



TOURIST in FILIPSTAD

Värmland is one of Sweden's most visited regions today. And that is not just a lucky coincidence. In the Filipstad region there are plenty of opportunities for leisure activities in a relaxing environment. There is a genuine wilderness region here, covered by big forests, mountains, lakes and rivers. Nature offers many unbeatable, and sometimes unplanned, adventures that become those special holiday moments.

A place rich in minerals and culture

The natural environment is largely undisturbed, the air is clean and the water in the lakes is, in some cases, so fresh you can drink it! The area is very wealthy in terms of its flora and fauna. The Högbergsfältet conservation area, for example, has different kinds of orchids and prosperous bird life.

Filipstad is a unique place for mineral discoveries, with a significant cultural heritage and many interesting sites, some from the birth of industrialism. There are many museums, district manors, old mines and settlements worth visiting. There are more species of mineral in Långban than anywhere else in the world – 322 types in total! Several minerals were discovered here, such as the rare långbanit and finnemanit. Hornkullen Silver Mines in Nykroppa are well maintained and are a unique memorial of Swedish mining in the 16th and 17th centuries. Take the chance to go down a mine, go gold-washing or search for new minerals! Visitors at Lesjöfors Museum step right into history – it's as if the people who lived there left the place only moments ago. You can almost hear their voices and smell the coffee pan, the wood fire and the blacksmith's forge. The re-creation of the settings gives a very realistic picture of Swedish living standards and show a transforming society.

Wilderness adventure – closer than you think

Make an excursion with canoe or boat and catch your own fish for dinner, which you can cook over an open fire. Filipstad's municipality fishing licence covers 46 lakes. If you wish to see bigger animals in the open, look out for moose, beavers or wild safaris. There are even wolves, bear and lynx cats in this region. We do not hunt these rare animals and in general they will not hunt us either, as long as you are careful, of course...

Travel in peace with horse and carriage a few days and live the life of the prairies or saddle up for a genuine wilderness riding tour in deep forests with elves, trolls and other creatures that may pop out if you are lucky! Swedish law gives everyone equal access to the land, which is unique, and can really be experience to the full here.

Enjoy a tour on the inland railway. Many families and school classes find it is perfect to go on a rail pedal trolley for a day or two. If you want to experience the whole inland railway you can get a train, in some places replaced by a bus carriage. The line crosses one of the last real wilderness areas in Europe – 1,300 kilometres through 15 counties, from Kristinehamn in the south to Gällivare in the north.

Hiking in deep, old forests

In the Filipstad region there are around ten walking trails of different levels of difficulty and length. Brattforsheden and the Lungälv canyons are strikingly beautiful and a unique reminder of the fact that the Ice Age did literally shape the form of this country – with boulder ridges, deposits and ice holes being the evidence. Vegetation here is dominated by pine forests with lower ground vegetation such as berries, heather and lichen.

You can also find the highly unusual sandy heath anemone here, along with a number of red listed butterflies and the rare sand lizard. The forest provided wood for homes and coal mining was important from the 16th century until early 20th century. There are signs of early settlements in the area dating back to the Stone Age!

18 holes and lunch in a beautiful environment

Saxå Golf course is one of the most stunning golf courses in central Sweden, situated on grounds where iron was extracted in the later Middle Ages. The course is fun and challenging for both professionals and beginners. Have a break and enjoy a tasty lunch in the charming coal house. The golf season starts in May and ends in October.

Fun activities and winter sports

Try out mountain-biking, gold panning or canoeing in one of our many waters. The tourist office can get in touch with organisers, who will arrange an itinerary for individuals or business groups, according to your requirements.

Bring your friends or family to the slalom slope, the cross-country tracks or on a scooter trip.

Go long-distance skating* on the well maintained tracks on Bergsslagen Canal or go jig fishing and enjoy the winter sun with a picnic of your own on the ice.

**Travel cards can be bought at the Tourist Office.*

Events

Filipstad has the biggest national day celebrations in the country. The main street may be filled with snow (in June!) and with a lively carnival! Famous skiers compete with local people for the fastest lap. Several markets and exhibitions are set up on a yearly basis in Filipstad. In August, at the mineral exhibition in Långban, geologists and experts from all over the world get together to view and compare a variety of gems and new finds. Stones and jewellery are exchanged and sold.

Oxhälja autumn market is one of the biggest of its kind in Sweden, with more than 1,000 stalls. The market was originated in the middle of the 17th century and has become important for household needs into the 20th century. Today cattle and pets have been replaced by sales of goods such as toys, clothes, sweets and smoked sausage.

Over the years, many authors, artists and inventors have influenced Filipstad. There is a wide range of creative people in the region. Every year, various exhibitions, such as the Art Tour, are arranged where you can visit the artists in their studios.

Live and eat well

You can choose whatever type of accommodation suits you best – simple camping, hostel, cabin or a comfortable hotel in the town centre or even at a classic mansion in beautiful settings, where Swedish homemade food, buffets or á la carte with local delicacies are served.

Summer auctions or jig fishing – summer or winter – Filipstad's municipality welcomes you all year round!

