

# Welcome to Laholm



Laholm

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*Moving home is a big step to take. Just the thought of moving is often stressful enough. What will life be like in the new location? Will the move open up opportunities for a better life in Sweden? Will I like the new location? Will everything I need be close at hand? What are the possibilities of finding work or studying? How will it be for my children?*

*Laholm is a small municipality in the south of Sweden with a lot to offer. There are many opportunities for a good quality of life, work and education. The schools and leisure activities available to children in Laholm are very good as are our shops and health care services. In addition, Laholm is situated close to a number of larger cities that can easily be reached by public transport.*

*We want to see more people in Laholm! We want to grow and develop! You can enrich Laholm with your presence, experiences and knowledge. We believe in diversity and see people from other countries as an asset to our society.*

*Welcome to Laholm!*



*Per Asklund  
Chairman of the  
Municipal Council*



*Nils Danred  
Acting Chief  
Executive Officer*



Per Asklund, Chairman of the Municipal Council and Nils Danred, Acting Chief Executive Officer.

# Facts about Laholm

## Laholm Municipality

### Geography

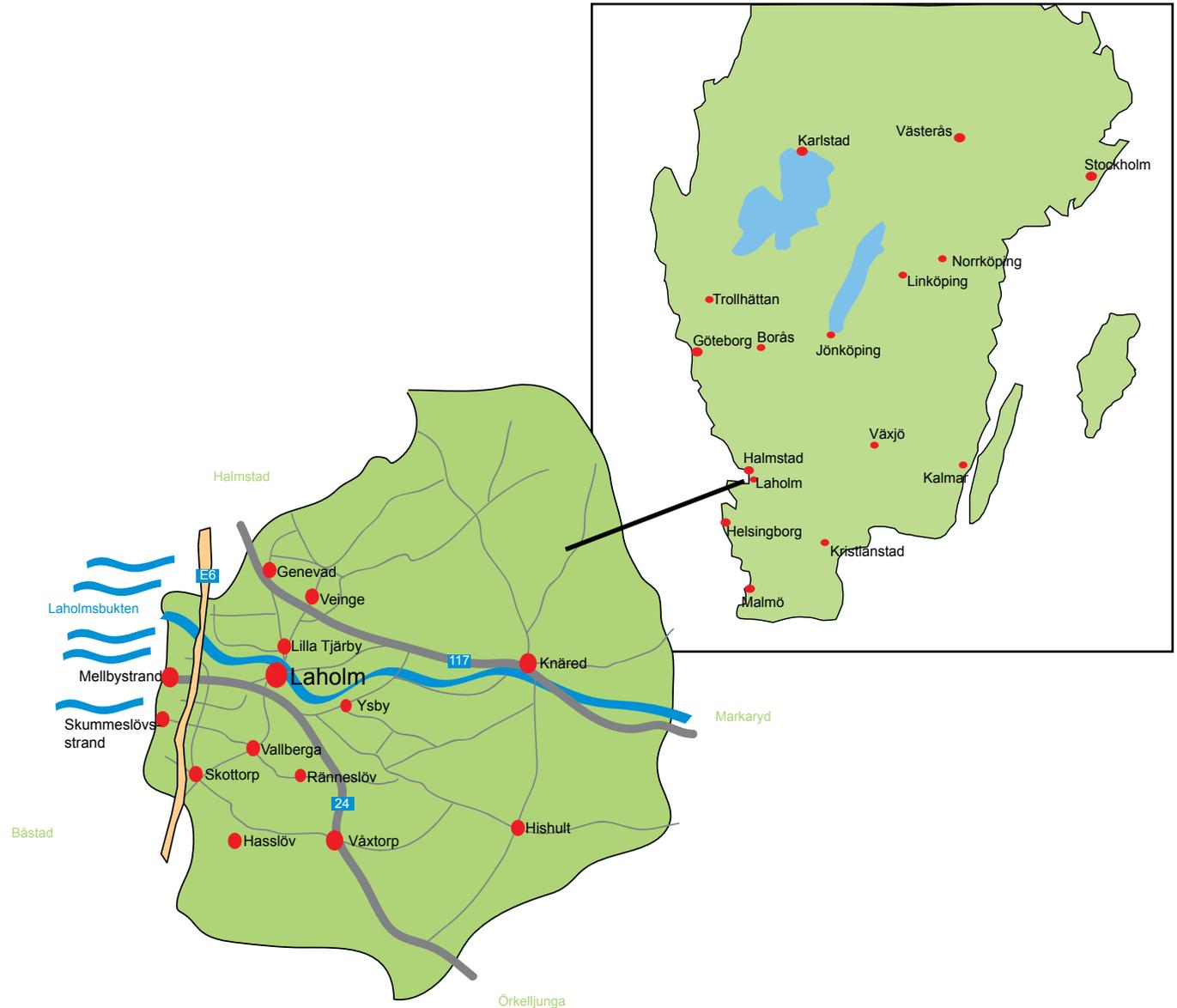
The municipality of Laholm is situated in the south, in the County of Halland, along the west coast of Sweden. To the west, we have the sea and the beaches. The central parts are primarily made up of farmland and in the east we have forests. River Lagan runs through the entire municipality and you are never far from nature and water no matter where in the county you live.

