

# Geography Unit 2: In 2022, the Scandinavian countries all ranked in the top 10 happiest countries in the world, why is this?



## Varied Climates

The Scandinavian countries are very large which means their distance from the equator will vary between locations. For example, Northern locations in Norway and Sweden are inside the Arctic Circle meaning they are very far from the equator whereas Denmark is somewhat closer to the equator. This gives the different locations their different climates.

## The Northern Lights

Scientifically known as the 'aurora borealis', the Northern lights occur when electrically charged particles from the sun's atmosphere are blown towards Earth by solar winds. When they enter the earth's atmosphere they emit light. This phenomenon can be seen in an oval area over the North Pole and are visible in northern areas of Sweden and Norway.



	Sweden	Norway	Denmark
Flag			
Human Features	<p><b>Population:</b> 10.42 million  <b>Capital City:</b> Stockholm  <b>Main Language:</b> Swedish (Svenska)  <b>Currency:</b> Swedish Krona  <b>Religion:</b> 60% Lutheran (Church of Sweden)  <b>Government:</b> Monarchy with Parliamentary Democracy</p>	<p><b>Population:</b> 5.4 million  <b>Capital City:</b> Oslo  <b>Main Language:</b> Norwegian and Sami  <b>Currency:</b> Norwegian Krone  <b>Religion:</b> 68% Christian  <b>Government:</b> Monarchy with Parliamentary Democracy</p>	<p><b>Population:</b> 5.8 million  <b>Capital City:</b> Copenhagen  <b>Main Language:</b> Danish  <b>Currency:</b> Danish Krone  <b>Religion:</b> 68% Evangelical Lutheran  <b>Government:</b> Monarchy with Parliamentary Democracy</p>
<b>Physical Features</b>			
Size	528,442km <sup>2</sup>	385,207km <sup>2</sup>	42,952km <sup>2</sup>
Climate	<p><b>Northern Sweden/Norway:</b> Subarctic climate - very long, cold winters and short, cool summers.  <b>Southern Sweden/Norway:</b> - Less harsh conditions with climates similar to other European countries such as England but often with colder winters.</p>	Temperate climate - similar to that in England with four distinct seasons, evenly distributed precipitation and temperate temperatures.	
Landscape	Mostly flat/slightly hilly with mountainous regions in the west. Lots of lakes.	Mountainous country containing many glaciers, fjords and waterfalls.	Low-lying country - highest point in Denmark is only 171m above sea level. Flat with no tall mountains or hills.

## Glaciers

Huge, thick masses of ice. They form when lots of snow has fallen in one location over many years. Over time, the snow on the bottom gets compressed by the weight of the new falling snow, becoming ice. They store 75% of the world's fresh water!



## Fjords

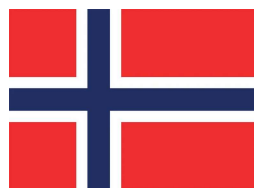
A narrow, long body of water that is very deep and has steep cliffs on three sides, with the fourth side being an opening to the sea. To be classed as a fjord, it must be longer than it is wide.



## Biomes in Scandinavia

Tundra	Temperate Forest	Taiga
<p>Treeless regions found in the Arctic Circle and at high altitudes.</p> <p>Extremely cold. Very windy and little precipitation. Permafrost.</p>	<p>Fertile regions due to lots of precipitation.</p> <p>No extremes - not too hot or too cold.</p> <p>Follows standard season pattern.</p>	<p>2 seasons - 6 months of extreme cold and 6 months warmer weather.</p> <p>Low levels of precipitation.</p> <p>Evergreen trees (stay green all year).</p>

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	England	Norway
Happiness Ranking	19	7
Population	56 million	5.4 million
Population Density	276 people per km <sup>2</sup>	8.4 people per km <sup>2</sup>
Size	130,279km <sup>2</sup>	385,207km <sup>2</sup>
Government	Monarchy with democratic government	
Average Life Expectancy	83.2 years	81.7 years

### Work

England	Norway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working week 40 hours.</li> <li>Minimum wage ranges from £7.49 (18yr olds) to £10.42 (over 23) per hour.</li> <li>No tax paid on first £12,000 earned each year, 20% after that.</li> <li>Maternity - 1 year off but maximum earnings of £172 a week.</li> <li>Paternity - 2 weeks off with full pay.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working week 34-37 hours.</li> <li>No official minimum wage - average £26 an hour.</li> <li>Everyone pays 22% regardless of earnings.</li> <li>Maternity - 1 year off full pay.</li> <li>Paternity - 15 weeks off full pay.</li> </ul>

### Education

England	Norway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free nursery places for 30 hours a week from age 3.</li> <li>Mandatory education - 4-18</li> <li>1st year education through play.</li> <li>Children graded and assessed throughout education.</li> <li>At 16 years old, children take GCSEs in English, Maths, Science and up to 7 other subjects - formal exams.</li> <li>University/higher education fees start at £9000.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free full-time nursery places from age 1.</li> <li>Mandatory education - 6-16 years old.</li> <li>The 1st year education through play.</li> <li>Primary school - no formal grades or assessments given.</li> <li>16 year olds gain a diploma in education by passing classes - no formal exams.</li> <li>University/higher education is free for Norwegian citizens.</li> </ul>

### Healthcare

England	Norway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13th for best healthcare in the world.</li> <li>Healthcare free for all but there is a £9.35 charge for each medicine prescribed.</li> <li>7 nurses to every 1000 people.</li> <li>Doctor to diagnoses - 126 days.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11th for best healthcare in the world.</li> <li>Free for children up to 16, over 68 and pregnant woman - everyone else pays but this is capped at £200 a year.</li> <li>18 nurses to every 1000 people.</li> <li>Doctor to diagnoses - 60 days</li> </ul>

Climate	<i>average weather pattern over a long period of time.</i>	Parliamentary Democracy	<i>a form of government which is voted in by the people of that country.</i>
Arctic Circle	<i>an line of latitude going around the earth very far away from the equator.</i>	Low Lying country	<i>when a location is sitting at or below sea level.</i>
Biomes	<i>areas of the planet with a similar climate and landscape.</i>	Permafrost	<i>when the ground in a location is almost always frozen.</i>
Temperate	<i>temperatures that are in the middle, so not too hot and not too cold</i>	Life Expectancy	<i>how long people are expected to live for.</i>
Monarchy	<i>a form of government where a single person known as the monarch (king/queen) has the final say on any laws.</i>	Population Density	<i>the amount of people that live in a particular place.</i>