Next stop Hässleholm.
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In just a few years, Hässleholm has been transformed into a vibrant municipality on the doorstep of a metropolitan area. Full of the will to meet changes. And with strength enough to choose its own track.
The sleepy, low-key atmosphere is broken when the train nears the station. Joakim Planck now has a ten-minute stroll to Hässleholm Hospital, through the wakening town. A bracing walk before meeting the day’s patients.
**THE EXTENSIVE FORESTS** conceal settlements from the Stone Age. The painted ceilings of the medieval churches tell of life hundreds of years ago. Hovdala Castle testifies to the bloody guerrilla warfare waged by the Snapphanar in the 17th century.

The municipality with the largest area in Skåne offers you eventful history and dramatic scenery. Woodlands inspiring you to adventure, enchanting lakes, never-ending forest roads and rambling trails.

Hässleholm is a young town. The rectangular street grid and the avenues reflect the urban planning of the late 19th century in this community that grew up beside the southern trunk line between Malmö and Stockholm.

When the P2 regiment was closed in 2000, part of Hässleholm’s 20th-century identity disappeared. Worried voices were heard. But the dire predictions about the future of the municipality did not come true. On the contrary. In the same year the people of Hässleholm acquired their new culture centre, Hässleholm Kulturhus. A few years later the Norra Station science park was opened. The former garrison has become a growing business centre. Hovdala, the nature zone for recreation and cultural experiences, with its castle and treehouse, has become an increasingly popular tourist attraction.

More and more people want to live in harmony with nature. The number of people moving into the municipality keeps growing. Hässleholm is close. In 20-50 minutes you can reach the major cities of Skåne. An hour and half to Copenhagen and just under four to Stockholm.
The international IT education provided at Norra Station can be used all over the world. Monireh Sanaei left the twelve-million city of Teheran for advanced academic studies in Hässleholm. When she has qualified she might go to Canada, or back to her home town, or perhaps stay in Sweden and Hässleholm.
CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE AND CLOSE COLLABORATION between the municipality and local business laid the foundation for Norra Station. Education, research and enterprise side by side in the centre of the town. The modern premises contain classrooms, restaurants, a serviced office facility and student residences. Several of the businesses and authorities in the buildings are linked to competence enhancement and corporate development. Conferences and seminars are frequently held here.

How big Norra Station will be is something only time will tell. Expansion continues as needs grow. The Glass House is one of the latest additions.

An annual event is Europaforum Hässleholm. This fills both Norra Station and Hässleholm Kulturhus on the other side of the railway. Representatives from all over Europe come here to discuss current economic, scientific and social issues. It goes without saying that Hässleholm’s location, with good connections to Brussels, Copenhagen and Stockholm, influenced the choice of meeting place.
Alsatians and labradors. Chinese hairless dogs and pit bull terriers. Claes Fröderberg has lost count of all the dog breeds, and dog owners, that he has met during his years as an instructor at Hässleholm Working Dog Club.
BAT SAFARIS, RAMBLING TRAILS, a multitude of lakes for swimming and angling, paradieses for birdwatchers such as the Magle wetland and Hörlinge meadows. People who live here in the Göinge district are close to nature.

Hovdala has always been the Hässleholm people’s own castle. This became formally true in 2003, when Hässleholm Municipality took over the property from the National Defence.

The development potential of the Hovdala nature zone is endless. There is room for so much in this area of 2,500 hectares. Easy rambling trails, riding and more adventurous challenges in unspoiled nature. Hovering among the beech trees lining Lake Finjasjön is the Hovdala Treehouse, the biggest treehouse in Scandinavia. All plans for Hovdala are carefully examined to ensure that they consider the unique natural value of the area. One requirement is unshakable: the area must retain places that are undisturbed and quiet. Silent havens.

Hovdala Castle itself is a national heritage site in the care of the National Property Board. Hässleholm Municipality is responsible for management and activities. The park is open to visitors all year round. In the summer half of the year there are guided tours of the park and the castle. The orangery from the 1790s is used for exhibitions and concerts.

The buildings possess a dignified timelessness that stimulates the imagination. Who knows what could be going on behind the windows at twilight?
Concrete is versatile, malleable and colourful. Gull-Britt Jonasson, managing director of Finja AB, sounds convincing. Being selected entrepreneur of the year for 2002 by the business paper Dagens Industri was a recognition of the transformation of Finja AB from a heavy production industry to a company that works close to the customers. Many of ideas have become a reality, such as the Try & Buy houses and the House of Concrete. Other ideas are still on the drawing board.
CLOSE TO THE EXPANDING ØRESUND REGION and with good communications with most of southern Scandinavia, Hässleholm is in a strategic location for many companies. Close to large consumer and producer markets.

Hässleholm has long been associated with the traditional engineering industry. These traditions are still very much alive in the metal and wood processing industries which are now high-tech enterprises. There are advanced engineering companies like Backer and Autoliv Mekan and interior and furniture companies like Ballingslöv and Skandiform.

The town plays a significant role as a centre for transport and logistics. The Bergendahl group is a wholesale business that delivers goods all over Sweden.

In just a few years, service companies in telecom and logistics have become a distinctive feature of business in the municipality. Some fifteen IT companies employ over 300 people and cooperate when recruiting and training staff. For example, education in IT is given at Norra Station in close collaboration with the IT group. This benefits students and companies alike.
It has taken hard work, focus and discipline to reach the international elite in dressage and simultaneously build up an equestrian centre of world class. New championships await Jan Brink, a son of Hässleholm.
IT IS SAID THAT THE REBELS were able to fight the Swedish forces so long thanks to the skill of the local craftsmen. In the 17th century the local smiths could equip the Snapphanar fighters with weapons which were superior to those of the Swedish army. Truth or myth? There is a long history of inventiveness in the Göinge district. Local traditions are kept alive here, and new ones are created.

