Among the Flower King’s leafy halls

– Get to know Uppsala, the city of Linnaeus.

Uppsala. The City of Linnaeus. Since 1728.
Find wonder in all things, even the most commonplace, was the motto of Carl Linnaeus, as Carl von Linné is better known in English. Today, we might talk about mindfulness, or seizing the day. Linnaeus was ahead of his time in many things. His message was that you should observe and be curious about what you see around you. If you do, you will never be bored – for as long as you live!

Linnaeus is one of the world’s most famous scientists. He was born and grew up in Småland, in southern Sweden. However, it was here in Uppsala that he studied, researched, taught and lived for nearly 50 years.

Linnaeus was a physician, botanist, geologist, zoologist and philosopher. He travelled, observed, recorded, tested, analysed and wrote, just as scientists always have and still do today.

Linnaeus was already famous in his own lifetime, not only for his research but also for his teaching ability. He loved to impart knowledge to others. His view of learning was ahead of its time in many ways, and his methods are still used today in modern education.

Linnaeus is ever-present here in Uppsala. He enriches the life of every Uppsala resident in various ways, not least through the unique legacy he left behind in our parks. Perhaps Uppsala itself has also been shaped by Linnaeus. Our curiosity, spirit of discovery and desire to meet people from all over the world are things we Uppsala residents are proud of.

That is why we want to share Linnaeus with you, and take a walk in his footsteps together. We hope this brochure will inspire you to explore Linnaeus’ Uppsala, and learn more about Linnaeus and his contribution to our lives today. Come and enjoy the experience of Linnaeus’ parks and gardens.
Linnaeus made the rules for organising and naming nature’s species. To this day, his fundamental work is still important throughout the scientific world. In Linnaeus’ most famous work, *Systema Naturae*, he organised nature’s three kingdoms: plants, animals and minerals. He organised plants in a sexual system, according to the number of stamens and pistils. This made him famous in his lifetime, but is no longer used today. His binomial nomenclature, with each species having a two-part name, is still used, however.

**Linnaeus in one minute**

Linnaeus described himself as a small, rather skinny person with a big head, very intense brown eyes and straight brown hair. This corresponds well to descriptions of him given by many of his friends and colleagues. In particular, the intensity of his eyes and his clear, open gaze are said to have made a big impression.

**Born:** 23 May 1707 in Råshult, Småland, as Carl Linnaeus.
**Died:** 10 January 1778 in Uppsala, Uppland. Buried in Uppsala Cathedral.

**Favourite flower:** Twinflower, *Linnaea borealis*, named after him; now the provincial flower of Småland.

**Likes:** Wild strawberries.

**Family:** Wife Sara Lisa, and children Carl, Lisa Stina, Sara Lena, Lovisa, Sara Stina, Johannes and Sophia; Sara Lena and Johannes die in childhood.

**Here are some important dates from Linnaeus’ life and heritage:**

1728: Begins studying medicine at Uppsala University.
1735: Becomes a doctor of medicine and publishes *Systema Naturae*.
1741: Becomes professor of medicine at Uppsala University.
1743: Moves to Botaniska huset (Director’s Lodge) in what is now Linnéträdgården (Linnaeus Garden).
1753: Introduces the binomial nomenclature in his work *Species Plantarum*.
1758: Buys Hammarby and Sävja farms, outside Uppsala.
1762: Ennobled, becoming Carl von Linne.
1778: The Linnean Society of London is founded, based on Linnaeus’ collections.
1917: The Swedish Linnaeus Society is founded.
2007: Uppsala, Sweden and the world celebrate Linnaeus’ tercentenary.
2010: Sweden’s government puts Linnaeus’ cultural heritage on UNESCO’s tentative list of world heritage sites.

**Famous works:** *Systema Naturae*, *Species Plantarum*, *Genera Plantarum*, *Philosophia Botanica*, *Flora Svecia*, *Fauna Svecia* and *Materia Medica*.

www.linnaeusuppsala.com
Linnéträdgården
—a unique oasis in the busy city centre

leave the city bustle behind, and step into Linnaeus’ day-to-day world behind the fence on Svartbäcksgatan. This is where he lived, researched, taught and corresponded with people around the world.

