

# Geography Reference Guide

This is a reference guide for comparing provinces to their corresponding county or counties, and vice versa. Keep in mind that **provinces define cultural identity and counties are where the genealogical records** are kept.

## **Points of confusion**

- Some provinces and counties overlap in both area and name
- Some provinces contain more than one county
- Some counties encompass more than one province
- Some counties have been renamed or were phased out in 1997/98 and replaced with new county names and geographic area.

## Alphabetical Comparison Lists

### **Province to County comparison**

Use this list to determine which county or counties are the administrative center(s) for a particular province. Names that start with special letters such as Ä or Ö are at the end of the alphabet. New county names are in parentheses. **The appendage “län” is usually left off in genealogy databases and indexes.**

**Blekinge** — Blekinge län

**Bohuslän\*** — Göteborg och Bohus län (now Västra Götalands län)

**Dalarna** — Kopparbergs län, occasionally Falu län (now Dalarnas län)

**Dalsland** — Älvsborgs län (now Västra Götalands län)

**Gotland** — Gotlands län

**Gästrikland** — Gävleborgs län

**Halland** — Hallands län

**Härjedalen** — Jämtlands län

**Hälsingland** — Gävleborgs län

**Jämtland** — Jämtlands län

**Lapland** — Västerbottens län and Norrbottens län

**Medelpad** — Västernorrlands län

**Närke** — Örebro län, Närke och Värmlands län (older records / Ancestry category)

**Skåne** — Malmöhus län and Kristianstads län (now combined as Skåne län)

**Småland** — Jönköpings län, Kalmar län, Kronobergs län

**Södermanland** — Södermanlands län, Stockholms län (small part)

**Uppland** — Uppsala län, Stockholms län

**Värmland** — Värmlands län, Närke och Värmlands län (older period)

**Västerbotten** — Västerbottens län

**Västergötland** — Skaraborgs län, Älvsborgs län, Göteborg och Bohus län (city of Gothenburg only) – all of these are now in the new county Västra Götalands län

**Västmanland** — Västmanlands län, Örebro län (small part historically)

**Ångermanland** — Västernorrlands län

**Öland** — Kalmar län

**Östergötland** — Östergötlands län

\*Bohuslän without a space is the province, the county was historically known as “Göteborg och Bohus län.” The space between Bohus and län makes the distinction.

## **County to Province list**

Use this list if you know the county name and want to locate it in relation to its province or provinces. This can be helpful for understanding regional customs and identity.

Older counties and their new counterparts are listed separately and in alphabetical order. Names that start with special letters such as Ä or Ö are at the end of the alphabet.

New county names are marked in red:

**Blekinge län** — Blekinge

**Dalarnas län** — Dalarna (name change only from Kopparberg)

**Gotlands län** — Gotland

**Gävleborgs län** — Gästrikland, Hälsingland

**Göteborg och Bohus län** — Bohuslän and the city of Gothenburg

**Hallands län** — Halland

**Jämtlands län** — Jämtland, Härjedalen

**Jönköpings län** — Småland

**Kalmar län** — Småland, Öland

**Kopparbergs län** (sometimes Falu län) — Dalarna

**Kristianstads län** — Skåne

**Kronobergs län** — Småland

**Malmöhus län** — Skåne

**Närke och Värmlands län** (older) — Närke, Värmland

**Norrbottnens län** — northern section of Lappland, Norrbotten

**Örebro län** — Närke, (small part of Västmanland historically)

**Skaraborgs län** — Västergötland

**Skåne län** — Skåne (county and province are now identical in area and name)

**Stockholms län** — Uppland, Södermanland (small part)

**Södermanlands län** — Södermanland

**Uppsala län** — Uppland

**Värmlands län** — Värmland

**Västerbottens län** — Västerbotten, southern section of Lappland

**Västernorrlands län** — Medelpad, Ångermanland

**Västmanlands län** — Västmanland

**Västra Götalands län** — Västergötland, Bohuslän, Dalsland

**Älvsborgs län** — Västergötland, Dalsland

**Östergötlands län** — Östergötland

## What changed in 1997/98?

- **Dalarnas län** — formerly Kopparbergs län (sometimes Falu län)
- **Västra Götalands län** — replaced Göteborg och Bohus, Skaraborg, Älvsborg
- **Skåne län** — replaced Malmöhus and Kristianstad
- **Stockholms län** — city/county divisions merged in database usage

## Which online genealogy platforms reflect that change?

Only Riksarkivet. This is because Riksarkivet is not technically a genealogy platform but is a part of the National Archives. However, since it is free to use, it is a very good option for browsing the church books.

**Family Search, Ancestry, MyHeritage, and ArkivDigital all use the names as they were prior to the later reforms, though you may see modern names in some indexed records and in public family trees.**

For more information about Swedish provinces, counties, and parishes see the FamilySearch Research Wiki.

Maps can be found here

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Provinces\\_of\\_Sweden](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Provinces_of_Sweden)

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Counties\\_of\\_Sweden](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Counties_of_Sweden)

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