



### Facts about Sweden

**System of government:** Constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy

**Head of government:** Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt

**Area:** 174,000 square miles

**Population:** 9.4 million inhabitants

**Capital city:** Stockholm

**Languages:** Swedish , English is widely spoken.

**Religion:** Church of Sweden\_(Protestant Christianity)

**Currency:** Swedish kroner (SEK) 1 krone = 100 öre

**Time zone:** Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) +1 hour

**National day:** 6 June

### Passport and visa requirements

A valid passport valid for at least three months is necessary for travel to Sweden . For some nationals a visa is required as well. For full details about visa requirements and application procedures, go to <http://www.swedenabroad.com/en-GB/Embassies/Washington/>

### Customs and regulations

#### **Alcoholic beverages**

Minimum age: 18/20\*

1. 1 liter of beverages with more than 22% up to and including 60% alcohol per volume as well as 1½ liters with more than 2.5% up to and including 22% alcohol per volume or three liters with more than 2.5% up to and including 22% alcohol per volume  
and
2. 2 liters of beer with more than 2.5 % or other beverages with more than 2.5% up to and including 4.7% alcohol per volume.



This means that you may for example bring with you five liters of beer provided you do not have any other alcoholic beverages with you.

\*For importing alcoholic beverages with more than 22% alcohol per volume the minimum age is 20.

### **Tobacco**

Minimum age: 18

200 cigarettes or 250 g of other tobacco products and 200 leaves of cigarette paper.

### **It is prohibited to import the following without special permission:**

- Drugs, medicines and poisons (minor quantities of medicine for personal use are permitted)
- Alcohol over 60% per vol.
- Weapons and ammunition
- Fireworks
- Potatoes
- Mammals, birds and exotic animals
- Plants/parts thereof for cultivation

### **Electricity**

**220 volts AC (50 Hz) is the Swedish standard.**

If you are traveling with electrical or electronic devices be sure to bring a two-pin continental adapter with you

### **Currency and Prices**

You need Swedish currency in shops, restaurants, hotels and museums. The Swedish currency consists of "kroner" (SEK) and "öre". 100 öre equals 1 krone. Find out the for your own currency go to [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

### **Paying for goods and services**

#### **Cash**

It is always a good idea to have a bit of cash on you, and you need Swedish currency to get by. You will find ATMs everywhere in towns and cities, and in most rural areas there will at least be one place where you can withdraw money, such as a kiosk or a petrol station.



### **Credit cards**

Major credit cards (some restriction may apply to American Express) are widely accepted throughout Sweden at banks, hotels, stores, restaurants, taxis, car rental companies, and for air, ship and rail tickets.

**Please note!** In order to pay or withdraw cash with your credit card it requires that you have a card with chip and PIN (Personal Identification Number). The older magnetic-stripe cards won't work.

You can get cash with your Visa, MasterCard, Maestro or Cirrus card at any "Bankomat" or "Utagsautomat" ATM.

### **Tipping**

An outstretched hand in Sweden more often welcomes a handshake than a tip. A service charge is automatically included in most Swedish hotel bills.

Tipping for special services provided by hotel staff is fine, but is not expected and is simply a matter of personal taste.

At restaurants, a service charge is included in the bill, but a small gratuity is expected for evening meals.

Taxi drivers should be given a few extra kronor.

Porters and cloakroom attendants often charge fixed fees. Doormen at hotels and restaurants are tipped modestly.

### **Tax free shopping in Sweden**

Tax Free Shopping by Global Blue is a simple system that puts cash in your hand when you leave the EU. You get refunds of up to 19% on your purchases. The minimum purchase is SEK 200.

Please note that you can only claim VAT refund for goods you will take with you **out of the country**. Services are therefore not included, nor is food you consume during your stay.

## Weather and Climate

Sweden enjoys a generally temperate climate, thanks to the Gulf Stream. Above the Arctic Circle, winter can be crisp and invigorating. In the south, winter is generally mild with an average of temperature above 0C/32F degrees, but temperatures can vary markedly in different parts of the country.

Sweden's northerly position has a definite summer advantage in that temperatures are rarely extreme and humidity levels are not high.

You can divide the country into three regions; central and southern Sweden, the northeast, and the northwest, or far north to describe the weather in Sweden.

## Temperature and light hours

Temperatures in Celsius

	Winter JAN		Spring APR		Summer JUL		Autumn OCT	
								
<b>Northwest</b> Kiruna	-10°	0 h	1°	14 h	17°	24 h	2°	11 h
<b>Northeast</b> Umeå	-5°	4 h	4°	13 h	18°	21 h	6°	11 h
<b>Central/south</b> Stockholm	-1°	6 h	9°	13 h	22°	19 h	10°	11 h

## Time & daylight hours

From early May until late August, Sweden's sun brightens the night and lengthens your sightseeing days.

The following table shows the approximate time for sunrise and sunset in Stockholm and Kiruna:

Period	Stockholm		Kiruna	
	Sunrise	Sunset	Sunrise	Sunset
January	8:47am	2:55pm	Darkness 24 hours	
February	8:01am	4:01pm	8:59am	2:45pm
March	6:48am	5:12pm	7:02am	4:41pm
April	6:17am	7:26pm	5:52am	7:33am
May	4:52am	8:37pm	3:43am	9:29pm
June	3:47am	9:44pm	Sun does not set	



## *Sweden Facts*

July	3:40am	10:02pm	-	
August	4:35am	9:13pm	3:02am	10:29pm
September	5:46am	7:50pm	5:08am	8:10pm
October	5:54am	5:21pm	5:53am	5:04pm
November	7:08am	3:54pm	7:50am	2:55pm
December	8:19am	2:54pm	10:14am	12:41pm

### What clothes should I pack?

During the summer the weather in Sweden is mild and pleasant. Pack casual summer clothes, like a few medium-weight sweaters, a light jacket or raincoat.

An overcoat is necessary in the autumn, winter and spring.

Comfortable, low-heeled shoes are important, not only for the countryside, but also for sightseeing along cobblestone streets.

Swedes like fashion. However, they avoid standing out in glitzy attire and will never abandon their jeans for too long.

In the restaurants and for business, a jacket and tie are expected for gentlemen. Trousers are acceptable for women on any occasion, including business.