

Buying property in Sweden

A guide for foreign buyers

Purchasing property in Sweden is a secure and well-regulated process but it may differ from the process in other countries. At Norra Skog Fastighetsförmedling, we specialize in forestry and agricultural properties.

Please note

As a foreign buyer, you are required to have a Swedish bank account before completing the purchase. This is necessary for handling payments and registering ownership. We strongly recommend starting this process early and contact a Swedish bank to set up an account, as it may take time depending on your country of origin.

All buyers are also required to have a Swedish personal identity number/corporate registration number or a Swedish coordination number when purchasing real property.

The Role of the Real Estate Agent

In Sweden, real estate agents are licensed and legally obligated to act in the interest of both buyer and seller. The agent prepares all necessary documents and guides both parties through the transaction. There is no need to hire a separate lawyer.

Property Search and Viewings

Our properties are listed on our website and often Hemnet. There is usually no organized viewing of a forest property. Prospective buyers are expected to inspect the property on their own. For agricultural properties with buildings, viewings are usually held on pre-scheduled dates, and prospective buyers must register their attendance by contacting the agent.

Due Diligence – Your Duty to Investigate

As a buyer, you have a legal obligation to investigate the property before signing the purchase agreement. This includes:

- Attending viewings and/or inspecting the property thoroughly.
- Reviewing any available inspection reports.

- Hiring an independent inspector if needed.
- Understanding what is included in the sale (e.g., appliances, fixtures).
- Checking for visible defects.
- Asking about any known problems or previous repairs.

If you fail to investigate properly, you may not be able to claim compensation for defects discovered after the purchase. The seller is only responsible for hidden defects that could not reasonably have been discovered during your inspection.

Bidding Process

Bidding is non-binding until a purchase agreement is signed. Sellers are not obligated to accept the highest bid. The agent keeps a record of all bids, which is shared with both parties at the time of possession.

Purchase Agreement

Once a bid is accepted, a purchase agreement is signed. The purchase agreement is written in Swedish, and a foreign buyer is recommended to hire a translator to gain full understanding of the contract's contents. A deposit (usually 10%) is paid within 7–10 days. The remaining amount is paid on the possession date. The contract outlines what is included in the sale and any conditions, such as financing or inspection.

Acquisition Permit (Förvärvstillstånd)

For forestry or agricultural properties, buyers often need to apply for an acquisition permit from the County Administrative Board (Länsstyrelsen). This is a legal requirement and is handled with the support of the real estate agent at the time of signing the purchase agreement.

Possession and Final Steps

On the possession date, the buyer pays the remaining amount and receives the keys. Insurance should be arranged from this date. The agent facilitates the final meeting and provides documentation of the transaction.

If Something Goes Wrong

If issues arise after the purchase, such as unexpected defects, you should first contact the seller directly. The agent can offer guidance but does not represent either party in disputes. If you believe the agent acted improperly, you can file a written complaint.