



Engelska

RULES FOR BERRY-PICKING IN SWEDEN

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON PICKING BERRIES IN SWEDEN

Welcome to the Swedish countryside. In Sweden, access to field and forest is open to everyone; and it is permitted to pick blueberries, lingonberries, cloudberries, etc. These freedoms are included in what we call the right of public access. But they are freedoms which also require responsibility and consideration on the part of the visitor. For example, we must not disturb local residents, and we must have a care for nature and for the property of others. The following are some important rules for all visitors to Sweden.

Respect the privacy of residents

It is not permitted to linger or pass too near to farms and dwellings. Nor may one enter or cross areas of young forest, or fields on which crops are growing.

Berries and other things of nature

It is permitted to pick wild berries, including lingonberries, blueberries and cloudberries. But of course it is forbidden to take berries and other fruit, vegetables, etc. from gardens and cropland. It is also forbidden to cut down trees or bushes, to break off twigs and branches, remove the bark of trees, or in any other way damage trees and other vegetation.

Tents and caravans

It is permitted to erect a single tent for an overnight stay at a good distance from the nearest dwelling. To tent at the same place for a longer period requires permission of the landowner. It is not permitted to camp on bathing beaches, in parks or in any natural area near a town or village. The landowner's permission is required to park a caravan or

motorhome. Unauthorized motor vehicles are not permitted on many private roads. It is a punishable offence to drive onto a road that is posted with a sign prohibiting such use. Parking and rest areas along public roads are for resting, only; overnight stays are usually not permitted. For overnight stays in Sweden, there are many camping grounds with modest prices.

Off-road driving prohibited

It is forbidden to operate motor vehicles off road. This includes all open terrain outside of prepared roads. Accordingly, it is not permitted to park a car or a caravan on a beach, meadow or natural area, for example. It is only permitted to stop temporarily on a roadside, and in such a way as to avoid damage to adjacent ground or danger to passing traffic.

Dispose properly of rubbish

All forms of littering outdoors are forbidden. Anyone who litters the countryside is subject to fine or incarceration. Rubbish can be deposited in dustbins at roadside rest areas.

Fire bans

Small sticks and evergreen cones lying on the ground may be used as fuel for outdoor fires. But total bans on fires are often imposed during the summer months, and no open fires are allowed as long as such a ban is in effect— not even in specially prepared fireplaces. Never discard cigarette butts in the forest! That is strictly forbidden, as it is the cause of many forest fires. Do not make fires directly on rock surfaces; the heat may cause cracks and fissures. Anyone who violates a fire ban or is careless with fire is subject to fine. Municipal tourist bureaus can provide information about fire bans in their areas.



Protected natural area This is the symbol for legally protected natural areas such as nature reserves and national parks. Special rules apply in most such areas.

