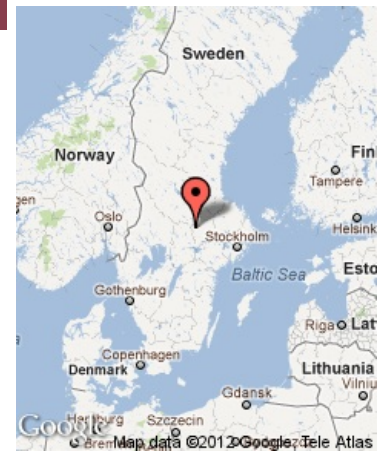


# Winter Wolf Tracking Tour in Sweden



## Highlights

**Gazing at the starry night, miles away from civilisation and howling back and forth with the wolves. This winter wolf tracking trip is, without doubt, a unique experience which you'll remember for the rest of your days!**

Despite being a protected species across Europe, the continent's wolf population is dwindling. With the 'big bad wolf' reputation that they were labelled by fairy stories, these shy and elusive creatures have been ruthlessly hunted throughout the centuries. In Sweden, there are just 200 of these mysterious animals left and given their nocturnal nature, it seems unlikely that many of us will ever get the chance to come face to face with one.

This tour takes you out into the Swedish wilderness, getting as close as possible to these extraordinary creatures. Your 3 day trip begins with a group dinner and then a late night trip out into wild wolf territory, to listen out for the howls of the wolves. The following morning starts with more wolf watching, this time with the hope of seeing the elusive creatures, possibly running across the ice. During the day, there is also a fascinating lecture on wolves at the Grimso Wildlife Research Station. Founded in 1974, the centre was opened with the express intention of monitoring and preserving some of Sweden's rarest natural predators. The renowned field experts will give you an in depth lecture about the fascinating and elusive Swedish wolf. In the afternoon, it's back to the wilds of the forest, where your guide will take you for some more wolf tracking and then an outdoor dinner around a campfire, while you listen out for more wolves from the depths of the forest.

Wolf sightings cannot be guaranteed, but whether you see one or not, this promises to be a once in a lifetime adventure!

## Is it for me?

The tour is run in the winter, so you will need to make sure you have appropriate clothing for the weather conditions. There are some very early mornings and some very late nights, so come prepared for not much sleep! There is a fair bit of hiking involved over some uneven terrain - you can expect to hike about 1 - 3 hours each day, sometimes also at night, so a reasonable level of fitness will be required. The minimum age for participants is 12, with a maximum of 8 participants per guide (the most participants in a group will be 15)

All food is included in the price. One of your meals will be eaten around an outdoor fire in the forest whilst listening for wolves.

## Accommodation

This tour includes 2 nights lodging at a guesthouse. There are a few guesthouses to choose from, and the guide will decide exactly where you are staying based on the wildlife situation.

You can choose between double or twin rooms. Some of the guesthouses have private bathrooms and some have shared facilities.


## Itinerary

Prices from

**406** GBP (3 days) per person

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#### Day 1 Arrival day with late night

Meet up with your guide at the guesthouse in the afternoon. You sit down for some information about the tour as well as an introduction to the Swedish wildlife. Have dinner together before heading out to Wolf territory and listen for Wolf howling until late at night. Night at guesthouse.

#### Day 2 Early morning, research station and late night

Get up early before sunrise and travel together to a lake or a bog where you will have a chance to see Wolves running across the ice. Your guide will bring coffee and warm drinks as you watch out as the night turns into day. You then return to the guesthouse for breakfast. Later during the day you visit Grimsö Wildlife Research Station where you are welcomed by one of Sweden's foremost Wolf researchers who gives an in-depth lecture on Wolves. Later in the afternoon, you head out to the nearby Wolf territory for tracking and watching. There will be an outdoor dinner by the fire and then you will spend another late night watching and listening for Wolves. Night at guesthouse.

#### Day 3 Departure day

Depending on what happened during the night you might get up early in the morning for some more watching. After breakfast you conclude the tour, pack your bags and depart after a real adventure in the Wolf territory.

### Details

#### Getting there

This tour is based in the Bergslagen forest, which is near to the town of Skinnskattenberg.

If you are coming from the UK, you will need to fly to Stockholm and then transfer to Skinnskattenberg either by train, or by hiring a car and driving. Once you are on the tour, you will not need a car, as you will be transported in a minivan.

You have three choices of airport; Stockholm Arlanda, Stockholm - Vasteras, or Stockholm Skavsta

Stockholm-Arlanda airport (ARN) is the the main airport with Worldwide connections. Located 20 minutes from Stockholm City, 2 hours from Skinnskatteberg by car (3 hours by train)

Stockholm-Västerås airport (VST) is a small airport with RyanAir connections to London Stanstead. Located 1 hour from Stockholm City, 45 minutes from Skinnskatteberg by car. (2 hours by train)

Stockholm-Skavsta airport (NYO) is a small airport with several budget airline connections to many European cities. Located 1.5 hour from Stockholm City, 3 hours from Skinnskatteberg by car (3.5 hours by train)

This tour itself starts and ends at a guest house in the Bergslagen forest, you will need to arrive at the guest house between 2-5 pm. Directions to the guesthouse will be given at the time of booking. If you arrive by public transport, you can be picked up at Skinnskatteberg station for a 15 minutes transfer.

#### Price includes

Guided tour, visit to wildlife centre and lecture, full board (from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 3) and 2 nights accommodation.

Not Included: Insurance, alcohol, transfer to and from the tour.

#### When is best

January-March is usually good for Wolf tracking and watching.

#### Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

#### Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed

#### Travellers should bring

Outdoor clothing for hiking (please avoid bright colors and rustling/noisy materials) Winter clothing (3-layers: thermal underwear, insulation layer in fleece or wool, shell layer by warm jacket and trousers) Extra pair of socks (in case you get wet) Warm hat, socks and gloves (designed for temperatures down to -20 C degrees) Warm waterproof Winter boots (at least medium high boots, can be stored in our minivan) Rain proof clothing (full set with hood) Camera (turn off any sounds) Binoculars (at least 8x) Head lamp (with new batteries) Thermos (for hot drinks) Snacks