

Browse in style and save sustainably on your holiday in Sweden

A guide to Sweden's second-hand and 'Loppis' culture

Swedish cities are home to cool, independent shops and some of the world's best second-hand and retro stores. This guide helps visitors navigate Sweden's diverse second-hand culture and explains what the many "Loppis" signs on Sweden's country roads are all about.

Sweden is firmly anchored in second-hand shopping culture with numerous opportunities to browse for pre-owned items - be it vintage clothing, designer handbags or mid-century home accessories. According to Svensk Handel, second-hand sales are growing by 1.5 billion SEK (approx. 1 million GBP) annually. This is a guide to Sweden's most significant charity shops, curated second-hand fashion stores, private backyard flea markets and forward-thinking retail concepts focusing on sustainability.

Sweden has a long tradition of second-hand shopping. The country has a variety of eco-friendly retail stores offering second-hand, vintage, antique and items made from reclaimed materials – both fashion and beyond. Leftover stock from earlier seasons and items with minor imperfections can be purchased at specialist shops, of which there are many in Sweden. A well-known Swedish chain is [Myrorna](#), run by the Salvation Army since 1899 and with a history dating back to 1896. The green movement of the 1970s saw the consumption of second-hand items flourish among Swedes, a trend that continues to this day. Second-hand is twice as good. For example, [Beyond Retro](#), known for its diverse range of vintage clothing, has more branches in Sweden's major cities than in its home country in the UK. And in Gothenburg, you can even join a [Second Hand Safari](#).

The heart of the Swedish second-hand shopping experience is the 'Loppis' - short for Loppmarknad, or flea market. Driving through the Swedish countryside, you'll come across quite a few Loppis signs. Following one of these signs provides the perfect opportunity to mingle with locals and browse their (soon-to-be-former) possessions at yard or garage sales. The items on offer can be anything from treasures to bric-a-brac, but that's exactly what makes flea markets so appealing, isn't it? Visiting Loppisar (btw: Loppis = singular; Loppisar = plural) is something of a Swedish national sport. Swedes love to move from 'Loppis' to 'Loppis' in a day to look for charming and sometimes iconic items. The country is firmly committed to the circular economy, something reflected in the growing trend of second-hand shopping. According to a study by Svensk Handel, sales in the second-hand sector will increase by 1.5 billion Swedish kronor annually. [Röda Korset](#) (The Red Cross) operate around 260 stores nationwide and offers a wide range of furniture, household goods, books, clothing and shoes, some even with a cosy café. [Erikshjälpen](#), [PMU](#) and [Humana](#) also operate several stores throughout Sweden, as does Stadsmissionen (City Mission), whose upcycling line [Remake](#) is appreciated by Sweden's Crown Princess Victoria and others. The concept of sustainability in fashion is very important in Sweden and offers a wealth of opportunities to discover stylish and environmentally friendly clothing and furniture - from everyday items to exclusive designer pieces. Many young people buy all their furniture for their first apartment this way, giving mid-century classics, in particular, a new home. The famous String shelf designed by Nils Strinning in 1949 is a must in every Swedish apartment.

New, forward-thinking concepts are constantly emerging – like the sustainable shopping center [ReTuna](#) in Eskilstuna. On a smaller but no less inventive scale, [Kvillehyllan](#) in Gothenburg invites people to rent shelf space and sell items while staff do the selling. In Stockholm, [Slow Fashion Hub](#) offers circular services such as clothing rental, redesign and alterations in addition to second-hand shopping. It is part of the [Slow Fashion District](#), an area with around twenty shops, including [Green Little Heart](#) [. which acts as a sustainable marketplace and provides a platform for brands such as Abloom Collection](#), which specialises in remakes. Stockholm's Slow Fashion District has just been named by TIME as one of the [world's hundred best places in 2024](#), highlighting its commitment to sustainability and innovation in the fashion industry. For targeted browsing of curated preloved fashion treasures there are specialist second-hand fashion stores. [Arkivet](#) in Stockholm and Gothenburg offers contemporary second-hand clothing and accessories in a boutique style, with brands such as Dagmar, COS, Filippa K and Acne Studios represented. Similarly, [Ninas Nuggets](#) and Birgitta K extend the life of their consignment pieces. Those looking for luxury pieces should head to [Affordable Luxury](#) in Stockholm's Östermalm, where you'll find bags, accessories, watches and jewellery from brands such as Celine, Chanel, Dior, Louis Vuitton and Gucci. In Jämtland, check out [Brukat](#) in Östersund, while [Uma](#) in Umeå offers a selection of cool vintage items - from varsity jackets and graphic t-shirts to classic Levi's jeans. Even stores whose primary focus is on new goods offer carefully selected second-hand fashion sections. [Aplace](#) is one of Sweden's leading independent multi-brand retail concepts, with stores in Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö, where preloved items are offered alongside current designer fashion pieces such as Rodebjer, Filippa K and Hope.

More information about shopping can be found here: <https://visitsweden.de/aktivitaten/shopping/shopping-in-stockholm-malmo-goteborg/>

Press images: <https://imagebank.sweden.se/my-selections/oi9ucj3m5>

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