



WELCOME TO NORTHERN SWEDEN

In the periphery of the EU, right in the center of the green and digital transition.

NORTH SWEDEN
EUROPEAN OFFICE

EUROPEAN ARCTIC

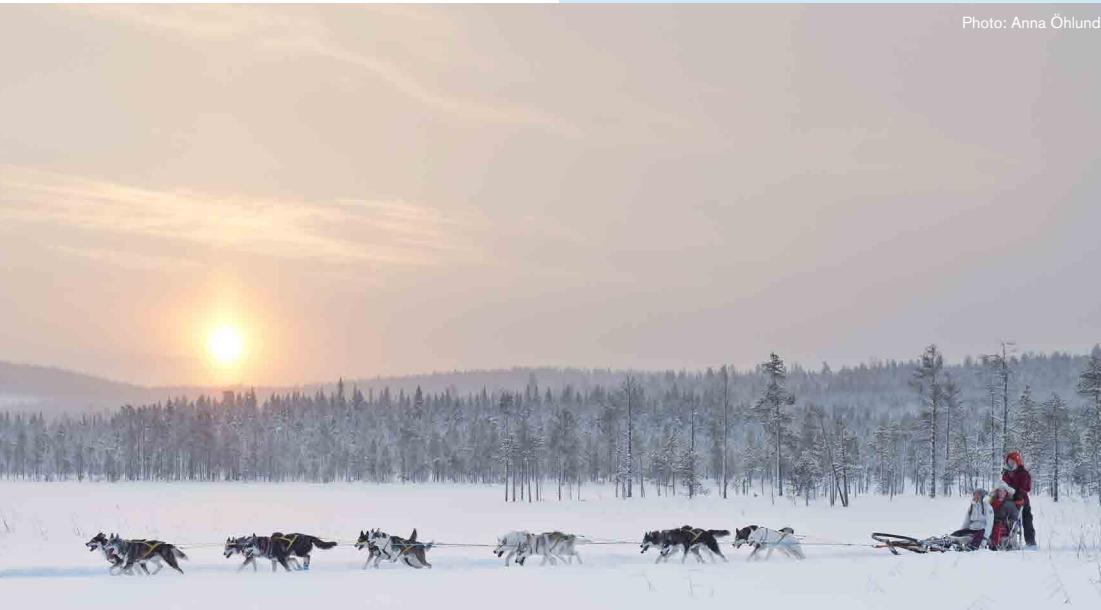
In the heart of the European Arctic

Northern Sweden is right in the heart of the European Arctic with the most sparsely populated area in the EU, with long distances and a harsh climate, but at the same time has one of the strongest innovation systems in the EU with attractive urban environments.

Through the region's rich supply of natural resources, large investments in green industries, innovative and competent people – northern Sweden has taken the lead in the green and digital transition in the EU.



Photo: Anna Öhlund



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RICH IN NATURAL RESOURCES

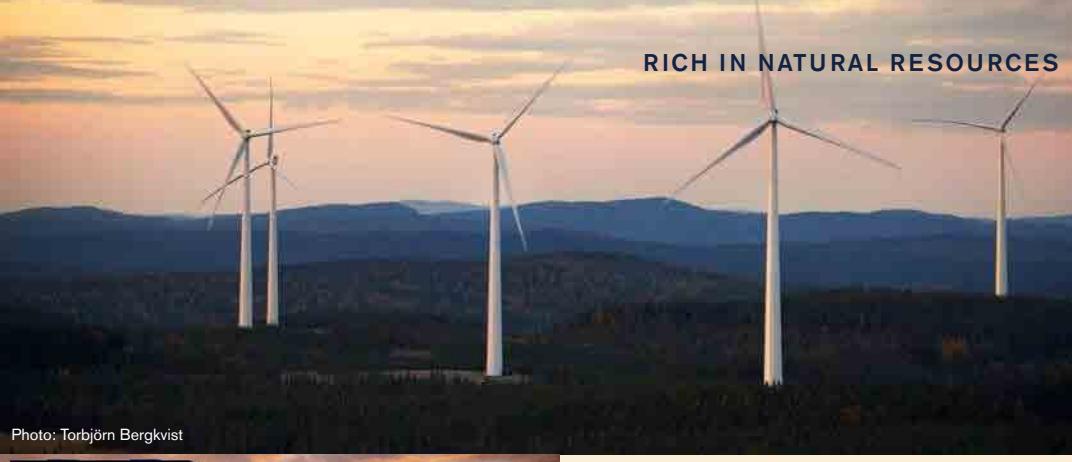


Photo: Torbjörn Bergkvist



A forest nation

Sweden is one of the world's largest exporters of forest-based products as well as a leader in sustainable forestry, forest research and climate-smart innovations. The Swedish forest sector delivers not only renewable energy, but also climate smart building techniques, textiles and paper products, creating the foundation for a long-term circular bioeconomy.



