATELJÉ VIDAGÅRD

With hand-painted children's furniture as its speciality, this shop in Vida village offers a cosy experience of craft shopping.



AHLS I NORRHULT

Inspiring farm shop with local meat products and other delicacies. All from small producers with a focus on quality.



RUGSTORPS LANTGÅRD

Cheese, milk and meat. This farm in Rockneby also has a micro-dairy and bakery with a café. Here you can meet the animals and find out about the work of the farm.



LJUNGARYDS GÅRDSBUTIK

Small self-service farm shop with a seasonal range all year round. In summer you can buy vegetables and flowers, in winter Christmas trees and wreaths.

Lundens växthus

Charming market garden in the countryside near Hovmanatorp. Home-grown flowers, spices and vegetables.

Vilträkeri Krukö

In this shop in Vissefjärda you can buy smoked game, sausages and isterband sausage. You can also bring your own meat to be smoked.

Mundekulla Gårdsbutik & Café

A peaceful oasis with a focus on sustainability. Here you'll find locally produced, organic products to enjoy on site or take home. Also sells seasonal vegetables grown in Mundekulla's own fields.

Skåningsmåla Mohair

Mohair products and sheepskins from Swedish Angora goats and Gotland sheep.



BIGÅRD BIRGITTA

Bee-keeper with award-winning smoked honey. Small shop where you can buy honey, herb salt and beeswax ointments. In the forest close to the hives there's a quiet pitch for mobile homes.

Restaurants



LINNÉA ART RESTAURANT – KOSTA BODA ART HOTEL

At Kosta Boda Art Hotel, we find Linnéa Art Restaurant, where the kitchen works with the best seasonal Småland ingredients. The food is served in the restaurant designed by well-loved artist Ulrica Hydman-Vallien.



HOS OSS – CAFÉ & BISTRO

Lunch, snacks and an à la carte menu are served every day in the attractive industrial surroundings of Pukeberg near Nybro. Everything is made with the greatest of care.



DON CAMILLO

Surrounded by plants and with walls covered in history, you can enjoy that Friday feeling all week. Taco and pizza buffet for the whole family with Mediterranean-inspired food and à la carte menu.



EMMABODA GOLFKROG

Summer lunches with a salad buffet in the leafy surroundings of Emmaboda GK golf course.



SCHNITZEL KLUBBEN

Roadside diner in Eriksmåla – well worth a small diversion for its schnitzel.



STORA HOTELLET NYBRO

The newly renovated Stora Hotellet is back in all its glory. Take a drink or a snack in the bistro or head to the dining room for lunch or an à la carte meal.

Kosta Delikatess

Shop and restaurant with fish and shellfish, charcuterie and speciality cheeses. In the gin bar you'll find more than 350 types of gin, together with beer from Kosta Bryggeri.

Kosta Lodge

A restaurant with a focus on wild game. Grill your own meat at the table on a glowing hot lava stone.

Orrefors Hotell

At lunchtime there's always a buffet of delicious Thai and classic Swedish dishes. In the evening, you can choose from the à la carte menu.

Målerås Bistro

Inside the glassworks, you'll find Målerås Bistro, where you can enjoy traditional cuisine. Hot shop herring evenings are also available for larger groups.

Hotell Olof

Newly renovated with 60s inspiration in Åseda. Lunch buffet with traditional Swedish cuisine, cooked from scratch.

Cafés



VISSEFJÄRDA CAFÉ & CHOKLAD

Pralines, fudge and chocolate – all hand-made with love. Take a piece of luxury home or enjoy something sweet in the café. And don't miss the heavenly waffles.



KOSTA LODGE ICE CREAM BAR

With more than 30 flavours to choose from, you're guaranteed to find a favourite – or two! Småland's biggest ice creams, substantial milkshakes and sweet treats for all ages.



URANÄS BLOMSTERVERKSTAD

Farm shop with flowers, interior design and flea market. Flower café with home-made cakes and home-grown garden produce. You can also buy flowers to take home.



TADAH KAFFEROSTERI

At TADAH micro-roastery in Lenhovda, you can drink Kingdom of Crystal Coffee – a tribute to the deep forests with notes of dark berries and chocolate. Buy some to take home or enjoy it on site at the Retro Café.



