

Linköping

Ostergotland County · Sweden

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Linköping is a university and aviation city in Östergötland, on the Stångån river just south of Lake Roxen. Its medieval cathedral, one of the largest Gothic churches in Scandinavia, still rises over the compact centre. Since the 1930s the city has been home to the aircraft maker Saab, and its nickname is "the flight city".

It suits a relaxed stay of two or three nights. The centre is small and green, with parks and a large open-air museum of old wooden houses at the western edge. Canals, lakes and the old towns of Östergötland are close by. The Oscar-winning film composer *Ludwig Göransson* was born here.

When to visit

June to August is the best time to visit, with long, mild days and the canal boats running. Summer is also the wettest season, so pack for showers. Winters are cold and dark, with frost on most days and regular snow.

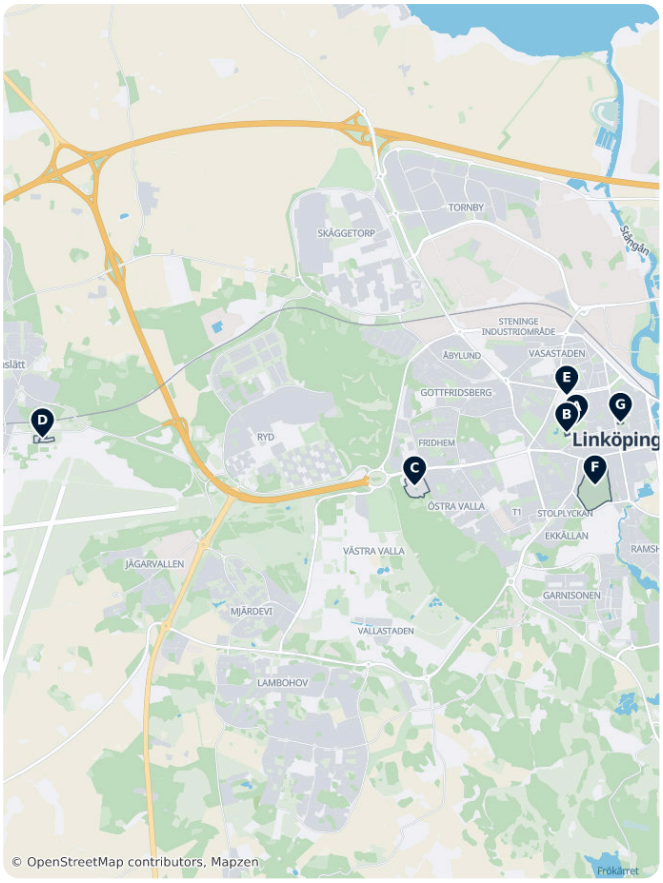
The big day of the year is **Valborg** on 30 April. A student band marches through town and plays in Trädgårdsföreningen. In the afternoon, a student choir sings in the spring outside the castle to a crowd that often reaches around a thousand, while thousands of students spend the day picnicking in the park.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	-1° / 5° Feels like -5°	-6° / -17°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	0° / 6° Feels like -4°	-5° / -15°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 11° Feels like 0°	-2° / -10°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 17° Feels like 7°	2° / -3°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for cycling	16° / 22°	7° / 1°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 27°	11° / 7°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	22° / 29°	14° / 10°	16 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 27°	13° / 10°	14 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for cycling	17° / 23°	9° / 4°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 16°	5° / -1°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 10° Feels like 1°	1° / -7°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	0° / 7° Feels like -4°	-4° / -16°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: June, August

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



A Domkyrkan is the city's landmark, with a 107-metre tower that you see from far away. Building began in the 13th century, and inside you find carved medieval arcades, a 16th-century altarpiece by *Maarten van Heemskerck* and modern stained glass by *Brian Clarke*.

B Linköpings slott stands opposite the cathedral and has been the county governor's residence since 1785. A museum in its north wing tells the castle's 900-year history and shows church silver and medieval textiles.

C Old Linköping is an open-air museum about 2 km west of the centre, with around 90 old houses along cobbled streets. Some were moved here when the old town centre was rebuilt in the 1960s. Small shops and cafés open in the houses. It is free to wander, and around 20 small museums are tucked into the buildings.

D Swedish Air Force Museum sits at the Malmen air base in Malmslätt, about 7 km west of the city. Its large halls show Swedish military aircraft from early biplanes to the Saab Gripen. A highlight is a DC-3 shot down by a Soviet fighter in 1952 and raised from the Baltic Sea in 2003.

E Östergötlands länsmuseum is the county museum, a short walk north of the cathedral. Its collections cover the region's history and art.

F Trädgårdsföreningen is the city park, founded in 1859, with rocky hills, lawns, ponds and a tropical house. Climb the 22-metre Belvederen tower for a view over the rooftops, and stop at its café.

