

Disposition of Remains Report- Sweden

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Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services Available to Visitors

Country Profile: [Host Country Religion, Sweden](#)

Religions

According to the Church of Sweden (Lutheran), approximately 64.3 percent of citizens are members. According to government statistics and estimates of religious groups, other Christian groups, including the Roman Catholic Church, the Pentecostal movement, the Missionary (or Missions) Church, Jehovah's Witnesses, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), total less than 7 percent of the population. Researchers estimate that approximately 4.5 percent of the population is Muslim. According to the Official Council of Swedish Jewish Communities, Jews number approximately 20,000 and live mostly in large cities.

Smaller religious communities are mainly concentrated in larger cities and include Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, Zoroastrians, and members of the Church of Scientology, Word of Faith, International Society for Krishna Consciousness (Hare Krishnas), and the Unification Church.

Religious Activities for Visitors

English language religious services are available in the Stockholm area for members of most denominations and religions. Please see the list below and explore the linked websites for more information:

Buddhist:

- <https://www.meetup.com/Meditation-and-Tibetan-Buddhism-Stockholm/>
- <http://www.diamondway-buddhism.org/diamondway-buddhist-centers/country/sweden/>
- <https://www.meetup.com/Buddhist-Meditation-in-Stockholm/>

Christian:

- <http://www.sanktaeugenia.se/>
- http://www.ics-stockholm.se/International_Church_of_Stockholm.html
- <http://www.stockholmanglicans.se/>
- <https://www.immanuel.se/international/>
- <http://stockholmtourist.blogspot.com/2014/09/catholic-church-st-erics-cathedral.html>
- <http://hillsong.com/stockholm/english/>
- <http://www.newlife.nu/stockholm/>

Hindu:

- <http://www.mandirstockholm.se/>
- <http://www.swedenganeshtemple.com/>

Jehovah's Witness:

- Stockholms English Congregation
English meetings at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and 5:00 p.m. on Sundays
Skogsbacken 7
172 41 Sundbyberg, Sweden

Jewish:

- <http://www.mavensearch.com/synagogues/C3437Y41466RX>

Mormon:

- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Services at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. The service is in Swedish with English translation.
Näsbyvägen 15
183 30 Täby, Sweden

Muslim:

- <https://www.salatomic.com/sub/Sweden/Stockholm/5zH4vXgRkt>

Major Private Burial Offices (Begravningsbyrå) used by U.S. Citizens

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers.

- Beckman Begravningsbyråer
Main switchboard: +46 (0)8 644 98 70
www.beckmanbegravning.se
epost@afbeckman.com
- Fonus Begravningsbyråer
Main switchboard: +46 (0)771 87 00 87
www.fonus.se
info@fonus.se
- Lavendla International Begravningsbyråer
Main switchboard: +46 (0)771 18 85 83
www.lavendla.se
info@lavendla.se

Profile of Services Available

A new survey reflecting current regulations and costs for services effective April 2017 has been made. The rate of exchange used in this report is \$1.00 = SEK 9.0. The following general information is provided to assist families in making initial decisions. Indicated costs are **estimates**, based on deaths with no unusual circumstances, and should be considered as guides only. These estimates also relate only to costs incurred in Sweden (inclusive of shipping). U.S.

funeral home costs would be handled separately. The National Tax Authorities have, since 1996, granted an exemption of sales tax when transporting whole remains abroad. For deceased American citizen tourists, the next-of-kin should consider checking to see if the deceased purchased a travel insurance policy. If such a policy exists, please contact the insurance company before making any arrangements. In these cases, the insurance company may pay for most or all of the costs to ship the remains and personal effects.

Funeral homes as known in the United States do not exist in Sweden. Forensic autopsy and cremation facilities are operated by local government agencies. A private burial office ("Begravningsbyrå") performs other services, which in the U.S. would be provided by a funeral home.

