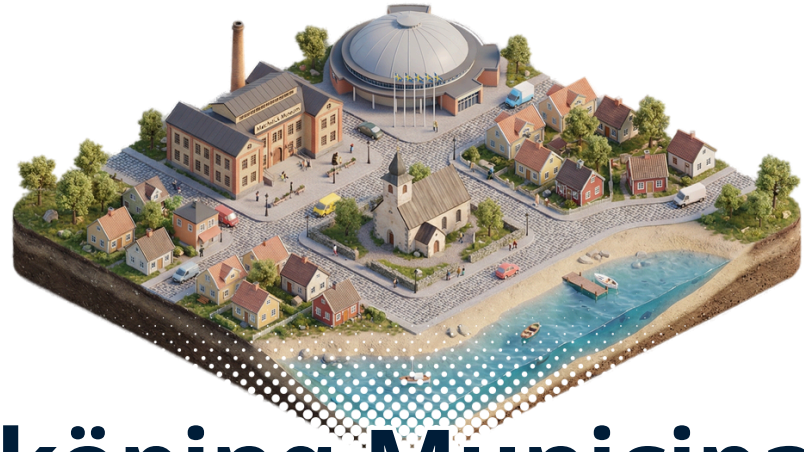

Jönköping Municipality

Province of Småland · Sweden

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Jönköping sits at the southern tip of Vättern, Sweden's second-largest lake. The city centre lies on a narrow strip of land between the lake and the smaller lake Munksjön, so water is never far away. It is a compact, practical base for a few relaxed days: a lakeside beach in the centre, good small museums and easy trips along the shore.

The city grew rich on industry. It was the home of the Swedish safety match, and the arms and machine maker Husqvarna started in the twin town of Huskvarna, now joined to Jönköping. The painter *John Bauer*, famous for his troll and forest paintings, was born here. The wider municipality also takes in the candy town of Gränna and the island of Visingsö, which makes the trip suit families, cyclists and anyone who likes lakes and history.

When to visit

Summer, from June to August, is the best time to visit. Days are long and mild, the lake beaches open and the Visingsö ferry runs more often. Spring and early autumn are quieter and fine for walking, but many seasonal cafés and attractions keep shorter hours. Winters are cold and dark, with regular snow and frost.

The Elmia exhibition centre hosts large trade fairs through the year. During a big fair, hotels fill up and prices rise, so check the fair calendar before you book.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 6° Feels like -3°	-3° / -12°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 6° Feels like -3°	-3° / -12°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 10° Feels like 0°	-1° / -9°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 18° Feels like 6°	3° / -2°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for cycling	15° / 22°	7° / 3°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 26°	11° / 8°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 27°	14° / 11°	15 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 26°	14° / 11°	15 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for cycling	16° / 21°	11° / 7°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 15°	6° / 1°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 11° Feels like 2°	2° / -3°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 8° Feels like -2°	-1° / -10°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land · 1996–2025

Top sights

Most sights are in the compact centre by the lake, with a few worth the short trip east to Huskvarna or north along the shore.

- A Tändsticksmuseet is in the city's first match factory, in the Tändsticksområdet quarter near the station. It tells the story of the Swedish safety match and the people who made it, with a large collection of colourful match boxes and labels.
- B Jönköpings läns museum (Jönköping County Museum) has a large collection of *John Bauer*'s fairy-tale paintings and sketches, plus 20th-century Swedish art and local history.
- C Kristine kyrka is the city's 17th-century church, named after Queen *Kristina*. It was rebuilt after the great fire of 1790 and has a bright interior.
- D Husqvarna Fabriksmuseum sits in part of the old Husqvarna arms factory in Huskvarna. It follows more than 300 years of production, from muskets to sewing machines, motorcycles and chainsaws.
- E Brahehus is a 17th-century castle ruin high above the lake, just off the E4 north of Gränna. The view over Vättern and Visingsö is one of the best in the region.
- **Stadsparken**, the city park on the hill west of the centre, has wide views over the lake. It also holds a small open-air museum of old wooden buildings and a bird museum.
- **Vätterstranden** is the sandy lake beach along the shore in the city centre, within walking distance of the station.



