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A 600km Window into the Wild: New Direct Rail Route Unlocks the Entirety of Western Sweden

On June 15th, 2026, Snälltåget will launch a new direct rail service spanning nearly 600 kilometres along the length of Sweden´s west coast. This route offers travellers a dramatic geographical transformation, transitioning from the oceanic agricultural plains of the south to the rugged, pine-dense wilderness of the northern border. Designed for the "slow travel" market, the 6.5-hour journey serves as a comprehensive "window-seat guide" to southern Sweden´s diverse landscape.



Snälltåget passes through Sweden´s forest. Credit: Snälltåget (Download)

The Three Stages of the West Sweden Rail Corridor

The journey is defined by three distinct geographical stages, each offering unique heritage sites and natural landmarks observable directly from the train. To maximise the experience, locals and experts recommend specific seating strategies for each leg.

- **Stage 1: The South & West Coast Line (Malmö to Gothenburg)**
  - **The Geography:** Flat, open agricultural plains transitioning into coastal wetlands, sandy bays, and heather-covered fields.
  - **Window Strategy:** Sit on the **left (west) side** for coastal views and the **right (east) side** for historic landmarks.
  - **Key Sights:** The twin stone towers of the 12th-century **Lund Cathedral** (right), the 8.7km **Hallandsås Tunnel** (the gateway to Halland), the windsurfing hub of **Apelviken Bay** (left), and the 13th-century **Varberg Fortress** perched on a rocky cliff (left).
- **Stage 2: The Göta Älv Valley & Great Lakes (Gothenburg to Mellerud)**
  - **The Geography:** Wide river valleys and industrial heritage skirting the oceanic horizons of Lake Vänern.
  - **Window Strategy:** Sit on the **right (east) side** for the best lake and river views.
  - **Key Sights:** The **Gothenburg Skyline** and Liseberg's roller coasters (left), the mossy ruins of the 14th-century **Bohus Fortress** (left), and the **Karl's Grave Canal** in Trollhättan. A major highlight is **Lake Vänern**, Europe's third-largest lake, where, near Vänersborg, the landscape opens up, and water stretches all the way to the horizon, looking exactly like an open ocean.
- **Stage 3: The Dalsland Wilderness Plateau (Mellerud to Kornsjö Border)**
  - **The Geography:** A sharp turn inland into ancient taiga forests, sheer granite cuts, and deep glacial finger lakes.
  - **Window Strategy:** Both sides offer spectacular views as the train crosses narrow land bridges.
  - **Key Sights:** The **"Granite Canyons,"** where the tracks are blasted directly through vertical grey stone. In **Ed**, the train rolls along a high ridge with elevated views of **Lake Stora Le**, eventually crossing narrow embankments through the crystal-clear waters of **Mellan Kornsjön**.



Experience nature close-up in Dalsland, wild and genuine. Credit: Henrik Trygg/Westsweden.com (Download)

Easy Connections from Across Europe

The new Malmö–Oslo rail route is easily accessible by both train and air, offering travellers a seamless way to explore southern and western Scandinavia.

By Rail

Travellers from across Europe can connect to Sweden via Hamburg, one of northern Europe's major rail hubs. Since March 2026, Snälltåget's overnight train between Germany and Sweden has operated year-round, six days a week, linking Berlin and Hamburg with Malmö. In May 2026, Snälltåget also launched a new daytime service connecting Hamburg, Malmö and Stockholm, providing an additional rail option for European travellers.

Passengers arriving in Malmö can transfer directly to the new Malmö–Oslo service and continue their journey through Skåne and West Sweden towards Norway.

By Air

Malmö Airport offers direct connections to a growing number of European destinations, including London, Warsaw, Zagreb, Skopje, Tuzla, Tirana, Belgrade, Podgorica, Cluj-Napoca and Iași, as well as domestic services from Stockholm.

For even greater connectivity, travellers can fly into Copenhagen Airport, Scandinavia's largest international gateway, and reach Malmö in around 30 minutes by train or car via the Öresund Bridge.

