

Stockholm



Sweden's capital is one of the most beautiful major cities in the world, a mirage of saffron- and terracotta-coloured buildings shimmering between blue water and bluer skies all summer, or covered with snow and dotted with lights in winter. It's also a vibrant, modern city, famous for producing sleek designs, edgy fashion and world-class nightclubs.

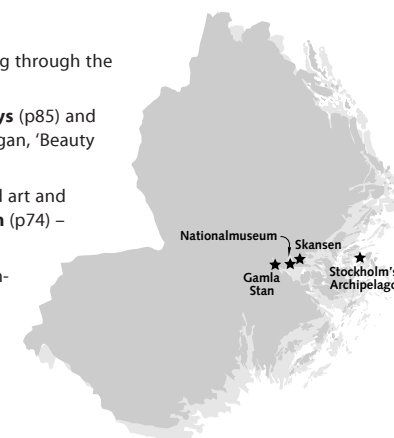
The old town, Gamla Stan, is a compact little maze of cobblestone streets apparently built for small, thin people with very sturdy ankles. The stucco walls of its red, orange and vanilla buildings sag toward each other exhaustedly over countless souvenir shops and ice-cream parlours, while the Royal Palace crowns the tiny island. Just to the south of Gamla Stan is another island neighbourhood, Södermalm, where high waterfront hills are graced by lovely old residences and the main drags are lined with bohemian shops, art galleries and rollicking clubs. On the other side of Gamla Stan is the main city centre, a buzzing metropolis whose boutiques and restaurants can hold their own against just about any big city on the continent.

Surrounding all of this is every Stockholmer's pride and joy – the 24,000 or so rocky islands that make up the archipelago (*skärgård*).

Stockholmers themselves are almost uniformly polite and friendly, making travel both easy and rewarding. Around 16% of greater Stockholm's 1.2 million people are immigrants, which creates a much more multicultural and diverse cityscape than many travellers might expect. It's certainly not all meatballs, ABBA and Ikea these days!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Lose yourself in the city's history by strolling through the medieval streets of **Gamla Stan** (p72)
- Go on a boat tour of the capital's **waterways** (p85) and discover just how accurate Stockholm's slogan, 'Beauty on Water', really is
- Delve into some of Europe's best-presented art and history museums, such as **Nationalmuseum** (p74) – often free of charge
- Cycle or walk around the parklike, museum-laden island of Djurgården – especially the beloved open-air museum, **Skansen** (p76)
- Island hop for a few hours or a few days in Stockholm's very accessible and dramatically beautiful **archipelago** (p108)



■ AREA: 216 SQ KM
(INNER CITY)

■ POPULATION: 750,000
(INNER CITY)

■ TELEPHONE CODE: 08

HISTORY

Swedish political power had been centred around Mälaren lake for centuries, but it was forced to move to the lake's outlet when the rising land made navigation for large boats between the sea and lake impractical. Sweden's most important chieftain in the mid-13th century, Birger Jarl, ordered the construction of a fort on one of the strategically placed islets, where the fresh water entered the sea, and traffic on the waterways was controlled using timber stocks arranged as a fence, or boom. Stockholm, roughly meaning 'tree-trunk islet', may well be named after this boom.

The oldest record of the city consists of two letters dating from 1252. Within a hundred years, Stockholm was the largest city in Sweden, dominated by an impregnable castle (which was never taken by force) and surrounded by a defensive wall. During the period of the Kalmar Union, the king's governor directed affairs from the castle. The city was periodically ravaged by fire until timber buildings with turf roofs were replaced with brick structures. By the late 15th century, the population was around 6000 and Stockholm had become a significant commercial centre. Shipping copper and iron to continental Europe was a lucrative trade that was dominated by German merchants.

In 1471, the Danish king, Christian I, besieged Stockholm while attempting to quell the rebellious Sten Sture, but his 5000-strong army was routed by the Swedes just outside the city walls at the Battle of Brunkeberg (the fighting took place between what is now Vasagatan, Kungsgatan and Sergels Torg). Even after the Danish retreat to Copenhagen, trouble between unionists and separatists continued. Things escalated in 1520 when city burghers, bishops and nobility agreed to meet Danish King Christian II in Stockholm, where he arrested them all at a banquet. After a quick trial, the Swedes were found guilty of burning down the archbishop's castle near Sigtuna, and 82 men were beheaded the following day at Stortorget (the main square by the castle). This ghastly event became known as the Stockholm Bloodbath after heavy rain caused rivers of blood from the bodies to pour down steep alleys descending from the square.

A major rebellion followed and Gustav Vasa finally entered the city in 1523, after a two-year siege. The new king ruled the city with a heavy hand – the role of commerce dwindled and the church was extinguished entirely as royal power grew and the city revolved increasingly around the court. Gustav's son Erik XIV (and later kings) racked up taxation on the burghers to fund wars, but some did well from arms manufacturing and the city's importance as a military headquarters increased. At the end of the 16th century Stockholm's population was 9000, but this expanded in the following century to 60,000, as the Swedish empire reached its greatest extent.

In the 17th century, town planners laid out a street grid beyond the medieval city centre, and Stockholm was proclaimed the capital of Sweden in 1634. Famine wiped out 100,000 people across Sweden during the harsh winter of 1696, and starving hordes descended on the capital. The following year, the original royal castle (Tre Kronor) burned down. In 1711 plague arrived, and the death rate soared to 1200 per day from a population of only 50,000. After the death of King Karl XII, the country, unsurprisingly, stagnated.

