



*World Heritage*  
**GÄSTGIVARS**



**G**ÄSTGIVARS has probably existed in the same location along the country road since the middle ages. The name comes from the inn (Gästgiveri in Swedish) that was run on the farm in the 1600s and 1700s.

The festivity building stands perpendicular to the main farmhouse. It has two floors and was built solely for festivities in 1838. The rooms were decorated by the trend-setting and highly skilled painter Jonas Wallström. He developed the art of stencilling, which spread to other parts of Sweden. Gästgivers is the best-preserved example of stencil painting.

The grandest room in the festivities building is on the upper floor. The wall panels are stenciled with a pattern of floral medallions in light pastel colours on a pale pink ground, probably imitating a silk wall hanging. The pattern was adopted in wallpaper production in the 1960s and 1970s, and is still popular. The entire section between the two windows on the east wall is taken up with a landscape motif which takes the form of a waterfall with a mill and some fishermen.

Gästgivers is privately owned and is rented by Arbrå Handicraft Association that is open in the summertime with exhibitions, a shop, children's activities and courses.

The farm is open for summer visits.





*Kristofers*



*Bommars*



*Jon-Lars*



*Bortom Åa*



*Pallars*



*Erik-Anders*

## WORLD HERITAGE IN BRIEF

A world heritage site is considered to be unique in the world and therefore important to all of humanity. World heritage sites are designated globally by UNESCO following nomination from member states. When a site is added to the World Heritage List, the member state must maintain it for posterity.

The farmhouses of Hälsingland were inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List as "Decorated Farmhouses of Hälsingland" for the folk building and interior art; that ordinary farmers built such large houses with so many and large rooms solely for the purpose of festivities. In Hälsingland, more decorated interiors are preserved than elsewhere in the world.

### *THE SEVEN WORLD HERITAGE DECORATED FARMHOUSES OF HÄLSINGLAND*

**Erik-Anders** i Asta, Söderala | **Jon-Lars** i Långhed, Alfta | **Pallars** i Långhed, Alfta | **Gästgivars** i Vallsta, Arbrå | **Kristofers** i Stene, Järvsö | **Bommars** i Letsbo, Ljusdal | **Bortom Åa** i Fågelsjö, Los

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.varldsarvethalsingegardar.se](http://www.varldsarvethalsingegardar.se)

### The farmhouse website:

[www.varldsarvetgastgivar.se](http://www.varldsarvetgastgivar.se) (in Swedish):

### The farmhouse Visitor Center

[www.stenegard.com](http://www.stenegard.com)

[www.varldsarvetgastgivar.se](http://www.varldsarvetgastgivar.se)

[www.ol-anders.se](http://www.ol-anders.se)

[www.erik-anders.se](http://www.erik-anders.se)

**UNESCO World Heritage Centre - World Heritage List** [whc.unesco.org/en/list](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list)

**Facebook:** [varldsarvethalsingegardar](https://www.facebook.com/varldsarvethalsingegardar)

**Instagram:** [@varldsarvet\\_halsingegardar](https://www.instagram.com/varldsarvet_halsingegardar)

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### Photo

Jakob Dahlström  
Maria G Nilsson

