



Sweden's capital city features waterways including the Baltic Sea and Lake Mälaren

# 72 hours in... Stockholm

Each island on the sprawling Stockholm archipelago has a personality all its own. Take a deep dive to experience Scandinavian sophistication

BY ANNIKA HIPPLE

**B**lending history and tradition, Stockholm has a hip creative spirit that's reflected in its lively arts scene and top-notch restaurants emphasizing farm-to-table cuisine. Here, we outline some of this remarkable city's best parts that you can experience over three days.

## DAY 1: EXPLORE THE COLORFUL CAPITAL

**10 a.m.** Cruise around Djurgården or farther out into the archipelago, dotted with forest and brightly colored cottages, for a sense of how much Stockholm's character is defined by water. For a more active option, a kayaking tour offers a unique perspective of iconic sights such as City Hall and the beautiful old town, Gamla Stan.

**12 p.m.** While the Danish have *hygge* – the concept of coziness – the Swedes have *fika*, a social coffee break that's a cornerstone of everything from personal friendships to workplace culture. The nearly century-old café Vete-Katten, on Kungsgatan, is the perfect fika spot to savor classic Swedish pastries – be sure to try the marzipan-covered princess cake. Wander the boutiques around Hamngatan and Biblioteksgatan, home to Scandi minimalist Filippa K and luxury lifestyle experts J Lindeberg.

**2 p.m.** After visiting the bigger names such as the Swedish History Museum and Nordic Museum, check out the nearby Army Museum, a lesser-known gem with three floors of exhibits covering centuries of Swedish military and civilian life. At Strandvägen, Stockholm's grandest waterfront boulevard, elegant 19th-century buildings overlook a lively harbor. Stop at the century-old interior design store Svenskt Tenn, famous for its brightly patterned Josef Frank textiles and pewter products.

**7 p.m.** *Hantverket* means “the craft” and accurately describes the philosophy of Restaurang Hantverket, where every dish is finely honed in an open-kitchen atmosphere. Order several dishes to share from a menu that includes salmon tartar, green tomato soup, and citrus-marinated cod.

## DAY 2: DISCOVER THE HEART OF STOCKHOLM

**10 a.m.** Spend the morning wandering Gamla Stan, a delightful warren of cobblestone streets and squares lined with narrow houses. Look for quirky details such as the city's smallest statue, the 6-inch-high *Iron Boy* behind the Finnish Church, and the Viking Age rune stone walled into the foundation of a medieval house on the corner of Prästgatan and Kåkbrinken.



**12 p.m.** Along Skeppsbron, past the Royal Palace, Skeppsbrogården is an award-winning organic artisan bakery sitting on the waterfront with mouth-watering views of the Baltic and a menu to match.

**2 p.m.** Immerse yourself in the city's rich heritage in Södermalm, a former working-class district that has been transformed into one of Stockholm's most popular neighborhoods. After visiting Stockholm City Museum, linger to admire the panoramic views from nearby Monteliusvägen, overlooking Lake Mälaren, City Hall, and the church spires of Gamla Stan.

**7 p.m.** Combine dinner with art at Fotografiska, a museum of contemporary photography with eclectic changing exhibits housed in an old customs building on the Södermalm waterfront. It has a casual bistro and upscale restaurant options, both with large windows framing views of Djurgården and Gamla Stan. The menus emphasize plant-based cuisine alongside sustainable meat and seafood.

### DAY 3: VISIT GARDENS AND GALLERIES

**10 a.m.** The downtown waterfront runs past the National Museum to peaceful Skeppsholmen and Kastellholmen, two small islands that were once the preserve of the military, as evidenced by the small castle atop Kastellholmen. Admire the spectacular views here as well as historic ships and

museums dedicated to modern art, architecture and design, and toys.

**12 p.m.** The passenger ferry from Skeppsholmen is a quick ride to Djurgården – yes, it's worth stopping at the entertaining interactive ABBA Museum – where you can go on to Rosendals Trädgård, a biodynamic garden that's a favorite urban oasis for Stockholmers. Treat yourself at the cozy greenhouse café, whose pastries and breads are baked in a wood-fired oven on-site, as well as weekly lunch menus spotlighting seasonal ingredients from the garden.

**2 p.m.** At the eastern tip of Djurgården, the Thiel Gallery is a palatial early 20th-century mansion housing an exquisite collection of paintings by Scandinavian greats Carl Larsson, Edvard Munch, and Anders Zorn, along with contemporary European masters. Art fans can carry on to Prins Eugens Waldemarsudde, the former home of Prince Eugen, a royal prince, painter, and art collector, who left the waterfront property and his impressive art collection to the Swedish state.

**7 p.m.** Dine on classic Swedish cuisine at Ulla Winblad, the site of a steam bakery at the 1897 Stockholm World Fair set in rolling parkland near the Skansen open-air museum. Take a table on the patio to enjoy the long Nordic evening, while sampling local specialties including fish roe and sweet and sour herring.

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From top: Cozy café Kaffekoppen in Gamla Stan; a tasty Scandinavian breakfast; colorful Stortorget Square is the oldest main public square in Gamla Stan

## WHERE TO STAY / STOCKHOLM



### At Six, Stockholm

A chic urban escape in the heart of Stockholm.



### Hotel Diplomat, Stockholm

An Art Nouveau masterpiece overlooking Stockholm harbor.