Heritage in action:

Legacies of industry in future making

Kiruna, August 23 – 30, 2025

TICCIH

19th Congress of the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage – TICCIH 2024

Introduction

Luleå University of Technology, a leading university in the European Arctic, in collaboration with the TICCIH sections in Sweden and Norway, the Swedish National Heritage Board, the municipality of Kiruna and a range of leading actors within industry and civil society in the Scandinavian north, is offering to host the triannual TICCIH Congress in Kiruna in 2024, from August 27 to 31.

Our proposal builds on a track record of arranging state of the art conferences and congresses in the far north, in close collaboration with actors with different competences and knowledge on key issues within the field of cultural heritage, industry and sustainability.

Congress theme

The title we propose for the 2024 TICCIH congress is “Heritage in action: legacies of industry in future making”, which alludes to the global phenomenon of history and heritage being mobilized to support diverging desires and interests in our contemporary societies. Industrial heritage is increasingly becoming part of contemporary tensions about competing future visions. The days of innocence for the field, if it ever existed, is over

The TICCIH 2024 congress focuses on tensions and controversies surrounding industrial heritage and its relation to wider tensions in present day society. It explores how we think about the past and about the future in the present, and how we construct historical narratives to connect the two, attach them to built environments and artefacts, in order to get where we want to go. It is a theme that addresses key global issues connected to the UN sustainability goals, and the goal conflicts emerging between them, but also pathways to bridging tensions through heritage. The theme also includes the issue of how we can work with contemporary industries as heritage and the heritage of the future.

The conference theme closely connects with the place where we propose the congress to take place. Kiruna, located in the Swedish Arctic, is situated in a region undergoing rapid change due to increasing global demands for metals. The European Arctic has been subject to a mining boom which is soon entering its third decade, now also fuelled by the green turn in energy, which requires substantial amounts of base metals such as copper. Simultaneously, it's a region where industrial companies establish new green industries, for producing carbon-dioxide free steel and renewable energy. To many, these industries raise hopes for a future of less carbon dioxide emissions as well as employment. To others they may represent a colonial intrusion into indigenous territories, or risk for environmental damage. In the tensions developing over the future of the region, history and heritage are mobilized by competing actors. During the conference, participants will gain first-hand experience from this complex situation, discuss with and learn from competing stakeholders, as will those planning to join pre- and post-conference tours.

The TICCIH congress in Kiruna will also have space in the program for regular sessions on conservation issues, history of technology and industrial archaeology.

