

#100 TRUE FACTS

ABOUT NORRBOTTEN



NORRBOTTEN?

OH WOW!

Norrbotten has taken the lead in the green global transition. Close to SEK 1,000 billion will be invested in climate-smart innovations until the year 2040. LKAB, SSAB and Vattenfall are developing Hybrit in Luleå and Gällivare. H2 Green Steel is investing heavily in Boden. Unique and world-leading solutions for producing fossil-free steel without carbon. LKAB will also start mining and refining rare earth metals which are needed in the global climate transition. Norrbotten is also Europe's space center and will soon launch recyclable rockets and small satellites for climate monitoring and research. And these are just a few of the investments which mean that Norrbotten is well on its way to becoming a world leader in sustainability.

In this pamphlet we have collected 100 true and unique facts about Norrbotten, many with a high Oh wow factor. Did you know that Norrbotten is as big as Austria, ten times larger than Skåne and that the county is a quarter of Sweden in surface area? We also have the country's highest mountain, Kebnekaise, and the world's largest underground mine for iron ore in Kiruna.

Source references for all true facts can be found on page 63.



#1 The economy in Norrbotten is very strong

For years, Norrbotten has been at the top in Sweden regarding GRP*. In 2022, Norrbotten was one of the two counties in the country which increased most in terms of GRP growth* per capita.

*Gross regional product is the value of all production of goods and services in a region and shows the economic development within the region.



#2 No other river generates more electricity than Lule river

No river in the whole country generates as much electricity as Lule river. In 2022, production amounted to a record figure of 17.4 TWh (terawatt hours). That is just over a quarter of the country's total hydropower production and a ninth of Sweden's electricity production. The Lule river could thus supply all of Skåne with electricity for a year.



#3 One of Sweden's safest counties

Nine out of ten people in Norrbotten feel safe in their everyday lives.



#4 The robot dog Spot makes LKAB safer

The robot dog Spot® works at LKAB and is intensively trained for underground work. Spot is an important and innovative step in the direction of an even safer LKAB. The robot dog gives LKAB great opportunities to inspect damaged areas in the mine in a safe and efficient manner.

#5 Gold sisters in Norrbotten

The sisters Hanna and Elvira Öberg from Piteå are the world's best biathletes. Hanna Öberg took two gold medals, one silver and one bronze in the WC in Oberhof 2023. And little sister Elvira became Sweden's most successful sportswoman in the Olympics in Beijing 2022, with one gold and two silver medals. Elvira was also Sweden's flag-bearer at the closing ceremony of the winter Olympics.





FRISTADS



TEAM SWEDEN BIATHLON

FRISTADS

#6 400 year old cities

Norrbotten's first towns, Piteå and Luleå, were founded in 1621 by King Gustaf II Adolf.

#7 World Heritage x3

Three of Sweden's fourteen sites on the UNESCO world heritage list are in the county: Lapponia, Struve Geodetic Arc and Gammelstad's church town. The church in Gammelstad was built in 1492, the same year that Christopher Columbus discovered America. At the turn of the 19th century, the astronomer Wilhelm Struve initiated a gigantic measurement project to determine the exact shape and size of the globe. In Struve Geodetic Arc includes four measuring points in the Swedish part of Meänmaa (Torne Valley).

#8 The best building of all time

In 2001, Kiruna church was named one of Sweden's most beautiful buildings with the designation "The best building of all time, built before 1950" and it was also voted by the Swedish people as Sweden's most popular building. If one is keen to see the church in its original location, you should plan a visit before 2025, after that it will be moved due to the urban transformation in Kiruna.

#9 4,000 islands

The beautiful archipelago in Norrbotten has more than 4,000 islands, most of them uninhabited.

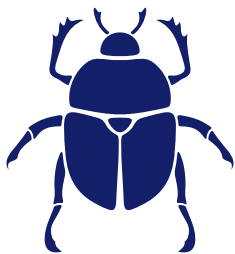


#10 Super success for Hooja

The masked Gällivare duo Hooja dominated Spotify's list of most played songs in 2022 and was the most requested artist during Musikhjälpen (Music Aid) the same year. In 2023, they also won the award as artist of the year at the P3 Gold awards.

SVT has chosen to make a documentary about the Hooja fever that spread through the country in 2022.





#11 Two Guldbagge awards to Norrbotten

The documentary *Historjá – Stygn för Sápmi* won the award for documentary of the year and for best original music at the Guldbagge Awards 2023. The documentary film, co-produced by Filmpool Nord, is a poetic depiction of the Sami artist Britta Marakatt-Labba and received a total of four nominations for the Guldbagge award: best film, best documentary film, best sound design and best original music.



#12 Pantamera

The Swedes are among the best in the world at recycling bottles and cans. Norrbotten is the fourth best county, with an average of 296 bottles and cans per resident in Norrbotten.