### Inhabitants

The population of Laholm was approx. 23,400 in 2009, 9 % of who were born in a different country (compared with a national average of 14 % in 2009).

### Urban areas

There are 14 urban areas in Laholm Municipality. Laholm is the seat of the municipality with around 6,000 inhabitants.



# Living

## Living

Laholm municipality offers high-quality living in peaceful surroundings. Tenancy rights in Laholm primarily consist of individual apartments in apartment buildings. However, it is also possible to rent an apartment with for example a private garden as part of a small house in one of Laholm's suburbs. The pricing of homes in and around Laholm is generally very reasonably. Unsurprisingly, a house by the sea does not come cheap but you do not need go far inland to find a house at a much lower price.



## We chose Laholm

### Helene & Mouhib Boutros

Helene and Mouhib Boutros and their children were granted residence permits in 2006. Before finding their own home, the Boutros stayed with family and friends. This gave them an opportunity to get used to Laholm and life here. Helene took her children to the nursery school daycentre and activities run by the church. She started to get to know people and began feeling at home. This became very obvious to Helene when the family visited Stockholm with a view of possibly moving there. Helene explains:

– “I was convinced that I wanted to live in a large city but I could not wait to get back to the peaceful surroundings of Laholm. Everyone greets you and says ‘hello’ when I am out walking with the children in Laholm and it gives me a sense of security and peace to know that people recognise us and know who we are.”

The family's visit to Stockholm was a brief encounter and they were soon back in Laholm.



Today, the family has their own house in Lilla Tjärby, a short distance from Laholm. Helene and her oldest daughter cycles to work and school in Laholm. The youngest daughter attends a small local school. Helene was able to complete a course in catering and has since

found permanent employment in a nursery school kitchen. Mouhib has fulfilled his dream and now owns a barbershop, making sure that the residents of Laholm look tidy in their hair.

The family enjoy living in Laholm. These days, when visiting relatives in Lebanon, they long to return ‘home’ to Laholm to their newfound lives and friends.

# Work & Education

## To work and study

Laholm has long been a farming community and the area is still strewn with working farms. However, the current labour market in Laholm mainly consists of small and average size businesses in areas such as graphic production, forestry, manufacturing and food. The tourism sector is growing and many new companies are being established within this and the service sector.

In Laholm, you can come into contact with the labour market at an early stage through work placement opportunities. In this way, you not only learn to speak Swedish but it also gives you a chance to get to know the Swedish workplace culture and customs.

### Careers guidance

Laholm Lärcentrum (Careers Advice Centre) can give you advice and guidance on choosing the right education and employment. Here, you can talk to a professional careers adviser about your future aspirations. Lärcentrum works in close collaboration with the Swedish Public Employment Service and local businesses and is a useful meeting place for people entering into the Swedish labour market for the first time.



Work placement in a shop in Laholm

### Education

Lärcentrum provides most of the municipal adult education programme including, for example, Swedish for immigrants, adult basic education, secondary level education and vocational training.

### Swedish

At Lärcentrum, you can study Swedish at all levels required for entry to university or further education:

Swedish for immigrants, levels A - D.

Swedish as a second language – compulsory comprehensive school level.

Swedish A and Swedish B – secondary school level.

### Other educational opportunities

The short distance from Laholm to Halmstad University and other municipalities opens up a multitude of possibilities for high level studies.

## We chose Laholm

### Jasmin Hashem

Jasmin is from Iraq and came to Laholm with the help of the Swedish Migration Board. Jasmin is very happy with the help and advice received from the municipality since moving to Laholm. It has never been a problem to get hold of one of the administrators responsible and she has always felt welcome to contact them at any time with questions or concerns. “They have all got to know me in person, which is an added bonus”, says Jasmin.