Swedish authorities require an autopsy in all deaths occurring outside hospitals (unless the patient has been continuously under the care of a doctor familiar with the case), in all accidental deaths, and all deaths involving suspected suicide and homicide. An autopsy usually requires from three to five days. It should be noted that in Sweden burial usually occurs two to four weeks after death, considerably later than is customary in the U.S. In addition to the time for an autopsy mentioned above, it usually takes seven to ten days for arrangements to be completed for the shipment of remains overseas.

The conventional casket in wood, described in item 4, casket and container, consists of a wooden casket (Swedish type) with a zinc casket inside, a base on which the casket stands, and a plastic cover of the casket fastened to the base. It may not be necessary to exchange the Swedish wooden casket for another at the U.S. destination.

Maximum Period before Burial

Swedish law stipulates that cremation, or burial, takes place within 2 months. Exceptions may be requested.

Embalming

Embalming facilities exist in Sweden. The law does not prescribe embalming except in case of shipment of remains abroad or when appropriate local sanitary storage facilities do not exist. Embalming may not be done until a death certificate, attested by a physician, is issued, which generally involves a lapse of at least twenty-four hours. The method used is injection of formalin into the aorta.

Cremation

Cremation is permitted in Sweden and facilities exist locally. When the death is believed to have occurred as the result of a criminal offense, a police certificate is required before cremation takes place.

Caskets and Containers

When remains are to be transported out of the country, the body is first embalmed or otherwise appropriately prepared or cremated for shipment. There are two options, light embalming or full embalming.

Embalmed or prepared remains are placed in a hermetically sealed zinc coffin, within a wooden coffin which is finally packed in a container, in accordance with the international airline regulations. Cremated remains are placed in an urn which is packed in a container provided by the funeral home.

Exportation of Human Remains

Local requirements for the exportation of human remains are as follows:

- Embalment of the remains

- Enclosure of the remains as described above
- Consular Mortuary Certificate
- Mortician's Certificate of Embalming
- Swedish Death Certificate
- Swedish Transit Permit

Exportation of Human Remains/Ashes

Local requirements for the exportation of human remains/ashes are as follows:

- Swedish Death Certificate
- A cremation certificate
- A certificate from the crematory stating that the container holds only the remains of the deceased
- Enclosure of the remains as described above.
- Swedish Transit Permit

Costs

Charges shown are the average price for disposition of human remains and are based on an exchange rate of \$1.00 = SEK 9.0.

- **Local Burial:** Fees include collection and transportation of remains, wood casket, doctor's fees, funeral home fees, cost of burial plot in public cemetery, and brief service.
\$ 5 - 6,000
- **Cremation:** Fees include cremation, doctor's certificate, and funeral director's certification.
\$ 1,800
- **Cremation and local disposition of cremains/ ashes:** Fees include collection and transportation of cremains, doctor's fees, funeral home fees, urn, cost of burial plot in public cemetery, and brief service.
\$ 5 - 6,000
- **Preparation and shipment of cremains/ ashes:** Fees include cremation, collection and transportation of ashes, documentation costs, doctor's fees, funeral home fees, and packaging for shipment.
\$ 2,600
- **The airfreight charges for transportation of an urn:** The average urn containing ashes weighs 10 kilos. Stockholm to New York & Los Angeles \$250 (The airfreight charges are approximately the same for all over the U.S.)
- **Preparation and shipment of human remains:** Fees include embalming, collection and transportation of remains, documentation costs, doctor's fees, funeral home fees, and packaging for shipment.
\$ 4,600
- **The airfreight charges for transportation of remains:** The shipment cost is determined by the airline after the remains are accepted for shipment according to a special cargo rate. The approximate weight of a casket prepared for shipment is 140 kilos for an adult and 70 kilos for a child.
 - Stockholm to New York \$950
 - Stockholm to Los Angeles \$1,100

Remarks

There will be additional costs if the remains need to be transported within country prior to their departure from Stockholm. There will also be additional costs should the remains transit an airport outside Stockholm and make a stopover in route to the final destination in the United States.