

# Luleå

*Winter, spring-winter, spring,  
summer and autumn.  
Welcome to experience all our seasons.*



## Luleå – all year round

Urban and nature-based activities.

### **NORTHERN LIGHTS AND MIDNIGHT LIGHT**

Enjoy long nights of magical light phenomena.

### **LULEÅ ARCHIPELAGO WITH 1,312 ISLANDS**

By tour boat in summer, on ice roads in winter.

### **GAMMELSTAD CHURCH TOWN WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

Visit the stone church from 1492 and see over 400 preserved church cottages.

# Luleå – all year round

Experience the sharp contrasts of our seasons – from snow, cold and frozen sea in winter – to sun, heat and mid-night light in summer. From September to March, when the conditions are right, you can see the northern lights, Aurora Borealis. All year round you can have fun with indoor activities, shopping and enjoying the food city of Luleå.

Winter			Spring-winter and spring			Summer			Autumn			
DEC	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DEC
NORTHERN LIGHTS , AURORA BOREALIS						MIDNIGHT LIGHT						
INDOOR ACTIVITIES												
SHOPPING												
THE FOOD CITY												

Seasonal variations give varying weather and temperatures. On clear and windless days during winter, temperatures can drop to between -30°C and -40°C, while the hottest days in summer can be close to +30°C. Around Christmas, when it is at its darkest in Luleå, we can see the sun over the

horizon for just over 3 hours. As early as March, the sun is up for about twelve hours and during the summer the days are almost endless.

Read more about the temperature, weather and hours of daylight you can experience during each season and month.



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## Tip!

### EXPERIENCE THE LULEÅ WAY

Watch the films about Luleå's different seasons with midnight lights in summer and northern lights in winter. Adventures in the archipelago and how it feels to stand in the middle of a medieval world heritage site. That you can stay and eat at award-winning hotels and restaurants.



### FREE WIFI IN LULEÅ

Free WiFi is available in large parts of the city centre and in several of Luleå's council-run premises. Anyone who wants to use the free council WiFi can connect to LK-GUEST. No login is required, however the terms of use must be accepted.



### THE LULEÅ GUIDE

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**Print:** Luleå Grafiska. **Collage cover:** Burban Studios.

Reservations. We strive to inspire and give you the most up-to-date tips on things to see and do during your stay in Luleå, but as our environment is constantly changing, please note that some of the information in this guide may be out of date. The Luleå guide is a supplement to our website and can be downloaded as a PDF from [visitlulea.se](https://www.visitlulea.se).



**LULEÅ TOURIST CENTER**  
Kulturens hus  
Skeppsbrogatan 17, Luleå  
+46 920-45 70 00 | [turistcenter@lulea.se](mailto:turistcenter@lulea.se)

# Welcome to Luleå

*This is where it happens. Here you can explore history – and the future.  
Here you will find the best of both city life and scenic experiences.*

The eyes of the world are on Luleå for many reasons and the place has become an increasingly popular destination. Here, in Norrbotten's county capital, and largest city, you are offered a substantial range of shopping, entertainment, culture, sports, high-class restaurants and hotels. You can indulge in play and adventure – both outdoors and indoors.

Here you can also experience a historic world heritage site in the form of the Gammelstad church town, listed for preservation by UNESCO.

Luleå is also an important hub in the ongoing global, green transition of our communities. Hundreds of billions are being invested in new climate-smart industries and innovations with a focus on sustainable development of goods and services.

In Luleå, the world's largest brackish water archipelago with 1,312 islands, islets and skerries, beautiful river valleys and a vast forest is never far away, and both urban and outdoor activities are always equally close by.

With a city centre, surrounded by water, and within walking distance of everything, Luleå is the perfect place to visit – all year round. Experience the great contrasts of the seasons – from snow, cold and frozen

sea in winter – to sun, heat and midnight light in summer.

Should you become so enamoured of Luleå that you might actually think of moving here, we recommend the website **[movetolulea.se](https://www.movetolulea.se)**. There you can read about working, living, studying and building a life here. You are, for whatever reason, a most welcome visitor to us!





## LULEÅ KOMMUN

**Luleå municipality** has close to 80,000 inhabitants and is the country's 29th largest municipality.

**Luleå Airport** is the country's fifth largest airport, only 10 minutes by car from the city centre. Over a million travellers pass through here annually.

**The port of Luleå** is Sweden's northernmost and one of the country's largest ports. Icebreakers and tugboats keep the waterways open in winter.

**Luleå University of Technology, LTU**, with 19,000 students and 1,800 employees conducts world-class research and education.

**Luleå has a diverse business life** with everything from the steel and technology industries, a broad service sector, and growing trade and hospitality to new creative industries such as film production and digital design.

**Facebook chose Luleå** for its data centre halls because of the favourable climate and our clean energy. Facebook's data centre in Luleå is the largest in Europe.

**Gammelstad's church town** is a world heritage site listed by UNESCO for preservation. Here there are over 400 church cottages and a stone church from 1492 that is still in use.

**Luleå is a sports city** with clubs active in most sports. There are successful pro teams for both women and men in basketball and ice hockey.

Luleå has a wide range of **music, dance, theatre, film, art and history**.

Luleå is one of the country's **sunniest summer cities** and has an average of 12 hours of sunshine per day.



Photo: Jennie Lind



Photo: Burban Studios



Photo: Burban Studios



Photo: Burban Studios



Photo: Peter Rosén



Photo: Burban Studios



Photo: Susanne Lindholm

### WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT

In 2013, on the 75th day of the year, a world record attempt was carried out to celebrate Luleå growing to 75,000 inhabitants during the year. 2,493 Luleå inhabitants participated and together formed the world's largest human Facebook thumb on the ice in Norra hamn. Unfortunately, the world record was not approved by the Guinness Book of Records, who considered that the requirement for uniform clothing that clearly contrasted with the surroundings was not met.

Photo: Per Pettersson



Photo: Jennie Lind



### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...there are five national minorities in Sweden; Jews, Roma, Swedish Finns, Tornedalians and the indigenous Sami people.

The national minority languages are; Finnish, Yiddish, Meänkieli, Romani Chib and the Sami languages.

There are three linguistic administrative areas in Sweden: one for Finnish, one for Meänkieli and one for Sami. **Luleå municipality** is part of all three, which means that language users have the right to use the languages in contact with the authorities and the right to pre-school and elderly care where all or a significant part of the activities are conducted in the minority languages.

# Landmarks

*Our coastal city has several popular landmarks to check out – and they are not far away no matter where you are in the central peninsula. Take a walk from north harbour to south harbour and experience them all.*



Photo: Per Lundström

## Bergnäsbron (The Bergnäset Bridge)

Building the arch bridge that bridges the central peninsula to Bergnäset began in 1950. Previously, people had crossed the route by ferry and on ice roads. The bridge was opened in 1954 by Prince Bertil and was Sweden's second longest bridge at the time. Today, around 17,000 vehicles pass here per day.

## Hamnkranen (The harbour crane)

The tilt-arm gantry crane that stands proud in Luleå's Södra hamnplan is a monument that bears witness to Luleå's era as a maritime city and to the industrialisation after the Second World War. The crane was last used in 1985 and is a popular feature in pictures from Luleå. Selfie Friendly.



Photo: Luleå-Bild

Photo: Per Lundström



## Isbrytarna (The ice breakers)

A powerful sight, summer and winter, are the six icebreakers in Luleå harbour – all with names from Norse mythology; Ale, Atle, Frej, Ymer, Odin and Idun. Each icebreaker has its own special function, for example the Oden is used during the winter for icebreaking in the Gulf of Bothnia and during the summers is chartered out for research expeditions in the Arctic.

Photo: Luleå-Bild



## Norrbottensteatern (The Norbotten County Theatre)

Among the red wooden warehouses by Luleå's north harbour stands the Theatre House, which was inaugurated in 1986. The house was designed by the Swedish architect Hans Tirsén and is today the home of Norrbottensteatern, which is a county theatre. There are also two restaurants, a delicatessen and the Theatre Academy here. In summer you will find lovely outdoor seating along the quay, in winter you can go down to the ice track via the ramp by the theatre.

THE COLD CLOTHES THE RED WOODEN WALLS WITH FROST.

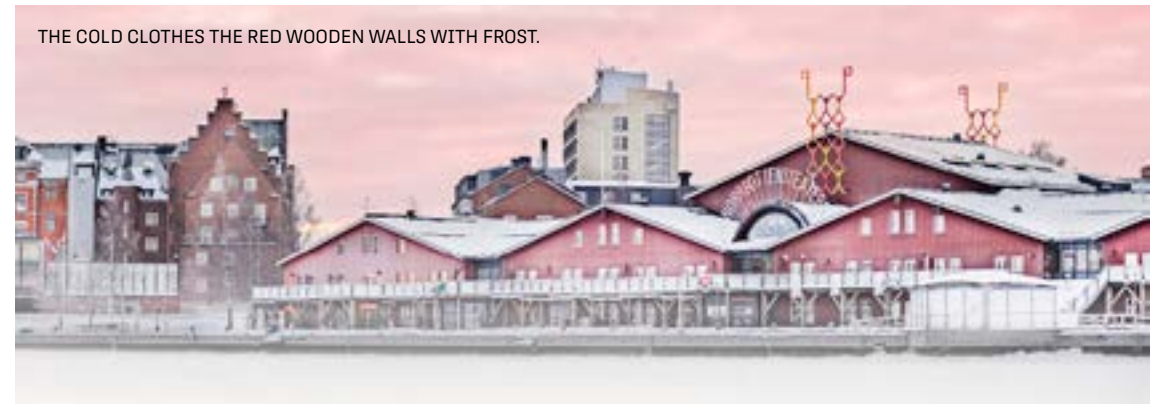


Photo: Karin Holmgren-Tyskling

## Luleå domkyrka (Luleå Cathedral)

Construction of Sweden's northernmost and youngest cathedral began after the severe fire that hit Luleå in 1887. At the time of its inauguration in 1893, it was called Oscar Frederic's Church, after King Oscar II. In 1904, it changed its name to Luleå Cathedral, as the Diocese of Luleå was formed. The architect who designed the cathedral was Adolf Emil Melander from Stockholm. This grand brick church is built in the Neo-Gothic style. The gallery organ with its 4,585 pipes – built by organ makers Grönlunds, the altarpiece painted by Garibaldi Lindberg in 1893 and the triumphal crucifix by Carl Fagerberg have always fascinated visitors. Around the church there is an old cemetery where, in the summer of 2022, finds were made in the form of gravestones from the 17th century.

# The world heritage site Gammelstad church town

*Just outside Luleå is Gammelstad's church town, one of Sweden's 15 world heritage sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List of places worth preserving.*

The church town was in fact the place where the city of Luleå was first founded in the 1620s. However, the post-ice age land uplift caused the harbour in Gammelstad to become too shallow and the town was forced to move closer to the coast in 1649. But it was in Gammel-

stad that Luleå's history began. It was mainly the church, the largest late mediaeval stone church in Northern Sweden that served as a gathering place for the locals. The amazing thing is that the church has remained in the same place since 1492 and is still in use.

Church cottages were built to house churchgoers who came from far away, as regular church attendance was mandated by law in Sweden. Today, there are over 400 church cottages preserved and the tradition of temporary accommodation lives on.



Photo: Peter Rosén



Photo: Susanne Lindholm



Photo: Susanne Lindholm



## GUIDED TOURS

Guided tours are held year-round on selected dates and times, starting at the Visitor Center and lasting approximately one hour. During the tour, you can stroll through the cosy alleys and experience Gammelstad's history. You will also learn more about life in the church town in the past and how the cottages are used today. You will get to visit both a church cottage and the mediaeval church (unless there is a private service ongoing). Book online to ensure a place.

## ON YOUR OWN WITH AN AUDIO GUIDE

Explore the world heritage Gammelstad church town on your own or with friends and family. The audio guide contains eight recorded audio tracks. With the help of a map, you navigate around the church town while you listen. The walk takes about 40 minutes and all stops are outdoors. The audio guide is available in Swedish, English, German, French, Dutch, Finnish, Northern Sami and Meänkieli. You rent it from the Visitor Center and return it before closing.

## Gammelstad Visitor Center

In the middle of the church town, you will find the Gammelstad Visitor Center in the old Betel Chapel from the 19th century. Here you get a nice introduction to all the attractions in the area through brochures, maps and our knowledgeable tourist information officers. You can also book guided tours, buy something nice from the souvenir shop and visit the free exhibition "Gammelstad – a World Heritage church town". Here you can find out more about Gammelstad through the ages. Interactive elements are interspersed with text screens and more traditional exhibition technology.



