



Vasaloppet

Much more than a skirace



The Vasaloppet is the longest and largest ski race in the world. A race with a historical background, a true story about a nations fight for freedom and independence.

Learn about Gustav Eriksson Vasa, the freedom-fighter, but also about the three communities surrounding the Vasaloppet and the everyday life of the locals who work and live in the area.

The story begins in Sälen as does the Vasaloppet.

Vasa Country in Sweden!

The uprising

In the early 16th. century Sweden was "occupied" by Denmark under the leadership of the merciless King Kristian the second. The Swedish nobleman Gustav Eriksson Vasa who openly criticized the regime was jailed in Denmark. After fleeing captivity with the help of German friends he decided to organize a revolt. His main hope were the tough and resolute men of Dalarna. Gustav was aware they had previously shown aversion to the Danish tyrant.

His escape route was through southern Sweden with Kristian in close pursuit. On several occasions the Danish soldiers were dangerously close to Gustav Vasa but he luckily escaped unhurt all the way up to Mora. When arriving here he urged the men to fight but without success. Utterly disappointed he set sights on Norway. But on the way the men of Mora had second thoughts and decided to support Gustav Vasa. Two of Mora's fastest skiers took up pursuit, caught up with him in Sälen, returned to Mora and from there organized the revolt against the Danish oppressor. The small army started to move south and picked up sympathizers from the neighborhood. The rumour of the revolt had already spread around in Dalarna.

Sälen

Gustav Vasa turns back to Mora.

Mångsbodarna
Risberg
Evertsberg
Oxberg
Hökberg
Eldris

Mora

The uprising starts and grows in strength.

Stockholm

In 1523 Gustav Vasa is crowned King of Sweden!



Gustav and his men proceeded towards Stockholm, gained support and grew in strenght on their way to the capital. Battles took place on the way against royalists, who were unable to stop the revolt. More and more joined the rebels and in early summer 1523 Gustav and his army marched into Stockholm. Gustav Vasa was later crowned king of Sweden and thereby initiated an unbroken period of nearly 500 years of independence. To honour the memory of these events, the Vasaloppet was inaugurated in 1922, a ski race over the same distance covered by Gustav Vasa 400 years previously. In every aspect a story of success.



GEOGRAPHY

Here, in the northern parts of the landscape Dalarna in Sweden, you find Vasa Country, consisting of the three communities Malung, Mora and Älvdalen.



DALARNA



Join us on a guided tour of The Vasa Country. The journey starts in Malung in the south.



Vasa Country N

Malung

The home of Swedish leather industry and Jofa, the worlds largest manufacturers of ice-hockey equipment.

Vasa Country is one of the most popular tourist districts in Scandinavia. Easily reached by all forms of transport, air, road or rail. The area offers a wide choice of hotels and restaurants. Reservations can be made through the tourist offices in Malung, Älvdalen and Mora. For further information about The Vasaloppet, please visit www.vasaloppet.se

Lima

Sweden's most southern fjeld region and home of Sixten Jernberg, the world famous cross country skier.



Flight reservations to Mora via SAS can be made from all parts of the world. Please contact the nearest airport in your vicinity.

NATURE

Clean fresh air, clear waters, stillness and a unique silence. The perfect remedy for body and soul. Open spaces, highlands, dense forests, mountains and foremost the four distinct seasons.

The Wasa Country consists of two rivers and valleys. Here, as in most other parts of Sweden, it is allowed to wander freely almost everywhere (Allemansrätten) providing of course that all visited areas be left undisturbed.

Transtrand

The start of The Vasaloppet

Sälen

Scandinavia's largest alpine facilities. Gustav Vasa resided in Olnispagården.

Särna

Fulufjällets National Park.
The high waterfall of Njupesjär.

Do you believe in the supernatural? Interested? Here is a mix of myths and legendary yarns from the past and present. What is what? Visit us and be enchanted by the yarns, the wild animals, the wilderness and the beautiful landscapes. Have you ever tried "Northern Walking" in absolute silence and solitude?



Colourful traditions

Traditions are very strong in Dalarna and in particular in this area. Clothing, art music, handicraft etcetera, all are a natural part of life. Visit a museum, a concert or an exhibition to get a glimpse of the region's culture life.

VASA COUNTRY, an area with culture and traditions, being wellknown as the region surrounding the Vasaloppet. Ancient traditions go hand in hand with everyday life. There are numerous examples.



Sweden's unquestionable most wellknown artist, Anders Zorn, was born in Mora. He was also known as an art connoisseur and one of the world's most prominent in his domain. Zorn has been of great importance for the region and has always preserved the traditions of the peasant folk. Creator of the Vasa statue.