#13 Fast connection

Today, almost 90 percent of the residents in Norrbotten have fast broadband via fiber, 100 Mbps. The goal by 2025 is 100 percent.

#14 60 tons of Kalix bleak roe

40 to 60 tons of genuine Kalix bleak roe are produced in Norrbotten every autumn.



#15 50 percent of the country's tonnage

Half of Sweden's total tonnage by rail is transported on the Malmbanan (the ore railway) between Kiruna and Narvik. A double track, also from Luleå, would significantly increase revenue for LKAB and the public purse.

#16 48,369 snowmobiles

A quarter of Sweden's snowmobiles in traffic (48 369) are registered in Norrbotten.

#17 One of the biggest soccer tournaments in the world

One of the world's biggest soccer tournaments for young people is in Norrbotten - Piteå Summer Games. The tournament attracts players from many parts of the world. In 2022, circa 620 teams participated and almost 1,600 matches were played. In addition to the neighbouring countries, Piteå received long-distance visits from Mongolia, Argentina, Peru and Mexico.

#18 Europe's space base

On 13 of January, King Carl XVI Gustaf inaugurated "Spaceport Esrange" where, towards the end of 2023, the first satellite launch is expected. Since its start in 1966, Esrange has launched 700 probe rockets, i.e., rockets which fall back to Earth after a number of minutes. With the new rocket launch pad, it will be possible to launch small satellites with significantly larger rockets than today. This implies that the Esrange space base outside Kiruna consolidates its position as Europe's space base.

#19 Rubus Arcticus

Every year, Region Norrbotten awards one of Sweden's largest and best scholarships. In 2022, cultural practitioners and athletes received a total of SEK 530,000. Since its start in 1995, approximately SEK 10 million has been distributed to cultural creators from the county.

#20 Swedish Lapland broke the record

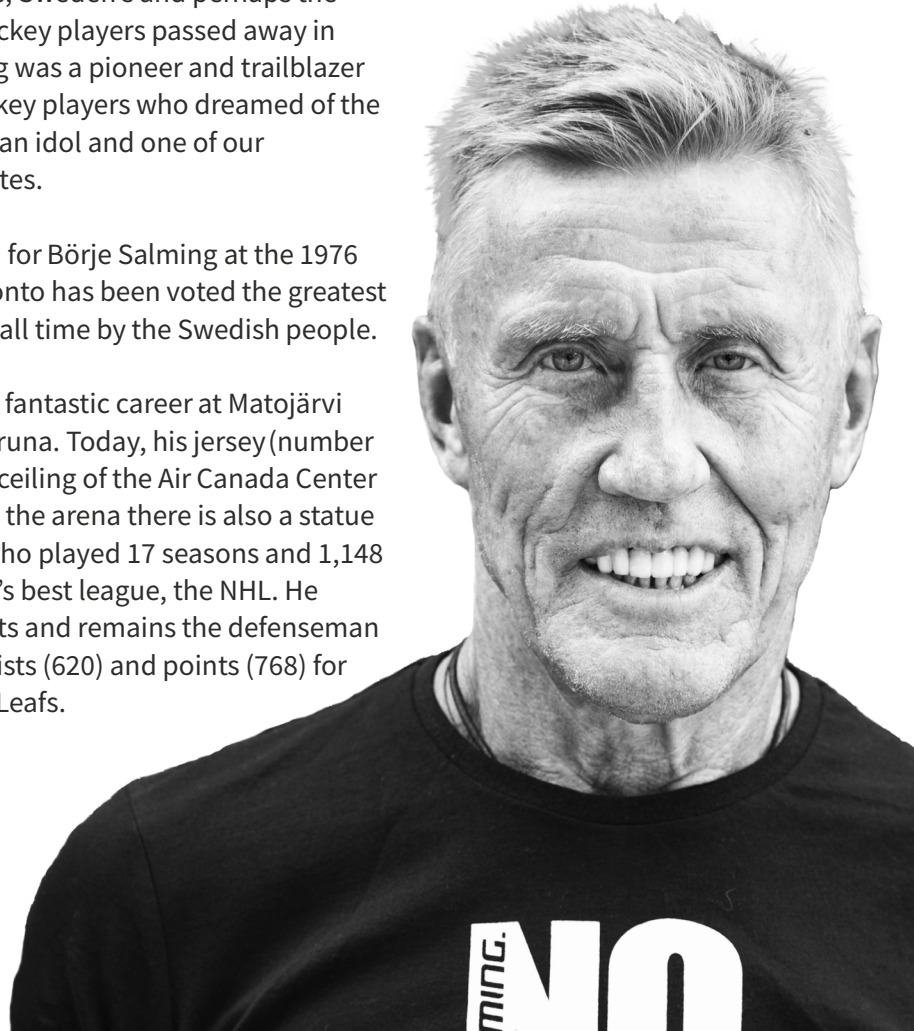
In 2022, Swedish Lapland broke the record in number of guest nights. The hospitality industry is one of northern Sweden's most important industries. In 2019, the hospitality industry in Swedish Lapland employed 4,562 full-time employees and contributed to total tax revenues of SEK 741 million.