In the 18th century, Swedish science and arts blossomed, allowing the creation of institutions and fine buildings. Another period of stagnation followed the assassination of King Gustav III; promised 19th-century reforms never arrived, and bloody street riots were common.

From the 1860s, further town planning created many of the wide avenues and apartment blocks still seen today. The city rapidly industrialised and expanded. In 1912, the Olympic Games were held in Stockholm and by 1915 it was home to 364,000 people.

The next major transformation of the city started in the 1960s, when large 'new towns' sprung up around the outskirts, and extensive 'slum' areas were flattened to make way for concrete office blocks, motorways and other modern developments. The financial and construction boom of the 1980s helped make the city a very expensive place. When that bubble burst due to the 1990s recession, the devalued krona actually helped Stockholm: Swedish tourism grew, and foreign tourists arrived in ever-increasing numbers. The relative easing of licensing restrictions on bars and restaurants, such as

hours during which alcohol could be sold, the type of alcohol that was sold and the age of clientele, caused a huge increase in the number of licensed premises and helped create the lively Stockholm you see today.

ORIENTATION

Stockholm is built on islands, except for the modern centre (Norrmalm), a business and shopping hub. At its heart, linked to outlying areas by a network of subways, is the bustling square Sergels Torg. Next door is Centralstationen (the central train station), which is also where all the underground metro (tunnelbana or T) lines meet. The busy tourist office, called Sweden House, is in the eastern part of Norrmalm; it faces the popular park Kungsträdgården.

The triangular island Stadsholmen and its neighbouring islets accommodate Gamla Stan (Old Town), separated from Norrmalm by the narrow channels of Norrström near the royal palace, but connected by several bridges. To the west of this is Mälaren lake.

On the south side of Stadsholmen the main bridge, Centralbron, and the Slussen interchange connect with the southern part of the city, Södermalm, and its spine Götgatan. From its top end the giant stadium, Globen (which looks like a golf ball), is the southern landmark, although you'll cross water again at Skanstull before reaching it.

To the east of Gamla Stan is the pleasant island Skeppsholmen and its little neighbour, Kastellholmen. Further east along Strandvägen and past the pleasure-boat berths at Nybroviken you can cross to Djurgården, with its impressive collection of museums.

Mälaren, the lake west of Gamla Stan, contains many other islands. Also in the city's west, the E4 motorway crosses Stora Essingen, Lilla Essingen and Kungsholmen on its way north. Yet another series of bridges connects Långholmen with the western tip of Södermalm and the southern side of Kungsholmen.

Maps

The free *What's On Stockholm* tourist booklet has good maps, but the folded *Stockholms officiella turistkarta* (Skr25) covers a larger area; both are usually available from tourist offices and hotels. If you're heading for the suburbs, detailed maps of outlying areas can be purchased from tourist offices or map shops. The best available street atlas, *Atlas över Stor-Stockholm* (Kartförlaget; Skr185) in Swedish, covers all of greater Stockholm.

INFORMATION

Bookshops

Akademibokhandeln (Map p80; ☎ 613 61 00; Mäster Samuelsgatan 32) A chain with several locations, good for maps and books in English, including textbooks.

STOCKHOLM IN...

Two Days

Beat the crowds to the labyrinthine streets of **Gamla Stan** (p72) for souvenir shopping and a coffee at **Sundbergs Konditori** (p92). Peek into **Storkyrkan** (p74) and consider a tour of the royal palace, **Kungliga Slottet** (p73), or simply watch the midday changing of the guard. Then wander south to the Söder Heights, which you can climb via the stairs, or by taking the elevator **Katarinahissen** (p82). Most of Stockholm's best nightlife stretches out before you on the island of Södermalm; don't miss **Kvarnen** (p97) or **Mondo** (p99). Spend the next day at **Skansen** (p76), and dine at **Rosendals Trädgårdscafé** (p95).

Four Days

Follow the two-day plan, then take a guided boat tour of **Stockholm's waterways** (p85) for a different perspective. Afterwards, have a drink at **Berns Salonger** (p98), where August Strindberg got the inspiration for his first novel, then stroll over to Skeppsholmen for a peek into the always provocative **Moderna Museet** (p78). Next day, relive Viking history at the **Historiska museet** (p75), then tour the top-notch **Nationalmuseum** (p74). When you get peckish, explore the varied options at **Östermalms Saluhall** (p97). Up for more? Stand in line with Stockholm's elite partygoers at the **Spy Bar** (p99).

Sweden House (Map p80; ☎ 50 82 85 08, www.stockholmtown.se; Hamngatan 27; 🕒 9am–7pm Mon–Fri, 10am–5pm Sat, 10am–4pm Sun) The capital's main tourist office is just off Kungsträdgården across from the NK department store. It has lots of good brochures and can help book hotel rooms, theatre and concert tickets, and packages such as boat trips to the archipelago. There's a Forex currency-exchange counter in the same building.

Travel Agencies

STA (Map p80; ☎ 54 52 66 66; Kungsgatan 30) and the nearby **Kilroy Travels** (Map pp68–9; ☎ 0771-54 57 69; Kungsgatan 4) both specialise in discount youth and student flights.

