

KP MINING

SWEDEN GOLD INTELLIGENCE

BULLETIN

Gold Panning - Prospecting - Regulations - Gold Regions - Equipment

Current to 29 August 2026

Executive Summary

KP Mining Gold Intelligence Bulletin — This edition looks at recreational gold panning and mineral prospecting in Sweden, the legal distinction between hobby panning and formal exploration, Sweden's principal mineral districts and historic gold areas, and currently advertised prospecting equipment available from Swedish suppliers.

- Small-scale recreational gold panning normally does not require a permit under Sweden's Minerals Act. However, other permissions or restrictions may apply depending on the land, watercourse, protected status and method used.
- Gold is a concession mineral under the Swedish Minerals Act. Exploration aimed at proving a deposit and determining its likely economic value is a different activity from casual hobby panning and can require an exploration permit.
- Sweden's principal mineral-resource districts are Norrbotten, the Skellefte district and Bergslagen, with additional deposits in other parts of Norrland, Småland and Dalsland.
- Ädelfors in Småland is one of Sweden's best-known historic gold localities. SGU records gold-bearing quartz veins there and historical exploration permits specifically for gold.
- Sweden has a well-developed domestic prospecting-equipment market, ranging from simple pans and classifiers to sluices, pumps, suction nozzles and specialist gold detectors.

1. Recreational Gold Panning — Legal Position

Small-scale hobby panning

Bergsstaten states that, as a general rule, a permit under the Minerals Act is not required for small-scale gold panning of a hobby character. That does not create an unrestricted right to work wherever one chooses. Depending on the location and the way the panning is carried out, other permissions can be required, and Bergsstaten directs users to the relevant County Administrative Board, municipal environmental office and guidance on Sweden's right of public access.

[OFFICIAL SOURCE — Bergsstaten: Questions and answers](#)

Allemansrätten does not remove all restrictions

SGU's public guidance notes that traditional small-scale gold panning in streams may be regarded as permissible where it does not create a risk of damage or inconvenience to the landowner. Protected areas, sensitive riverbanks and riverbeds, local environmental rules and other restrictions can change the position. KP Mining therefore recommends checking the exact location before disturbing gravel, banks or streambeds.

[OFFICIAL SOURCE — SGU mineral guidance](#)

2. When Hobby Panning Becomes Prospecting

The legal position changes when the purpose is to establish the existence, character and probable economic value of a concession-mineral deposit. Gold is specifically listed among the minerals covered by the Minerals Act. An exploration

permit gives an exclusive right to explore within the permit area, but it does not override environmental law or automatically authorize physical exploration work.

Bergsstaten explains that exploration work under a permit normally also requires a valid work plan. Environmental exemptions or approvals may additionally be required from the County Administrative Board or other authorities.

[OFFICIAL SOURCE — Bergsstaten: Prospecting process](#)

[OFFICIAL SOURCE — Summary of Sweden's mineral regulatory system](#)

3. Sweden's Main Gold & Mineral Areas

Area	Why it matters	KP Mining view
Ädelfors, Småland	Historic Swedish gold locality. SGU records narrow gold-bearing quartz veins and historic gold exploration permits.	Best-known southern Swedish gold-panning reference point and important for recreational gold culture.
Skellefte district, Västerbotten	One of Sweden's three principal mineral-resource districts and a major polymetallic mining region.	Important geological district for serious mineral research; distinguish recreational panning from permit-based exploration.
Norrbotten	One of Sweden's principal mineral-resource districts, with extensive mining and exploration activity.	High geological importance, but access, mineral rights, protected areas and active permits require careful checking.
Bergslagen	Historic and modern mining district in central Sweden.	Strong mineral heritage; gold interest is part of a broader polymetallic geological setting.
Other Norrland / Småland / Dalsland	SGU identifies additional mineral deposits outside the three principal districts.	Useful regional research targets, but occurrence data should never be interpreted as automatic public prospecting access.

[OFFICIAL SOURCE — SGU: Swedish ore mines and mineral districts](#)

[SGU TECHNICAL RECORD — Gold deposits / occurrences in Sweden \(Ädelfors\)](#)

4. Ädelfors — Sweden's Historic Gold-Panning Centre

Ädelfors, in the Vetlanda area of Småland, is deeply associated with Sweden's gold-mining and gold-panning history. SGU's technical occurrence record describes 0.2–0.4 metre quartz veins in strongly foliated mica schist, with gold associated particularly with bismuth and pyrite. The record reports outcrop assays exceeding 600 ppm in the occurrence data and estimates an average gold content of about 2 g/t in historically mined copper ore.

For the recreational visitor, the wider Ädelfors area is also important because Swedish specialist supplier Guldström is based at Guldvägen, Holsbybrunn and maintains a long-established gold-panning and prospecting presence, including equipment and gold-panning activities.

[Guldström — Swedish gold prospecting and panning](#)

5. Current Swedish Prospecting-Equipment Market

Sweden is unusually well served for recreational gold prospecting. The following prices were publicly advertised when this bulletin was prepared. Stock status and prices can change quickly.