#21 Börje Salming

One of Norrbotten's, Sweden's and perhaps the world's greatest hockey players passed away in 2022. Börje Salming was a pioneer and trailblazer for all Swedish hockey players who dreamed of the NHL. A role model, an idol and one of our most beloved athletes.

The mighty ovation for Börje Salming at the 1976 Canada Cup in Toronto has been voted the greatest hockey moment of all time by the Swedish people.

Salming started his fantastic career at Matojärvi sports ground in Kiruna. Today, his jersey (number 21) hangs from the ceiling of the Air Canada Center in Toronto. Outside the arena there is also a statue of Börje Salming, who played 17 seasons and 1,148 games in the world's best league, the NHL. He racked up 787 points and remains the defenseman with both most assists (620) and points (768) for the Toronto Maple Leafs.



#22 Facebook invests billions in Luleå

Facebook has invested SEK 11.6 billion in direct investments, purchases and costs in Luleå 2011-2018. If one adds up direct investments with indirect investments and other indirect effects, it comes to a total of SEK 21.8 billion invested in Luleå.



#23 Elderly people live well in Överkalix

Överkalix is the third best municipality in Sweden to live in for the elderly. This is shown by a compilation from Länsförsäkringar Fastighetsförmedling, which in a new index ranks the housing situation of the elderly in the country's municipalities.

#24 Largest audience in Norrbotten

In 2019, Gyllene Tider attracted a massive 13,491 people to Pite Havsbad. It was the largest audience in Norrbotten at a concert so far.

#25 SEK 1,5 billion

Electric cars of the future are currently being tested in Norrbotten. A third of the world's car and tire testing activities are conducted at the more than 30 test facilities located deep in the inland of Norrbotten. An industry which has a turnover of over SEK 1.5 billion annually and provides places such as Arjeplog, Arvidsjaur, Älvsbyn and Jokkmokk with over 100,000 guest nights per year.

#26 Blackwater

The iconic detective story Blackwater became a TV series and was filmed in Arjeplog in Norrbotten. Rolf Lassgård and Pernilla August have the lead roles. Blackwater is based on a novel by Kerstin Ekman and is produced in collaboration with Filmpool Nord.





#27 Harads on the world map

Eight architect-designed tree houses have put the small rural center of Harads, northwest of Boden, on the world map. TV crews and overnight guests have come from near and far to experience the imaginative and completely different creations at Treehotel. Of the visitors, 70 percent are foreign guests. In 2021, Treehotel's turnover was almost SEK 17 million.

#28 **11,000-year-old Tornedalians**

People lived in Meänmaa (Torne Valley) 11,000 years ago. In Aareavaara, 3.5 kilometers from Pajala, settlements have been found which were then close to the edge of the inland ice.

#29 **HYBRIT – first in the world with fossil-free steel**

SSAB, LKAB and Vattenfall have produced the world's first hydrogen-reduced sponge iron on a pilot scale. The technological breakthrough within the HYBRIT initiative cuts approximately 90 percent of the emissions associated with steel production and is a decisive step on the road to fossil-free steel. SSAB, LKAB and Vattenfall inaugurated the HYBRIT pilot plant for the storage of fossil-free hydrogen in Svartöberget in Luleå in 2022. The underground space for storage is the first of its kind in the world. The introduction marked the beginning of the two-year long test period which will last until 2024.

Through HYBRIT, SSAB, LKAB and Vattenfall will create the most efficient value chain from mine to steel, with the goal of being the first in the world to bring fossil-free steel to the market on an industrial scale in 2026. At full scale, HYBRIT will reduce Sweden's total carbon dioxide emissions by over 10 percent.



#30 4,600 reindeer owners

There are circa 4,600 reindeer owners in Sweden (who own at least one reindeer), whereof 85 percent live in Norrbotten County. 40 percent of reindeer owners are women.



#31 Four straight championships in hockey

Luleå Hockey/MSSK took their fourth straight Swedish championship in the 2021-2022 season.

#32 Europe's most modern concert hall

Studio Acusticum in Piteå is one of Europe's most modern concert halls. The organ is a world-class instrument, created by German organ builder Gerald Woehl. It is 10 meters wide, 9.5 meters high and has 9,000 organ pipes.

#33 The country's longest runway

Luleå Airport has Sweden's longest runway, 3 350 meters and significantly increases the number of passengers.

#34 90,000 students

Luleå University of Technology has a high level of Arctic cutting-edge expertise. The collaboration with the five leading universities in northern Sweden, Finland and Norway, The Arctic Five, creates a large knowledge region with around 90,000 students, 4,000 doctoral students and more than 5,000 researchers – on par with the region of Stockholm.

