

FROM THE
BRIDGE

Venice of the north

Stockholm sparkles
with old-world charm

Enchanted islands

Silversea cruises
the Galápagos

EXCLUSIVE

Dine at Jamie's Italian on
Cruiseco's charter of
Ovation of the Seas

A man with short brown hair, wearing a blue and green plaid button-down shirt over a white t-shirt, is leaning forward over a white countertop. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. On the counter in front of him are several white plates and bowls containing various food items, including what looks like fried chicken, pasta, and a salad. The background is a blurred kitchen or restaurant setting with shelves and bottles.

PRESENTED WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF:



THE VENICE OF THE *North*

Surrounded by water, the Swedish capital city of Stockholm sparkles with old-world charm and offers world-class cuisine.

WORDS: SANDRA CARPENTER

Picture terracotta-, mustard- and peach-painted buildings bordered by cobblestoned streets, and midnight-blue waters peppered with wooden motorboats seemingly lifted from the 1950s French Riviera. This is Stockholm today—a lively Scandinavian city packed with historical appeal and cutting-edge design, fashion and restaurants.

The sparkling waters of the Baltic Sea and Lake Mälaren surround the 14 islands that make up the centre of Stockholm. And with an archipelago (*skärgård*) of more than 24,000 islands just outside of the city, it's little wonder Stockholm has been nicknamed 'the Venice of the north'.

During the summer months, when the days are very long and the sunsets go on forever, it's easy to discover this compact city on foot. >



Behold *Vasa*, the world's only preserved 17th-century warship

In June the sky never goes completely dark and the sun is up, in full, by 3.00am, which means you have ample hours for exploring.

To get a taste of historical Stockholm, go to the beautifully preserved Old Town, Gamla Stan. This is where Stockholm was founded in 1252 and its narrow, winding cobblestoned streets give you a sense of the medieval city it once was. Tour the 600-room Royal Palace and watch the Changing of the Guard, or check out Stockholm Cathedral, which dates back to 1306 and is where Sweden's Crown Princess Victoria was married in 2010.



See five centuries worth of Swedish buildings at Skansen

Stortorget, the oldest square in Stockholm, is located in the centre of Stadsholmen island and has a history that's nearly as colourful as the charming buildings from the 1600s and 1700s that surround it.

These days, the square is known for its Christmas market. Viking hats and handpainted wooden Dala horses abound in the tourist shops here, but there's also a great array of food. Try some new Nordic cuisine and *frunch* (brunch) at The Flying Elk (theflyingelk.se) or sample Swedish home cooking at the oldest restaurant in town, Den Gyldene Freden, 'The Golden Peace' (gyldenefreden.se). For a more hip crowd, relax with a cocktail at Corner Club (cornerclub.se).

Cross the bridge to Södermalm, which was recently named one of the world's coolest neighbourhoods by *Vogue* magazine, to find Stockholm's 'Left Bank'. Called Söder (Swedish for south) by the locals, this is where you find artists, writers and creative types as well as a variety of vintage shops and restaurants.

For classic Swedish meatballs go to Pelikan (pelikan.se), or try a hip, modern version at Meatballs For The People (meatball.se). For drinks there's hipster hangout Linje Tio (linjetio.com) and casually cool Folkbaren

VISITING CRUISE LINES

Celebrity Cruises, Costa Cruises, Crystal Cruises, Cunard, Fred.Olsen Cruise Lines, Hapag-Lloyd Cruises, Holland America Line, Lindblad Expeditions—National Geographic, MSC Cruises, Noble Caledonia, Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises, Ponant, Princess Cruises, Regent Seven Seas Cruises, Royal Caribbean International, Saga Cruises, Sea Cloud Cruises, Seabourn, Silversea, Swan Hellenic Cruises, Viking Ocean Cruises, Voyages of Discovery, Windstar Cruises.

(folkbaren.se). And for food, drinks and late-night dancing there's Hornhuset (hornhuset.se) and Marie Laveau (marielaveau.se).