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What to experience

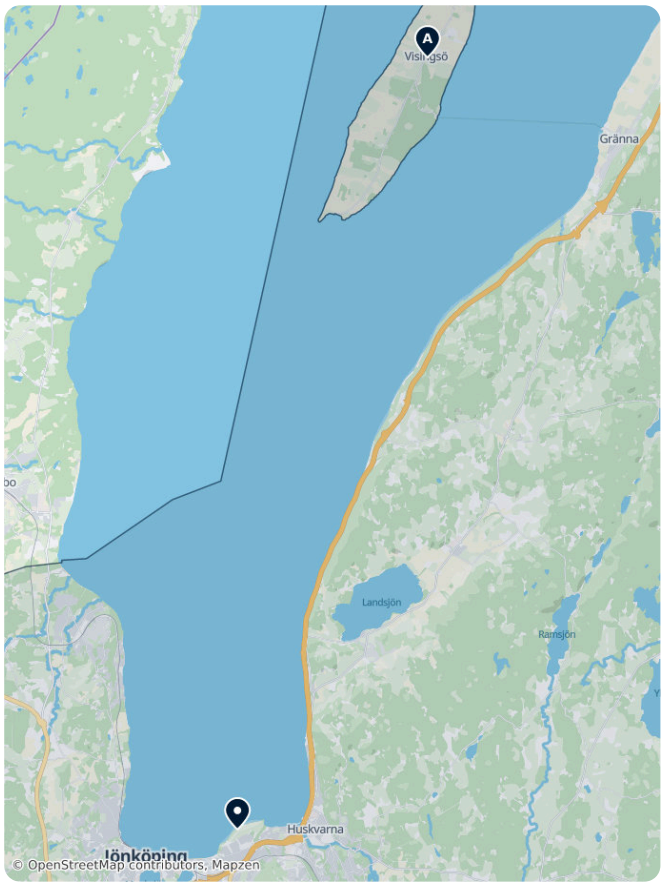
A visit here is about the lake and the small towns along it.

- **Watch polkagris being made in Gränna** — in several candy shops you can watch the candy makers pull and twist the hot sugar into red-and-white sticks.
- **Cycle Visingsö** — take the ferry from Gränna with a bike, or ride the island's traditional horse-drawn carriages along quiet roads and through the oak forest.
- **Swim in Vättern** — on a warm summer day, join locals at Vätterstranden in the city centre. The lake is deep and clean but stays cold, even in July.
- **Catch an ice hockey game** — the local team HV71 plays its home games at Husqvarna Garden in winter. A home game is a lively local night out.
- **Climb Taberg at sunset** — the walk to the top gives a wide view over the forests south of the city.

Day trips

The best day trips follow the lake shore north or head into the forests of Småland.

- **Taberg** — about 13 km south, around 20 minutes by car. This lone iron-ore hill rises over 100 m above the surrounding land, with trails, viewpoints and a café on top.
- **Gränna** — about 40 km north, around 30 minutes by car or a little longer by regional bus. The small town is famous for its red-and-white polkagris peppermint candy. Grenna Museum covers the town's history and the Andrée balloon expedition to the North Pole.
- Ⓐ Visingsö — a 25-minute ferry ride from Gränna. The flat island is ideal by bike or horse-drawn carriage, with the ruins of Visingsborg castle, a medieval church and a large oak forest planted for the navy. Combine it with Gränna for a full day. Visingsö ferry information
- **Eksjö** — about 45 minutes east by car. It is one of Sweden's best-preserved wooden towns, with colourful old houses and courtyards.
- **Vadstena** — about 1 hour 10 minutes by car, on the east side of the lake. It has a Renaissance castle and a medieval abbey church.



Where to explore

Jönköping is the largest city in the Province of Småland, a region of forests, lakes and glassworks.

- In the lake: Visingsö, Vättern's largest island, a short ferry ride from Gränna.
- Further south and east in Småland: Växjö kommun, a lakeside university town, and Kalmar, with its castle on the Baltic coast.