Universities

Stockholm University (Map p105; www.su.se; T-Universitetet) Founded as Stockholm College with a public lecture series in 1878; up until then, students had to go to Uppsala or Lund to further their studies. The university was taken over by the government in 1960 and it is now among the largest in the country, with around 35,000 students. Most of the university is located 3.5km north of the city centre in Frescati district.

DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Some parts of the city aren't particularly safe late at night, especially Sergels Torg, Medborgarplatsen (in Södermalm) and Fridhemsplan (on Kungsholmen) when the bars empty around 1am. Visitors should steer clear of

night buses at weekends and opt for a taxi instead.

SIGHTS

Swedes really know how to set up a museum, and Stockholm has around 70 of the finest. Many contain world-class treasures, and most are loaded with atmosphere. Best of all, these days several of them are free of charge. Most also have self-guided tours in English and other languages, whether by audiotape or printed brochure.

Stockholm also has 10 royal castles in and around the city, including the largest palace in the world that's still in use, as well as the World Heritage-listed Drottningholm.

The palace and a few other museums and churches are in the Old Town, **Gamla Stan**; the **city centre** has the bulk of the museums, while **Djurgården** hosts the famous outdoor museum Skansen and the Vasa ship museum. Several other worthwhile sights are scattered across the city, but none are too far-flung and they're all easy to reach by public transport.

Gamla Stan

Stockholm began here, and most visitors to the capital do the same. The old town is full of historic buildings that seem to be collapsing towards each other at a glacial pace. Shops and restaurants line its twisted cob-

blestone streets and stunted alleyways; some of the best are tucked away in vaulted cellars. This island is also, of course, home of the royal palace. The main shopping thoroughfare, Västerlånggatan, is a must, but it's best early in the day or late at night when the flood of tourists lessens. Don't hesitate to veer off onto a parallel alley or linger in one of the quiet squares. Part of the fun of exploring Gamla Stan is getting hopelessly lost in its labyrinth and suddenly emerging onto a bustling square or waterfront view.

KUNGLIGA SLOTTET

The 'new' **Royal Palace** (Map p80; ☎ 402 61 30; www.royalcourt.se; Slottsbacken; adult/child each attraction Skr80/35, combined ticket Skr120/65; most attractions 🕒 10am–4pm mid-May–Aug, noon–3pm Tue–Sun Sep–mid-May) is one of Stockholm's highlights; it was constructed on the site of the 'old' royal castle, Tre Kronor, which burned down in 1697. The north wing survived and was incorporated into the new palace, but its medieval designs are now concealed by a baroque exterior. The new palace, designed by the court architect Nicodemus Tessin the Younger, wasn't completed until 57 years later. With 608 rooms, it's the world's largest royal castle still used for its original purpose.

The excellent **state apartments**, including the Hall of State and the Apartments of the Royal Orders of Chivalry, are both open to the public (except during state functions, most of which happen in September), with two floors of royal pomp, 18th- and 19th-century furnishings, and portraits of pale princes and princesses. Look for Queen Kristina's silver throne in the Hall of State, and for impressive baroque and rococo designs throughout the rooms.

The Swedish regalia, crowns, sceptres, orbs and keys are displayed at **Skattkammaren** (the Royal Treasury), by the southern entrance to the palace near **Slottskyrkan** (the Royal Chapel). **Gustav III:s Antikmuseum** displays the Mediterranean treasures, particularly sculpture, acquired by that eccentric monarch. At the **Museum Tre Kronor** in the palace basement, you can see the foundations of 13th-century defensive walls and exhibits rescued from the medieval castle during the fire of 1697.

The **Changing of the Guard** takes place in the outer courtyard at 12.15pm Monday to Saturday, and 1.15pm Sunday and public holidays.

HELGEANDSHOLMEN

Though technically separated from Gamla Stan, this little island, in the middle of Norrström, is home to a couple of the most interesting sights in Stockholm. The **Riksdaghuset** (Swedish Parliament; Map p80; ☎ 786 40 00; www.riksdagen.se; admission free; 1hr tours 🕒 12.30pm & 2pm Mon–Fri late Jun–Aug, 1.30pm Sat & Sun rest of year) consists of two parts; the older front section (facing downstream) dates from the early 20th century, but the other, more modern part contains the current debating chamber. Tours of the building are surprisingly compelling and serve as a primer on the Swedish system of consensus-building government.

Medeltidsmuseet (Medieval Museum; Map p80; ☎ 50 83 17 90; Strömparterren; adult/child Skr60/40; 🕒 11am–4pm Jul & Aug; 11am–6pm Wed, 11am–4pm Tue & Thu–Sun Sep–Jun), at the other end of the island, is one of the city's most atmospheric museums. While preparing to build a Riksdag car park here in the late 1970s, construction workers unearthed some foundations dating from the 1530s. The ancient walls were preserved as found and a museum was built around them. Faithful reconstructions of typical houses, sheds and workshops transport visitors to medieval Stockholm (though with a better lighting and sound system than they had back then). Also in the museum is the well-preserved, 1520s-era *Riddarsholm* ship.

