

Cycling Sweden's Southwest Coast

Trip Code: SGHG

Version: SGHG Cycling Sweden's Southwest Coast





HIGHLIGHTS

- Cycle through small fishing villages on Sweden's picturesque southwest coast with breath-taking views of the islands
- Get into the Swedish way of life as you immerse yourself in nature and enjoy the amazing local seafood
- Admire the famous salt-glazed ceramics in Hoganas

- Visit Sweden's most famous beach, Tylosand, on your way to the old medieval town of Falkenberg
- Enjoy 'fika' culture and explore Gothenburg 'Sweden's second city'

AT A GLANCE

- Self-Guided
- 6 days cycling and sightseeing
- Luggage transfers
- Bike hire included
- E-bike upgrade available
- GPS Travel App
- Saturday departures
- Join at Helsingborg / End in Gothenburg

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

- 7 Breakfasts
- 7 nights Hotel

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

As you cycle the Kattegat route from Helsingborg to Gothenburg along Sweden's southwest coast, you will discover its patchwork of long sandy beaches and rugged granite outcrops punctuated by traditional fishermen's huts. The deep green forests inland form a peaceful natural curtain between you and the rest of the world.

This is a place where nature is at the forefront of Swedish life and *fika* is a serious business. This one-week self-guided cycling holiday will immerse you in this idyllic culture, using the Kattegat cycle way as your route through this landscape from the much fought-over town of Helsingborg to Sweden's second city, Gothenburg. Your route will take you to the sun, sea, and sand of Tylosand beach to the beautiful harbour town of Traslovslage (a seafood lover's dream), and to the tranquil lake at Fjaras Bracka. As you pedal closer to Gothenburg the great city's sister archipelago fills your view of the North Sea. Your week ends with an exploration of Gothenburg's myriad attractions.

You'll be staying in a selection of 3-star and 4-star accommodations along your route on a bed and breakfast basis, and cycling an average of around 70km a day. There will be plenty of opportunities to stop off along the way - perhaps to enjoy the abundance of fresh seafood, a swim in the sea, or maybe even to try your hand at foraging like the locals. And don't forget the all-important *fika* stops!

Is this holiday for you?

This holiday is perfect for those looking for a new and exciting long-distance cycle route before the crowds arrive, with plenty of opportunities to get off the beaten track and live the classic Swedish culture enjoying the local seafood, foraging, and being immersed in nature. If you are a seafood lover this is certainly the trip for you with fresh seafood on every menu. Cycling an average of 60km a day on

mostly flat paths you will have plenty of time to enjoy the colourful coastal huts and bustling medieval towns, and maybe enjoy a favourite Swedish tradition - the sauna. Staying in comfortable 3-star and 4-star hotels on a bed and breakfast basis and with your hire bike included, you have the freedom to explore at your own pace.

Itinerary

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DAY 1

Arrive in Helsingborg and explore the medieval town.

Arrive at your accommodation in the centre of Helsingborg. Situated in the south of Sweden and separated from Denmark by less than 5km by the Oresund Strait, it is no surprise that Helsingborg is a city that has been fought over throughout history until, in 1710, Sweden finally won the fight once and for all. This turbulent history has certainly influenced the city's architecture including Karnan the imposing medieval watch tower, its quaint cobbled streets, and the 12th-century church of St Mary all waiting to be explored. Depending on the time of your arrival you can explore the city today and perhaps take a stroll along the rejuvenated waterfront where you can enjoy lunch in one of the many inviting restaurants. In the evening, one of our representatives will meet you to get you fitted with your bike for the week, provide information about your trip, and answer any questions you may have.



Accommodation

Hotel

DAY 2

Discover the colourful gardens of Sofiero Palace and traditional fishing villages enroute to Angelholm.