Getting there

- **By air**: Jönköping Airport has no scheduled passenger flights, only charters. The most practical gateway is Göteborg Landvetter Airport, about 2 hours away by road. Stockholm Arlanda Airport also works, at about 4 hours by train with a change.
- **By train**: Trains arrive at Jönköping's central station (Resecentrum), next to the lake in the city centre. The city lies on a branch line between Nässjö and Falköping, so most trips from Stockholm or Gothenburg include one change at one of these stations. SJ (Swedish Railways)
- **By bus**: Express coaches link Jönköping with Stockholm, Gothenburg and other Swedish cities. They also stop at Resecentrum.
- **By car**: The E4 motorway between Stockholm and southern Sweden runs past the city along the lake.

Getting around

- **Public transport**: Jönköpings Länstrafik (JLT) runs the city and regional buses, including the lines to Huskvarna and Gränna. Buy your ticket in the JLT app before you board; you can pay in the app by bank card. Tickets are also sold at the Juneporten customer centre. Jönköpings Länstrafik (JLT)
- **On foot**: The centre is small and flat between the two lakes. The station, the town beach, the main museums and the old churches are all within about 20 minutes' walk.
- **Cycling**: Cycling is easy along the lakeside paths. Stadsparken and the Huskvarna hillside are steep, so expect some climbs.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The centre is small and flat between Vättern and Munksjön; the station, lake beach and main museums are within about 20 minutes' walk.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Lakeside paths are easy, but Stadsparken and the Huskvarna hillside involve steep climbs.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Not for the city itself, which is easy on foot and by bus. A car helps if you want to combine Brahehus, Gränna, Taberg and the countryside in one day.
- **Parking**: There are several car parks in the centre and along the lake. Pay at the machine or with a parking app; signs show which apps work in each car park.
- **Visingsö**: The ferry takes cars, but space is limited in summer and vehicles should be booked in advance. The island is easier to explore by bike.

Food & drink

Look out for **polkagris**, the peppermint candy sticks from Gränna, sold in many flavours in the town's shops. Småland is also known for ostkaka, a baked curd cheesecake served warm with jam and cream. Lake fish from Vättern, such as char, often appears on local menus in summer.

For eating out, head to the eastern part of the centre around Östra Storgatan, where many restaurants and bars are within a short walk. The old match-factory quarter, Tändsticksområdet, has cafés and restaurants in its converted brick buildings. In summer, the cafés by the harbour and Vätterstranden are good for a fika with a lake view.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Open Sandwich · Smörgås
Single-slice bread topped with a range of ingredients — cheese, egg, shrimp, or cured meat — a common Swedish lunch.

Daily Lunch Special · Dagens lunch
A set weekday lunch including a hot main dish, salad bar, bread, and coffee for around 120–160 SEK — the best value hot meal.

DINNER

Meatballs · Köttbullar
Small pork-and-beef meatballs served with cream sauce, mashed potato, and lingonberry jam — Sweden's most iconic dish.

Cured Salmon · Gravlax
Salmon cured with salt, sugar, and dill, sliced thin and served with mustard sauce on rye bread or as a starter.

Pickled Herring · Sill
Marinated herring in preparations ranging from mustard to matjes, a staple of Swedish festive tables and smörgåsbord.

Potato Gratin with Sprats · Janssons frestelse
A baked gratin of potato, onion, cream, and pickled sprats — a classic Swedish comfort dish, especially at Christmas.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Cinnamon Bun · Kanelbulle
Soft, spiced bun flavoured with cinnamon and cardamom, the centrepiece of Swedish fika culture.

DRINKS

Aquavit · Akvavit
Scandinavian spirit distilled from grain or potato and flavoured with caraway or dill, traditionally drunk at celebrations.

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Safety & health

Jönköping is a safe city for visitors. Normal care with bags and phones is enough, especially at the station and at busy events. Tap water is safe to drink.

Vättern needs respect. The water stays cold even in summer, and wind can raise high waves quickly. Swim at marked beaches, and check the weather before you go out in a small boat or kayak.

