



Karlskrona stadsdistrikt

 Karlskrona Municipality · Sweden

TRAVEL GUIDE



Overview

Karlskrona was built from nothing in 1680, when King Karl XI chose a cluster of granite islands in the Blekinge archipelago as the site for Sweden's new main naval base. The result is one of Europe's best-preserved planned Baroque towns, still built around a working naval base and shipyard more than 300 years later. UNESCO listed the whole naval port as a World Heritage Site in 1998.

The town suits travelers who enjoy maritime history, wide Baroque squares, and easy access to a huge archipelago. The compact old town on Trossö island is easy to cover on foot in a day or two, and a short boat trip reaches uninhabited islands, sea forts, and swimming spots.

When to visit

Summer, from June to August, is the best time to visit, with long daylight hours and calm seas for archipelago boat trips. Spring and autumn are cool and quiet. Winter is cold and dark, with short days and little tourist activity.

Time a visit for **Midsummer** (Midsommar) in late June, Sweden's biggest folk holiday, when Stortorget and the surrounding parks fill with maypole raising and outdoor dancing.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	● Poor Poor for watersports	2° / 7° Feels like -4°	-1° / -8°	☔ 13 rainy days · Dry air
February	● Poor Poor for watersports	3° / 7° Feels like -3°	-1° / -8°	Dry air
March	● Poor Poor for watersports	5° / 9° Feels like -1°	1° / -5°	Dry air
April	● Poor Poor for sightseeing	9° / 13° Feels like 4°	4° / 0°	Dry air
May	● Fair Fair for sightseeing	13° / 19° Feels like 10°	8° / 4°	Dry air
June	● Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 22°	12° / 9°	Dry air
July	● Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 24°	15° / 12°	☔ 12 rainy days
August	● Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 24°	15° / 12°	☔ 12 rainy days
September	● Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 20°	12° / 9°	Dry air
October	● Poor Poor for sightseeing	11° / 15° Feels like 7°	8° / 3°	☔ 12 rainy days · Dry air
November	● Poor Poor for watersports	7° / 12° Feels like 2°	4° / -2°	☔ 14 rainy days · Dry air
December	● Poor Poor for watersports	4° / 9° Feels like -2°	1° / -6°	☔ 14 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: July, August

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

Summers stay mild rather than hot, and rain can arrive in any month, so pack a light waterproof jacket even in July.

Top sights

Most of Karlskrona's sights sit within walking distance of each other on Trossö, the island at the town's center.

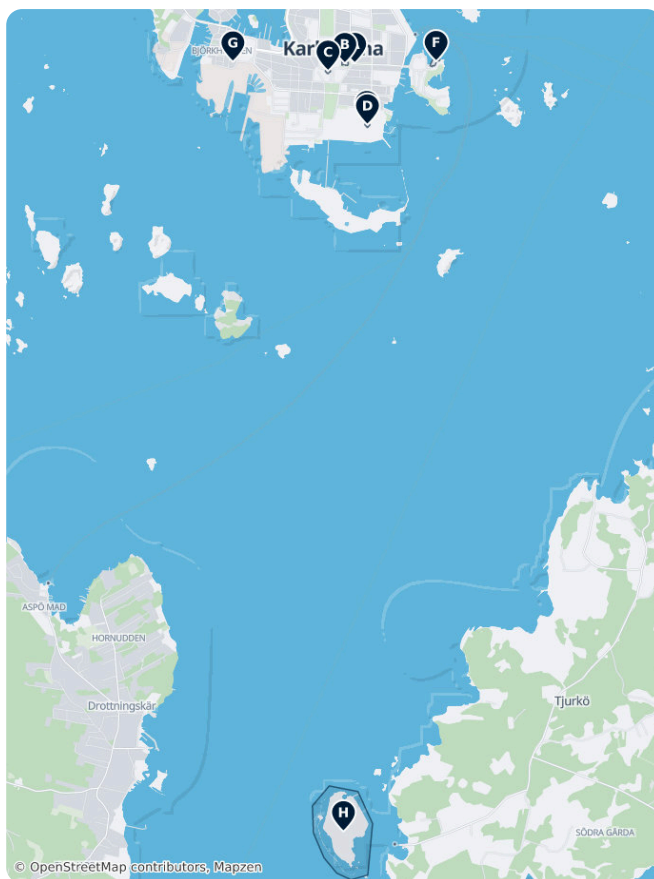
A Stortorget is one of Europe's largest squares, framed by two Baroque churches designed by the same royal architect. **B Fredrik Church** and **C Trinity Church**, the latter modeled on Rome's Pantheon, face each other across the cobblestones.