Something else of essential importance to Jasmin and one that she feels is functioning well in Laholm is the public transport system. It is for example very easy to get from Laholm to Ängelholm where Jasmin is currently enrolled on a 2-year vocational training course. “What is important right now is to finish my studies and get a job. Maybe I will even set up my own accountancy firm once I have graduated from my course. Nothing seems impossible at the moment”, explains Jasmin.

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# Children & Young people

## Children & Young people

Laholm is a child friendly municipality. All nursery schools and schools are located within close proximity. There is not much traffic on the roads so most school children can safely cycle or walk to school on their own. There is an extensive range of leisure time activities available to children, young people and adults. Life in the small town of Laholm offers many advantages for children and young people.

### School

- every young child in the municipality is offered a place at nursery school. There is also a nursery school daycentre where parents on parental leave can go with their child/ children
- most of the suburbs and surrounding villages have a local primary school (Grades F - 6)
- there are secondary schools in (Grades 7 - 9) Laholm, Veinge and Våxtorp
- the Osbeck Upper Secondary School is situated in Laholm
- following upper secondary school education, students can continue studying at a higher level at the adult education centre in Laholm or Halmstad University.

### Leisure time

- organised activities such as football, bandy, singing, handball, swimming, tennis, horse riding, fishing, the Scouts, etc.
- there are many youth recreation centres in the municipality where young people can meet and participate in fun activities
- the nearness to nature provides many opportunities for adventures all year around
- the lakes and the sea provide many opportunities for swimming and bathing in summer. When the winter is cold, then there is also ice-skating on the lakes or skiing down Hallandsåsen to enjoy.

Read more about the activities available at [www.laholm.se](http://www.laholm.se) under [Municipal Services, Sports & Leisure](#)



## We chose Laholm

### Lama & Sharaf Massad

Lama and Sharaf relocated from Malmö to Laholm. They had found it difficult to get work placements in Malmö and a few other things made them not feel much at home in the city. Yet, leaving Malmö and moving to a small town like Laholm was a big step to take for the Massad family. Lama and Sharaf visited Laholm twice before they made the final decision to move.

For their 8-year old son Rushd, moving to Laholm turned out to be the right decision. Rushd still misses his best friend in Malmö but life in Laholm is otherwise great. Rushd is in Grade 2 and his school is only within a short distance from the family's

apartment. After school, Rushd likes to play football and goes training with one of the many football clubs in the municipality of Laholm. Rushd also likes swimming and is an active member of Stimmet Swimming Club at Folkhälso-centrum Leisure Centre. Lama's and Sharaf's daughter Linn loves her nursery school. The first month in Laholm was difficult admits Lama, who longed to return to Malmö. However, these



days, the Massad family is set to stay in Laholm for more than one reason.

*"It is a peaceful place and we feel safe. Our son cycles to school on his own everyday and can be out and about in Laholm without concern for his own safety or us having to worry about him."*

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without concern for his own safety or us having to worry about him," explains Lama. "We feel safe and secure here. Our contacts so far with the municipality have also been very positive. Laholm is considerably smaller than Malmö, which allows for a more personal contact between the administrators and the family. Everyone here in Laholm has taken an interest in us as a family," continues Lama.

# Service

## Service

Laholm has a lot to offer and is an easily accessible municipality. Copenhagen, Malmö and Gothenburg can be reached within 2 hours either via the motorway or the excellent train services. And, if you decide to stay then Laholm has everything you could possibly need.

### Communications

- all urban areas in the municipality including Halmstad can easily be reached by bus. It takes around 30 minutes to Halmstad.
- Gothenburg or Malmö is best reached by train. It takes around 1 ½ hours to either of them.
- the E6 motorway is within a short distance by car. Drive north towards Gothenburg or south towards Malmö/Copenhagen.

### Shopping

- large and small food stores including a delicatessen selling oriental food
- many small sized shops selling everything from clothes and toys to electronics and building material
- Mellbystrand shopping centre with a good selection of top high street brands
- farm shops in the countryside selling home grown produce
- second-hand shops

### Health services

- community health care centres – your first port of call when you need medical care or advice
- child health clinics, monitoring and giving advice on your child's health and development
- specialist medical care and a maternity ward (BB) at Halmstad County Hospital

*"The picturesque centre of Laholm is regularly the site for different activities throughout the year such as Laholm Town Festival, summer activity evenings, the Old Country Market, etc. Laholm's town market takes place almost daily with stalls selling everything from fresh fish and flowers to fine clothes."*



Laholm town centre

# Integration Centre

## Integration Centre

Laholm Integration Centre offers support and assistance to newcomers in the municipality. Municipal support is given to newly arrived refugees with a resident permit who live in the municipality.

