



WELCOME TO JÖNKÖPING!

A to Z Guide

Summary

This guide comprises information about various topics of interest if you consider moving to Jönköping.

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Guide A-Z

A

Accommodation and housing

Jönköping municipality has no common housing agency with apartments to rent. To apply for an apartment, you generally must register in a housing queue. To be able to register in a housing queue a Swedish personal identity number is usually required.

[Nine tips on how to find housing](#)

[Housing and landlords in Jönköping](#)

Adult education

The municipality provides a number of opportunities in adult education from Swedish for Immigrants, vocational studies or some other type of studies.

[Adult education in Jönköping](#)

After-school care/recreational activities (fritidshem)

Children from 6 to 12 years of age can enroll in after-school care provided at each school. After-school care ("fritids") is an on-going part of the school day. It is available to children whose parents work or study and require care outside of the regular school day. Like preschool care, each municipality sets its own rules on what is permitted for after-school care. Parents, who are unemployed and not studying, are in general not allowed to leave their children in after-school care.

[After-school care](#)

Airport

Jönköping Airport is located 9 km from the city Centre and has connections with Stockholm (Arlanda Airport) and Copenhagen (Kastrup Airport), Denmark. To get to and from the airport there is a regular bus service (route 27) to Jönköping city Centre. There are also airport taxis.

[Jönköping Airport](#)

[Arlanda Airport](#)

[Kastrup Airport](#)

Alcohol



In Sweden, you may only buy alcohol in a shop called Systembolaget. You cannot buy alcohol in supermarkets or any other shops. The kinds of drinks you are able to purchase at normal shops contain very low percentages of alcohol. In order to buy alcohol at Systembolaget, you must be 20 years old and be able to verify your age by showing a valid ID. Ask your nearest Systembolaget shop about valid IDs within Europe. Note that there is zero tolerance towards drink and driving in Sweden.

B

BankID



BankID is a citizen identification solution that allows companies, banks and governments agencies to authenticate and conclude agreements with individuals over the Internet. When using online banking, one of the easiest ways to identify yourself is via BankID. For more information to get a BankID, please contact your bank. For more general information about BankID in Sweden.

[BankID](#)

Banks and financial institutions

You must have obtained a personal identity number and an ID-card to open a bank account with complete banking services. More information on requirements to open a bank account can be found on the Swedish

[Bankers Association's website](#)

Business and support

Jönköping municipality aims to create favorable conditions for business development and expansion, and to stimulate and facilitate start-ups and entrepreneurship.

[More information about Trade and industry in the municipality](#)

[Enterprise Europe Network office in Jönköping](#)

C

Cash-free

Sweden is moving towards a cash-free economy which implies that some business (coffee shops, stores) only accept credit/debit cards for payment.

Credit Cards in Sweden

Credit cards such as American Express, Diners Club International, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted. Many restaurants and shops are cash free. Checks are rarely used in Sweden. Currency and traveler's checks can be exchanged in banks, currency exchange offices and post offices.

Consumer rights

The Swedish Consumer Agency is a government agency whose task is to safeguard consumer interests. The government and the parliament determine consumer policy objectives and the direction of work for the Swedish Consumer Agency. The agency has a Director General who is also the Consumer representative (Konsumentombudsman, KO). KO can represent consumer interests in relations with businesses and pursue legal action in court.

Compulsory school or elementary school

Swedish compulsory schooling consists of four stages: förskoleklass ('pre-school year'), lågstadiet (years 1–3), mellanstadiet (years 4–6) and högstadiet (years 7–9). Children between ages six and thirteen are also offered after-school care before and after school hours.

[The elementary schools in the municipality of Jönköping](#)

Culture

Culture and Leisure operates, supports and promotes activities that contribute to the good growing conditions for children and young people in the municipality, seems to offer all the inhabitants opportunities for a rich and active leisure, a good general cultural activities, libraries, and support for cultural associations.

Currency

The currency used in Sweden is Swedish Krona (SEK). 1 Swedish krona equals 100 öre. The denominations for coins are 1, 2, 5 and 10 kronor. Notes are 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000 kronor. There are currency exchange offices as well as many banks in Jönköping.

