

#100

TRUE FACTS

O M N O R R B O T T E N



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 centre 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 68.



#1 **The economy in Norrbotten is very strong**

For years, Norrbotten has been at the top of Sweden regarding GRP*. In 2022, Norrbotten was the county with the second highest GRP per capita in the country after Stockholm.

*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 the Lule River**

No river in the whole country generates as much electricity as the 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**

More than eight out of ten Norrbottenians never refrain from going out alone, which is better than the national average.



#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 two of 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 standard bearer at the closing ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games.



FRISTADS



FRISTADS



Sparbank Nord

FRISTADS

ATG SPORT

OPTIMERA

STANLEY Security

DEWALT

Autoexperthen

SWEDEMOUNT

SWEDEMOUNT

X TEAM SWEDEN BIATHLON

RMS

#6 400 year old cities

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

#7 World Heritage x3

Three of Sweden's fifteen objects on the UNESCO world heritage list are found 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. Struve Geodetic Arc includes four measuring points in the Swedish part of Meänmaa (Torne Valley).



#8 4 000 islands

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



#9 The best building of all time

In 2001, the 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.

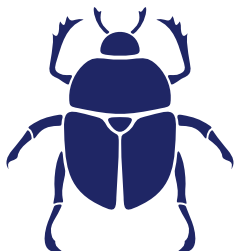
#10 Relocation of a 40 metre wide church

The move of Kiruna church is a challenging project. The road on which it will be moved is today only 9 metres wide. The road needs to be 24 metres wide in order to accommodate the 40-metre-wide church. It takes time to prepare the road for the church. Preparations have been ongoing since 2020 and the church is due to roll in June 2025.



#11 Super success for Hooja

SVT made a documentary about the Hooja fever that spread like a wildfire through the country in 2022, but even after that the success has continued. In 2023, Hooja was among the top 10 most played artists on Spotify in Sweden, had a big hit among the top 10 most played on Spotify in Sweden, and was the second most requested artist on Musikhjälpen (Music Aid) where they also had the second most requested song.



#12 Two Guldbagge awards to Norrbotten

At Guldbaggegalan 2024, the film “Avgrunden” which takes place in Kiruna, won the prize for best visual effects. The best short film category was won by the film ”Leila” which was directed by nurse Fariba Haidari. She is employed at Piteå Hospital in Norrbotten.



#13 Pantamera

The Swedes are among the best in the world at recycling bottles and cans. Norrbotten is the third best county, with an average of 339 bottles and cans per resident (2022).



#14 Fast connection

Today, almost 93 percent of households in Norrbotten have access to fast broadband via fibre, 100 Mbps. The goal by 2025 is 100 percent.



#15 **60 tonnes of Kalix blek roe**

40 to 60 tonnes of genuine Kalix blek roe are produced in Norrbotten every autumn.

#16 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.

#17 48 369 snowmobiles

Almost a quarter of Sweden's registered snowmobiles are found in Norrbotten.

#18 One of the biggest football tournaments in the world

One of the world's biggest football tournaments for young people takes place in Norrbotten - Piteå Summer Games. The tournament attracts players from many parts of the world. In 2023, nearly 800 teams participated and almost 2,000 matches were played. In addition to the neighbouring countries, Piteå received long-distance visits from Mongolia, Argentina, Peru and Mexico.

#19 Europe's space base

January 13, 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 that 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.

#20 Swedish Lapland set a record

In 2023, Swedish Lapland broke a record for the number of guest nights. The hospitality industry is one of northern Sweden's most important industries. Most foreign visitors come from Norway, Germany and Finland.

