

LULEÅ

CNN
travel

CNN TRAVEL BUCKET LIST
Nr 45. Frozen Sea, Lulea Sweden



  #LULEÅONICE

"THIS ISN'T THE ONLY PLACE in the world where the sea freezes over, but the town's location – jutting out into the sea – makes the frozen water a welcome extension of the town's streets in the depths of winter. From December to February, locals skate, snow-trek and sled across the bay, while some roads – across the sea – are passable only in winter. Signs advise you to remove your seat belt for a quicker exit should your car come across thin ice. There are several daily flights to Lulea from Stockholm, which is easier than driving the 900 kilometers."

AN INTRODUCTION TO LULEÅ



Welcome to Luleå

With a population soon to reach 80,000, Luleå is Norbotten's largest city. Luleå is the small city which combines the choice of a major conurbation with the closeness of a small town. We boast an archipelago spanning more than a thousand islands, a constantly evolving business community, a university which hosts world-class research and access to living environments close to nature all year round.

Investment and construction is currently under way here like never before, and we're taking a more prominent role among Swedish cities in a variety of areas. Growth municipality of the year, super municipality in Northern Sweden and titles won in basketball and ice hockey are just some of the achievements in recent years which show where the city is headed.





At one with nature



2000

new homes are set to be built in the coming years.



In Luleå, everyone should have the chance to live at one with nature. Where there are no natural green spaces in areas where housing is being constructed, new sites are created for recreation and experiences in the great outdoors.

Building new homes is one of the routes towards creating a long-term sustainable city with a good living environment, economic growth and environmental awareness, and construction is currently in full swing. In the coming years alone, 2,000 new homes are to be completed in the city.

NEW RESIDENTIAL AREAS EMERGING

The Kronan district is a major multi-phase project set to take place over many years. Once completed, it will be Luleå's largest residential area, playing host to apartments as well as terraced and semi-detached housing. Kronan is located beside Ormberget, a popular site for exercise and recreation all year round.

Hällbacken, a large new district under construction on the outskirts of the city, is a shining example of a modern residential area which provides all the amenities of the city in a rural setting close to the countryside. Located at Södra Hamn, Kuststad is a spectacular area which is being built right on the coastline, with the option of private mooring berths on the

doorsteps of its residents. Thanks to its modern architecture and wonderful sea views, there is a great deal of interest in the area. Seminariet, a noteworthy construction project of a different type, involves the conversion of a listed school building into modern apartments. This is situated nearby the centre as well as Skurholmsfjärden, where green spaces, attractive promenades and plantations have been created. Housing for the elderly is planned in almost every residential area in order to ensure such residents can remain in the area once they leave their homes.

NATURALLY SUSTAINABLE

To make our city even more sustainable, Luleå Energi is providing 100% green energy, photovoltaic parks, recharging points for e-vehicles and sustainable solutions for district heating and cooling.

And to further reinforce the region's commitment to nature, we're adding five new nature reserves to the 37 which are already here, all with the aim of providing more recreational areas close to nature.



New innovation



Facebook chose Luleå as the site of its first data centre outside the USA.



New industries emerge, giving rise to inspiring collaborations. According to Confederation of Swedish Enterprise rankings, Luleå's business climate is one of the best in Northern Sweden.

Luleå has evolved from an industrial city into a retail metropolis and university city whose service sector and creative industries are thriving.

A cradle of world class research, Luleå University of Technology has become a prominent motor for both Luleå and the region as a whole. The institution spawns a host of new technology and consultancy firms which go on to form part Luleå's business landscape.

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES BOOST DEVELOPMENT

The cultural and creative industry sectors form a key part of Luleå's development. In support of these enterprises, Norrbotten Media Week (NMW) is held each year to provide inspiring meeting places for creative industries both regionally, domestically and internationally. Luleå is the only municipality in Sweden to have entered into a unique partnership with the City of Austin, one of the USA's fastest growing cities. Guest speakers from Austin are invited to Sweden, while representatives from Luleå take part in the large South by South West festival,

among others, which features music, film and IT. There are also a host of other partnerships and exchange programmes between our cities, universities and companies. Creative Park, an office environment and meeting place for entrepreneurs and creatives from all over Norrbotten, is a focal point for many new ideas and concepts.

The gaming industry is a field of particular interest, as new applications for VR technology continue to arise. A host of new companies have emerged in this field during recent years.

AN EASIER ROUTE INTO THE LABOUR MARKET

Young people form a key part of Luleå's future. This is why we devote considerable resources to our schools, and currently boost more qualified teachers than the national average, with primary school pupils also performing above this level. Located beside the university and the site of thousands of new jobs, Luleå Science Park is an important centre of development which helps young people to enter into the labour market.

Together



Luleå's Kulturskolan
declared best in Sweden



Luleå has sporting heroes who garner titles as well as driving forces who make dreams come true – enthusiasts whose efforts promote the broad diversity of our city.

Luleå Kulturskola has been declared the best school of culture in Sweden. Thanks to all our driving forces and the creative people who fill our stages with fantastic content, the residents of Luleå are among the most satisfied in Sweden when it comes to culture. Kulturens hus, which opened in 2007, the Ebeneser culture centre, with its free stages, and Norrbottensteatern are just some of the venues based in the area. Alternative festival Musikens makt, Luleå Pride and Luleå Hamnfestival are annual events which engage many of the companies which operate here as well as the residents of Luleå themselves.

