

Europe, July to September 2026

August 6, Lysekil, Sweden

Prologue

Before I get started on our first Swedish town, a little story we heard from another passenger. The trip we are on is part of a longer “world cruise”. A world cruise consists of several segments, about 2 weeks (more or less) each. You can book as many of them as you want. Book a lot and you have a world cruise (again, more or less). We booked only the third segment. The first was New York to Iceland with stops in Canada and Greenland. The second continued on to London, where we boarded. And there are some after we disembark. Many people we met started in New York.

That first segment had some stops in Greenland, where the natives expressed their concern over certain world events. But they admitted a good part. It increased revenue through a new clothing line. You can now get a sweatshirt or hat with the saying, “Greenland is Already Great”. Anyone have any idea what that means?



Lysekil

OK, Lysekil. One thing I like about cruising is that you get to see places you might not otherwise get to see. Lysekil falls into that category. It also falls into the category of places I never heard of.

Lysekil, as it turns out, is (we were told) a popular summer tourist destination on the west coast of Sweden. There did seem to be a lot of people attending the exercise class on the front lawn of the biggest hotel on the island. So that part made it seem popular. The fact that we saw only one hotel maybe belies the popularity claim a little. Also, I consider that “Swedish Summer” might be an oxymoron. I was in three layers of clothing, but I guess I am not accustomed to the winter weather either.

Lysekil is a small old fishing town with an interesting history. We had a good guide who explained it all.





Beside pictures, there are some stories worth repeating, which again deal with the local church. I am not doing a very good job on my claim to limit church pictures.

All (at least most, or many, or some) churches in Scandinavia have a ship hanging somewhere inside. The sea was a major part of the life of the people here, so it is not surprising they used it for a metaphor of life, sailing from one end to another. That, we were told by two of our guides, is the symbolism behind a ship hanging from the ceiling in churches.

There is a more interesting story, that may be true only for Lysekil. In this church, the women used to always sit on the left side of the center aisle, and men on the right. Why? It's not like

back and front that may have an implicit hierarchy. Right and left seem a fairly innocuous differentiation. Not so. Their belief was that, if the devil should enter the church, he would do so from the left side. The devil would kill the women first, giving the men time to escape.

Swedish seem like very nice people. This tradition makes me question that quality among the men.

That's about it for the town. It was pretty small, maybe only a few hundred people with no hospital or school. Those were both accessible by a 19-minute ferry ride. While waiting for the ferry, we walked to the sea and took this picture.



There are jellyfish right off shore. I do not know if they come across in the picture. I looked at them, thinking there were just plants, until they started to move.