



Visit the condiments aisle  
any 2 for £1  
Click here for more information

RSS FEED

CONTACT US

HOME

FOOD & DRINK

HEALTH & BEAUTY

George.

LIFESTYLE

COMMUNITY

COMPETITIONS

Out and about    Big savings, little effort    Celebrity checkout

# Try somewhere different... Sweden

For a New Year treat, pack warm clothes and head for the winter wonderland of western Sweden and Swedish Lapland, says Karen Yates



## 1 Where to go, where to stay

Fly into Gothenburg, well known for its fine locally produced food and fantastic restaurants, on the west coast and check into the new [StayAt Hotel Apartments](#). Well designed, affordable and central, the spacious apartments each come with fully equipped kitchenette, so you can eat in. The longer you stay, the lower the price – a family of four staying three nights pays just £52 per night.



## 3 Explore the city

Don't miss [Universeum](#), Scandinavia's biggest science centre. Here, over seven floors, you can discover outer space, as well as rainforests and the oceans, with sharks and giant rays, snakes, spiders and monkeys. For a taste of the past, 18th-century [Gunnebo House and Gardens](#) (below), just outside the city, has been restored to its former glory as one of Sweden's most beautiful neoclassical estates. The cafe and restaurant serve scrumptious and affordable organic food grown in the house's own gardens. To get to Gunnebo, take tram 4 to Mölndal, then bus 752 (both free with a Göteborg Pass). Or catch a taxi from the city centre; £17-22 for the 15-minute journey. Entry to Universeum and Gunnebo is free with a Göteborg Pass. Also worth a view is the [Göteborg International Film Festival](#), starting 29 January.

## 2 Get a Gothenburg (Göteborg) Pass

Buy one when you arrive from [Gothenburg Tourist Offices](#) and many hotels and newsagents for subsequent free access to museums, gardens and public transport, including some boat travel. The pass also includes shopping discounts and restaurant offers, plus two-for-one fares on shuttle buses to the airport. 24-hour pass: adults £21, children (5-16) £15; 48-hour pass: adults £30, children £21; children under four go free.



## 4 Eat out

For great-quality food at reasonable prices, look out for the weekday lunchtime 'dish of the day' offers. These usually include salad buffet, main course, soft drink and coffee for £6-8. A recommended restaurant with a children's menu is Soho at Östra Larmgatan 16, in the middle of the shopping district. The special weekday lunch buffet, including two warm dishes, salads, coffee and cake, is great value at £8. At the weekend, there's a Saturday shopping buffet and a Sunday brunch, both at £13. Or enjoy fine dining without breaking the bank by choosing the 'dish of the day', from £8 at [Fond](#) (below), at Götaplatsen.

**ASDA**

THE **BIG** ROLLBACK

Shop online for the same great offers as in store.

[Go Shop](#)



#### 5 Walk around an island fortress

Hire a car and set off for the rest of western Sweden. First stop, about 45 minutes away, is Marstrand island, renowned for its many boats and history as a royal playground. Park at Koön and catch the three-minute ferry (about £2 return). It takes about an hour to walk around this picturesque, car-free island – while you're there, look at the many old wooden buildings and visit [Carlstens Fortress](#), built in the 1660s (open weekends only in January).



#### 6 Help endangered animals

Back on the mainland and a little further north (about 1 hour 30 minutes from Gothenburg by car) is [Nordens Ark](#), a breeding site for endangered animals. This non-profit-making foundation exists to help save 80 endangered species, including snow leopards, wolves, tigers and old Nordic native breeds – all free to wander but behind fencing. Entrance to Nordens Ark is £10 for adults, £4 for children from five to 17. You can also eat in the restaurant and stay at Nordens Ark Hotel (a family room, for four people, is £144; entrance to Nordens Ark is free when you stay at the hotel).



#### 7 Sail from coast to Koster

A little further north again (just over two hours' drive from Gothenburg) is beautiful Syd-Koster (south Koster) island in the new Kosterhavet Marine National Park. Stay in Strömstad on the mainland (to find a hotel, [click here](#)) and catch the ferry (adults £6 and children £4 return) for the 40-minute ride. Only 300 people live on the car-free island in winter, so it's very peaceful. If it's not snowing, cycle around the small island on hire bikes (£5-7 per day from Koster Bicycle) and climb the hill for a full panoramic view. In one direction you'll see Norway, next stop the other way is Britain.

#### 8 Head for Lapland and hear sleigh bells

Get even further away from it all in Swedish Lapland. From the UK, it's easier and better value to buy a package – a good value one is [Discover the World's Ice Hotel's break](#), which includes three nights at the Ice Hotel (see point 9), transfers to and from the hotel and return flights from Heathrow to Kiruna for £936.



#### 9 Indulge in cold comfort

Treat yourself to a stay at Jukkasjärvi's (near Kiruna) [Ice Hotel](#).

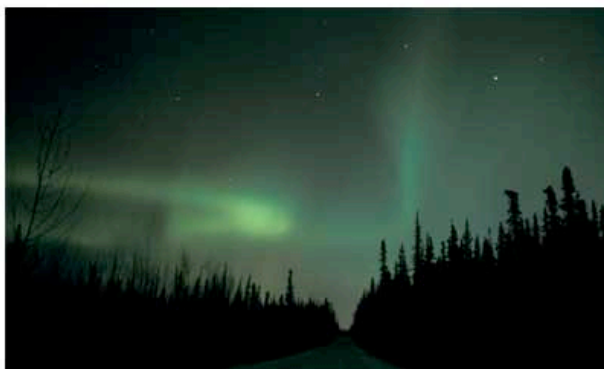
#### 10 Watch the greatest show on earth

As you're now 200km inside the Arctic circle, there's a good

which is sculpted entirely from ice every year. Here you can also join in snowmobile, elk and dog-sleigh safaris. Book adventure packages, such as a moose safari on horseback (six hours, £81 including lunch) and husky sledging (1.5 hours; adults £124, children 12 and under £62 including coffee and cakes by a campfire) online.

chance you'll see the breathtaking Northern Lights, visible from September to March. Once experienced, they're never forgotten and are surely worth the journey for this wondrous sight alone. You can see the lights in Jukkasjärvi, but Abisko Mountain Station in Abisko National Park, 100km north, is considered the best place in the world to view them, due to the clear air and virtually cloud-free sky. [Discover the World's package](#) includes one night at Abisko and two at the Ice Hotel from £994.

For more information, go to [www.visitsweden.com](http://www.visitsweden.com), [www.westsweden.com](http://www.westsweden.com) and [www.flysas.com](http://www.flysas.com). All prices given are approximate as currency conversions are subject to change.



[Add to favourites](#)

[« Win The Naughty Book for Girls](#)

[Win a family break to Disneyland Paris »](#)

[View mobile site](#) : [Register](#) : [Login](#) : [Your saved favourites](#)

[Top](#)