What hides behind the tall green wooden fence along Svartbäcksgatan? Well, it is Sweden’s oldest botanical garden, founded in 1655 by professor of medicine Olof Rudbeck the Elder. Nowadays it is called Linnéträdgården (Linnaeus Garden) after Linnaeus, but in his time it was Uppsala University’s academic garden.

An oasis in the city
The fence separating Linnéträdgården from the outside world enables you to move from the city’s pulse into the 1700s, and the heart of Linnaeus’ achievements. Linnaeus lived and worked here for 35 years. Linnéträdgården is one of Uppsala’s most distinctive oases. Whether you are on a shopping trip or you are a gardening enthusiast, you can find your own moments of inspiration and relaxation in Linnaeus’ garden.

Painstaking restoration
A lot is packed into a small space here – more than 1300 species of Swedish and foreign herbs, flowers, trees, shrubs and hedges, including perennials and annuals. Some start flowering in early spring, and then they follow in succession all through summer. The beds are planted in accordance with Linnaeus’ sexual system. Only plants that Linnaeus is known to have cultivated are grown here.

When the Swedish Linnaeus Society restored Linnéträdgården in the early 1900s, they followed Linnaeus’ scrupulous notes, sketches, treatises and letters.

The academic orangery
The university kept an academic garden mainly for the cultivation of medicinal plants for medical research and education. According to Linnaeus, an orangery was vital to an academic garden, so he had one built for keeping delicate plants during winter.

World-famous visitor destination
Today Linnéträdgården, with its Orangeriet (Orangery) and Linnémuseet (Linnaeus Museum), is one of Uppsala’s internationally best-known visitor destinations. The garden is open to visitors from May to September. Orangeriet can be hired for conferences and functions throughout the year. A 1700s market is held once a year, with the garden full of people in period dress, and exciting attractions such as historical games. The summer restaurant serves food, coffee and drinks under a canopy of lime trees. The garden’s shop sells many of Linnaeus’ treatises and books, as well as Linnaeus souvenirs, etc.
Linnaeus did most of his work in the official residence in Botaniska huset, now Linnémuseet. The house is a living document of daily life in the 1700s, and a priceless scientific achievement.

Linnémuseet (Linnaeus Museum) has preserved the special atmosphere from the time of Linnaeus. Hand-painted linen wallcoverings, period dado panels and much of Linnaeus’ furniture and objects reinforce the feeling of stepping straight into the 1700s. Here he sat in his room writing scientific papers and letters to friends and colleagues who sent him plants and seeds from all corners of the world. He observed, reflected and wrote, and went out into the garden to follow the seasonal changes. He gave private tuition here, with the garden's plants close at hand.

It was an affluent home, and Linnaeus’ wife Sarah Lisa ran the large household with a firm hand. In addition to their five children, they frequently had guests for everyday and special occasions, plus a number of farmhands and maids. In the spring, the Siberian corydalis still flowers in front of Linnémuseet. Linnaeus sowed it in the belief that it was Bleeding heart. With the help of ants, it has subsequently spread all over Uppsala.

The museum opened in 1937 after extensive restoration, and is now run by the Swedish Linnaeus Society.

"Sciences are a light, which is as little noticed by those that dwell in it, as it gleams splendidly for those that wander in darkness."
Botaniska trädgården
– a living textbook for all the senses

You can see garden styles from different eras and different parts of the world in Botaniska trädgården. There is everything from the grand baroque garden of the 1600s to the contribution of the 1980s: the family tree of the flowering plants, and a Scandinavian rock garden with a pond, stream and mountain plants. There is ample space for beauty, artistry and creativity. Linnaeus used aesthetic experiences to help the brain better understand and learn new things, which is something today’s educators agree with.

From castle to university
Botaniska trädgården was actually the garden of Uppsala castle, but was donated to Uppsala University, and developed after Linnaeus’ death. The garden currently contains 8000 species, for teaching, research and biodiversity conservation. Botaniska trädgården aims to be a living textbook with inspiration, movement and play. As Linnaeus put it, “When you are learning, all the senses must be engaged”. The garden is also a popular venue for concerts, theatrical performances and garden events.

Temple honouring Linnaeus
The garden also contains various buildings. In the baroque garden is the magnificent Linneanum, built in honour of Linnaeus on the initiative of his disciple Carl Peter Thunberg. The Linneanum, which houses Orangeriet (Orangery), is where delicate plants are kept in winter. The plants are moved out into the garden in summer, freeing the magnificent rooms for art exhibitions, concerts and functions.

