

EXPLORING STOCKHOLM

The Stockholm settlement was first mentioned in the history books in 1187, but the city itself is usually referred to as having been founded in 1252 and it officially became the capital of Sweden in 1634. Today's city is built on 14 islands, located where Lake Mälaren flows into the Baltic Sea. Just outside the city and along the coast is the island chain of the Stockholm archipelago, which is made up of over 30 000 small islands.

MUSEUMS



If you want to explore Stockholm's history, or more modern art and culture, you have over 100 museums to choose from. Particular highlights include the [Vasa Museum](#), a maritime museum that displays the only almost fully intact 17th century ship that has ever been salvaged. There are guided tours in English several times a day. Close to the Vasa Museum, on the island Djurgården, you will also find the newly opened [Viking Museum](#).

On "Östermalm" (walking distance from Djurgården) is the [Swedish History Museum](#), which has the Gold Room vault where the best collection of Viking gold in the world is housed.

The newly reopened [Nationalmuseum](#) houses the largest collection of art in the country: 16,000 paintings and 30,000 objects of art handicraft. [Moderna Museet](#) (Museum of Modern Art) is Sweden's national museum of modern art. It has works by noted modern artists such as Picasso and Salvador Dalí.

Other popular museums (in alphabetical order) that might be of interest:

- [ABBA: The Museum](#), an interactive exhibit about the pop-group [ABBA](#)
- [Fotografiska](#), Museum of Photography
- [Livrustkammaren](#), the royal armory, located at [Stockholm Palace](#)
- [Nobel Museum](#), devoted to the Nobel Prize, Nobel laureates, and the founder Alfred Nobel
- [The Nordic Museum](#), dedicated to the cultural history and ethnography of Sweden
- [Skansen](#) (in English: the Sconce) is a combined open-air museum and zoo, founded in 1891
- [Stockholm City Museum](#) – (closed until January 2019)
- [Swedish Museum of Natural History](#) – located right next to Campus Frescati

PLACES OF INTEREST

The Old Town – A popular destination for tourists but also one of the most striking areas in Stockholm thanks to its colorful buildings and general architectural beauty. The Old Town dates back to the 13th century, and consists of medieval alleyways, cobbled streets, and archaic architecture. North German architecture has had a strong influence on the Old Town's construction. This is one of the most iconic pictures from the Old Town, from the main square *Stortorget*. This is also where the Nobel Museum is located.



The Royal Palace – Also located in the Old Town, Stockholm Palace, or the Royal Palace, is the official residence and major royal palace of the Swedish monarchy. The offices of the King, the other members of the Swedish Royal Family, and the offices of the Royal Court of Sweden are located here. The King whilst performing his duties as the head of state uses the palace for representative purposes.

Other historic areas – Apart from the Old Town, there are several historic sites in Stockholm. One scenic route is found along *Monteliusvägen*. There is also a small neighbourhood between *Folkungagatan* and *Åsögatan* (called *Lotsgatan*) where the houses are kept in the original style of the 18th century. This kind of houses can also be viewed at the outdoor museum *Skansen* located on the island *Djurgården*.

Djurgården is the island where you will find many museums, walking paths, park areas and the amusement park *Gröna Lund*. You can easily walk from downtown Stockholm along the water on the boulevard *Strandvägen* to get to *Djurgården*. *Strandvägen* was completed just in time for the Stockholm World's Fair of 1897; it quickly became known as one of the most prestigious addresses in town.

Viewpoints – From the island of *Södermalm*, you will find a great view over Stockholm city. From *Monteliusvägen* you will look out over the water towards *Kungsholmen*, *City Hall* and *Riddarholmen*, an island part of the Old Town. From *Fåfången* and *Katarinavägen*, your view is over the *Old Town*, *Skeppsholmen*, and *Djurgården*.

If the weather is unfriendly but you still want your view over Stockholm, we recommend you to go up to the Restaurant *Himlen* in *Skatteskrapan* on *Södermalm*. From there, you will get a great skyline view regardless of outer elements.



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Stockholm, Sweden



... **Stockholm City Hall** – located on the island *Kungsholmen*, you will find one of Sweden's most famous buildings, and one of the capital's most visited tourist attractions. The City Hall is famous for its grand ceremonial halls and unique pieces of art and is the venue of the Nobel Prize banquet held on 10th of December each year. The inside of this venue can only be visited with a guided tour. There are two options, either a public or a private tour. Groups consisting of more than 10 people must book a private tour. Individual visitors can join a public tour or book a private one if they wish. Between 8-12 of November, the English tours are scheduled daily at 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00 and 15.00. Exception for November 9, where the last tour is at 12.00. If you have no time for a tour, you can still visit the building and walk around in the park towards the waterfront. There is also a City Hall store located in the courtyard where you can buy souvenirs.

SHOPPING

In recent years, Stockholm has become something of a shopper's paradise. From major retailers like H&M to smaller boutiques, the city is full of great clothes, designer items, homewares and anything else you might need. Here are some favorite spots:

Drottninggatan - You could spend an entire day making your way through the many shops that line Drottninggatan and still not visit them all. Åhlens City, right at the corner of *Drottninggatan* and *Klarabergsgatan*, is one of the best department stores in the city, with not just an excellent selection of fashion but also books, homewares, makeup, and much, much more. The street is also home to plenty of tourist shops, as well as some great restaurants and cafés.



Biblioteksgatan – If designer retail is your thing then make *Biblioteksgatan* your first stop. This pedestrian street (which literally rolls out a red carpet during the Christmas shopping season) is nearly all high-end designer wear, with both Swedish and international brands and designers represented.



Hamngatan and **Nordiska Kompaniet (NK)** – The star of this street is Stockholm’s most elegant department store NK. Founded in 1902, the private owners wanted to give Stockholm the same level of service as the stores in Paris or London. The building was designed and built especially for the department store and was inaugurated in 1915. *Hamngatan* is also home to plenty of other well-known stores, including *H&M* and *Zara*. There is also the shopping mall *Gallerian* just across from NK, which has 28 thousand square meters of both Swedish and international shops spread across three floors.

Bondegatan – If offbeat, quirky, and vintage and antiques are your thing, take the time to walk this long stretch of road, where hipster Stockholm is on full display. *Bondegatan* is located on the island *Södermalm* and the legendary vintage shop *Lisa Larsson* is found here, along with *Acne Studio* and *Kult & Design*. Just around the corner, on *Södermannagatan*, you will find *Grandpa*, possibly the coolest shop in the city.

DINING IN STOCKHOLM



There are over 1000 restaurants in Stockholm which makes the dining scene varied. You can find food from all parts of the world and in any budget range. As of 2013, Stockholm boasts a total of eleven Michelin star restaurants, one of which has three stars ([Frantzén](#)).

For more inspiration on what to do in Stockholm, please visit the website of [VISIT STOCKHOLM](#)