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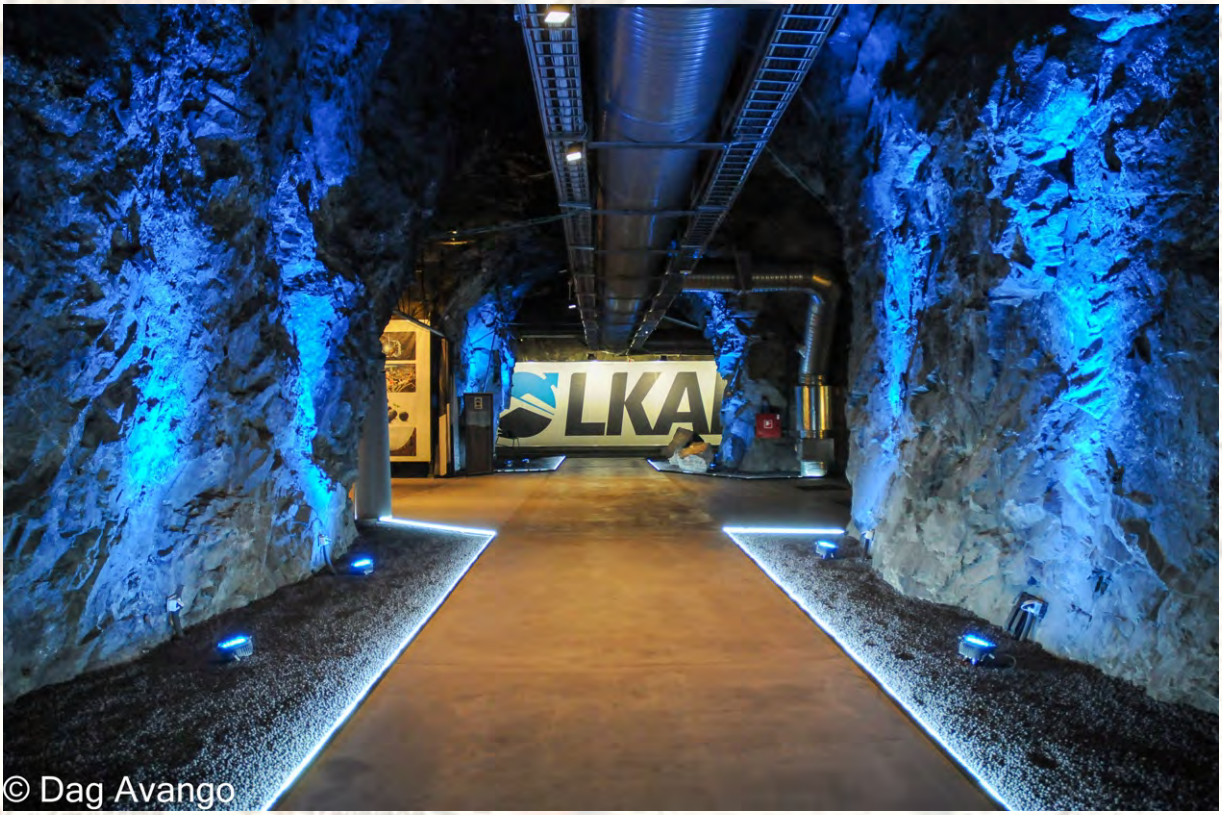


Kiruna - an Arctic town in the middle of the world

The congress will be set in Kiruna, a mining town in northernmost Sweden reputed for its relocation. The Kiruna Council issued a press release in 2004, stating that they would move the town in order to enable continued mining. The iron ore deposit reaches beneath the built-up areas, and the mining to a level 1365 meters below ground causes subsidence. Therefore, large parts of the existing town is gradually turned into an industrial area.

In 2013, White Architects won the competition for an urban design plan for a new town centre. The design proposal is now being implemented, extending the town to the northeast. A new Town Hall, by Henning Larsen Architects, was inaugurated in 2018 as the first building in the new town centre. A culture house, hotels, a public bath, schools, shops, restaurants and housing is under construction. A new main sewage line and a new electricity supply system began to function in 2009. A new railway route opened in 2012, and new routes for the public roads 870 and E10 opened in 2015 and 2020 respectively. A few historic buildings have been relocated. In 2015, the first buildings were demolished in the neighbourhood closest to the mine.

Kiruna town hall.

Kiruna church.

The Swedish National Heritage Board has designated Kiruna as a heritage site of national interest, with the motivation that its urban environment and industrial landscape represents a unique example of 20th century planning ideals for company towns. The town was established in 1900, to enable mining of the rich iron ore deposits in the mountains Luossavaara and Kiirunavaara, on the initiative of the mining company Luossavaara Kirunavaara Aktiebolag (LKAB). Kiruna was planned as a model company town, with an adjacent service and supply town as well as a railway area. Some of the most renowned architects, planners, and artists of the time were hired to contribute to its development. In 1948 the three areas merged and Kiruna was granted town rights. During the post-war period, the architect Ralph Erskine developed the spectacular architecture in the block Ortdrivaren in central Kiruna, as part of his vision of an arctic town.

Above: Kiruna's old city centre.

Left: Erskine architecture in Kiruna.