Foto: Susanne Lindholm

The exhibition is suitable for the whole family. The mouse family Gammelstadssön helps to explain the world heritage in a fun and simple way. Come and look for them, they hide where you least expect it.

At [visitgammelstad.se](http://visitgammelstad.se) there is information about guided tours and programs for the area's activities and events.



## TAKE A BUS TO GAMMELSTAD

Take route 9 with LLT (Luleå Lokaltrafik). Get off at the Kyrkorget stop. Tickets can be purchased via the "Luleå Lokaltrafik" app.



# The open-air museum Hägnan

*A stone's throw from the church town in Gammelstad is the open-air museum Hägnan, which offers a varied range of activities and experiences for all ages. Here there are buildings from the whole region that bear witness to the old farming society in northern Sweden from the end of the 18th century until the 1940s. Don't miss the country store, whose range offers you an exciting journey back in time.*

During the summer months, you can have coffee at Café Fägnan or bring your own picnic basket and relax on the grass. Then take a walk and visit the horses, cows, pigs, goats, rabbits and chickens that are in the grounds.

In winter, it is low season and then the museum grounds are closed, except for special events. However, the outdoor area is always open to visitors. There is a barbecue area in the grounds that is free to use, so pack a lunch bag and cosy up by the fire.

## Explore Hägnan digitally

Those of you who can't visit in person can explore the area digitally. Some of the larger farms and outbuildings; Dasset, Storgården, Peri-Hanscha, Torpet, Loftbode, Lanthandeln and Härbret are equipped with a QR code that you can scan to learn more about them, digitally.



Photo: Susanne Lindholm

## Luleå's history in brief



Participate in a 400-year journey. From the city of Luleå in 1621 with 250 inhabitants to today's Luleå municipality with close to 80,000 inhabitants in 2024.

Illustration: Joakim Höggren  
Text: Katja Güth Laitila

**1621** In 1621, Luleå received city privileges from King Gustav II Adolf. In its first five years, the city grew by 50 inhabitants. Eventually the city was moved from Gammelstad to its current location.

**1653** the city burned for the first time. Four years after the move from Gammelstad, half of the buildings were in ruins. As soon as 1657 it burned again.

**1762** marks the first major city fire where two thirds of the city burned.

**The 1790s** marked the start of the mill era with the Selet mill and Melderstein.

**1883** Construction of the ore port of Svartön began.

**1887** the city burned again.

**1888** the first ore train ran from Gällivare to the Luleå ore port. Luleå's most expansive phase began in the 1890s, the population grew by 1,000 percent from 1821 to 1921.

**1943** iron ore was made for the first time at the Norrbottens Järnverk mill. The mill needed manpower. There was a major housing shortage.

**1955** Shopping, not just Sweden's, but the world's first indoor mall, inaugurated on October 27, 1955.

**1971** Luleå University of Technology was established as Sweden's fifth university of technology.

You can find more years and events via the QR code.



Photo: Peter Rosén



Photo: Susanne Lindholm



## Activities & events at the open-air museum Hägnan

### CHRISTMAS MARKET

During the second weekend of Advent, the annual Christmas market is held at the open-air museum Hägnan, attracting thousands of visitors. Within the grounds there are traders with tables filled with crafts and goodies. A traditional Christmas market with a guaranteed Christmas atmosphere.

### NATIONAL DAY

A popular and festive National Day celebration with music, dance, performances and much else of interest for the whole family.

### FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL

Luleå hembygdsigille invites fiddlers, dancers, singers, listeners, veterans, beginners, young and old to take part in and enjoy wonderful music, dance and of course busking.

### MIDSUMMER

A traditional midsummer celebration where we decorate the maypole together. Playing and dancing with Luleå Hebygdgille. Wreath tying, hay jumping and bread baking. The country store is open, selling coffee, pastries and other goodies.

### SUMMER THEATRE

Summer evening in June. The sun is high above the horizon. All of nature is green and blossoming. This means it's an ideal time for the actors of the Norrbotten Theatre to move out to Hägnan, for a summer performance.

At [visitgammelstad.se](http://visitgammelstad.se) you can find information about the open-air museum Hägnan and about their activities and events.



# Midnight light

*The best thing about midnight light is that you can do everything around the clock. Swimming, golfing, fishing and socialising outdoors, into the early hours. With some risk that you forget to go to bed...*

The midnight sun is a natural phenomenon that occurs during the summer months north of the Arctic Circle. This means that the sun is visible at night. Places south of the Arctic Circle experience mid-night twilight, i.e. full daylight even during the night. This is also known as midnight light or white nights.

From mid-March, the northern end of the earth's axis tilts more and more towards the sun and

reaches its maximum tilt at 23° at the summer solstice. The summer solstice means that the sun reaches its highest position in the sky during the day. This happens around June 21st. At this angle, everything north of the Arctic Circle at 66° N is exposed to sun around the clock. When the earth's axis tilts in the other direction during the winter, everything north of the Arctic Circle is hidden from the sun's rays.

It is easy to think that we, in this region, have either darkness or light. During the winter months when the sun never reaches the horizon, and summertime when the sun never sets. But the fact is that we have light all year round. Just different kinds of light. Some darker, others lighter and some really colourful.

You can see the midnight sun in almost the entire region, but even

when you don't see the sun, you see the light.

The midnight light period spans about 100 days. When the sun practically does not set you have more hours at your disposal. You can go swimming, golfing, fishing or riding well into the early hours. And if you are into photography, the 100 days with no night mean absolutely fantastic conditions.

## Learn about the midnight sun

### What is the midnight sun?

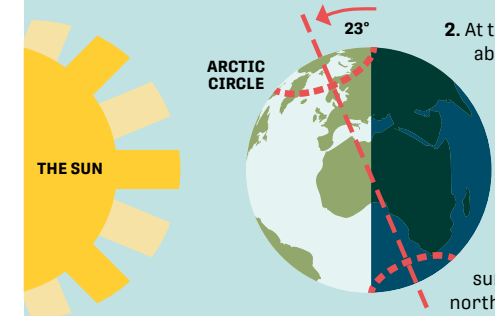
The midnight sun is a natural phenomenon that occurs in the summer months north of the Arctic Circle. It means that the sun remains visible at nighttime. Luleå, located south of the Arctic Circle, experiences midnight light – full daylight even during the night when the sun is not visible.

### How it works:

1. During summer, the northern end of the earth's axis tilts increasingly toward the sun, reaching its maximum tilt of 23° at the summer solstice.

2. At this angle everything above the Arctic Circle at 66°N is exposed to sun around the clock.

3. When the axis of the earth tilts the other direction during winter, the sun's rays do not reach north of the Arctic Circle.



### The summer solstice

occurs on the day of the year when the sun reaches its highest position in the sky during the day. This happens around:

**JUNE 21**



**53**

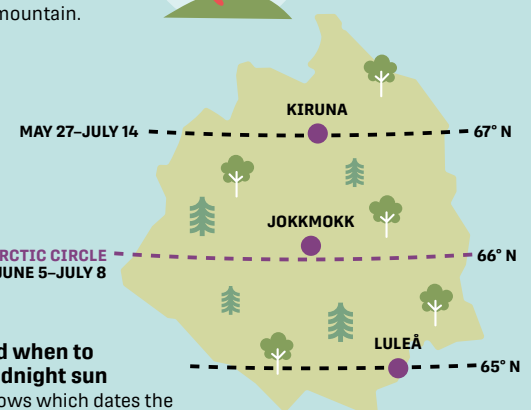
minutes – that's how long Luleå's shortest night is. The sun sets at 00.06 and rises again at 00.59.

### What to bring

At night the sun is low in the sky. Wear sunglasses when driving not to get blinded. And don't forget the camera!

### Increase your chances

to catch a glimpse of the midnight sun even south of the Arctic Circle by climbing a mountain.



### Where and when to see the midnight sun

The map shows which dates the phenomenon is visible. The further up north you travel the longer the period of midnight sun. However, the midnight sun can be seen as much as 90 km south of the Arctic Circle at the summer solstice thanks to atmospheric reflection.

MAY

JUNE

JULY

# Northern lights

*The magical and fabled northern lights, Aurora Borealis, are formed by solar particles from space colliding with parts of the outer atmosphere, and the gusts of the solar winds as they move across the skies. The sparkling light experience in green, blue, purple and sometimes even red then sweeps over the dark evening sky.*

The Latin name for the northern lights, Aurora Borealis, roughly translates to 'northerly, red light of dawn', which is quite fitting as the blazes dance across the dark winter sky in everything from green, blue, purple and sometimes even red. In the past, it was believed that the spectacle of the Northern Lights was a sign of higher powers.

## Magical northern lights

The northern lights can be glimpsed over large parts of Europe and associated myths take many different forms. However, it is most common to see the northern lights in the so-called aurora oval above the Arctic Circle and in Norse

mythology it was believed that they were caused by all-father Odin who stood in constant preparation for the battle of Ragnarok. He needed the bravest warriors at his side, and at every battle on earth, Odin chose who would die and accompany him to Valhalla. According to legend, the northern lights were the reflections of the Valkyries, the female warrior people, who led the chosen warriors to Valhalla and Odin's side. Others believed that the northern lights were the last breaths of the fallen warriors or the shimmering bridge Bifrost that led the warriors from the underworld to Valhalla.

For some Sami, the Northern Lights were not about heroism or bravery – they were something to respect and beware of. They believed the northern lights were the souls of the dead and therefore nothing to talk about. Waving, whistling or singing was dangerous as you could be taken to heaven if the lights were alerted to your presence.

Further south, the light often takes on a deep reddish hue, which may explain why the beautiful light phenomenon was associated with bad omens. When the blood-red light made itself known in the night

sky, it was interpreted as a harbinger of war and death.

However, not everyone interpreted the northern lights as something ominous. In Denmark, it was believed that the light was created by swans competing to see who could fly the farthest north. In Finland it was believed that light came from fire foxes.

The myth said that as the fire foxes ran, their tails swept up snowflakes which, together with the moonlight, created the aurora.

No matter what, the northern lights have fascinated and inspired people for years.



## Conditions for northern lights in Luleå

- On the one hand, there must be enough solar energy for the aurora borealis to occur in the atmosphere, and on the other hand, the angle at which the energy hits the atmosphere needs to be right for our location.
- Clear or at least mostly clear weather is a prerequisite for being able to see the northern lights. Rule of thumb: If you can see stars, it is possible to see the northern lights.
- Choose an open place where it is dark enough. Avoid lighted places as much as possible, although it is possible to sometimes see the northern lights in the middle of town.
- There is no "timetable". The northern lights occur at any time during the dark hours of the day and last for varying lengths of time.
- The northern lights can be seen from the end of August to the first days of April. At other times of the year, it is too bright to be able to distinguish the phenomenon.

## Tip!

### GOOD PLACES TO SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS:

- Gamla malmkajen/ Cementakajen (quays)
- Gäddvik/Laxfiskemuséet (Salmon Fishing Museum)
- Hindersöstallarna (The Hindersö stables)
- Karlsvik/First Camp
- Mjölkuddsberget
- Måttsundsbacken
- Ormbergsbacken
- Sinksundet
- Isbanan och isvägarna (the ice track and the ice roads).

### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...the colour of the northern lights depends on the height and speed at which the solar particles collide with the outer atmosphere. Red occurs at the highest altitude and then green, purple and blue closest to the earth.

Learn more about the northern lights. On our website [visitlulea.se](http://visitlulea.se) you will find information and links to pages and apps with aurora forecasts, map services and scientific descriptions of the Aurora Borealis phenomenon. We also offer advice on how to succeed in photographing the magical light that dances across the sky.

And please... don't forget to dress warmly!



SEPTEMBER   OCTOBER   NOVEMBER   DECEMBER   JANUARY   FEBRUARY   MARCH



# Winter in Luleå

*The winter cold takes hold in Luleå from mid-December. Winter is also when the city grows to double its size as the frozen sea ice of the Gulf of Bothnia becomes a long-awaited place to visit for Luleå locals as well as tourists. Conditions for winter activities are best from January until well into March.*

DEC	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
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The famous 10+ kilometre ice track, which is ploughed as soon as the ice is thick enough, runs between Luleå's north and south harbours. It is a natural place for walking, kick-sledding, winter cycling, skating and jogging – and both locals and tourists stop for selfies by the large Luleå signs at each harbour.

In February, the annual Schaatsen skating competition is organised by the Dutch Skating Association, and the ice track then becomes like a second home for hundreds of Dutch skaters.

The ice roads, strong enough for cars, add to the feeling that the archipelago and the city are intertwined, and offer exotic car rides through a white landscape.

