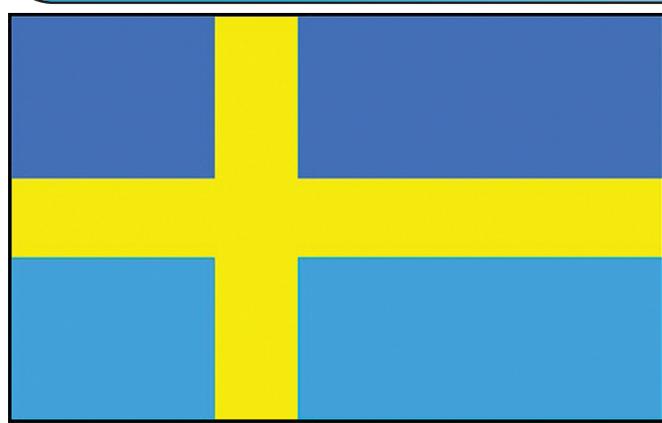




Travel With Us!



The Kingdom Of Sweden



- Sweden is located in a region called Scandinavia in Northern Europe. It shares a border with Finland to the east and Norway to the west and is connected to Denmark by a bridge-tunnel across the Øresund.
- The official name of Sweden is “The Kingdom of Sweden.” It is the 3rd largest European Union country in terms of land area.
- The north of Sweden earned itself the name of “The Land of the Midnight Sun” due to the sun never setting in summer months from May until mid-July. Even in the southern parts of Sweden, summer nights can be as short as 4 hours. In the fall and spring, Sweden is famous for the appearance of the Northern Lights, causing streaks of color in the late night sky in the north of the country. All types of skiing and snow activities abound in this region.
- Sweden was the first country in Europe to create national parks. There are 28 national parks, as well as many nature preserves and wildlife sanctuaries.
- Vikings (meaning “pirate” in an old Norse language) were a part of Sweden’s history. These sailors explored land and trade, as well as causing raids on foreign territories. In fact, all the Tsars of Russia until the last one, Nicholas II, were of Swedish Viking descent.
- Sweden once ruled Finland and Norway, but lost control of Finland to Napoleon in 1809. The king at this time was forced to give up his throne as punishment. Sweden stopped electing kings in 1544, when the parliament changed. The crown was passed down through the king’s descendants from that point on.
- Sweden is one of the least populated countries in Europe, with a population of approximately 9.5 million.
- During the 1930’s, Sweden developed a welfare system known as “The Swedish Model”. This new system meant Swedes had access to publicly financed health care, child care, schools, elder care, help for the unemployed, and at least 5 weeks paid vacation per year.
- There are 349 members of the Swedish parliament, called the Riksdag, and they appoint the next prime minister by voting. Even though there is still a king in Sweden, he has largely ceremonial duties and govern-

ment is run by elected officials. The country follows Constitutional Monarchy and Parliamentary Democracy.

- The currency in Sweden is the Swedish krona even though they are a part of the European Union.
- Ever since the mid 1800’s, Sweden has been a neutral country, not taking sides in the two World Wars.
- The Nobel Prize is named after a Swedish chemist, Alfred Nobel, who invented dynamite. The Nobel Prize Ceremonies are held in Sweden and Norway every year on December 10th.
- Swedes have been known for a number of inventions, including the astronomical lens, zipper, marine propeller, refrigerator, computer mouse and pace-maker.
- IKEA, a furniture making company that’s popular all over the world, was created in Sweden by a man named Ingvar Kamprod.
- On Easter, children dress up as witches and go trick-or-treating!
- The capital of Sweden is Stockholm, which is also its largest city.
- Popular sports in Sweden include ice hockey and soccer. Sweden hosted the 1912 summer Olympics and the 1958 FIFA World Cup. The national ice hockey team won the gold medal at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games.
- Swedish cuisine is traditionally simple. Fish, meat, potatoes, and dairy products are common in the dishes Swedes eat.
- The first ice hotel of the world was built near the village of Jukkasjärvi, in Kiruna district of Sweden.



Isn't Stockholm beautiful at night?