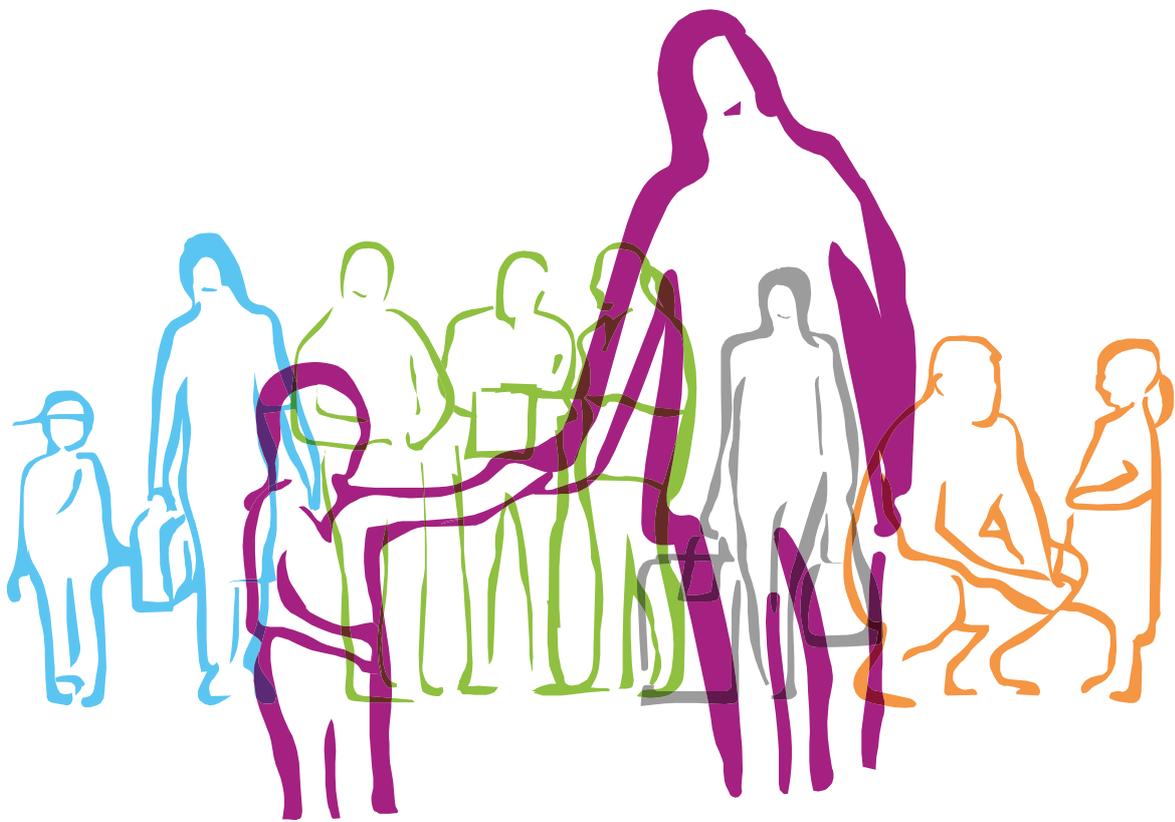


Information for Asylum Seekers on Gotland



Gotland – Sweden’s Biggest Island

Gotland is Sweden’s biggest island, located in the Baltic Sea. Just over 57,300 people live permanently on Gotland. The island is around 170 km long and 50 km wide. Gotland is a popular place to visit, and welcomes a large amount of tourists every year, mainly from Sweden, but from other parts of the world as well.

You can get to and from Gotland by ferry or plane. On Gotland, it’s easiest to travel by public transport, car or taxi.

Towns and Villages on Gotland

The biggest town is Visby. Places like Klintehamn, Fårösund, Hemse and Slite provide the most basic services, such as grocery shops, pharmacies, banks, schools, libraries and so on.

More information about Gotland: www.gotland.se/statistik

Region Gotland

Region Gotland handles childcare, schools, care for the elderly, libraries, water and drainage, public transport and healthcare. Region Gotland also works with issues concerning Gotland’s future. Work is governed by laws and political decisions.

