

# Stockholm

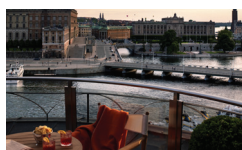
By Miriam Cain



Often referred to as the "Venice of the North", the city of Stockholm is arguably one of the most beautiful capital cities in the world. The historic Port of Stockholm, where superyachts can dock, is located right at its centre, and is the perfect base from which to step ashore and discover this captivating city.

## Pillow talk

### Grand Hotel



If you fancy a night ashore then the Grand Hotel is the most obvious choice. Set on the waterfront, it is a beautiful, classic hotel close to everything but without being at the centre of the noisy town. This is the place to experience a pummelling Swedish massage whilst gazing down on the harbour below.

### Hotel Rival

For something a little more quirky go to Hotel Rival. The hotel is owned by Abba's Benny Andersson and is set in a converted cinema.

### Novis Hotel

The Novis Hotel is small but with lovely interiors and a very personal touch.

### Nobis Hotel



Not to be confused with the Novis Hotel, the Nobis is set in two 19th-century buildings that have been stylishly converted. Its location is perfect on the Norrmalmstorg in Östermalm.

## Eat, drink + dance

Stockholm is hip, but in a relaxed way - more chic than trendy. In the evenings enjoy Stockholm's excellent restaurants and bars. The city is at the centre of Scandinavia's culinary scene and provides a range of food from traditional dishes of gravlax and glögg (mulled wine) in Swedish restaurants to fusion cuisine as good as you can find in New York or London. The Hötorget square hosts a great outdoor food market. Try a traditional snack of Skagen (toast with shrimp).

### Chokladkoppen + Kaffekoppen

The hot chocolate at Chokladkoppen in Gamla Stan's old square is a popular afternoon tippie, as is the hot white chocolate, served in large bowls, at Kaffekoppen.

### Prinsen

Another traditional dish is herring and the place to discover the











best is at Prinsen, a century-old grand café with a devoted following.

#### **Pontus!**

Pontus! is an eccentric restaurant from chef Pontus Frithiof. Here you will find something to suit all tastes. This ultra-modern multi-levelled destination dining venue is spread across five areas and includes a seafood bar, show kitchen, takeaway deli, dining room and tapas bar.

#### **Cadier Bar + Matsalen**



Mathias Dahlgren is a renowned Swedish chef with two establishments in Stockholm's Grand Hotel. Enjoy cocktails and live music at the Cadier Bar before moving on to the more formal, two Michelin-starred Matsalen restaurant.

Their tasting menu, with a different wine for every course, is inspired.

#### **Operakällaren**



Operakällaren is another place to head for a special occasion. Set in Stockholm's 1890's opera house, this fine dining venue serves international cuisine by award-winning chef Stefano Catenacci. The baroque style setting has been given a cutting-edge makeover and provides a spectacular setting to suit its menu of classic French cuisine.

#### **Berns Asiatiska**

Sunday mornings and Berns Asiatiska is the place for a dim sum brunch. Set in the Berns

Hotel, the dining room has been turned into one of the most photogenic dining halls in the city by Terence Conran.

#### **Nightlife**

Stureplan is the focal point for nightlife, although there are many good bars spread over the whole of the city. For cocktails the hot place to meet is Riche (it also has amazing classic fish dishes), whilst the stylish Sturehof is where you will find locals relaxing after their working week. For something a little more bohemian, Södermalm is the place to head. The jet set flock to Café Opera on a Sunday evening, and most recently Häktet is the latest hangout attracting the it-crowd. Locals head to Kåken, which has a special area for dancing, but for a big night out Spy Bar is the place to see and be seen.

If you are in Sweden in June then their midsummer parties

involve two days of dancing, drinking and pagan celebrations.

## **Do + discover**

### **Architecture**

Explore Stockholm's modern Scandinavian architecture, fairytale castles, museums and historical attractions including the captivating Gamla Stan (Old Town) with its medieval vibe. The best way to get around the city (particularly if you are interested in architecture) is to walk but should you have the need to travel further then the subway system is very efficient.

### **Art**

The city has a burgeoning contemporary art scene. Take a look around the cutting edge work at Galerie Nordenhake or some fantastic art photography at the Gun Gallery.

The Moderna Museet, just across the

#### **At a glance**

##### **Best travel time**

The Swedish climate is influenced by the Gulf Stream and temperatures vary considerably. July is the warmest month, with temperatures averaging around 18 degrees. The ideal time to cruise through the Baltic is from June to August.

##### **Currency**

Swedish Krona

##### **Language**

Swedish  
**Vibe** Sassy, cool and relaxed





bridge from the Grand Hotel, showcases art from the 20th century to present day including live art in the form of performance artists.

For a taste of Swedish music and ballet, book tickets for a performance at the Operahuset complex.

### Culture

There are plenty of museums in the city. The Vasa Museum is a must visit for nautical enthusiasts. Explore the 18th century wooden ship that sank during its 1628 maiden voyage. Built for a rich king of Sweden, the 69-metre (226'3) long vessel sank as the crowds were waving it off. In 1961 the wreck was salvaged from the seabed and reconstructed to its former glory.

