Austria: <https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/austria-facts.html>, <https://worldoflina.com/50-interesting-facts-about-austria-you-didnt-know/>,

The longest border is shared with Germany and is about 801 km/ 497 miles in length.

Austria is a mostly mountainous country with the Alps covering the western and the southern parts and mostly gentle hills in the eastern and northern parts.

Austria is one of the few landlocked countries in central Europe - together with Switzerland and Luxembourg.

Austria can be compared in size with the state of South Carolina in the USA.

Whether it’s alpine or downhill – skiing has been the most popular sport in Austria for more than 100 years.

The Tyrolian city Innsbruck has hosted the Winter Olympics twice. Once in 1964 and again in 1976.

The Austrian flag dates from 1191, which makes it one of the oldest national flags in the world.

The country became a member of the European Union in 1995.

Austria is among the six EU countries that are not members of NATO.

Bulgaria: <https://ntripping.com/facts-about-bulgaria/>,

Tucked in the heart of the Balkan Peninsula in the South-Eastern part of Europe, at a crossroad between Europe and Asia, Bulgaria borders Turkey, Greece, Serbia, Macedonia, and Romania. Its natural borders are also the Black Sea and the Danube River.

The highest Bulgarian mountain, Rila Mountain, is also the highest on the Balkans. Its tallest peak – Musala (2,925 m/9,596 ft.) – is higher than Mount Olympus by seven metres.

The mountain range, which gave the Balkan Peninsula its name, runs through the whole width of Bulgaria. The former name of what we now call Stara planina (literally: Old Mountain) was Balkan. It stretches from Serbia, divides Bulgaria into Northern and Southern, and kisses the Black Sea at Cape Emine.

Bulgaria is the second richest in natural mineral springs country in Europe, stepping down only to Iceland.

The Rose Valley, located between the mountains Stara planina and Sredna gora, produces approximately half of the world’s rose oil. The rose oil is extracted from a species called Rosa Damascena (Damask rose). It is an essential component in the cosmetics industry. The Bulgarian Rose Oil is a Protected Geographical Indication.

Bulgaria is one of the oldest countries in Europe. It is also the only one, which never changed its name since its establishment in 681

Plovdiv, Bulgaria’s second largest city is the oldest constantly inhabited city in Europe. For most of its 8,000-years-long history, it was known as Philipopolis. The capital Sofia is the second oldest, with an estimated age of approximately 7,000 years.

Bulgaria is the only country in the world, which saved its Jews during World War II. Despite the fact, that the country was on the German side, no Jew was ever transported to a concentration camp.

The Bulgarian Army never lost a battle. Unfortunately, it has also never won a war (due to the incompetence of politicians). A Bulgarian flag was never captured during a battle.

Belgium: <https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/belgium-facts.html>, <https://thefactfile.org/belgium-facts/>,

The longest river in Belgium is the Scheldt (in French: Escaut, in Dutch: Schelde). The Scheldt river runs through the country over 200 km/ 124 miles.

The Eau d'heure lake district in Wallonia is the largest lake area in Belgium and includes five artificial lakes which are used for watersports and there is also a fun waterpark.

Belgium belongs to the Benelux countries which include: Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

The highest peak in Belgium is called Botrange. It is located near Eupen in the High Ferns and is 694 metres/ 2,276 ft. high.

The national flag of Belgium was adopted in 1931. It is a tricolor with black, yellow and red vertical strips.

Belgium consists of three federal regions – Flanders, Brussels, and Wallonia.

Belgium is also one of the most heavily industrialized and urbanized country in Europe.

Belgium is also known as the “Battlefield of Europe” because the country served as a battlefield between many European powers and during the two World Wars as well.

The Belgian Coast Tram – the Kusttram— is the longest tram line in the world. It is 68 km long and connects the cities and towns along the entire Belgian (West Flanders) coast, between De Panne near the French border and Knokke-Heist.

Croatia: <https://thefactfile.org/croatia-facts/>,

The Croats are believed to have arrived in what is today Croatia, from southern Poland, south of Kraków in the early 7th century. However, this claim is also disputed by many.

Croatia was once a kingdom in 925 under the kingship of Tomislav, the first king of the country.

In northern Croatia, the fossils of Neanderthals have been unearthed. The fossils were found to be dating back to the middle Palaeolithic period.