South of the square, **D Admiralty Church** is Sweden's largest wooden church, built in 1685 for the navy's own congregation. Outside its door stands **E Rosenbom**, a carved wooden collection-box figure that sailors have tapped for luck for centuries.

F Marinmuseum, on the small island of Stumholmen, covers three centuries of Swedish naval history, with a walk-through submarine and warships moored outside.

For the town's oldest streets, walk out to **G Björkholmen**, a UNESCO-listed quarter of narrow lanes and 18th-century wooden cottages once home to shipyard workers.

Book a boat tour out to **H Kungsholms Fort**, a circular sea fortress built in 1680 to guard the harbor entrance and still used by the Swedish Navy today. It's reachable only by guided boat tour.



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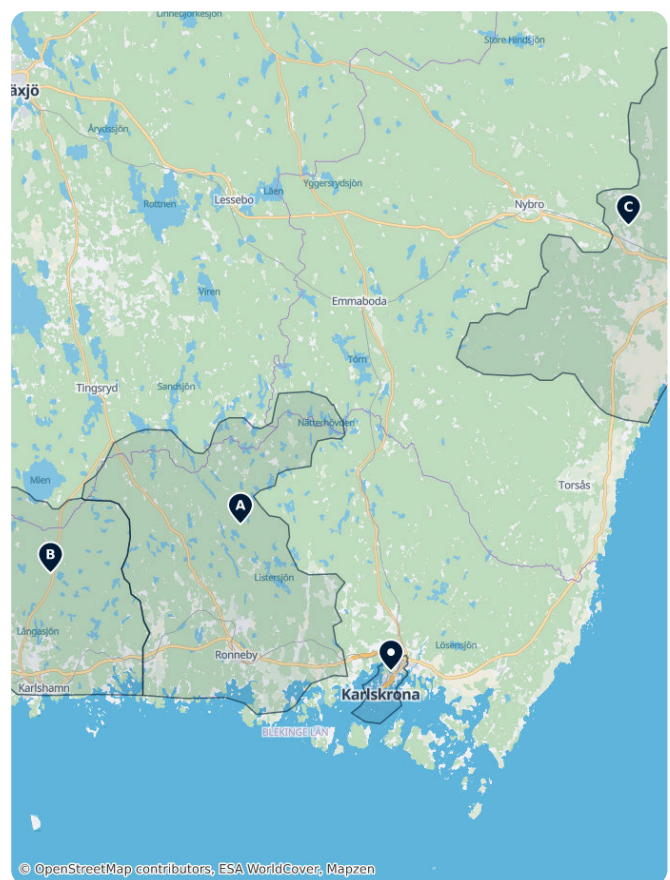
What to experience

- **Take an archipelago boat trip.** Regular summer boats leave from the harbor for the surrounding islands and sea forts — a boat is the only practical way to see much of the Blekinge archipelago's thousands of islands and skerries up close.
- **Swim off the rocks.** Locals swim straight off the granite rocks and small beaches around Saltö and Dragsö in summer, rather than at a single formal beach.
- **Look out for the navy's public open days.** Karlskrona remains Sweden's main naval base more than 300 years after it was founded, and the base occasionally opens parts of itself to the public — check locally for dates.
- **Join the Midsummer celebration** at Stortorget in late June, with a decorated maypole and traditional folk dancing.

Day trips

Karlskrona sits at the edge of the Blekinge archipelago, so several good day trips are only a short boat ride or drive away.

- **Aspö and the archipelago islands** — about 20–30 minutes by local ferry from the harbor. Car-free islands with beaches, hiking trails, and small cafés; a relaxed half-day or full-day out.
- **A Ronneby** — about 30 minutes by train or car. A small spa town built around a historic 19th-century health resort and a river gorge park.
- **B Karlshamn** — about 50 minutes by train or car. A quieter harbor town with a well-preserved 17th-century core.
- **C Kalmar** — about 1.5–2 hours by train or car. A flagship day trip built around a moated Renaissance castle and a historic old town, on the way toward the island of Öland.



Getting there

- **By air:** Ronneby Airport (RNB), about 25 km northwest of Karlskrona, has a handful of daily domestic flights to Stockholm. A taxi or airport bus reaches central Karlskrona in about 30 minutes. Copenhagen Airport, roughly 3 hours away by car or train, has far more international connections and is a common alternative gateway.
- **By train:** Karlskrona's central station has direct trains toward **Malmö** and on to Copenhagen, and connections north via Alvesta to the rest of Sweden.
- **By bus:** Long-distance coaches connect Karlskrona with **Kalmar**, **Malmö**, and other regional towns; the bus terminal sits next to the train station.

