



**2014** UMEÅ  
CAPITAL OF  
CULTURE

**Umeå,  
Sweden,  
is going  
for the bid**



# Umeå – European Capital of Culture 2014

**Umeå aims to become the European Capital of Culture in 2014. A tough competition against several other Swedish cities now lies ahead.**

## Because

Every European Capital of Culture gets the unique opportunity to let the world know what it is good at. The Capital of Culture is for one year the cultural centre of Europe. This obviously leaves marks behind and carries on, into the future. This is a way for the European Union to highlight the rich cultural diversity, and also similarities, of all its member countries.

1985 was the first year. Athens was nominated then. There is a set order of which countries the Capitals of Culture will be situated in. In 2014 the turn has come to a Swedish and a Latvian city. The decision will be made in 2010.

## Umeå - the Capital of Culture

Two thousand bands and a symphonic orchestra. Five independent theatre companies and an opera house. Two universities and a constant curiosity, a will to learn more about and question the world, which shows in the high number of adult learning, in fact the highest number in the country.

All this is unique to a city with a number of inhabitants low enough to fit into a metro station in London or Paris. Add to this 80 choirs, international festivals, Sami roots and cultural heritage, a theatre association giving national theatre premieres, a library internatio-

nally renowned and a unanimous political decision that all investments made in Umeå shall be considered from a child's perspective.

Did we forget anything? A city where the average age is 37. The magic summer light that can fool anyone that they got the time wrong, or ended up in paradise. Only a few steps away from the last wilderness of Europe.



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## Facts on Umeå

- Population: 111,000
- 2 universities, 7 colleges, 29,000 students
- Hours of sunshine: 1,800 per year
- Umeå is the largest city in northern Sweden. It was founded in 1622 by King Gustav II Adolf.
- the 3,000 birch trees that line the avenues in the city centre were originally planted as a kind of fire-wall.
- IKSU sports centre is the largest in Europe.
- Umeå Open is Sweden's largest indoor festival
- there are more than 400 kilometres of ski and jogging tracks
- the city library has 845,000 visitors each year
- almost 95% of households in Umeå are able to connect to broadband
- the county of Västerbotten has the lowest crime rate in the country

[www.umea2014.se](http://www.umea2014.se)