Because of a variety of dialets that are spoken in the country, it is common to find people having difficulty in understanding each others’ language and intention.

Croatia is a rich country in biodiversity.

Croatia has a total of eight national parks. One of these–Plitvice Lakes National Park– is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Croatia also has a city continuously inhabited for the last 8000 years – Vinkovic, in eastern Croatia.

Croatia has the second highest rate of immigration in the world. Ireland is on the number one spot.

47% of Croatia’s land and 39% of its sea is designated as specially protected areas and areas of conservation.

Republic of Cyprus: <https://thefactfile.org/interesting-facts-cyprus/>,

Cyprus is the third largest and third most populous island in the Mediterranean.

Mount Olympus is the highest peak in Cyprus at 6402 ft above sea level.

A rare variety of sheep–The Cyprus Mouflon–can only be seen in the country and nowhere else in the world. They are said to have originated from a wild Asian sheep brought by prehistoric Cypriots around 9000-8000BC.

There is only one horserace track in the country, and it can be found in its capital city – Nicosia.

Out of the total 1950 species of flowering plants worldwide, 140 are found nowhere but in Cyprus.

Several British military bases still exist on the island, as the country was once governed by the British.

Twenty rare species of Orchids and 371 species of migratory birds can be seen on the island.

The world’s oldest wine label belongs to Cyprus.

The island country is divided into two parts. The North and the South. The northern part is called the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” while the southern part is called the “Independent Republic of Cyprus” or the “Greek Cyprus.”

Czech Republic: <https://thefactfile.org/czech-republic-facts/>,

Originally formed in the late ninth century, the Czech state was first known as the Duchy of Bohemia under the Great Moravian Empire.

It was formally recognized as part of the massive Holy Roman Empire in 1004 and became the Kingdom of Bohemia in 1198.

The Bohemian Kingdom became part of the Austrian Empire when the Holy Roman Empire was dissolved in 1806.

By 1946 the country had become Communist under Soviet influence.

Due to its lack of international and domestic conflict as well as its low crime rate, the Global Peace Index in 2016 ranks the Czech Republic as the sixth safest place to live on earth.

The Czech Republic is known worldwide for its mouth-blown decorated art glass and crystal, all individually made.

The Czech people have the highest beer consumption per capita in the world. Its first known brewery existed in 993. Pilsners were originated here as did the first ever blond pilsners. There are several beer festivals hosted annually.

The Czech Republic ranks as one of the least religious populations in the world, with only 19 percent of them claiming to believe in God.

The Czech Republic has an advanced, high-income economy and a high standard of living. In fact, it is the most stable and prosperous of the post-communist states, with the lowest unemployment rate in the European Union.

Denmark: <https://thefactfile.org/denmark-facts/>,

The Danish flag is the oldest state flag in the world which is still in use by an independent nation.

Denmark remained neutral during the World War II.

In 1792, Denmark became the first European country to abolish slavery.

Jutland is the only peninsula in Denmark, the rest are islands.

Denmark has 406 islands. And 7314-kilometer long coastline.

From any point in the country, one could reach ocean by traveling just 52 km.

Denmark is almost flat. “Mollehoj” at 171 m is the highest point in Denmark.

There are a lot of bicycles in Denmark. Interestingly, there are more bicycles in Copenhagen than there are people.

Denmark is the most expensive European Union country to live in.

Estonia: <https://thefactfile.org/estonia-facts/>,

The country also has the highest number of startups per capita in Europe.

Estonia is also the birthplace of the first Christmas tree.

Estonia since joining the European Union has become an increasingly important transshipment zone for cannabis, cocaine, opiates, and synthetic drugs.

Estonia is also among the cleanest places on the planet earth to breath.

Almost 50% of its territory is covered with forests and 22% is under agriculture.

It is also the third country in the world after Finland and Canada to have the maximum area covered under natural mires.

Estonia is the birthplace of Skype.

The tallest mountain–Suur Munamägi–in the country is just about 1000 ft in height.

It is the least populous state of the European Union.

Finland: <https://thefactfile.org/finland-facts/>,

Finland is the eighth largest country in Europe yet it is the European Union’s most sparsely populated country.

There are 187,888 lakes (larger than 500 m²) within the boundaries of Finland. This also is a world record. Saimaa, Finland’s largest lake, is Europe’s fourth largest lake. The lake is also home to the rarest fresh water seal in the world – “The Saimaa”. Approximately 310 of these are left in the lake.