The Skansen Museum was the first outdoor museum in the world and is a showcase of Swedish history with native animals in the zoo and fairground rides.



The Royal Palace has stunning architecture and lavish rooms that are well worth a visit.



Stockholm is spread across 14 islands in the Baltic Sea. The archipelago that surrounds the city's coastline is made up of a further 24,000 islands, most of which

are no more than rocks jutting out of the sea, but a number house private estates and areas of interest. Cruise around these islands and step ashore to their family run restaurants for spectacular seafood dishes.

### See + shop

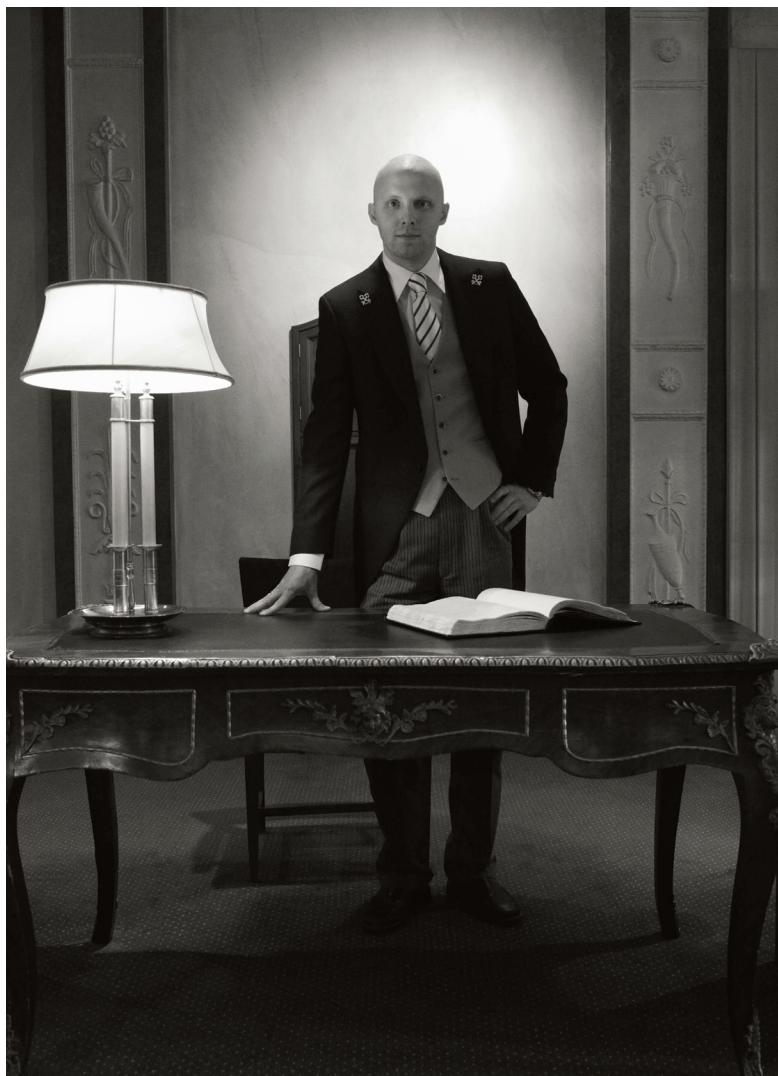
#### Sibyllegatan

Sweden is known for its modern design and as the capital city, Stockholm does not disappoint, with all the latest fashions from clothing to furniture to be found. Head to Sibyllegatan for the latest trends in furniture designs. For one-of-a-kind interior pieces Svenskt Tenn stocks designs by Josef Frank. Alternatively, Jacksons has historic Swedish furniture with everything from the 1930's when the break from modernism took over Europe.

#### Götgatan

Götgatan is where you will find the biggest designer names whilst SoFo (short for South of Folkungagatan) is also packed full of great designers including Swedish brands Acne and Nitty Gritty, Jil Sander, Saint Laurent and Calvin Klein. Here you will also find vintage stores such as Lisa Larsson. Concept store Tjallamalla is a great place to source fashion, accessories and oddities from Swedish designers.

*Sample Stockholm during a charter through the Baltic. Contact your nearest Camper & Nicholsons charter broker for more information. See page 6.*



#### Olow Frank

**Olow is the Head Concierge at the Grand Hotel Stockholm. Here he provides his top tips on what to do and where to go when in the city.**

When it comes to local restaurants I often recommend a reservation at Rolfs Kök. This eclectically named establishment is a local favourite and is located in the heart of Vasastaden in central Stockholm. For traditional dishes I highly recommend Prinsen (the Prince), which serves some real Swedish classics. It is also where you will find the Brut Bar, which has been a classic meeting spot for locals and visitors since the early 1940s. Here I can highly recommend the country's finest oysters accompanied by a glass of champagne or, if your preference is for a cocktail, then bartender Diego has concoctions for every occasion.

From its décor and furnishings to the costumes worn by the ladies making toffee, Pärkans Confectionery at Södermalm is a little gem. For those guests wishing to explore the city, I suggest that they discover Stockholm by paddling around Kungsholmen or to take a rooftop tour of the Old Town.

## Insider guide