

# Welcome to Upplands Väsby





### Hometown of the Vikings

The first people came to live in Upplands Väsby about 2,500 years ago.

During the Viking Age (800-1050 CE), this was the site of “Svitjod,” the powerful realm that existed before Sweden was formed, several hundred years before Stockholm was founded.

The Vikings left many rune stones behind them: remarkable upright stones carved with tidings and messages.

Upplands Väsby is one of the three municipalities in Sweden with the most rune stones – there are 76 rune carvings here, either complete or fragments. With 15 intact or partial rune stones, Fresta Church is the site of the most rune stones in a single place in the world.

Rune stones tell the stories of Viking journeys. Many Viking expeditions went eastward to Russia and to Istanbul in Turkey, but also as far away as Baghdad, Iraq.

A silver treasure was found in Upplands Väsby in 1827 that included hundreds of Arabic silver coins from Baghdad and Damascus.

This shows that Upplands Väsby has had trade connections with Iraq for more than a thousand years.



### Strategic location

The geographical position of Upplands Väsby is one of the main reasons people and companies choose to put down roots here.

Many foreign-owned companies are choosing Upplands Väsby as their base in Sweden and the Nordic region.

Upplands Väsby has also become a hub in the northern Stockholm region for transport connections to the rest of the world.

It is an easy trip from the main station in central Upplands Väsby to Sweden’s capital city of Stockholm, as well as to Arlanda International Airport and the university town of Uppsala.

Stockholm and Arlanda are only 15 minutes away, thanks to the fast motorway that goes through Upplands Väsby.

As the northern gateway to Stockholm, Upplands Väsby enjoys a superb strategic location.



### International commerce

There are 158 foreign-owned companies in Upplands Väsby. The superb location between Arlanda and Stockholm has helped make Upplands Väsby one of the municipalities in Sweden with the highest number of multinational companies.

Major multinational companies that have chosen to have their Swedish head offices in Upplands Väsby include Kraft Foods, Siemens, Dell Computers, Samsung and Xerox.

Several companies from Upplands Väsby have achieved world renown in their respective industries. Öhlins Racing, Ur & Penn and Pahléns are but a few examples of these successful companies.

Upplands Väsby is one of the most business-friendly municipalities in Sweden. More than 3,300 companies – with a total workforce of 14,500 people – do business here.

More than 1,000 companies in Upplands Väsby operate in the trade and communications sectors. Other major industries include manufacturing, health services, financial services and business operations.

More than 250 new companies are registered in Upplands Väsby every year – proof that Upplands Väsby is home to many colourful, optimistic entrepreneurs.



### International citizens

Upplands Väsby welcomes international citizens and the percentage of the population who are of foreign origin is higher than the average for Sweden.

Upplands Väsby has a total population of 38,055 (as of 31 December 2007).

Almost one third of the population of Upplands Väsby – more than 11,000 people – are of foreign origin, and 21.6 percent were born in another country. The corresponding figure for Sweden is 13 percent.

The international citizens of Upplands Väsby come mainly from the following countries:

Finland	3,686 people
Iran	1,293 people
Iraq	607 people
Turkey	534 people
Chile	480 people

(31 December 2007)



### The sporting municipality

There are more than 50 sports clubs in Upplands Väsby, making Upplands Väsby one of the foremost municipalities in Sweden for sports.

Athletes from Upplands Väsby have won many medals in the Olympic Games, World Championships, European Championships and Swedish Championships over the years.

The largest sports clubs in the municipality are devoted to football, ice hockey and swimming.

Vilunda Park – the sports centre of Upplands Väsby – features a football and athletics arena, two ice hockey rinks, an indoor swim centre, two gymnasiums, several ball fields and a lighted fitness track.

A new swimming and aquatic recreation centre is currently under construction in Vilunda Park – the first phase in a major expansion of the park.



### Expansive building

The expansion of the modern small city in the central areas of Upplands Väsby is starting to take shape. Residents in these areas are within walking distance of public transport services, shops, restaurants, cinemas and countryside.

New and attractive housing, often with stunning architecture, is going to be built in several areas. Without a doubt, one of the most intriguing areas will be on the shore of Lake Mälaren.

The community of Upplands Väsby began to emerge in the districts surrounding the railway station in the early 1900s. Planning is currently in progress for expansion of the area, which will include new homes and commercial premises for shops and companies. The city plan also includes a new upper secondary school with a modern library and other arts and cultural spaces, along with a new travel centre to provide for increasing travel to and from Upplands Väsby.

A new area featuring office space, hotels, and commercial space for bulk trade and consumer goods is being planned for Infra City West.

Upplands Väsby is in a highly expansive period and welcomes new companies, new citizens and investors with open arms.



### **Upplands Väsby – expansive and international**

There are many reasons Upplands Väsby enjoys such a fine position. One is that Upplands Väsby is only 15 minutes away from Arlanda International Airport and 15 minutes away from central Stockholm. Another is that Upplands Väsby is a place in Sweden where many multinational companies have chosen to establish operations. Citizens from many other countries also live here. Almost one third of the people who live here are of foreign origin. A great many active people also make their way to Upplands Väsby, where sports are important. There are more than 50 active sports clubs and many successful athletes here. Upplands Väsby is an expansive municipality that is investing in the future. New workplaces and new housing are going to continue attracting many businesses and people to settle here. We hope you will join us too!



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