More information about Region Gotland in several languages:
www.gotland.se/andrasprak

Public Preschool and Preschool Class

Children in Sweden can attend preschool from the age of 1. Operations lay the foundation for lifelong learning, and shall be fun, safe and educational for all participating children. Children learn by playing, creating and exploring – on their own, in groups, and with adults.

Asylum-seeking children aged 3 – 5 have the right to attend public preschool 15 hours per week, free of charge, between September 1st and May 31st. The preschool head makes the decision as to how the hours are distributed across the week.

As an asylum seeker, you cannot apply for a permanent, full-time place at preschool. This requires you to have been granted a temporary or permanent residence permit. When the child turns 6, he or she can start preschool class, which involves preparatory school activities. Preschool and preschool class are both voluntary.

More information: www.gotland.se/forskolapedagogiskomsorg

Open Preschool

Open preschool is a pedagogical operation which is open to stay-at-home parents of children aged 0 – 6. Play, singing and creative activities in groups take centre stage. Operations are designed to suit the needs of the children and the adults. There are open preschools in two places on Gotland: Visby and Hemse. Visitors determine when and how often they want to participate themselves.

More information: www.gotland.se/oppenforskola

Compulsory School

Children in Sweden aged 7 – 16 attend compulsory school, which is compulsory from year 1 to 9. All asylum seekers and newly arrived children of compulsory school age have the right to attend compulsory school in the municipality where they live. Before the child can start school, his or her background, knowledge and abilities are assessed, so that education can be adapted to suit the student's needs. On Gotland, there are international classes at a few compulsory schools, where students learn Swedish while taking all other school subjects. When the students know enough Swedish, they transfer to a normal class.

Students with a native language other than Swedish are entitled to study their mother tongue. The purpose of teaching mother tongue is to give the students the opportunity to develop their own language, which promotes their bilingualism.

More information: www.gotland.se/grundskola

Upper Secondary School and Adult Education

Date: 2015-11-19

Upper Secondary School

Following compulsory school, most young people go to upper secondary school for a further three years. There are higher education preparatory programmes – for students who want to go on to further studies at university, and vocational programmes – for students who want to start working straight away following upper secondary school. Gotland has one municipal upper secondary school; Wisbygymnasiet, and one independent upper secondary school; Guteskolan.

Newly arrived young people who have been granted a permanent residence permit have the right to begin their upper secondary schooling before the end of the spring term in the year they turn 20 – for asylum-seeking young people, it's before they turn 18. Newly arrived and asylum-seeking students are offered language introduction – education focussing on the Swedish language, making it possible to qualify for, and move on to, other regular education.

To begin a national upper secondary school programme, the student must have passing grades in Swedish/Swedish as a Second Language, Maths and English, for instance. After a person has turned 20, there is the option of taking upper secondary school education as adult education. Upper secondary school students are entitled to learn their mother tongue if they have a language other than Swedish, and if that language is used at home daily. A student can also get study counselling in their mother tongue if they need it.

More information: www.gotland.se/gymnasieskola

Adult Education

There are many opportunities to study on Gotland. Folk High Schools and municipal Adult Education provide both compulsory and upper secondary school education, as well as courses for certain vocations. There are also universities on Gotland with many courses and education programmes. To be able to study in Sweden, you need a residence permit. Adults who have been granted asylum and who are registered as living on Gotland can study Swedish within SFI at Gotland's Competence Centre.

More information: www.gotland.se/gymvux

About Swedish School

There is information about the Swedish school system translated into many languages, e.g. English, Arabic, Dari and Tigrinya.

You can find this information on www.omsvenskaskolan.se

Asylum-seeking, hidden, and paperless children

Children and young people under the age of 18 shall receive healthcare and dental care on the same terms as all other children and young people residing in the county council where they seek care. Most county councils and regions don't charge a fee for children and young people under the age of 18.

Asylum-seeking, hidden, and paperless adults

Adult asylum seekers (who have turned 18) receive healthcare and dental care that can't wait. This also applies to maternity care, abortion care and contraception advice. The care provider decides whether or not the care can wait.