History

Jönköping received its town charter in 1284, one of the first in Sweden. Its position on the lake, on the roads between east and west Sweden, made it a trading town, but also a target in the wars with Denmark. Twice, in 1567 and in 1612, the townspeople set fire to their own town as Danish armies approached. Today's street plan dates from the rebuilding that started in 1614.

In the 17th century the town became a centre of law and arms. The Göta Court of Appeal, founded in 1634 and the second oldest in Sweden, has its seat here, and the arms factory that became Husqvarna was founded in 1689 at the waterfalls in Huskvarna. You can follow that story at Husqvarna Fabriksmuseum.

From 1845 Jönköping became famous for safety matches. The Lundström brothers improved the design and built a large match industry, which lasted until 1970. Their first factory now holds Tändsticksmuseet. North of the city, Count *Per Brahe the Younger* founded Gränna in 1652 and built Brahehus above the lake.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Sweden at a glance:

CURRENCY
SEK kr

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



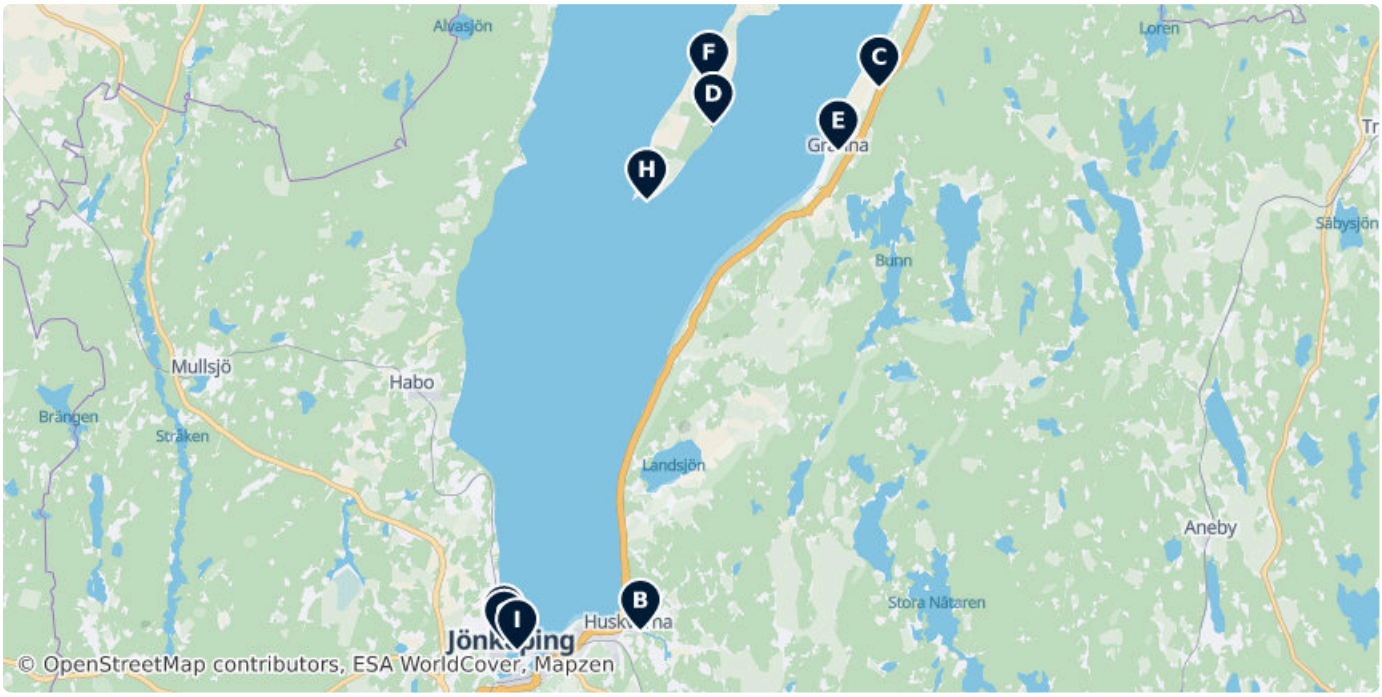
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Swedish

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Jönköpings kommun Essentials

Jönköping's identity is shaped by industrial innovation and aristocratic legacy. This selection features the world's only match museum in the original 1848 factory and the Husqvarna Museum, documenting 300 years of manufacturing from weapons to appliances. On Visingsö island, explore the 12th-century Näs Castle ruins and the astronomical tower of Kumlaby Church. The list also includes the clifftop Brahehus ruins and the Andréexpeditionen Polarcenter, which chronicles the ill-fated 1897 North Pole balloon flight.





