



Welcome to

Sandviken

History

Sandviken, (literally translated as “The Sandy Bay”) was founded in 1862 by Consul Göran Fredrik Göransson, who built the Sandvik AB steelworks on a sandy bay of Storsjön (“The Big Lake”). Just four years earlier, in 1858 Consul Göransson was the first in the world to manufacture high quality steel using the Bessemer Method. He did this in Högbo, an area north of today’s town of Sandviken. When production demands outgrew the capacity of Högbo he moved the steelworks to Storsjön and laid the foundations of the town and a world leading industrial concern.

The steel produced by Sandvik AB at Sandviken has placed Sandviken on the world map. With the company’s

successes the town has prospered. Today Sandviken is a modern community with a large number of private and public services available.

Today’s Town

Sandviken is situated in northern mid Sweden, the county of Gästrikland. Approximately 37,000 people live in the town and its outlying areas. It is an area which is renowned for its concentration of Swedish multinational companies such as Sandvik AB, Ovako, Korsnäs, LEAF, Ericsson, Midroc, ABB, Kraft Foods (Gevalia) and more.

Image

Sandviken is known for:

- The head office of Sandvik AB, one of Sweden's largest and most successful exporting concerns, established 1858 and present in 130 countries, 39 000 employees.
- Sandviken Big Band, a famous jazz band which tours regularly round the annual festivals in Europe and North America.
- Swedish Champions SAIK, Sandviken's world class bandy team. Bandy is a sport which is played on ice with 11 players on a rink the size of a soccer field using a small ball and a stick.
- Ralf Erskine, the world famous functionalist architect, worked and set his imprint on the town's architecture under a period of spanning several decades.
- Högbo Bruk, a beautiful area north of the town which

was the original site of the steelworks and which is now a recreation area famous for its natural surroundings, world class golf course, and its spa facilities.

- Kungsberget, a skiing resort for both alpine and cross-country skiing.
- The home of "Mamma Mu", a popular literary figure in Swedish children's literature.
- Music is of considerable importance in Sandviken with the year's high points being Sandviken's Jazz Festival and also the annual Chamber Music Festival.
- Storsjön, the lake upon which the town is built is said to have as many islands as there are days in the year. Its sandy beaches and abundant fishing attract thousands of visitors each year



Sport and Activities

Visit Arena Jernvallen and see SAIK play bandy against teams from as far afield as Russia, Norway and Finland. The area also houses soccer fields, tennis courts, a bowling alley and fitness gym as well.

Högbo is the perfect place to combine work, activities, relaxation and culture. There is a conference hotel with

a spa, a 27 hole golf course, trails for skiing and running, adventure, artisans, and a center for the scents.

Kungsberget, with its ten lifts, ski rental, restaurant and warming cabins, guarantees wonderful downhill skiing on 17 prepared pistes

Vikings and Iron

Iron and steel have played a major role in the region's history since the Viking times. Sandviken is of special interest as a studying industrial history.

At Smedsgårdens Bruksmuseum ("The Blacksmith's House Museum") the displays show how the different conditions for workers in the steel industry the turn of the 20 th century tup to the 1940's and 1950's. At Sandvik Group's corporate headquarters there is a permanent

display of the company's place in industry and its history.

In nearby Årsunda there are many Viking historical sites, including Viking grave sites, runestones and archaeological digs. It is possible to visit a dig site and also the specially reconstructed Viking village, "Årsunda Viking". At Årsunda Viking it is even possible to tryout some of the Viking games and pastimes in person.