Together, these rail and air links make the new route one of the easiest ways to experience two Nordic countries in a single journey.

Authentic Regional Dining: The Krogen Experience

The "Krogen" restaurant car serves as a culinary introduction to the Skåne region, intentionally moving away from standard rail catering to offer a high-quality "slow travel" experience. Unlike the pre-packaged options common on standard rail journeys, Krogen features a menu that emphasises local provenance, with dishes and drinks produced in the region clearly identified for passengers. Prices start at SEK 199. (Photo: Veronika Hohenstein/Visit Sweden)



A Menu Rooted in Local Provenance

The culinary experience is designed to showcase the flavours of southern Sweden through a combination of traditional classics and contemporary regional options, including, for example:

- **Signature Swedish Classics:** Passengers can enjoy **traditional** Swedish meatballs served with mashed potatoes and lingonberries, or the iconic Snälltåget shrimp sandwich on rye bread.
- **Contemporary Regional Options:** The menu includes a selection of Danish-inspired smørrebrød, BBQ pulled beef with roasted root vegetables, and a feta-filled beef patty served with potato gratin.
- **Plant-Based and Seafood Alternatives:** Options include a vegan dish of **black rice with** chickpeas and roasted sweet potato, as well as a salad featuring chilli-marinated shrimps with saffron bulgur and mango.
- **The Swedish 'Fika':** True to Swedish tradition, travellers can enjoy a cinnamon bun paired with organic coffee from Zoégas, one of Sweden's most established roasters.

Showcasing West Sweden's Craft Producers

The focus on regionality extends to the drinks menu, which features craft products from local specialists:

- **Local Breweries:** Draught and bottled beers are sourced from Hyllie Bryggeri and Sibbarps Bryggeri.
- **Speciality Spirits & Soft Drinks:** A standout choice is the Gin & Tonic, made with gin distilled in Malmö and tonic from Österlen, alongside Kullamust apple drinks.

Frequently Asked Questions for Travellers

How do you book this train journey? Tickets must be booked for specific dates and seats via the Snälltåget platform, as reservations are mandatory. For those using an Interrail or Eurail Global Pass, the journey is covered, but a separate seat reservation (approx. €5) must be purchased for each leg of the trip to ensure availability.

What makes the dining experience on this train different from standard rail journeys? Travel experts and frequent passengers note that Krogen is designed as a destination in itself rather than a convenience stop. With its cosy atmosphere, fair prices, and genuinely friendly staff, the carriage encourages passengers to relax and enjoy the "slow travel" philosophy—where the journey through the shifting Swedish landscape is the primary experience.

Is there a specific dining car for this route? Yes, the "Krogen" car is a dedicated restaurant carriage where you can sit and eat while forests, fields, and coastal landscapes drift by outside. Because the service is a direct 6.5-hour journey, passengers can enjoy a full meal without the need to switch platforms or trains.

Can you hop on and hop off the service? While not a flexible hop-on-hop-off service on a single ticket, travellers can book two separate "point-to-point" tickets (e.g., Malmö to Gothenburg and Gothenburg to the border) to allow for a stopover. Note that the train calls at **Mölndal** and **Gamlestaden** hubs rather than Gothenburg Central.

What is the best way to see Skåne and West Sweden by train? Locals recommend this specific route for its "window-seat guide" to Sweden's changing geography. For maximum flexibility, travellers can use an **Interrail Global Pass**. Pass holders must still book mandatory seat reservations (approx. €5) in advance.

Resources and Media Assets

- **Official Press Release:** Snälltåget Line Launch
- **Press images:**

  Dalsland - https://vastsverige.mediaflowportal.com/search/?Dalsland
  Trollhättan - https://vastsverige.mediaflowportal.com/search/?Trollh%C3%A4ttan
  Göta Älv - https://share.mediaflow.com/se/?DDMB6ZZ3SZ
  Lund/Varberg/Halland/Skåne - https://imagebank.sweden.se/my-selections/1ptwwj8nvj

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