A surplus of green electricity

Northern Sweden is rich in natural resources, with a large supply of critical minerals, metals and forest as well as a great potential of hydro and wind power. Thanks to extensive investments in windmills, hydropower and forest bioenergy, there is a surplus of green electricity being produced in the region.



70%

of northern Sweden's land area is covered in forest.



The change is happening in the north

World leading electricity intensive industries are utilising the stable supply of renewable energy in the region and investing heavily in novel technologies that are pioneering the green and digital transition. In the coming years, more than €100 billion will be invested in green industry projects. The list of green investments is long and includes a growing ecosystem of clean hydrogen, fossil-free steel production, climate-smart batteries, renewable energy, green datacenters, electrification of aviation and sustainable mining.



90% of all the iron ore produced in the EU comes from northern Sweden. The equivalent of 12 Eiffel towers are extracted every day.

A mining town on the move

The city of Kiruna is being relocated due to the impact mining has on the area. A relocation that allows for the extraction of more metals and minerals and gives the municipality an unprecedented opportunity for urban transformation and a unique potential as a test bed to develop new sustainable solutions.

“Speaking about the future of industry: just look north, for example to Sweden. Companies in northern Sweden have to and want to bring down their carbon footprint to zero.”

Ursula von der Leyen, keynote speech at the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue 2021



Photo: Fredric Alm/LKAB

World leaders in research and innovation

The companies and universities have formed a symbiosis that produce knowledge and technology that tackles the arctic conditions and are also exported as solutions to the rest of the world. The innovations system is rooted in the tradition of heavy industry, the arctic conditions, and ambitions for a sustainable future.

Our universities conduct world-leading research in areas such as space technology, forestry and information and communication technology. The region is also a winter testing ground for the global automotive and wind energy industries.



Copyright: SSC

A European Space Hub

With its northern latitude, vast areas and low light pollution, northern Sweden is home to a significant space cluster. The space base Esrange in Kiruna will during 2023 be able to launch the new generation of small satellites, which will be the first capacity on EU territory, and will give EU space industry independent access to space. It's also a state-of-the-art test bed with Europe's first test facility for reusable, sustainable and cost-effective rocket technology.



Copyright: SSC

The Swedish Arctic

The beauty of the mountains, lakes, forests and archipelagos, unique phenomena like the midnight sun, polar night, northern lights, world-heritage sites, groundbreaking architecture with hotels made of ice and wood as well as dog sledding, world-class skiing, hiking and other outdoor experiences are all aspects that allow for a year-round sustainable tourism industry in the Swedish Lapland.

Northern Sweden is also home to EU's only recognised indigenous peoples, the Sami, with the area of Sápmi that stretches across four nations.



Photo: Göran Strand

Attractive urban environments

The majority of the people in northern Sweden live in urban areas, in attractive, smart cities. The urban areas hold a special role in the rural areas as melting pots for the whole region and are centers for cultural activities and tech start-ups. First and foremost, northern Sweden is a place where people live, and it is an attractive place to live – the region performs well in quality of life rankings.

Kiruna Sustainability Center runs a testbed for new methods and solutions in Smart Cities.