Getting around

- **Public transit:** Blekingetrafiken runs the local bus network. Buy a single ticket directly from the driver, or use the Blekingetrafiken app for the full range of tickets; there is no need to buy a ticket in advance for short trips. [Blekingetrafiken](#)
- **Taxi:** Regular taxis wait at the station and around the main square.
- **On foot / cycling:** The old town on Trossö is compact and flat, easy to cover on foot in a day. Cycling is popular along the waterfront, though the islands beyond the center are linked by bridges that carry some traffic.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town on Trossö is compact and flat, easy to cover on foot in a day.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Cycling is popular along the waterfront, though the islands beyond the center are linked by bridges that carry some traffic.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Not for the town itself — the old town is compact and walkable. A car helps for reaching [Ronneby](#), [Karlshamn](#), or the wider Blekinge coast at your own pace.
- **Parking:** Metered street parking and multi-story car parks are available around Trossö; pay by app or at the ticket machine.
- **Restrictions:** None beyond standard Swedish rules — there is no congestion charge or low-emission zone here.

Food & drink

Karlskrona's harbor location means fresh Baltic seafood is the local specialty — look for herring, mackerel, and shellfish on menus close to the water.

For a concentrated choice of cafés and restaurants, head to the streets around [Stortorget](#) and the harbor promenade, where old warehouses and waterfront buildings have been converted into places to eat.

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

Karlskrona is a safe town for travelers, with low rates of violent crime. The main things to watch for are the usual petty-theft risks around the train station and during busy summer events.

Tap water is safe to drink everywhere, straight from the tap.

History

Karlskrona did not grow organically — it was founded in 1680 by King Karl XI, who moved Sweden's main naval base here to gain quicker access to the Baltic Sea and a shorter sailing distance to Denmark and the rest of Europe. The king personally chose the site, a cluster of granite islands, and laid out a new Baroque town from scratch around the navy yard.

The town's grid of wide streets and grand squares, including [Stortorget](#), reflects that top-down planning. [Kungsholms Fort](#), guarding the harbor mouth, and the navy yard itself have been in near-continuous military use since the 17th century — a rare survival that led UNESCO to list the whole naval port as a World Heritage Site in 1998.

Shipyard workers once lived in the modest wooden cottages of [Björkholmen](#), a sharp contrast to the grand civic and religious buildings built for the navy's officers and chaplains.

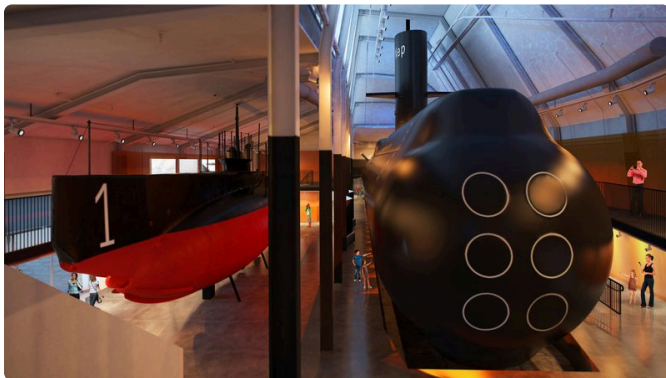
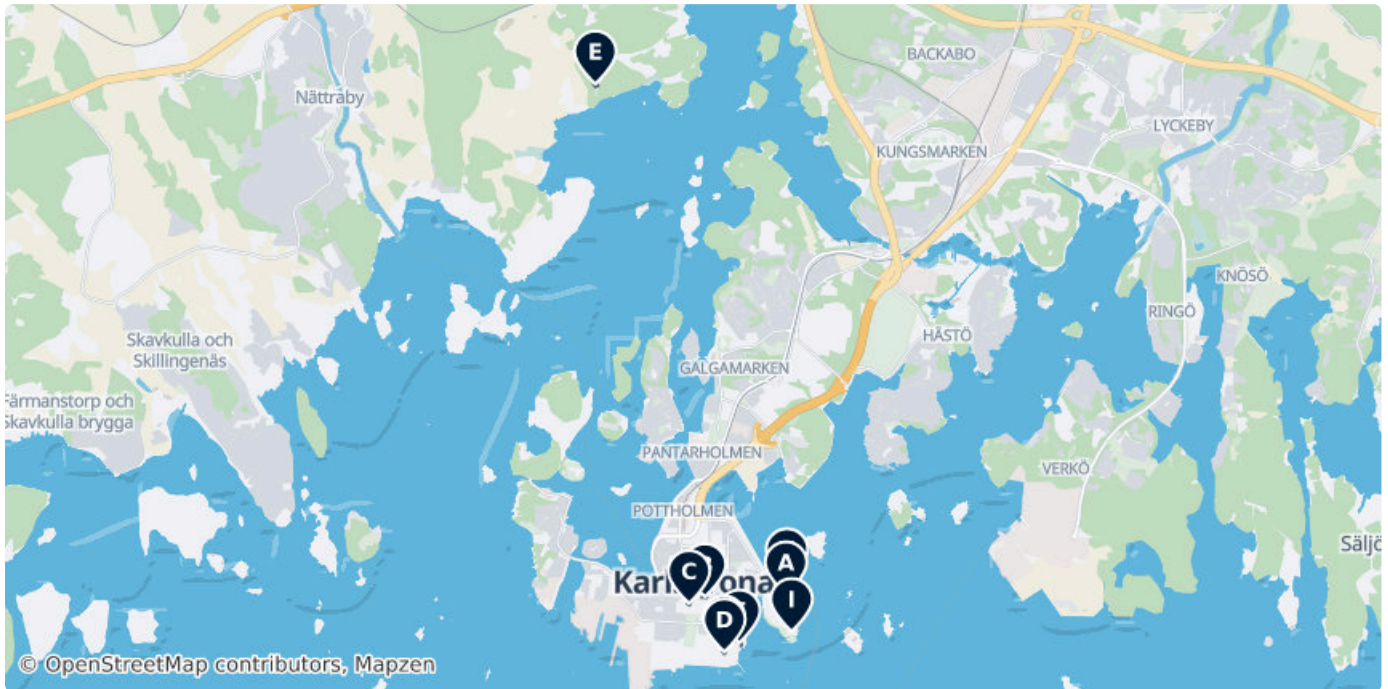
Country facts