KONDITORI FENIX

Take a nostalgia trip back to the 50s-70s in Emmaboda. The menu includes sandwiches and pastries, including the café's famous TV cake, which was created in 1958 and has been a local favourite ever since.



GLASSBLOWER CAFÉ & CRÊPERIE

Take a seat at Orranäs Glassworks and enjoy a coffee or something good to eat while the glassblowers work. Here you'll find freshly brewed coffee, delicious crêpes and other tasty treats.



Peppes Konditori

Classic bakery in central Lessebo with popular cakes, bread, savoury sandwich cakes and pralines.

Kosta Brukscafé

The café in Kosta Outlet offers home baking seven days a week, together with light lunches with pies, salads and sandwiches.

Priems Konditori

Classic Swedish goodies baked with tradition and quality – from mandelkubbar (bitter almond cookies) to prinsesstårta (princess cake).

Hovets Konditori

Bakery in Hovmantorp with a passion for baking and sweet things of all kinds.

Sandbergs Konditori

Bakery and classic café with 1950s style. Nybro.



It didn't really come out like it looked in my head – it's even better.'

Svea Hörling Strand



Josefin Bravo is the project manager for Kids Design Club, helping children take their ideas from sketch to glass.



Kids Design Club

Don't touch the glass... A constant instruction to children. But not at the Kids Design Club.

'Designing is great fun,' says Svea Hörling Strand at The Glass Factory.

Here, children between 6 and 12 are welcome to make their own glass. They start with an idea, which becomes a sketch and finally a glass object.

And the child gets to take it home too.

When The Glass Factory started a design club for children, they had no idea it would become a fully-booked success.

'They get to be creative here without adults taking over. We help them, but it's very much on their terms. And what they want to create is extremely inspiring – everything from a car with wings to imaginative vases,' says glassblower and artist Josefin Bravo, who runs the activity.

A creative meeting place

Josefin and museum director Ulf Ogenbrant

have a special mission. They want glass art and the unique cultural heritage in the Kingdom of Crystal to live on in new generations.

'Everyone who's interested in design should feel that glass is a natural part of that, just like drawing, photography or textiles. It's not actually that much more difficult just because the material involved is glass. And the glass-works kilns are here to be used,' Ulf says.

The site is also home to one of the Nordic region's biggest glass museums, which is interactive and experience-based. It also acts as a knowledge centre and creative meeting place for artists, designers and visitors alike.

Glass for kids

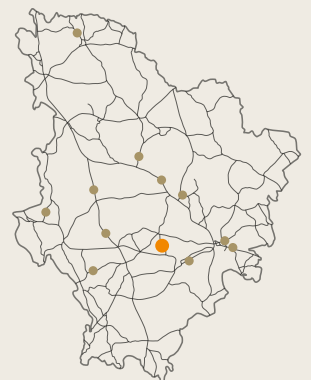
Josefin Bravo loves seeing how happy children get when they make glass objects. By the next day, the objects have cooled and can be taken home.

'Glass is sometimes seen as a material only for adults. Children are told not to touch it. But here we do the opposite,' she says. Svea Hörling Strand peers curiously into the cooling kiln, where her work is hardening.

'It didn't really come out like it looked in my head – it's even better,' she says.

Book a session

'To see the activities scheduled for the Kids Design Club, you can follow us on social media or check out the updates on our website,' Josefin says.



DESTINATION **KOSTA**

EN GLASKLAR UPPLEVELSE



There are places you want to return to.

Kosta – the heart of the Kingdom of Crystal, is one of those places.

Experience Kosta!

Glassworks, outlet shops and a drink in the glass bar. In the Småland forests, the glassworks are in full swing – all year round! As a visitor destination, Kosta is pure heaven. Kosta is beautifully nestled in the Småland forests between Kalmar and Växjö. There is a wide range of activities, attractions and experiences, and many of the businesses are open every day, all year round. More than a million people come here every year to see how hand-blown glass is made and art glass takes shape in the hot furnaces, and not least to buy glass. Some visitors even try their hand at blowing glass themselves.

The heart of the Glass Kingdom!

The giants Kosta, Boda and Orrefors are today in the same glassworks, Kosta Glassworks (founded in 1742). Kosta Glassworks together with Skruf, Målerås, Pukeberg and Bergdalahyttan are the only classic glassworks left from the heyday. But the art

and craft tradition in the village lives on, young glassblowers with high ambitions are added and both utility glass and art glass of absolute world class are still produced here.