OTHER SIGHTS

Livrustkammaren (Royal Armoury; Map p80; ☎ 51 95 55 44; Slottsbacken 3; admission free; 🕒 10am–5pm Jun–Aug, 11am–5pm Tue–Sun & 11am–8pm Thu Sep–May) is part of the palace complex, but it can be visited separately. Best known for displaying Gustav II Adolf's stuffed (and it must be said, somewhat tattered-looking) battle steed, Streiff, the museum covers 500 years of royal history. There's a large collection of royal memorabilia, including suits of armour, countless weapons, five elaborately decorated and colourful carriages, all kinds of ceremonial clothing and the costume Gustav III was wearing when he was assassinated at the opera in 1792.

Kungliga Myntkabinettet (Royal Coin Cabinet; Map p80; ☎ 51 95 53 04; Slottsbacken 6; admission free; 🕒 10am–4pm) is just across the plaza from the Royal Palace. Here you'll find displays of coins (including Viking silver) and banknotes covering the history of money over the last 2600 years. You'll see the world's

PENNY-PINCHING PACKAGES

Getting your money's worth out of a visit to Stockholm is a lot easier if you take advantage of one or more discounts offered to tourists. The **Stockholm Card** is available from tourist offices, SL information centres, some museums, some hotels and hostels or online at www.stockholmtown.com. It gives you entry to 75 museums and attractions, travel on public transport (including Katarinahissen, but excluding local ferries, some city buses and airport buses), sightseeing by boat, and parking in certain places. It is valid for 24, 48 or 72 hours and costs Skr260/390/540 (or Skr100/140/190 for accompanying children under 18, maximum two children per adult). To get maximum value, use two 24-hour cards over three days (with a rest day in between) and be sure to note opening hours; for example Skansen remains open until late, whereas royal palaces are only open until 3pm or 4pm.

Students and seniors get discounted admission to most museums and sights without the card, so you'll need to work out if it's cheaper for you to just get a transport pass and pay admission charges separately.

Stockholm à la Carte (from Skr450) is a cut-price package that includes a hotel room and the Stockholm Card. It's available weekends year-round and also throughout the summer (mid-June to mid-August) Its cost depends on the standard of accommodation (prices for central hotels start at around Skr600 per person). Travel agents in other Scandinavian capitals or major Swedish cities can help with arrangements, otherwise contact **Destination Stockholm** (☎ 663 00 80; www.destination-stockholm.com). The website has lots of good information and lists details of the 50-odd hotels involved in the scheme.

oldest coin (from 625 BC), the world's largest coin (a Swedish copper plate weighing 19.7kg) and the world's first banknote (issued in Sweden in 1661).

Stockholm's cathedral, **Storkyrkan** (Map p80; ☎ 723 30 09; admission free; 🕒 9am-7pm mid-May-Aug, 9am-7pm Mon-Sat & 9am-5.30pm Sun Sep-mid-May) is next to the Royal Palace; Sweden's monarchs used to be crowned here. The brick-built cathedral dates back to the late 13th century (it's the city's oldest building and was consecrated in 1306), but the exterior is baroque. The ancient and ornate interior contains a life-size statue of St George and his horse confronting the mythical dragon, created by the German sculptor Berndt Notke in 1494. You'll also see the two large royal box pews with crown-shaped canopies and the silver altar. Keep an eye out for posters and handbills advertising musical performances here.

Riddarholmskyrkan (Map p80; ☎ 402 61 30; adult/child Skr20/10; 🕒 10am-4pm mid-May-Aug, noon-3pm Tue-Sun Sep 1-18, noon-3pm Sat & Sun Sep 18-30), on the nearby island Riddarholmen, was built by Franciscan monks in the late 13th century. It no longer functions as a church but has been the royal necropolis since the burial of Magnus Ladulås in 1290, and is home to the armorial glory of the Seraphim knightly order. Look for the marble sarcophagus of Gustav II, Sweden's mightiest monarch, and the massed wall plates displaying the coats-of-arms of the knights. There's a guided tour in English at 1pm all open days.

Until 1865, the Swedish parliament met in the 17th-century **Riddarhuset** (House of Nobility; Map p80; ☎ 723 39 90; Riddarhusstorget 10; adult/child Skr40/10; 🕒 11.30am-12.30pm Mon-Fri), one of the prettiest buildings in the city. These days even the riffraff can visit during the lunch hour. There are 2325 coats of arms belonging to Sweden's nobility on display, and downstairs in the Chancery there's a unique collection of heraldic porcelain.

The **Postmuseum** (Map p80; ☎ 781 1755; Lilla Nygatan 6; adult/child Skr50/free; 🕒 11am-4pm Tue-Sun May-Aug, 11am-4pm Tue-Sun & 11am-7pm Wed Sep-Apr), housed in a 17th-century building, describes the history of Sweden's postal service, with displays of Swedish stamps from 1855 to the present day. The philatelic library has 51,000 books on stamps and postal history. There's also a miniature post office for children, a café and a shop. And, of course, you can mail letters, send packages and buy stamps here.

ALFRED NOBEL

Alfred Nobel (1833-96), Swedish chemist, engineer and industrialist, patented a detonator for highly unstable nitroglycerine in 1862. Four years later he made the remarkable discovery that kieselguhr could absorb nitroglycerine safely, but remain an explosive substance. This became known as dynamite and Nobel's factories increased their output 6000-fold over the next 30 years.