Finland’s capital Helsinki lies higher north in the world than almost any other capital city, second only to Iceland’s Reykjavik.

Finland’s education system ranks as one of the world’s best, even though children don’t go to school until they are seven and it’s not mandatory to give them grades until the eighth grade.

Finland has the world’s highest annual consumption of milk per capita.

17% of the Finns are lactose intolerant.

Finland’s 120 km Päijänne Water Tunnel is the longest tunnel in Europe and the second longest tunnel in the world.

Finland has been a member of the European Union since 1995 and it’s the only Nordic state to join the euro single currency at its original launch in 1999.

In Finland, almost 100% of the bottles are recycled while almost 90% of them are returned for recycling after use.

France: <https://thefactfile.org/france-facts/>,

France has the highest consumption of pure alcohol per year – 10.9 liters.

The longest confirmed human lifespan on record belongs to a French woman, Jeanne Calment, who lived for 122 years and 164 days.

France is one of the largest producers of wine in the world. They produce between 7-8 billion bottles every year.

Between 1814 and 1830, the French flag was plain white (no color, just white).

The French sleep the most among people in the developed world. On average, they sleep 8.83 hours per day.

The French sleep the most among people in the developed world. On average, they sleep 8.83 hours per day.

Fourteen percent of the population of Paris consists of non-nationals.

The Eiffel Tower is painted every seven years, taking five tons of paint to complete the job each time.

The world’s first true department store was opened in Paris in 1838.

Germany: <https://thefactfile.org/germany-facts/>,

Modern Berlin is only 26 years old! The city has been around since at least 1237 when it is believed to have been founded. But modern Berlin was really born with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

The Berlin Wall was officially called the Anti-Fascist Protection Wall, ironically implying that it was built to protect East Germans from West Germany which still had not got rid of all elements of Nazism.

In 1933 thousands of books by Albert Einstein, Heinrich Heine, Karl Marx, Erich Maria Remarque, and others were burned at Bebelplatz, to protest against “un-German spirit”. Ironically, the fascists were doing the burning.

Germany is slowly closing all its nuclear power plants. There should be none by 2022!

Germans don’t have house numbers. The postman delivers mail by the last name, even in apartment blocks.

The cost of dying in Germany is high – strict laws regarding funerals mean that there is less competition in the funeral industry and costs are really high!

Some stretches of the Autobahn has no speed limit at all.

Denying the Holocaust is a crime in Germany. It’s obvious why, but it seems a silly thing to do even if you are a neo-Nazi!

Kids can drink beer and wine in public at 13! In fact, drinking in public in Germany is legal, much to the envy of many other parts of the world.

Greece: <https://www.trafalgar.com/real-word/facts-greece/>, <https://www.definitelygreece.com/facts-about-greece/>,

80% of Greece is made up of mountains.

No part of Greece is more than 137 kilometres away from the ocean.

More tourists visit Greece every year than the entire Greek population.

Athens has more theatres than any other city in the world.

Greece is one of the sunniest places in the world.

Greece has more archaeological museums than any country in the world.

Greece has about 9,000 miles of coastline.

Greece is the place where democracy was born.

Military service is compulsory for all young Greek men and lasts from six to nine months.

Hungary: <https://thefactfile.org/hungary-facts/>,

It is one of the oldest countries in Europe.

Hungary joined NATO in 1999 and the EU in 2004.

Hungary is known for its Nobel Prize winners. There are a total of 13 such winners. They have won Nobel Prizes in every category except ‘Peace.’ All of the Nobel Prize winners, however, emigrated from the country.

Hungarians have won gold medals in the Olympics every time they have competed.

The Budapest Grand Prix, the only Formula-One motor race in Eastern Europe, was inaugurated in August 1986.

They have had a university since 1367, which is their oldest university – the University of Pecs.

They host the largest cultural and musical festival in Europe – the Sziget Festival.

There are 22 distinct wine regions and eight grape varieties in Hungary, which is why it can also be called a wine country.

Budapest, the Hungarian capital, has the highest number of thermal springs in the world.

Ireland: <https://www.beelovedcity.com/amazing-facts-ireland>,

St Patrick wasn’t from Ireland.

There are no snakes in Ireland.

Ireland is the most successful Eurovision Song Contest country.

Ireland has the highest number of red-haired people per capita in the world.

