

## Act six:

One of the first actions upon arrival was to register with the Health Department, Tax Authorities, and Traffic Department and select an Insurance company. We selected a phone service by Telenor and received our current telephone numbers. Ingrid is listed with all the authorities, while Calle is only listed with the health department. Calle receives no income in Sweden. Remember, Calle filed an application for "permanent residence" *under the clause that he wished to live with his wife*. He got his application approved within three months, well before our left Julian. He is now a kept man! A happy one!!!

Calle received his person number (Swedish social security number) on June 27! Incredibly fast! We did not know this until we needed to seek medical care for him. This allows him to open a bank account, get a debit card and Swedish ID etc. card. Here everything is listed on a person number!

The healthcare is good with only a cost of 200kr/visit. Once you have paid a certain amount, you receive free healthcare and pay only for medications. Medications are much less expensive than in the US. You select and sign-up at a clinic of your choice and get a physician assigned to you. This is how you must proceed in order to see a physician: Leave a message at your clinic with your request; you'll get a time when a nurse will call you back; you explain your need for medical service or simply a refill of current medication; nurse gives you a day and time when you may see the physician; IF you have an emergency you'll get an appointment earlier maybe even the same day; IF you have an emergency beyond M/F 8-5 office hours you must drive to nearest hospital that offers ER. When you are in need of a specialty i.e. ophthalmology, dermatology, urology etc. it becomes more complicated. Your regular physician must see you, then refer you to the particular department that will contact you in writing when the first appointment is available. For us the appointment maybe scheduled in a nearby community, in Danderyd, Täby, Uppsala or Stockholm. Once you have been assigned to the doctor with the specialty you need, you can contact this physician directly for future appointments. Due to the pandemic almost all regular screenings have been delayed. You just wait in line.

GPS - who can live without it? The I-phone with map & GPS sure made life easier driving and getting to our destination without extra sightseeing. Calle's phone is set for English with Ingrid's phone is set for Swedish. Ingrid drives and Calle advises! Some of you may know how difficult it is for non-Swedes to pronounce words in Swedish. Guess what happens when Miss GPS tells us to make a left turn at Dragonvägen sounds like Dragonvaggen with emphasis on the first a rather than on the o. On top of that we can seldom read street name signs, as they are often missing or not placed at intersections. This complicates reaching your destinations within reasonable ease and within the expected time. So it becomes a life of lefts and rights or roundabouts, and more rules to follow. When we get lost or just out and about and cannot find our way home - out comes the phone and Calle hits "home" on phone and it takes us back home. On occasions Ingrid forgets where we are, south or north of Upplands Väsby? She has on a few occasions' chosen the wrong direction of E4 to get back home, another unscheduled sightseeing tour. Entering and exiting the freeways are easy and well marked in plenty of distance. We pay great attention to all speed controls, usually located on country roads much to the annoyance of most Swedes who seem always to be in a hurry. For months on end Ingrid slowed down at the sight of every new speed control sign, much due to the fact she was driving without a license and could not ignore the rules of the road and be caught at a police check! There will be a sign CAMERA UP AHEAD and sure enough there it is waiting to catch you speeding.

Road signs are marked with the name of the town at the end of the road, not just the next intermediate location. When we drive from Upplands Väsby to Borlänge, we drive first on E18 to Enköping where we pick up route 70 towards Mora. Borlänge is not listed on the road sign until you get to Avesta. You just have to study the map ahead of driving to know what roads to take and where you must change. City driving speed is mostly 30Km = 18MPH much safer & slower than in the US. Hwy max. Speed is 120Km = 75MPH.

Parking a car in the city center is a challenge as well. You absolutely MUST have a phone with an assortment of Parking Apps. No charging of a credit card, no receipts, absolutely no cash, are accepted anywhere. Select the parking App; select

which car you drive & how long you plan to stay. Upon returning to your car you must indicate your departure time in order to limit amount charged. The charge appears then as a monthly bill on your credit card. How can a person exist in Sweden without a debit/credit card? This causes serious problems for the elderly, who may not have acquired the necessary skills & a use of a modern cell phone. Calle is excellent in researching "how to" issues and he is a good teacher for Ingrid. Thank god, or we would be lost forever! We now have an auto billing when driving of toll roads as well. Parking is so damn difficult sometimes we just park, put our tine-card in the window and hope for the best. So far it has worked!