#21 **Börje Salming** **(1951-2022)**

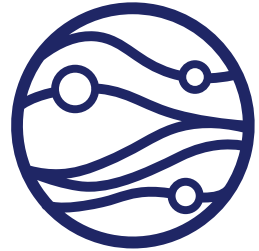
Börje Salming from Kiruna, was one of Norrbotten's, Sweden's and perhaps one of the world's greatest hockey players. He was a pioneer and trailblazer for all Swedish hockey players who dreamed of the NHL, where he played a total of 17 seasons and 1,148 games. The mighty ovation for Börje Salming at the 1976 Canada Cup in Toronto has been voted the greatest hockey moment of all time by the Swedish people.





#22 Sami dance centre

In Vuollerim, Jokkmokk, the world's first Sami dance centre is being created. There will be room for both dance, circus and creative production. The dance centre will also offer opportunities to record music and create duodji and stage costumes. The centre is given the name Jillat which means "to twinkle" in the Sami language, and will open its doors in November 2024.



#23 World-leading research

Luleå University of Technology, LTU, is in a 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, as well as leading international universities and regional and national actors. Researchers at LTU have also found water on the planet Mars and are developing a more climate-friendly aviation fuel. Luleå University of Technology has an annual total turnover of SEK 1.9 billion. They currently have 1,840 employees and 17,670 students.





#24 Facebook invests billions in Luleå

The server hall in Luleå is Facebook's first data centre in Europe. The facility caters to more than 800 million Facebook users. Facebook has invested SEK 11.6 billion in direct investments, purchases and costs in Luleå from 2011 to 2018.

#25 **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.

#26 **Sweden's Polar Research Secretariat**

The Polar Research Secretariat is a government agency that organises and supports research expeditions to the polar regions and is responsible for research infrastructure. The Polar Research Secretariat has its headquarters at Luleå University of Technology and a Scientific Research Station in Abisko.

#27 **SEK 1.5 billion**

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

#28 **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.



#29 **Harads on the world map**

Eight architect-designed treehouses have put the small rural centre of Harads, north-west 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 2022, Treehotel had a turnover of almost SEK 23 million.

#30 11 000-year-old Tornedalians

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

#31 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.



#32 4 600 reindeer owners

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



#33 Six straight championships in hockey

Luleå Hockey/MSSK took their sixth straight Swedish championship in the 2023-2024 season.

#34 Rubus Arcticus

Every year, Region Norrbotten awards one of Sweden's largest and best scholarships. In 2023, cultural practitioners and athletes received a total of SEK 530,000. Since its start in 1995, approximately more than SEK 10 million has been distributed to cultural creators from the county.

#35 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 metres wide, 9.5 metres high and has 9,000 organ pipes.

#36 The country's longest runway

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

#37 87 000 students

Luleå University of Technology has a high level of cutting-edge Arctic expertise. The collaboration with the five leading universities in northern Sweden, Finland and Norway, The Arctic Five, creates a large knowledge region with nearly 87,000 students, 4,000 doctoral students and more than 6,000 researchers – on par with the region of Stockholm.



#38 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.

#39 The world's second largest bifurcation

Tärendö has the world's second-largest bifurcation. Tärendö River, 52 kilometres 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.

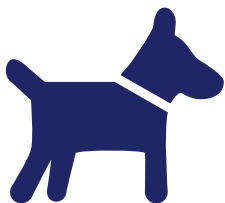
#40 Sweden's deepest lake

Hornavan in Arjeplog municipality is 210 metres deep and is thereby Sweden's deepest lake. In second place comes Torneträsk in Kiruna municipality, with 168 metres.



#41 **Buoris, buoris!**

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.



#42 **43 835 dogs**

There are 43,835 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.



#43 **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 3 billion, producing 150 million litres of pine diesel per year, which in turn reduces emissions by 250,000 tonnes of CO₂ each year.



#44 **Sweden's most northerly and easterly points**

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

#45 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 450 kilometres long and stretches from Abisko in the north to Hemavan in the south.

#46 30 kilometres 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 kilometres between Hindersöstallarna (Hindersö Boat Harbour) and Stor-Brändön included. The ice roads are very popular and many Luleå residents take day trips with their own cars to visit the islands of Hindersön, Långön, Storbrändön, Sandön and Junkön.