During this darkest season, especially in December, the Christmas lights sparkle around the city and when the stately Christmas tree on Storgatan is raised, you know that it will soon be the first Advent weekend and that there are

many opportunities to enjoy a warming drink in the city's cafes.

Now the national leagues in basketball and ice hockey are also underway, where locals and visitors come together for games at Luleå Energi Arena and Coop Arena. This time of year offers many concert and theatre experiences.

But beware; a visit to our beautiful winter town requires you to dress well against the cold and wind, preferably layer upon layer, as the temperature can drop down to -35°C.

It is also about capturing the daylight, which is rare at this time of year. The sun sets as early as just after one o'clock on December days.

But what does that matter when the dark, clear evenings and nights are now and then lit up by the absolutely magnificent, magical northern lights, the Aurora Borealis.

We extend a warm welcome to experience winter in Luleå!



**Temperature:** 0 to -35°C



**Weather:** Cold in clear weather, in precipitation snowfall.



**Daylight:** 4–12 hours.

# Winter activities

You can find more information about the activities, more tips and information about where you can rent equipment and book guided tours at [visitlulea.se](http://visitlulea.se).



## Put on your skates

Where, if not Luleå, would you go to skate on natural ice? Every year, an ice track is ploughed around the central peninsula from the north harbour around Gültzaudden, to the south harbour and on to the small island of Gråsjälören. In addition, sometimes detours are made to Bergnäset and Mjölkudden. The total length is usually around 10 kilometres.



## Go snowmobiling

Regardless of whether you choose to go out on your own or on a guided tour in the frozen archipelago or through the forest, the snowmobile is an excellent means of transport in winter. You travel light and fast and you get really close to nature. We recommend bringing a packed lunch and hot drink. And remember to follow the designated snowmobile trails!



## Experience dog sledding

Would you like to experience speed and excitement with the muffled sound of paws and runners against snow? Then try dog sledding and feel how you almost blend into the winter landscape. Sometimes it is also possible to try mushing yourself.



## Cycling on the ice

In the summer we cycle on our archipelago islands and during the winter it is also possible to cycle between the islands using a fatbike. The wide and durable tyres allow you to go cycling on the ice, to the farthest edge of the archipelago. If you're lucky, you'll see the northern lights and winter-grazing reindeer all around you on the islands off Luleå.



## Go downhill on slopes

Around the corner from town you will find Ormberget – a smaller slope for downhill skiing if you want a fair challenge. If you wish to test your limits – then Måttsundsbacken outside Luleå is a better option – where you can also rent equipment on site.



## Travel by kick sled

When the ice track has been ploughed and you want to have a great time on the frozen sea – visit the kick sled parking at either harbour and borrow a kick sled free of charge – why not head out to the small island of Gråsjälören? Another suitable kick sled trip is to go from the south to the north harbour, where there are restaurants serving both lunch and dinner nearby.



## Try cross-country skis

Experiencing nature whilst gliding on cross-country skis, almost without a sound, at a fast or a slow pace, is just part of everyday life for many people living in Luleå. Illuminated tracks let you ski even when it's dark outside. The most extensive trail system is found on Ormberget. There are tracks for both beginners, hobbyists working out and pros. Track lengths vary between 1.5 and 10 kilometres.



## Hike with snowshoes

It's truly lovely to make your way through snow-filled terrain, even where the snow is really deep, without sinking. Although they are called snowshoes, they are not shoes that you put on, but a kind of frame that you strap onto your own winter boots. A tip is to have trousers with snow zippers or drawstrings at the bottom so you really keep the snow out of the boot shafts.



## Chase the northern lights

Luleå belongs to an exclusive number of places where you can see the northern lights relatively easily and comfortably. Choose an open place where it is dark enough. Avoid well-lit places as much as possible, even though it is possible to see the northern lights in town too. Clear weather is a prerequisite for seeing the northern lights. Rule of thumb: if you can see stars, it is possible to see the northern lights.

### Tip!

#### PHOTOGRAPH THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

We recommend a tripod to avoid blurry pictures. If you don't have access to a tripod, you can stabilise the camera with a rock or a piece of wood. When photographing with a mobile phone camera, the basic tip is to choose night mode, otherwise you risk getting shutter speeds that are too short.

#### ✓ BUCKETLIST

- ☐ Ice skates
- ☐ Snowmobile
- ☐ Dog sledding
- ☐ Cycling on the ice
- ☐ Downhill skiing
- ☐ Kick sled
- ☐ Cross-country skis
- ☐ Snowshoes
- ☐ Northern lights
- ☐ Ice bath

#### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...Luleå's frozen archipelago and ice roads are listed as place number 45 on the American news channel CNN's "bucket list" of the 50 most astonishing nature experiences?!

## Facts

Photo: Burban Studios



### THIS IS WHY THE SEA FREEZES

The Gulf of Bothnia has brackish water, a mixture of freshwater and salt-water. The reason behind this is that eight major rivers flow out into the gulf. The Gulf of Bothnia is estimated to be approx. 4/5 parts freshwater, making it the most fresh-water-diluted sea water area in the world. That is why the sea freezes here every year. When the ice has grown to about 40 cm thick, the 6-tonne machines can start ploughing the ice track around the city centre, from the north to the south harbour.

Photo: Per Lundström



In Luleå in winter, you can see the large icebreakers Ale, Atle, Frej, Idun, Oden and Ymer parked, awaiting their tasks of keeping an open channel in the ice for incoming transport ships. In the municipalities Kalix and Piteå, icebreaker tours are organised, where you have the opportunity to take a dip in the icy water wearing a survival suit.



THE ICE TRACK IS POPULAR AMONG LULEÅ'S LOCALS, FOR WALKS, KICK-SLEDDING, WINTER CYCLING AND ICE SKATING.



Photo: Per Lundström

### The ice track

Every year, an ice track is ploughed from the north harbour, around Göltauudden, to the south harbour and further out to the island of Gråsjälören. In recent years, side tracks across the river to Bergnäset, and inwards on the river towards Mjölkudden, have also been ploughed. Points of entry to the ice track can be found at the north harbour, near Hålsans Hus, as well as at the south harbour. The Hålsans Hus entry point is accessible to disabled visitors. Generally, the ice track opens to visitors in late December.

The length and layout of the ice track varies from year to year. The total length is usually about 10 km. There are evenly spaced rest stops along the track, to stop for snacks and beverages, or to make a fire, sheltered from the wind. In addition to ice skating and kick sledding, the ice track is also suitable for walking or jogging. The sides of the ice track are left unpolished, to make them less slippery for walking. This ice track is always ploughed to Gråsjälören, where the local Lions association sells waffles in early spring.



### The ice roads

Driving a car out onto the sea ice, into the archipelago or on the frozen river may sound unreal to many. A French news channel described the roads on the frozen Gulf of Bothnia as "a universe of snow and silence, like a huge desert of ice." For Luleå locals, however, it is something completely natural to travel by car on frozen water during large parts of the winter. When the ice along the coast outside Luleå is about half a metre thick, about 30 kilometres of ice roads are ploughed, to a couple of the islands in the Luleå archipelago.

Driving on the ice is risk-free if you stay within the ploughed roads. The load-bearing capacity of the ice is carefully checked with test drills. Normally, the ice roads open in January or early February, depending on weather and temperature. Clear signage indicates if the ice roads are temporarily closed and when the season is over. Be aware that speed is limited. Feel free to take a day trip with your own car and visit, for example, Hindersön, Sandön and Junkön.



IN THE LULEÅ ARCHIPELAGO, WITH 1,312 ISLANDS, MANY DOZEN KILOMETRES OF WINTER ROADS ARE PLOUGHED, A SERVICE FOR BOTH RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.



Photo: Peter Rosén

## Tip!

### DRESS PROPERLY AND STAY WARM

It is important to dress correctly, especially during physical activity. Think layer upon layer and use wool or other material that keeps you dry closest to your body. A warm down jacket as an outer layer is nice in a sharp cold. Don't forget warm shoes, gloves and a hat. A seat pad is necessary when it's time to enjoy your packed lunch. A hot drink in a thermos is perfect to warm up from the inside.



### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...The Lovikka mitten was created in 1892 by Erika Aittamaa in the village of Lovikka. Today, you can find woollen mittens and other craft products, among other things, at the Lapland Heartwork store in Luleå.

### WINTER RECORD

-41

In 1999, thermometers showed -41°C in Luleå. The Swedish record is -52°C.

113

In 2015, the snow depth was measured at 113 cm, thus breaking the record from 1966.

15 708

Luleå municipality has the highest number of registered snowmobiles in Sweden. In 2022, there were 15,708 of them.

# Winter events

Snow, ice and cold make for outdoor events in Luleå. Theatre in the city park, Christmas markets and international skating competitions are organised here, among many other things. Keep an eye on [visitlulea.se](http://visitlulea.se). [visitlulea.se](http://visitlulea.se).



## The Advent calendar in stadsparken

On December 1, something happens that the locals look forward to every year. The opening of the Advent calendar in stadsparken (Luleå's city park). The show – which is new every year – with theatre, song and music is performed every day until Christmas Eve. Lule Stassteater started the Christmas calendar tradition back in 1995 and it has become a must for the whole family.



## Schaatsen Luleå – an international skating competition

Every year in February since 2017, we welcome hundreds of skaters to the ice track encircling central Luleå. They come here to take part in Schaatsen Luleå, a skating competition in the marathon category where natural ice is the prerequisite. Organised by the Dutch Skating Association, the competition consists of a series of races spanning between 30 and 200 kilometres. Grand Prix for the professional skaters and Sea Ice Classic for the amateur skaters. Watch a short film and be inspired to glide out on the ice yourself.



## The festival Luleå On Ice

Luleå council holds a festival at Södra hamnplan and the ice track, during a weekend in February. The event attracts large numbers of visitors to the area, where activities such as dog sledding and trying out curling coincide with the Winter Classic – an ice hockey tournament for the younger children, sales of food and locally produced crafts, and snow sculptures created by Sunderbyn community college.



## Sea Ice Marathon

In February/March, runners from all over the world gather to participate in the Sea Ice Marathon, which takes place on the ice track around central Luleå. Here you choose to run 42 km, 21 km, 10 km or 5 km on natural ice. The marathon competition is an addition to the programme of the Schaatsen Luleå event, in collaboration with local company Explore Luleå. The Sea Ice Marathon is a popular competition that attracts runners from all over the world. In 2024, participants from 17 countries stood on the starting line! Watch a short film and experience what it's like to run on ice.



## Traditional Christmas market

During the second weekend of Advent, the annual Christmas market is held, attracting thousands of visitors to the open-air museum Hågnan, adjacent to the world heritage site of Gammelstad's church town. The Advent candles shine through the old windows of the church cottages, the mediaeval stone church comes to life and the market traders are ready to greet visitors with tables filled with crafts and goodies. Go on a sleigh ride with a horse in a wintery, beautiful church town and take the opportunity to say Merry Christmas to Santa Claus and reindeer who are visiting during the market weekend. Welcome to a traditional Christmas market with a guaranteed Christmas atmosphere.



## Would you like to try?

Look for a kick sled on one of the ice track's "kick sled parkings" and take a trip out to Gråsjälören or go from harbour to harbour. Here you will also find "smart" kick sleds that are equipped with sensors that collect information about position, accessibility and distance. For each kilometre the kick sleds move, 1 SEK is donated by the company Lunet, which provides Luleå with digital infrastructure, to the children's ward at Sunderby hospital.

KICK SLEDS  
ARE AVAILABLE  
TO BORROW FOR FREE  
AT ANY OF THE  
KICK SLED PARKING  
AREAS AROUND  
THE ICE TRACK.



## Local modes of transportation

### Pulk/sled

#### Use:

Pulled by someone or something. Used either for cargo or for people. Also used for fun on downhill slopes.

#### Pros:

Helps you to easily pull things over snow and ice. Fun downhill.

#### Cons:

There are many different types of pulks. The smaller plastic ones are often fragile and the larger ones tend to be cumbersome.

**Difficulty:** Few difficulties.



### Snowshoes

**Use:** Second to none if you, like Jesus, would like to walk on (frozen) water in winter. Snowshoes give you the best possible way to move across snow and ice.

**Pros:** Deep snow will be no obstacle to your exploration of the outdoors.

**Cons:** Takes a heavier toll on your leg muscles than one might think. Be prepared to become exhausted.

**Difficulty:** Requires a slightly odd walking technique, very different from your normal walk. A minor obstacle, however, very easy to learn.



### Kicksled

#### Use:

For short or slightly longer transportation over ice or densely packed snow.

**Pros:** Suitable for two people.

**Cons:** Requires a hard, wintery surface. Does not work on gravel.

**Difficulty:** With basic balancing abilities you'll be just fine.

### Snow slider

#### Use:

Hunting for adrenaline rushes on steep slopes.