Located in the northern part of the Swedish Arctic, Kiruna is situated in a diverse region. The indigenous Sami population and the Tornedalian Meänkieli speaking national minority has been present in the area for many centuries. The cultural landscape is formed by reindeer husbandry, hunting, fishing, and cattle farming, but also iron making from the Iron Age and onwards. The Swedish state started to manifest itself in the coastal zone from the early 14th century, and expanding toward inland areas from the 16th century. Since the 19th century, largescale industrial developments have had an immense impact in the region. The mines, hydropower stations, transport infrastructure, and military defence have been conceptualised as a 'technological megasystem', which the National Heritage Board has designated as industrial heritage. Today, the state-owned mining company LKAB is operating the world's largest underground iron ore mine in Kiruna, but also in Malmberget and in Svappavaara. LKAB supplies over 90% of the iron ore produced in the European Union. Other businesses have developed in the region, including space industry with Esrange, research stations in Abisko and Tarfala, and tourist sites such as the Ice Hotel in Jukkasjärvi, the Abisko National Park, and the Kebnekaise massif.

The ongoing relocation of the town centre and the development of new residential areas is a process where industrial heritage has a central role and is part of tensions regarding the past, of land use rights and about what a desirable future is.

Tentative program

The congress organizers will set three thematic sessions that connect to the main theme of the conference. In addition to these, we will issue a call for sessions in order to build part of the program on bottom up initiatives.

Time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
AM	TICCIH Board Meeting	Opening ceremony Keynote lectures	Keynote lectures Parallel session	Keynote lectures Parallel session	TICCIH general assembly
PM	Registration and pre-congress industrial heritage tour of Kiruna	Parallel sessions	Mine tour Tour of the city transformation	National represent-atives meeting Parallel session	Departures Post-congress tours
Eve	Welcome reception	Social program	Conference Banquette	Farewell party	

Preliminary and estimated budget

REVENUES (in Euro)	Scenario 1 - 300 persons	Scenario 2 - 400 persons
Registration		
General Public - Early Bird € 310	20 000	26 000
TICCIH Members - Early Bird € 260	33 000	44 000
Students - Early Bird €85	2 000	2 500
General Public - Regular Rate € 360	10 000	13 000
TICCIH Members - Regular Rate € 310	17 000	22 000
Students - Regular Rate € 100	1 000	1 500
Closing dinner € 70	17 000	22 500
Sponsoring	10 000	10 000
TOTAL	**110 000**	**141 500**

EXPENSES (in Euro)	Scenario 1 - 300 persons	Scenario 2 - 400 persons
Rental & logistics		
Meeting rooms, with equipment	16 900	21 400
Opening reception - rental & logistics	900	900
Closing dinner - rental & logistics	1 800	1 800
Signage	1 000	1 000
Wi-Fi	0	0
F & B		
Opening reception	4 800	6 400
Coffe breaks	12 000	16 000
Lunches	12 000	16 000
Closing dinner	15 600	20 800
Communciation		
Website & event management system	10 000	10 000
Printed publication	0	0
On site material & staff		
Conference material	500	600
Coordination (Travel agency NEX)	7 000	8 000
Temporary staff & volunteers	6 000	6 000
Simultaneous translation	0	0
Entertainment	9 000	10 000
Study visits during conference	1 000	1 000
Guests & speakers		
Invited speakers	10 000	10 000
TOTAL	**108 500**	**129 900**

Pre and post-congress tours

1. The iron fields of Arctic Sweden

From the 17th century, the Swedish state and early modern industrialists, turned their gaze on the Arctic part of the country, interested in natural resources to finance the state coffer and other economic and political interests. Inspired by the rising colonial powers at the time, they envisioned the region as an arena for Swedish colonial endeavors. This gave rise to a first wave of extractive industries being established in the Swedish Arctic. From the mid 19th century, triggered by growing demands for metals in the industrializing economies of Europe, state and corporate actors established large productions systems for mining and metal processing. With these systems they transformed the forests and alpine tundra in the far north into a web of mines, transport infrastructures, energy production and model settlements. This industry has generated wealth, employment and welfare. It has also left substantial environmental impacts and brought damage to indigenous and other local communities. This post-congress tour will take you through the heritage of this multifaceted history – a history that is mobilized today in a context of opposing views and interests regarding land use and sustainability goals.

Day 0 will be a bus transport to the **Malmberget & Koskullskulle mine settlements**, established in 1880 and today subject of relocation because of underground mining.