Adventure Kosta

Kosta has many activities, adventures, attractions and experiences. In addition to visits to glassworks and shopping, there is an exciting world-unique Safari Park with elk, mink and red deer, Europe's three largest land animals in the same enclosure! When you are in Kosta, you must go to hyttsill, an old tradition that dates back to the time when the hut was the village's gathering point. Genuine Småland food cooked in the cooling ovens, drinks, entertainment and glass blowing at master level. Don't miss Kosta Delikatess, which includes both a shop and a restaurant with delicacies from the forest, land and sea, as well as a unique gin bar with over 400 varieties of gin.

Craft Arena

The newly opened CraftArena offers bowling, boules, padel, gym, martial arts, table tennis and handball, activities for the whole family.

Hiking trails

There is also the restful tranquility and beautiful nature with relaxation, fishing, swimming, canoe and bike rental etc. For those who want to be more active on holiday, there are lots of hiking trails around the lakes and nature reserves around Kosta.

Shopping and drinks at the bar

If you want to shop for glasses, you have come to the right place. Kosta has several outlet stores where you can find glass, clothes, shoes, sports and outdoor items from well-known brands at Småland prices. Visit Kosta Boda Art Hotel, a unique 4-star glass hotel with beautiful glass art, an award-winning spa and a world-famous underwater-inspired glass bar. Why not try a beer from Kosta Bryggeri or a drink with

our own Gin from Kosta Destilleri. The hotel is decorated by Kosta Boda's famous glass artists and the food art at Restaurant Linnea is in a class of its own.

Nature as a neighbour

Kosta Lodge is a nature-oriented accommodation with 26 rooms, 13 couple cottages, wildlife-inspired restaurant, ice cream bar, pool, jacuzzi, sauna & adventure golf. In addition to the hotel rooms and cottages, there are many nice pitches for motorhomes, both at Kosta Lodge and Kosta Safari Park – all with wooden decks, electricity and full service.



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DESTINATION**KOSTA**.SE

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Kosta
1742



” The hot shop is my gym

Carlos R Pebaqué is 75, but his love for glass is unwaning. And that’s not the only reason why he still does the heavy work in the hot shop. ‘I can eat and drink well, then I go into the hot shop and get my workout done,’ he jokes – not without a grain of truth.

Carlos was born and grew up in Uruguay, but he found a new home in the Swedish Kingdom of Crystal.

He has lived an eventful life – and still does. Carlos has travelled many times around the world, and devotes his life to art. He fled his homeland of Uruguay due to political persecution – and eventually became world-famous for creating Swedish art glass.



“Happy Man” has become a popular trophy for international football tournaments.

He goes abroad every winter for inspiration and sunshine, but when the Swedish summer comes around he’s back in the Kingdom of Crystal. Then he lives in Orrförs, just a short walk from the hot shop in Orranäs and only six kilometres to his shop in Gullaskröv.

‘I feel at home in the Småland forests,’ says Carlos.

Happy Man

Carlos is known, amongst others, for his work “Happy Man”. This sculpture of a person with their arms in the air became a popular trophy for international football tournaments. Carlos enjoys expressing himself with many colours.

‘It’s very un-Swedish. Not at all classic,’ he says.

The persecution he suffered in Uruguay affected him deeply. Ever since, he has striven to make people feel good – exactly as the name “Happy Man” indicates. There’s already enough evil in the world he thinks.

The Cara technique

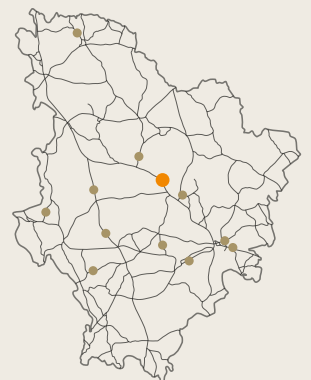
Carlos is proud of his pioneering Cara technique – a way of incorporating pattern and colour into the glass. It originated in his impatience. When he tried to learn the

Swedish graal technique for creating detailed patterns within the glass, he found it a thankless process.

‘It took a couple of weeks, and if something went wrong it was all wasted. It was risky and expensive, so I found a way to speed up the process. And in the process I developed my own style,’ he says.