Tropical winter magnet and leafy garden café
Tropiska växthuset (Tropical Greenhouse) has Uppsala’s only rainforest with palm trees, coffee shrubs and orchids. In spring, you can hear the fluting of poison dart frogs, and in August see the Victoria water lily in bloom. The master gardeners’ hundred-year-old bake house and washhouse is now the leafy garden café Victoria, serving coffee, tea and sandwiches, and salads often decorated with edible flowers and herbs from the garden.

Events and activities
A lot happens in Botaniska trädgården throughout the summer. There are boule championships, exhibitions in the garden and orangery, treasure hunts, courses and concerts. Botany Day, with a plant market and competitions for gardeners, is held on an August Sunday.
Enjoy the tranquility of Hammarby, the summer home of Linnaeus and his family. You can experience a rural 1700s setting here, in the buildings, the garden and the surrounding cultural landscape, which is cultivated as it was in Linnaeus’ time.

Linnaeus was able to live a more relaxed country life at Hammarby. It is said that sometimes he would only be wearing a nightshirt when his students from the city joined him for their morning excursions. Linnaeus’ Hammarby (Linnaeus’ Hammarby) is situated 15 km southeast of Uppsala, and was the family’s rural retreat from the city’s noise and unhealthy environment. It was also a place where Linnaeus could grow and experiment with numerous plants for which there was no room in the academic garden at Svartbäcksgatan.

Illustrations of plants on the walls

Stylistically, Hammarby has some of the best-preserved farm buildings from the 1700s. Built in 1764, the house is open for tours during the summer. Linnaeus had the walls in both the study and the bedroom covered with illustrations of plants instead of wallpaper, something that has inspired many of today’s designers.

Linnaeus’ plants live on

Some 40 Linnaean plants planted by Linnaeus, or their direct descendants, still survive today. It is the largest living Linnaean plant collection in the world, and makes Hammarby unique. The Siberian apple tree still stands in the courtyard, and Linnaeus’ garden is now a park full of his exotic plants.

Productive agriculture

After Linnaeus’ death, his family moved here permanently, and took over the farm that had hitherto been run by tenants. The Hammarby farm extended to 340 hectares, and provided the family and livestock with cereals and grazing. In the vegetable garden they grew fruit, vegetables and plants that were saved for the winter, such as nutritious cabbage and swedes, and hops for beer making.

“My palace in heaven”

You can wander around Hammarby on the many small paths. Do not miss the little natural history museum up on the hill just behind the house, overlooking the fields. Linnaeus built it as fireproof storage for his collections, and he also taught his private students there.
Walks and refreshments

The land around Hammarby is a cultural reserve where the agricultural landscape of the 1700s has been recreated. Take a walk along Kulturstigen (Cultural Trail), and you can see two-field crop rotation, hayfields and outland. Danmarksvandringen (Herbatio Danensis), one of the trails in Linnaeus’ excursion system Herbationes Upsalienses, leads from the harbour in central Uppsala out to Hammarby. You can join one of Uppsala’s knowledgeable Linnaeus guides for a walk in the countryside, ending with refreshments in the visitors’ centre. There is a café with delicious pastries and a shop where you can buy books, beautiful cards, plant presses, games, teas and other unique souvenirs from Linnaeus’ Uppsala. If you cannot manage the whole route, you can take a break at Linnés Sävja, which you can read about on pages 15 and 20.

Keep my grove, that I planted in your time, vigorous, and if the trees do not survive, plant others in their place.

Linnés Sävja

– rural tranquility for a stressed soul

In 1758, Linnaeus bought two estates: Hammarby and Sävja. These were investments for the future, ensuring the family would have homes and incomes after Linnaeus’ death, because they would no longer be able to live in the professor’s residence in the academic garden. Today, Sävja is a rural cultural idyll with a farm café, museum, herb garden and cultural events. Hammarby was the family’s country estate, where Linnaeus both worked and received visitors and students. Sävja was a forest estate whose timber was probably used for the new house at Hammarby. Linnaeus had two new rooms built at Sävja. Perhaps they were intended for renting out to students; perhaps Linnaeus sometimes withdrew there to live the country life without the family, refine his theories and write new treatises. It was somewhere he could be undisturbed, somewhere his soul found peace. And it was Sävja where Linnaeus sought his last refuge when he felt his life drawing to a close.