Right to an Interpreter

If you don't understand Swedish, you may be entitled to help from a language interpreter when receiving healthcare or dental care. This is free. You or your representative must inform us before the visit as to whether or not you need an interpreter. The interpreter can be present on-site or work over the phone.

Health Exam

All asylum-seeking adults and children shall be offered a health exam, free of charge. The health exam shall be performed as soon as possible following arrival in Sweden.

At the health exam, you'll meet a doctor or nurse who will check your health, perform tests to see if you have any infectious diseases, and inform you as to how the healthcare system works. This is done so that you can receive the care and treatment that you need.

LMA card/Receipt of Asylum Application

It's important that you always bring your LMA card or receipt of asylum application to all healthcare appointments.

If You Need Care

You can get advice on care or find your nearest care centre on www.1177.se/gotland or by phone, 1177.

Dial 112 in cases of life-threatening injury or illness.

More information: www.1177.se/Gotland/Regler-och-rattigheter/Vard-i-Sverige-om-man-ar-asylsokande/

Public Transport

Public transport runs on large parts of Gotland. There are buses from and to most of the bigger villages on the island. You can bring a pram or wheelchair on buses.

On Gotland, there is a local transportation service, operating as a complement to public transport. You will be picked up by car at your home, and travel to the nearest village with services according to the timetable. It's possible to travel by the local transportation service twice per week. For each occasion, you can spend two to three hours in the village, before travelling home again.

If there is room, you can travel with the school buses that take students to school. You will pay the same price as on the regular bus.

Tickets

Bus tickets can be bought on the bus, using the Ridango app, on Region Gotland's website, and at the tourist office by Donners Plats in Visby, for instance. If you want to buy a ticket on the bus, you must pay using cash.

The ticket for the local transportation service is paid for in the car. You can pay using cash or card. The price is the same as for a single bus ticket.

"Bussiga kortet" – a Bus Card for Children and Young People

Children and young people travel for free in rural areas until June 30th the year they turn 20. Bus cards for asylum-seeking children are given out by the school.

More information about bus tickets and times: www.gotland.se/kollektivtrafiken

Culture and Leisure

Gotland has a rich culture and leisure offering. Dance, swimming, music, football and theatre are examples of things to do. You're welcome to become part of the community!

More information: www.gotland.se/kulturfritid

Libraries

Our libraries, where you can borrow books for all ages, read newspapers, and get access to computers for free, can be found across the whole island. On Gotland, you don't need a Swedish national registration number to borrow books.

Language Cafés

Many libraries offer language cafés to which everyone is welcome. At the language cafés, you can meet other people who live on Gotland, and start learning Swedish in a pleasant atmosphere. We provide the coffee!

Swimming Pools

There are a number of swimming pools across Gotland. The municipal baths are in Visby, Roma and Hemse.

Youth Recreation Centres

For young people, there are a number of youth recreation centres placed across the whole island. The centres are aimed at young people aged 13 – 19, and have a rich activity offering. Those who are aged 16 – 25 are welcome to visit the Fenix Young Culture House in Visby. Our youth operations are completely free of charge.

Playgrounds

There are playgrounds for big and small children alike across Gotland.

More information and a playground map: www.gotland.se/lekplatser

"Hälsans Stig" – The Path of Health

The Path of Health is a pleasant walking and exercising path. You can find it in Visby, Fårösund and Hemse.

More information: www.gotland.se/halsansstig

Important Phone Numbers

Region Gotland

Region Information, telephone 0498 26 90 00.

Emergency Number 112

Call the emergency number 112 to save lives and property – but only if it's really serious.

With a call to 112, you'll reach the ambulance service, the on-call doctor, rescue services and the police.

1177 Care Guide

1177 is a national phone number for healthcare advice that you can call 24/7.

Useful Links

www.informationsverige.se

Social information for new arrivals. The information is translated into Arabic, Dari, English, Persian, Somali and Tigrinya.

www.sweden.se

Facts and articles about Sweden in English, French, German, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic

www.dinsakerhet.se

Information about how you can prevent accidents and what to do in crisis situations – information in 66 languages

www.8sidor.se

News in easy-to-understand Swedish.

www.sverigesradio.se/International

Radio news in several languages.