A Match Museum

Housed in a former match factory, the museum shows the history of match-making and exhibits an amazing variety of boxes, posters and much...

Tändsticksgränd 27, 553 15 Jönköping, Sweden (57.78469, 14.15948)

Sep-May Tu–Su	11:00–15:00
Jun-Aug Mo–Fr	10:00–17:00
Jun-Aug Sa–Su	10:00–15:00

matchmuseum.se/tandsticksmuseet/en... , +46 36 10 55 43



B Husqvarna Fabriksmuseum

Documents over 300 years of manufacturing history, exhibiting everything from 17th-century muskets and sewing machines to motorcycles and modern outdoor power products.

(Unnamed Road), Jönköping, Sweden (57.78730, 14.28527)

Oct-Apr Mo–Su	10:00–15:00, 12:00–16:00
May-Sep Mo–Su	10:00–17:00, 12:00–16:00

husqvarnamuseum.se, +46(0)36-14 61 62



C Brahehus

The ruins of Brahehus Castle are located 3 km outside of Gränna in Jönköping County in the province of Småland, Sweden.

Sweden (58.05296, 14.50510)



D Visingsborg

The ruins of a 16th-century fortification on Visingsö island. Once the seat of the powerful Brahe family, it served as a prison for Russian captives before burning down in 1718.

Visingsborg, 56034, Sweden (58.03496, 14.35232)



E Andrée Museum

This museum tells a story of unfortunate polar expedition of S. A. Andrée.

Brahegatan 38-40, 563 32 Gränna, SE (58.02190, 14.46753)

Sep 01-Apr 30 Tu–Su	10:00–16:00, 12:00–16:00
May 01-May 31 Mo–Su	10:00–16:00
Jun 01-Aug 31 Mo–Su	10:00–17:00

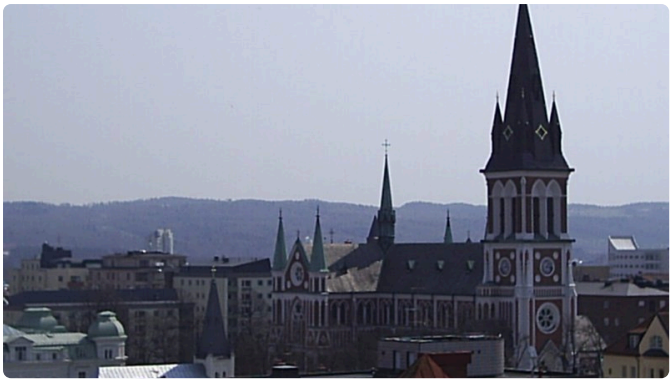
grennamuseum.se, +46 36 10 38 90



F Kumlaby kyrka

A 12th-century church on Visingsö notable for its truncated tower. The top was removed in the 17th century to serve as an astronomical observatory.

26 Kumlaby, 56034, Sweden (58.05519, 14.34830)



G Sofiakyrkan

A Neo-Gothic church completed in 1888, named after Queen Sofia. It features a 72-meter-high spire and an interior designed by architect Otte Torén.

15 Brunnsgatan, Jönköping 55317, Sweden (57.78192, 14.15991)

I Kulturhuset Spira

A contemporary performing arts center on the Munksjön waterfront. Opened in 2011, the glass-fronted building houses four stages for theatre, music, and dance.