Museums, culture and guided tours

Linnés Sävja (Linnaeus’ Sävja) has a sparkling cultural scene during the summer with art exhibitions, concerts and activities. Linnaeus’ dwelling house is now a museum, with an old ash planted by him in the courtyard. The museum and the medicinal plants in Linnaeus’ herb garden are on display during the summer. Children have sheep, horses, dogs and chickens to get acquainted with (cautiously!). You can also book a Linnaeus guide in period dress who will take you on a walk from Uppsala to Sävja along Herbatio Danensis. When you arrive, enjoy refreshments or a light lunch in the farm café.
At Gränby Linnéminne (Gränby Linnaeus Memorial) you can learn more about the women around Linnaeus.

Women did not take up studies in Linnaeus’ time, but there were many clever women who did have interests. As the father of several daughters, Linnaeus was in favour of women taking up botany. He therefore translated the sexual system into Swedish. He furthermore believed women would advance botany because they were, according to him, closer to nature. He corresponded with many women in his network, and encouraged them in their work.

In her father’s footsteps

Of Linnaeus’ daughters, Lisa Stina was the one most interested in following in her father’s footsteps. When she was 19, she saw something very remarkable at Hammarby. There seemed to be a flash of light from the nasturtium flowers in the twilight. Linnaeus helped her write a paper about this, which was published. They thought it was electricity passing through the flowers, but it was in fact an optical phenomenon caused by the colour of the flowers.

Art as a memorial

Gränby Linnéminne was opened in 2003. One of Linnaeus’ daughters, Sara Stina, lived at the farm Gränby gård from 1798 until 1831. The house she lived in burnt down in 1972, and a work of art now stands as its memorial. The garden is still there, providing pasture for livestock from the nearby 4H farm. Some of the plants there today, for example horse chestnut, Turk’s-cap lily and Hammarby houseleek, were probably taken from Hammarby by Sara Stina. In the large green area around the site you can still make out the fields belonging to the farm.
If you would like to spend a whole day in the spirit of Linnaeus, walk one of the eight trails in Linnaeus’ excursion system Herbationes Upsalienses, which offer you the joy of discovery, knowledge, exercise and recreation. Or bring out your hidden child: take your mobile phone with you and find the secret treasures. Herbationes Upsalienses gives you the chance to use all your curiosity and your thirst for discovery.

In warmer weather, Linnaeus often moved some of his teaching outdoors, and took excursions with his students through nature so they could see species in their natural habitats. But he also thought exercise in the fresh air was good for us. The eight excursions were carefully planned to give students the chance to see a variety of habitats during the season. The students assembled before the excursion, and Linnaeus gave them various tasks. For example, one student made notes of everything said and done. Today’s Herbationes Upsalienses are based on the records made during the excursions, and the stopping points are Linnaeus’ own teaching locations.

Nearly 350 of the plants Linnaeus demonstrated still live along the trails that wander through forests, over ridges and alongside fields and rivers. So put on comfortable clothes and rugged footwear, and pack your lunch in your backpack!

‘Walking in Linnaeus’ footsteps’

Linnaeus’ eight walking trails, called herbations, are all waymarked. There are information boards along the trails Herbatio Danensis, Herbatio Gottsundensis, Herbatio Waxalensis and Herbatio Jumkilensis. They give you advice and recommendations for feeling, smelling and seeing everything there is to experience in nature. You can choose whether to walk the trails in sections or walk all day.

Go on a treasure hunt

The trails Herbatio Ulrikenensis, Herbatio Hogens, Herbatio Upsaliae-antique and Herbatio Husbyensis are slightly different from the first four, and are aimed specifically at children. You do not have to walk the whole trail. There are starting points and junctions where you can meet up. There are various tasks to solve along the way and, here and there, places where exciting things happen.

Solving the various puzzles gives you the location of the secret treasure. You can pick up the treasure hunt map at Biotopia in Vasaparken, starting point of the trail, or download it from the internet. You can also borrow a GPS at Biotopia. Along the walks, Linnaeus is available as your guide on your mobile. The phone number is given at the various junctions. Calls are charged at the standard rate.

