

Sweden Invites the World to Experience Midsummer Through Live Streams

This year, many annual Swedish Midsummer Festivals will be canceled, due to the coronavirus pandemic. But it is still possible to experience this major Scandinavian holiday, recognizing summer and the summer solstice, through live streams from all over Sweden on Friday, June 19.



Photo: Anna Hållams/imagebank.sweden.se

To prevent the spread of the coronavirus, this year's Midsummer festivities in Sweden will look a little different. All major Midsummer events in Sweden have been canceled, but Swedes will still celebrate this special day in smaller groups, with family or close friends. In fact, this year's Midsummer will be even more special because the nationwide celebration - from Skåne in the south to Swedish Lapland in the north - will be shared with everyone through Visit Sweden's Facebook live streams. Local Swedish hosts will guide the viewer through activities and share their very personal Midsummer traditions: from their take on the infamous frog dance around the Midsummer pole to skiing under the midnight sun.

[Visit Sweden Facebook](#) Live Stream Schedule (US/Eastern Time)

5 am Flower-wreath making in [Skåne](#)

7 am Midsummer lunch in [West Sweden](#)

9 am Dancing around the Midsummer pole in [Dalarna](#)

1 pm Flower picking and evening dip in [Roslagen](#)

6 pm Midnight sun and skiing in [Swedish Lapland](#)

Midsummer Live Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/265902574468529/>

Midsummer Celebration in New York City

The Consulate General of Sweden, in collaboration with Battery Park City Authority, typically hosts the annual Swedish Midsummer Festival in New York, which is the largest official Midsummer celebration in the world outside of Sweden. This popular event, dating back to 1996 and drawing thousands of visitors every year, has been postponed until 2021. Instead, the Consulate General of Sweden will honor the Swedish tradition on social media during the week of June 15 leading up to Midsummer's Eve.

Swedish Midsummer – the Origins

In agrarian times, Midsummer celebrations in Sweden were held to welcome summertime and the season of fertility. It was not until the 1900s, however, that this became the most Swedish of all traditional festivities. Midsummer Night, one of the lightest of the year, was considered a magical night, as it was the best time for telling people's futures. Also that night, it was said, water was turned into wine and ferns into flowers. Many plants acquired healing powers on that one night of the year.

Swedish Midsummer – the Movie

Last year, many Americans had their first encounter with the tradition in Ari Aster's horror movie "Midsommar." The live streams will be a chance to see what Swedish Midsummer really is like - some may recognize the Midsummer pole and dancing, Swedes' special connection with nature as well as the light, beautiful nights.

Social Media Hashtag
[#MidsummerLive](#)

Links, Recipes and Information

- Midsummer Live Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/265902574468529/>
- Swedish Midsummer for Dummies – video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8ZLpGOOA1Q>
- Swedish Institute <https://sweden.se/culture-traditions/midsummer/>
- Strawberry Cake recipe: <https://visitsweden.com/what-to-do/food-drink/food/traditional-dish/classic-strawberry-and-cream-cake-aka-jordgubbstarta-recipe/>
- Cured salmon recipe: <https://visitsweden.com/what-to-do/food-drink/food/traditional-dish/cured-salmon-aka-gravad-lax-recipe/>
- Midsummer – step by step <https://visitsweden.com/where-to-go/middle-sweden/dalarna/midsummer-step-step/>
- Midsummer in Sweden – a cherished tradition <https://visitsweden.com/what-to-do/culture-history-and-art/swedish-traditions/midsummer-tradition/midsummer/>
- Smoked salmon and Aquavit – How to do midsummer like a Swede <https://visitsweden.com/what-to-do/culture-history-and-art/swedish-traditions/midsummer-tradition/smoked-salmon-and-aquavit-how-do-midsummer-swede/>
- Midsummer in Sweden – like something from another world <https://visitsweden.com/what-to-do/culture-history-and-art/swedish-traditions/midsummer-tradition/midsummer-sweden-something-another-world/>

Visit Sweden Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VisitSweden/>

Photos and Videos

<https://imagebank.sweden.se/my-selections/dq02imbtb> <https://contentbank.visitsweden.com/selection/60acd6b0aa7b39003bfce397089cd5be>

YouTube Links

Hero: <https://youtu.be/6SC8ccxX-44>

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/A3bpkApXoW4>

Small frogs' dance: <https://youtu.be/tz9PJb4XkmY>

Classics on the table: <https://youtu.be/UGbBPhJnkA8>

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