#### Pros:

Easy to carry.

#### Cons:

Difficult to steer. Some chance of pain in the rear end.

#### Difficulty:

Actually staying on the slider all the way down the slope.



### Toboggan

#### Use:

Transport for children, fun downhill toy.

**Pros:** Steerable, usable for getting children from point A to point B.

**Cons:** Goes downhill very quickly and is not optimised for safety. Use a helmet!

**Difficulty:** Steering the toboggan at high speed is very difficult. Be careful if you're not experienced.

Illustrations: Lisa Wallin



# Spring winter and spring

*Are you looking for a perfect combination of sun, snow and winter sports?  
Then you should visit the city in March-April.  
By the wide smiles and the many people milling about,  
you can be sure that spring winter has arrived.*

MARCH	APRIL	MAY
-------	-------	-----

During this season, which is unique to the northernmost parts of Scandinavia, the locals enjoy being on the ice, on the ski trails and the downhill slopes, even more.

The period is characterised by long bright days and a sun that warms your back. The lovely smell of crackling fires, boiling coffee and sausages spreads along the ice and up the ski slopes as many use the fire pits. In nature, bird-song is heard again and the roofs drip.


At the end of April, Walpurgis night is celebrated with bonfires and if you love bargains, you will not be disappointed as the flea markets, particularly the annual Arcus Bargain Market, which also attracts visitors from our neighbouring countries, offer everything from antiques to clothes.

When the snow finally melts away at the end of May, the popular Stadsmaran running race is held, fun for both spectators and participants. Do not miss it!


During the Easter weekend, the city can feel deserted as many locals travel to their cabins or into the mountains. Shops and restaurants in central Luleå are often closed on Easter Sunday.

There is a good reason why during these months people talk about “April weather” when the same day can hold snowfall, rain, strong wind, brilliant sunshine and severe cold at night. We recommend dressing in layers so that you can adapt to the changeable weather. Don’t forget to pack sun-glasses, a cap and sunscreen, as the sun’s rays are reflected off the snow.


Welcome to the spring winter!



**Temperature:** March -20 to +5°C, May 0 till +20°C.



**Weather:** Mostly dry weather.



**Day light:** 12–24 hours.



### BARBECUE SPOTS

Cook outdoors and cosy up by the warmth of the fire. Information about public barbecue areas in Luleå is available on Luleå's municipal map (link via QR code). Here you can also see where firewood is provided, and where you need to bring your own.



### WHEN THE FLAG IS HOISTED, THEY ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Gråsjälören is a small island a stone's throw from Luleå's south harbour. During the winter, an ice track leading here is ploughed from Södra hamnplan. The island is a favourite among locals and tourists alike. During the winter, the charity association Lions offers hot dogs, waffles and coffee, among other things. There is also a heated cabin where you can go inside. You know they are open when you see the flag raised. If you want to bring your own packed lunch, there is firewood and barbecue areas to use.



## Go for an outing

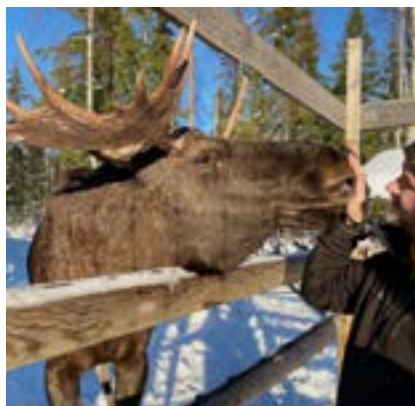


Photo: Per Lundström

### Meet moose and reindeer

Cape Wild is a wilderness centre where you can meet moose and reindeer and learn more about Scandinavia's largest wild animals. The moose love to be fed apples, bananas and carrots. It is a really wild experience to stand face to face with the "King of the Forest", who will eat out of your hand.

*Please note! Cape Wild is only open for booked visits.*

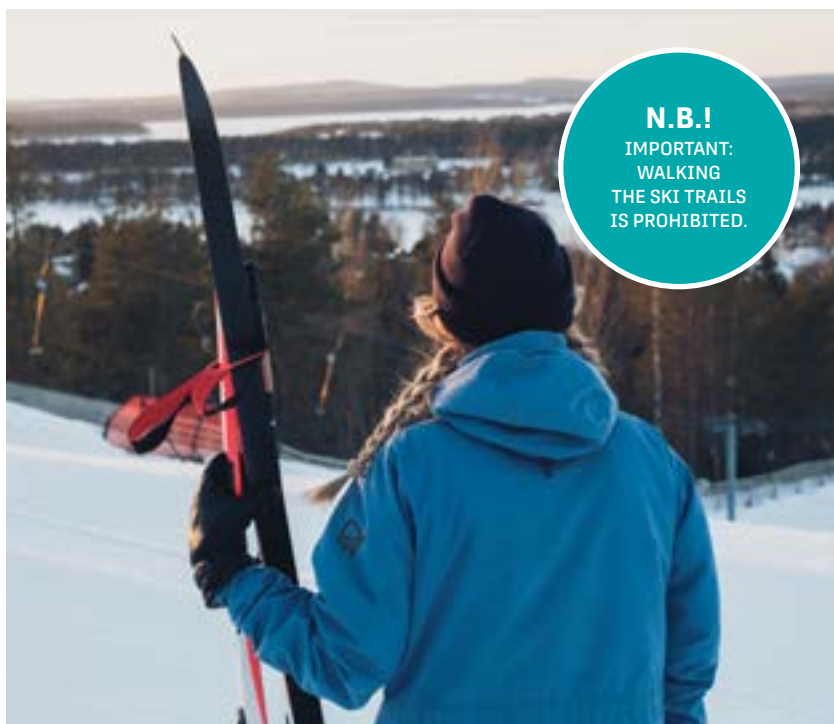


Photo: Jonas Jönnerby

**N.B.!**  
IMPORTANT:  
WALKING  
THE SKI TRAILS  
IS PROHIBITED.

### Visit Ormberget for outdoor sports

Ormberget is a place well worth a visit, winter or summer. The view over Luleå is fantastic and it is a classic spot to experience the northern lights. Here you will find a ski slope, a toboggan run, an extensive exercise trail system with lighting, prepared for cross-country skiing in winter, adventure trails, a restaurant, an amenities cabin for exercisers, barbecue areas, etc.

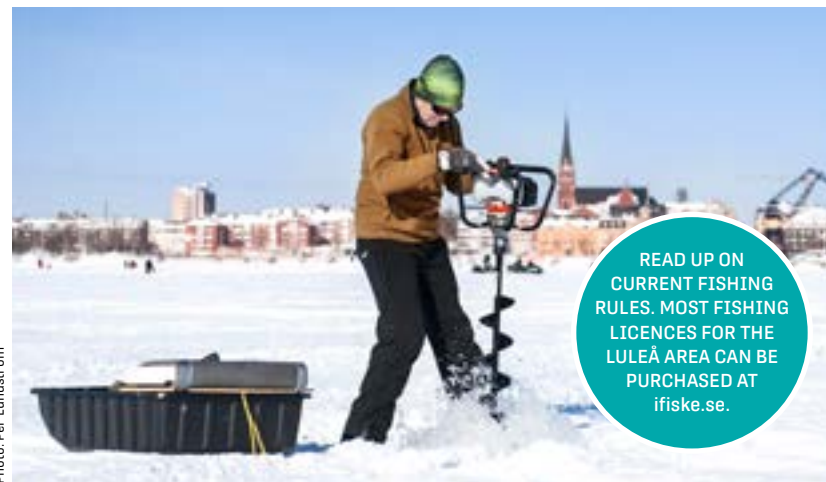


Photo: Per Lundström

READ UP ON  
CURRENT FISHING  
RULES. MOST FISHING  
LICENCES FOR THE  
LULEÅ AREA CAN BE  
PURCHASED AT  
ifiske.se.

### Try ice fishing

From Luleå's north and south harbours, when the rays of the spring winter sun are warming, you can see people sitting on reindeer hides or riding kick sleds out on the ice of the city's waters for hours on end. What are they doing out there? "Pimpling"! Pimpla is a Swedish word for ice fishing. By drilling a hole in the frozen water, they can reach the fish below. You can also try ice fishing/pimpling with a guide.

### Here's where the fish bite

Nice places for winter fishing in Luleå, in addition to the north and south harbours. For example: Björköfjärden, Furufjärden, Strapösundet, Hertsöträsket, Örnabben and Stora Stenträsket.



Photo: Peter Rosén

### THREE FISH YOU HAVE A CHANCE OF CATCHING



#### Salmon

(salmo salar)

A luxurious kind of game fish. A challenge for the fisherman, as the salmon is strong and persistent.



#### Pike

(esox lucius)

The fish considered a delicacy by some and an awful creature by others. Large fish that will put up a fight, tasty if prepared in the right way.



#### Perch

(perca fluviatilis)

Probably the most common fish in the Luleå region. Flavour-some fish, a classic delicacy amongst the locals. Tastes best when you catch and prepare it yourself.

Illustrationer: Lisa Wallin

### COTTAGES IN THE ARCHIELAGO



Stay in a cottage at **Brändö Lodge**. Here you will sleep in well-equipped cottages for four people, all with a view of the frozen sea. The cottages have a sofa bed, WC, shower, TV and kitchen with fridge/freezer. There are also pitches for mobile homes in the summer.



Photo: Peter Rosén

**Luleå council** rents out self-catering cottages on the islands of Brändöskär, Kluntarna and Småskär even during the winter. The cottages have four to ten beds, a gas fridge and stove and are heated by a wood stove. The cabins are booked online and the journey there is a real adventure. When ice conditions are good, we recommend skiing here.

### Tip!

#### TAKE A REFRESHING WALK

Luleå is a good city for walking. You can walk along the central peninsula from Gultaudden to the south harbour and towards the city centre via the street Kungsgatan. And of course along the ice track towards the small island of Gråsjälören or from harbour to harbour.

More information about the activities, tips, rent equipment and book guided tours – see [visittulea.se](http://visittulea.se).



## Tip!

### WATCH BIRDS



Photo: Per Lundström

Are you feeling watched? The majestic great grey owl flies almost unnoticed from branch to branch, despite its size, and spots you long before you spot it.

### OUR TOP 10 TIPS ON LOOKOUT PLACES:

- The fields at Alvik
- Ersnäsfjärden
- Hertsöfjärden
- Gammelstadsviken
- Mjökuddstjärnen
- Persöfjärden
- Likskärsbanken
- Kallax strandängar (beach meadows)
- Rödkallen
- Kluntarna

### GAMMELSTADSVIKEN

A few hundred years ago, Gammelstadsviken was a bay. Here the cargo ships entered Luleå harbour, which was then located beneath the Gammelstad church town.

Today Gammelstadsviken is a lake with a rich population of birds. You have to travel almost 1,000 kilometres south to experience a similar fauna. A small selection of the bay regulars include whooper swans, ospreys, robins, and hazel grouse. There are also opportunities to see the great sea eagle here. You can easily find your way here from the open-air museum Hägnan car park, where a nice path with footbridges offers an easy hike.



# In May, when the snow has melted...

...there is a lot to discover and explore around Luleå, on your own. For those of you who wish to hike, cycle, paddle and fish, we have put together a selection of our favourite places and routes in thematic guides and we hope that you will like these places as much as we do.

## Cycling in Luleå

In this guide, you'll find everything from simpler bicycle trips to interesting full-day rides that require more time and cycling experience.

- Tour of the bridges
- Gammelstad Church Town
- Selets bruk (The Selet Mill)
- Tour of Fjärdarna
- Allotment gardens and a taste of the sea
- Svartösten and the icebreakers
- Kallax by and Kallax gårdsbutik (farm shop)
- Going for a swim in Lulviken
- Archipelago adventures on Sandön
- Mountainbike trails
- The art route



## Hiking in Luleå

This guide describes walking tours in Luleå. Everything from simpler tours that suit all ages to more challenging hikes that take you further out into our beautiful environment.