#47 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, when 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.



#48 Basketball champions

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

#49 **Two cities become one**

In Malmberget, urban transformation is nothing new. The mine's need for 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 kilometres to the south. The urban transformation is expected to be ongoing until 2032.



#50 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.



#51 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 metres of public and commercial premises. By 2035, the current city centre will be decommissioned and the new one fully developed, three kilometres to the east.





#52 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 third place. This is shown by the so-called Nils Holgersson report 2023.



#53 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 fourteen years in a row.



#54 **13 different saunas**

Since 1988, the Swedish Sauna Academy has had 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.

#55 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.



#56 Upset victory

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

#57 Fantastic scenery

From the city mountain of 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.

#58 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.



#59 **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 tonnes (with load) and whose wheels are four metres in diameter. There are also excavators here which can hold up to 45 cubic metres of rock in their buckets. Close to 40% of the machines are operated by women, making Aitik one of the world's most gender-equal mines. With nearly 900 employees, Boliden is the largest private employer in the municipality of Gällivare.

#60 10 000 boats and 28 harbours

Luleå is one of Sweden's municipalities with the highest number of boats per capita, with 28 recreational marinas and more than 10,000 recreational boats.

#61 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.

#62 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 that focuses on people, peace and the climate. Norrbotten is a competitive Arctic region and an important player in the implementation of the strategy.

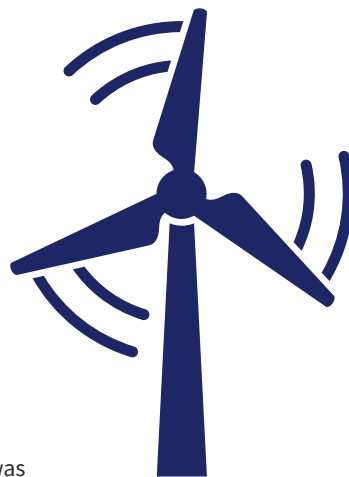


#63 Floating spa hotel on the Lule River

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.

#64 **Polarbröd has its own wind power**

On Tuesday, May 10, 2022, the factory of Polarbröd in Älvsbyn was reopened by Crown Princess Victoria, 625 days after the devastating fire that 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.





#65 **The Christmas calendar is recorded in Norrbotten**

The 2024 Christmas calendar was filmed in Norrbotten, more specifically in the ski resort of Kåbdalis and in Älvsbyn. *Snödrömmar* is an exciting Christmas adventure taking place in a magical mountain world. The main characters in this story are two Sami girls, sisters Ristin and Aila, who become embroiled in a mystery. They must face their fears, follow their dreams and explore the secrets of the mountains in order to save their ski resort.



#66 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.

#67 Sweden's largest dredging project

The port of Luleå is Sweden's third largest harbour for transport, primarily through the handling of raw materials for the mining and steel industries. Through Sweden's largest dredging project, Malmporten, an investment of almost SEK 3 billion, the number of shiploads 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.

#68 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.



#69 Sweden's best science centre

Teknikens Hus is Sweden's most northerly science centre and one of the country's first. Since the doors were opened, Teknikens Hus has welcomed more than 4 million visitors.



#70 **Sea-Ice Classic Running Marathon**

The location for the Sea-Ice Classic Running Marathon is something out of the ordinary. The entire running competition takes place on natural sea ice in Luleå. Runners from 18 different nations entered the 2024 race.



#71 **Icebreakers**

Right now, Sweden has five icebreakers that 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 both the Arctic and Antarctic on expeditions for the Polar Research Institute. The Swedish Maritime Administration will now invest in two new icebreakers for SEK 3.5 billion.

#72 Where Sami culture and handicraft take shape

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

#73 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 tonnes of fossil-free steel before the end of 2030 and will contribute to the climate transition of the European steel industry, one of the industries with the largest carbon dioxide emissions.