People have been coming to the spa hotels at Vittsjön for over a century. Furniture and interior design put Vinslöv on the map back in the fifties. Hedbergs, which was then the biggest furniture shop in Sweden, is no longer there. The venerable building is now occupied by Inredning Nittonhundra, a business selling modern furniture classics, and around Vinslöv there are several companies producing furniture and interior fittings.

Decorative art, especially woodwork and straw crafts, can be found in most farm shops. You can also find antique shops and flea markets. If you are hungry you can taste rural specialities, such as wild boar sausage or elder jam.

The rural population is growing steadily. Many people move to the countryside to combine a home with an interest in horses. Hässleholm is acknowledged as a horse-friendly municipality. A riding trail through the nature zone of Hovdala further strengthens the equestrian profile.
If Maria hadn’t picked up the phone that day, they would never have met. While out strolling a couple of years later they found their dream house, mostly by pure chance. A few minutes away from their work at the School of Music and Culture that brought Jonas and Maria Enetjärn to Hässleholm in the first place. Here in Djupadal is where little Elsa will grow up.
RED COTTAGE OR NEW-BUILT FUNCTIONALISTIC STYLE. Near a lake, in the countryside or at easy walking distance from the town centre. An everyday life that runs without traffic tailbacks or housing queues or long waiting lists for a place in a day nursery. No matter where you work in Skåne. There are over 300,000 jobs within a commuting time of 50 minutes from Hässleholm.

The increased in-migration brings a demand for more housing. A new neighbourhood is being planned in the old T4 grounds, in a central location around the meandering Almaån river. There will be a total of over 500 homes here. At Björklunda, near a golf course and wetland, a new residential area is being constructed. There are plans for detached houses near the lake in Finjasjö Park. Plots for building in Vinslöv and Sösdala. Horse farms at Mjölkalånga.

There are ample day nurseries and schools, not only in the town but also in the surrounding villages. In the bigger places the schools can provide education for all nine years of compulsory school. The award-winning School of Music and Culture, besides teaching music, also has dance, drama and art.

There is a wide range of active clubs and about a hundred facilities for swimming, sports and recreation. The Tyrs Hov Sports Centre is the biggest. In winters with plenty of snow, the rambling trails are maintained as ski tracks.

Almost every place has its own lake for bathing. Lursjön just outside Hästveda and Björkviken by Finjasjön outside Hässleholm are particularly popular on warm summer days.
Is my heart broken? Is life a lie? Would you fly? If you were a bird, where would you fly? Happy because that's what matters (or is it love any reason?)
Up one flight of steps and out into space. It is Annika Jönsson’s third term on the art course at the School of Music and Culture. With inspiration from the ongoing exhibition in Hässleholm Kulturhus, a planet is being built, with hotels, trees, insect taxis, aliens, and extraterrestrial landscapes. Sometimes the concentrated silence is broken by the rehearsals of the music pupils in the adjacent room.
HÄSSLEHOLM KULTURHUS HAS CHANGED THE TOWNSCAPE. A building that is open to everyone. With room for visiting symphony orchestras and local clubs. Here you can borrow books or listen to lectures in the library, visit the art gallery, go to the cinema, have a break in the café. A great deal of the activities are geared to children and young people. For the generation that is growing up in Hässleholm today, the culture centre is a natural part of life. By the fifth anniversary in 2005, over 1.5 million visits had been counted.

The culture centre is a distinct symbol of Hässleholm’s ambition to develop and progress. Transformation into a vibrant municipality close to a metropolitan area. With the will to meet changes. And with strength enough to choose its own track.
Swedish electronica is synonymous with Markan and Hässleholm. The debut album by Johan T. Karlsson, or Familjen, has attracted attention far beyond the boundaries of the genre. Critics have waxed lyrical, and *Det snurrar i min skalle* received a Grammis award for the best video of the year. The musician and producer Andreas Tilliander is a member of the Familjen live band, where he plays sampler and other instruments with numerical combinations.
01 · Johan T Karlsson and Andreas Tilliander
02 · The steps of the Town Hall
03 · The Park cinema is now in Hässleholm Kulturhus
04 · Hässleholm is a junction for railways running in five directions
07 · Gumlösa church, the oldest dated brick church in Scandinavia
09 · The Glass House at Norra Station
10 · On the way to Norra Station
12 · Hovdala Castle
14 · Hovdala Treehouse
15 · The Stainabjär cemetery from the Late Iron Age
17 · Excellent fishing in the lakes of Finjasjön and Vittsjön
18 · TeoKyl is responsible for refrigeration at the Ice Hotel in Jukkasjärvi
19 · Sofa, Skandiform
20 · Inredning Nittonhundra sells modern furniture classics
22 · Betty Boop can be found at Förmedlingcentralen
23 · Hip hop or foxtrot, garage rock or waltz
25 · Skateboarders can often be seen around and above the steps of the Town Hall
26 · Four swimming baths, an open-air pool and lots of lakes where you can cool off with a dip
27 · Close to nature everywhere
28 · Blackboard in Hässleholm Kulturhus
30 · Hässleholm Kulturhus, opened in 2000
31 · Gumlösa church
32 · Norra Station
Hässleholm Municipality is an important junction in Sweden. People meet here to live, enjoy, work and learn in a municipality shaped by change and with the ambition to develop.

www.hassleholm.se