Your first ride of the week begins with a cycle along the promenade out of Helsingborg to the Sofiero Palace, one of the Swedish royal family's country mansions and one of Sweden's most beautiful castles. This stunning summer castle dates back to 1865 and is set within 15 hectares of parkland featuring over 10,000 colourful rhododendrons of 500 varieties that thrive in the salty air. You will have time to visit these award-winning gardens before hopping back on your bike to continue along the coast. As you make your way through traditional fishing villages and past small marinas you will begin to get an insight into the Swedish way of life. You will soon reach Hoganas, famed for its salt-glazed ceramics, before the final section of the ride takes you along the tranquil Kulla Peninsula, past farmlands and vineyards - yes, Sweden also produces award winning wines! Finally you will reach Angelholm, your home for the evening, where you will find plenty of lovely restaurants for dinner.

Meals: B



Accommodation

Hotel

7

Ascent 170M V

Descent



Distance

US (toll-free): 1-888-630-4415

DAY 3

Cycle through seaside towns and hidden coves to Halmstad.

Feeling refreshed you will have further opportunity to explore Angelholm before setting off on today's ride. This popular seaside town has been attracting visitors since the early 20th century thanks to its sandy beaches and contrasting woodlands. It is renowned for the production of clay cuckoos - clay whistles played as musical instruments - and the world's only clay cuckoo orchestra is based in the city. It is possible to visit ceramic workshops where the clay cuckoos are made, and you might decide to visit the interesting railway museum and flight museum too. When you have finished exploring Angelholm you can continue your ride to Halmstad. This is the longest route of the week however it is also a very lovely one as you pedal along the coast through open meadows and seaside villages. Before long, you will arrive in the tiny port of Magnarps where we can recommend stopping off for a seafood lunch accompanied by stunning sea views. Getting back on your bike, you say farewell to the coast and cycle inland, across the peninsula towards Bastad - a town that really comes alive in the summer months. After this your journey re-joins the coast to contour one of Sweden's longest beaches before passing through the nature reserves of Tonnrersa and Gullbranna to take you to your final goal of the day, Halmstad. This lovely port city was under Danish control until the 17th century and has plenty of interesting attractions to visit, including Halmstad Castle beside the Nissan River, and the Stora Torg square where you will find food trucks selling all manner of local delicacies. FESTIVALS: In the summer months Bastad comes alive with festivals from tennis to music and crafts. Look at what is featuring in Bastad during your visit at www.bastad.com/en.

Meals: **B**



Accommodation Hotel



Ascent 335M



Descent 325M



Distance 95KM

DAY 4

Relax on Tylosand beach and be immersed in the culture coastal communities as you cycle to Falkenberg.

Today's ride takes you further into the province of Halland, a coastal haven for foodies and nature lovers. Continuing along the coast the first section of your ride will take you to Sweden's most famous beach, Tylosand. This 4km-long sandy beach framed by majestic sand dunes, is a bustling spot during the summer months, with families playing in the sun, music-lovers enjoying performances in the Solgarden amphitheatre, and lifeguards busy providing swimming lessons. It is a perfect spot to enjoy a coffee, a snack, or even a dip in the sea. From here, your route takes you on through open countryside and nature reserves to the small coastal community of Ugglarp and on to reach your final stop, the medieval town of Falkenberg. Nestled between the sea and forest the town has a welcoming atmosphere and is somewhere you will in touch with nature. It is commonplace to find locally sourced and foraged ingredients on the menu here, intrinsic to restaurants' connections with the landscape outside the kitchen door.

Meals: B



Accommodation Hotel



Ascent 130M



Descent 140M



Distance 57KM

DAY 5

Feast on fresh seafood in Traslovslage on your way to the renowned bathing resort of Varberg.

Enjoy breakfast at your accommodation before hopping back on your bike towards Varberg. Cycling north along the coast your route will take you from one picturesque fishing village to another, havens for artists and artisans. As your ride continues, you will reach the beautiful harbour town of Traslovslage, or Lajet for short. The town came into its heyday in the 20th century when the harbour and its fishing industry expanded. Today it remains a seafood lover's dream with freshly caught lobsters, shrimp, and fish being served in the restaurants and making it a great spot to stop for lunch. You will have time to wander the old narrow streets, admire the cosy wooden houses and perhaps delight in an ice cream from the popular ice cream parlour, before continuing the final 10km or so to Varberg. Varberg seamlessly links its historic landmarks with exciting modern architecture and has an atmosphere to match. Originally a health resort for escaping the city and soak up the revitalising sea air, it still attracts city dwellers in search of riding the surf on one of the popular beaches, or relaxing in the sauna. We recommend taking a stroll along the promenade and paying a visit to Kallbadhuset, an unassumingly beautiful building at the end of the pier. Surrounded by the glistening blue waters it is an idyllic spot to soak up the sea breeze or perhaps enjoy a traditional Swedish sauna.