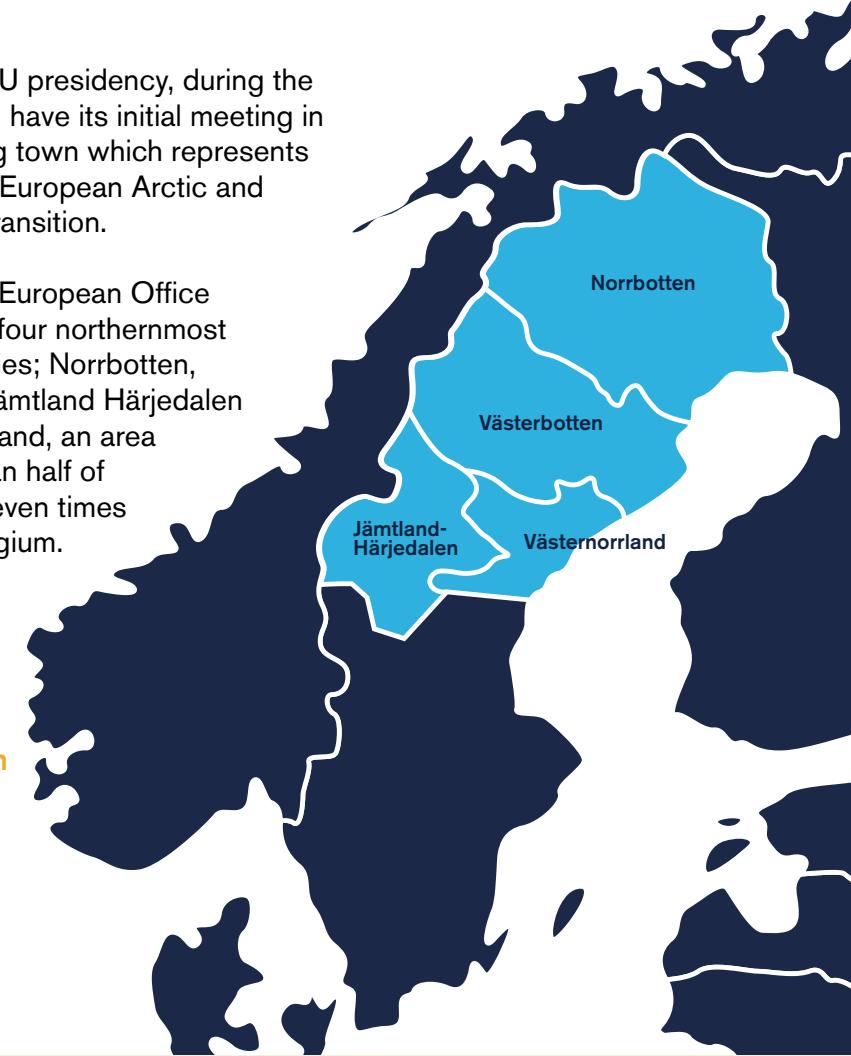


Photo: Asaf Klinger

The Swedish EU presidency, during the spring of 2023, have its initial meeting in Kiruna, a mining town which represents the core of the European Arctic and the EU green transition.

North Sweden European Office represents the four northernmost Swedish counties; Norrbotten, Västerbotten, Jämtland Härjedalen and Västernorrland, an area that is more than half of Sweden and seven times as large as Belgium.

Don't hesitate to contact us if you want to know more about northern Sweden.



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90%

of all the iron ore produced in the EU comes from northern Sweden.

Europe's largest onshore windfarm can be found in northern Sweden.



The lowest temperature ever recorded in northern Sweden is

-52.6°C



The space base Esrange develops the first European launch site.

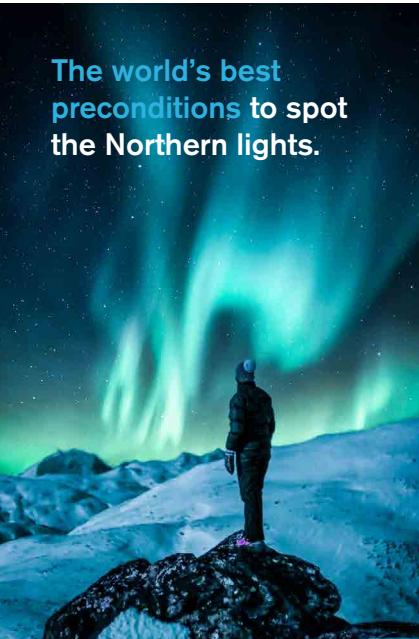
The world's first fossil free steel has been produced in northern Sweden.

One of the tallest building built in wood in Europe can be found in northern Sweden.

Kiruna have more than **6 000 lakes** and only one person per square kilometre.

Entire cities, Kiruna and Malmberget, are relocated due to mining.

The world's best preconditions to spot the Northern lights.



70% of northern Sweden is covered by forest.

Northern Sweden is home to EU's only recognized indigenous peoples, the Sami.



The most common individual entrepreneurship among Swedish women is forestry.