

## The guest artists Guide to the GUESTCITY ICORN residency

### Att lägga i mappen

*Informationsbroschyrer om staden (finns på turistbyrån)*

*Kartor över staden, regionen, Sverige (märk gärna ut mataffärer, apotek, tågstation, restauranger, förvaltningen etc.)*

### About Växjö / the city

#### EXEMPEL TEXT

Växjö is located in the southern part of Sweden, in the middle of the province of Småland. It's a city of 65 000 inhabitants, for the whole municipality the number is 85 000, which makes the city number 20 on the list of most populous cities in Sweden.

In Växjö you are always close to nature, the city is surrounded by beautiful lakes and forest. Within a few minutes by foot or by bike, you can easily reach a private spot of your own in the woods or by the water, a place just for you to sit down and listen to the wind in the trees, the water and the birds singing.

The city lies beautifully just nearby a lake, Växjösjön. The name Växjö is said to be a description of the town as the place where paths, "väg", come together between and, in the wintertime, over the frozen lakes, "sjö", that surrounds the town. From above, when you arrive to Växjö airport it seems almost impossible to find a place to land because all you see are lakes and forests.

The Greenest City of Europe is a modern description of Växjö, originally said by a BBC-reporter in a documentary of environmental issue in different European cities, where Växjö offered creative examples of solutions. As it also is a description of the city as a place with beautiful parks and lovely green nature, the words has become a slogan.

Växjö has been a well-known market place since the 11<sup>th</sup> century and is still so. Today the nice downtown area provides more than 200 boutiques where you can find anything from books, clothes, home styling and sports gear to art and designed glass work. There are also lots of restaurants and coffee shops, where people meet with friends and family. At Friday afternoons you can feel the pulse of merry young students and others meeting for a cup of coffee, eating an ice-cream or just walking around having a nice time with friends, feeling relaxed by knowing they will have a few days off duty during the weekend.

For centuries Växjö has been known as a city for higher education with Katedralskolan as it's educational center. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century Carl von Linné was a young student at Katedralskolan. Later on he became a world famous botanist, Carolus Linnaeus, as he developed his Systema Naturae, a biological classification taxonomy where plants are divided into classes and then into orders, families, genera and species. With his work Carl von Linné made an impact on science that is noticeable throughout today.

Nowadays you can study at a number of secondary schools and then go to the University, which is called Linnéuniversitetet after Carl von Linné. 15 000 students study at Linnéuniversitetet and they come from all over Sweden as well as from abroad. There are several programs at the university that enables exchange of students from many different countries around the world.

Växjö has grown rapidly in the last four decades and earned more of an international atmosphere, since the area has attracted people from different countries and cultures. Partly because of the expanding university, but also as a result of Växjö being the place of residence for many companies with international contacts. A main cause is also the easi-

ness in communications. You can travel to and from Växjö by air, train or bus almost any time of the day and reach cities like Stockholm, Copenhagen or Berlin within a few hours.

The province of Småland and Växjö is home to many writers and artists which gives a vivid range of cultural forms of expressions for the benefit of the locals and visitors. There is an old tradition of telling stories and some well-known authors come from Småland, like Pär Lagerkvist, Vilhelm Moberg, Elin Wägner and Astrid Lindgren. In the nearby city of Ljungby there is held an international festival of storytelling each summer.

The area has also a history of producing glass and there is still a number of glassworks around, attracting many tourists who wants to see the skillful glass-workers and designers taking action in the complex process of making glass. Designed pieces of glass work are exported from here to most countries in the world.

For those interested in theatre or music there are very good opportunities to take part of both classical plays and classical music as well as modern pieces and modern pop- and rock-music. Växjö has also a lot of choirs focusing on different music and ambitions in featuring, so anyone who likes singing should be able to find a group suiting the needs. In 2012 anyone who favors sports of any kind, will be a pleased person as several new arenas for athletics, hockey and football will be ready to host sport events as well as individual athletes of all ages in their daily training. The whole area of arenas is called "Arenastaden" which means the arenatown. The interest of all kinds of sports has always been great in Växjö. Especially tennis, football and athletics has been very popular and olympic gold-medalist in heptathlon Carolina Klüft started her career in Växjö. But in the last decade or so, hockey and the expectations of the home team Växjö Lakers has come to unify the locals interest of sports.

#### *Växjö as a City of Refuge*

ICORN member since: 2012

Member: The Municipality of Växjö

Managing institutions/partners: Culture and leisure services/ The House for Free Speech

Växjö joined the ICORN in 2012 and was then the fifth and hitherto smallest town in Sweden to become a safe haven for writers. The membership in ICORN is part of the culture and leisure management and the House for Free Speech that works to combine the literary heritage in the region and the struggle for the right to free speech today – this for all citizens to make their voices heard - in Småland and in the world.

Between 2012–2014 Växjö has had its first writer staying in the city under the residency program: Nasrin Madani (Iran). In the beginning of 2015 Växjö welcomed it's second guest writer Erol Özkoray (Turkey)

Växjö is offering the guest to take part of the culture life in various ways, both with literary events already taking place etc, but also to make it possible for the guests to create their own project.