Become Linnaeus’ disciple for a day – discover the mysteries of Herbationes Upsalienses

18
Linnaeus and his students walked to the small lake, today located in the middle of Kunskapsparken, where they found both water soldier and frogbit. Originally, crucian carp, a popular culinary fish in the 1600s and 1700s, were farmed there.

Meeting place for people who thirst for knowledge

Researchers, teachers, students and anyone interested in horticulture, environmental conservation and landscape development come together in Kunskapsparken. The park includes unusual crops such as tobacco, soy and grapes, as well as various medicinal plants and herbs, tulips, summer flowers, hedges and plants dating back to Linnaeus. In the park there is the opportunity of trying out 30 or so different kinds of park benches, also rockeries, and of discovering quite a number of room-dividing trellis solutions.

Education in the spirit of Linnaeus

Linnaeus often gave his classes outdoors in order to be able to see, feel and experience with all the senses. Kunskapsparken aims to work in the spirit of Linnaeus, and to be an active and vibrant park that works to convey knowledge beyond its boundaries.

The eight trails

gottsumvandringen (Herbario Gottsundensis, 6 km) currently starts at Gläntan in the city forest, Stadskogen. Here you can gaze out over Norby marsh, now built on, where Linnaeus demonstrated cloudberries. After a stroll through the city forest, you continue alongside the river Hägån. The trail ends at Lurbo bridge.

ultunavandringen (Herbario Ultunensis, 7 km) has six junctions, and begins at Slottstullen. The landscape here testifies to the savages of the Ice Age. The brave venture out across the marshy ground on the Sammetstrass-pången walkway at the end of the walk.

hågavandringen (Herbario Högensis, 6 km) starts at Carolina Rediviva and ends in the village of Hägs by. The trail has four junctions, and locations with everything from the city’s pulse to the comforting aroma of manure. Travel in time and space from tobacco cultivation to sheep and horses.

danmarksvandringen (Herbario Danensis, 16 km) starts in the harbour and leads out to Kungsängen, where all the snake’s head flowers are in bloom. From there it follows the river Sävja towards Linnaeus’ Sävja, and then on to Linnaeus’ Hammarby.

Kunskapsparken
– learning in the spirit of Linnaeus

Kunskapsparken (knowledge park) is a protected garden in the middle of the SLU campus in the shadow of the Uppsalaåsen ridge. You are welcome to visit Kunskapsparken at any time of year.

SLU, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, advances knowledge about everything that lives and grows in our nature. SLU is in Ultuna, an area that was the objective of one of Linnaeus’ excursions, Herbatio Ultunensis.

Kunskapsparken – learning in the spirit of Linnaeus

Gamla uppsalavandringen (Herbario Upsaliense antiquae, 16 km) has five junctions, and leads you from Linnéträdgården out of the city and into the countryside to the ancient royal burial site at Gamla Uppsal. If you dare, you can sneak up to Sjödyn, a swamp said to be the home of a huge blood-sucking monster!

vaksalavandringen (Herbario Waxalensis, 9 km) starts in Nyby, and continues out across the fields and meadows east of the town to Väskila church. And then beyond, across the meadows at Eke and Jalla to the farm Timby, whose income paid Linnaeus’ professorial salary.

huvryvandringen (Herbario Huhyensis, 17 km) starts at Finn Malmgrens plats, and has six junctions. You can cycle or walk, and play landscape detective along the river Frykån, whose rich flora and fauna today includes fish and rare species of mussel.

jumkilsvandringen (Herbario Jumkilensis, 7 km) is the only walk that starts outside the city. From Jumkil church, go through Omsättra and westwards into the forests, where you can still see twinflower blooming during the summer. The walk ends at Studentvilan (Students’ Rest).
Stadsträdgården
– a lively park resonant with history

Stadsträdgården (City Garden) is Uppsala residents’ green living room, and a natural destination throughout the year. There are flowerbeds, expanses of grass, an outdoor stage, a large playground and the myth-shrouded “Island of Bliss” in the small lake, which was once a brick pit.