Day 1. Visit to the **Aitik copper mine** – one of the biggest open pit mines in Europe. In the afternoon, visit in the underground mine of Malmberget (1300 m below ground), the second largest underground iron ore mine in the world. Dinner and overnight stay in Gällivare.

Day 2: Visits at the **hydro power dams at Ritsem and Suorva** – situated in the heartland of the UNESCO Laponia world heritage site in the alpine region. Afternoon, visit at **Porjus hydropower station** and the **Harsprånget and Messaure hydropower builder ghost towns**. Dinner and stayover in Jokkmokk, a cultural center for the Sámi people of the Sápmi / Swedish north.

Day 3: Morning: bus to Arjeplog and visit to **Laisvall mine**. Afternoon: **Helicopter ride to Nasafjäll 17th century silver mines in the alpine region** of the Swedish Norwegian border. Dinner and overnight stay in the indigenous Sámi settlement Vuoggatjålme.

Day 4. Morning: bus ride to **Boliden mining town**, visit to Boliden mining museum. Afternoon: Visit at **Rönnskärsverken gold and copper smelters** at Skellefteå.

Day 5. Departures.

The price for this tour is 6 000 SEK per person.

Akkajaure, water reservoir of the Suorva hydropower dam.

Aitik copper mine.

2. The Bergslagen tour - the historical heartland of the Swedish mining-, iron- and steel industry

Mining, steelmaking and metalworking is one of Sweden's leading industrial sectors. Bergslagen is a mining district in the middle of Sweden with a 1000 year old history. During this post-seminar tour we will visit two World Heritage sites and the oldest excavated blast furnace site in Europe. The tour starts from Arlanda airport and goes by bus through Bergslagen to Falun for overnight stay and back to Arlanda the next day.

Day 1. Visit to **Engelsberg ironworks,** which is considered to be one of the finest industrial monuments in the world, and was added to UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites in 1993.The works got its name from Englika, a homesteader of German origin, who settled here in the 14th century. A new blast furnace was built in 1779, and still forms the core of today´s facility. The next stop is the excavation site **Lapphyttan** outside Norberg, where the blast furnace process had been used since the 12th century. After the excavation a reconstruction of the medieval Lapphyttan was built at the site **New Lapphyttan** and has been turned into a workshop. We visit the reconstructed site of New Lapphyttan and after this visit we go to Falun for dinner and accomodation.

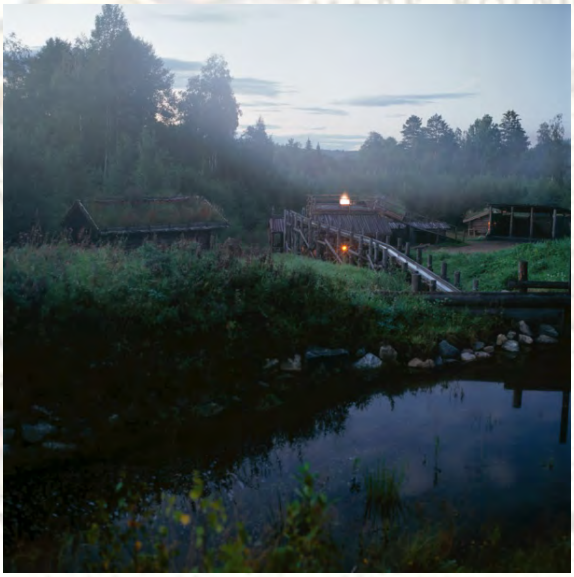
Day 2. Visit to **the Mining Area of the Great Copper Mountain in Falun**. It is known as the Great Pit at Falun and is the most striking feature of a landscape that illustrates the copper production in this region since at least the 13th century. It was added to UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites in 2001. Next stop is the **Sala Silver Mine** with continuous production from the 15th century until 1908. The mine has had three major heydays, the main one in the early 16th century, a second less significant one in the mid-17th century and a last one in the late 19th century. The last stop of the tour is **The Walloon forge at Österbybruk,** a beautiful, historic ironworks setting. The Dannemora mine nearby provided conditions for more than 500 years of continuous iron industry at Österbybruk. We will take part in expertly guided tours of the Walloon forge and one of the old blacksmiths dwellings. From Österbybruk we go back to Arlanda airport.

