



The Southeast & Gotland

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Why Go?

Southeast Sweden is a treasure trove of stoic castles, story-book towns and magical islands.

Carved by the epic Göta Canal, Östergötland is home to lovable, lakeside Vadstena: St Birgitta's terrestrial stomping ground and home to a hulking Renaissance castle.

Further south, Småland sparkles with its ethereal forests, preserved pastel towns and show-off Kalmar castle. Snoop through Astrid Lindgren's childhood home in Vimmerby, pig out on peppermint rock in sweet-smelling Gränna or blow glass in the world-renowned Glasriket (Kingdom of Crystal).

Offshore Öland has a beguiling mix of dazzling beaches, windswept fields, windmills, ring forts and Iron Age burial sites. Not surprisingly, much of the island sits on the Unesco World Heritage list.

Yet the real ace of spades is the island of Gotland. One of Sweden's historical heavyweights, it's a mesmerising spectacle of rune-stone-scattered landscapes, hauntingly beautiful medieval churches and the walled, Hanseatic town of Visby (another Unesco favourite).

Best Places to Eat

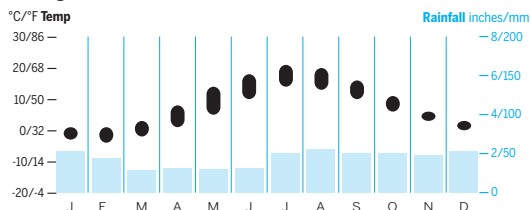
- » Bakfickan (p259)
- » Gröna Stugan (p241)
- » Saltmagasinet (p247)
- » Krakas Krog (p261)
- » Café Berget (p229)

Best Places to Stay

- » STF Stora Karlsö (p260)
- » Kosta Boda Art Hotel (p243)
- » Hotell Västana Slott (p235)
- » Strand Hotell (p225)
- » Slottshotellet (p241)

When to Go

Visby



Jun–Aug Visitors drawn by warm summer days, Hultsfred Festival and Gotland's medieval week.

May & Sep Weather less predictable, but often just as nice. Easier to find places to stay.

Dec Christmas markets abound across Småland.



The Southeast & Gotland Highlights

- 1 Observe savvy captains navigating the lock-laced **Göta Canal** (p235) at **Bergs Slussar** (p229)
- 2 Visit Astrid Lindgren's childhood home at **Astrid Lindgrens Näs** (p248) or go Pippi-mad at **Astrid Lindgrens Värld** (p248) in Vimmerby
- 3 Browse for glass or blow your own in **Kosta** (p243) at the heart of the Glasriket
- 4 Watch the sun set from the haunting, southernmost point of **Öland** (p249)
- 5 Prowl the medieval walls, hunt for truffles or succumb to a culinary adventure on the cultured island of **Gotland** (p253)
- 6 Follow in pilgrims' footsteps during a visit to St Birgitta's church in **Vadstena** (p230)
- 7 Snap photos in the preserved wooden town of **Eksjö** (p236)
- 8 Burn off **Gränna** (p234) peppermint rock on a bike ride through the woods on peaceful **Visingsö** (p234)
- 9 Smell the roses in the royal gardens of **Solliden Palace** (p250) on Öland