Are you longing for soothing greenery and floral splendour? Or would you prefer to spend your time people-watching on a beautiful autumn Sunday? Stadsträdgården is Uppsala’s green living room, and somewhere we all long to visit now and again. The park begins at Flustret, the famous dance and entertainment venue, and continues alongside the river Fyrisån. You can have a beer outdoors at Flustret, watch the boats, fish or just sit on the jetty and dangle your legs as the sun sets. During the summer, people gather with their picnic blankets alongside the river and have barbecues, play frisbee or just lie in the sun. There is a pedestrian and bicycle path alongside the river. Cross Kungsängsbron bridge and you can see Uppland’s provincial flower, the snake’s head fritillary, along the other side of the river in early summer.

Diversity and splendour
When Uppsala Horticultural Society started the city garden in the late 1800s, it was laid out on land that had been a hop garden, pasture and clay pit. The more crowded the industrialised city became, the greater the need for parks for beneficial, relaxing walks. In the 1800s, people liked exotic, strange plants and colours. They were fascinated by the diversity of nature, and wanted to show it in all its splendour. Entry usually required membership of a horticultural society.

The city park’s master gardener lived in Gula villan, a building that is now a café in the summer. Walking on the grass was forbidden in those days, and the gardeners kept a close watch over visitors.

Plenty to do
Stadsträdgården is a very popular park. In summer, there are concerts on the Parksnäckan outdoor stage at least once a week. Fitness classes, Tai Chi or Qigong sessions and various activities are organised frequently throughout the year. Behind Parksnäckan there is an open-air dance floor where dances are held during the summer. The park has a large, much visited playground, with lots of play equipment available for children of all ages.
Linnaeus’ presence is felt in Stadsträdgården, too. It was called Tegelhagen (Brick Field) in his day. According to Linnaeus, it was a very fertile meadow that they passed on his Ultunavandringen excursion. The water lily pond is surrounded by perennials. At its centre is Lycksalighetens ö (Island of Bliss). The small lake was there in Linnaeus’ time, and was where several aquatic plants that Linnaeus had written about were found. The island was named in the early 1900s by Uppsala students. Perhaps they were inspired by the old folk tale of the same name, which is about eternal youth. There is also a myth-shrouded silver willow, said to be a former gardener’s walking stick that took root when he stuck it in the ground.

**Parade plantings**

Uppsala Municipality’s gardeners have produced a floral programme based on a succession of four years, each with different colour and design themes. It starts all over again in the fifth year. Having a common thread throughout the city’s plantings enables high-quality plants to be ordered in good time. Stadsträdgården has the bulk of Uppsala’s beds of summer flowers, known as annuals. You can enjoy this year’s floral programme here between April and September.

**Rhododendrons and roses**

Near the playground, in the shade of ancient oaks, is the rhododendron garden. In May, they lavish their colours over visitors and delight all the bumblebees. In the south part of Stadsträdgården there is a rosarium, home to not only a multitude of rose varieties, all neatly identified, but also a profusion of clematis and perennials.

**Vasaparken**

Vasaparken is home to one of Uppsala’s most exciting playgrounds, and the nearby Biotopia museum makes it unmissable for all nature lovers with inquiring minds.

Vasaparken is an experimental park with spaces for learning, playing and relaxed meetings with friends. There is a new pond near the café’s outdoor seating area, plus an outdoor classroom and planting that attracts animals, birds and insects.

Vasaparken was laid out in 1911 to show plants from the various parts of Sweden. The park was divided into three sections representing Gotland, Svealand and Norrland, the three “lands” of Sweden. Today, there is an exciting playground in the park, plus the biological museum Biotopia. The museum houses a variety of exhibits on animals and nature, while creativity finds an outlet in workshops on nest boxes, animal droppings, etc.

Biotopia frequently organises events in the park: in winter, a snow sculpture exhibition; in summer, bird-ringing sessions and colourful nest boxes in the trees. The playground is always busy with children. Many preschools visit every day, and the most fun is to be had playing on “Klätterlinden” (a climbing tree). In Biotopia’s old entrance there is a café serving light lunches.
**Årummet**  
— Uppsala’s green waterside

The waterside gives city residents somewhere to meet, think, lunch, eat ice cream, drink coffee and stroll. In Uppsala, we have our beloved Årummet, our riverside spaces where we enjoy an open-air city life all summer.

The river Fyrisån runs through the city, and continues via Flottsund on to lake Ekoln. The environment around Fyrisån had great significance for Linnaeus’ work and for several of his excursions. Riverside benches, sun decks, jetties, lawns, plantings and lighting have been installed recently. It has become Uppsala residents’ new shared city-centre living room — and we love it!