#74 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 premiere 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.



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.

#75 Sweden's EU presidency started in Kiruna



When Sweden took over the presidency of the EU, on 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.

#76 The world's first shopping mall

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

#77 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.

#78 Gold Reserve

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



#79 93 km/h – on ice skates

Every winter, hundreds of Dutch people come to Luleå to compete on the ice road in the centre of the city. In 2018, speed skater Kjeld Nuis broke the world record on the ice track in Luleå. Nuis achieved a speed of 93 km/h, which he beat four years later when he reached 103 km/h.

#80 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.

#81 24 percent of Sweden's surface area

Norrbottnen is 24 percent of Sweden's surface area, with 2.4 percent of Sweden's population. Norrbotten has barely three inhabitants/square kilometre. In Stockholm County, the number is 377.



#82 **Sweden's best school**

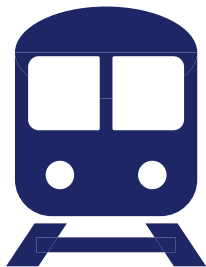
Övertorneå tops the table and Älvsbyn ends up in third place among the country's best school municipalities according to the Swedish Teachers Association's latest ranking (2021). You will also find Arvidsjaur and Kalix high on the list (10 and 13).



#83 **Bon Appétit**

Norrbottnen has eleven restaurants on the prestigious White Guide list- Sweden's best restaurants in 2023. Top of the list are Arctic Bath in Harads, Restaurant Tage in Piteå, Hemmagastronomi and Biströn in Luleå, and Niehku Mountain Villa in Riksgränsen.

#84 **The world's strongest locomotive**



LKAB's impressive locomotive on Malmbanan, IORE, is the strongest in the world. No other locomotive can pull a train with a weight of just over 8,000 tonnes. 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.

#85 Norrbotten – Sweden’s county of Idols

With four Idol wins, Norrbotten is the county with most winners.

The winners are:

Markus Fagervall 2006 (Övertorneå),
Kevin Borg 2008 (Arvidsjaur),
Nadja Holm 2020 (Piteå) and
Nike Sellmar 2022 (Piteå).



#86 Export region of the year

Long-term and strategic work has made Norrbotten a strong export region. In 2022, the successes were recognised by the government, which awarded the Export Region of the Year award to Norrbotten in particular. Part of the justification reads “The region has succeeded exceptionally well in its export promotion and is a true role model for others. Norrbotten even managed to increase exports during the pandemic years (2019 – 2021)”.

#87 The sun shines brightly in Luleå

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

#88 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 this important market. 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.

#89 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°.

#90 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 that runs on batteries in the harbour, meets the cargo boats, and then turns on the diesel engines when towing. The boat was taken into commission in the winter of 2019.



#91 The world's oldest market

Jokkmokk's market is one of the world's oldest markets and was organised in 2024 for the 419th time. The market always begins on the first Thursday in February.

#92 Europe's only indigenous population

The Sami people, Europe's only indigenous inhabitants, live in Sápmi, the large land area that 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.

#93 Swedish snow record

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

#94 Record breaking winds

Tarfala, 1,150 metres 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.



#95 **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, from May 28 to July 16.



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

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

#97 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 date 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 dense area of labyrinths.

#98 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.