The secret was to work with coloured glass rods inside the heated glass.

‘This is the technique that’s the foundation for my fame. I enjoy going my own way.’



"Att se det klara glaset växa fram i en skicklig glasblåsares händer,
hitta formen, det är magi ... om och om igen."

Design

Carina Seth Andersson



SKRUF



SINCE 1897

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info@skrufglasbruk.se www.skrufglasbruk.se

SKRUF GLASBRUK

Carina Seth Andersson: I'm a designer, not a perfectionist

The Dagg vase for Svenskt Tenn is a modern classic.

Carina Seth Andersson is a multiple award winner, including the 2024 Prince Eugen medal and being named 2025 Designer of the Year by ELLE Decorations.

There must be something that chafes.' So says Carina Seth Andersson about the design process.

'It mustn't be too perfect – then it loses its edge,' she says.

She has become widely known as a result of her series of vases for Svenskt Tenn, including Dagg, Stubbe and Kotte. Only 15 years old, they are already described as modern classics.

The popular Kolonn vase is created at Skruf Glassworks.



They are sold exclusively by Svenskt Tenn, but it is at Skruf Glassworks that they are manufactured. And Carina believes that the artisanal aspect is an important part of their success.

'They're all blown in the same mould, but depending on the glass and who's blowing it, they all turn out a little different,' she says.

A long collaboration

Carina has worked with Skruf Glassworks for more than 30 years, and the collaboration has intensified with the current owner Kent Elm.

Her Stockholm studio is her day-to-day base, but she's a frequent visitor to Småland.

'It's always enjoyable to work with the people at the glassworks. They are responsive and open, and we make a good team.'

And owner Kent Elm is just as delighted with Carina as she is with him.

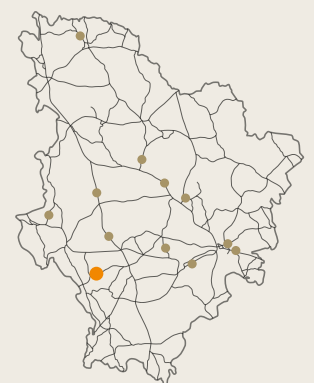
'Carina's innovative designs hit the spot, time after time. She's the key to our success,' he says.

Erratic is exciting

Carina appreciates everyday objects, and tries to take plenty of time when designing them. She works hard to minimise and strip back anything superfluous. A successful ob-

ject is often one with the right proportions. Some people call her a minimalist, or even a perfectionist. But she doesn't agree.

'The neck of a vase might be too short or a little too broad. But the feeling that something's chafing, uneven, is good – it makes it exciting! When I'm at Skruf Glassworks, we try things out. We might adjust something by a few millimetres. There's a lot of discussion, but it's also a lot of fun. Even a simple vase must have character,' says Carina Seth Andersson.



The Kingdom of Culture



MADESJÖ HEMBYGDSMUSEUM

One of Sweden's biggest rural life museums, housed in the historical church stables in Madesjö. Here you can wander in the footsteps of time, discovering objects, buildings and stories that reflect Småland's agricultural and industrial past. A place where culture and history meet – one where you can experience the past.



HÖNSALOTTAS LUFFARMUSEUM

Sweden's largest tramp museum, with thousands of objects. Meet Snacke-Per, Hönsalotta, Smålands-Pelle and many other well-known tramps. Named as one of Sweden's most entertaining museums by Land newspaper. You can also discover the Erik Höglund exhibition, the glass museum and glass shop with objects from Boda Smide och Oldergaard blowing room.



GRANHULT CHURCH

This medieval wooden church was constructed in the 1220s, and is Sweden's oldest preserved timber building. The church still exists thanks to the parish residents, who refused to demolish it when it was taken out of use in 1837. 42 years later, the church was once again granted the right to be used as a place of worship.



THE HAMMER MILL IN ORREFORS

A non-profit group, the Järngänget, spent five years and 5,000 hours on rebuilding the water wheel, blowing machine and the hammer. On 28 June 2014, exactly 100 years after the last hammer blow fell, the mill was re-inaugurated.



BERGDALA GLASTEKNISKA MUSEUM

The small engineering museum beside Bergdala Glass Studio shows how glass production was once done. An exciting part of the history of the Kingdom of Crystal – preserved for the future.