- Hertsöleden
- Gammelstadsviken
- Fäbodaleden
- Hemberget
- Kluntarna
- Småskär
- Jämtön
- Vitån
- Bälingeberget
- Walks in Luleå

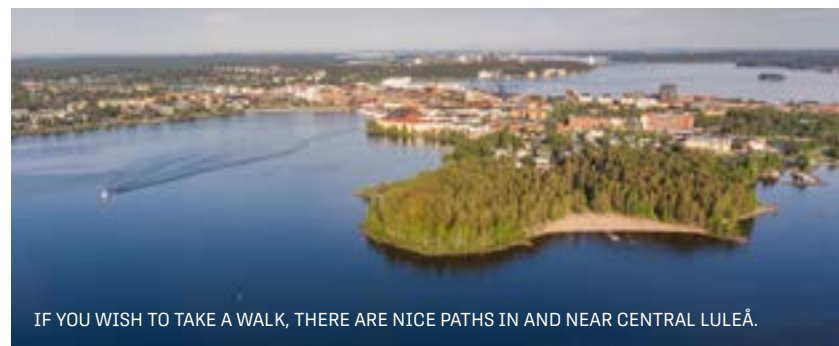


Photo: Per Lundström

IF YOU WISH TO TAKE A WALK, THERE ARE NICE PATHS IN AND NEAR CENTRAL LULEÅ.

At [visitlulea.se](http://visitlulea.se) you can find more information, practical tips and suggestions for more tours. You can also download our guides in pdf format. The guides can also be picked up at the Luleå tourist center.



## Fishing in Luleå

There are many places to fish in Luleå. Here there are rivers with rapids and calm stretches, lakes with introduced fish and sea fishing. The most common species are salmon, pike and perch. In this guide, we will take you through many different fishing spots as well as:

- Luleå archipelago
- Lule river
- Råne river
- Hertsöträsket and Metträsket
- Stora Stenträsket
- Mittitjärn and Hovlössjön



## Paddling in Luleå

The guide describes paddling trips around Luleå and Råneå of varying difficulty, all of which lead to beautiful and exciting islands.

- Alhamn till Antnäs-Börstskär
- Kallax-Ersnäs-fjärden
- Near central Luleå
- Sandgrönnorna
- The central archipelago
- The outer archipelago
- The northern archipelago
- Around Brändön
- The Råneå archipelago
- Around Rånefjärden
- Bathing at Alskär



Photo: Niilo Alhovaara

WITH THE RIGHT CLOTHES, YOU CAN START THE SEASON BEFORE THE ICE IS GONE.

## Animals and nature come to life



In addition to deciduous trees and flowers budding and blooming in the spring, bears, badgers, dormice, hedgehogs and some snakes that have been hibernating during the cold months are waking up. However, most of these are difficult to see as they are shy or downright dangerous.

Other wild animals in the forests of Luleå, which stay awake all year round, include elk, reindeer, foxes, hares and squirrels. Less visible are otters, martens, lynxes and wolverines.

If you're really lucky, during your visit to Luleå you may see reindeer even on your way from the airport. Or an elk! From time to time, the elk also wander into town, mainly in winter via the ice around the city centre.

In summer, sea eagles often appear and you can see them at Furufjärden and Gammelstadsviken. And of course in the sky where they make a mighty sight.

One animal that you can come across in the Luleå archipelago is the grey seal. The surest place to find them is on the waters east of Småskär.





# Summer in Luleå

*Do you want to experience endless days that seamlessly transition into bright nights? Enjoy beach and archipelago life or late hours at an outdoor restaurant? Then you should visit Luleå between June and August. Nature is green, the air is fresh and the clear water glistens around the city.*

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

June is characterised by the famous midnight light, when the nights are almost as bright as the days. This is when you can have a truly special experience by watching the sun set one minute, and seeing a beautiful sunrise the next.

The summer months in Luleå invite you to many experiences with the beautiful light as your constant companion. How about trying midnight golf? Living life in the archipelago? Climbing, go-karting and paddling are some of the wonderful activities you can try. Not to mention strolling along the harbour walks, swimming in the sea, bird watching or fishing. If you are near the shopping streets when the sun is

at its highest – take the opportunity to shop and have lunch under the parasols at one of the many outdoor restaurants.

Several music festivals and large concerts are held in Luleå and you can hear live music throughout the summer. Also, don't miss the summer concerts in various genres at our churches. Those looking for a bargain have lots of flea markets and summer auctions to visit.

In addition to sunscreen and a sun hat, it is wise to pack an eye mask for sleep. Because it is really light even at night. Warmer clothes can also be good to have, the wind is strong even on some summer days.

Come and experience summer in Luleå.



**Temperature:** +5 to +30°C.



**Weather:** Coastal weather which often provides many hours of sunshine. Coolest at the beginning of summer.



**Day light:** 24–15 hours.

# Summer activities

You can find more information about the activities, more tips and information about where you can rent equipment and book guided tours at [visitlulea.se](http://visitlulea.se).



## Visit a world heritage site

The Gammelstad church town is included on UNESCO's world heritage list of places worth preserving. This was the site of Luleå's original town centre until 1649. The area with over 400 church cottages is lovely to stroll through. Take a look at the late mediaeval church from 1492 which is still in use and popular for weddings. Peek inside the Gammelstad Visitor Center where you will find an exhibition and souvenir shop that also has local goodies. At the open-air museum Hägnan, you can book a guided tour to learn more about what life was like in the olden days. Visit the Fägnan café and the country store, and enjoy the old-fashioned interiors of both. Hägnan is also the site of the traditional Midsummer celebrations, gathering thousands of locals and tourists.



Photo: Peter Rosén



## Go on a shrimp cruise

Enjoy shrimp whilst listening to troubadours playing and singing during a three-hour evening cruise in Luleå's beautiful archipelago. The skipper always chooses a suitable route with weather and wind in mind. The shrimp cruises run throughout the season from June to the end of September.



Photo: Per Lundström

## Rent a sauna raft

A sauna raft is much more than just a sauna. It's a lovely way to spend time with family and friends. Sweat in the heat from the wood-fired sauna, take a dip in the sea, cool off with a cold drink on the sun deck, light the grill and look out over the beautiful scenery of Luleå city.



Photo: Tomas Bergman

## Climb up Snipen

A couple dozen kilometres north of Luleå near the village of Niemisel, you'll find climbing for everyone, to use a well-worn cliché – but it really is true here. The mountain Snipen offers dramatic climbing and the trails are considered some of Sweden's most difficult. From the top of the cliff you can enjoy the view of the Råne river valley.



Photo: Ted Logart

## Get around on two wheels

If you enjoy mountain biking, visit Ormberget, where signposted trails take you out into the terrain. Choose between different lengths and degrees of difficulty. The trails are varied with cycling on dirt roads, exercise tracks and paths. There is also a downhill course here. At the top lies a lunch restaurant.



Photo: Luleåfotograferna

## Play golf around the clock

Luleå has Sweden's northernmost 27-hole course – probably one of the golf courses with the best lighting conditions in the world. The midnight light in Luleå means that you can even play a round in the middle of the night. All necessary equipment and golf carts can be rented on site. The course usually opens on the last weekend in May and usually closes at the end of October. Here you can also eat well at the Rutvik Golf restaurant.



Photo: Fredrik Broman

## Paddle between 1,312 islands

The summer nights with midnight light in the Luleå archipelago mean that you don't have to rush to your port for the night, but can paddle around the clock. The Luleå archipelago is part of the Bothnian archipelago and is the world's northernmost brackish water archipelago. It's neither saltwater nor freshwater, and this has affected both flora and fauna. In the Luleå archipelago there are 1,312 islands with varying characteristics. On some islands you can enjoy a sauna, stay in a cabin or eat at a restaurant. But for those who instead wish to experience solitude, there are many islands and beaches without jetties, cottages or other facilities.



## Hike on Bålingeberget

Bålingeberget is a popular hiking destination. From the top of the 139 metre high mountain you have a view of the Lule River landscape. The higher parts of the mountain have extensive fields of shingle and water-sorted gravel. Sparse pine forests grow on outcrops eroded by the sea, where the ancient trees can be 400 years old. Up on the mountain there are picnic areas. Bring some firewood if you want to be sure that you can make a fire.

## Tip!

An easy way to improve safety when embarking on an adventure is to share the experience with others. It will also be more fun.

### ✓ BUCKETLIST

- ☐ World heritage
- ☐ Shrimp cruise
- ☐ Sauna raft
- ☐ Climbing
- ☐ Terrain cycling
- ☐ Golf in midnight light
- ☐ Paddling
- ☐ Bålingeberget



### 3 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU GO PADDLING IN THE LULEÅ ARCHIPELAGO

1. The Luleå archipelago is relatively shallow, the average depth is approximately 10 metres. This means choppy seas (short, steep waves) when the wind picks up. It also means that shallows and rocks can be found in the middle of a large inlet.

2. The water level is affected by air pressure and winds. The difference between high and low tide can be as great as 2 metres.

3. In summer, southerly and south-westerly winds are the most common, and all crossings in the archipelago are more or less affected by these wind directions. The nights are bright and mostly calm so if it's windy during the day you can paddle at night instead.

### Tip!

Check out our guide "Paddle in Luleå" for suggestions for tours for both beginners and experienced paddlers. The guide contains maps and descriptions of the tours as well as information and practical tips to make your paddling experience smoother.



Photo: Alf-Arne Harjo

## Take the boat out into the archipelago

Visit Luleå's beautiful archipelago - moor your own boat, go on a themed cruise, stay overnight, go island hopping and swimming in the sea.

There are regular, comfortable services to the larger islands, you will find Stella Marina and M/S Symfoni docked at the south harbour. At Sandön is the popular Klubbviken, which has two completely different sides: one easy and idyllic, with sandy beaches, a restaurant and fun activities, one untouched and facing the sea. With a tour boat, you can also go further out into the archipelago, to Kluntarna, Småskär, Brändöskär, Hindersön and Junkön – islands that have been inhabited for hundreds of years, among other places. What remains are fishermen's cabins, lighthouse keeper's stations, pilot's cabins, lighthouses and log chapels.

With your own boat, you can moor at one of Luleå's guest harbours or you can choose a natural harbour and have an entire island to yourself. The archipelagic environment is wild but at the same time flat, easily accessible and safe for children. Take your children beach-hopping and hiking on the islands. Fall asleep and wake up in a tent or an archipelago cabin to the sound of seabirds, waves and wind. Day trip or archipelago cruise – experience the Luleå archipelago your way.

More information, tips and itinerary for the archipelago boats can be found via [visitlulea.se/skargard](http://visitlulea.se/skargard) and at the Luleå tourist center in Kulturens hus.



BRÄNDÖSKÄR IN MIDNIGHT LIGHT.

Photo: Laponia rederi

## 6 islands to visit

### SANDÖN

The largest island in the archipelago. Here is Klubbviken with its long sandy beaches. This is where you go if you would like to swim, have a coffee and some snacks or food, or enjoy an evening of entertainment. We can also recommend taking the island's walking path to visit the shingle field at Lappmyrberget. Here there are not only cabins and saunas to rent, but also showers and saunas that are open to the public.

### HINDERSÖN

Hindersön is one of the larger islands in the Luleå archipelago. As early as the 16th century, people lived here, making a living from fishing, farming and sealing. The island had both an iron ore mine at the end of the 19th century and lime and marble mining at the beginning of the 20th century. Sauna available.

### BRÄNDÖSKÄR

Brändöskär is located on the outer rim of the archipelago, known for its fishing village, chapel and the statue of Christ by the artist Erik Marklund. Here, boat-houses picturesquely line the shore, while the island's cabins are located up on the mountain. There are cabins to rent here. Sauna available.

The names of the islands in the Bothnian archipelago are rooted in old dialects and their meaning is not always obvious today. Flora, fauna, personal names and the nature of the islands have often given the islands their names.



### SMÅSKÄR

The island's fishing camp has long played an important role in Luleå's history and has existed since the 16th century. There are several smaller swimming beaches here and also a rich bird life. Some 40 breeding bird species and grey seals are often visible to the west of the island. The chapel on Småskär was built in the 1720's and is the oldest in the Luleå archipelago. There are cabins to rent as well as a sauna here.

### KLUNTARNA

The Luleå locals' favourite in the archipelago. Here you can experience different environments on lovely walking trails. Near the Victoria rock, known colloquially as Kluntgubben (the Kluntarna Man), there are plots from the island's very first fishing camp. Don't miss the labyrinths, the shingle fields and the old harbour either. The island has cabins for overnight stays and sauna facilities as well as a nice harbour where you can moor your own boat.

### JUNKÖN

This island is known for its archipelago museum and gallery. Another attraction is the windmill from the 18th century. On the island there are rental cabins, a sauna and a café open in summer.



Photo: Viveka Österman

### COTTAGES IN THE ARCHIPELAGO

■ At Klubbviken Havsbad you can rent a two-bed cabin with access to a WC and shower in nearby amenities buildings or you can choose a four-bed cottage furnished with its own kitchen and bathroom. All cottages are rented out as self-catering. Showers and saunas are open to the public.

■ Stay in a cottage at Brändö Konferens. Here you sleep in well-equipped cottages for four people. The cottages have a sofa bed, WC, shower, TV and kitchen with fridge/freezer. Here there are also parking spaces for mobile homes.