Ireland is the first country in the world that legalised same-sex marriage by referendum.

The President of Ireland has little to no power.

Ireland’s nickname is the Emerald Isle.

18% of people living in Ireland are foreign.

22 American presidents had Irish blood.

Italy: <https://thefactfile.org/italy-facts/>,

Florence was Europe’s first city to have paved streets in 1339.

The Ponte Vecchio Bridge over the River Arno in Florence was the only bridge left standing after the bombings of WWII. It is rumored that Hitler spared the bridge because he thought it was too beautiful to destroy!

The Italian flag is based on the French flag, from the time that Napoleon brought troops and his flag into Italy in 1797.

Cabiria was the first cinema blockbuster and an epic (2 hour-long) Italian silent film set in Turin, and it went on to be shown around the world.

The first true piano was invented by one man – Bartolomeo Cristofori of Padua.

From 1904 to 1999, Italian kids only needed to attend school till they were 14! Now the age of compulsory education is sixteen.

The World’s longest tunnel–Gotthard Base Tunnel–runs from Switzerland to Italy. It took 17 years to build and is 57 km long.

34% of the Italians and 33% of the Portuguese have never used the Internet.

The University of Bologna, in Italy, is the Europe’s oldest university in continuous operation since 1088.

Latvia - <https://thefactfile.org/latvia-facts/>,

Latvia’s forests are often called “green gold.” This is mainly because the country’s forests contribute handsomely towards the country’s economy.

The country is home to a large variety of deciduous tree species including – oak, aspen, birch, black and white alder and others.

Germans ruled large parts of today’s Latvia during the beginning of the 13th century. FYI, the country was under foreign rule between the 13th and 20th century.

Latvia is also the first country to produce citric acid from molasses, a spin-off of sugar production.

More than one third of Latvia’s land area is covered by forests. As the majority of the country is covered by forest, timber and wood products make up the country’s most important products.

During World War II, Latvia saw more than 250,000 of its countrymen flee the Soviet occupation.

The country also gave the world its first spy camera – “Minox.” It was produced by the Latvian factory VEF between 1937 and 1943.

Venta Rapid is a waterfall on the Venta River in Kuldīga, Latvia. It is the widest waterfall in Europe – 249 metres (817 ft) and up to 270 metres (886 ft) during spring floods. The height of the waterfall changes depending on the water level in the river.

Latvia was ranked the world’s 32nd most peaceful country in the Global Peace Index of 2016.

Lithuania: <https://www.airv.lt/interesting-facts-about-lithuania>,

By the end of the fourteenth century, Lithuania was the largest country in Europe.

On February 4, 1991, Iceland became the first country to recognize Lithuanian independence.

Lithuania is divided into 10 counties, 60 municipalities, and 500 administrative areas.

Lithuania has 99 kilometers (61.5 mi) of sandy coastline.

Lithuania is spread over an area of approximately 65,300 sq km (25,212 sq miles) and is about the same size as West Virginia.

The state of Lithuania is an independent, democratic republic and follows Parliamentary democracy.

Juozapines Hill (294 m) forms the highest point in Lithuania.

The largest and longest river in the country is Nemunas.

Lithuania was the first Soviet republic to declare independence from the USSR.

Luxembourg: <https://thefactfile.org/luxembourg-facts/>,

Some of Charlemagne’s most important battles occurred in Luxembourg’s Ardennes forest. The Song of Roland describes a nightmare set in the Ardennes the emperor had on the eve of the Battle of Roncevaux Pass in 778.

The Congress of Vienna declared Luxembourg to be a Grand Duchy in 1815 and gave it to the Netherlands.

The country became independent in 1867.

The country’s banking secrecy laws have made it a tax haven but recent reforms are increasing transparency.

Luxembourg is ranked by the Heritage Foundation as Europe’s first and the world’s fourth ranked country for economic freedom.

Skype has its headquarters in Luxembourg. Paypal, Amazon, Rovie Corporation and Rakuten all have their European headquarters there.

Luxembourg founded the European Union to create a politically stronger Europe. The highest court in the EU in matters of union law with its 28 justices, one for each member state, is located in Luxembourg.

Luxembourg is also is one of the founder nation-members of the Western European Union, the United Nations, the Benelux, and NATO.

With 647 cars purchased per 1,000 people, Luxembourg has the highest rate of car ownership in the entire world. Volkswagen is purchased most often.