#99 Europe's largest rapids

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

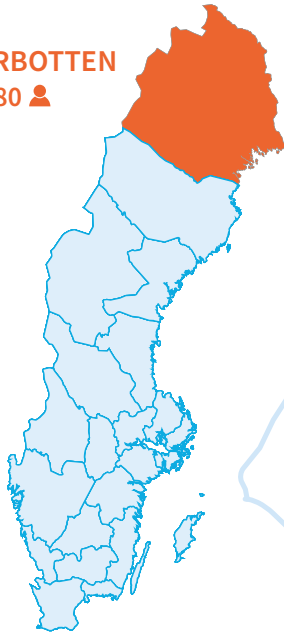


#100 Arctic raspberry – Norrbotten’s landscape flower

Arctic raspberries are stunningly good berries with a delicious taste. The Latin name is *Rubus Arcticus*. The ruby-red berries resemble raspberries in shape and the English name for them is simply “Arctic Raspberry” but the dissimilarity with the raspberry is great. The very small, difficult-to-detect, berries grow on the edge of the ditch one by one. It is both laborious to pick them and a lot of work goes into cleaning them. Cleaning is done with tweezers or small pointed scissors.

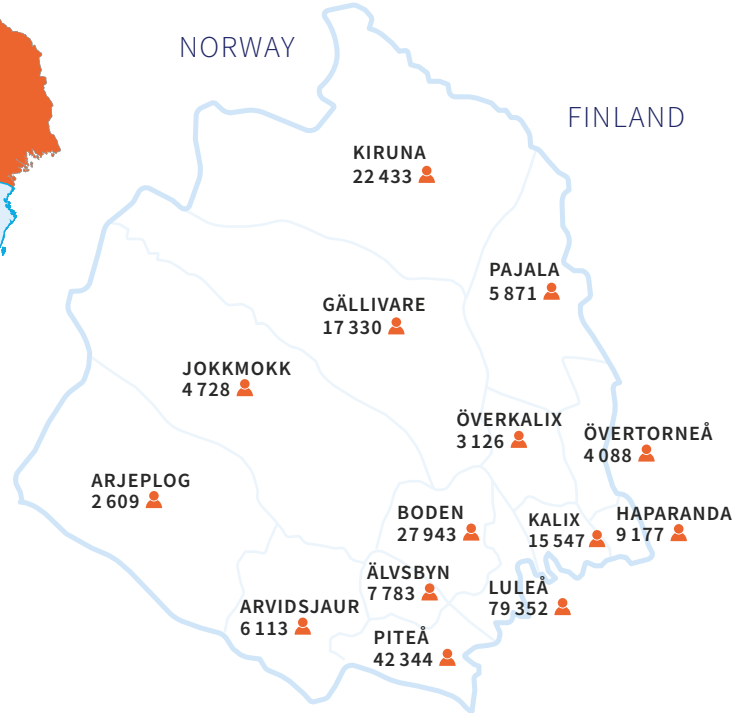
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Sources: All facts come from controlled sources at the respective municipalities, authorities, organisations, companies and actors: SCB, Vattenfall, Folkhälsomyndigheten, LKAB, Visit Sweden, SVT, Swedish Lapland, Dopest, SFdb, Sveriges Radio, Guldbaggen, Pantamera, Post- och telestyrelsen, Kalix kommun, Transportstyrelsen, Kuriren, Piteå Summer Games, SSC, Region Norrbotten, NHL, NCC, Länsförsäkringar Fastighetsförmedling, Polarforskningssekreteriatet, SPGA, proff, Sametinget, Svenska Ishockeyförbundet, LfV, LTU, Tärendö kommun, SMHI, Jordbruksverket, Svenska Turistföreningen, Luleå kommun, Piteå kommun, skyborn, Svenska Basketligan Dam, Svenska Basketbollförbundet, Gällivare kommun, Nils Holgersson-rapporten, SB Insight, Kukkolaforsen Turist & Konferens AB, Boliden, Bottenviken.se, SunPine, Södra, Luleå Hamn, Vårt Luleå, StudentConsulting, Sjöfartsverket, NyTeknik, Norrbottensteatern, Red Bull, Svensk Golf, Vi Lärare, White Guide, Piteå-Tidningen, Jokkmokks marknad, AlterHedens, Ann-Catrine Westerberg, FMV, Turistkanalen, Sanningskommissionen för det samiska folket, Åjtte, Svenska Unescorådet, Visit Gammelstad.

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