As a very wealthy industrialist, Nobel created the annual Nobel Prizes (from 1901) in physics, chemistry, medicine/physiology, literature and peace, to be awarded to those who had benefited humankind the most in the preceding year. A sixth prize, for economics, was added in 1969.

Nobelmuseum (Map p80; ☎ 23 25 06; Stortorget; adult/child Skr50/20; 🕒 10am-5pm mid-May-mid-Sep, 11am-5pm Wed-Sun mid-Sep-mid-May, open until 8pm Tue year round), in the Börsen building (the old Stock Exchange), presents the history of the Nobel Prizes and their recipients. It is a great-looking museum, with well-designed exhibitions on the history of the prize, Alfred Nobel himself, and the various recipients over the years. There are also top-notch films on looped display, voice recordings of Nobel Prize acceptance speeches, a travelling collection and several temporary exhibits.

If you happen to be here in summer but long to experience the legendary Scandinavian winter, stop in at the **Ice Gallery** (Map p80; ☎ 790 55 00; Österlånggatan 41; adult/child Skr50/25; 🕒 10am-4.30pm Fri-Sun). This small exhibition space has some interesting ice sculptures inspired by the much more elaborate (but winter-only) Ice Hotel in northern Sweden (see p301). The gallery is kept at about -6°C (puffy jackets are provided for visitors).

Central Stockholm NATIONALMUSEUM

Sweden's largest art museum, the **Nationalmuseum** (Map p80; ☎ 51 95 43 00; www.nationalmuseum.se; Södra Blasieholmshamnen; admission free, extra charge for some temporary exhibits; 🕒 11am-8pm Tue & Thu, 11am-5pm Wed, Fri-Sun) houses the national collection of painting, sculpture, drawings, decorative arts and graphics, ranging from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. Some of the art became state property on the death

of Gustav III in 1792, making this one of the earliest public museums in the world. There are around 16,000 items of painting and sculpture on display, including magnificent works by artists such as Goya, Rembrandt and Rubens. There are also around 30,000 items of decorative artwork, including porcelain, furniture, glassware, silverware and late-medieval tapestries. In 2000, the museum was the victim of a famous robbery in which art thieves made off with three paintings (two Renoirs and a Rembrandt), all of which have since been recovered. There's an excellent museum shop and a terrace café in the glassed-in Atrium.

HISTORISKA MUSEET

The national historical collection is at this enthralling **museum** (Map pp68-9; ☎ 51 95 56 00; www.historiska.se; Narvavägen 13; admission free; 🕒 11am-5pm, 11am-8pm Thu Oct-Apr, 10am-5pm May-Sep). A masterpiece of mood and lighting, the Historiska Museet covers 10,000 years of Swedish history and culture (up to 1520), including some archaeological finds from the Viking town, Birka. Don't miss the incredible **Gold Room** in the basement, with its rare treasures. The most astonishing artefact is the 5th-century seven-ringed gold collar with 458 carved figures, weighing 823g. It was found in Västergötland in the 19th century and was probably used by pagan priests in ritualistic ceremonies. Also don't miss the medieval triptychs and altar screens.

STADSHUSET

It looks more like a large church, but the size of **Stadshuset** (Town Hall; map p80; ☎ 50 82 90 58; Hantverkargatan 1; entrance by tour only, adult/child Skr60/30; tours 🕒 10am, 11am, noon, 2pm & 3pm Jun-Aug, 10am & noon rest of year) is deceptive because it has two internal courtyards. The dominant brown-brick square tower of Stadshuset is topped with a golden spire and the symbol of Swedish power, the three royal crowns. Inside the building, you'll find the beautiful mosaic-lined **Gyllene salen** (Golden Hall), Prins Eugen's own fresco re-creation of the lake view from the gallery, and the hall where the annual Nobel Prize banquet is held. Part of the tour involves walking down the same stairs you'd use if you had won the big prize. Entry is by daily tour only, and these may be interrupted from time to time by preparations for special

events. Climb the **tower** (adult/child Skr20/free; 🕒 10am-4.30pm May-Sep, Sat & Sun in Apr) for a good stair-climbing workout and stellar views of Gamla Stan. In summer a unique feature is that you can dive off the terrace at the edge of the building.

OTHER SIGHTS

Though parts of it are rather graphic, the **Armémuseum** (Map p80; ☎ 788 95 60; Riddargatan 13; admission free; 🕒 11am-8pm Tue, 11am-4pm Wed-Sun) is an excellent place to see vivid displays of Swedish military history, from the Vikings to the present, with an unidealised – not to say pacifist – bent. There are huge cases of weapons, re-created scenes and sound effects, and disturbingly realistic wax figures forever engaged in historic battles.

A private palace completed in 1898, **Hallwylska Museet** (The Hallwyl Collection; Map p80; ☎ 51 95 55 99; Hamngatan 4; adult/child Skr40/20, living history tours Skr85/50, free admission to 1st-fl state rooms noon-4pm Tue-Sun) is a showcase of eccentricity. Wilhelmina von Hallwyl collected items as diverse as kitchen utensils, Chinese pottery, 17th-century paintings, silverware, sculpture and jewellery. In 1920, she and her husband donated their entire house (including contents) to the nation. The baroque-style great drawing room is particularly impressive and includes a rare, playable grand piano. This delightful museum has guided tours in English at 1pm daily from late June to mid-August; the rest of the year English tours are only at 1pm on Sunday (but you can join one of the more regular tours in Swedish).