G Sankt Lars kyrka is a whitewashed church near the main square, with a medieval lower tower and a nave from 1801. Its acoustics make it a popular concert venue, and in a cellar under the floor you can see the walls of a 12th-century church.

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What to experience

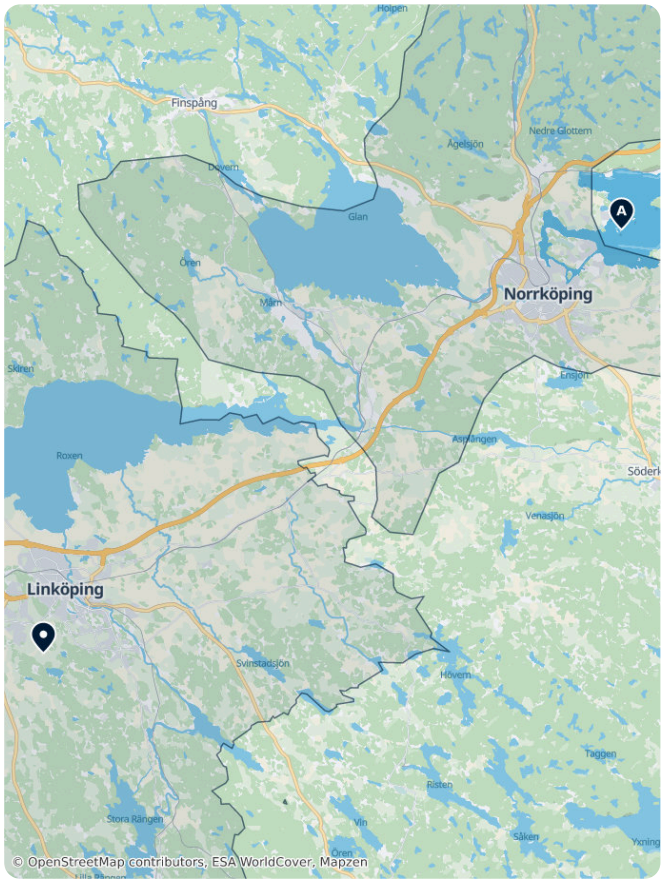
Many of Linköping's best moments are outdoors, on the water or in the woods.

- **A summer canal boat trip**: in summer, passenger boats leave the city along the Kinda Canal or down the Stångån river and across Lake Roxen to the Berg locks. Visit Linköping
- **Walk in the Tinnerö oak landscape**: on the southern edge of the city, paths lead through old oak pastures, meadows and woods. You can reach it on foot or by bike from the centre.
- **Coffee at the top of Belvederen**: climb the lookout tower in Trädgårdsföreningen and have a *fika* in its café.
- **Ice hockey in winter**: watch the local team, Linköping HC, play at Saab Arena.

Day trips

Canals, lakes and small historic towns are all within an hour of Linköping.

- Vreta kloster and the Berg locks (about 15 min by car, north-west): Vreta was Sweden's first nunnery, and its stone church from the early 12th century is still in use. A short walk away, the Göta Canal climbs from Lake Roxen through the Carl Johan locks, a staircase of seven locks. Watch the boats pass in summer.
- Ⓐ Norrköping (about 30 min by train, north-east): a former textile city with old mills and waterfalls along the Motala ström river in the centre.
- Söderköping (about 40 min by car, east): a small wooden town on the Göta Canal, with a busy canal harbour in summer.
- Vadstena (about 40 min by car, west): a lakeside town on Lake Vättern with a Vasa-era castle and the abbey of Saint Birgitta.



Where to explore

Linköping is the largest city of Östergötland. Its twin city lies just to the north-east.

- **Nearest neighbour**: Norrköping, a former industrial city on the Motala ström, about 30 minutes away by train.

Getting there

- **By air**: Linköping City Airport, a short taxi ride east of the centre, has daily flights to Amsterdam with KLM, plus a few domestic and Nordic routes. Most international travellers arrive at Stockholm Arlanda and continue by train, which takes about 2.5 hours with a change in Stockholm.
- **By train**: Linköping Central is on the main line between Stockholm and southern Sweden. Fast trains reach Stockholm in about 1 h 40 min. Regional trains run to Norrköping every 30 minutes and take about 30 minutes.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches link Linköping with Stockholm, Gothenburg and other Swedish cities. They stop at the bus terminal next to the train station.