Kulturgatan 3, 553 24 Jönköping, SE (57.77772, 14.17163)

Tu–Fr 11:00–19:00

smot.se/om-oss/, +46 10 242 80 80

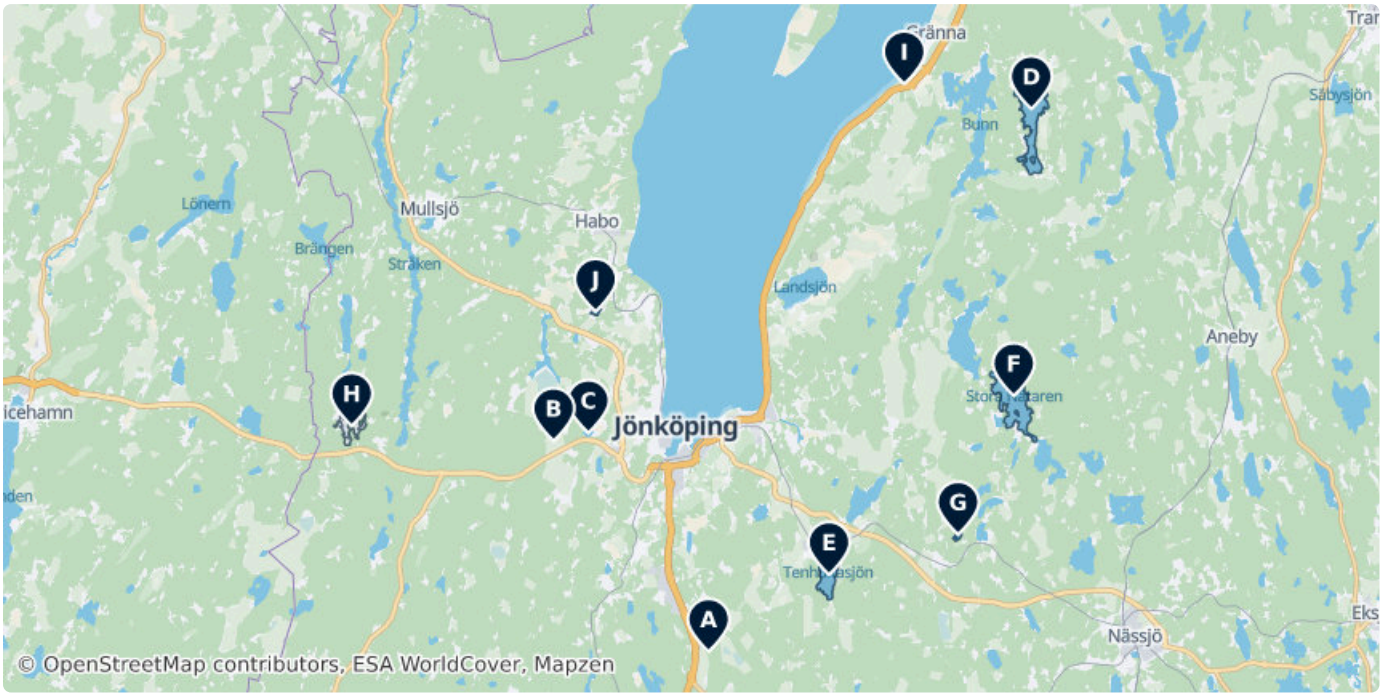
H Näs Castle

Näs Castle is the ruins of a former castle at Visingsö parish in Jönköping County, Sweden.

Sweden (57.99806, 14.29119)

Lakes and Wetlands

Explore the diverse aquatic environments of the Jönköping region, ranging from the vast peatlands of Dumme mosse to the deep, clear waters of Lake Ören. This selection includes significant nature reserves like Prästeryds mosse and industrial heritage sites along the Röttleån river. These sites represent the region's complex hydrography, featuring critical habitats for arctic char and diverse birdlife within the Motala ström and Huskvarnaån drainage basins.



A Bommagölen

Small lake located within the Motala ström main catchment area.

Sweden (57.64396, 14.20417)

B Dumme mosse

One of the county's largest bog complexes, featuring extensive boardwalk trails through diverse wetland habitats and stunted pine forests.

(57.77426, 14.02460)

C Axamosjön

Freshwater lake featuring sandy beaches and clear water, located adjacent to the Axamo recreational area.

(57.77922, 14.06469)

D Ören

Deep, oligotrophic lake known for its high water quality and as a habitat for the rare arctic char.