#### *Literary/artistic resources in the city*

The House of Free Speech [www.vaxjo.se/detfriaordet](http://www.vaxjo.se/detfriaordet)

Kronoberg Book Fair/ Växjö city library [bibliotek.vaxjo.se/web/arena](http://bibliotek.vaxjo.se/web/arena)

Swedish Writers Unions regional members [www.forfattarforbundet.se/](http://www.forfattarforbundet.se/)

Växjö Art Gallery [www.vaxjo.se/konsthall](http://www.vaxjo.se/konsthall)

The Regional Theatre [www.regionteatern.se/](http://www.regionteatern.se/)

#### *The literary organizations in the region*

Vilhelm Moberg [vilhelmmobergsallskapet.se/](http://vilhelmmobergsallskapet.se/)

Elin Wägner [www.elinwagner.se/](http://www.elinwagner.se/)

The house of Elin Wägner [www.elinwagner.se/lillabjorka.html](http://www.elinwagner.se/lillabjorka.html)

Pär Lagerkvist [www.blekingemuseum.se/lansbibl/forfattare/lagesall.asp](http://www.blekingemuseum.se/lansbibl/forfattare/lagesall.asp)

#### *Other contacts*

Kulturparken småland that includes the Smålands Museum, The House of Emigrants, The Swedish Glass Museum [www.kulturparkensmaland.se/1.0.1.0/108/1/](http://www.kulturparkensmaland.se/1.0.1.0/108/1/)

Musik i Syd – a regional music institution [www.musikisyd.se](http://www.musikisyd.se)

The City of Växjö: [www.vaxjo.se](http://www.vaxjo.se)

## **What to expect during your stay in Växjö**

### *Housing*

EXAMPLE TEXT

The apartment is located 15 min by walk from the city center and is fully furnished with the following amenities:

Bedroom – one king size bed, closet

Full bathroom – bath tub, washer/dryer,

Full kitchen – stove, full size refrigerator and freezer,

Living room – big couch, TV, computer, printer, wireless internet

Bedding and towels are provided. In addition the bathroom will be stocked before your arrival with basic items.

The kitchen has pots, pans, a coffeemaker and water boiler, and will be stocked with a variety of non-perishable food items before your arrival.

### **Residence information**

EXAMPLE TEXT

Address

Your residence is set up with the following:

Wireless internet

Network: NAME

Password: NUMBERS AND LETTERS

### **Contact info**

EXAMPLE TEXT

Your primary contact during your stay are NAME, coordinator for the guest city program. The coordinator is available Monday through Friday from 08.00–17.00 for any concerns you may have. The coordinator is located in ADDRESS.

At your arrival The coordinator will show you to the grocery, bank, tax office, doctor and other necessities you might need.

If you require assistants outside of these hours please contact NAME

Staff contact information plus pictures

NAME 1 coordinator guest city Växjö /Det fria ordets hus

NAME 2, TITEL, ADDRESS, CONTACT

NAME 3, TITEL, ADDRESS, CONTACT

NAME 24, TITEL, ADDRESS, CONTACT

## **The Neighborhood**

### *Attractions*

EXAMPEL

Theater  
Movies  
Art center  
Library

### *Restaurants*

### *Grocery*

### *Pharmacy*

### *Dry cleaner*

### *Bakery*

### *Wine and liquor store*

### *Exercise*

## **Additional information**

### *Emergency*

EXAMPEL

Dial 1-1-2. Have your residency address on a hand. If possible, please contact Det fria ordets hus/Växjö kommuns direkt as well if there's an problem.

### *Waste/Recycling*

EXAMPEL

In your court yard there is a recycling house where you can recycle paper, plastic, metallic and put your waste bags.

### *Transport options*

EXAMPEL

You will be provided with a bike/bus card/ metro card

Bus: Scheduling/price can be found at:

Taxi:

## **Personal safety**

### *Important telephone numbers*

EXAMPEL TEXT

EMERGENCY, CALL SOS ALARM: 112

Here you reach the Police, Fire and Rescue Service and Ambulance. You call the emergency number for emergency assistance.

To report a crime, threat etc., dial 114 14 to be put through to the Police.

Any crime you are subjected to must always be reported to the Police.

Other contacts at the Municipality of Växjö, daytime:

Contact person Culture and Leisure

**Checklist: Assault**

Don't do anything that could be perceived to be provocative. Act as calmly as possible.

Is there any chance of escape?

As a last resort, use such force as may be required.

When there's no risk, raise the alarm by dialling 112 as soon as possible.

Pay attention to the following in order to report to the Police:

- distinguishing features; age, height, clothing, special characteristics, speech, whether armed etc.
- escape route and method of escape; possible registration number, car make and model, colour

**Checklist: Threat via letter, e-mail, telephone, fax or in person**

Document as much as possible about the threat.

Deal with threatening letters with caution and keep them protected in a plastic bag or similar in order to help with the Police analysis.

Save threats that come via the Internet

In acute threatening situations, raise the alarm by calling 112.

If the threat is not urgent, contact the Police or consult the contact person.

**Checklist: Suspicious items of mail and articles**

Pay attention to unusual items of mail.

Never open suspicious items of mail/parcels.

If possible, cordon off the area around the item/package.

Contact the Police.

If you think that danger is imminent, call 112.

Contact the contact person.

**How to prepare yourself**

What events and situations do you need to assess in particular? Is it an everyday event, a performance, a sensitive decision or a statement on an issue that could be perceived as negative or controversial?

Always inform the contact person in advance of any known activities that could trigger adverse reactions. Examples of this may be publications, performances etc.

What steps can you take to reduce the risk of threats, violence and harassment?

What are the possibilities of protecting yourself or retreating if you should find yourself in a threatening situation?

What possibilities do you have to raise the alarm and get help quickly if something should happen?

Contact your contact person or the Police for assistance in assessing your situation and what possible protective measures should be taken.

Also remember to be aware of your surroundings and be careful with the information you put out on social media.