

This guide is an introduction for tourists of how to identify and practice different ways of moving in Gothenburg and Västra Götaland. The guide is a phrase book as well as a cultural study, therefore it is not alphabetical, but rather a journey from the more common impact and interpretation of the Swedish language in this region, to the more specific local manifestations.

# Different ways of getting around in the city or countryside of Gothenburg, Sweden



**SKUP PALET**  
STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL PRODUCTION



**VARV**



**HEY, IT'S  
ENRICO  
PALLAZZO!**



start walking towards the group without straightening them out. At the same time you make waves with your body from one side to another as you sing the words out loud and repeatedly; “*knö day in, knö day in*”. If you gain the trust, you will be invited with a chorus of voices singing “*fast dörra är trång*”. It is advisable and considered polite to sing along in this phrase.

### **Glida runt**

*Glida* is to glide, and as the word implies, this is what you need to do, this is what your attitude has to be all about. This takes money, or a behavior that shows for the onlookers that you know how to spend. Style and class is subordinated. Most *glidare* (people who glides) are not troubled with etiquette, so feel no shame in filling up a space with your presence, if you want to glida you need to start thinking that this is what people around you look up to. Being dash is part of it. To drink too much of the most expensive wines, park your car as if you didn't care, just in front of the place you're aiming for, is a good start. Snap you fingers to waiters, claim constant attention, be loud and have a sexist attitude against all females. Move only short distances at a time through crowds, work the clubs, restaurants and marinas. Body language is that of a young Travolta. For those who have visited the capital, Stockholm, it can be confusing but make note; *glidare* are not to be mixed up with *stekare* (male person who fry or roast). Even though the movements are similar and both use the back-slick to be recognized. The former do work with many disadvantages, such as lacking taste and moving a little bit too much like tango. But don't let this be discouraging facts. For a visitor it's worth a go, both knowledge about small town degeneration and a good laugh is to gain.

of bigger birds with limited or no flying skills. The trunk and shoulders are subdued; face turned downwards or covered with a hand or cloth, to protect it from the merciless never ending rain thrown against it like awls. Their legs have learned how to struggle against the wind with an astonishing persistence, probably because they've never learned how to dress for winter and many of them refuse to wear animal skin, unless it is a small, black leather jacket.

### **Röva fram**

This activity is proper for the bold, one-time visitor, with no intention to return or make any acquaintances worth saving. A huge body mass is considered an advantage along with eating saucy food on the run. The main focus should however be on the way you move your carcass forward in public space. Gestures must be brusque and plump; no sensitivity for other people can be involved in the act. *Röv* meaning arse, there can be no doubt about how you must behave in every given moment. Pay attention to details, if hesitating, release sounds originated from this part of the body in a disgusting way. It will work as a charm and make sure that you are left alone during your stay.

### **Knö sig**

A type of behavior movement in the gray zone since it is not really a way to take on a chosen location, but yet, it is. It is namely about to push your body forward with the help of your limbs, in a crowd. The style is used by the locals and not easily adapted, however rude in its attempt, the activity can be used as a cheerful expression to imply that you want to join in. In this case you need some practice to convince. Start to pick out a group of people that you fancy. Use a "sailor-pose", your legs widened and feet steady on the ground. Lower your knees so that you almost crumble and

### **Gå**

*Att gå* (to walk), is the word to describe the human pace. For other species you use other words although you can say *gå fot* (walk foot) to a dog if you want it to behave and walk next to you. When you are walking, presuppose that you are not injured or have lost one of your legs, only one foot at the time leaves the ground. This leaves periods of double support. The sport where this activity is practiced professionally is called *gång*. You can use the term *gå bort* if you are to explain for another person that you have been invited to someone's home for dinner or drinks. However, you only say this if it is planned in advance and is expected in a way that acquires that you dress up, bring a bottle of wine or sweets. If it is an invitation for a nightcap sprung from the spear of a moment, it is not *gå bort*, rather *titta förbi* (pass by). Important, *gå bort* expressed to you as a request from someone else does not suggest that you should make sure to be invited to someone's home, it means move away, physically. Make sure to be extra careful when use the term *gå bort* about someone not present, even if you know that this person in fact is attending a dinner party, it can be interpreted as if he or she died.

### **Ströva**

*Ströva* is to stroll, roam or ramble. This is mostly a word for walks in the nature, but not in the wild. Parks are good areas for this activity, especially close to calm waters or ponds. This gait is without any specific destination. You are moving around taking your time to enjoy the surroundings.

### **Strosa**

*Strosa* is a version of *ströva*, but more of an all round expression since you can easily do this almost anywhere, as long as it is outdoors and the weather allows. You kind of mooch around,

take your time and really enjoy just being. If average walking speed is estimated to 5 km/h, strosa is not to be more than 2,5.

### Stavgång

Walking with sticks. Although advocated for exercise and used by many retired Scandinavians both home and abroad, this is not to be recommended. For the majority you look like an idiot and make a foolish appearance.