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	

Karlskrona stadsdistrikt: Naval Heritage Essentials

This UNESCO World Heritage site preserves Sweden's 17th-century naval history through its unique urban layout and military architecture. The collection features the Marinmuseum on Stumholmen island and the HMS Jarramas, a historic full-rigged training ship. Architectural landmarks include the Baroque Fredrik Church and the circular Trinity Church on the central square, alongside the 1685 wooden Amiralitetskyrkan. Military heritage is represented by Bastion Aurora and Bastion Kungshall, integral parts of the city's original 1683 fortification plan designed to protect the strategic naval port.



A Marinmuseum

Marinmuseum is a maritime museum located on Stumholmen island, in Karlskrona.

Stumholmen (56.16127, 15.59971)

Tu	10:00–16:00
We	10:00–19:00
Th–Su	10:00–16:00

marinmuseum.se



B Fredrik Church

The Fredrik Church is located in Karlskrona, Blekinge Län, southern Sweden.

Stortorget, Karlskrona (56.16112, 15.58825)





D Admiralty Church

Sweden's largest wooden church, consecrated in 1685. Also known as Ulrica Pia, it was built to serve the naval shipyard's personnel and stands near the historic Admiralty Park.

Drottninggatan, Karlskrona 37130, Sweden
(56.15678, 15.59098)

svenskakyrkan.se/amiralitetkarlskrona, +4645510356



C The Trinity Church

The Trinity Church is located at Karlskrona in Blekinge, Sweden. Along with the Fredrik Church, the church is situated in the main square,,...

Stortorget, Karlskrona (56.16059, 15.58598)



F Bastion Aurora

A well-preserved section of Karlskrona's late 17th-century fortifications. It features historic cannons and serves as a vantage point overlooking the naval harbor and the Baltic Sea.

1 Vallgatan, 37130, Sweden (56.15748, 15.59310)

orlogsstadenkarlskrona.se/page/20/bastion-aurora.aspx



E Skärva House

Skärva Manor is the country house that shipbuilder Fredrik Henrik af Chapman made on the mainland, just northwest of Karlskrona and east of...

(Unnamed Road), Sweden (56.20142, 15.57275)





G Rosenbom

In front of the Karlskrona Admiralty Church, in Sweden, the popular wooden figure of Gubben Rosenbom has been standing since the mid 18th...

Drottninggatan, Karlskrona 37130, Sweden
(56.15702, 15.59091)



H Jarramas

A steel-hulled, full-rigged training ship built at the Karlskrona shipyard in 1900. It is permanently moored outside the Marinmuseum as a museum ship.

Sweden (56.16230, 15.59984)

marinmuseum.se/sv/Besok/Museifartygen1/Fullriggaren-...



I Bastion Kungshall

Established in the city's original 1683 fortification plan, this bastion was historically used for defense and is currently utilized as a site for ceremonial naval salutes.

30 Bastionsgatan, Karlskrona 37132, Sweden
(56.15838, 15.60049)



DATA SOURCES

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