Idre Large alpine facilities. The mountain top Städtjan.

Grövelsjön

Summer mountain walking or winter skiing.

Active summer-farms with cattle and log cabins, manufacturing of the famous wooden horses, folk music and national costumes are all part of the local culture. Midsummer-festivals though, is the tradition probably most associated with the region. The Maypole being the centre of the celebrations, each village with their own special ritual. The midsummernight is long...

Älvdalen

Sweden's porphyry centre. Hagströms guitars and accordions. Wäsa alpine centre.

Folk music and traditional lyrics are friendly presented by young and old.



LEISURE TIME

Vasa Country offers unique possibilities for many different leisure activities. Winter provides Northern Europe's largest alpine facilities with perfect snow conditions. From Malung in the south to Grövelsjön in the north, there are numerous downhill slopes testing all types of skills.

Apart from cross country skiing there are many other winter activities. Dog sleighs, winter fishing, snow mobile touring and many more.

Try Northern Walking in summer mountains and forests.

Do you enjoy ice-skating? Tracks are available from early December. The SiljansSkrinnet is run in Mora in January. A competition over varying distances for both elite and fun skaters.

Five different golf courses in fantastic surroundings.

Gesunda

Santa World and the Gesunda mountain skicentre with a great view over Lake Siljan.

Mora

Vasaloppets Finish Gate where our trip through Vasa Country ends. Vasalopps Museum, Zorn museum, wooden horse factories, the Gopshus alpine ski-centre and much more.

Vasa Country is one of Scandinavia's foremost tourist districts during the summer as well, with numerous leisure activities to offer. Fishing, hiking, horse riding in fantastic terrain. The picking of berries and mushrooms or just a walk and inhalation of clean fresh air is enough. Mountain climbing and flying, you name it, here are the possibilities for all ages and tastes.

Canoeing on untouched streams or a boat trip on lakes surrounded by breathtaking scenery. Lake Siljan is one of Sweden's largest lakes and the home of a big fleet of steam ships. Here, as in many other lakes in the district, you can rent a boat and maybe camp on one of the secluded islands. Take a deep breath and enjoy life in silent waters or wild streams.

Do you like walking? With or without sticks. Try a summer hiking adventure with friends in the Vasaloppet Track. A historical trip from Sälen to Mora.

INDUSTRY

Apart from tourism, which is of paramount importance for the region, there are many large and small industries, all with highly modern techniques. Many are specialised companies producing patent marked goods both for export and the Swedish market. Also subcontractors to multinational brands.

Some of the companies represent an absolute state of the art level in their domain. Feel welcome to take business-contacts with any of us!

Vasa Country has always had industrial traditions and the products are well respected for their high quality throughout the world.

Knives, TV-telemasts, bathroom and kitchen fittings, leather clothing, steel-metal products and electronic components are just a few examples.

Apart from the larger firms there are many small ones combining tradition with ambition. In Lima for example the production of the classic Lima cupboards has been restored. Here is also one of the world's most famous violin manufacturers. There are many more examples. The region is full of life with many small firms with high ambitions and fine products.

Of course the big forests are also of great importance to the Vasa Country. Timber is delivered to the saw mills and then transported to paper mills and the producers of different wooden products, such as wooden floors and timbered houses of various sizes and types. All materials are of the absolute highest quality. Most companies in the region have one thing in common, that is an ongoing evolution of products as well as invention of new ones to meet new markets and reach higher standards.

In Mångsbodarna, a famous check-point of the Vasaloppet, is a producer of sandstone floors and walls for export all over the world.

The leather industry in Malung is another trade with global reputation for design and high quality.



Vasa Country

The Vasa Country consists geographically of three communities. All three are in various ways involved in the Vasaloppet as the track passes through their territory and naturally daily life is somewhat influenced by the skirace and its history.

A trip through Vasa Country.
What is your impression?
Enjoy a quiet evening in a cosy
hotel after the journey.
A good meal, a glass of wine
and a reflexion of your days
experiences. An unbeatable
feeling of relaxation and
enjoyment.

We hope you had a pleasant time travelling in Vasa Country. Thanks for coming along.
As you have seen all three communities have much in hand for all visitors. If you like to
find out more don't hesitate to contact us. More information is available on our websites
or through the tourist offices in Malung, Mora and Älvdalen.
Find out more about the Vasaloppet skirace week at
www.vasaloppet.se
WELCOME!



www.malung.se

www.mora.se

www.alvdalen.se

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