#35 The best northern lights in the world

For many, it is a dream to experience the majestic northern lights dancing across the sky. Aurora Sky Station in Abisko is the best place in the world to experience the light phenomenon, also called Aurora Borealis.



#36 The world's second largest bifurcation

Tärendö has the world's second largest bifurcation. Tärendö river, 52 kilometers long, gets its water from the Torne river and transfers it to the Kalix river. The world's largest bifurcation can be found in South America.

#37 Sweden's deepest lakes

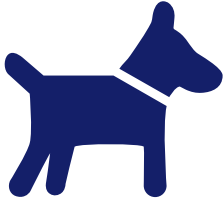
Hornavan in Arjeplog municipality is 221 meters deep and is thereby Sweden's deepest lake. In second place comes Torneträsk in Kiruna municipality, with 168 meters.



Buoris, buoris!

#38

Norrbotten is an administrative area for three national minority languages: Finnish, Meänkieli and Sami. This means that Norrbotten has a particularly significant responsibility to protect and promote these languages. Buoris, buoris means "hello, hello" in Lule Sami.



#39 42,024 dogs

There are 42,024 registered dogs in Norrbotten. It makes us, calculated per inhabitant, one of Sweden's most dog-dense counties. The most common dog names are Molly, Bella and Charlie.



#40 World-leading research

Luleå University of Technology, LTU, is in strong period of growth with world-leading competence in several research areas. Their research is conducted in close collaboration with companies such as Bosch, Ericsson, Scania, LKAB, SKF, leading international universities as well as regional and national actors. Researchers at LTU have also found water on the planet Mars and are developing a more climate-friendly aviation fuel.

LTU has an annual total turnover of SEK 1.9 billion. They currently have 1,815 employees and 19,155 students.



#41 Sweden's most northerly and easterly point

In Norrbotten there is both Sweden's most northerly, the Three-Country Cairn, and the most easterly, Kataja in the Haparanda archipelago.

#42 Sweden's most popular hiking trail

Kungsleden (King's trail) is Sweden's most popular and one of the world's most famous hiking trails. It is roughly 400 kilometers long and stretches from Abisko in the north to Hemavan in the south.

#43 30 kilometers on sea ice

Luleå has a total of 30 kilometres of municipal ice roads in the archipelago. Among them is the country's longest ice road, 16 kilometers between Hindersöstallarna (Hindersö Boat Harbour) and Stor-Brändön included. The ice roads are very popular and many Luleå residents take a day trip with their own car to visit the islands of Hindersön, Långön, Storbrändön, Sandön and Junkön.

#44 Europe's largest wind farm and new offshore wind energy

In Markbygden, the construction of Europe's largest wind farm is currently underway. The park fully developed, will be able to produce 10-12 TWh, which corresponds to 6-8 percent of Sweden's total electricity production. The total investment volume amounts to approximately SEK 60 billion. In the Kalix archipelago, a giant offshore wind farm is also being planned. 70-120 wind turbines will produce 9-10 TWh of electricity per year, which corresponds to approximately 7.5 percent of Sweden's annual electricity production.



#45 **Basketball champions**

Luleå Basket is a powerhouse in Swedish basketball with its seven Swedish championships in the last ten seasons. The team's dedicated fans have also contributed to Luleå Basket winning awards for the largest audience and best game events.

#46 Two cities become one

In Malmberget, urban transformation is nothing new. The mine's need of land has affected society for over 50 years. Neighbourhoods and buildings have been torn down and in some cases moved. Now pretty much all of Malmberget is to be dismantled. Important social functions and housing are moved to the nearby community of Gällivare, five kilometers to the south. The urban transformation is expected to be ongoing until 2032.



#47 Record cold

The lowest temperature measured at an official Swedish weather station is -52.6 degrees in Vuoggatjålme in Arjeplog municipality in 1966. The heat record in Norrbotten is 36.9 degrees, measured in Harads.



#48 Kiruna is attracting worldwide attention

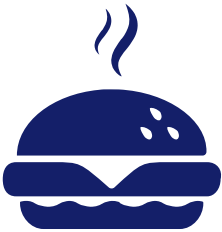
The urban transformation of Kiruna is attracting worldwide attention. Never before has such a developed and modern urban city been transformed because an industrial activity is in need of the land. Around 6,000 people will have to move when LKAB's mining operations expand. The entire area includes circa 3,000 homes and approximately 450,000 square meters of public and commercial premises. By 2035, the current city center will be decommissioned and the new one fully developed, three kilometers to the east.





#49 Sweden's lowest energy cost

Luleå has Sweden's lowest energy cost (total cost for district heating, electricity, water and waste). Piteå is in second place and Boden is in fourth place. This is shown by the so-called Nils Holgersson report 2022.



#50 Sweden's oldest hamburger chain

Sweden's oldest hamburger chain MAX was established by Curt Bergfors in Gällivare in 1968 and celebrated its 50th anniversary there. MAX has been named Sweden's most sustainable company in the fast food industry eight years in a row.