■ Luleå municipality offers cottages and cabins for rent all year round on the islands of Junkön, Kluntarna, Brändöskär and Småskär. The cabins have four to ten beds and access to sauna facilities with common rooms. The cottages/cabins can be booked online.

### Tip!



Photo: Helena Holm

### A PLACE TO ROW

From Tjuvholmssundet on the mainland, you can row a short distance over to Sandön. Here you can follow the forest paths. Go for swims and look for wildlife. Keys to the rowing boats are rented from the Luleå Tourist Center in Kulturens hus.

# Relaxation or action?



Photo: Lule-Bild

## Live beach life – day or night!

Luleå offers many beaches, and in the archipelago also long beaches. On warm days, dipping your toes in the sea is almost mandatory.

Or why not take a dip in the bright summer night? Few places are blessed with such luxury.

If you prefer heated outdoor pools, there are child-friendly types for all days of the week.

On [visitlulea.se](http://visitlulea.se), Luleå's bathing spots are listed. Some are close to the city centre. Some close to the great outdoors. All worth a visit.



## Go kart

For those looking for fast-paced experiences, there is the option of go-karting, solo or in a group, on a 690-metre track. The track is located in scenic surroundings along Lulviksvägen on the way to the airport.



Photo: Frank Rizo

## Södra hamnplan – an oasis in the city centre

In summer, Södra hamnplan in Luleå is an oasis with room for both young and old. There is plenty of space for those who wish to relax. For those who are more active, thanks to Fritidsbanken, equipment is available to borrow for various activities, free of charge. There are also a number of food trucks here, so it's a great place to go for lunch.



## Art by bike

Experience Luleå's public art from a bicycle. You will have a lovely tour of Luleå. Information and a map are available from the Art Gallery and at the Luleå Tourist Center in Kulturens hus. You can rent a bike at Cykelstället. Fully equipped with a lock, luggage carrier and bicycle basket. Of course a helmet is included.

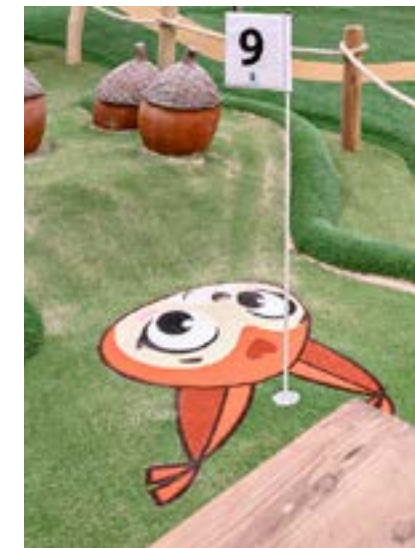


Photo: Magnus Stenberg



## High altitude zip-line

You can find Explore Luleå's high-altitude cableway Karlsvik. As you climb the high-altitude cableway and ride the zipline, you will have a magical view of the Lule River. The courses vary in difficulty and are fun for all ages.



## Adventure golf

Mini golf is a real summer favourite. Both among young and old. Challenge family and friends to the clever and fun ones the courses at First Camp Arcus – Luleå. Clubs are available for both adults and children.



Photo: Anna Sjölund



## Norrbotten Railway Museum

Welcome to one of Sweden's largest railway museums located in a scenic area in the old industrial community of Karlsvik, 10 kilometres from central Luleå. The main focus of the museum is to preserve and display artefacts connected to the Ore Line, but there are also vehicles, buildings and other objects taken from various parts of northern Sweden.



## Steel Park

Twist and turn at Sweden's northernmost concrete park for skateboards, bmx bikes and kick bikes. The park suits beginners as well as advanced and professional riders. The park is open to everyone around the clock during the summer months.



## Tip!

### A BEAUTIFUL ROUTE

Route 616 is a scenic stretch of 33 km on the south side of the Lule River, between Luleå and Boden. This is a scenic, rather than a speedy, route. Here are several nature reserves and attractions as well as a large number of small businesses offering products and services.



Photo: Per Lundström

### PICKING BERRIES

The Swedish Right of Public Access and our clean natural environment is perfect for berry picking, either large-scale or just handfuls for your own enjoyment.

You can find **blueberries**, **lingonberries** and **wild raspberries** in the outdoors near the city, for example by veering off the larger paths on Ormberget or Mjölkuddsberget.

Luleå also offers more exotic berries such as sea **buckthorn** which grows in bushes on the islands out in the archipelago. They are rich in vitamin C and become a delicious ingredient in jam, marmalade or juice. The berries are fragile and the bush is thorny, so pick them carefully.

Also, don't miss the unique **Arctic raspberries** that are found along shorelines, open meadows and ditches. Pick the berries individually, otherwise you risk squashing them. Finally, the **cloudberry** (the gold of the forest) which you find around bogs, bogs and wetlands. Cloudberries thrive in acidic, wet environments with lots of sun and therefore they grow abundantly here in the north where there is midnight light.

# Summer event

Music, theatre, festivals, art and sport. Exhibitions, markets and fairs. Keep an eye on the calendar at [visitlulea.se](http://visitlulea.se) for information on current events.



Photo: Ida Lund

## Putte i parken

In July, the Putte i Parken festival is held at Luleå's north harbour. Live concerts in several genres, fairgrounds and food sales. Entry is free – it's Luleå's big summer party. Around the same time there's also the Rix FM festival and family days with fun and games for children in Stadsparken.



Photo: Lule-Bild

## Summer theatre at Hägnan

In June, the Norrbottensteatern theatre moves out to the open-air museum Hägnan in the world heritage church town of Gammelstad. Here, they hold outdoor performances suitable for the whole family. Tickets are sold through Norrbottensteatern.



## Pride

In August, you can join in celebrating love, standing up for everyone's equal value, supporting the right to love who you want and be who you are, because that's when Luleå Pride comes to town. Various meeting places and activities are offered here, and of course the popular Pride parade.



## Konst i det gröna (Art in the green)

During a weekend at the end of July, the Luleå Art Association organises an outdoor exhibition called Art in the Green. Many artists exhibit their works for sale here. The event attracts many visitors who stroll around among the artworks and stop for coffee breaks.



Photo: Lule-Bild

## Sports on the big screen

Major sporting events in which Sweden's national team participates are sometimes shown on a large screen at Södra hamnplan. Tip! Bring something to sit on and dress in yellow and blue to join thousands of supporters in cheering and enjoying a sunny day in Luleå.



Photo: Luleå domkyrkoförsamling

## Sång i parken (Song in the park)

In June, the churches in Luleå invite you to a popular sing-along event in Stadsparken (Luleå city park). Choirs, soloists and a house band with many musicians perform gospel, Swedish songs and hymns, pop and rock and of course lots of choir singing – and sing-alongs.



Photo: Karin Kemil

## International Food Festival

The popular food market, which tours various cities in Sweden, visits Luleå at the turn of August-September, and then a variety of food stalls line Storgatan. Full dishes, deli, pastries and sweets from different countries are available here.



## The Råneå & Vitå river valleys

The Råneå and Vitå river valleys run through the municipalities of Luleå, Gällivare, Jokkmokk and Boden. This rich natural treasure, unaffected by hydropower development, stretches from the foot of the mountain Dundret in the northwest to the outlets in the Gulf of Bothnia in the southeast. The vast and untouched forest landscape of the river valleys offer extraordinary experiences and great variety. The wildlife is rich. There are many spots to swim – in the sea, in rivers, lakes or pools. Wilderness adventures and lovely kayaking waters, as well as fishing opportunities, attract visitors. In the Råneå and Vitå river valleys, there are also several places of cultural and historical importance to visit.

Let the adventure take time, there are plenty of campsites and rest areas where you can stop for a break. In the area there are also grocery stores, petrol stations and eateries, frequented by residents and visitors alike.

Choose accommodation to suit your taste – a forest cabin, holiday village, campsite or accommodation in manor house grounds.

Knowledgeable hospitality companies are happy to guide you to the area's activities and magnificent experiences such as whitewater rafting, hunting and climbing.

Read more at [visitlulea.se](http://visitlulea.se). There you can also download the guide "Gems of the Råneå and Vitå river valleys" as a PDF. The guide can also be collected from the Luleå Tourist Center.



### 15 villages in the river valleys with destinations you don't want to miss. Pick and choose, or visit them all!

#### KÄNGSÖN | RÅNEÅ | BÖLE

In Råneå, both sea and forestland are close. Kängsö harbour and Råneå's church cottages are picturesque environments. The Råne River is considered one of Sweden's best fishing waters for pike, trout, grayling, perch and crayfish.

#### RÖRBÄCK | JÄMTÖN

The stretch of the Vitå River running through Luleå Municipality is 50 kilometres long. The last leg of its journey to the sea runs through the wide but shallow Vitåfjärden, on to the Jämtöälven rapids, towards the Rånefjärden estuary.

#### PRÄSTHOLM | ORRBYN | NIEMISEL

Along route 760 from Råneå on the north side of the river, the villages lie like a beautiful string of pearls one after the other, and between the villages farm-lands, meadows and pastures spread out with the river rippling in the background. Here there are several destinations at which to stop, with fine fishing spots and several open cabins for overnight stays. Along the southern side of the river are mountains Snöberget and Pålberget.

#### LASSBYN | SÖRBYN | GUNNARSBYN

When you have passed Niemisel along route 760, you will reach Lassbyn, Sörbyn and Gunnarsbyn. A cluster of villages that are more or less connected. There are several interesting destinations and sights to see in the area. You can stay in a pre-booked cabin, an open cabin which can not be booked in advance, at a hotel or park your campervan or caravan in a designated location.

#### ÖVERSTBYN | VALVTRÄSK | MÅRDSSEL

North of Gunnarsbyn lies Överstbyn, after which the road continues towards Valvträsk and Mårdsel. The landscape changes as you follow the Råne River upstream. As you pass Valvträsk, it changes character, from agriculture and farming to more that of forestland. You are approaching the Arctic Circle.

#### VITÅDALEN

The area is rich in birds and animals. Otters, beavers, dippers, swans and geese thrive by the small forest river. Beautiful old farmlands, remains of the 19th century mills and the highest mountain in the municipality are all found in Vitådalen.



### Mountain peaks and viewpoints

**1. PÅLBERGET 137 M:** Beautiful view of the Råne River and Pålträsket. There are exciting caves to explore here.

**2. SNIPEN, 171 M:** A strange mountain peak with a wonderful view of the river valley. A hundred-year-old pine forest is recovering after a forest fire and on the mountain you can see Snipkon, a formation in the rock.

**3. SNÖBERGET 241 M:** A till-capped hill; the top has never been affected by the surging of the ocean waves. The hillsides are bare rock and mighty shingle fields, shaped by ice and waves.

**4. STORKROKBERGET 307 M:** Luleå's highest mountain, its characteristic silhouette can be seen far and wide in Vitådalen.

**5. Åbojen, 332 M:** From the top you have a beautiful view of the river valley. The steep eastern slope hosts an old pine forest with plenty of old aspen trees as well.

Photo: Lule-Bild



### Crayfish fishing on the Råne River

Crayfishing is a major event and traditionally a family feast, for a few days in August. The lower part of the Råne River has one of Sweden's richest noble crayfish populations. At dusk, small fires are lit and people gather to heat a tasty treat or just socialise as they wait to empty the fishing traps. The crayfish are boiled with dill according to a secret recipe and served with delicious condiments. The crayfishing parties are highly popular and a perfect way to round off the summer season. The crayfish was introduced into the Råne River during the 1950s and a strong population has been established from the sea at Råneå and upstream. The noble crayfish has thus far avoided the spread of the crayfish plague. It is therefore important that the gear used here has not been used in other waters.



### Look at rare plants

The flora and fauna of the river valley are unique. A total of 318 vascular plants, many of them very rare, have been registered on the river's banks and bottoms. There is great species diversity. Red banberry, river lettuce and persicaria foliosa are some of the rarer species. In addition to a strong fish population you will also find noble crayfish, freshwater pearl mussels, white-throated dippers as well as beavers and otters here. Several rare flowers thrive here, such as the calypso orchid, lady's-slipper orchid and the lesser butterfly-orchid.

We recommend making a trip to Jämtöavan, Yttre Kvarnträsket. Eleven species of orchids grow here, flowering at different times from May to August. Eating your packed lunch is best done at Kvarnträskkojan, which is a rest cabin with a barbecue area.