If you're among the 73 million people who've read *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Swedish author Stieg Larsson, you're in luck—the two-hour guided Millennium Tour from Stadsmuseet (City Museum) takes you to the locations featured in this gritty >



Biking is one of the best ways to tour Stockholm



Södermalm district near the beautifully preserved Old Town, Gamla Stan



Stockholm Cathedral dates back to 1306

story of Stockholm's fictional underbelly (stadsmuseet.stockholm.se/in-english/guided-tours/millennium).

Söder has a lot of great walks. Try Monteliusvägen, a 500m-long cliff-side path with a spectacular view of the Old Town, Lake Mälaren and City Hall (worth a tour to see the Golden Hall, the venue for the Nobel Prize dinner dance). Combine this with a walk up to Skinnarviksberget, the highest natural point in central Stockholm, and you've got your day made.

It's easy to rent a bike to get around, as Stockholm has more than 760km of bike paths. Ride along the canals on Djurgården to check out this green island of forests and parkland.

Go to Skansen (skansen.se/en/kategori/english), the world's first open-air museum, to see five centuries worth of buildings from around Sweden, along with tradespeople performing glassblowing, blacksmithing, candle-making and weaving. Plus, there are moose and reindeer in the zoo.

The subway (Tunnelbana, marked by a T) is also an efficient way to get around. You'll enjoy the trip more than you expect, as the T is known as the world's longest art exhibition, thanks to a variety of murals, sculptures and mosaic tiles at the stations.

When you need a break from sightseeing, make like a local and have *fika*—a sweet roll, coffee and conversation—at any number of

places around the city, from the classic Vete-Katten or Flickorna Helin Voltaire, to the more posh Tössebageriet, French-style Saturnus, bohemian Gildas Rum or very cool Mellqvist. Sweden's answer to Starbucks is the Wayne's Coffee chain.

Keep in mind that it's very comfortable to eat and drink outside in Stockholm, even on cool days, as polar fleece blankets are typically draped on every chair. As the Swedes say, there's no bad weather, only bad clothing.

Hot dogs are the Swedes' fast food of choice and you'll find grill stands everywhere around town. The favoured late-night snack is *tunnbrödsrulle*, a wrap filled with a hot dog, mashed potatoes and sometimes shrimp salad and/or relish.

Foodies should definitely check out the circa 1888 food hall, Östermalms Saluhall (ostermalmshallen.se/en), to sample reindeer, salmon, *sill* (pickled herring), Västerbotten cheese, *knäckebröd* (crispbread), lingonberries and other Swedish goodies.

While you're in up-market Östermalm, make sure you see what Scandinavian interior design is all about and check out the textile patterns by Josef Frank at classic store Svenskt Tenn. Norrgavel, Nordiska Galleriet, Design House Stockholm, DesignTorget and Illums Bolighus are also good shopping stops.

The most popular tourist attraction in town is the Vasa Museum, on the island of Djurgården, which is well worth seeing.

This maritime museum features the *Vasa*, a warship that sunk on her maiden voyage in 1628. She is the only preserved 17th-century ship in the world.

On the same island you can dance, you can jive, having the time of your life, at ABBA The Museum. My, my, how can you resist? ■

DAYTRIPS

To really get a feel for what Stockholmers best love about their home, get outside of the city centre to the archipelago.

For a quick trip go to Vaxholm. It's an idyllic town with many well-preserved wooden houses from the turn of the century.

With great views of the fortress and harbour, Waxholms Hotell is a classic choice for lunch or dinner.

For a more cultural trip go to Artipelag, a thought-provoking art gallery in Gustavsberg with good food, views of the Baltic Sea, a gift shop, walking trails and a very Scandinavian vibe.

On the island of Lovön, tour the rooms of Drottningholm Palace, the official residence of the Swedish king and queen. It's also a UNESCO World Heritage site with enchanting gardens.