



## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ❑ Driving is on the right.
- ❑ Road safety standards are high. Sweden has one of the best global road safety records.
- ❑ Drivers must carry a valid license, passport, vehicle documents and proof of insurance. Drivers from some countries may require an International Driving Permit (IDP), which must be obtained prior to travel. A U.S. driver's license is generally valid for one year from arrival in Sweden.
- ❑ Sweden is party to the Schengen Agreement, which requires passports to be valid for a minimum of three months from the date of stay, a return plane ticket and sufficient proof of funds. Some border guards may also require visitors to show proof of travel insurance and accommodation.
- ❑ Visas are not required for most foreign nationals for stays of less than 90 days within any 180-day period.
- ❑ Strict controls are in place at all points of entry, including sea ports.
- ❑ Do not hand over your passport as a form of security.
- ❑ The Swedish krona (SEK) is the official currency. Major credit cards are widely accepted.
- ❑ Strict drug laws include driving while using some prescription medications.
- ❑ Legal blood alcohol limit is below 0.02 g/dl for drivers and bicyclists.
- ❑ There are 2.1 road deaths per 100,000 people in Sweden, compared to 1.5 in Norway and 2.4 in the UK.

## ROAD CULTURE

- **Drivers** are generally courteous and respectful of other road users.
- **Despite a high** adherence to most traffic laws, speeding is common on motorways.
- **Motorists** respect pedestrian safety, crosswalks and walk lights.
- **Pedestrians** may cross streets at random and not use crosswalks.
- **Compliance** with seat belt and helmet laws is high.

## ROAD CONDITIONS

- **There are** about 197,964 km (123,009 miles) of roads.
- **Roads** are generally in good condition and well maintained.
- **Traffic** and road signs have Swedish text.
- **Public transport** lanes are common in urban locations.
- **Roads may** close suddenly during winter, especially in the north.
- **Real-time** traffic information and road condition details are provided at the Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket) website: <https://www.trafikverket.se/>
- **Drivers must** pay an obligatory congestion tax when entering or exiting Stockholm and Gothenburg. Signs at checkpoints display prices.
- **There are** no toll roads, but there is a fee to cross the Oresund Bridge into Denmark.
- **Pedestrian** infrastructure is well developed.
- **Serious and** fatal crashes involving large wild animals are common outside of main urban areas. Drivers who strike an animal must immediately report the incident to the police so that the wounded animal may be located.
- **Frequent** public demonstrations occur in response to political or economic issues, during international events and on politically significant holidays. Avoid all



Source: CIA Factbook

- **City parking** is difficult to find. Parking is regulated by colored zones with separate rules and prices.
- **Most** parking requires use of a ticket machine. Display tickets on dashboard.
- **Gang-related** violent crimes, including knife attacks, shootings and explosions, have been reported in main cities including Malmö, Stockholm and Gothenburg. These events may be directed toward foreign nationals, and can affect road travel and public transportation.
- **Fuel stations** are often far apart in rural areas. Most require credit cards with chips. Many stations have no attendants.
- **In some** remote areas, seasonal ice roads cross lakes, rivers and other bodies of water.
- **Most ice roads**, including the Luleå Archipelago road connecting many outlying island communities in the North Baltic Sea, are regularly monitored for thickness and strength. Follow all posted safety instructions for use of these temporary winter roads, which may close suddenly depending upon road and weather conditions.
- **The following roads** may present particular challenges to motorists:



## Road Conditions, continued

- » **Flatruetvägen/Z531** is considered Sweden’s highest public road, linking Funäsdalen and Ljungdalen. The 37.9-km (23.5-mile) route is unpaved with a gravel surface. The road has an elevation of 964 meters (3,162 feet) above sea level, and winds through a remote wilderness area with many steep sections and few services. Drivers should be alert to reindeer herds. The road is popular with hikers and leisure travelers. Harsh weather conditions, including heavy snow, ice and strong winds result in frequent closures. The road is closed from 10 pm to 6 am daily.
- » **Stjärnviksvägen/Bockhammar** road connects Skinnskatteberg and Stjärnvik in Västmanland County. The 10-km (6.2-mile) route runs through a forest. Large wild animals are common. The road is winding with a gravel surface. Black ice and deep snow are common during cold months. Avoid this road during inclement weather, particularly during winter.
- » **Stekenjokkvägen/Vildmarksvägen (Wilderness Road)** is a paved, 360-km (220-mile) route between Jämtland and southern Lapland. There are multiple popular tourist sites along its length, causing high traffic in summer months. Services are lacking. Large numbers of wildlife are common. During winter, many sections of the road are inaccessible. Be alert to weather conditions. Do not attempt this road when snow is likely, even during spring and early fall.