A woman with long dark hair is sitting in a sauna, her eyes closed in a state of relaxation. She is wearing a white towel. In the foreground, her feet are prominently displayed, resting on a wooden bench. The background is a wall of vertical wooden planks, and the overall atmosphere is warm and serene.

#51 **13 different saunas**

Since 1988, the Swedish Sauna Academy has its headquarters in Kukkolaforsen. There are 13 different saunas here, and the sauna year culminates in connection with National Sauna Day, the second Saturday in June.

#52

The world's largest collection of Sami silver

The Silver Museum is a museum in central Arjeplog. The collections depict the history of the locality - from prehistoric times to the present. The lives of the Sami and the settlers are brought to life in various exhibitions. One of the rooms, for example, displays one of the world's largest collections of Sami silver objects. The Silver Museum is run by a municipal foundation with operating grants from, among others, Region Norrbotten.



#53 Upset victory

In 2022, Norrbotten won TV-pucken for boys by an upset victory for the first time since 1985.

#54 Low crime rate

Norrbotten has the lowest number of reported crimes in Sweden, 98 per 1,000 inhabitants.

#55 Fantastic scenery

From the city mountain Dundret in Gällivare you can view an eleventh of the entire surface of Sweden, including Kebnekaise and Sarek. The name Dundret is derived from the Finnish word for mountain, tunturi. It can also be derived from the Sami word for low mountain, tuoddar.

#56 One of the world's most gender-equal mines

Aitik, just south of Gällivare in Norrbotten, is Sweden's largest and the world's most efficient copper mine. Ore deposits of chalcopyrite with copper, gold and silver are mined around the clock. The work in Aitik is conducted with the world's largest machines. Among them are mountain trucks which weigh 570 tons (with load) and where the wheel is four meters in diameter. There are also excavators here which can hold up to 45 cubic meters of rock in their buckets. The machines are operated by almost as many women as men, making Aitik one of the world's most gender-equal mines. With more than 900 employees, Boliden is the largest private employer in Gällivare municipality.





#57 10,000 boats and 40 harbours

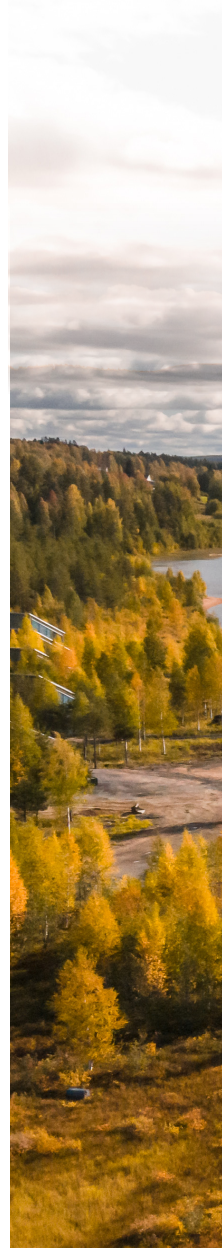
Luleå is one of Sweden's municipalities with highest number of boats, with 40 recreational marinas and more than 10,000 recreational boats. .

#58 The world's most peaceful border

The border between Sweden and Finland in Haparanda/Tornio runs in the middle of the Torne River. It was drawn in 1809 and is usually called the world's most peaceful border.

#59 Norrbotten is an important part of the Arctic

The Arctic is the large ice sea at the North Pole with surrounding land areas. The Swedish government has adopted a new strategy for the Arctic region, which has its focus on people, peace and the climate. Norrbotten is a competitive Arctic region and an important player in the implementation of the strategy.



#60 Floating spa hotel on the Lule river

Arctic Bath is a floating spa hotel anchored on the Lule river in Harads. Arctic Bath is a member of Small Luxury Hotels, a collection of some of the world's most luxurious hotels.



#61 Polarbröd has its own wind power

On Tuesday, May 10, 2022, the factory of Polabröd in Älvsbyn was reopened by Crown Princess Victoria, 625 days after the devastating fire which completely destroyed the facility. Already the day after the tragedy on August 23, 2020, the company's management announced that the factory would be rebuilt. The Polarbröd Group has, through the subsidiary Polarkraft, invested in its own wind turbines. The group now produces more renewable energy than it uses.

#62 93,000 happy salmon

The number of wild salmon spawning in Torne river has increased over the past two decades. In the Natural Resources Institute Finland's sonar in Kattilakoski near the Arctic Circle, around 93,000 salmon were observed in the summer of 2022. This makes Torne river one of Europe's best waters for fishing salmon. A number of large salmon are caught at the scenic Matkakoski rapids, located 3.7 kilometers from Haparanda.



