

Art in the World Heritage

A Walk through the Town, approx. 5 km/3 miles

This walk will take you past 17 selected outdoor works of art in a historical cultural setting. The public art belongs to us all and covers stories of different times and ideals. It reflects more than 100 years of Gotlandic life and way of living, and is a part of our cultural heritage. Most of the works are from Region Gotland's art collection.





1. ROOM, Carolina Falkholt. Spray painting, 2013. The artist queries the image of women projected in public spaces, both in advertising and in the graffiti painting tradition, which the artist has personally experienced. By creating a counterpart with her art, she reclaims the female body. The mural was originally part of an exhibition at the Art Museum in 2013.

2. SPEARMINT, Åsa Ardin Kedja. Concrete, 1989–1991. An archaeological excavation in the 1980s uncovered a medieval town block with storehouses and bars, or »bierstuben« since German was commonly spoken in the town. This was where poor, young girls could find work, and they worked hard. Here Spearmint is composing herself. Perhaps she has been crying over the jug which shattered when she dropped it on

the floor a moment ago. It was, after all, an accident.

3. THE BENCH OF FORGETFULNESS, Hanna Stahle. Granite and bronze, 2004. People from all over the world have gathered in the Main Square, Stora torget, ever since the Stone Age and stories have been passed down from person to person. This was the site of the Town Hall in the Medieval Period and beneath the ground there is a stone-lined cesspit. What remains in our memory and what falls into oblivion? The objects on the bench seem to have been forgotten or mislaid at different points in time. A half-eaten apple, a medieval money pouch and a key ring with an old key and a typical modern key.



4. CHRISTOPHER POLHAMMAR, Theodor Lundberg. Bronze, 1911. The DBW Society initiated the sculpting of the renowned inventor Christopher Polhammar, who was born in Tingstäde in 1661. He invented a plethora of different machines, some for the mining and textile industries, but also various couplings and locks. Theodor Lundberg was the Professor and Director of the Academy of Art, one of the great artists of his day.

5. LEVEL, Gediminas Urbonas. Limestone, 1993. The sculpture has the shape of an L-square, a tool which has long been used by

people without changing its shape or function. It was an important tool in the building of all the churches on Gotland. The work embraces religious symbols, which have been severely subjected to the tests of time. The dove, the symbol of the Holy Spirit, is immersed in spirit or alcohol. The English word spirit means both soul/emotion and spiritual/mental strength. A fish, embedded in oil, is the symbol of Christ and of the power of God.

6. BALTIC CENTRE, Svante Gärdek. Concrete, 1993. There is a nameplate on the south face of the Baltic Centre for Writers and

Translators, artistically created by Svante Gärdek. The Centre is one of three centre-organisations on Gotland, whose objectives are to promote artistic exchanges and production opportunities for artists, authors and translators. A closer look will disclose Baltic modern and historical signs, letters of the alphabet and images in relief.

7. THE RAM, Anders Årfelt.

Concrete, 1992. The rams can be seen dotted all around Visby; they are parking and driving barriers. Today the flock has increased to 250 rams spread all across the town. They may only be used on the island, or to represent Gotland, such as the rams beside the berth of the submarine HMS Gotland at Karlskrona naval base.

8. SENTRY, Ture Johansson.

Bronze, 1967. Ture Johansson was born on Gotland and is the creator of the relief »Sentry«, known as a beadle in the Medieval Period, with the task of keeping general law and order in the town. With shield in hand the watchman protected the town from theft, fires and marauders. He was suitably posted at the East Gate with a view across the intramural town and East Gate.

9. VISBY FOUNTAIN, Karl Fagerberg. Limestone, 1916.

The fountain was commissioned by Gotland Bank in 1916 for St Hansplan. It was restored by the sculptor Istvan Varga in 1983 and relocated to Visby Harbour. It was moved to Södertorg in 2001. Four gods are represented: Neptune, god of the sea; Hera, queen of the gods; Hermes, messenger of the gods and Hephaestus, god of volcanoes and blacksmiths.

10. GUTNIC PROVERBS, Agneta Engström. Stainless steel, 2013.

There are 24 Gutnic proverbs at Visby harbour, all engraved on plates of brushed steel. They have been placed along the walking path at the four clusters of public seating. The proverbs, written in the local Gutnic language, are often written with a zestful, humoristic tinge, rooted in the bygone Gotlandic rural community. The artist heard the proverbs in her childhood, and they offer an

insight into life in times past.



11. SPACE INVADER, Invader (pseudonym). Mosaic, Undated.

The anonymous French street artist has installed more than 3,500 »space invaders« mosaics all across the globe between 1998 and 2018. Each one is unique. Of the two in Scandinavia, one is in Visby and one in Halmstad. The work refers to a computer game from the 1970s.

12. MONUMENT OF A GEOLOGICAL DIARY, Björn Erling Evensen. Limestone, 1993.

The Gotlandic bedrock contains material from as far back as the Silurian. The artist has spent a lot of time working on the themes inner/outer wall and gate/gateway. To quote the artist: »To see the insignificant shape as the bearer of the significant expression is to me the fruitful paradox in life and creation« The title and theme suggest that the work can be viewed as an opening in time.

13. OUTSTRETCHED HANDS, Pye Engström. Granite, 1991.

The monument stands close to the spot where Olof Palme gave a speech in 1968. This event was the run-up to Sweden's greatest political meeting place, the Almedal Week. The artist wanted to project Palme's struggle for peace as one

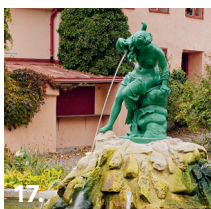
of his most significant achievements. A closer look between the two stone globe halves will reveal a number of human figures, reaching out to one another.

14. SUN BIRD, Tyra Lundgren.

Bronze, 1976. The title of this work suggests that this may be a long-distance bird. Now it's here, in the company of ducks, pigeons and small birds. In mythology, the Sun Bird is the deity of birds. Tyra Lundgren took a particular interest in birds, and they have been depicted through the different media she worked with – painting, sculpture, glass, textiles. She was also a designer at Kosta and Arabia glassworks.

15. NOAH'S ARK, Evert Lindfors. Terra cotta, 2010.

Evert Lindfors was born in Visby and moved to France while still young. He was inspired by his childhood memories, when he delivered newspapers at dawn. The story of Noah's Ark is about humanity's opportunity to build a sustainable civilisation. Being housed in a bunker accentuates the connection between art with biblical and existential significance and military history, since the bunker was built around the time of the Second World War.



16. BEACON. Nyteks – New Techniques for Ceramic Sculpture. Terra cotta, 2011.

The work was created and fired on site. Some ten artists from Gotland and the mainland took part in the creation. The sculpture was unveiled at dusk and fired. Participants could view the sculpture as a glowing beacon. For an instant, a glowing navigation mark.

17. GODDESS WITH THE HORN OF PLENTY, Pierre Loyson. Iron, 1899.

The town's earliest work of art was made to decorate Packhusplan when Visby developed into a tourist resort. Decorative water features were fashionable, and sculptures could be ordered through post-order catalogues, as was the case here.