



1. City of Lund

Lund, situated in the centre of the attractive and expansive Öresund region in southern Sweden, is one of the oldest cities in Sweden with a history going back more than one thousand years. The university, the science-park, the multicultural atmosphere and the historical surroundings make up a unique combination. The town has 82 800 inhabitants (as of 2010-12-31), out of a municipal total of 110 824. The city is believed to have been founded around 990, when the Scania province belonged to Denmark. Lund was a major Christian centre of the Baltic Sea region, especially Denmark throughout the Middle Ages. From 1103 it was the archiepiscopal see of Scandinavia. At the heart of the city stands the towering Lund Cathedral, built in the first half of the 12th century and inaugurated in 1145. Compared to many other Swedish cities, the town centre of Lund is well preserved as regards the street network. There are also a few surviving medieval buildings.

Today Lund University, established in 1666, is one of Scandinavia's largest institutions for education and research, with 42 000 full or part-time students. Lund has one of the largest open-air museums in the province of Scania, Kulturen. Kulturen is the second oldest open-air museum in the world and includes more than 30 buildings, as well as large collections of Scanian art, crafts, local archaeology and history.

In Lund itself, the easiest way to get around is to walk or cycle. Lund has been praised for its bicycle infrastructure. There are 5000 bike parking spaces in the town - including a multi-storey facility, and



160 km of cycle paths. 45% of the commuters travel by bicycle. There has been no increase in car usage in the last 10 years.

Lund is easily reached by bus, train or car. Malmö airport is only 30 minutes away by car and 40 minutes by bus. The Öresund Bridge - officially opened on July 1, 2000 - provides a direct link for cars and trains between Sweden and Denmark. It takes only 35 minutes to get to Copenhagen Airport by train from Lund, and Copenhagen Central Station is just another 10 minutes away.

2. The Öresund Region

The Öresund Region consists of rural as well as urban areas around Öresund, the strait that divides Sweden and Denmark. There are two metropolitan areas within the region, Greater Copenhagen and Greater Malmö. The region has a population of 3 785 429 (as of January 1, 2012) and a population density of 181/km². Areas on the periphery of the region have a relatively low population density, whereas the two metropolitan areas of Copenhagen and Malmö are among the most densely populated in Scandinavia, with approximately 2.6 million inhabitants together. Helsingborg also forms an important urban hub on the Swedish side. Although the southwest of Scania is sometimes called the Malmö-Lund area, the two cities remain distinct, geographically as well as culturally.

3. Parks and Gardens in Lund

For several centuries Lund has been known as the Green City. Since the city is surrounded by cultivated lands, however, access to nature areas is somewhat sparse compared to other Swedish cities. The city has a great variety of parks, and also cemeteries, allotment gardens, and nature areas that, along with numerous private gardens, contribute to the greenery. If you climb to the top of the Sankt Hans Hills in north and gaze out over the city, it resembles a green carpet, with rooftops protruding here and there. In several places the green areas form long belts where you can go from the city centre out into peripheral residential areas. This is also the case in the other large residential areas outside the city, which were heavily expanded during the 1960s and '70s.



This diversity of green environments is one of the municipality's greatest attractions. The three most popular parks are the City Park, Lundagård and the Botanic Garden. The City Park is Lund's parlour as well as family room, with a number of different functions and activities. People of all ages are enticed to come here to play, exercise, feast, stroll, study, sunbathe, drink coffee or just relax. The park is situated around the remains of the old city embankment, and here very high social, cultural-historic and biologic values interact. The final expansion of the City Park started with the great 1907 Industry, Handicraft and Art Exhibition in Lund. Today the park is in a process of upgrading and expanding with new functions and attractions.

Lundagård is the oldest park in the city, brimming with history and stories. The park is surrounded by the city's most important buildings – the Cathedral in the south, the University Main Building in the northwest, the Academic Society Building in the northeast, the Museum of History in the southeast, and centrally in the park stands the old Lundagård Building which dates back to the 16th century. The Lundagård area constitutes the university campus. Here the arrival of spring is celebrated by a male choir, here the carnival is celebrated every fourth year, and here many students, city dwellers and tourists pass every day. Here the city pulse can really be felt.

The Botanic Garden is a dazzling oasis with a unique abundance of species. A large number of species from all over the world have been collected here. Parts of the garden are systematically arranged for educational and scientific purposes, while others are more nature-like meadow or copse environs.

Some lawns, which are more hard-wearing, are readily used by students for picnics, studies or sunbathing. The Botanic Garden is owned and managed by the University, but it is open to the general public during the day.

As early as 1905 the first municipal allotment field was opened on Öster I. Plots of circa 120 square metres were laid out in a grid, with intermediate paths. The allotment gardeners built a small wooden cottage, often a miniature of the current style ideals. In the oldest allotment fields the plots often have a box-lined gravel walk up to the cottage, which is surrounded by flowerbeds. The front part of the plot was used for cultivation, but over the years the utility aspect has decreased. Today there are 20 allotment areas spread around the city.