The cost for this tour is 5 300 SEK per person.

Engelsberg ironworks. Photo: Kenneth Sundh.

Falu Copper Mine "Stora stöten". Photo: Kenneth Sundh.

Sala Silver Mine. Photo: Kenneth Sundh.



Nya Lapphyttan. Photo: Kenneth Sundh.

3. Industrial heritage in the cultural land- and waterscapes of Arctic Norway

This post-conference tour travels the cultural landscapes of Sámi, Kvän / Lantalaiset / Tornedalian indigenous populations of the north and visits wide range of industrial heritage sites, representing the industrial development of this region as well as its colonial history. After leaving Kiruna, the tour begins in the Tornedalian settlement of Pajala where we stay overnight.

Day 1: Morning: visit at **Vassikavuoma Tornedalian cultural landscape**. Afternoon: visit at Kaunisvaara iron ore mine and the 17th century Kengis steel works, Pajala. Dinner and overnight stay in Pajala.

Day 2: bus ride to Alta town on the coast of the Arctic ocean / Barents sea, along the spectacular alpine / tundra road. In the evening, visit at **Alta 17th century copper smelter**. Dinner and overnight stay in Alta.

Day 3: visit at the **Alta hydro power station**, under the guidance of key actors involved in the 1980's civil resistance battle for indigenous rights and against hydro power establishment in Sápmi. Afternoon: visit at the **Alta rock carvings world heritage site**. Dinner and overnight stay in Alta.

Day 4: Morning, visit at the **Snow white LNG refinery**, serving the Arctic ocean natural gas fields. Afternoon, visit at **Repparfjorden copper mine** in Kvalsund - subject of a major contemporary battle over a controversial mining project in a stunning natural environment. Dinner and overnight stay in Alta.

Day 5: Departures.

The price for this tour is 6 000 SEK per person.

Alta hydro power station.

Repparfjorden copper mine.

Rock carvings near Alta.
Credits: Karl Brodowsky.

4. Svalbard: high Arctic mining landscapes in transition

This highly exclusive tour visits some of the most spectacular industrial heritage areas in the world – the active and abandoned coal mining towns of Svalbard, an archipelago located at the northernmost edge of the world in the Arctic ocean, half way between northern Norway and the North pole. The tour offers a week of intense experiences of Arctic industrial heritage and Arctic natural landscapes of immense beauty.

Day 0: fly out of Kiruna with late evening arrivals in Longyearbyen – a mining settlement established in 1906 and today the administrative capitol of Svalbard.

Day 1: morning: guided tour through the **coal mining landscape of Longyearbyen and Advent valley**. Afternoon: visit at the Norwegian mining company SNSKs mine number 3, with an mining history experience center. Lectures on the de-industrialization and transformation of Svalbard. Overnight stay in Longyearbyen.

Day 2: All day visit at the **Russian mining settlement Barentsburg**, travel by zodiac speed boats. Dinner and overnight stay in Barentsburg.

Day 3: In the morning visit ot the remains of the **Finneset shore based whaling station** south of Barentsburg. In the afternoon return to Longyearbyen with regular ferry. Overnight stay in Longyearbyen.

Day 4: boat travel to the **abandoned Soviet mining town Pyramiden**. Dinner and overnight stay in Pyramiden.

Day 5: Morning: buildings and surrounding infrastructures at Pyramiden. Afternoon: return by ship via the **Nordenskjöld glacier** to Longyearbyen. Dinner and overnight stay in Longyearbyen.

Day 6: Visit at Svalbard museum and shopping opportunities in Longyearbyen.

Day 7: Departures in the morning.

The price for this tour is 14 000 SEK.

The Nordenskjöld glacier at Billefjorden, Svalbard. Credits: Prillen.

The abandoned Soviet mining town Pyramiden.

Industrial archeology on the high Arctic archipelago Svalbard.