### Flanera

This is the stroll for the more sophisticated, suitable for the urbane gentleman, both alone and with a companion of choice, as well as for older ladies travelling in groups of two. *Flanören* or *The Flaneur* (in this activity it is not odd to embrace a French 18th century twist) is almost without exception moving around in the city for the benefit of fine architecture and neat pavements, but avoid the busy areas and shopping streets since the main point with this activity is to parade rather than experience the popular or national inhabitants. *Flanera* is of course possible along the prom or in the botanic garden. If you are to flanera Sundays are to prefer.

### Promenera

The common way to move around ideal for most people. You can *promenera* alone, with friends, the whole family or in bigger groups including relatives and friends at the same time, you can walk with your grandmother, with a child, let you grandmother walk with your child without you present, it is all promenera. The only catch is if you are too many, you can do it, but it will appear as if you joined an organized tour and then it is called *statsvandring* or *guidad tur* (guided tour), even so, it is still promenera as long as there is no bus or Japanese tourists involved.

to and from different places, up, down and sideways through a variety of milieus and sights both in the city and countryside. Experiences are limited here since the hasty darts take most of the energy. Explore kila in a totally different direction can be to *kila stadigt* (steady) but it requires that someone else wants to kila stadigt with you. This might be an old person since not so many of the young ones do this anymore. Do not ask anyone to *kila vidare* with you, or by themselves, unless you actually want them to die. If this is your last stop and kila vidare seems like a good alternative, Älvsborgsbron is a popular spot for this activity.

### Gå och drälla

Definitely a good way to hang around in the city if you are young or about to attend a rock concert but has absolutely nothing to do until it starts. Whether this is due to poor cash-flow or imagination is of minor importance. You just need to look absolutely blank and bored, push your friends (this is best suitable for smaller or bigger groups with internal resemblance in clothes or hairstyle) or kick things around. You can kick stones, beer cans or only air as long as you back it up by being annoying. *Att gå och drälla* is very similar to bugger around and piss about. It is as valid here as in bigger European and US cities.

### Kämpa på/ knoga

Can be an appealing try-out for persons interested in cultural tourism. As a working class city, Gothenburg citizens has developed a unique way to tread around, adapting not only to generations of hard labour but to the shitty weather. Their bodily movements wintertime, when even reasonable temperatures are experienced as very painful – even grievous – is said to carry an echo from the walk of the prehistoric dromornis or at least some species

same children when you are too tired to make breakfast. Tassa is therefore not a successful way to move around in this town unless you have an ambiguous agenda.

### Lunka

Can be described linguistically as to tramp, plod or trot. Nevertheless there is more to it, especially in the region of west Sweden where well used, this style implies both knowledge of local pedestrian manners as historical, well rooted tradition. This is not something you need to say that you do, you just do it, as if you where a native. Too succeed it is important to drain your body from intentions other than transporting yourself to the nearest sports bar or pub, a bench near Systembolaget or in a park is also locations where this can be a good way to move along. You need to be slow, really slow. One sudden movement revealing too much determination in a crowd where this style is common practice will reveal your alien status in a second. But don't worry, it is a friendly crowd and the exposure of your foreign origin will at the most result in cheerful remarks as; "*ta de vackert*" (approx. take it easy, lit. take it beautiful) or if you are female; "*så, så hjärtat, inte har vi la så bröttom*" (do not hurry sweetheart). You will however pay a price for uncover that includes listening to puns performed with heavy accent and peculiar, often linguistically oriented punch lines. Sometimes this type of jokes includes the characters Kal å Ada (Karl and Ada).

### Kila

Best translated as to beetle. Visually of course what smaller animals such as mice and weasels are up to in their daily life. That be said, it is assorted for the short-legged and quick traveler or for those with a busy schedule squeezed in to a limited time frame. You can *kila* in, out,

If you are Japanese, think about this. You have a disadvantage but it can be done. Promenera is as good in the city as in the countryside, it is suitable for areas with sights, for parks, mount surroundings, flat terrain and forests, it is appropriate if you visit a zoo, an amusement park or even combined with some occasional shopping. However, the purchase must not be the main attraction. You can choose to promenera *till/från* (to or from) different activities and home late at night, then it insinuates that you prefer to walk rather than take a bus, tram or taxi. In this sense promenera is more of a statement than a fulltime activity.

### Traska

*Att traska* is to hoof or trudge. It's aiming mostly at smaller children or elderly ladies who are a little bit tired of promenera but still needs to do it. When traska is practiced, it is with a little bit of chubbiness. The legs are more firmly touching the ground, knees are reaching higher positions and you are more determined than in ströva-mode. You haven't got a destination for your movement; you might have, but mostly not. Use rubber boots to get a hang of it. This is practical also because traska definitely is something you can do when the weather is overcast.

### Tassa

*Tassa* (pad) is the silent sneaky style for the timid who doesn't want to get any attention. Exercised the wrong way it will make you more visible than intended and in a bad way. Maybe people will suspect you to be a pervert or wanting to steel something. In this region tassa is used mainly in the mornings to not wake up sleeping neighbors, to surprise children on their birthdays (but then exaggerated so that they still notice you), or as an appeal to the