

Welcome to Hudiksvall



Hudiksvall, Sweden



Norwegian Sea

NORWAY

Hudiksvall

Gulf of Bothnia

Gävle

Uppsala
Arlanda

Stockholm

Skagerrak

North Sea

Kattegat

DENMARK

Öland

Gotland

Baltic Sea

Travelling to Hudiksvall

Where is Hudiksvall located?

Hudiksvall is a small town on Sweden's East Coast. But, even though it's a small town with 15,000 inhabitants, it's still the biggest in the County of Hälsingland. Hudiksvall is situated at the end of a bay called Hudiksvallsfjärden, which reaches in from the Gulf of Bothnia. The climate is fairly agreeable, giving the possibility of snowy winters with temperatures down to -25°C (-13°F) and sunny summers with temperatures exceeding 30°C (86 °F).

Reaching here takes about 2 hours by train from Stockholm–Arlanda airport, or 2.5 hours from Stockholm City. If you come by car, add roughly 40 minutes. On the way north you pass through Uppsala (home of the Nordic region's oldest university, founded in 1477) and Gävle (city founded in 1446) before arriving at Hudiksvall.

The county of Hälsingland

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The Countryside in Hälsingland consists mostly of spruce and pine forests. There is also some arable land but the climate and the fact that the landscape is rather hilly, especially inland towards the middle of Sweden, makes it hard to make a living from farming.

Like the rest of Sweden, Hälsingland has a lot of lakes, the largest called North and South Dellen. The most common wild animals are roe deer, moose and squirrel – and with some luck you can spot grey seals and bears. Baltic herring is a common fish that has played a major part in Hälsingland's coastal life. Herring fishing was the people's main livelihood for many years.





Flax and Hälsingegårdar

Flax, the raw material for linen (in Swedish "lin") made the farmers in Hälsingland rich and independent. In 1897 a flax spinning mill was founded in Sörforsa. This became the biggest in the entire country. During this period, flax producing farmers showed off their wealth by building beautiful, large properties, utilising local timber. Several of these manor houses, which we call Hälsingegårdar, are still very well preserved. Inside some of them you can still find exquisite wallpapers and beautiful wall and ceiling paintings.



A look at Hudiksvall

Hudiksvall's history

Being a seaport, Hudiksvall's early population relied on fishing for survival. The fishermen and their families lived in the city during the winter months and in small fishing villages on Hornslandet and the islands in the archipelago during the summer. Many of their cottages still exist – but, nowadays, most of them have been turned into weekend cottages.

Fiskarstan

Hudiksvall has suffered from a number of extensive fires throughout the years. The most devastating one occurred in 1721 when the entire town – except for the church – was burnt down.

In 1792 there was another great fire in the Fiskarstan neighbourhood. It was rebuilt with narrow streets and houses very close together – and still looks like that today. Most of the houses in that part of town are from the middle of the 19th Century. It is called Fiskarstan because fishermen and their families lived there.

Alongside the channel outlet are rows of red boathouses – one of Hudiksvall's most famous landmarks.

Industry in Hudiksvall

In 1685 an ironworks was founded in a village just south of Hudiksvall.

During the 19th Century the business was expanded to include sawmills and timber trading.

In the 20th Century the timber industry diversified into paper, and became the biggest private employer in Hudiksvall. Mechanical engineering and electronic companies are also important private employers in Hudiksvall.





Hiab's history in Hudiksvall

The story of Hiab Loader Cranes starts in Hudiksvall, Sweden, in the 1940s. A local ski manufacturer, Eric Sundin, realised the potential of hydraulic equipment and together with his business partner Einar Frisk, formed the company HIAB (Hydrauliska Industri AB) in the summer of 1944. One day it struck Eric that if there was some way of transforming the power from a truck engine into a lifting motion, a lot of time and labour could be saved. In 1946 the first Hiab crane prototype, the HIAB 19, was ready for testing. A year later Hiab started serial production of the HIAB 190, the world's first series produced truck-mounted hydraulic crane.



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