5. Rjukan/Notodden and Odda with Hardangervidda linkage

The pre/post conference tour travel and visit Notodden/Rjukan and Odda industrial heritage sites that are connected by the Hardangervidda range. The tour focuses on the industrial fertilizer and hydroelectrical heritage and how it's been reused as a resource for local and regional development, as well as on the interaction between topography, city planning, and industrial production. During the world heritage nomination process, Odda chose to withdraw from the process based on that the local municipality did not regard their industrial heritage as a resource for future developments, while the minicipalities in Notodden and Rjukan did, we will explore and discuss this issue.

Day 1 morning: Visiting the **hydroelectric sites in Notodden**, Lunch at the historic administration building, afternoon: visiting the industrial site for the electric arc technology. Dinner at Brattrein hotel.

Day 2 (morning); transport by bus to Tinnoset, then travel and lunch using the railway ferry Storegut over Tinnsjøen to Mæl. Afternoon; travel by **historic train along Rjukanbanen to Rjukan**, where we visit the **hydropower plant Såheim** and the former processing area. Afternoon before dinner free to discover Rjukan. Evening; **Dinner at Vemork hydropower plant and the World Heritage centre**.

Day 3; Travel by bus over the mountainplateau with stops on the way, to Odda. Lunch at **Odda heritage site**. Afternoon, pedestrian tour through the heritage site with focus on reuse. Evening; tour to **Tyssedal hydropowerstation** and the **Ringedalsdam**, with dinnes in the powerstation.

Day 4; Departure.

The price for this tour is 10 000 NOK.

Rjukan. Photo: Ulf Ingemar Gustafsson.

Såheim. Photo: Ulf Ingemar Gustafsson.

Odda. Photo: Ulf Ingemar Gustafsson.

6. Løkken, Røros and Folldal mining and heritage

This pre/post conference tour explores the mining district in central Norway, where some of the sites has become heritage-sites, while others not. The tour focuses on how Rorøs effectively has built a brand based on their industrial heritage and become a world heritage site and what effect this has had for local and regional developments. The tour also adress the issue of heritage preservation and pollution issues related to EU water directive (no…), and how different methods has been used at these three sites, and the effects thereof.

Day 1 morning; Travel by historic electric narrow-gauge train from 1908 to **Løkken Mining site**. Visit to the mine incl lunsj and concert inside the mine. Afternoon; visiting the accommidation area and the former processing site. Here we will see examples of how pollution and water control has been dealt with, and consequences of those methods. Evening; dinner and overnight in Orkla historic guesthouse.

Day 2 morning; travel by bus to Røros. Lunsj at **Røros museum and world heritage centre**. Afternoon: pedestrial tour through Røros mining town, and a late afternoon visit to the mines where we discuss similar challenges of pollution in a world heritage context. Evening; return to Røros mining town and dinner and local restaurant.

Day 3; Travel by bus to **Folldal mining town**, passing **Kvikne mining site** on the way. Lunch at the mining site. Afternoon; pedestrian tour to the oldest parts on the site and looking at challenges related to pollution there incl a tour through the whole mining site. Evening; Dinner inside the mine.

Day 4: Departure by train to Oslo, and Gardermoen airport.

The price for this tour is 10 000 NOK.

Løkken Mining site. Photo: Ulf Ingemar Gustafsson.

Røros. Photo: Ulf Ingemar Gustafsson.

Folldal mining town. Photo: Ulf Ingemar Gustafsson.

7. Oil and gas industry

This pre/post conference tour visits the primary oil & gas district on the south-west coast of Norway, and focuses on the effects of industrial exploitation has had on the region, and what effects peak-oil has had on the region, and on future expectations on gas as primary resource and investments, and how the oil & gas industry are dealing with its heritage.

Day 1 morning: **Stavanger oil museum** and presentation of ongoing preservation project related to **Draugen condeep platform**, Lunsj and the museum. Afternoon; trip to the **construction site for oil- & gas rigs** (incl Troll and many others), Evening; transport by bus and boat to platform maintainance site further north incl dinner.