#63 World leader in renewable fuels

SunPine in Piteå is a world leader in the production of second-generation renewable fuels. The raw material is a waste product from paper and pulp production. SunPine has a turnover of SEK 2 billion, producing 150 million litres of pine diesel per year and 350 thousand tons of CO₂ is reduced each year.

#64 Icehotel – A world-unique attraction

Every year, ice is harvested from the Torne river and transformed into world-leading design and architecture. Icehotel, situated outside Kiruna, is an international attraction and the world's first and largest ice hotel created from snow and ice.



#65 Sweden's largest dredging project

The port of Luleå is Sweden's third largest transport port, primarily through the handling of raw materials for the mining and steel industry. Through Sweden's largest dredging project Malmporten, an investment of approximately SEK 3 billion, the number of ship loads from Luleå will be able to double. It is also positive for the environment, as emissions are halved thanks to larger loads. By strengthening the future of the port in Luleå, the sustainable sea lane to the world can be secured, so that Luleå can continue to be a vibrant maritime city for future generations as well.

#66 Leading employment agency in Scandinavia

StudentConsulting started its business in 1997 in Luleå and is today one of Scandinavia's leading recruitment and staffing companies. In 2022, they filled 20,185 jobs in Sweden, Norway and Denmark. The group has a turnover of 1.6 billion and has over 450,000 candidates; students, graduates and skilled labour in their network.



#67 Sweden's best science center

Teknikens Hus is Sweden's most northerly science center and one of the country's first. Since the doors were opened, Teknikens Hus has welcomed more than 4 million visitors. The Swedish National Centre for Science and Technology has received many awards over the years; among others, it was voted the world's best at the world conference in Rio de Janeiro. From 2010, Teknikens Hus was also ranked highest in the Swedish National Agency for Education's assessment of all science centers in Sweden.



#68 **Seventh best incubator**

Arctic Business Incubator in Luleå is the world's seventh best incubator connection to a university. This is shown by an evaluation done by UBI Global Benchmark, ranking 259 incubators in 53 countries. The survey shows that after five years, the ABI companies have a 27 percent higher survival rate than the global average.



#69 **Icebreaker and Polar Research Institute**

At this point in time, Sweden has five icebreakers which are all stationed in Luleå – Oden, Ymer, Frej, Atle and Ale. The icebreaker Oden is one of the world's most powerful icebreakers and has been to the Arctic and Antarctic on expeditions for the Polar Research Institute, which moved its headquarters to Luleå. The Swedish Maritime Administration will now invest in two new icebreakers for SEK 3.5 billion.

#70 Sweden's largest house manufacturer

Älvsbyhus is Sweden's largest manufacturer of houses, with four factories in Sweden and Finland. Since 1960, they have delivered more than 45,000 detached houses and show a turnover of approximately SEK 952 million. The company is led by the third generation of the Johansson family and has its head office in Älvsbyn.

#71 Large-scale fossil-free steel production in Boden

The company H2 Green Steel, together with Boden municipality, is responsible for one of the largest investments and diversifications in Sweden's industrial history. A unique integrated industrial park is being built on a 500-hectare land area, where fossil-free green steel will be produced with hydrogen-based green energy. H2 Green Steel will produce 5 million tons of fossil-free steel before the end of year 2030 and will contribute to the climate transition of the European steel industry, one of the industries with the largest carbon dioxide emissions.



#72 Sweden's first county theatre

The Norrbotten Theatre Foundation was established in 1967 and is Sweden's first county theatre. The founders were the then Norrbotten county council and Luleå municipality. In September 1967, the theatre premier of *The Insulted and Humiliated* by Fyodor Dostoevsky was held. These days, they put on 6-7 productions per year on the three stages in the theatre house in Luleå. Some of these plays are also shown on tour in Norrbotten County.

#73 Sweden's EU presidency started in Kiruna



When Sweden took over the presidency of the EU, January 1, 2023, the kick-off meeting took place in Kiruna. There, the EU Commission with Ursula von der Leyen learned everything about the green transition to fossil-free steel, LKAB's large deposits of rare earth metals and, of course put in a visit to the Icehotel, one of the world's most well-known tourist destinations.

Ursula von der Leyen conversing with king Carl XVI Gustaf. Minister of Economic Affairs Ebba Busch and Minister of Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström can be seen in the background visiting the Icehotel.



#74 The world's first shopping mall

Shopping in Luleå was inaugurated in 1955 and was the world's first shopping center. It was designed by the famous architect Ralph Erskine. The second was built in the USA in 1956.

#75 Europe's largest moose antler

Europe's largest moose antler came from a bull that Leif Jacobsson from Vuollerim shot in 1982. It was a 26-pointer and scored 420.2 points, which still stands in the record books.

#76 Gold reserve

Boden Fortress is Sweden's all-time most lavish defence facility. It was started in 1900 and was dismantled in 1997. Parts of the Swedish gold reserve were stored in underground space under Boden Fortress until 1982.

