



Culture in Southeast Sweden

This time a year, the trees are bright and colourful and in the southeast Sweden the sun has been shining, giving us wonderful autumn days in September and the beginning of October. But we also take comfort in the rainy and windy days, curling up in the couch with a cup of tea and a homebaked cinnamon roll.

This issue of the newsletter we want to tell you some about culture. Both the kind of culture you can enjoy in the area, like music, theater and art, but also about the Swedish culture - what are we really like?

Youth Project of Torsås Cinema

Since the year of 2008 an organization called the Torsås Folkets hus organization has shown films free of charge, particular for young people in Torsås. A small group of mainly high school students helped to plan the presented films, marketing and implementation of the screenings. Three of them also participated in an initial training in how to run a cinema. The first year the response from the young people was very good and movies had 887 visitors, which makes an average of 42 per film. A small group of young people actually saw all of the shown movies! One of the highlights this year was of course the mammoth night when the trilogy of the Lord of the Rings was shown. The visitors came loaded with pillows and blankets to manage the long, long night which was almost morning when they went home. The traders in Torsås offered hot dogs and drinks for free this night as well. The administration has found that the cinema is a good choice for young people to go to. Even if it's not a good affair, this non profit organization keeps going. Isn't it admirably!?

All Saint's Day a day of remembrance

Traditions always has and still are important for Swedes. Even though Sweden today is a secular society religion plays an important role since most of our traditions have religious roots. The importance of the roots may not be as strong today, but Swedes like to celebrate so we still



observe them. As well as attached to religion Swedish traditions are often linked to the changing seasons. Right at this moment we are facing a change of season, the last days of summer have passed, it's getting colder and dark sneaks up on us.

One upcoming tradition is All Saint's Day, a day of dignity and reflection. On this particular day we visit family graves and light candles in remembrance of them. The light from these countless lanterns creates a beautiful sight. A lot of people take the day off to stay home with the family. Many churches also organise concerts to celebrate All Saint's Day.

The last decade All Saint's Day has come to be influenced by Halloween that rapidly has established here due to smart commercial marketing. Halloween is imported from the USA and with that its roots and origins have been cut. Focus in Sweden is on funny costumes and trick or treating, mostly celebrated by children and youngsters.

All Saint's Day and Halloween also marks the first day of winter and the start of the alpine ski season.

Did you know

that the word "klant" means "a clumsy person" in Swedish, and not "client" like in Dutch?



A visit in Southeast Sweden

Seven families from The Netherlands and Germany attended the orientation visit Team South East Sweden organised on August 12-14th.

The visit started in Pataholm with a puzzle tour by car through Mönsäterås and Högsby. Quiz questions helped our visitors to start looking at the area with different eyes. A school visit in Blomstermåla was included as well. The tour ended in Aboda Klint, where a delegation from Högsby took over after lunch.

We enjoyed a delicious lunch together at Aboda Café and before we left Aboda Klint, some guests climbed up the 21 meter high watchtower and got a breathtaking view over the forests and lakes.

After lunch we went to Misteln in Högsby - the library & tourist office for the "Move-to-us" for a mini-fair, where our guests met representatives from [IdV1] Real Estate Agents, Banks, The Swedish Tax Agency, The Swedish Public Employment Service, The Migration Board, organizations for local companies etc. Everyone was focused on receiving lot of information and hopefully they got their questions answered. The exhibitors were very impressed by the great interest and goal-orientation of the guests.

After the dinner at Staby Gårdshotell, we arranged an evening activity at the river Emån close to Ruda; we

swam in the river, took a bath in the outdoor heated wooden bathtub and enjoyed a barbeque as well as music and singing.

On Friday it was time to discover Kalmar. Our vice-deputy Malin Petersson welcomed everyone in the city hall of Kalmar for a traditional Swedish 'fika' and after exchanging story's about swimming in the Emån, it was time to listen to Rob Floris from EURES about working and living in Sweden, our municipality's business advisor Lisa Saetre about the business development - and opportunity's in the Kalmar region and Martina Lago from ALMI how to set up a business and the help that ALMI could provide.

Later on, after a great lunch, we met the County Council whom informed us about the health organisation in the Kalmar County, about working in the health sector in Sweden and the legalisation of the Dutch licences and certificates.

After this day full with information, it was time to set the mind free: leisure time!

We went through the beautiful Stadsparken to the Kalmar Castle, where our guide was waiting for us to show

us around. She had a lot off incredible story's about the history of the castle. Very interesting and a perfect end for this day!