The **Vin & Sprithistoriska Museet** (Wine & Spirits Museum; Map pp68-9; ☎ 744 7070; Dalagatan 100; adult/child Skr40/30; 🕒 10am-7pm Tue, 10am-4pm Wed-Fri, noon-4pm Sat & Sun) might be the only museum in Sweden that offers a new drinking song each week (call ☎ 744 70 75 to hear it). The eccentric museum puts the 'oh' back in alcohol with informative displays on the distilling and filtering process, the strange saga of the Vodka King, the development of Absolut's chic labelling, and best of all, a 'scent organ' that lets you sample each of 55 spices used in traditional *brännvin* and *snaps* recipes. It also has information on Sweden's conservative alcohol policy and what the future might hold. There's a small bar for wine- and liquor-tasting. Take bus 69 from Sergels Torg or walk from T-Odenplan metro station.

The collections in the very attractive **Medelhavsmuseet** (Museum of Mediterranean Antiquities; Map p80; ☎ 51 95 53 80; Fredsgatan 2; admission free; ☎ 11am-8pm Tue-Wed, 11am-4pm Thu-Fri, noon-5pm Sat & Sun) include Egyptian, Greek, Cypriot and Roman artefacts. There are decent displays of Islamic art and a small but spectacular gold room, which is unlocked for brief periods by the guard at the front desk – ask politely and you'll be admitted.

The small but evocative **Strindbergsmuseet** (Map p80; ☎ 411 53 54; Drottninggatan 85; adult/child Skr40/free; ☎ noon-4pm Tue-Sun) in the Blue Tower, is the well-preserved apartment where the writer and painter August Strindberg (1849–1912) spent his final four years. You'll see the dining room, bedroom, study and his interesting library, which contains some 3000 volumes. There's also a room for temporary exhibits and a bookshop.

At **Musikmuseet** (Map p80; ☎ 5195 5490; Sibyllegatan 2; admission free; ☎ 11am-7pm Tue, 11am-4pm Wed-Sun), hands-on displays let you play musical instruments and pretend you're in ABBA after checking out some of the band's original paraphernalia from the 1970s.

AUGUST STRINDBERG

August Strindberg was born in Stockholm in 1849. His mother's death, when he was 13, was an important event in the life of the tortured genius, who was hailed as the 'writer of the people' towards the end of his chaotic life.

Strindberg periodically studied theology and medicine at Uppsala University from 1867 to 1872, but left without a degree. He then worked as a librarian and journalist prior to becoming a productive author, writing novels, plays, poetry, and over 7000 letters. He was also a talented painter of moody scenes.

His breakthrough as a writer came in 1879 with the publication of his novel *The Red Room*. In 1884, Strindberg became notorious after the publication of *Marriage*, a collection of short stories that led to his trial (and acquittal) for blasphemy in the City Court of Stockholm. Much of his work deals with radical approaches to social issues, which didn't go down well with the Swedish establishment.

Strindberg married three times. His first marriage, to Siri von Essen (married 1877, divorced 1891), produced four children. During his stay in central Europe (1892 to 1899), he led an 'artist's life' with the likes of Edvard Munch and Gauguin, and had a short-lived marriage to an Austrian woman, Frida Uhl (married 1893, separated 1894, dissolved 1897), which led to the birth of a daughter. As his instability deepened, Strindberg took an interest in the occult, but the crisis was over upon publication of *Inferno* (1897), an accurate description of his own emotional shambles. After returning to Stockholm in 1899, he married Norwegian Harriet Bosse in 1901 (divorced 1904) and had yet another daughter.

In 1912, Strindberg was awarded an 'Anti-Nobel Prize' (funded by ordinary people from around Sweden) as compensation for not receiving the Nobel Prize for Literature. Although the conservative Swedish Academy basically ignored his work, Strindberg was appreciated by many Swedes and his death, in 1912, was seen as the loss of the country's greatest writer.

Djurgården

The royal park of Djurgården is a must for visitors to Stockholm. The main attractions are Skansen and the extraordinary Vasa Museum, but there are many other interesting places to visit in the park.

Take bus 47 from Centralstationen, or the Djurgården ferry services from Nybroplan or Slussen (frequent in summer); or take the vintage tram from Norrmalmstorg. You can rent bikes by the bridge (see p102), and this is by far the best way to explore the area. Parking is limited during the week and prohibited on summer weekends, when Djurgårdsvägen is closed to traffic.

SKANSEN

The world's first open-air museum, **Skansen** (Map pp68-9; ☎ 442 80 00; www.skansen.se; adult Skr30-80, child free-Skr30, depending on the time of yr; ☎ 10am-8pm May, 10am-10pm Jun-Aug, 10am-5pm Sep, 10am-4pm Oct-Apr) was founded in 1891 by Artur Hazelius to let visitors see how Swedes lived in previous times. You could easily spend a day here and still not see it all. Around 150 traditional houses and other exhibits from all over Sweden occupy the attractive hilltop –

it's meant to be 'Sweden in miniature', complete with villages, nature, commerce and industry. The glassblowers' cottage is a popular stop; watching the intricate forms emerge from glowing blobs of liquid glass is so transfixing the museum has set up a mini-amphitheatre there. The Nordic Zoo, with moose, reindeer, Wolverines and other native wildlife, is a highlight especially in spring when baby critters scamper around. There's also a petting zoo for kids.