## REGIONAL AND SEASONAL CONDITIONS

- **Sweden is subject to** severe winter weather, avalanches, floods, windstorms and wildfires.
- **Heavy snow** or icy surfaces may result in closed roads.
- **There is** a risk of avalanche activity in mountain areas following snowfall.
- **Flooding** may follow rain storms. Risks are highest in southern locations. Do not step or drive into floodwaters, which may contain strong currents or obscure potholes, branches or other hazards.
- **Wildfires occur** during summer months and may result in closed roads or detours. Smoke may obscure driver vision.
- **Be familiar with emergency procedures.** The Red Cross provides a website and free, downloadable emergency app: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies>

## TRANSPORTATION










- **Transportation options** include cars, taxis, rideshares, subways, trams, “kick scooters” (motorized foot scooters), trains and boats.
- **Public transportation** is well developed and is the recommended form of travel in cities.
- **Buses**, trains and subway systems are regarded as safe, efficient and punctual.
- **Most cities** and large towns have an efficient public bus system.
- **Long-distance** bus routes link large cities.
- **Tickets** may be purchased online and at many convenience stores. Tickets generally cannot be purchased on board.
- **Taxis** operated by multiple companies are widely available.
- **Taxis may** be hailed on the street, booked by phone or found at taxi queues throughout cities, especially near main tourist sites.
- **Use only** official taxis displaying “taxi” signs on roofs and company information on doors.
- **Taxi fares** are unregulated and may be at the discretion of the driver. Law requires that rates be displayed on both the inside and outside of vehicle. Agree on fare prior to travel.
- **Do not** share taxis with unknown persons, and insist that driver not pick up additional passengers.

Maximum Speed Limits

Type of road	Maximum speed
Urban areas	50 kph (30 mph)
Residential areas	30 kph (18 mph)
Rural roads	110 kph (68 mph)
Highways	120 kph (74 mph)

Always adjust speed according to signage, hazards and weather conditions.

Examples of road and traffic signs in Sweden.

								
Traffic circle	Emergency exit	Emergency pullover lane	Junction; yield to traffic on main road	Oncoming traffic must give way	Elderly persons in area	Shared use path	Priority road ends	Yield to oncoming traffic



## Transportation, continued

- **Rideshares** are available. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver's name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- **There is** a metro/subway system in Stockholm.
- **Cities with** tram networks include Stockholm, Norrköping and Gothenburg.
- **New** electric trolleybuses are being introduced to the transport system in Landskrona.
- **Trains** are operated by Statens Järnvägar (SJ).
- **The train** network, including high-speed routes, is extensive and links main cities and rural locations.
- **There is** a regional commuter rail network throughout the southern part of the country.
- **Pedestrian** infrastructure is well-developed in urban areas, and less developed in rural locations.
- **Cycling** infrastructure is extensive, particularly in urban areas where dedicated cycling lanes exist.
- **Many commuters** travel by bicycle. Bicycles are common on roads, especially during twice-daily rush hours.
- **There is** an extensive network of ferries and boats connecting mainland locations with outer islands, particularly within the Stockholm archipelago.
- **Boat safety** standards are high. Vessels are modern, well-maintained and fitted with state-of-the-art technology. Pilots and onboard staff are trained and certified. Number of passengers may not exceed available safety equipment.
- **Boat services** include regular ferry routes to and from Denmark, Germany, Finland and Baltic countries.
- **An electric** hydrofoil passenger ferry and autonomous electric car ferries are being introduced into the boat network operated by the Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket Sweden).

## TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

- **Drivers must** be a minimum of 18 years of age, and at least 21 to rent a vehicle. Some rental agencies may have additional restrictions.
- **Seat belt** use is mandatory for drivers and passengers.
- **Children** up to 135 cm (53.1 inches) in height must be

secured in a safety restraint appropriate to age and size. Children are not restricted from riding in front seats.

- **Fastened helmets** that meet national standards are compulsory for motorcycle drivers and passengers.
- **Cyclists aged** 15 and younger must wear helmets. For safety, all bicyclists should wear securely fastened helmets.
- **Bicyclists** traveling in designated cycling lanes have right-of-way over motorized traffic.
- **Bicycles must** be equipped with a red rear reflector, white front reflector, bell, a white light pointing forward and a red light pointing back, and at least one functioning brake. Lights must be used between sunset and sunrise.
- **Bicyclists** are prohibited from using a mobile device and riding against traffic, in pedestrian areas, on sidewalks or in pedestrian crossings. Where no bike path is available, ride on the right side of the road.
- **Cyclists** must use hand signals to indicate turns and stops.
- **"Kick scooters"** are popular in many areas during warm weather; vehicles are subject to the same traffic rules as bicycles.
- **Pedestrians** always have right-of-way.
- **Drivers must** use headlights at all times.
- **Trolleys**, trams, buses and disembarking passengers have right-of-way.
- **All** passenger vehicles must be equipped with a warning triangle, reflective vest and first aid kit.
- **Snow tires** are compulsory from Dec. 1 to March 31.
- **Drivers may** overtake only on the left.
- **Yield to** traffic approaching from the left and to existing traffic within roundabouts.
- **Slower vehicles** are expected to move onto road shoulders to allow faster traffic to safely pass.
- **A flashing yellow/amber** traffic light means proceed with caution.
- **On-the-spot** fines may be issued for any traffic offence. Fines may be paid by cash or credit card. Drivers may be taken to a bank to obtain funds; those unable to pay may have their vehicle impounded.
- **Police often** carry out random breath tests on main roads and highways.

### Stockholm (Capital)

- » Largest city. The total area includes 14 islands in Lake Malaren and the Baltic Sea; and the Stockholm archipelago, comprised of an estimated 24,000 islands and smaller bodies of land.
- » The city is the location of three major ports, including a major cruise ship terminal. When ships are in port, road and foot traffic increases.
- » Transportation options include cars, taxis, rideshares, subways, trains and boats.
- » Driving conditions are straightforward. Roads are well-signed and in good condition



## Stockholm, continued

- » There is heavy twice-daily commuter traffic made up of motorized traffic and bicycles. Bicycle traffic is particularly heavy during warm weather.
- » City roads are located within a traffic congestion toll zone.
- » Taxis are operated by multiple companies and may be hailed on the street, booked by phone or found at taxi queues throughout the city, especially near main tourist sites.
- » Use only official taxis with “taxi” signs on roofs, yellow license plates and prices posted on rear window of vehicles.
- » There is no regulation of fare prices. Most large taxi companies offer a fixed price for travel between the city and Arlanda Airport.
- » Avoid illegal taxis called “svarttaxi” (“black taxi”).
- » Do not share taxis with unknown persons, and insist that driver not pick up additional passengers.
- » Rideshares are available. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver’s name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- » Public transportation is well developed and is the recommended form of travel. Buses, trains and subway systems are regarded as safe, efficient and punctual.
- » The public transportation system is run by Stockholm Public Transport (SL), and includes buses, underground trains, commuter trains, select trams and some ferry lines operating within the Greater Stockholm area.
- » Payment for public transport includes credit card, SL Access reloadable cards and the SL app.
- » Tickets may be purchased via app, SL customer service shops, turnstiles and by contactless credit cards onboard buses. Cash is not accepted on buses.
- » SL tickets may not be used on airport coaches, the Arlanda Express airport train or regional trains.
- » The extensive bus network includes city buses, domestic routes throughout the country, and long-distance international routes.
- » Long-distance bus routes are available in many areas, and link large cities.
- » Major bus companies include FlixBus, Ybuss, Netbuss Express and Svenksa Buss.
- » Tickets may be purchased online and at many convenience stores. Tickets generally cannot be purchased on board.
- » The metro/subway system is called Tunnelbana or T-Bana. Signs for stations have a large letter “T.”
- » There are more than 100 subway stations. Subway trains run from about 5 am to 1 am on weekdays, and 24 hours a day on weekends. On week nights, buses take the place of subway trains.
- » Trains are operated by Statens Järnvägar (SJ).
- » The train network is extensive and includes high-speed routes connecting Stockholm to other main cities, small towns and rural locations.
- » Stockholm Central is the main train station, and is connected to the T-Centralen metro station and Cityterminalen long-distance bus station.
- » There is a comprehensive regional commuter rail network. Stations signs display a large letter “J.”
- » SL tickets may be used on most, but not all, commuter trains.
- » There is a limited light rail/tram system through the city.
- » Pedestrian infrastructure is well-developed.
- » Bicycle transport is popular, particularly during warm seasons.
- » Cycling lanes are clearly marked and run along most major streets. Drivers generally observe the safety of cyclists.
- » Kick scooters are popular during warm weather. They are risky when there is snow or ice on surfaces.
- » Boats are a major form of transportation to city islands and other destinations along the Baltic Coast. Large ferries connect regularly to international cities within the Baltic region. Some routes to the Russian Federation are suspended.
- » Boat safety standards are high. Number of passengers may not exceed safety equipment. Vessels are modern, well-maintained and fitted with state-of-the-art technology. Pilots and onboard staff are trained and certified.
- » An electric hydrofoil passenger ferry and autonomous electric car ferries are being introduced into the boat



### Stockholm, continued

- network operated by the Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket Sweden).
- » Stockholm-Arlanda Airport is the main airport, located 40 km (24.8 miles) from city center.
- » Transport between the airport and city is by car, taxi, bus, train and express train.
- » The Arlanda Express train departs from the lower level of both terminals, with direct service to Stockholm Central Station approximately every 15 minutes. Tickets may be purchased online, via app or at ticket kiosks in the arrivals terminal.
- » Regional and city trains can be accessed on the lower level of the airport. Follow signs.
- » Coach buses and an airport coach bus (Flygbussarna) connect the airport to City Terminal (Cityterminalen).
- » Airport taxis have fixed prices to the city. Multiple companies operate airport taxis, which can be found at queues outside of the arrivals terminal.
- » Bromma Airport is 8 km (4.9 miles) west of the city and serves mainly domestic flights. Limited service is available to countries including Finland and Belgium.
- » Tram 31 connects the airport and Alvik Strand station in the city. Metro connections are available from there.
- » Taxi ranks are located outside of the arrivals area.
- » Rideshares are available, and most major car companies are represented at the both airports.

### Gothenburg

- » Second-largest city and location of the country's largest port.
- » The city is well-connected to other parts of Sweden via major routes: E6, E20 and E45.
- » Parking is difficult to find. A congestion charge is applied to vehicles entering the central city zone.
- » Transportation options include cars, taxis, rideshares, trams, trains and boats.
- » Taxis are operated by multiple companies.
- » Taxis may be hailed on the street, booked by phone or found at queues throughout the city, especially near tourist sites.
- » Use only official taxis displaying "taxi" signs on roofs and company information on doors.
- » Taxi fares are unregulated and may be at the discretion of the driver. Law requires rates be displayed on both the inside and outside of vehicle. Agree on fare prior to travel.
- » Do not share taxis with unknown persons, and insist that driver not pick up additional passengers.
- » Rideshares are available. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver's name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- » Public transportation is well developed and regarded as safe and reliable.
- » Public transportation is operated by Västtrafik, and includes buses, trams and most ferries.
- » Fares may be paid via the Västtrafik To Go app, rechargeable Västtrafik card, or single tickets purchased at ticket offices.
- » Ticket offices may be found throughout the city, in the central station, and at 7-Eleven stores and Presbyrån shops.
- » The bus network covers city locations. Long-distance bus routes are available to other cities.
- » Major bus companies include FlixBus, Ybuss, Netbuss Express and Svenksa Buss.
- » Tickets may be purchased online and at many convenience stores, but may not be purchased onboard buses.
- » There is an extensive tram network covering most areas of the city.
- » There are 12 tram lines, numbered 1 to 11 and 13. Most lines pass through the main stop at Brunnsparken (Well Park).
- » Trams run about every 8 to 10 minutes during the day, and hourly at night. On weekends, trams run approximately every 15 to 30 minutes. Some lines are not operational at night.
- » Tickets can be purchased at onboard machines on some trams, but not on all cars. Machines do not accept cash.
- » The train network is well-developed with links to other main cities and rural locations.
- » There are regular high-speed train connections between the city and Stockholm, and to international destinations including Oslo, Norway.
- » Pedestrian infrastructure is well-developed.



