

Sweden



Information

Language: none (Swedish *de facto*)

Capital: Stockholm

Population: 9,234,209

Currency: Swedish krona (SEK)

(Average) [Rate!]

Current rating: 3.3/5 (59 votes)

Your rating:

Hitchability: Excellent Good Average Bad Almost impossible

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hitchhiking in northern Sweden

Sweden



Katha uses the fastest transport alternative between Lund and Malmö



Öresund hitchhiker Malte and a helpful driver enjoying the moment during a ride in the region of Dalarna. **Sweden** is a member state of the European Union as well as the Schengen Agreement. Many say that hitching in Sweden sucks. But it can work very well! Moreover almost everyone speaks English which will increase your chances of learning from the meetings along the way. As anywhere in Western Europe, the motorways are the holy temples of car driving religion and someone standing on them is committing blasphemy. But you can hitch on the motorway ramps as well as on local roads. Better bring a good map, though, so that you won't end up in an unexpected place. If you travel along the biggest motorway, E4, you will make faster time, but not see that much of Sweden's beautiful landscapes. If your primary aim is to explore the country, you should stay away from E4.

Especially in northern Sweden there are only a few main roads, which means that you might have a shorter time waiting and longer lifts. Be careful to stand somewhere where there is some sign of civilization. As especially in the north the roads are no real motorways and accessible for pedestrians, you can stop all the traffic, especially if you stand on something like a bus stop. When on large motorways you have to take care a little on which petrol station you end up on, as there are too many of them, with sometimes only little traffic on each of them, and as most of the petrol stations are one or two kilometers away from the motorway.

Sweden

Anick-Marie had no chance at all hitching rides on Öland in May 2005. Aurélien hadn't either from Copenhagen to Stockholm in August 2011. On the other hand, Ben had good experiences in 2010, going most of the way across the country up to Finland. In the summer of 2011 Harry Tattersall Smith and Viljami Laurmaa had an incredible time hitchhiking through the north of Sweden. Any memories of the delays have all but been eclipsed by the fantastic characters and experiences we had along the way. Their adventures have been documented here

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Counties

- [Blekinge län](#)
- [Dalarnas län](#)
- [Gävleborgs län](#)
- [Jämtlands län](#)
- [Jönköpings län](#)
- [Kalmar län](#)
- [Kronobergs län](#)
- [Norrbottnens län](#)
- [Södermanlands län](#)
- [Uppsala län](#)
- [Värmlands län](#)
- [Västernorrlands län](#)
- [Västmanlands län](#)
- [Örebro län](#)
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Cities

- [Dals-Ed](#)
- [Göteborg](#)
- [Halmstad](#)
- [Jönköping](#)
- [Karlskrona](#)
- [Kristianstad](#)
- [Luleå](#)
- [Lund](#)
- [Malmö](#)
- [Mellerud](#)

Sweden

- [Norrköping](#)
- [Nyköping](#)
- [Örebro](#)
- [Stockholm](#)
- [Strömstad](#)
- [Sundsvall](#)
- [Trelleborg](#) with ferries to Germany and Poland
- [Trollhättan](#)
- [Umeå](#)
- [Åmål](#)

Landscapes

Sweden is a rather large country, with very desolate areas in the northern part. Instead of knowing every little city, especially when hitch hiking in northern Sweden, it is more meaningful to have a sense of the different regions or landscapes:

[Dalarna](#) [Härjedalen](#) [Lappland](#)

Crossing the border

Sweden is in the [Schengen treaty](#). This treaty is rather well respected at the Finnish and Norwegian borders but has stricter regulations at the terminals where ferries from [Denmark](#) port, or at the bridge uniting [Copenhagen](#) with [Malmö](#). Stricter control and special attention is usually applied to those who look like "being of another race". If you are unlucky, you might be made to strip during their search. Keep in mind, though, that the personality check is not applied to everyone but only to some at random order so you have more chances to quickly cross the border than get stuck explaining to the officials that you are neither a paperless immigrant nor a smuggler.

Language & Communication

There is no special need of practicing your Swedish since almost everyone speaks English there. Although it can still be useful to speak a couple of words of Swedish for the few people who don't speak English ? some immigrants for example, who are more likely to pick up hitchhikers even so. Check out the [Swedish phrasebook](#). Hitchhiking means *liftar*.

Also, when asking for lifts at petrol stations, some people don't understand that you are hitchhiking and start to explain you the way as if you had an own car.

When people talk about the amount of miles they are doing with their car, it's actually Swedish Miles, which equals 10 kilometres.



Öresund hitchhiker Nanna knows how to attract the locals in southern Lappland.



Ready to sleep ? a pitched tent outside the road in northern Sweden.

Camping

In Sweden, the wonderful Allemansrätt has existed for many centuries only as a customary law, but since 1994 it is part of the Swedish constitution. As in other Nordic countries, the Swedish right to roam comes with an equal emphasis being placed upon the responsibility to look after the countryside; the maxim is "**Do not disturb, do not destroy**".

The Allemansrätt gives a person the right to access, walk, cycle, ride, ski, and camp on any land - with the exception of private gardens, the immediate vicinity of a dwelling house and land under cultivation, and with restrictions for nature reserves and other protected areas. This means that you could put up a tent for free almost anywhere as long as it doesn't disturb anybody. Make sure to **not leave any garbage** in the nature ? we should really take the responsibility for those future generations will have the same democratic right to the nature as we have, and of course have any nature at all.. Very welcome to enjoy the Swedish nature!

Useful things

You have good chances of finding quite nice **food** in the dumpsters of petrol stations along the smaller roads (the E4 is *not* a good bet for this). Supermarkets are hard to dumpsterdive in Sweden.

Internet you can normally get at the public or university libraries for free. Sometimes you have to ask for a guest account.

There's a quite useful **map** ("vägkarta") which you can get at *OKQ8* petrol stations. It's for whole Sweden and has all *OKQ8* petrol stations on it, which can be quite handy when hitchhiking and looking for a good place to be dropped off. **Here's another map** that you can apparently order for free. {Link is dead - can someone who knows what this was renew/correct it?}

It is quite usual to send a **thanksaying-message** the day after a party or after a meeting ? saying something like "Thanks for yesterday". When one **enters a flat** or an apartment (or go further into a truck cab than the passenger seat), it is a must to take off ones shoes!

It is recommended to bring insect repellent if you hitch during the summer.

For the best chance of getting "lift", go to the petrol stations or were people stop for food along the road. Some Swedes can be quite reserved and for this reason it helps to introduce yourself (with a smile), instead of just being a stranger on the side of the road. Just a thumbs up will work, but might take longer. After 18.00 in the afternoon hitching is difficult here.

Links

- [Skjutsgruppen.nu](#) - *rideshare* network within the social networks. Also on Twitter: [twitter.com/skjutsgruppen](#)
- [Samåkning.se](#) - *rideshare* network (for Sweden and Northern Europe in general)
- [\[1\]](#) - facebookgroup for Swedish hitchhikers

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