Buildings in the open-air museum represent various trades and areas of the country. Most are inhabited by staff in period costume, often doing handicrafts, playing music or churning butter while cheerfully answering questions about the folk whose lives they are recreating. Part of the pharmacy was moved here from Drottningholm castle; two little garden huts came from Tantolunden in Södermalm. There's a bakery (still operational, serving coffee and lunch), a bank/post office, a machine shop, botanical gardens and Hazelius' mansion, among other things. There are also 46 buildings from rural areas around Sweden, including a Sami camp, farmsteads representing several regions, a manor house and a school. A map and an excellent booklet in English are available to guide you around.

Skansen incorporates a few other museums as well, including the **Tobaks & Tändsticks-museum** (Tobacco & Matchstick Museum; Map pp68-9; ☎ 442 80 26; ☎ 11am-5pm May-Sep; closed Mon rest of yr), which traces the history of smoking, and the more ecologically oriented **Skogens Hus** (Forestry Information Centre). The **Skansen Aquarium** (Map pp68-9; ☎ 442 8039; adult/child Skr65/35, ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm Sat & Sun Sep-May, 10am-6pm Jun & Aug, 10am-8pm Jul) is also good – en route to the fish (including piranhas) you'll walk among the lemurs and see pygmy marmosets, the smallest monkeys in the world.

There are a number of cafés, restaurants and hot-dog stands throughout the park. Carrying water isn't a bad idea in summer. It's not cheating to take the escalator to the top of the hill and meander down from there.

Daily activities take place on Skansen's stages, including folk dancing in summer and an enormous public festival at mid-summer. If you're in Stockholm for any of the country's major celebrations (such as

Walpurgis Night, Midsummer's Eve, Lucia Festival, Christmas), Skansen is the place to see how Swedes celebrate. See p315 for more information on these events.

VASAMUSEET

A good-humoured glorification of some dodgy calculation, **Vasamuseet** (map pp68-9; ☎ 51 95 48 00; www.vasamuseet.se; adult/child Skr80/free, Wed 5-8pm Skr60; ☎ 9.30am-7pm Jun-Aug, 10am-5pm & 10am-8pm Wed Sep-May) lets you study the lives of 17th-century sailors while appreciating some brilliant achievements in marine archaeology. On 10 August 1628, within minutes of being launched, the top-heavy flagship *Vasa* overturned and went straight to the bottom of Saltsjön. Tour guides explain the extraordinary and controversial 300-year story of its death and resurrection. After being painstakingly raised in 1961, the ship and its incredible wooden sculptures were pieced together like a giant jigsaw. Almost all of what you see today is original.

On the entrance level, there's a model of the ship at scale 1:10 and a cinema that shows a 25-minute film covering topics not included in the exhibitions (in English at 11.30am and 1.30pm daily in summer). There are three other levels of exhibits, including displays of artefacts salvaged from *Vasa*, exhibits on naval warfare and 17th-century sailing and navigation plus sculpture and temporary exhibitions.

The bookshop is worth a visit and there's also a restaurant. Guided tours are in English hourly from 10.30am in summer, and at least twice daily the rest of the year. You'll need a couple of hours to appreciate the place.

GRÖNA LUND TIVOLI

The crowded **Gröna Lund Tivoli** (Map pp68-9; ☎ 58 75 01 00; www.gronalund.com in Swedish; adult/child Skr50/free; ☎ noon-11pm Sat-Thu, noon-midnight Fri & Sat, May-mid-Sep; noon-11pm most days mid-Jun-mid-Aug) fun park has more than 25 rides, ranging from the easy circus carousel to the terrifying Free Fall, where you drop from a height of 80m in six seconds (there's a lovely, if brief, view over Stockholm at the top). There are lots of places to eat and drink in the park, but whether you'll keep it down is another matter entirely. The Åkbandet day pass gives unlimited rides, or individual rides range from Skr20 to Skr60. Big-name concerts are often staged here in

summer. Admission is free for Stockholm Card or 72-hour SL Tourist Card holders.

OTHER SIGHTS

The enormous, impressive **Nordiska Museet** (National Museum of Cultural History; Map pp68-9; ☎ 51 95 60 00; www.nordiskamuseet.se; Djurgårdsvägen 6-16; admission free; ☹ 11am-5pm Jun-Aug, 10am-4pm rest of yr) was also founded by Artur Hazelius. The second-largest indoor space in Sweden, it's housed in an eclectic, Renaissance-style castle. There are notable temporary exhibitions and endless Swedish collections from 1520 to the present day, with a total of 1.5 million items, including the world's largest collection of paintings by August Strindberg. Those who want to delve more deeply into the collection can borrow a free CD player with several hours of English commentary.

The museum hosts several interesting temporary displays, but the high point for visitors is the rare and superb **Sami exhibition** in the basement. Look for the extraordinary 1767 drawing of a Sami castrating a reindeer...with his teeth! There's also a whole section on the various uses of reindeer entrails in both spells and recipes.

The intriguing 'small object exhibition' includes a duchess' silver-lined toilet paper. Other exhibitions include fashion from the 17th to 20th centuries, the table exhibition (running continuously since 1955), Swedish traditions and national costume, and furniture.