As a newly arrived resident in the municipality, many important aspects of your life need to fall into place. Perhaps you need guidance and information about the society in which you are going to live to know where to turn with your questions and what your rights and responsibilities are. At Laholm Integration Centre, we help you better understand and cope with your new life situation so that your initial time in our municipality becomes meaningful and lays the foundation for a good and happy life in Laholm.

Please feel free to contact us at Laholm Integration Centre at any time. You find us at Laholm Lärcentrum (Careers Advice Centre), Lantmannagatan 3 in Laholm. If you have questions about moving to Laholm, please ask your administrator at the Swedish Migration Board or Laholm Municipality to contact Anna Haraldsson, Integration Coordinator.

### Contact details

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# Swedish Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen)

## Swedish Public Employment Service – where possibilities start to take shape

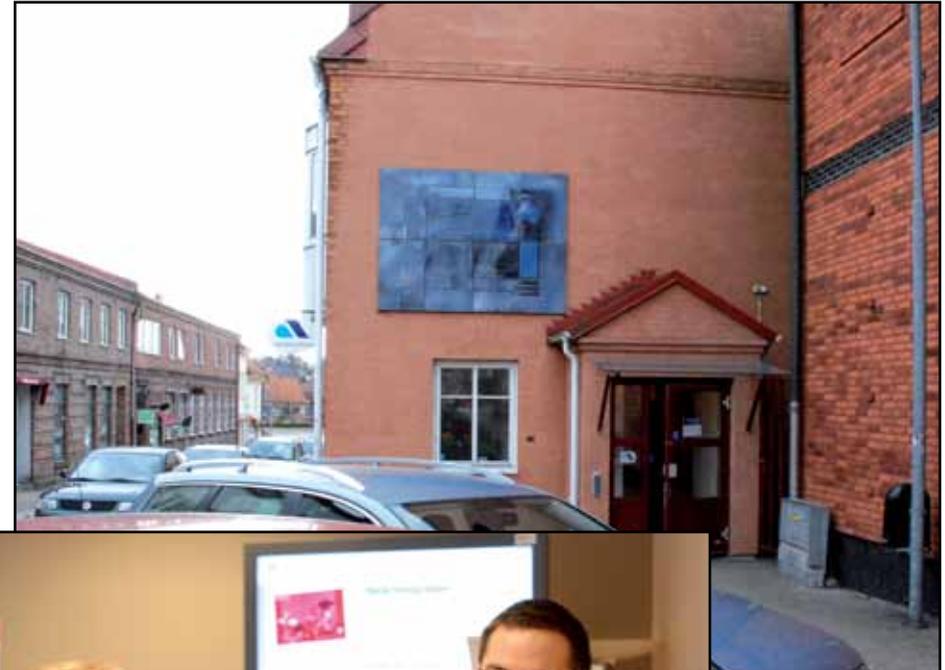
The Swedish Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen) is Sweden's largest employment agency. Our job is to bring together – as effectively as possible – those seeking personnel and those looking for a job. We are to be found where the demand for our services exist i.e. throughout Sweden. All our services are free of charge.

We at the Public Employment Service have far-reaching knowledge of the local and regional labour market in all parts of Sweden. We have Sweden's largest job board (platsbank) where you as jobseeker can search amongst the available jobs. By meeting you at an early stage we are able to identify your experience, knowledge and professional ambitions so as to find a suitable match with localities and employers where your competence is in demand.

In Laholm the Public Employment Service has close contacts with companies and employers. This makes it easy to arrange meetings that may lead to actual employment but also, in co-ordination with

the employer, it may lead to the offer of trainee positions/work experience to provide an idea of different occupations and workplaces. All this aims to ensure that you, as a newcomer to Sweden, can rapidly acquire an idea of how your previous experience fits Swedish requirements in terms of employment. It also helps you to decide whether you should concentrate on training within a specific occupational area. You can find plenty of information on our website [www.arbetsformedlingen.se](http://www.arbetsformedlingen.se)

**Welcome to  
Arbetsförmedlingen in Laholm!**





Folkhälsocentrum Sports & Leisure Centre



Mellbystrand



Salmon fishing in River Lagan



Laholm Town Festival



Football game at Glänningepark