Meals: B



Accommodation Hotel



Ascent 40M



Descent 40M



Distance 40KM

DAY 6

Watch the landscape change from beaches to rocky coastlines and discover the tranquil hinterland as you cycle to Kungsbacka

Your route today brings a change of landscape as the long sandy beaches become fewer and are replaced by small coves along the now rocky coastline. As you pedal through the changing scenes you will soon see the first of the islands beginning to appear in the North Sea - a sign that you are cycling ever closer to Gothenburg. Continuing on your journey you will pass through farmlands and several horse farms to reach the cosy town of Kungsbacka with its impressive old city. Take time to explore, and end your day with dinner in one of the town's welcoming restaurants.

Meals: B



Accommodation Hotel



Ascent 215M



Descent 230M



Distance 70KM

DAY 7

Along the final stretch of this stunning coastline to Sweden's second city, Gothenburg.

Your final ride of the week returns you to the rugged coast once more, taking you to Vallda and Saro, once the playground of Sweden's royal family and Gothenburg's high society. Your route continues along an old railway line, which has been re-purposed as a cycle path alongside the sea. As you cycle along there are views of dramatic sea cliffs, hidden bays, and lush forests that line the coast as far as the harbour and your final goal of the week - Gothenburg. Surrounded by rocky shorelines and thick forest, Gothenburg is a city in touch with nature. The city is easily explored on foot or on two wheels, making it perfect for a bit of sightseeing. We recommend taking a stroll along the canal, known locally as 'the moat' as it encircles the city, and visiting the Haga district, Gothenburg's oldest suburb, dating back to 1648. The charming old three-storey timber houses that line the streets are certainly photogenic and there are plenty of cosy cafes where you can stop for a well-earned fika, as well as unusual shops to explore. In the evening you can enjoy one of the city's many restaurants and toast to a great week of cycling in one of the lively ale bars.

Meals: **B**



Accommodation



Ascent 205M



Descent 220M



Distance 65KM

DAY 8

Departure Day.

Enjoy a relaxed breakfast and perhaps a little more sightseeing in the city before making your onward journey. A personal favourite of our one of our product managers here at KE is the Universeum (the national science centre of Sweden) - with its fantastic interactive museum.

Meals: B

Holiday Information

What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Self-guided information pack containing your route notes
- Sweden guide book
- Luggage transfers
- 27 gear bike hire
- Bike accessories hire (pannier, handlebar bag, milometer, bike lock, pump, repair kit, inner tube)
- Welcome briefing
- Navigation App and GPX tracks available

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Bike helmet
- Travel to Helsingborg
- Travel from Gothenburg
- Local transfers
- Visas (if applicable)
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Personal equipment
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

Your Self-Guided Pack & Route Notes

Each self-guided holiday comes with comprehensive route notes and a map or pocket guidebook of the area you are exploring. The route notes contain information about the places you will visit and the local transport you might need, along with the detailed route notes for your daily walks or cycle rides. We even include some tips for the best places to stop for lunch.

You can expect to receive your Self-Guided Pack containing your route notes, a map or guidebook, and all your relevant documents, no later than 3 weeks before your holiday start-date. We will send your documents using a signed-for courier so that you can track your package and know that it is safely on its way to you. For bookings of more than 4 people we will send an additional Self-Guided Pack. If you do not need this additional pack please inform our Sales Team. Your pack will be sent to the lead booker, so please remind them to pack it before setting off.

Should your self-guided trip be part of a longer adventure requiring you to leave home more than three weeks before your holiday start-date, please inform our Sales Team so that we can make alternative delivery arrangements.