Cycling

Jönköping is an ideal city for cycling since there are many cycle paths running through the city and its suburbs. Round, blue traffic signs with a white bicycle indicate the paths. If you cycle after dark, you must have lights, both front and back, and reflectors. If you do not, the police could fine you. Also, remember that we drive on the right-hand side of the road.

If you want to buy a cheap second-hand bicycle, you can look in the small ads in the local papers. You can also rent a bike at a few places in the city.

[Rent a bike](#)

D

Daycare, child-care, pre-school

In Sweden, municipalities provide daycare or pre-school for children ages one to five. If you work, study, are unemployed or on parental leave, your children can go to daycare.

[Information about the daycare offered by the municipality](#)

Dental care (Folktandvården)

There is the public dental service and there are private dental clinics. If you need urgent dental treatment, call any dental clinic and ask for advice. Dental care is not included in the social benefits in Sweden.

Driving license

If you are over 18 and have a driving license from your home country, you may only use it in Sweden for a maximum period of one year. EU and EEA driving licenses are valid in Sweden and you do not need to trade them for a Swedish license.

Switzerland and Japan are special cases as licenses from these countries can be exchanged for a Swedish one without taking a driving test.

Sweden drives on the right side of the road, and all passengers in a vehicle must wear seat belts at all times. You must also use dipped headlights or special daylight driving lights at all times during daytime.

Sweden's drinking laws are strict. The police can at any time stop a vehicle and perform a breath test on the driver. Drinking and driving in Sweden is not tolerated. When driving in wooded areas, please look out for wildlife, such as elk. From 1 December to 31 March, it is a legal requirement to fit all vehicles with snow tires when the driving conditions call for it.

[Swedish Transport Administration](#)

[Swedish Transport Agency](#)

Drugs

The Swedish police take the consumption and/or possession of illegal drugs in Sweden very seriously. The use and/or possession of narcotic drugs is regarded as a criminal offence according to Swedish law and is punishable by fine or imprisonment.

Swedish culture does not tolerate the use of drugs, including marijuana, cannabis, and stronger drugs such as cocaine. The use of drugs is not tolerated in the Swedish society.

E

Education in Swedish for Immigrants (SFI)

SFI stands for Swedish for Immigrants that offers basic Swedish language. You learn how to read, write, speak and understand Swedish. Taking an SFI course will enable you to feel part of Swedish society more quickly and allow you to progress to further study or get a job. Individual can apply for SFI once they have received a personal number and the course is free of charge.

[Information about SFI in the municipality of Jönköping](#)

Electricity

Sweden uses 220 volts and 50 cycles (Hz), which is the European standard. You may need a transformer and/or an adapter for your electrical appliances, since Swedish outlets differ from, for example, both American and British ones.

Emergency care

In case of an emergency, dial 112, or go to the nearest Accident and Emergency ward at the hospital. If you are unsure whether to visit the hospital or health clinic, call the medical advice telephone service, dial 1177.

Employment

An employment agreement is a written agreement between the employer and the employee. Furthermore, it is a personal agreement between the two parts, regulating matters such as salary and form of employment. It is drawn up when a decision on employment has been made and it is on your manager to ensure that the agreement is produced.

The terms of employment are regulated in a collective agreement, in Sweden referred to as "kollektivavtal".

EURES - European Job Mobility

EURES focuses on the free movement of persons across the EU and is another valuable source for both jobseekers and employers. They provide information, advice and recruitment activities along with job matching for particular areas of competence. We recommend that you visit their Job Mobility portal before moving to Sweden as the information given may give you a head start in your job search.

[EURES in Sweden](#)

F

Functional impairment

You who, because of illness or injury have impaired intellectual, mental or physical function have the opportunity to apply for action to be able to live like others.

G

H

Health clinic (vårdcentral)

The health clinic becomes your first point of contact with medical services when you become sick or sustain mild injuries. As part of the public-funded social insurance, you only pay a moderate fee when visiting a doctor or physiotherapist within the national health scheme.

[More information about health clinics](#)

Hospital (Länsjukhuset Ryhov)

Before you go to a hospital, you are advised to call the medical advice telephone service, dial 1177. In case of an emergency, dial 112, or go to the nearest Accident and Emergency ward at the hospital.

Housing

Finding housing in Sweden can be challenging depending on the desired area. You will find commercial rental buildings and privately owned apartments to rent. Most rentals are unfurnished; however, privately owned property owners tend to rent apartments partially or fully furnished. Whether you buy or rent accommodation, you will find a stove, oven, fridge and freezer in the apartment or house. Apartments normally offer laundry facilities that can be booked in advance. Sometimes there may be a washer and dryer in the apartment as an option.

Whether you rent a house or an apartment, we recommend that you document the condition by taking plenty of pictures and doing an inspection with the property owner if possible. We also advise you to take out a home insurance policy.

In Jönköping Municipality, several property owners and housing corporations provide rental housing. A number of real estate agents is available and can help you find accommodation. Hemnet is a website where you can find housing for sale on the Swedish market.

The housing market in Jönköping is strained and it can therefore be difficult to find housing. To apply for an apartment, you generally must register in a housing queue. To be able to register in a housing queue a Swedish personal identity number is usually required, but with some property owners a certified passport copy is enough.

Identity card

The identity card is used as proof of identity in person. It will help in any contact you may have with the Swedish authorities. You can apply for an ID card (identity card) from the Swedish Tax Agency. The Tax Agency ID card is an approved form of identification within Sweden. You can use the ID card as proof of your age and identity at places such as pharmacies, banks or in shops. However, many Swedish authorities accept a Swedish driver's license as proof of identification.

[ID card](#)

Identity number

Everyone registered in Sweden has a personal identity number, which is needed to operate effectively in the Swedish system. The duration of your stay in Sweden determines if you will receive a personal identity number or a co-ordination number. The identity number is used to identify you. Obtaining a Swedish personal identity number requires that you register in the national population register at the Swedish Tax Agency.

[Swedish Tax Agency](#)

Immigration

As an EU citizen, you have the right to work, study or live in Sweden without a residence permit in general. As a non-EU citizen, you must apply for a work and residence permit.

In Sweden for less than 12 months

Foreign citizens are entitled to emergency care in Sweden. If you are a citizen from another EU/EEA country, or Switzerland, and are staying in Sweden for less than twelve months, you need a European Health Insurance Card to prove that you are entitled to emergency care at the ordinary fee. If you do not have a card, you may have to pay the entire cost. The card can be ordered from the authority in the home country equivalent to the Swedish Social Insurance Agency.

In Sweden for 12 months or more

If you are in Sweden for more than twelve months and registered in the Swedish Population Register, you are entitled to healthcare under the same terms as other residents.

[Swedish Social Insurance Agency](#)

Insurance

Personal property and vehicles need to be insured and you may want to look into extra insurance for your family and pet.

J

Jobs and Labor market

Jönköping County will have an attractive labor market and a sustainable working life, all of which are involved, where human health and skills are invaluable resources and ensuring access to labor with the right skills. It is a prerequisite for Jönköping County to continue to grow and develop.

Arbetsförmedlingen is Sweden's largest distributor of jobs. Gathering employers with job seekers is their most important task. All their services are free.

Jönköping University

Jönköping University is located in the center of Jönköping, within walking distance of the beach and close to the countryside. Jönköping University has around 11,000 students, of which 2,000 are international students. The university is one of the top universities in international student exchange and among the best in Sweden in terms of attracting international students. Campus has a truly international and academic environment with students and staff from all parts of the world.

Within both education and research, Jönköping University has a close cooperation with business and society.

[Jönköping University \(JU\):](#)

K

L

Library

You can find public libraries in 12 different locations and on wheels. By visiting one of public libraries, you can get a library card, which gives you the possibility to lend books and other Medias.

M

Marriage

A marriage ceremony in Sweden can take place either in a church or before a civil authority. The Marriage Code and other statutes involving spouses are gender-neutral. Everyone in Sweden must be 18 years old to get married. This is the law. The law applies to all people in Sweden, even if they are not Swedish citizens. There may be other rules in other countries, but Swedish authorities only approve foreign marriages if they comply with Swedish law.

Migration Agency

In Sweden, the Migration Agency is the authority that considers applications from people who want to take up permanent residence in Sweden, come for a visit, seek protection from persecution or become Swedish citizens.

Municipality

This is how you contact the municipality of Jönköping.
Through the Contact Center you get easy and quick contact with the municipality. You can visit them at Juneporten in Jönköping or call 036-10 50 00 to answer your question or link to the right person or business.

Mail: kontaktcenter@jonkoping.se

N

O

Opening a bank account

In order to open a bank account you will be most likely required to have a personal number. In some cases, the bank will ask to see a copy of your residence permit and proof of your Swedish personal number, which you can be obtained from the Swedish Tax agency.

P

Pension

The retirement age is 65 in Sweden and is set at the end of the calendar month before a person's 65th birthday. You are entitled, but not obligated, to remain employed until the end of the month of your 67th birthday. Permanent employment always ends at the end of the month of your 67th birthday, in accordance with the Security of Employment Act.

[Swedish Pension Agency](#)

Pharmacy

At the pharmacies (apotek) you can buy prescription and non-prescription medicine as well as health-care products. The staff can also give you general medical advice. Some non-prescription medicine can also be bought at the supermarkets.

There are pharmacies at the health care centers, in the city center and at the A6 Shopping Centre.

Police

In case of emergency, call 112.

If you want to report something stolen, have any questions about passports (situations that are non-emergency), you can call 114 14 or visit the local police station on Vallgatan 3-5. You can find more information at the Police Website.

[Police Website](#)

Post Office

Sweden's Postal Service has pick-up and drop-off points in shopping centres, grocery stores, petrol stations. You can find yellow mailboxes in many convenient locations. At the postal services, you can buy stamps, envelopes, register your mail and send express mail. Post services are normally available during the shops' opening hours.

[Postnord](#)

Public Holidays

New Year's Day (Nyårsdagen) 1 January

Epiphany (Trettondagen) 6 January

Good Friday (Långfredagen) in March or April

Easter Sunday (Påskdagen) in March or April

Easter Monday (Annandag Påsk) in March or April

May Day (Första maj) 1 May

Ascension Day (Kristi Himmelfärdsdag) a Thursday in May

National day (Nationaldagen) 6 June

Midsummer's Day (Midsommardagen) a Saturday towards the end of June

All Saints' Day (Alla helgons dag) a Saturday in early November

Christmas Day (Juldagen) 25 December

Boxing Day (Annandag jul) 26 December

In addition to these official holidays, Midsummer's Eve, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve are holidays for most government employees and many others.

Q

R

Recognition of foreign qualifications

If you already hold a degree in higher education, The Swedish Council for Higher Education, UHR, provides a free service through its website to validate your foreign qualifications. This is valuable when applying to university in Sweden or for employment in particular fields.

[UHR](#)

Recreational and leisure activities, civil society

Sweden has a long tradition of civil society organizations, associations and churches. Those have different focus or interests and can facilitate to integrate in society.

[Registry for associations in the municipality](#)

[List of organizations](#)

[List of outdoor recreation and exercise activities](#)

[Event Calendar of the municipality](#)

[Event Calendar of Destination Jönköping](#)

Residence permit

You should apply for a work and residence permit before entering Sweden. We recommend that you contact the Swedish Migration Agency in order to apply.

[Swedish Migration Agency](#)

Right of Public Access “Allemansrätten”

Allemansrätten, or the right of public access, gives everybody the right to use private as well as public land and waterways for certain activities such as hiking, jogging or boating provided that no damage is caused to the land. You must also show consideration to other people, animals and respect the wishes of private landowners. This means that you cannot walk or sail too close to houses and private gardens. It is also a good idea to ask the landowner if you plan to pitch a tent for more than a short period.

S

Salary and income taxes

All relevant taxes payable by an employee are deducted from their salary before paid out. Most employers pay out salaries the 25th of each month, since many utility bills are due at the end of the month.

Smoking

It is not allowed to smoke inside buildings. This includes public buildings, companies, restaurants, pubs, schools and even your accommodation. If it is allowed to smoke in a building, you will find signs indicating it. You should normally go outside if you want to smoke.

Social services

One of the social services' most important duties is to see to it that children and young people are secure as they grow up. You can turn to social services to obtain help and support with various problems, which the family finds it difficult to resolve on its own. You can get advice and support if you have problems with family questions, drugs, crime, and more. If you know of any child or young person who is doing poorly, you may contact social services.

Start your own business

Jönköping is known as Sweden's most business and entrepreneurial dense areas. The municipality has around 13 000 SME's and the Jönköping University is a leading in research institution in the field. Starting a business in Sweden is an attractive alternative for many people looking to get into the Swedish workplace. If you have an entrepreneurial mindset or a passion for business, you will be in the right place! Here are some useful links to help:

[ALMI](#)

[Science Park in Jönköping](#)

[Trade and industry department](#)

Swedish Public Employment Service

The Swedish Public Employment Service in Sweden (Arbetsförmedlingen), is the national agency with the aim to provide services to both jobseekers and employers. They have a job bank (Platsbanken) where you can find the latest vacancies. It is up to the jobseeker to be proactive and make use of all the free sources available.

[Swedish Public Employment Service](#)

[Platsbanken](#)

Swedish school system

Every child has equal access to free education in Sweden. The Swedish school system is regulated through the Education Act, which mandates ten years of school attendance for all children from the year they turn six. The National Agency for Education is the central administrative authority for the public school system publicly organized.

[Skolverket](#)

[Information about education in Sweden](#)

Swish



Swish is a popular smart phone app used in Sweden for payment or money transfer to private persons, companies, associations or organizations that are also connected to Swish. The only thing you need to use Swish is a smartphone with the Swish app and Mobile BankID.

[Swish](#)

T

Taxes

The Swedish tax system is the basis of the Swedish welfare state. Thanks to tax revenues, the State is able to give everyone the same opportunities to education and a good life in Sweden. A large proportion of the Swedish welfare system is paid for through taxes. For example, taxes pay for healthcare, childcare, social services and care of the elderly. In addition, roads, public transport, the reception of refugees and collective environmental efforts are all paid for through taxes.

Tax funded health care

Health care in Sweden is tax-funded and ensures that everyone has equal access to health care services. Unlike health care, dental care is not covered in the same way as other medical treatments.

[1177: General information](#)

Trade Unions and unemployment insurance

Sweden has one of the highest union membership rates in the world, with nearly 70% of Sweden's working population belonging to a union. Union membership offers a wide range of benefits for its members, with the exact terms and conditions varying depending on the service provider. Unions are also connected to the unemployment insurance fund, which is very important to join once you've started working.

Travel

The public transportation system in Sweden not only covers the southern region of Sweden but also the Öresund Region of Denmark. When commuting it is most convenient to have a monthly card or, a prepaid card can be purchased for single trips that are used for both buses and trains.

The local buses regularly serve most places in Jönköping. A single trip costs approximately 25 SEK. More information about tickets and monthly bus passes can be found at JLT's website where you can also find timetables.

[JLT](#)

U

Universities and further education

The Swedish higher education system is similar to that of other European countries. Swedish universities offer degree programmes according to the European standard. This includes bachelors, masters and PhD programmes. There are 38 universities in Sweden offering programmes in all areas. One of them, Jönköping University, is located in the municipality.

[The basic structure of Swedish higher education](#)

[Jönköping University](#)

Upper secondary school or high school

Once compulsory school ends after grade 9 (age 15 or 16), children can continue into the Upper Secondary School ("gymnasium"). It is a non-compulsory 3-year program where students can choose between schools according to their program of interest. Placement is conditional based on factors such as, students' demand and/or the school's specific requirements. Upper Secondary School is non-compulsory but is highly recommended and most students choose to enter into a program.

[The upper secondary schools in the municipality of Jönköping](#)

V

Value-added Tax (VAT)

Value-added tax in Sweden is included in the price of food as well as other goods and services. This means when you are out shopping the price you see is the price you pay. The percentage of VAT in Sweden is dependent on the type of goods or services being sold.

Violence and Threats

Domestic violence involves, for example, exercising power by controlling, hitting or threatening. In Sweden, using violence and threats against others is forbidden. It is considered a violation of other people's human rights and is a criminal offence.

Visa

Visas for Sweden are required for citizens of some countries, check with the nearest Swedish Embassy or consulate in your country of residence. The application must be done in your home country, before entering Sweden. The Swedish Migration Agency is responsible for visas, work permits, residence permits and extensions of permits.

W

Water

Tap water in Sweden is of very good quality, tastes good and is safe to drink.

Where to find a job

There is a wide selection of publicly and privately run job sites for job seekers in Sweden from listing of open positions to recruitment agencies looking to fill positions on behalf of their customers.

Wireless Internet

Jönköping University has wireless internet available on campus. You will also find Wi-Fi at several public places, cafes and restaurants in Sweden.

X

Y

Z