Photo: Per Lundström

# Autumn in Luleå

*Would you like to experience nature's mighty display of colours? Then you should visit Luleå from mid-September to mid-October. Autumn in Luleå is characterised not only by the fact that the people of Luleå start "nesting" for winter, but also by the fact that arenas and concert and theatre venues are filled with people who want to revel in sports and cultural experiences at the highest level.*

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DEC

This time of year, when nature prepares for winter hibernation, the people of Luleå do the same and shift their focus to indoor life.

While the temperature drops outside, however, it gets warmer inside the city's various sports arenas, which are filled with people several times a week and become a natural meeting place for locals. Here, ice hockey and basketball are played at a premier league level, and the range of concerts, theatre and dance performances is stunning. You have the chance to hear local, national and international musicians and artists in a wide variety of genres and see theatre and dance by local as well as visiting ensembles.

It is still snow-free, but sometimes quite frosty in the mornings. Both sun and rain characterise the days, which are getting shorter and shorter, while the evenings are getting longer and people enjoy walks in the glow of the street lights.

And perhaps the best thing about this time of year is the opportunity to see the northern lights on clear evenings and nights. Just before the snow and the real cold arrives, is one of the best times for aurora spotting. It is possible to take lovely northern lights pictures with the open water as a mirror.

Mittens and a hat are good things to pack when you visit us in the autumn months. Welcome!



**Temperature:** -10 to +15°C.



**Weather:** More humid and windier than in summer, mixed with clear days with fine autumn air. Precipitation turns to snow at the end of November.



**Day light:** 15–4 hours.

NORRBOTTEN BIG BAND – A MODERN BIG BAND WITH DEEP ROOTS IN THE JAZZ TRADITION AND BRANCHES THAT EXTEND TO SOUL, FUNK AND CONTEMPORARY ART MUSIC. THE BAND HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR BOTH SWEDISH AND INTERNATIONAL GRAMMY AWARDS.



Photo: Gunnar Laak

## Enjoy culture

During the autumn, the events will start in earnest. See concerts with both local, national and international artists, at, for example, Kulturens hus or Kulturcentrum Ebeneser. Watch high-class theatre performances at Norrbottensteatern or go for a bigger show at Luleå Energi Arena or Coop Arena.

### KULTURCENTRUM EBENESER

The old ochre-yellow Church in the middle of Storgatan in Luleå is a typical example of large-scale Art Nouveau architecture. It is now home to the Ebeneser Cultural Association, offering a multicultural range of activities in an inspiring café environment. Ebeneser has an open stage for both spontaneous and planned events.

### KULTURENS HUS

This house offers a panoramic view of Luleå's north harbour. The three storey building houses the city library, art gallery, tourist center, conference facilities, concert halls and a café and restaurant. Here you will find different cultural and musical events. The art gallery displays contemporary art mainly from Sweden, but also from other countries. There are also lectures, an open art workshop and guided tours.



KULTURENS HUS

### NORRBOTTENSTEATERN (the Norrbotten county theatre)

Beautifully located by Luleå's north harbour. Performing arts of high quality are shown here, for both young and old. In addition to their own productions, the audience can also see popular guest performances and watch topical conversations on stage. The repertoire is a mix of timeless classics and constantly current, exciting, newly written drama. The house restaurant Biströn is an excellent place to enjoy a meal.

### VETENSKAPENS HUS (the house of science)

Today, the city's old post office houses Vetenskapen hus. In the large, airy room, you can participate in events focusing on research, education and artistic development work. The house is for the public and is an open place for meetings. You can also enjoy coffee, pastries and food at the restaurant Unik, located in the same building.

### SLÖJD & FORMCENTER (the crafts and design centre)

Slöjd & formcenter is a collaborative project for crafts, art handicraft, design, architecture, sustainable construction and designed living environments. The purpose is to strengthen and highlight the field of crafts and design in Norrbotten and make it more accessible. Their public exhibitions can be seen at the 'Shopping' mall.

Luleå has a wide range of events and hopefully you will find something in our calendar at [visitlulea.se](https://www.visitlulea.se) that suits you.



2024: LULEÅ HOCKEY/MSSK CELEBRATE THEIR SEVENTH GOLD MEDAL.

Photo: Julia Edom

## Experience the sports

Feel the pulse of hockey and basketball games at the highest level. The people of Luleå are proud of their sports teams. During autumn and winter, the games are many and it is an experience to feel the support of the crowd at home in Luleå. Don't miss feeling the excitement and combine the sports experiences with good food and drinks or snacks at the arenas.

### BC LULEÅ & LULEÅ BASKET

Luleå is known as Sweden's basketball capital. With its home arena Luleå Energi Arena and the Live restaurant, the men's team BC Luleå and the women's team Luleå Basket have added an international air to their matches. Luleå Basketball, Swedish champions in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021 and 2023, has the highest attendance figures in the country for women's teams.

### LULEÅ HOCKEY & LULEÅ HOCKEY/MSSK

Visited Coop Norrbotten Arena, the home arena of the men's team Luleå Hockey and the women's team Luleå Hockey/MSSK – it's an experience you will never forget. At the arena there are a number of restaurants and kiosks. The women's team have been Swedish champions in 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.



During the current season you will find information about current matches in event the calendar at [visitlulea.se](https://www.visitlulea.se).



Photo: Ola Norén

### Konsthallen (The Art Gallery)

Visit the art gallery in Kulturens hus, which is right in the heart of Luleå. Art exhibitions are shown here all year round, across four different periods. Visitors are given the opportunity to immerse themselves in the art through guided tours and practical workshops suitable for all age groups. In addition to showing art, they organise artist talks, seminars and educational events to promote dialogue between artists, audiences and society at large.



# Indoor activities

*If both children and adults have had enough of outdoor adventures, there are plenty of indoor family activities in Luleå.*



Photo: Jessica Tervaniemi



Photo: Magnus Stenberg

## Alcatraz

A three-storey experience centre Here you will find; go-karts, VR games, laser games, paintball, bowling and "Prison Island" – a challenging adventure where you solve tasks in prison cells. When you feel hungry or thirsty, there is a restaurant with a variety of options. Just coming and hanging out is free, then you only pay for the activities in which you choose to participate.



## Leo's Lekland

A ball pit, slides, climbing walls, a tubby slide, a spider tower and much more for children aged 1 and up. Here, the adults can hang out in the café while the children play. Connect your phone to Leo's WiFi and surf for free.



## Klätterhuset

Here there is bouldering, top rope climbing and trail climbing. Here you can climb as high as you like and use the grips you want. The climbing hall also has a gym, a shop, a café and changing rooms with showers and a sauna.



## Trampoline center

You will find an adventure which is out of the ordinary at the 360 Trampoline Center. In addition to all the attractions, there is a party room and a section for coffee breaks and relaxation. The activities in the trampoline park are aimed at all age groups.



Photo: Luleåfotografarna

## O'Learys

Satisfy your appetite, watch televised sports or compete with friends. There are bowling alleys, a games room with arcade games, pinball games, air hockey, billiards, shuffleboard, stands, restaurant and dance floor. Outdoor seating on the roof.



Photo: Frank Rizo

## Pontusbadet

Pontusbadet is a charming 1950's style swimming pool complex, focused on various forms of swimming training and competitive swimming. The pools are used by swimming associations and individuals swimming for leisure.



## Flygmuseet F21 (F21 Aviation Museum)

The F21 Aviation Museum is located just outside the entrance guard at Norrbotten's air flotilla, F21. The exhibitions at the Aviation Museum describe the air defence of upper northern Sweden from the beginning of the 1940s, with the region's often extreme climate. Our Viggen fighter jet simulator JA 37 DI gives you a thrilling and realistic flying experience. Try to take off, handle the aircraft in the air and land "for real". You will be manoeuvring over Luleå, the bridges and the archipelago, high or low, and the whole of Sweden is there.

## Tip!

### RELAX AND ENJOY

After a day out in the fresh air, it feels great to treat yourself to a body treatment and spa. The word 'spa' can be traced back to the Latin phrase "salus per aquam" meaning "health through water". Regardless of whether you wish to use the pool, sauna or some other water-based relaxation, or enjoy more in-depth massage treatments, the range in Luleå is wide. Try the seasonal sauna at Clarion Sense, enjoy the bubbles of the Hotell Savoy jacuzzi or splash in the outdoor pool at Alcatraz. A visit to Luleå can definitely leave you revitalised as there are also plenty of hairdressers, barbers and beauty salons here.



You can find more tips on activities at [visitlulea.se](http://visitlulea.se).



## Go to the cinema

■ **Filmstaden** is one of the oldest still operating cinema companies in the world. Filmstaden has six cinemas and all are wheelchair accessible (manual wheelchair only). Two of the cinemas can show 3D films.



■ **Folkets Bio** in Luleå shows quality films several evenings per week and also offers daytime cinema occasionally. The programme also includes live broadcasts of opera, ballet, theatre and exhibitions by major artists.



# Shopping

*Would you like to browse in peace and quiet in small shops,  
feel the city pulse in the malls or shop outside the city centre?  
Welcome to the shopping city of Luleå. Everything you need can be found here.*

The shopping range in Luleå is easily accessible. The city street runs along Storgatan where you will find the Smedjan, Shopping and Strand malls. In central Luleå you will find several of the Swedish fashion chains and many privately owned stores with a wide range of fashion in the form of accessories, clothes and shoes.

You can take a well-deserved shopping break at one of the cafes or take the opportunity to get new nails, hairstyles or new frames for your glasses.

On the road north from town in the direction of Gammelstad runs a line of department stores and shops

specialising in, among other things, construction, interior design, gardening and motoring.

A few more kilometres away at Storheden, you will find shopping in the form of the large chain stores including sports, home electronics, interior design and pets.

In the Gammelstad's church town there are cosy shops with locally designed products, art and crafts.



SHOPPING IN THE 50S.



Photographer unknown. Luleå municipality's city archive.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...the mall named 'Shopping' was inaugurated on 27 October 1955 and is not only Sweden's, but also the world's first indoor shopping mall. The shopping centre in Luleå is one of the buildings in the heart of the city considered to be of cultural and historical value. The building was designed by architect Ralph Erskine and it is said that he wanted to create something more than just a shopping mall; he wanted city life to move indoors during the winter months and 'Shopping' was therefore meant to encourage meetings and togetherness.

## Locally produced crafts

If you wish to buy a souvenir from Luleå and Swedish Lapland, we can recommend **Lapland Heartwork** in central Luleå and **Arctic Collection** on the outskirts of Gammelstad's church town. Here you will find handicrafts and souvenirs from Norrbotten and northern Sweden. Don't miss the amazing pewter bracelets.



Midway between Luleå and Boden, on the south side of the Lule River, is **Avangården**. In the shop you can buy leather, yarn and hand-knitted garments. Most hides are sold processed, but some are sewn into carpets, quilts, and cushions.

## Unique shops

**Modelljärnvägsspecialisten** – the Model railway specialist is one of Sweden's largest hobby shops. Here you will find most things related to model trains, radio-controlled toys, landscape materials, paint and building kits. They also have model cars and model aeroplanes.



## WIDE SELECTION

**Norra Bo – Pentik Luleå** designs and offers various collections produced under its own brand. The product range includes collections of ceramics and glassware, interior and table textiles, fixtures, furniture and deli foods.



At the **Luleå Tourist Center** in Kulturens hus and the **Visitor Center in Gammelstad**, you can buy Luleå branded souvenirs. Part of the range is seasonal.

## Shop sustainably

In Luleå there are several second-hand shops that offer everything from bicycles and tools to unique clothes, porcelain and toys. Do you like antiques? Keep an eye on **Luleå Auktionsverk's website** for opportunities to bid on something antique.



## A GOOD CHOICE

Visit the **second hand shop Samlat**, which is located at Köpmantorget. Here you can repair, borrow, exchange and buy recycled goods with the aim of expanding the use and extending the life of gadgets and materials.

# Discover the food city

Truly treat yourself at one of Luleå's gourmet restaurants or grab something quick on the go. Here you will find local delicacies as well as flavours from around the world.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...in Luleå there are several high-class restaurants. With chefs who have left international Michelin restaurants to settle here in Luleå and sommeliers who have been responsible for drinks during royal weddings. Gastronomic knowledge and qualifications are found throughout the city. Luleå also offers creativity and a safe, relaxed atmosphere. Fine dining is both fine, fresh and fun here! Read more about the food city of Luleå at [visitlulea.se](http://visitlulea.se).



# Eating out, or eating out

To eat out has two different meanings in Luleå. Truly treat yourself at one of the city's gourmet restaurants, where skilled chefs prepare local, high-quality ingredients with a steady hand and give you Swedish Lapland's full palette of flavours. You simply have to eat the delicious, nutritious game, reindeer and elk that have lived in the wild, enjoy game fish that have swum in pure, clear waters and let yourself be seduced by blueberries, cloudberries, arctic raspberries and lingonberries that have ripened in the midnight sun.