VILHELM MOBERGS BYGD

Vilhelm Moberg är en av de största svenska författarna genom tiderna. I Glasriket hittar du platserna från hans roman Utvandarna, där Kristina och Karl-Oskar levde. Besök Mobergstenen där han föddes och utforska utställningen i hans gamla skola i Moshultamåla.

James Bond 007 Museum

The world's only permanent 007 museum. All there is to know about the film hero James Bond.

Kosta Boda Art Gallery

The art gallery at the heart of the Kingdom of Crystal. Discover works by the foremost glass artists in the world.

Stensträngarna i Gullaskröv

Stones unearthed during the construction of the railway lie in long heaps in the forest.

Kyrkeby Bränneri

Sweden's oldest distillery, still producing spirits from potatoes.

Klasatorpet

At Klasatorpet, you get a picture of how a Småland crofter family lived 100 years ago. A delight for old and young – and the chance to meet some of our most common domestic animal.

Johansfors Gallery

Discover fascinating old and new art glass in the former factory manager's house at Johansfors Glassworks.

Amy keeps things glowing in Orrefors



Nothing can stop glassblowing in Orrefors. After the classic Orrefors glassworks was closed ten years ago, the little Orranäs glass studio has grown and is now well established.

'It's historic ground, so it feels good to carry on the inheritance,' says hot shop manager Amy Krüger.

Because glass has been blown in Orrefors since the 1800s, it felt like there was a huge void when the glassworks closed. But entrepreneur Ingemar Andersson made a unique investment in Orrefors by starting Orranäs Glass Studio. The business was growing nicely until a fire levelled the hot shop in 2023.

'Now we have a new hot shop up and running. It feels like a new start, and everything's finally falling into place,' Amy says.

An architect-designed hot shop

The new hot shop, erected on the site of the previous one, was finished last year. It's architect-designed, with an octagonal shape.

'It's modern but with a nod to how hot shops used to be designed in the past.

The visitors can get very close to the glassblowing and can also eat good food from the crêperie as they watch the show. And anyone who can tear their eyes away to look out through the big windows will see the beautiful park surrounding the hot shop.'

Sculpting the glass

Amy is one of few – perhaps the only! – female hot shop managers in Sweden. Her colleagues describe her as heat-resistant, strong and patient. And she loves making

glass sculptures.

'It's so much fun to work with the glass instead of just allowing it to take on a shape. In glassworking, we learn to centre things, that glass wants to be even. But sculptures have a front and a back, so it's a different way of working,' she says.

Amy, who lives with her family in the rural heart of the Kingdom of Crystal, says she has loved glass for many years. She already knew she wanted to be a glass designer at the age of six.

'I saw a glass exhibition at Borgholm Castle on the island of Öland, and since then there's been nothing else for me.'



Amy's gramophone vase is made using recycled glass.



**KOSTA
BODA**
ART HOTEL
SWEDEN

Art Glass Experience



Experience world-class glass art at the Glass hotel in Småland

At Kosta Boda Art Hotel, you can count on having a fantastic experience!

The environment is created by Kosta Boda's world-renowned designers and no two rooms are the same. Enjoy good food, drinks and relaxation in a unique environment - of glass!

In the spa area, glass fish play in rippling waterfalls and the illuminated underwater art in the pool bottom is a cool experience! Here you will find your inner balance and get new power and energy - a boost for all the senses! You will also receive a unique glass welcome gift.

KOSTA BODA ART HOTEL

Småland · Sweden

www.kostabodaarthotel.se • 0478-348 30



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Nybro focuses on hand painting



Mathias Ripheden runs Nybro Crystal and Pukeberg Glassworks.

He's the hot-shop herring hero who has taken two iconic glass institutions under his wings. Mathias Ripheden and his small team are constantly creating new series of hand-painted glass objects. 'We hope that a young audience will find our beautiful bowls, candle lanterns and vases,' he says.

Three years ago, Mathias took over Nybro Crystal – and he also owns the shop at Pukeberg Glassworks. Owning a glassworks was a new venture after devoting almost three decades to another tradition in the Kingdom of Crystal: hot shop herring.