On Saturday, it was Emmaboda's and Nybro's turn to host the day. With a guided buss tour, we visited the heart of the Kingdom of Christal and had the chance to do some shopping in the glassblowing shops and have a fika. Next stop was the amazing 'Hönsalottas Luffarmuseum', the vagabond's museum. After visiting the museum, everybody was hungry: time to drive to 'Pukeberg's hyttsil' the hot shop herring. After a lot of entertainment, the traditional vagabond food and a glassblowing show, some of us get the chance to try to blow the glass. It seemed to be very easy, but it took a lot of effort. We even get the opportunity to engrave a glass, very funny!

We would like to thank you all for visiting us and for making this day a success! It was a pleasure to accompany all guests throughout the day and if you have questions in the future about emigration to our region, you are welcome to contact us.

Team Southeast Sweden

Investing in your future

REGION FÖRBUNDET
I KALMAR LÄN



EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

Did you know this about Swedes?

Det svenska språket – the Swedish language

The language is an important part of our culture. Around 9 million people are native Swedish speakers, of which 8.5 million live in Sweden. Another 300 000 people in Finland have Swedish as a native language. Even though Swedish is spoken by only few, a growing number of people abroad want to learn Swedish and Swedish classes are offered at approximately 200 universities in 43 countries around the world. There are an estimated 35,000 students studying Swedish at university level outside of Sweden. Newly arrived adult immigrants are entitled to take SFI classes – Swedish for Immigrants. In addition to that adult education classes known as Komvux is also available.

Learning the language is a good investment, but might not be a walk in the park. The fact that most Swedes speak English fluently is good for all visitors. You can stop almost anyone to ask for directions, but it might be a trap of convenience for immigrants wanting to learn the language. It's easy to fall back on that you always can manage in English instead of trying a second, third or fourth time in Swedish. Learning a new language is not always painless, the confusion in how to use words, put sentences together or what word to use for what occasion might put you in funny situation, but Swedes do appreciate the effort, just laugh it off and learn a lesson. Learning the language helps you understand the Swedish culture, the language is an important key to integration and makes you feel at home instead of being a perpetual outsider.

The online newspaper thelocal.se published an article in January last year on the topic **What are you favorite words in Swedish**. Six immigrants share their favourite Swedish words and they are shortlisted under.

Hmmmmmm.

This word has no meaning, just a word of thinking before you give an answer on a questions. This word has, however, an infinite possibilities of pronunciation.

Mormor.

It means grandmother, but literally translates mother mother, which makes sense. If you talk about your second grandmother it is farmor, which translates father mother. You can by word tell the difference between your grandparent. Grandfather is morfar or farfar which translates mother father and father father. This counts for most all relatives. Uncle is morbror or farbror which translates mother brother or father brother.



Sjuttiosju

One nice sounding word for foreigners is sjuttiosju, the Swedish translation for seventy-seven. This is hard, close to impossible for most foreigners to pronounce.

Fika

A commonly used word is fika. Fika includes meeting up with freinds during your sparetime to have a coffee together either at home or at a café. Fika is also common at most works, one fika paus in the morning and one in the after noon, a social informal gathering.

Noshörning

A typical Swedish word for one of the interviewed is Noshörning (nose horn) which means rhinoceros. The animal has a horn on his nose – what could be a better name than nose horn? No latin, no confusion, very practical, very Swedish.

Tandkött

In Swedish it means gums. A literal translation, which is descriptive in a glorious and somewhat disgusting way, means tooth meat.

Bröstvärta

In Swedish it means nipple. Literally though? Breast wart. Not exactly a pretty picture.

Grönsaker

In Swedish it means vegetables. Literally, it ends up meaning green things. Simple, yet descriptive. I think it really gets the point across..

Did you know

that the word "vrede" is not a word for peace in Swedish - but a word for anger.

A wide range of culture in Kalmar

Kalmar's cultural life has a wide range of theatre, art, dance, pantomime, exhibitions, concerts – and more. Kalmar's theatre, at Larmtorget, has the city's stage for touring performances, which offers comedy and drama through the theatre association. There is a steady stream of visiting theatre companies and festivals, such as Calmar Irish Music Festival, and the theatre naturally puts on a traditional New Year's show. Kalmar also has Byteatern, one of Sweden's best regional theatres, multiple prize-winner for its innovative and aesthetically appealing performances for children and adults. Film enthusiasts can choose between five cinemas and two film clubs in Kalmar. We have our own country orchestra, Camerata Roman, which is one of Europe's foremost chamber orchestras. Camerata makes regular appearances at concerts at Kalmar Castle.