The largest park project during the 60s was the Sankt Hans Hills, built on top of the city's old refuse dump. A rolling hill-landscape was created, with shrubs and hornbeam thickets planted as room delimitations, and with wide views of the plain. A continuing work to upgrade the biodiversity in the area has been running for the last fifteen years.



The late twentieth and early twenty-first century has brought a more restrictive expansion rate with smaller park areas and greenbelts. An increasing environmental awareness and understanding of the significance of greenery for well-being and health has confirmed the importance of parks and other green areas.

Surrounded by an intensely cultivated plain, the parks and greenbelts of Lund constitute important habitats for a number of species. Within the city limits there are many species whose existence is threatened in Sweden. This mainly applies to vascular plants living on so-called ruderal sites, i.e. soil exposed to constant impact; and plants usually deemed as “weeds”, and also to wood-living insects in old trees in the oldest parks.

4. Other parks and gardens in the region

The biggest and most famous parks and gardens are situated in the more densely populated western part of the Scania province. The city of Malmö has two large old parks, the Slottsparken/Kungsparken close to the old city centre, and the Pildammsparken on the site of the 1914 Baltic Exhibition. The city has restored the old manor garden at Katrinetorp, where a new botanical garden will be planted.

In Helsingborg there are several famous parks and gardens. Sofiero Castle Park, north of the city, was awarded the prestigious title of "Europe's Most Beautiful Park" in 2010. In the city, the Fredriksdal Open Air Museum and Gardens is a wonderful green lung. The Helsingborg City Park is another important green area in the city.

To the southwest of Lund, the University of Agricultural Sciences at Alnarp has a nice park with a huge collection of trees and bushes. In Landskrona, the Citadellet Allotment Gardens is one of the oldest allotment fields in Sweden and wonderfully situated on the fortification walls around the castle. Together those parks and gardens make an exciting mixture of garden heritage in southern Sweden, concentrated to an area that stretches a mere 50 km from north to south and is easily reached by public transport.



Pildammsparken in Malmö

5. Spatial Planning in Lund

In Sweden, municipalities have a “planning monopoly”. They develop comprehensive plans that cover the whole municipality and present existing functions and long term aims for land and water management. The comprehensive plan is not binding, but it is supposed to contain up-to-date guidelines for the future development, and to be renewed when necessary. The decision to renew it is made by the politicians at least once during their term of office. The detailed development plan covers parts of the municipality and is binding. This kind of plan is prepared when change is expected in a building block, part of an estate or similar. The detailed plan is decisive for building permits, and also a tool for the management of historical buildings.

There are several public interests that have to be taken into consideration within the spatial planning system. It is important that the general public, and representatives of all the different interests, have a say in the planning process. This is regulated by e.g. the system with consultive bodies in the permit process, and by the fact that the plans have to be exhibited and open for comments, protests and suchlike for a period of time before being decided upon and implemented.

6. Lund City Park in a changing world

The Lund City Park has roots going back to the 1850s and got its present form in the wake of the great 1907 Industry, Handicraft and Art Exhibition. After the exhibition, the City Council decided that Lund should have a City Park, for tourism, status and the health and wellbeing of the citizens. In 1911 the City Park was opened and in the 100 years up to the centennial in 2011 not much was changed in the park except for the trees growing bigger. The wear and tear has increased and the park has only been marginally upgraded as regards focal points and activities. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, a lot of old trees succumbed to the Dutch elm disease. Now the park is being renewed and updated to present needs. As a start, a new entrance was built in the western part, with a tree-lined plaza featuring a fountain in front of the new restaurant. The park will be extended from 10 to 15 ha by two important additions: the old astronomical observatory in the east, with its garden from the 1860s which will be reconstructed; and in its western parts, the park will be expanded with a beach volleyball field, an outdoor gym and other activity areas to improve health for all. The old trees attract rare beetles and other insects, and the park has been appointed a Natura 2000 area, which is quite

unique for a city park in Europe. This, together with the old city embankment means that there are a lot of restrictions for the upgrading work.

On the last day of April every year, students gather for a spontaneous Walpurgis party in the park. The last years there have been more than 25,000 people in the 10 hectare area. This causes a lot of wear and tear on the park.

7. Climate change mitigation

Lund City is working on a municipal Climate Change Mitigation Plan. Important issues are preparation for heavy rain and longer periods of heat during the summer. The parks and other green areas have an important role in storing water after heavy rains and cooling the city centre during warm periods.

8. Hybrid Parks

Lund City is looking forward to working with all the partners in the Hybrid Parks project, exchanging knowledge and experience, and finding inspiration from the work in different parts of Europe. The three aspects - economic, social and environmental issues - are very important to the work on public parks and gardens in Lund. We need to find ways to use our limited means more efficiently, make it easy for people to come to the green areas, and make the parks a better arena for social interaction. We also want to improve the ecological services that the green areas give us, to improve the environment and mitigate climate change. We will send politicians as well as public servants to the workshops, conferences and on study tours, and try to involve different public servants in each workshop.



9. Useful links

www.lund.se/en/

www.hybridparks.eu