Malta: <https://thefactfile.org/malta-facts/>,

The name of the island nation is supposedly derived from a Greek word meaning “honey.”

Arabs ruled over Malta for no less than two centuries. The legacy of their rule can be seen in the Maltese language that has many Arabic elements.

For the country’s bravery in the Second World War, Malta was awarded the George Cross by King George VI of the United Kingdom.

Malta is also home to some of the oldest free-standing structures of the world – the seven Megalithic Temples.

The country is believed to have been inhabited since the early Neolithic period of 5000 BC.

Malta is among the world’s smallest and most densely populated countries.

Malta has the fourth-highest car ownership costs in the European Union.

People in the country drive on the left-hand side of the road.

The first film shot in Malta—Sons of the Sea—was filmed there in 1925.

Netherlands: <https://thefactfile.org/netherlands-facts/>,

The Netherlands remained neutral in the World War I but was invaded and occupied by Germany in the World War II.

It is the world’s first country to legalize same-sex marriage in 2001.

It is also a founding member of the EU, NATO, OECD, WTO and also a part of Schengen Area.

According to the World Happiness Report – 2017, the Netherland is the sixth-most happiest country in the world.

The Netherlands is an undisputed world leader in water management.

The country has plenty of rivers, lakes, and canals. Some 99.9% of the country’s households have access to clean, chlorine free drinking water.

The Netherlands highest point is Vaalserberg, which is 321 m above sea level.

The Netherlands national anthem Wilhelmus is the oldest national anthem in the world. It was written in 1568 and became official in 1932.

According to the 2014 Oxfam report, The Netherlands is also one of the healthiest countries in the world.

Poland: <https://thefactfile.org/poland-facts/>,

The name “Poland” (called “Polska” in Polish) is derived from the tribe name Polanie. The word Polanie means ‘people living in open fields.’

Poland is the second country in the world to develop a constitution. Poland’s first written constitution was adopted in 1791 during the Spring.

The city of Warsaw was almost completely destroyed during World War 2 and was rebuilt after World War 2.

The landscape is rich with beaches, mountains, deserts, lakes, and forests, including mountain chains and almost 800 kilometers of the seashore.

Poland is home to the only desert located in Central Europe. This desert is named Pustynia Bledowska.

The Pomerania region of Poland is home to the dunes which are among the most popular tourist hot spots.

Poland is home to the Malbork which is officially the biggest castle in the world as measured by single area.

In Poland, the names of Saints are associated with days in the calendar. This is done to facilitate a tradition known as name day.

Opened in 1275, the Piwnica Swidnicka is the oldest restaurant in Europe. The same is located in Wroclaw, Poland.

Portugal: <https://thefactfile.org/portugal-facts/>,

Portugal was founded in 1128, making it one of the oldest nations in Europe. Portugal is named after its 2nd largest city, Porto.

Portuguese is the 6th most spoken language (240 million speakers) in the world.

The largest community of Portuguese outside Portugal is in Rio de Janeiro.

The largest artificial underwater park–The Ocean Revival Underwater Park—in the world, is in Portugal.

The VASCO DA GAMA BRIDGE in Lisbon is the longest bridge in Europe with a total length of 17,185 meters.

One of the most advanced ATM system in the world belongs to Portugal. More than 60 operations are possible through the system including a donation for charities, phone credit top-ups and buying concert tickets.

The University of Coimbra, established in Lisbon in 1290, is one of the oldest universities in continuous operation in the world, the oldest university of Portugal, and one of its largest higher education and research institutions.

The montado landscape of Portugal produces approximately half of all cork harvested annually worldwide.

Portugal is the world leader in the production of renewable energy. It manages to meet almost 70% of its energy needs through hydro, wind and solar power.

Romania: <https://thefactfile.org/romania-facts/>,

The first written record of people inhabiting the region of what is today Romania was in 513 BC. The kingdom of Dacia endured invasions by Goths, Avars, Huns, Magyars and Bulgars during its centuries of existence as a Roman protectorate.

The Scarisoara glacier is underneath the Bihor Mountains. More the 3,500 years old, it is Europe’s second largest underground glacier.

Since the end of Communism, Romania’s governments have been working on turning their economy into a market one. Two long-term programs are under development: fisheries and forestry.