Junibacken (Map pp68-9; ☎ 58 72 30 00; adult/child Skr95/70; ☹ 9am-7pm Jul, 10am-5pm Tue-Fri, 9am-6pm Sat-Mon Jun & Aug, 10am-5pm Tue-Fri, 9am-6pm Sat & Sun Jan-May & Sep-Dec) re-creates the fantasy scenes of Astrid Lindgren's children books, stir the imaginations of children and the memories of adults familiar with her characters – chiefly Pippi Longstocking. You'll go on a 10-minute train journey past miniature landscapes, fly over Stockholm observing historical Swedish scenes and traditions, and pass through houses. It's a professional and rather unusual form of entertainment.

Prins Eugens Waldemarsudde (Map pp68-9; ☎ 54 58 37 00; Prins Eugens väg 6; adult/child Skr80/free; ☹ 11am-5pm Tue-Sun), at the southern tip of Djurgården, is a favourite destination for locals, especially in good weather. The palace once belonged to the painter prince, who favoured art over typical royal pleasures. In addition to Eugen's own work, it holds

his large collection of Nordic paintings and sculpture. The palace buildings and galleries, connected by tunnels, are surrounded by picturesque gardens and an old windmill, making for a rather idyllic outing.

On the northern side of Djurgården, **Rosendals Slott** (Map pp68-9; ☎ 402 61 30; Rosendalsvägen; adult/child Skr50/25; tours ☹ noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm Tue-Sun) was built as a palace for Karl XIV Johan in the 1820s, and features sumptuous royal furnishings. Admission is by guided tour only. While you're out this way, be sure to stop in the delightful café, which is set among trees and greenhouses and is very popular with the locals.

Thielska Galleriet (Map pp68-9; ☎ 662 58 84; Sjö-tullsbacken; bus 69 from Centralstationen; adult/child Skr50/free; ☹ noon-4pm Mon-Sat, 1-4pm Sun), found at the east end of Djurgården, has Ernest Thiel's notable collection of late 19th- and early 20th-century Nordic art, including works by Edvard Munch, Anders Zorn, Bruno Liljefors and Carl Larsson.

Liljevalchs Konsthall (Map pp68-9; ☎ 50 83 13 30; Djurgårdsvägen 60; adult/child Skr50/free; ☹ 11am-5pm Tue-Sun, until 8pm Tue & Thu Sep-May) has four exhibitions a year of contemporary Swedish and international art, including the popular Spring Salon.

Other minor museums around Djurgården include the charmingly dusty, 1893 **Biologiskamuseet** (Museum of Biology; Map pp68-9; ☎ 442 82 15; Hazeliusporten; adult/child Skr30/10; ☹ 11am-4pm Apr-Sep, noon-3pm Tue-Fri & 10am-3pm Sat & Sun rest of yr) and **Aquaria Vattenmuseum** (Map pp68-9; ☎ 660 49 40; Falkenbergsgatan 2; adult/child Skr70/35; ☹ 10am-6pm Jun-Aug, 10am-4.30pm Tue-Sun rest of yr), a pleasant, conservation-themed aquarium.

Skeppsholmen

Moderna Museet (Modern Museum; map pp68-9; ☎ 51 95 52 00; Exercisplan 4; www.modernamuseet.se; admission free; ☹ 10am-8pm Tue-Wed, 10am-6pm Thu-Sun) houses a fine collection of modern art, including paintings, sculpture, videos and photographs. The building itself has recently undergone a renovation (partly due to mould problems) and looks sparkling new. The attached bookstore is heaven for bibliophiles. There's an upstairs restaurant, a tea shop and a chic 1st-floor coffee shop, all rather upscale.

The adjoining **Arkitekturmuseet** (Museum of Architecture; ☎ 58 72 70 00; Exercisplan 4; www.arkitekurmuseet.se; admission free; ☹ 10am-8pm Tue-Wed,

10am-6pm Thu-Sun) is housed in an equally extraordinary space and has displays on Swedish and international architecture, with a permanent exhibition covering 1000 years of Swedish architecture and an archive of 2.5 million documents, photographs, plans, drawings and models. Ask at the information desk about architectural tours of Stockholm.

Across the bridge from Nationalmuseum, **Östasiatiska Museet** (Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities; Map pp68-9; ☎ 51 95 57 50; admission free; ☹ 11am-8pm Tue, 11am-5pm Wed-Sun) displays ancient and contemporary ceramics, paintings and sculpture. The museum has one of the best collections of Chinese art, stoneware and porcelain in the world, mainly from the Song, Ming and Qing dynasties.

Svensk Form Design Centre (Map pp68-9; ☎ 463 31 34; Holmamiraleas väg 2; adult/child Skr20/free; ☹ noon-7pm Tue-Thu, noon-5pm Fri-Sun) has design exhibitions and a shop. The centre also produces the excellent magazine *Form*, a good primer on current trends and artists, available at newsstands and design shops around town.

Ladugårdsgärdet

The vast parkland of Ladugårdsgärdet is part of the 27-sq-km **Ekoparken** (www.ekoparken.com), the world's first national park within a city. Ekoparken is 14km long and stretches far into the northern suburbs of Stockholm. This section of it, reached by bus 69 from Centralstationen or Sergels Torg, boasts three fine museums and one of the city's most panoramic views.

Sjöhistoriska Museet (National Maritime Museum; Map pp68-9; ