

# SWEDEN

## Sweden Quick Facts

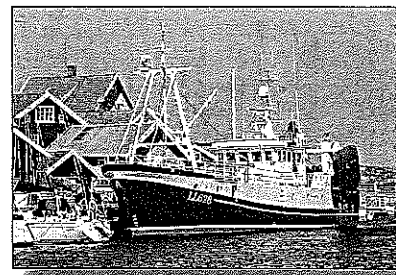
**Official Name:** Kingdom of Sweden  
**Total area:** 450,295 sq km  
**Population:** 9,880,604 (July 2016 est.)  
**GDP:** \$498.1 billion (2016 est.)  
**Government:** parliamentary constitutional monarchy  
**Capital:** Stockholm  
**Motto:** For Sweden—With the Times

Sweden is located in the region known as Scandinavia. It shares a border with Norway on the west and Finland on the northeast. The Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Bothnia are located along Sweden's east coast. In the southeast, Sweden borders waters called the Skagerrak, the Kattegat, and the Öresund straits. These waters separate Sweden from Denmark.

The Scandinavian or Kjölen Mountains are located along the western border with Norway. While mountains cover most of Sweden, they are relatively low. The highest point is Kebnekaise at 2,111 m (about 7,000 ft).

Sweden has over 100,000 lakes and many rivers that flow from the mountains through the forested hills and on to the plains and the coast. Sweden's largest lakes are Vänern, Vättern, Mälaren, and Hjälmaren. All Sweden's lakes and more than 24,000 islands are open to the public. Sweden has a tradition of public access to these areas. Sweden was the first country in Europe to create national parks. There are 29 national parks and many other nature reserves and wildlife sanctuaries.

The Swedish economy depends on industries such as iron and steel, precision equipment, wood pulp and paper products, processed foods, and motor vehicles. Agriculture also produces important goods, including barley, wheat, sugar beets, meat, and milk. The fishing industry brings in thousands of tons of fish and seafood from offshore catches, fishing on lakes and rivers, and fish farming.



Fishing Vessel in Grundsund, Sweden

The nation of Sweden was named after the fierce Svea tribe, who eventually became known as the Vikings. Sweden was ruled by an elected king until parliament made the position hereditary in 1544. Now the title of king or queen is passed down through the ruling family. King Carl XVI Gustaf is the head of state. His duties are mostly ceremonial. The head of the government is the prime minister who is elected by the parliament. The Swedish parliament is called the Riksdag.

The Swedes celebrate June 6 as National Day. It commemorates the day in 1523 when Gustav Vasa was crowned king. This led to Sweden becoming an independent state. It also corresponds with the date in 1809 when a new constitution was adopted.



Sweden is sparsely populated. Most of the people live in the south in cities near the coast. Lapland is a province in northern Sweden that has polar and subarctic climates. The nomadic Sami people live in this region. These indigenous people survive by herding reindeer and sheep and by fishing or trapping. Reindeer provide the Sami with transportation, meat, and hides for clothing and shelter.

Sweden is famous for its winter sports. With snow-covered mountains in a majority of the country, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, and snowboarding are very popular. World Cup downhill skiing events are held in Sweden, and many of the top athletes are Swedish.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# SWEDEN CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**Directions:** Use the clues below to complete the puzzle about Sweden.

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**Drum Used by the Sami People**

**Across**

- 4. Downhill and cross-country \_\_\_\_\_ are popular sports in Sweden.
- 6. Sweden is a \_\_\_\_\_ with a king or queen as the head of state.
- 7. The Svea tribe became known as the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9. Sweden was the first European country to create \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11. Sweden's largest lake is Lake \_\_\_\_\_.
- 13. \_\_\_\_\_ in Sweden is celebrated on June 6.
- 14. Sweden is separated from \_\_\_\_\_ by the Öresund straits.

**Down**

- 1. Off Sweden's east coast is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. The highest point in Sweden is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. Sweden's parliament is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ is the region where Sweden is located.
- 5. The head of government for Sweden is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8. The Sami herd \_\_\_\_\_ to survive.
- 10. The \_\_\_\_\_ Mountains are located along the western border with Norway.
- 12. The Sami people are indigenous to the \_\_\_\_\_ region.