GPS Travel App

This holiday includes a GPS navigation app, which contains the routes for you to follow each day, as well as attractions, coffee stops and points of interest along the way. The app does not need to have Wi-Fi connection to work, you simply follow the instructions we provide you to download the app to your personal smartphone device before you leave home and you are ready to go.

While the travel app is running, your phone battery charge can be consumed faster than normal, so we strongly recommend that you pack a power bank with you just in case you require it.

Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for most of our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, so please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking holiday for your family, a centre based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a days walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool or visiting museums is calling instead.

Please discuss this further with our sales team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

This trip starts at your hotel in Helsingborg. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis, allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method that best suits you. The nearest airport with good connections from the UK for this trip is Copenhagen, which is well-served with many departures from UK regional airports.

If you are flying into Copenhagen Airport you can take the frequent rail service direct from the airport to Helsingborg Central Station. The journey takes around 1 - 2 hours depending on the time of day, and tickets can be purchased at the ticket machines in the airport - just follow the signs for the trains. Alternatively you can buy tickets online at www.oresundstag.se.

Your trip ends in Gothenburg. The easiest way to return to Copenhagen Airport is by train, with the journey taking around 3.5 hours and costing approximately SEK 650 per person. For the latest pricing and timetable information please visit www.oresundstag.se.

If you have arranged your return flight out of Gothenburg Landvetter Airport, you can take a bus from the Gothenburg city centre to the airport - the journey takes around 35 minutes, with departures every 20 minutes, and costs around SEK 130 per person.

We can also arrange additional nights' accommodation before or after your self-guided trip, or you may even wish to make this trip part of a bigger trip of your own, or pair it with one of our other holidays - just ask our Sales Team for details.

Meal Plan

This trip is on a bed and breakfast basis.

There are no lunches or evening meals provided by your accommodations on this trip, but these can be picked up in the many villages and towns you will be passing though/staying at along the way.

Food & Water

Water from the taps is perfectly drinkable on this holiday - please use this to fill your personal bottles for your daily activities. We do not encourage the purchase of single-use plastic bottles.

No dish screams Sweden more than Swedish meatballs, a staple on any menu and usually served with creamy mash potato and a generous helping of lingonberry jam. However, there is much more to Swedish cuisine than meatballs. The country has been striving to rebrand itself as a food destination over recent years with high quality restaurants, bistros, and cafes popping up throughout the country. Moreover, with the right to roam written into Sweden's constitution, foraging is not just encouraged - in fact dishes featuring foraged ingredients appear in many restaurants, illustrating the Swedish love and respect for nature. Along the coast it will come as no surprise that seafood is the star on most menus, with fresh oysters, crayfish, and lobsters a-plenty. Meanwhile in Gothenburg the 'whole and half special' is a popular streetfood. Created in the 1940's in the Vagmastareplatsen square on the river island of Hisingen when two local footballers ordered the dish, it consists of a hotdog topped with mash potato. It isn't a dish for everyone, but it is certainly worth a try.

A food culture which is much more to everyone's liking is the Swedish *fika* culture, roughly translated as 'coffee and cake break'. Fika is a serious business to Swedes, with business colleagues taking a break twice a day to enjoy a coffee and a sweet treat together. If you really want to travel like a local you need to ensure you allow time for fika breaks during your rides!

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Accommodation

On this trip you will stay in hand-picked 3-star and 4-star hotels, all of which have been chosen for their warm hospitality, excellent facilities, and superb locations. Each hotel has well-appointed rooms with Wifi, and offers a fantastic continental breakfast to keep you fuelled ahead of your bike rides. Your accommodation for this trip is on a bed and breakfast basis, staying in double or twin rooms.

We can arrange additional nights' accommodation at the start or end of your itinerary if you would like to extend your time in this beautiful area - please speak to one of our Sales Team for further information.

During high season you may be booked into an alternative accommodation of a similar standard in the area.

Bike Hire

Touring bikes come with 27 gears, and all bikes come equipped with a pannier and handlebar bag for your daily essentials, plus a milometer, bike lock, pump, repair kit, and spare inner tube. The bikes provided for this trip are unisex frames, and are one size fits all.