*Flower rooms and flowing drama*

The first warm day of spring sees Årummet packed with Uppsala residents hungry for sun, and then throughout summer we visit as often as we can. Rosénparken, Arredi park and Gotlandsparken become like small flowery extra rooms, in contrast to the dramatic weirs of Kvarnfallet and Islandsfallet. There are floral decorations and flower boxes on bridges the full length of the waterside. Various artworks add yet another dimension to the experience. Årummet has won awards, and is a model for urban developers from other cities.

Årummet ends at Islandsfallet, but the waterside walk continues southwards with recently built moorings, and ramps that give people with disabilities easy access to the water, too.

“Mix a little delight into your serious pursuits.”
On Walpurgis Night, or as we say, “Sista april” (last day of April), the Orphei Drängar choir presents a free concert in Universitetshuset (University Hall). Loudspeakers convey the beautiful music from a packed auditorium to all the people who have gathered in Universitetsparken (University Park) to listen. Once the song “Vintern rasat” (Winter raged) begins, we know spring has finally arrived in Uppsala!

Universitetshuset was built in the 1880s, with Universitetsparken laid out in front of it. Its design reflects the romantic ideal of a park that prevailed in the late 1800s. The then rector and botanist Thore Fries wanted an educational park in the spirit of Linnaeus. He had a variety of trees planted so the young students could go out and learn to recognize them. Today there are nearly 100 trees of more than 40 species. More than half the trees were planted when the park was laid out. Several are strange mutations of common trees with unusual leaf shapes and colours.

Universitetsparken – meeting place for Walpurgis Night celebrations

Garden with popular entertainment
There was a walled garden as early as the 1700s. At that time, there were no university buildings, but there was a military training establishment called Exercitiegården. Here students could learn riding, fencing, languages and dancing. Public displays of gymnastics and athletics were still being arranged as late as the beginning of the 1800s.

Runic and a history professor
There are also six runestones, found in Uppland, and in the middle of the park there is a statue from 1888 of the poet Erik Gustaf Geijer, who was also a professor of history at the University of Uppsala. The Universitetsparken setting is a Swedish cultural heritage site.

Carolinaparken, better known as Engelska parken (English Park), is ideal for taking your blanket, your picnic basket and a thick novel to read. Once you have settled down, you want to stay.

Carolinaparken – the place for picnics and robust games

The park is located behind the university library, Carolina Rediviva, and is one of Sweden’s first public parks, built at the beginning of the 1800s. The park is a natural oasis for Uppsala residents on hot summer days. As the sunlight glitters down through the foliage, the majestic larches and deciduous trees offer cooling shade.

What we now refer to as English parks began to be laid out in England in the 1700s, as a reaction to the more rigid baroque style. An English park was designed to look natural and to create an idealised landscape. The grass in the park is not cut during summer, but allowed to grow tall and create a beautiful flowery meadow. Then in August the grass is mown using an old-fashioned mowing machine, pulled by heavy horses that work their way through the park at a leisurely pace.

If you prefer not to laze on a blanket, the park has plenty of good-sized picnic tables. And there is ample room to play frisbee, boule and other games in the extensive grassed areas. The park is part of Slottsstråket, a pathway in the area round Uppsala slott (Castle). To the west lies Uppsala University’s humanities campus, including art history, literary studies and theology.

You’ve certainly heard of Peter-No-Tail, whose tail was bitten off by a rat. Peter is Uppsala’s best known fictional cat and also its most good-natured. In the Carolina Park is the Peter-No-Tail Play Area. Among the houses in this play area, which are miniatures of houses in “Peter’s World”, children can climb, play, swing and slide. A pleasant and fantastical place for both children and parents.
Near Årummet is a small park that was previously a car park. Today, it is the home of a small bronze animal that enjoys beautiful music.

The highly talented Peter Artedi was one of Linnaeus’ closest friends while studying in Uppsala. Artedi is thought to have been very significant in Linnaeus’ development. They had many intense discussions about plants, rocks and animals. They divided the plant and animal kingdoms between them, and promised eternal mutual friendship – and that should one die before the other, the survivor would publish the other’s scientific work.