(57.97866, 14.57796)

E Tenhultssjön

Regional lake used for fishing and swimming, situated south of the Tenhult urban area.

Sweden (57.69153, 14.34354)

F Stora Nätaren

Part of the Huskvarnaån water system, this lake is a notable site for zander fishing and birdwatching.

Sweden (57.80206, 14.55769)

G Storsjön

A lake within the Huskvarnaån catchment area, located near the village of Öggestorp.

(57.71645, 14.49318)

H Prästeryds mosse

Nature reserve comprising a large raised bog characterized by traditional wetland flora and open peat landscapes.

Sweden (57.78358, 13.79054)

I Röttleån

Scenic waterway flowing through a deep ravine into Lake Vättern, historically used to power the industrial mills of Röttle village.

(57.99390, 14.43080)

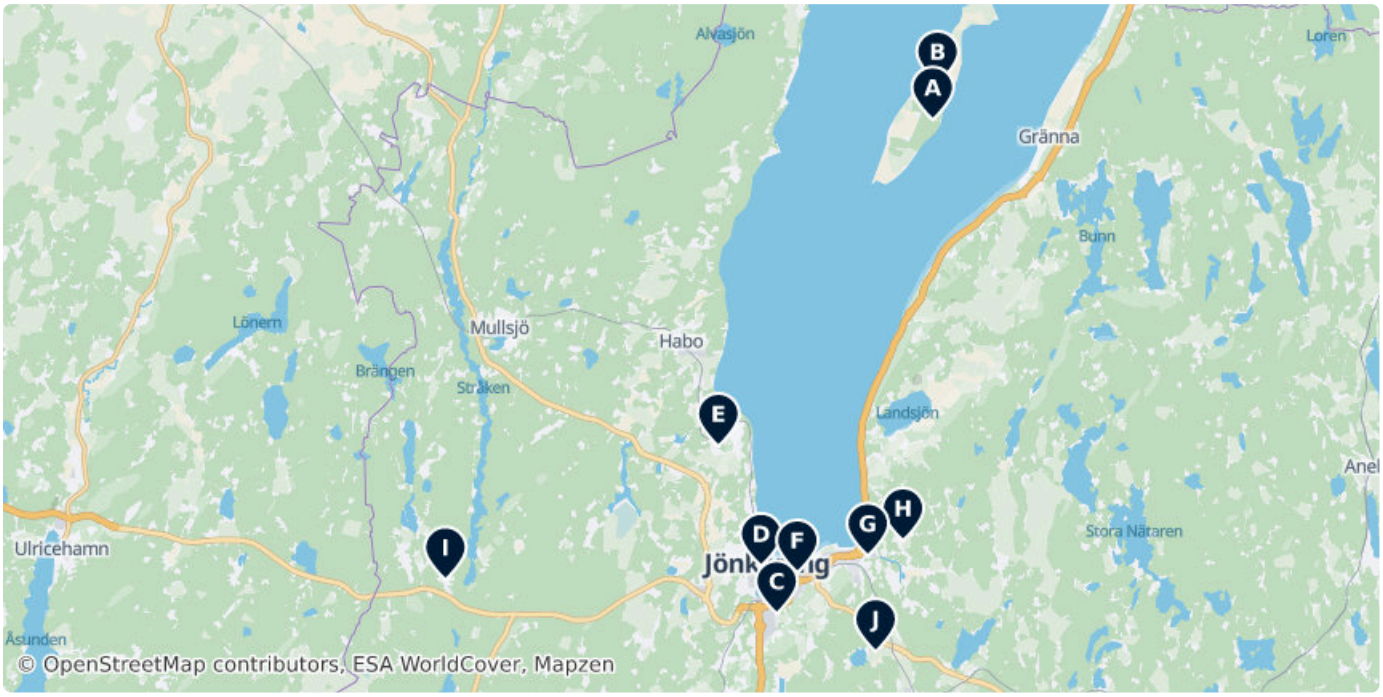
J Klerebodammen

Reservoir and dam area located within the Klerebo nature reserve, north of Bankeryd.

(57.85407, 14.07308)

Historic Churches & Chapels

The Jönköping region preserves a diverse range of ecclesiastical architecture, from the 12th-century stone foundations of Kumlaby on Visingsö to the 19th-century Neo-Gothic spires of Sofiakyrkan. This collection highlights significant landmarks like the 17th-century wooden church in Hakarp, renowned for its Baroque ceiling paintings, and the Brahe family's burial site at Brahekyrkan. These sites reflect the area's transition from medieval Romanesque styles to the ornate National Romantic and Neoclassical designs of later centuries.



A Brahekyrkan

Built in the 1630s by Per Brahe the Younger on Visingsö, this church serves as the burial site for the influential Brahe family. It features a rich Baroque interior and was constructed on the site of the medieval Ströja church.

1 Brahekyrkan, 56034, Sweden (58.03499, 14.34325)



B Kumlaby kyrka

A 12th-century Romanesque church on Visingsö famous for its 15th-century murals. Its tower was uniquely modified into a flat platform in the 17th century to serve as an astronomical observatory.

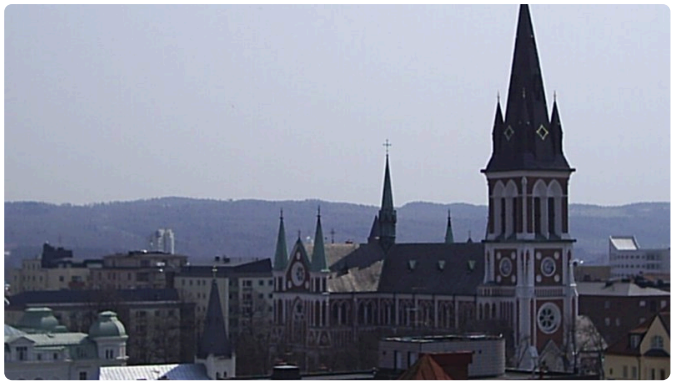
26 Kumlaby, 56034, Sweden (58.05519, 14.34830)



C Ljungarums Kyrka

Dating back to the 13th century, this is the oldest surviving church building in Jönköping. The stone structure features a medieval baptismal font and a distinctive wooden bell tower.

34 Inre Ljungarumsvägen, Jönköping 55307, Sweden (57.75498, 14.17661)



D Sofiakyrkan

A prominent Neo-Gothic landmark in Jönköping completed in 1888. Designed by architect Gustaf Dahl, the church is characterized by its high spire and intricate brickwork.

15 Brunnsgatan, Jönköping 55317, Sweden (57.78192, 14.15991)

E Bankeryd Church

Bankeryd Church is a church in Bankeryd in Sweden. Belonging to Bankeryd Parish of the Church of Sweden, it was inaugurated on 30 August...

1 Bankeryds kyrka, Prinseryd 56491, Sweden (57.85017, 14.11423)

F Eastern Chapel

Eastern Chapel is a church building in Jönköping in Sweden. Belonging to the Church of Sweden, the current building was opened in 1937.

(Unnamed Road), Jönköping, Sweden (57.77817, 14.19858)

G Huskvarna Kyrka

A red wooden church completed in 1908 in the National Romantic style. Designed by Birger Damstedt, the building is noted for its distinctive architecture and location overlooking the industrial town.

12 Alfred Dalinvägen, Jönköping 56131, Sweden (57.78775, 14.27387)

H Hakarps kyrka

This 1694 wooden cross-church is celebrated for its well-preserved Baroque interior and extensive ceiling paintings created by Edvard Orm in the early 18th century.

1 Hakarps kyrka, 56193, Sweden (57.79642, 14.31138)

I Bottnaryds kyrka

A 17th-century wooden church housing the tomb of Johan Printz, Governor of the New Sweden colony. The interior is decorated with detailed biblical paintings on the walls and ceiling.

Kyrkvägen, Bottnaryd 56576, Sweden (57.77418, 13.82288)

J Rogberga kyrka

Originally a medieval site, the current building is a large Neoclassical stone church completed in 1869. It retains a medieval crucifix and features an expansive, light-filled interior.

1 Rogberga kyrka, 56029, Sweden (57.73330, 14.28219)

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