We strongly recommend you bring your own helmet for this trip for your safety and the best comfort.

We also recommend packing a gel seat for extra comfort or a pair of padded cycling shorts as, whilst the cycling is leisurely and there are plenty of opportunities to stop and explore, it is always nice to have some padding for a more comfortable ride.

We are also able to arrange tandem bikes, children's bikes, trailers, and child seats. Please ask our Sales Team for details

Upgrade to an E-bike

If you are looking for a bit of extra support whilst in the saddle, you can upgrade to an e-bike to make your ride even more leisurely.

Equipped with a battery and motor, these electric bikes give you a helping hand whilst you are pedalling, making it easier to climb hills, and travel further with less effort and more comfort.

E-bikes are available on this holiday at an additional supplement of £265. Please request this upgrade option from our Sales Team at the time of booking.

Baggage Allowance

Your main luggage will be transferred between each of your hotels while you are out on your ride. We ask that you please ensure that each piece of your luggage is under 20KG and that your luggage is ready for collection each morning. You will also need a daypack to carry your daily essentials with you whilst you are riding.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

Severe Allergies

Please inform our KE Sales and support team of any severe allergies you may have before travel. We will always do our best to help but we are unable to guarantee an allergy free environment on our KE trips. We advise that you always carry your own treatment for the allergy with you such as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' if required. We also recommend that you discuss this with your accommodation on arrival so that they can better assist you.

Currency

The unit of currency in Sweden is the Swedish Krona.

Preparing for your Holiday

The advantage of a self-guided cycling holiday is that you decide the pace. This trip is designed for leisure cyclists and does not require you to be in peak fitness. Having said this it is always sensible to get some additional exercise before going on an active holiday. You should be comfortable with cycling an average of 60 km a day on good cycle paths or quiet roads. We advise you to dust off your bike and head out on a few rides before your holiday.

Climate

Sweden benefits from a mild climate, considering its longitude, thanks to the Gulf Stream which provides distinct seasons. This also means that, much like the UK, the Swedes love to talk about the weather.

The southwestern area of Sweden where this trip takes place experiences shorter, milder winter months and warm summers compared with the rest of Sweden. With temperatures ranging from 15-25 degrees centigrade, it is ideal for cycling.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's 'Travel Aware' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

Lonely Planet Sweden

The Rough Guide to Sweden

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our <u>Travel Insurance</u> page for further information and to get a quote.

■ Power bank

Equipment Information

SelfGuided Cycling Equipment List

■ Cycling shorts
■ Cycle helmet
■ Functional base layer
■ T-shirts
■ Scarf
■ Hat
■ Windproof jacket
■ Fleece / extra layer
■ Rain protection
■ Rucksack (approx. 20 I)
■ Small first aid kit for your rucksack
■ Sunscreen
■ Water bottle or hydration pack
■ Camera (batteries/memory card)
■ Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
■ Handlebar mount that is compatible with your smartphone

- Waterproof phone cover
- Sun glasses
- Personal wash kit
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Tupperware for picnics

Cotswold Outdoor

Many of the equipment items listed above are available from <u>Cotswold Outdoor</u> - our 'Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

Land Only Information

Please note our 'from price' listed is based on 4 persons on twin or double occupancy, however we can quote for any number of travellers including solo travellers, contact our sales team for a quote.

This trip is available for departures on Saturdays throughout the dates listed.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this holiday part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights accommodation before or after your self-guided trip, ask our sales team to find out more about this.

Our sales team will be happy to provide you a quote for scheduled flights or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

We offer some transfers to your hotel from the nearest airports, please refer to the 'joining arrangements and transfers' for further details for this trip.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Why Choose KE

Why KE?

This great long distance cycle route showcases everything we love about Sweden - rugged landscapes, sandy beaches, colourful coastal huts, arts and crafts, and both medieval and modern, bustling cities. Plan your visit now before the crowds arrive and journey by bike to immerse yourself in a country where nature is at the heart of everything. We have included standard bike hire in the cost of your trip so you can relax knowing that this is all taken care of for you. E-bike upgrades are available.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 23/03/2025 and the trip is subject to change