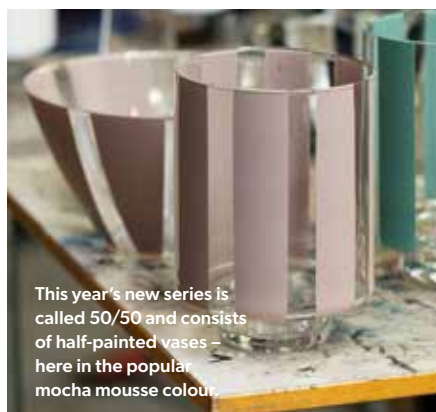
'I'm a chef by background, and have spent my entire career in Orrefors and Pukeberg. I love meeting people and have been responsible for the glassworks' hot shop herring events – both the food and the glassblowing. I'm not a master glassblower, but I know the basics,' says Mathias.

Historic Pukeberg

Pukeberg Glassworks is one of Sweden's oldest and best preserved glassworks. It also houses the Swedish National School of Glass,

where glasscraft and design are taught.

The shop that Mathias runs contains both glass from Pukeberg and work made by the students.



This year's new series is called 50/50 and consists of half-painted vases – here in the popular mocha mousse colour.



The glassworks at Pukeberg.

Hand-painted in Nybro

Nybro Glassworks was founded in 1935 and is known for the Prawn Trawler and Herring Boat bowls designed by Paul Isling. But today, painted glass is their speciality. This is done by hand with either a brush or air brush. It's precision work, and every product is unique. 'The new generation are well-informed and know exactly what they want. I've consulted my daughters to try out new, more modern styles,' he says.

This year they have produced a series of bowls and vases that they call 50/50. As well as black and white, mocha mousse is a colour that sells very well.



“
Glassblowing
is like doing
the slalom

Teamwork in the hot shop is important. Here, Micke is assisted by Cornelia.

Micke Johansson tries to read the glass as he blows it. Just like a slalom skier reads the slope. ‘The smallest error can turn into a huge mistake,’ he says.

Micke Johansson enjoys advanced techniques and substantial works of art. It's these large, complicated pieces – often made using his exclusive double ariel technique – that attract people to his small glass studio in Örsjö.



Micke Johansson is famous for his double ariel technique.

‘I've seen grown men crying in the hot shop as they watch the process. There's something about trying to tame the living glass that's fascinating,’ he says.

A master of double ariel

He grew up in Flerohopp near Nybro. Once upon a time there was a glass studio there too – as is the case all over this part of Småland. But there were no glassblowers in his family tree. It was thanks to a school careers advisor that Micke Johansson trained as a glassblower.

‘Everyone knew I loved painting and drawing, and this was just a logical continuation,’ he says.

So what exactly is a double ariel? Apart from being a technique that he considers himself alone in mastering.

‘The pattern in the glass is formed by small bubbles that give it a three-dimensional effect. It takes three weeks to produce a piece, and you only have to heat it for thirty seconds too long to ruin the design,’ he says.

Taming the glass

He's fascinated by the tiny margins for error when he works with the hot glass. The key, Micke says, is to be present and empathetic.

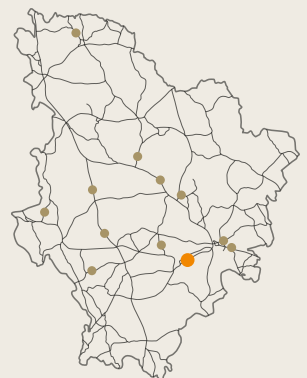
‘It's exhilarating to try to tame the glass. The hot glass is in constant motion. It's almost as though it's alive.’

To succeed with his glass-taming – which he says reminds him of slalom skiing – he plans carefully. During the winter he reviews his patterns and plans next year's glassblowing.

Do you have any favourite colours?

‘I try to explore them all, but I easily tend to fall back on blue. That's kind of the foundation. And it works well with a water motif in the glass. It's the same liquid element. So I enjoy making fish,’ he says.

See Micke in action during Glass Art Weekend in April and Aglow in the Kingdom of Crystal in October. During these events, he shows off how he creates an art-work to a full house.



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Always in motion

Creativity flows in the hot shops when tradition meets innovative thinking and classic forms are joined by bold new ideas. Every work is a testament to skill and craft – and the courage to try something new. Here are a few examples of glass art that's shaping the future. And there's so much more to discover.

Welcome to the Kingdom of Crystal!



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