#77 93 km/h – on ice skates

Every winter, hundreds of Dutch people come to Luleå to compete on the ice road in the center of the city. In 2018, speed skater Kjeld Nuis broke the world record on the ice track in Luleå. Nuis reached 93 km/h, which was then the fastest in the world.



#78 The world's most northerly 27-hole golf course

Luleå Golfklubb has the world's most northerly 27-hole golf course. Sweden's most northerly 9-hole course is located in Björkliden, with a view towards Lapporten. And when you tee off on hole 6 at Haparanda-Tornio GK, the ball lands an hour later in Finland.

#79 25 percent of Sweden's surface area

Norrbottnen is 25 percent of Sweden's surface area, with 2.5 percent of Sweden's population. Norrbotten has three inhabitants/square kilometer. In Stockholm County, the number is 304.



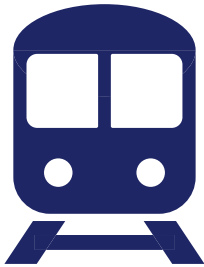
#80 Sweden's best school

Övertorneå and Älvsbyn are among the country's top three school municipalities in the Swedish Teachers' Union ranking 2021. Övertorneå tops the list and Älvsbyn is third. You will also find Arvidsjaur and Kalix high on the list (10 and 13).



#81 **Bon Appétit**

Norrbottnen has ten restaurants on the prestigious White Guide list – Sweden’s best restaurants in 2022. Restaurant Tage in Piteå and Hemmagastronomy in Luleå are at the top.



#82 **The world’s strongest locomotive**

LKAB’s impressive locomotive on the Malmbanan, IORE, is the strongest in the world. No other locomotive can pull a train with a weight of just over 8,000 tons. They also convert kinetic energy into electricity when the trains perform engine braking and energy is fed back to the catenary. This implies that approximately 25 percent of the energy is recycled during each transport.

#83 Piteå – Sweden's City of Idols

Piteå tops the list of Idol winners. Nike Sellmar won Idol 2022 and in 2020 the winner was Nadja Holm. With two Idol winners on their CV, Piteå now tops the list of cities of Idols in Sweden.



#84 Export region of the year

Long-term and strategic work has made Norrbotten a strong export region. In 2022, the successes were recognized by the government, which awarded the Export Region of the Year award to Norrbotten in particular.

#85 The sun shines brightly in Luleå

Luleå is usually at the top of the Sunshine League, a prestigious competition which measures the number of hours of sunshine from Midsummer's Eve and seven weeks ahead each summer. A list which Luleå topped in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2011, 2014 and 2021.

#86 Embrace the pike

The fishing lure Headbanger Lures from Luleå is now conquering the USA. After several years of investment in the American market and several awards for its pike lure, Headbanger Lures is now facing a breakthrough in the important arena. It is said that Headbanger lures are the pike's favourite. The development of the new fishing lure has been supported by ABI in Luleå.

#87 The world's most northerly triathlon competition

Under the midnight sun, competitors gather from around the world to participate in the world's most northerly triathlon competition across the Ironman Distance – Laponia Triathlon 67N°.

#88 Groundbreaking tugboat

The Port of Luleå invested in a new, icebreaking tugboat, the first in the world to partially run on electricity. The tugboat Vilja has a hybrid engine which runs on batteries in the harbor and meets the cargo boats, and then turn on the diesel engines when towing. The boat was taken into commission in the winter of 2019.



#89 The world's oldest market

Jokkmokk's market is one of the world's oldest markets and was organized in 2023 for the 418th time. The market is always on the first Thursday in February.

#90 Swedish snow record

Kopparåsen, between Riksgränsen and Björkliden, has the Swedish snow record. 24–28 February, 1926, a snow depth of 327 centimeters was measured.

#91 Record in temperature increase

On January 20, 1997, the temperature rose rapidly in Nikkaluokta, from -36.8 degrees to +1 degrees in one and the same day. That is a Swedish record.

#92 Record breaking winds

Tarfala, 1,150 meters above sea level, holds the Swedish record for the highest wind speed. On December 20, 1992, 81 m/s was recorded at the research station.

#93 47 days of sun

The Arctic Circle passes through Norrbotten at latitude 66 33 30 N. North of the Arctic Circle we have the midnight sun, in Kiruna for 47 days straight, from May 28 to July 16.





#94 **The world's first Pride on Ice**

Luleå Pride was started in 2012 as Europe's most northerly pride festival. Winter of 2018, the world's first Pride on Ice was also organized in Luleå, with nearly 500 participants in a colourful festival parade on the popular ice road.

#95 The world's most labyrinthine archipelago

Labyrinths can be found almost everywhere in the world. They are almost always built on cobblestone fields adjacent to a fishing village. It is believed that the oldest ones goes back to the 13th century. In Sweden, circa 300 labyrinths have been found. Of these, 100 are located in the Norrbotten archipelago, the world's most densely area of labyrinths.