Drowned among the fishes
For a while, both Linnaeus and Artedi lived in the Netherlands, at the time one of Europe’s scientific centres. One evening, Artedi fell into one of Amsterdam’s canals and drowned. The grieving Linnaeus kept his promise, and published Artedi’s manuscript in his specialist field, fish. Artedi’s achievements have drifted into obscurity over the centuries. Naming the park after him has helped keep his name prominent.

With a choir as its neighbour
Artediparken is located near Årummet next to the grand KFUM-borgen, the home of one of Sweden’s most famous male choirs, Orphei Drängar (OD). So here you will find Orphei Drängars plats, and the little "ODjuret", a bronze sculpture by artist Catherine Sundkvist Zohari. ODjuret is inspired by Greek myths that recount how the legendary musician Orpheus played so beautifully that wild animals became tame.

Rosénparken is a little gem of a park, between Upplandsmuseum (County Museum) and Saluhallen (Market Hall), where you can take a break from the bustle of the city. On hot summer days, the proximity to the river Fyrisån and the rippling animation of Asptrapan (an asp ladder) bring a welcome feeling of coolness.

Though located in the centre of Uppsala, Rosénparken is a popular place to meet friends, gather your thoughts, chat during your lunch hour or discover new profusions of flowers by the rippling stream, which also features a fish ladder for the asp, the provincial fish of Uppland.

Rosén – the father of paediatrics
The park was restored and reopened in 2007 – in time for the Linnaeus Tercentenary – by the world-famous photographer Lennart Nilsson. The park was named after Nils Rosén von Rosenstein, who was a very good friend of Linnaeus. In 1740, Linnaeus awarded Rosén the coveted chair of theoretical medicine at Uppsala University. When Linnaeus was made professor of practical medicine, in the following year, the two friends exchanged appointments, because each was actually more interested in the other’s speciality: Linnaeus in botany and Rosén in medical care. Rosén is considered the father of paediatrics because he wrote a pioneering book on children’s diseases.
When Gustav Vasa assumed the throne of Sweden in the early 1500s, there was a move from Catholicism to Protestantism, and the monastery was dissolved. It was demolished following a fire in the city, and its materials used for buildings such as Uppsala slott. Stones from the monastery with Latin inscriptions can still be seen in places in the castle.

The ancient ruins of the monastery remain buried. There have been excavations in the area, for example in 1972. When the area was restored in the mid-1990s, it was decided to make the monastery’s history clearer by building new walls to illustrate the old. A new herb and medicinal garden was also laid out, with plants believed to be similar to those the monks cultivated. There are also fruit trees, vines, roses, hops and other plantings, and many benches and walls where you can find a sunny spot to sit sheltered from the breeze (early March-late September).

Klosterparken (Monastery Park) is a memorial to the ancient ruins of a Franciscan monastery that stood here from the 1200s to the 1500s. Catholic monks, Franciscans who came to Sweden from southern Europe, brought with them the use of brick for building. They also laid out herb gardens with medicinal plants they had brought from countries farther south. Among the uses of these plants was curing illness.

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Klosterparken
– sheltered herb garden from a bygone era

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1. Attäpparken
2. Botaniska trädgården (Botanical Garden)
3. Carolinaparken
4. Dammväxtrondringen (Herbario Danumæ)
5. Gamla Uppsalaväxtrondringen (Herbario Upsalianum)
6. Gamla Uppsalaväxtrondringen (Herbario Upsalianum)
7. Gränby Linnéminne (Gränby Linnaeus Memorial)
8. Gasnas Leuchs park
9. Hågaväxtrondringen (Herbario Hogensis)
10. Hjalmarsgatn (Herbario Hjalmarsson)
11. Hjorthskolan (Herbario Jorahmsson)
12. Klostervattnet (Botanical Park)
13. Linnaeumet (Linnaeus Museum)
14. Linnéhuset (Linnaeus' House)
15. Linnéparken (Linnaeus' Park)
16. Linnésävja (Linnaeus' Sävja)
17. Rosénparken
18. Stadsparken (City Garden)
19. Utövareparken (Knowledge Park)
20. Bostadsgärdet (Herbarium Ullswein)
21. Universitetsparken (University Park)
22. Väsbyväxtrondringen (Herbario Väsbysae)
23. Vasagata
24. Attäpparken