A CITY OF SPORT

With men's and women's elite teams in ice hockey and basketball, Luleå has developed a prominent sporting profile. Spurred on by great support from enthusiastic home crowds, these teams

have won multiple domestic titles, with many of their talented athletes fostered at our very own sports high school. Not only do we boast dancers who compete internationally in bugg and swing and shining figure skating stars, we also have our own roller derby team which is among the best in Sweden.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

To ensure all young people have the opportunity to take part in a range of sports regardless of their financial circumstances, the Fritidsbanken equipment bank loans out kits for skiing, skating, football and other sports. Our broad network of clubs also provides a wide range of organised training for young people across many sports, from individual pursuits like cross-country skiing and dance to team sports such as American football and floorball.



Great taste

 10 

restaurants feature
in the White Guide



With culinary entrepreneurs who dare to explore new avenues, ever expanding shopping areas and new entertainment venues and hotels, we offer something to suit every taste.

Our selection of restaurants has truly exploded in just a matter of years, with a new culinary culture emerging which features flavours from a wide range of global cuisines. The city plays host to top venues listed in the White Guide, often featuring Northern Swedish ingredients, in addition to spots serving Spanish tapas, Vietnamese cuisine and Asian dishes. Not only that, the O'Learys and Allstar sports bars combine sport with traditional American fare.

NEW HABITS

Luleå's wide range of restaurants and bars has seen many of its residents

embrace the Southern European culture, heading to the city for a bite to eat or a drink rather than staying at home. The number of cafés and open-air terraces has also grown, and if you don't arrive in time on a sunny day it can be difficult to find a spot to enjoy lunch outdoors.

A HUB OF ENTERTAINMENT

The selection of shops and chains is on the increase, both in the city centre and the large retail parks in Luleå's suburbs. The stores here stock hand-picked products, local handicrafts as well as well-known brands. A number of major nationwide chains can also be found in Luleå.

MORE GUESTS AND MORE HOTELS

Luleå has also grown into a more attractive tourist destination. Growing numbers of companies and private individuals are choosing to travel here, resulting in a rise in the number of guest nights and demand for additional hotel rooms. Lots of new hotels have been built in Luleå in just a matter of years, with the city becoming a hub of entertainment for people from across the region and the Cap of the North. More and more national and international guests are also choosing to travel here all year round.



Proud



1312

archipelago islands
to discover in summer
and winter alike



Luleå is particularly proud of its archipelago and ice roads, which feature on the CNN Travel bucket list of 50 natural wonders of the world. The city is also home to Gammelstad Church Town, which appears on the UNESCO World Heritage List. It is here the history of the city began.

Spanning 1,312 islands, Luleå's archipelago forms part of the Bothnian Bay archipelago, which stretches from Skellefteå to Haparanda. It combines idyllic settings with a wide variety of nature and the world's only brackish water archipelago. Some of its islands have been inhabited for hundreds of years, while others are home to complexes containing restaurants and accommodation.

ARCHIPELAGO ALL YEAR ROUND

With 48 berths for small boats as well as 15 larger marinas, sailing between the islands with your own vessel is easy. During the peak summer months, there are also sightseeing boats which operate tours to the larger islands. In the winter months, some 25 kilometres of ice roads are ploughed, which enable

the archipelago to be accessed by car. Running from Norra Hamn to Södra Hamn and on to Gråsjälören, the ice roads have become a popular weekend pastime when the springtime sun starts heating up the city. Situated beside the ice roads and the summertime sightseeing boats, Södra Hamnplan has become a meeting point for all ages all year round.

WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Gammelstad Church Town has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1996. The city of Luleå was established here over 500 years ago. The traditions around the old church and hundreds of church houses endure to this day. This is a popular local gem, attracting visitors from all over the world.



Nearby

 **10**

It takes just 10 minutes to travel from your home to work, school and leisure activities.



Short distances and the close proximity between people mean living in Luleå is easy.

Luleå is commonly referred to as the 10-minute city. It takes just 10 minutes to travel between home, work, school and leisure activities. Whether you live in the city centre or somewhere in the suburbs, it doesn't take long to get around in Luleå.

TRAVEL IS EASY

Public transport has been adapted to provide services to the new districts under construction, with additional departures running to areas of the city with growing populations. Cycle paths are also on the rise, with maintenance continually provided to ensure cyclists can get out and about all year round. The objective is for the residents of Luleå to travel as sustainably as possible. Short travel times and a wide range of travel options make everyday life a little easier, creating more time for the things which really matter.

CLOSE LINKS BETWEEN PEOPLE

Close links exist not only between places, but also people, with the city boasting an open mentality which embraces diversity. There are no fewer than 97 different cultures in the city of Luleå. In 2016, Luleå Municipality led the way in Sweden when it came to non-native residents in work, a result of initiatives from the Municipality, Public Employment service and local enterprise. December marked the conclusion of the Culture Compass project, which saw new arrivals sample the culture in and around Luleå. Moreover, Mötesplatsen (the Meeting Place) has been receiving and assisting unaccompanied refugees since January 2018. Held every year, the Luleå Pride festival is constantly growing and attracting new visitors with each new edition. The citizens of Luleå are genuinely committed to increasing diversity and integration within the city.

TRAVELLING TO AND FROM LULEÅ IS EASY

Stockholm

You can fly to Stockholm in just over an hour. Several departures each day.



Finland

You can travel to Uleåborg, in neighbouring Finland, in just a couple of hours.



Accommodation in the great outdoors

Stay high up in the treetops or brave the icy cold. You can get to the Tree Hotel and Ice Hotel by car in just a matter of hours.



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