Romania has seven UNESCO World Heritage sites. These include: the Dacian Fortress of the Orastie Mountains; the Churches of Modavia; the Villages with Fortified Churches in Transylvania; the Churches of Moldavia; and the Wooden Churches of Maramures among others.

The flag of Romania consists of blue, yellow and red vertical stripes. These stripes represent Transylvania, Moldavia and Walachia, the three historic components of the combined country of Romania.

Romania is situated halfway between the North Pole and the equator.

The tallest rock sculpture in Europe is located in Romania. The statue of Dacian king Decebal is 135 feet tall and is carved in a rocky bank near the Danube.

The world’s largest salt mine museum is in Transylvania inside the old Turda Salt Mines. These massive mines were formed by machine and hand without using explosives.

The first city in Europe to have electric street lights was Timisoara, Romania (1889).

Slovakia: <http://blog.timeforslovakia.com/10-interesting-facts-about-slovakia-3/>, <https://www.coolkidfacts.com/slovakia-facts/>.

Slovakia has the world’s highest number of castles and chateaux per capita.

Slovakia has more than 6000 caves.

It is the only capital in the world bordering two countries.

Slovakia is the geographical midpoint of Europe.

Since 2014 students and pensioners can travel by train for free.

Slovakia has 9 national parks and 14 protected landscapes.

Slovakia’s first president, Tomas Masaryk, was elected in 1918.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989, Czechoslovakia became free. The Slovaks and Czechs decided peacefully to separate. This is known as the Velvet Divorce.

Slovakia later joined the European Union in 2004.

Slovenia: <https://thefactfile.org/slovenia-facts/>.

Slovenia’s War of Independence in 1991, also known as the Ten-Day War claimed 76 lives. It was also the first war in Europe since World War II.

Slovenia is the only modern-day European country that was occupied by both Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy.

In 1990, Slovenia established democracy for the first time since World War I.

The first country to recognize Slovenia as a country was Croatia. Incidentally, the first country to recognize Croatia itself as a country was Slovenia.

The oldest linden tree in Slovenia’s flag is actually older than Modern Europe itself. The Najevnik Linden tree in the Slovenia’s Koroška region is 700 years old and has a circumference of 10 meters (over 30 feet).

Ljubljana is the European Green Capital of the world for 2016.

Postojna is the biggest at 20,570 m long and the best-known cave system in the world.

Slovenia is a heaven of biodiversity. It contains 1% of the world’s organisms on 0.004% of the Earth’s surface area.

It has the highest number of caves (more than 10,000) in the world and more than half of the country is covered with forests.

Spain: <https://thefactfile.org/spain-facts/>.

The first ‘novel’ is attributed to a Spaniard: Spanish author, Cervantes’ is known for his Don Quixote novel which was written in 1605.

Spain is responsible for giving the world the mop and bucket. This occurred in 1856.

The precedent to the modern cigarettes, which was developed around the 17th century was first developed in Spain.

The first astronaut’s space suit was developed in Spain in 1935.

Red Eléctrica de España (REE), is one of the main operators of the electrical system in Spain.

Spain is home to one of the oldest living languages in the world–Euskera.

Spain also has the world’s oldest existing lighthouse — the Tower of Hercules. It was built in the first century and is operational still today.

Spain has the second highest number of bars per inhabitants in the world. Cyprus leads the tally.

It is the 14th largest economy in the world.

Sweden: <https://thefactfile.org/sweden-facts/>.

Sweden has one of the lowest population densities in the world, of only 25.5 people per square kilometre, with the majority (over 80%) living in urban areas that represent only 1.5% of the land area.

There are over 29 National parks.

Sweden is one of the cleanest and most progressive in the world when it comes to recycling and other environmental concerns.

Sweden has over 90,000 lakes and 3000 kilometers of coastline.

Sweden is also notable as the country with the oldest limited company in the world (Koppargravura AB founded in 1288) and that holds the highest number of patents in the world.

Sweden is a global pioneer in the field of astronomy and is home to the biggest scale model of the solar system.

Sweden is the sixth oldest country in Europe and its eighth oldest monarchy as well as being one of the oldest sovereign states in the world.

Sweden is famous for being the first country in the world to outlaw physical punishment of children. In 1966 the right of parents to hit their children was removed and they passed a law that explicitly banned it in 1979.

Today Sweden has one of the highest living standards in the world mainly due to maintaining low unemployment, a strong welfare system and one of the highest life-expectancies in the world.