



Gothenburg in winter: What to do? Our tips for preparing your trip

By Floriane

Wondering what you **should see and do in Gothenburg in winter**?

In this article, we focus on typical **winter** activities in Gothenburg. We also tell you what you need to pack to withstand the cold.

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Sommaire détaillé

- [What to do in Gothenburg in winter](#)
- [Christmas markets in Gothenburg in December](#)
- [Ice skating in the heart of the city](#)
- [Museums to visit](#)
- [Take a Fika break](#)
- [Gothenburg in winter temperatures](#)
- [Where to sleep in Gothenburg](#)

What to do in Gothenburg in winter

From the very first days of December, the city is gearing up for the festive season. Then in January and February, Christmas markets give way to winter activities. Here's a list of the most important things to do in winter.

- Christmas markets
- Ice skating
- Take a Fika break
- Take a Nordic bath in one of the many public saunas
- Enjoy the museums

Christmas markets in Gothenburg in December

When December rolls around, Gothenburg is transformed into a veritable Christmas village. At the heart of this transformation are the Christmas markets, an essential

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part of Swedish culture.

Liseberg

It's impossible to talk about Christmas in Gothenburg without mentioning the Liseberg Christmas Market, one of the biggest in Scandinavia. From mid-November onwards, the famous amusement park is transformed into a winter wonderland, where over five million lights illuminate the Swedish night.

As you stroll through this enchanting setting, you'll discover a multitude of stalls selling handmade products, sweets and, of course, the traditional glögg, a spicy mulled wine that warms you up.

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Haga and Kronhuset markets

While Liseberg is the biggest Christmas market, the one in the **Haga** district and the Kronhuset market in the city center are no less charming. The historic Haga district, with its cobbled streets and wooden houses, offers an intimate and picturesque setting for a Christmas market. Here, the emphasis is on local crafts and Swedish specialties.

Ice skating in the heart of the city

As in [Stockholm in winter](#), one of the most popular winter activities is ice skating. In Gothenburg, several open-air ice rinks offer everyone the chance to enjoy this classic activity in a magical setting. The most popular is at the Liseberg amusement park.

If you prefer an indoor rink to watch field hockey matches, a very popular sport in Sweden, the Frölundaborg rink, south of Gothenburg, is an option to consider.

Museums to visit

Gothenburg is home to a number of museums that are well worth a visit, especially when the cold weather sets in.

- **Göteborgs Konstmuseum**, Göteborg's Museum of Fine Arts, is a must-see for art lovers. Located at the top of Avenyn, this museum boasts an impressive collection of paintings and sculptures, ranging from classical works to contemporary creations.
- **Universeum** is another must-see. This interactive museum, Scandinavia's largest science center, will delight young and old alike. Its exhibits cover a wide range of themes, from the natural sciences to technology and space.

Other museums worth a visit include the **Göteborgs Stadsmuseum** (**Gothenburg City Museum**), which traces the city's history.

Take a Fika break

Fika is a Swedish tradition, and in [Stockholm](#) and Gothenburg there's no shortage of cafés where you can take a break and warm up with a good cup of coffee and pastries. In winter, fika takes on an even cosier dimension, with festively decorated cafés offering hot drinks and seasonal delicacies.

Here are our coffee recommendations:

- **[Da Matteo](#)** This artisanal café offers excellent coffee, roasted on site, as well as freshly baked pastries. Their sourdough bread and cardamom buns are particularly delicious.
- **[Kafé Magasinet](#)** located in an old inner courtyard, with a rustic, friendly atmosphere. Their selection of cakes and pastries is the perfect accompaniment to a hot glögg or coffee.

Sweden is brimming with cute little cafés, and here are our top picks for [Malmö](#) and [Uppsala](#), north of Stockholm.

The [Gothenburg archipelago](#) can only be visited in summer. However, some cruises are still open to the [Stockholm archipelago](#).

Gothenburg in winter temperatures

Gothenburg's winter climate is typically Scandinavian, with cold temperatures and often humid air. Although it snows every winter, the city's seaside location means it enjoys a mild climate.

Here's a month-by-month overview of average temperatures to help you plan your stay.

- **December:** Temperatures in December generally range from -1°C to 4°C. Days are short, with only a few hours of daylight a day, and the first snow can appear as early as the beginning of the month.

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- **January:** January is often the coldest month, with temperatures fluctuating between -3°C and 2°C. It's also the period when snow is most frequent, creating a typical winter landscape.
- **February:** February temperatures start to rise slightly, with averages ranging from -2°C to 3°C. Although snow may still fall, the days start to lengthen, offering a little more light.

These temperatures mean it's important to dress warmly, especially if you plan to spend time outdoors exploring the city or taking part in winter activities.

If you prefer warmer temperatures, we recommend [Lake Como in winter](#).

What to pack in your suitcase

Here are a few essentials to keep in mind:

- **Warm, waterproof clothing:** Temperatures can drop below freezing,

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especially in the evening. Choose clothing made of wool or technical materials that retain heat, as well as a well-insulated, waterproof coat.

- **Layers of clothing:** Layering is key to adapting to temperature variations between outdoors and indoors. Thermal underwear, a wool sweater and a warm jacket are a good idea.
- **Winter accessories:** Don't forget gloves, a hat, scarf and wool socks to keep your extremities warm.
- **Suitable footwear:** Waterproof boots with good grip are essential for walking in snow or on slippery sidewalks.
- **Cold weather products:** A good moisturizer, lip balm and hand lotion will help protect your skin from the dry cold.

This equipment helped us get through the cold of [Trondheim at Christmas](#) and [Bergen in winter](#), two cities even further north.

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Where to sleep in Gothenburg

Wondering where **to stay in Gothenburg** to make the most of your stay? To get the most out of your stay, we recommend you choose the downtown area, the Haga district or the Olivedal district for budget hotels.

Coup de coeur ♥

[Hotel Flora](#) **downtown** (the best area to sleep in, in our opinion): the hotel's location is perfect for visiting **central** Gothenburg on foot. Rooms are spacious and clean. It's excellent **value for money, with breakfast**, where you'll feel right at home.

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Low cost €

[Linnéplatsens Hotell & Vandrarhem](#) is a beautifully decorated youth hostel, certainly **the best value for money in Gothenburg**, located in the residential district of Olivedal (southwest of Gothenburg). Cleanliness and tranquility are the order of the day, and access to the city center is easy, with the tramway at the foot of the hotel.

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[See prices and availability](#)

We thank you for reading all the way through, we hope we have answered all your questions. Do not hesitate to leave us a note below to tell us if you are planning this trip, or to ask any questions you may have, we will answer you with great pleasure! If you liked this article, feel free to drop 5 stars below.

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