Equipment	Advertised price	Status / note
Guldström Klondike-style gold pan	236 kr	In stock on Guldström listing; Swedish-made plastic pan.
Guldström beginner prospecting set	779 kr	In stock; includes two pans and other beginner equipment.
Guldström medium prospecting set	1,810 kr	In stock; expanded kit including additional field equipment.
Guldström fine-panning set	649 kr	In stock; intended for cleaning concentrates from a sluice or dredge.
12 V water pump — 2,000 GPH	584 kr	Order item; suitable for a sluice setup.
12 V water pump — 3,700 GPH	1,103 kr	Order item; aimed at highbanker/sluice use.
3" ejector suction nozzle	3,828 kr	Order item; Swedish supplier listing.
Minelab Gold Monster 1000	16,750 kr	Order item; specialist gold detector.
Minelab GPZ 7000	119,500 kr	Order item; high-end specialist gold detector.

[Guldström — Beginner prospecting set](#)

[Guldström — Medium prospecting set](#)

[Guldström — Fine-panning set](#)

[Guldström — Prospecting equipment range](#)

[Guldström — Minelab detector range](#)

6. Alternative Swedish Retail Benchmark

Astro Sweden also lists a dedicated gold-panning range. At the time checked, examples included a Garrett 14-inch Gold Pan Prospector at 140 kr, a Guldström pan at 199 kr and a Guldström sluice at 1,480 kr. Stock status varied, illustrating why prices and availability in a public intelligence bulletin should always be treated as a dated snapshot.

[Astro Sweden — Gold panning equipment](#)

[Astro Sweden — Garrett 14" Gold Pan Prospector](#)

7. Mineral Rights & Checking an Area Before Prospecting

Bergsstaten's Mineral Rights map viewer shows current exploration permits, exploitation concessions and applications. Anyone considering activity beyond casual panning should check whether the area is already subject to mineral rights and should separately establish land-access and environmental requirements.

Bergsstaten's public register is actively updated. Current notices and permit applications continue to be published during 2026, so an old map, forum post or prospecting guide should not be relied upon as proof that an area is free or accessible.

[Bergsstaten — Mineral rights and current cases](#)

8. 2026 Regulatory Development Worth Knowing

On 17 June 2026, Bergsstaten published information following an April 2026 Supreme Administrative Court judgment concerning interpretation of the rules for extending exploration permits. The clarification is mainly relevant to formal prospectors and permit holders rather than recreational panners, but it is a useful reminder that Swedish mineral-rights practice continues to develop through current decisions and case law.

[Bergsstaten — 17 June 2026 information notice](#)

9. Mineraljakten 2026

SGU's Mineraljakten 2026 gives members of the public a structured route for reporting potentially interesting mineral discoveries. The 2026 competition runs from 1 October 2025 through 30 September 2026, with a total prize pool of 150,000 kr. SGU also removed the previous maximum on the number of observations an entrant may submit.

For recreational prospectors, this is particularly interesting because it connects public mineral observation with professional geological assessment without implying that the finder has acquired mineral rights to the ground.

[SGU — Mineraljakten 2026](#)

10. Useful Swedish Contacts

Organisation	Role / relevance	Public contact
Bergsstaten	Exploration permits, exploitation concessions and Minerals Act questions	Tel. 0920-23 79 00 mineinspect@bergsstaten.se
SGU	National geological information, mineral data and geological resources	www.sgu.se
County Administrative Board (Länsstyrelsen)	Protected areas, environmental restrictions and location-specific permissions	Use the authority for the relevant county
Municipal environmental office	Local environmental requirements and restrictions	Contact the municipality for the exact location
Guldström	Swedish specialist prospecting-equipment supplier and Ädelfors-area gold-panning resource	0383-460 000 rolf@guldstrom.se

[Bergsstaten — Contact details](#)

11. KP Mining Assessment

Sweden is a strong recreational gold-prospecting country because it combines genuine gold occurrences, a long mining tradition, accessible geological information and a domestic equipment market. The key distinction is between low-impact hobby panning and systematic exploration intended to prove an economically valuable gold deposit.

For visitors and beginners, Ädelfors remains the clearest starting point because of its historic association with Swedish gold and the concentration of specialist knowledge and equipment in the area. For more serious prospectors, SGU geological data and Bergsstaten's live mineral-rights information should be treated as essential research tools before field activity.

KP Mining's practical rule: check the exact land and water status first, keep recreational activity genuinely low-impact, and never assume that allemansrätten, an old gold occurrence or an absence of signs means unrestricted prospecting rights.

12. Sources Checked

- [Bergsstaten — Questions and answers / gold panning](#)
- [Bergsstaten — Prospecting process](#)
- [Bergsstaten — Summary of regulatory system](#)
- [Bergsstaten — Current mineral-rights information](#)
- [Bergsstaten — June 2026 legal information](#)

- [SGU — Swedish ore mines and mineral districts](#)
- [SGU — Ädelfors gold occurrence technical record](#)
- [SGU — Mineraljakten 2026](#)
- [Guldström — Prospecting equipment](#)
- [Astro Sweden — Gold-panning equipment](#)

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