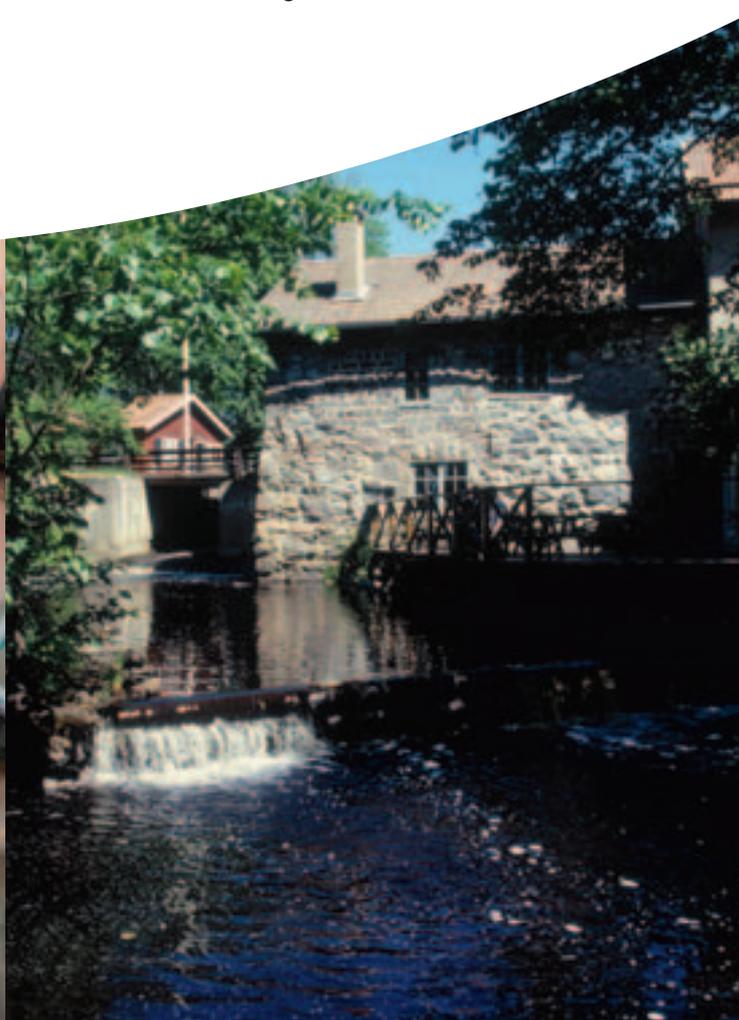
Swimming and Fishing

As a lakeside town its appropriate that Sandviken has many different water activities to offer regardless of season. At any time of year visitors can experience an exciting day at Sandviken's Adventure Pool, "Parkbadet", with Mediterranean temperature.

There are peaceful sandy beaches and great waters for canoeing when finer weather allows. The fishing in

Sandviken renowned and attracts anglers from all over Europe.

Sandviken has its own steamboat, the M/S EMMA II, century maritime beauty around Storsjön. During the winter one can "jig" (ice fishing) or long distance ice skate on specially ploughed ice skating tracks over the lakes in Sandviken and Högbo.



Music, Art and Museums

Sandviken and its outlying areas contains a large number of interesting museums. Rosenlöf's Printing Press Museum gives the visitor an insight into the conditions at a printing press from the turn of the 20 th Century up to the 1970's.

Visitors at Gysinge Bruk ("Gysinge Works") can see the "Flottningsmuseet", a museum dedicated to the practice of transporting timber by river in the form of rafts, "log driving". The museum illustrates the importance of log-driving for the expansion and development of the forestry industry's. Gysinge Works also houses a nature room, which has displays from the extensive parkland in which the Works is situated. At Kvarnbackens Pryl Museum ("Millhill Gadget Museum") one can see a large collection of diverse oddities spanning 200 years of technical development, comprising electronics gizmos, toys and diverse gadgets from the 1800's to our present day. It's always a good idea to finish off your visit to Kvarnbacken with a snack at the café or a game of minigolf in the beautiful surroundings.

In nearby Tallbo visitors can learn more about Gästrikland's famous artistic inventor, Erik "Ecke" Hedberg, in his home environment. Or, for the artistically inclined, Sandviken's Konsthall, or Art Gallery, has a wide variety of works on displays.

Music is one Sandviken's strengths. The town has a thriving musical culture with a strong folk music tradition and producing renowned Jazz bands and choirs. Students from all over Sweden study music at the Sandviken Music College. Each year Sandviken host Sandviken's Jazz Festival and the Sandviken Chamber Music Festival. Sandviken is also the home of Swedish rock star legend Thomas Ledin, who has produced many hit records in Sweden.

Winter visitors may be lucky enough to attend a "Saint Lucia" concert on the 13 th December. These are beautiful and atmospheric occasions with candlelit processions and traditional songs. The traditional of Lucia is not unique to Sandviken but it is only celebrated in Sweden and the speaking regions of Finland.

Hope you have a great visit in Sandviken!

With Kind Regards

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