#96 Europe's largest test area

The FMV Vidsel Test Range is Europe's largest military instrumented exercise and test range on land. It is located in Älvsbyn municipality, between Jokkmokk and Kåbdalis.

#97 Europe's largest rapids

Storforsen, 40 kilometers west of Älvsbyn, is Europe's largest unbound rapid. The fall height is 82 meters and the fall distance 5 kilometers.

#98 Europe's only indigenous population

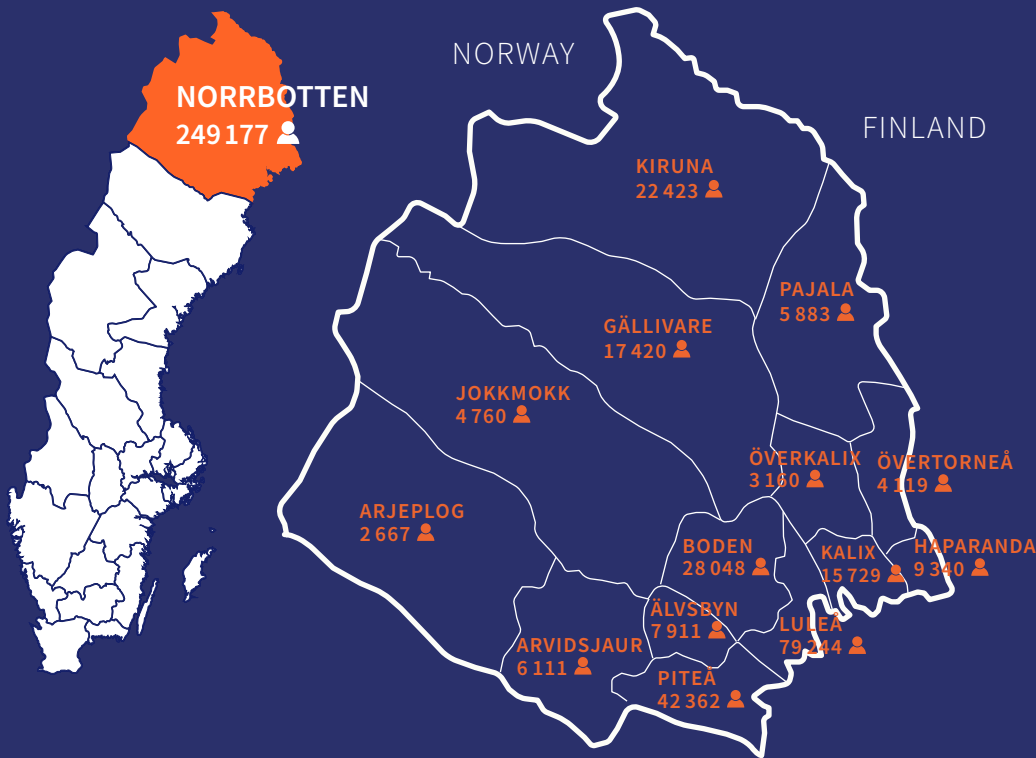
The Sami people, Europe's only indigenous inhabitants, live in Sápmi, the large land area which stretches across the northernmost parts of Sweden, Norway, Finland and Russia's Kola Peninsula. The Sami people are an important part of the history and future of Norrbotten.

#99 Where Sami culture and handicraft take shape

Ájtte in Jokkmokk is Sweden's main museum for Sami culture in Sweden. Here one finds the world's finest collections of Sami handicrafts, Duodji.

#100 World Heritage in Luleå

Gammelstad's church town is a world heritage site and the place where Luleå was founded. Here is a beautiful church from 1492, surrounded by hundreds of small red church cottages. Right next door is the popular open-air museum Hägnan. Luleå city was moved to its current location in 1649 due to land elevation.



Reference sources: All facts come from controlled sources at the respective municipalities, authorities, organisations, companies and actors: BRP – statistikmyndigheten, Vattenfall, SSC, Pantamera, Post- och telestyrelsen, Region Norrbotten, Swedish Lapland, Arvidsjaur kommun, Sametinget, Lonely Planet, LTU, Jordbruksverket, Visitlulea, Svevind, wpd Offshore Sweden AB, Nils Holgersson-rapporten, kukkolaforsen.se, SVT, Swedavia, Naturresursinstitutet, lulea.se, Skolverket, Länsstyrelsen Norrbotten, Sjöfartsverket, SMHI, Affärer i norr, jokkmokksmarknad.se, White Guide, Lärarförbundet, vartlulea.se, Sveriges radio, Boliden, Luleå golfklubb, Svenska ishockeyförbundet, riksdagen.se, Byggfakta, Brå, kalix.se, Luleå Hamn, kirunalapland.se, Trafikanalys, Norrbottenskuriren, Ice hotel, Studentconsulting, H2 Green Steel och Norrbottensteatern med flera.

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