Getting around

- **Public transport**: Östgötatrafiken runs the city buses. Tap your bank card on the reader by the bus door to pay for a single trip, or buy tickets in the Östgötatrafiken app. You cannot pay with cash. For Swedish Air Force Museum, take bus 6 (about 20 minutes). Östgötatrafiken
- **On foot**: The centre is compact. The cathedral, the castle, the main square and the parks are all within a 10-minute walk. Old Linköping is about 2 km west.
- **Cycling**: The city is flat and has a wide network of cycle paths, so a bike is a good way to reach the open-air museum, the riverside and the oak woods south of town.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The centre is compact; the cathedral, castle, main square and parks are within a 10-minute walk, and Gamla Linköping is about 2 km west.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Flat ground and a wide network of cycle paths connect the centre with the open-air museum, the riverside and the oak woods south of town.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city, which is small, flat and well served by buses and cycle paths. A car is useful for the canal and lake countryside, where buses are infrequent.
- **Parking**: Use the multi-storey car parks around the centre or paid street parking. Pay at a machine or with a parking app.
- **Restrictions**: The streets around the main square and the central shopping area are largely pedestrian, so park at the edge of the centre and walk in.

Food & drink

Linköping is a good place for a classic Swedish weekday lunch: look for *dagens lunch* deals in the centre. In the evening, most pubs, bars and restaurants cluster around **Stora torget**, the main square, and the nearby street Ågatan.

For a quieter meal or coffee, the streets between the square and the cathedral have many cafés. In summer, the cafés in Old Linköping and in Trädgårdsföreningen are pleasant places for *fika*, the Swedish coffee break.

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

Linköping is a safe city for visitors. Normal care is enough: watch your bag in crowded places and around the station, and at night in the busy bar streets.

Cycling is popular, so keep off the cycle lanes when you walk. In winter, pavements can be icy, and shoes with a good grip help.

History

Linköping grew up around its bishop's seat, first mentioned in 1104. A stone church stood here in the 12th century, and King *Valdemar Birgersson* was crowned in Domkyrkan in 1251. The bishops built a fortified residence next to it, which became Linköpings slott.

In 1598 *Duke Karl* defeated his nephew, King *Sigismund*, at the Battle of Stångebro, by the main bridge over the Stångån. Two years later, in the **Linköping Bloodbath** of 1600, the duke had five of his opponents beheaded on the main square. The castle museum covers both events.

Linköping stayed a small cathedral town until 1937, when Saab started building aircraft here. The city then grew fast, and Swedish Air Force Museum tells part of that story. A university followed in the 1960s. When the old centre was rebuilt in that decade, some of its old houses were saved and moved to Old Linköping.

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

Linköping Essentials

Linköping combines medieval heritage with significant cultural landmarks. The city's skyline is dominated by the 12th-century Linköping Cathedral and the adjacent Renaissance-style Linköping Castle. Within the central core, the Trädgårdsföreningen offers 13 hectares of 19th-century parkland, while the Stora torget serves as the historic hub. Cultural institutions like the Östergötland County Museum, housed in a functionalist building, and the Art Nouveau Stora teatern highlight the city's architectural evolution from the Middle Ages to the modern era.





A Linköping Cathedral

Linköping Cathedral is an active Lutheran church in the Swedish city of Linköping, the episcopal seat of the Diocese of Linköping in the...

7 Sankt Persgatan, Linköping 58228, Sweden (58.41123, 15.61750)

linkopingsdomkyrka.se, +46 13 14 56 38



B Linköping Castle

Linköping Castle is situated at Linköping in Östergötland, Sweden. It stands opposite Linköping Cathedral.

Sankt Persgatan 3, Linköping, SE (58.41049, 15.61579)

+46 13 12 23 80



C Östergötland County Museum

Museum housed in a functionalistic building is the oldest county museum in Sweden. Visit it to marvel at a collection of old European art.

Vasavägen 16, 582 20 Linköping, Sweden (58.41388, 15.61580)

ostergotlandslansmuseum.se, +46 13 23 03 00



D Trädgårdsföreningen

A 13-hectare public park and green space in the city center, established in 1859. It features diverse plant life and historic garden architecture.

Linköping, Sweden (58.40567, 15.62074)



E Stora torget

The city's oldest and most central square, intersected by the pedestrian-friendly Storgatan. It serves as a primary gathering space and transit hub.

4 Stora torget, Linköping 58219, Sweden (58.41075, 15.62156)



F Stora teatern

Opened in 1903, this theatre was designed in the Art Nouveau style by architect Axel Anderberg. It serves as a major venue for performing arts with a 400-seat capacity.

Platensgatan 12, Linköping, SE (58.41375, 15.61919)



G Stadshuset

The central administrative building for the Linköping municipality, located in the heart of the city.

(58.41043, 15.61766)

Mo–Fr 09:00–11:00



H Linköpings stifts- och landsbibliotek

The main public library for Linköping municipality, providing extensive collections and community resources.

(58.41169, 15.61357)

Mo–Fr 10:00–17:00

linkoping.se/bibliotek, +46 13-20 66 07

I Belvederen

A historic lookout tower located on a hill within the Trädgårdsföreningen park, providing elevated views across the city.

(58.40441, 15.62054)

DATA SOURCES

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