## Gothenburg, continued

- » Cycling infrastructure is extensive. Bike paths are generally well-maintained.
- » There is a citywide bike rental system. A credit card is required for use.
- » Many commuters travel by bicycle. Heavy bicycle traffic is common on roads, especially during twice-daily rush hours.
- » There is an extensive network of ferries and boats connecting the city to outer islands. Routes include regular service to and from Denmark, Germany, Finland and Baltic countries. Boats to and from Denmark are operated by Stena Line.
- » Boat safety standards are high. Number of passengers may not exceed safety equipment. Vessels are modern, well-maintained and fitted with state-of-the-art technology. Pilots and onboard staff are trained and certified.
- » An electric hydrofoil passenger ferry and autonomous electric car ferries are being introduced into the boat network operated by the Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket Sweden).
- » Tickets for boats connecting islands within the southern archipelago from either Saltholmen or Stenpiren may be purchased onboard from crew members; payment is by cash or major credit card.
- » Landvetter Airport is 25 km (16 miles) from the city. Transport between the airport and city is by taxi, bus or car.
- » Official taxis can be found in queues outside of the arrivals area.
- » Flygbussarna provides bus service between the airport and city. Stops include Liseberg and Nils Ericson Bus terminal next to Central Train Station. A credit card is required for payment.
- » Most major car rental agencies are located across from the airport exit.

**ACCOMMODATIONS AND INCLUSIONS FOR MOBILITY CHALLENGED**

- **Laws prohibiting** discrimination against persons with physical, sensory or other challenges are enforced.
- **Accessibility** to public facilities and transportation is extensive. Programs promoting access to streets, public buildings, stores, restaurants, and public transportation are well-funded.
- **Most subway** stations and lines in Stockholm have an “accessibility guarantee” that promises to help those with mobility or sensory challenges reach their destination. Lines exempted from this program are Roslagsbanan, Nockebybana and Saltsjöbanan.
- **Placards** from assisted parking programs in other countries are not recognized in Sweden.

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

- **Responders** to emergency numbers can provide assistance in English.
- **Pre-program** emergency numbers into your phone before departure.
  - » Police, ambulance and fire: 112
- **Responses to** emergency situations are generally good. Beyond major urban areas, it may take first responders longer to reach patients and provide care.
- **Some parts** of Sweden are located within the Arctic Circle. Emergency assistance, including medical care and search/rescue efforts, are limited. Weather conditions may affect the ability of first responders to reach those in need.
- **Medical care** is regarded as meeting western standards. High-quality services are available throughout the country.
- **Non-emergencies** may be treated at medical clinics (“Akutmottagning” or “Vardcentral”). Patients must show passport.
- **Doctors** generally speak English at main hospitals in urban locations.
- **Some medications** prescribed in other countries may be illegal in Sweden. Check legality of medications prior to travel. Carry all medicines in original packaging, accompanied by a written doctor’s prescription.
- **If involved in a crash:**
  - » Call police; request any necessary emergency services. Notify car rental agency.
  - » Put on reflective vest and place warning triangle to warn other road users.
  - » Take photographs of scene and collect contact information from other driver(s) and any witnesses if possible.
  - » Avoid moving vehicle(s) unless its position poses a threat to other road users.



**ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR SAFE INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRAVEL (ASIRT)**

ASIRT is a non-profit humanitarian organization established in memory of Aron Sobel, age 25, who was killed along with 22 other passengers in a Pamukkale Bus Company crash on the roads of Turkey.

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