Visit a mediavel monastery

The ruins of a mediaeval monastery can be found just south of Mönsterås, on the scenic coastal route towards Timmernabben. A new visitor's centre has been opened this year. Heritage societies organize meetings, excursions and a market here on a regular basis. Most school classes visit the ruins to learn more about the middle ages by hands on experience.

Cinnamon rolls and vacuum cleaners

In the article Svenska – the Swedish language one of the interviewed mention fika as one of her favourite Swedish words. Fika is a very important daily activity for most Swedes and it usually comes with something sweet to it. A cup of coffee and a cake. Maybe the most classical and liked one is the Dammsugare, which translates Vacuum cleaner. A funny name of a cake, but it does make sense. The cake is made out of crumbles from other (usually old) cakes. They are mixed, flavored with arrack and folded in green marzipan. Taste better than it sounds like, and once you try you are hooked.

Another typical Swedish sweet is the cinnamon roll (Kanelbulle). All cafés, restaurants and bakeries offer cinnamon rolls and most homes do their own. The smell of freshly baked cinnamon rolls spreading in the house is a blessing. There is no better treat than a warm cinnamon roll with a glass of milk or a cup of coffee. The cinnamon roll is so dearly loved in Sweden that it even got its own day of celebration. Fourth of October is the day of the kanelbulle. On this day you have to enjoy them, and to tell the truth it's hard not to, everywhere you go you will smell the buns, bakeries, cafés and restaurants are fully loaded with cinnamon rolls, a lot of restaurants and stores even give them away for free on this particular day.

Did you know

that the word "Lucifer" is a word for the Devil in Swedish, and not a brand of matches like in Dutch?

Feasting on wild foods in Sweden

In Sweden everyone can enjoy the Right of Public Access (Allemansrätten). Thanks to this right, people are allowed to freely move in the countryside and forests as long as it's done without disturbing or destroying anything. A lot of people use this unique right in search for their delicacies. The Swedish forests are rich in ingredients, anything from blueberries, lingonberries, wild strawberries to chanterelles and porcini mushrooms. And best of all, it's for free! To understand the access of wild food in Sweden, blueberries are estimated to cover about 17 percent of the country. Blueberries are usually easy to find, a greater challenge is the search for wild mushrooms. You need a good load of dedication and devotion. Fall is the peak season and some days after heavy rainfall is a good time tracking down mushrooms. Don't expect people to be helpful when it comes to mushroom hunt, a Swede never tells her/his place, the competition is fierce in the forests. Always make sure to know your mushrooms and berries before you eat them, never pick something you are uncertain on. The best thing spending a day in the forest is the taste of the food that you actually picked and cooked all by yourself. The satisfaction after enjoying a day in the forest and a nice mushroom soup or wild berries with whipped cream is complete.

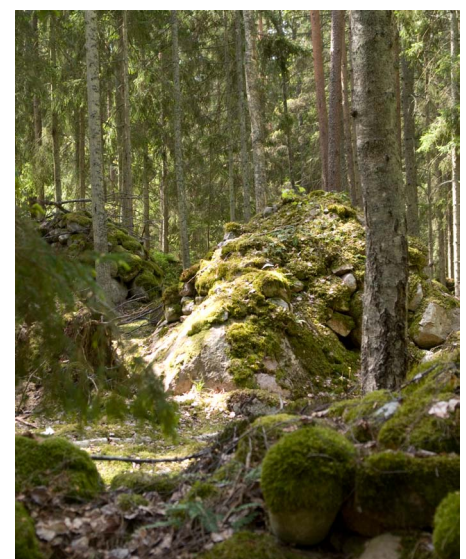


Culture and Sports School

In Torsås municipality our culture board offers all children in grade two (8 years old) to participate in what we call a culture and sports school. This is a project that collects a number of different activities which the children can try during a whole year. The principal with this project is simple, instead of choosing only one activity to go to for example football or dancing, the children gets a chance to try a whole lot of different ones. When doing this they may discover things that they wouldn't have tried otherwise. If you're a child of a floor ball player, perhaps you wouldn't get the chance to try chess or hand craft without this project. This project has been going on for 8 years and over 330 children have been a part of it.

Mönsterås

have a long standing musical tradition. The yearly blues festival is an expression of this, but more important is the work Musik & Kulturskolan (Music & Culture School) does with school pupils and students. Every child will get in touch with culture and music as part of the regular curriculum, several times a year. This in close cooperation with the teachers at school. Most often, children get the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument during school hours for a very low price.



Investing in your future

REGION FÖRBUNDET
I KALMAR LÄN



EUROPEAN
UNION
European Regional
Development Fund