Eating out also has another, more literal interpretation, here in Luleå – when the food is served outside. Nothing tastes as good as a meal cooked over an open fire, preferably to round off a day of great outdoor activities. A muurikka (a large frying pan) is often used to cook things such as suovas, lightly smoked reindeer meat, or fry palt, Swedish potato dumplings.

Is your stomach rumbling? See tips on places to eat at [visitlulea.se](http://visitlulea.se).



## Tip!

### LOCAL AND GLOBAL DELICACIES

In Luleå you will find a wide range of delicacies and foods, both local and global. Here, small farm shops, large grocery stores, cafes and restaurants exist side by side deli departments.



Photo: Andreas Wälitalo



Photo: Fredrik Broman



Photo: Tomas Bergman

Photo: Tomas Bergman



## Try bar hopping

If you like to hang out with friends over a glass of something, there are plenty of choices in Luleå. We guide you on a bar tour: We start at the top of Storgatan at **Restaurant CG** and **Bar CG**, both of which have a large selection of drinks. Then we continue down Storgatan and at Elite Stadshotellet you will find **The Bishops Arms** with Luleå's largest selection of beer and whiskey. Take the opportunity to taste their own brew. We then take a detour down to the north harbour with a view of the water. Here you will find **Hemmagastronomi** where the cocktail bar is open from the afternoon until late at night. In a harbour warehouse further away you will find **Bistron** where you can also treat yourself to a drink, perhaps some locally produced beer, if you are visiting the Norrbottensteatern theatre next door. Back on Storgatan again, we visit **Invit Bar X**, serving new cocktails and true classics. If you are looking for a real high point, take a detour to Luleå's sky bar and restaurant **Nine at Clarion Hotel Sense** opposite Kulturens hus. Enjoy a good cocktail with a fantastic view of Luleå's northern harbour and the rooftops. The round tour is finishing as we are back on Storgatan and slip into **Ego Bar & Restaurant** at Hotel Savoy. Here you can relax with something from the bar and listen to music. Like we said, Luleå has something to suit all tastes.



## Time for "Swedish fika"

A warming cup of tea. A freshly baked bun. A lovely piece of cake. A strong, invigorating Espresso. A molten chocolate cake with cream. A steaming hot cup of chocolate. There are many variations of a Swedish fika and what is better after a day full of activities, than to visit one of the city's cafes? Why not enjoy the renowned **Börje Olssons Konditorier**? Since 1958, they have been serving good coffee, fresh, hearty sandwiches and sweet baked goods from their own bakery. Tips for more cafes can be found at [visitlulea.se](http://visitlulea.se).



Photo: Carl-Johan Utsi

## Local food words

**Muurikka:** Portable frying pan, reminiscent of a wok, to prepare meals outdoors, over an open fire.

**Palt:** Dumplings made of potatoes, flour and salt and, depending on the chef, filled with salted pork. Served with butter and lingonberry jam. If you eat too many, you can suffer from drowsiness, so-called palt coma.

**Surströmming:** Fermented Baltic herring served with boiled potatoes and onions rolled in flatbread. The smell when opening the can is very peculiar but the taste is known to be far more pleasant, mainly salty.

**Coffee cheese:** Squeaky cheese, served cubed in the hot coffee – instead of pastries. Also makes a good dessert, lightly fried with warm cloudberries.

**Gáhkku:** Chewy Sami flatbread that's also suitable for frying in a muurikka. Closely related to klädda and glödkaka.

**Suovas:** Lightly smoked reindeer meat, usually also salted for longer shelf life. Excellent for outdoor cooking.

**Tjälknöl:** Frozen venison that is cooked like a roast in an oven at a low heat for a long time and then left in brine in the fridge for a couple of hours before being served finely cut into thin slices.

**Kåsa:** Traditional wooden drinking or serving vessel for drinking coffee in the forest.



Photo: Per Lundström

# Plan your trip

## Get to Luleå



Foto: Capri Norman

### By plane

Luleå has several direct flights from Stockholm every day, which makes our city one of the most easily accessible in Sweden. It takes just over an hour to fly from Stockholm Arlanda to **Luleå Airport**. From the airport, it takes 10–15 minutes by bus to reach central Luleå.

### By train

Every day and night, trains go to and from **Luleå Central Station**. The train station is close to the town centre and it only takes a few minutes to reach central Luleå by foot.

### By bus

You can travel to **Luleå bus station** from our neighbouring municipalities in Norrbotten. You can also travel from Skellefteå and Umeå in Västerbotten. The local buses operate via the Smedjegatan/City stop.

### By car

**European Route 4 (E4)** in Sweden runs between the cities of Helsingborg and Haparanda. If you are travelling by car north on your way to Luleå, it is the easiest way to get here. You can find charging points for electric cars using an app such as ChargeFinder.

## Get around Luleå



Foto: Daniel Holmgren

### Luleå Lokaltrafik (local public transport)

Luleå Lokaltrafik's buses will take you around central Luleå and areas such as Gammelstad, Luleå Airport, Hertsön and Porsön. The central station is called Smedjegatan/City and lies next to the Smedjan mall, across Storgatan. Bus timetables are available on Luleå Lokaltrafik's website [lt.lulea.se](http://lt.lulea.se) and in the "Luleå Lokaltrafik" app. Here you can also see a map of Luleå Lokaltrafik's main lines. The bus journey is paid for by card on the bus or with the app. There are also sales representatives in several locations. At the LLT info store on Smedjegatan 13H you can get help with everything related to your travel.

#### BUY OR RENT WHAT YOU NEED

■ **Äventyrsbutiken Hägglunds** (The adventure store Hägglunds) is located in central Luleå and is filled to the brim with a complete range of equipment and clothing for all types of activities, whether you are a beginner or an experienced adventurer. Buy or rent what you need.



#### BORROW USED EQUIPMENT

■ **Fritidsbanken** lends used sports and outdoor equipment free of charge for up to 14 days. Everything from ice skates, hockey sticks and skis to tennis rackets, hobby horses and helmets. The items that are donated by the public are used and reused throughout their entire lifespan, which is good for both people and the environment.



### Länstrafiken

#### (long-distance public transport)

Länstrafiken's buses serve the villages outside the central town and the rest of Norrbotten. The buses depart from Luleå bus station (close to the train station, Luleå central station).

Bus journeys can be purchased through the app and paid for by card on the bus. Bus timetables are available on Länstrafiken's website [lanstrafikennorrbotten.se](http://lanstrafikennorrbotten.se)

### Taxi and rental cars

There are several taxi and rental car companies in Luleå.

Information for planning your trip to Luleå can be found at [visitlulea.se](http://visitlulea.se).



# The Right of Public Access

The Swedish Right of Public access is a unique right that builds on being responsible together. It is embodied by showing respect for animals, nature, landowners and fellow human beings. It's easy to get this right, right!

Photo: Gunvor Ekström



### DO NOT DISTURB, DO NOT DESTROY

In the Swedish outdoors, we can move freely. We can pick flowers, berries and mushrooms. We can swim, camp, hike, cycle, travel by boat, make a campfire and do other outdoor activities.

The Right of Public Access is a privilege and a freedom that depends upon people acting responsibly and carefully towards the natural environment.

### MAKE A FIRE

Fires are usually allowed under safe conditions, so be sure to choose your fire pit carefully.

If the weather has been good and without much rain, the forest and ground will be very dry, so pay attention to the conditions.

In nature reserves, special rules apply to fires, on Bälungeberget, for example, there are special fire pits and free firewood available to use. In other reserves it may be completely prohibited.

### VEHICLES

According to the Off-Road Driving Act, it is forbidden to drive motor vehicles on bare ground off the road.



Photo: Peter Rosén

Photo: Susanne Lindholm



les on bare ground off the road. This applies not only to cars, but also to quad bikes, motorcycles and mopeds. If you approach a private road, it may also be forbidden to enter it unless you are a landowner.

With a few exceptions, it is forbidden to drive snowmobiles on the islands of the Bothnian archipelago. Cottage owners are allowed to take the closest route to their cottage. Prohibitions apply within urban areas, except on designated trails. Within nature reserves, the rules differ from reserve to reserve and you are obligated to inform yourself of what applies before you head out into the woods and fields.

### ON THE WATER

The right of access also applies on water and the requirements for consideration are the same as on the mainland. There may be rules about speed and prohibitions related to jet skiing.

You are allowed to go ashore, swim, camp and moor the boat for the night almost everywhere.

Few things compare to silently gliding along in your kayak, in coastal bays, open water or rivers and streams. When moving by kayak, it is easy to get close to mammals and birds. Remember not to disturb them and be mindful of nesting birds on islets and in old trees.

### BREEDING GREAT CRESTED GREBE.



Photo: Thomas Öberg

In the archipelago there are seal and bird protection areas where it is forbidden to go ashore during certain times of the year, usually 1 May–1 August.

### FISHING

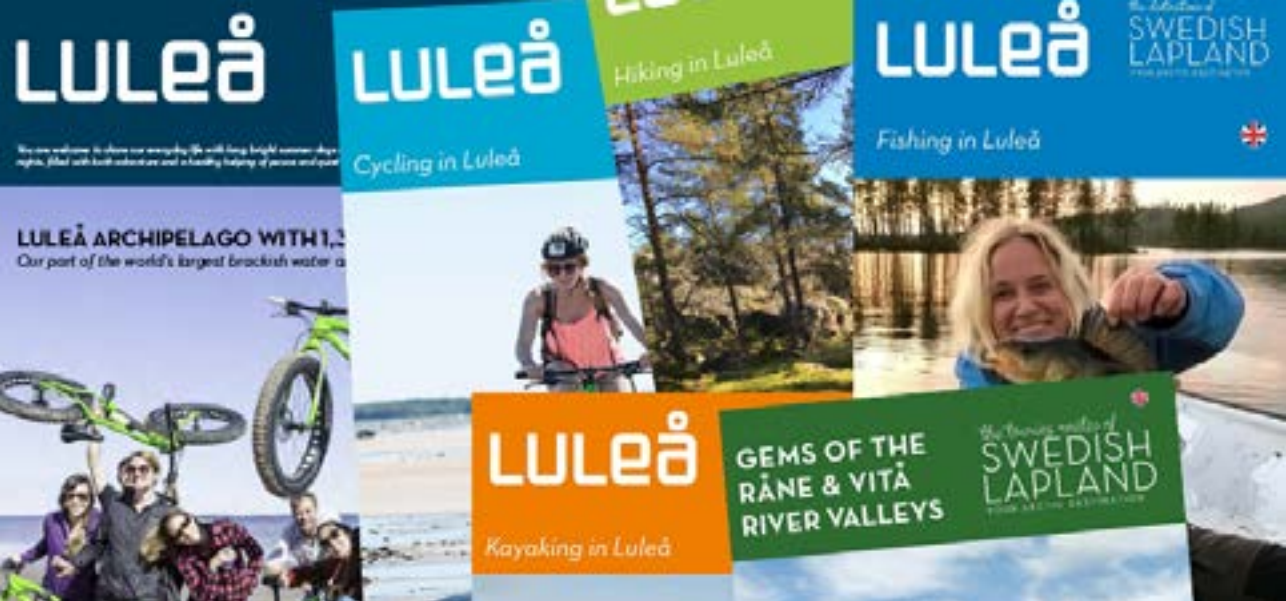
In the sea, rod fishing is unrestricted, but there are rules for how, when and what you can fish. Lakes and rivers normally require a fishing licence.

### HUNTING

The right of access also applies during the hunting season – everyone has the right to stay in the forest. Sometimes hunters put up signs to inform everyone that hunting is in progress – animals may come rushing through, shots may be fired and dogs may bark. As always, be considerate, do not disturb dogs or wild game.

You can find links to information about nature reserves and the Right of Public Access at [visitlulea.se](http://visitlulea.se).





# Looking to get the most and the best out of your stay in Luleå and the surrounding area?

Come visit us at the tourist center and we will help you find great experiences in our city. You will find us on the ground floor of Kulturens hus in the heart of central Luleå.

Here you can find information about everything you could possibly want to see and experience – everything from archipelago boats and accommodation to events, attractions, tips on outings and local gems.

We provide you with brochures and maps that are good to have when exploring Luleå and the region.

Winter, spring winter, spring, summer and autumn. Welcome to experience all our seasons.



The tourist center sells Luleå souvenirs.



**LULEÅ**  
TOURIST CENTER  
KULTURENS HUS • VISITLULEA.SE



## READ MORE:

[visitlulea.se](http://visitlulea.se) | [lulea.se](http://lulea.se) | [swedishlapland.com](http://swedishlapland.com)

## SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE:

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