

Gothenburg – essential information

In alphabetical order

Bring

- Passport or EU national identity card for identification.
- Credit card. If your card has a PIN code, memorize it.
- In summer; an extra sweater or jacket. In winter; warm clothes and extra shoes.
- Powerplug adapter for 220-240 V AC 50Hz (European Schuko plug).
- European Health Service card, if you are an EU/EES citizen.

City card

A city card offers unlimited travels on public transport as well as discounts at restaurants, shops, tourist attractions and sightseeing tours. 24 or 48-hour passes are available at hotels, kiosks and the tourist office.

Climate

Thanks to the Gulf Stream, Gothenburg has a much milder climate than most other regions in the north. The four seasons have its perks and affects nature, daylight and temperature. On average, the warmest month is July and the coolest is February. From late February the days become longer and brighter; during mid-summer the sun hardly sets at all.

Click [here](#) for a weather forecast visit.

Clothing

The warmer months require lightweights for daytime and extra woollens for cooler evenings. Medium- to heavyweights is advised in winter.

Contact

Telephone

Country code: +46

Gothenburg area code: 031

There is excellent wireless GSM and 3G/UMTS coverage in Sweden. Even in rural areas except in the central and northern interior parts of the country. Americans will need a tri-band phone.

Internet

Sweden is the world's second most Internet connected country. As an alternative to Wi-Fi, prepaid USB 3G modems can be bought quite cheaply in many shops.

Currency and payment methods

Currency

The monetary unit is the Swedish Krona (SEK). Bank notes are printed in values of 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 kronor; and coins in values of 1, 5 and 10 kronor.

Credit cards

Major credit and debit cards (some restrictions apply to American Express and Diners) are widely accepted in shops, restaurants, hotels and taxis. Cash is withdrawn with your Visa, MasterCard, Maestro or Cirrus card at any ATM (bankomat).

Foreign exchange facilities

A number of exchange offices are located in central Gothenburg and at the airports. Ask your hotel reception for the closest office and opening hours. Banks are open Mon-Fri 10:00-15:00.

For current exchange rates click [here](#).

Customs and border formalities

Passport, visa, and letter of invitation

Participants are advised to make their own arrangements with respect to entering Sweden. If you do need a visa to visit Sweden, please apply a minimum of three months prior to your trip. For further information on entry requirements and visas, please visit the [Swedish Migration Board](#).

For a letter of invitation, please contact your Local Organising Committee.

Customs regulations

Please see information at [Customs Administration of Sweden \(Tullverket\)](#).

Electricity

The electrical current in Sweden is 220 V/50 Hz. Round European-style two-pin plugs are used.

Getting around

You can easily explore Gothenburg by foot as almost everything is found within walking distance.

Almost 1,000 city rental bikes are available at 70 stations around town from March to November.

The public transport system consists of trams, buses and ferries. For best price, buy a short term travel card or a city card. Single tickets and travel cards can be bought at various retailers around town e.g. Pressbyrån, 7-Eleven or Västtrafik customer service. Some trams have an on-board ticket vending machine. The driver does not provide tickets.

For more information on public transport please visit <http://www.goteborg.com/en/Travel/Public-transport/>

Taxis can be hailed in the streets.
Taxi Göteborg tel 031-65 00 00
Taxi Kurir tel 031-27 27 27
Mini Taxi tel 031-14 01 40

Health care

In case of emergency

Call 112 in case of fire, medical or criminal emergency.

No area code is needed, regardless of what phone you're using. The number works on any mobile phone, with or without a SIM card, even if it's locked.

Pharmacy

There are several different pharmacies (apotek) in Gothenburg and you find one on almost every street. Opening hours are the same as shops. Apoteket Hjärtat, located in the shopping centre Nordstan, is open until 22:00.

Many supermarkets carry non-prescription supplies such as band aid, antiseptics and painkillers.

Medical treatment

For medical treatment, visit the nearest health centre (vårdcentral). The emergency ward (akutmottagning) is located at the Sahlgrenska University Hospital. Bring your passport and your European Health Insurance Card.

Drop-in or book an appointment:

Specialistkliniken Heden, Engelbrektsgratan 59
Mon-Thu 08:00 – 17:00
Tel: 031-20 82 20

Jourcentral Gamlestadstorget, Gamlestadsvägen 4 B:15
Mon-Fri 17:00-22:00, Sat-Sun 10:00-22:00
Tel: 031-345 07 53

Dentist

If you are in urgent need of dental care, call the Emergency Dental Care.
Tel: 031-80 78 00.
Mon-Fri 08:00-20:00, Sat-Sun 08:00-16:00

Health insurance

Ensure coverage by your own health insurance and bring necessary documents on the trip. Citizens from within EU/EEA countries and some other countries, with which Sweden has a special agreement, are entitled to the same medical services as the Swedes. Citizens from North America and other countries from outside the EU/EEA countries must pay in full for the medical treatment.

If you're a European citizen a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) gives you access to medically necessary, state-provided healthcare during a temporary stay in any of the 27 EU countries, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Same conditions, and costs, apply as for people insured in that country. Apply for an EHIC at the [European Commission](#).

Language

Swedish is the national language, but most people speak English.

Postal services

Stamps can be bought in Pressbyrå shops and the post offices that are found in some shops. Opening hours are generally the same as the specific store. Look for the blue postal sign.

Shopping

Most shops are open between 10:00 and 18:00 and on weekends until 14:00. Department stores are open until 19:00 or longer on weekdays. Most are also open on Sundays between noon and 16:00.

VAT is always included on the price tag.

Tax free

All permanent non-EU residents are entitled to a VAT refund available on all purchases made in Sweden. Tax Free Shopping by Global Blue is a simple system that puts cash in your hand when you leave the EU. You get refunds of up to 19% on your purchases. The minimum purchase is SEK 200.

For more information visit [Tax free shopping in Sweden](#).

Smoking policy

A smoking ban applies to public indoor spaces such as restaurants, cafés, nightclubs and pubs.

Tap water

Tap water in Sweden is of great quality. There is no real reason for buying bottled water.

Time zone

Coordinated Universal Time (UTC+1 hour).

Tipping

A service charge is automatically included in most Swedish hotel bills. At restaurants, a service charge is included in the bill. Tipping is not mandatory, but a small gratuity (5-10 %) is expected for evening meals if good service is received. Porters and cloakroom attendants often charge fixed fees.