Day 2 morning and afternoon, visit to **Kårstø processing plant** (Equinor), incl lunch. Afternoon; Transport to Haugesund. Dinner at **Vibrandsøy heritage site**. Day 3; visit to Haugesund oil & gas control centre.

The price for this tour is 8 000 NOK

Kårstø. Photo: Ulf Ingemar Gustafsson.

Rig maintainance. Photo: Ulf Ingemar Gustafsson.

Snöhvit LNG production site, connected to new gas fields in the Barents Sea.

Our team

Organizing committee

ROINE VIKLUND

Dr. Roine Viklund is Senior Lecturer in History of Technology, Luleå University of Technology. Viklund is Chair of the Organizing committee.

CATARINA KARLSSON

Dr. Catarina Karlsson is the National Representative for TICCIH Sweden as well as research coordinator of The Historical Metallurgy Group at Jernkontoret (The Swedish steel producers' Association).

DAG AVANGO

Dr. Dag Avango is Professor in history and head of the unit for history, Luleå University of Technology. He is a member of the TICCIH Board of Trustees and representative of Sweden in the ICOMOS International Polar Heritage Committee.

ULF INGEMAR GUSTAFSSON

Dr. Ulf Ingemar Gustafsson is regional-historian and department head of Orkla Industrial museum, Trondelag, Norway. He is the acting national representative for Norway in TICCIH.

JENNIE SJÖHOLM

Dr Jennie Sjöholm is Senior Lecturer in architecture, specializing in urban design and conservation, at Luleå University of Technology.

MAGDALENA TAFVELIN HELDNER

Magdalena Tafvelin Heldner, Curator at Tekniska museet (National Museum of Science and Technology) since 20 years, creating exhibitions and exploring the cultural and industrial heritage. Special interests Life Science, Nuclear industry, Innovation processes, Ethics.

Scientific committee
Scientific committees from TICCIH and ACHS.

Advisory board
Former organizers and regional actors.

General information

Visas
If you want to visit Sweden and Norway and you are a citizen in a country outside the EU/Schengen countries, you may need to apply for a permit before the visit. Which permit you need to apply for depends on how long your stay will be. If your stay will be less than 90 days you may need to apply for a visa.

List of foreign citizens who require Visa for entry into Sweden and Norway

More information Swedish Migration Agency and The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI)

Health
The emergency number in Sweden is 112 and in Norway 112 for police and rescue coordination centre and 113 for ambulance and medical emergencies.

Currency
The monetary unit in Sweden is the "krona" (SEK) but Sweden is widely regarded as a cashless society. Most of the country's banks have stopped handling cash; many shops, museums and restaurants are nowadays only accepting plastic or mobile payments. Most terminals in stores are supporting the use of paying with contactless cards. But no need to worry. Major credit cards (some restriction may apply to American Express) are widely accepted throughout Sweden at banks, hotels, stores, restaurants, taxis, car rental companies, and for air, ship and rail tickets.

The Norwegian currency is "Kroner" (NOK), and just like in Sweden almost all establishments accept debit or credit cards.

Electricity
In Sweden and Norway the power plugs and sockets are of type F. The standard voltage is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. You might need an adapter if your country operates another system, compare here.

Climate
The climate in Kiruna and northern Norway is mild with cool nights at the end of August. It might rain (and even snow) so be well prepared with shoes and clothing so you keep warm and dry. Even though the period of Midnight sun has ended it will still be white nights in the region, i.e. the sun sets but it doesn't get dark at night.

Travelling to Kiruna
You can travel to Kiruna from Stockholm by train (15 h) or flight (1,5 h). Transfer buses and taxis are available or can be ordered to the train station or Kiruna airport for transport to your accommodation.

More information
Visit Sweden
Visit Norway
Swedish Lapland
Kiruna

Accommodations

Hotels

Scandic Hotel Ferrum
Hotell Bishops Arms
Hotell Kebne
Camp Ripan
Hotell E10

Hostels

Yellow House Vandrarhem Kiruna
Kiruna Room and Hostel
STF Kiruna, Malmfältens folkhögskola

Note, more hotels are under construction in the new town centre, and are expected to be open by 2024.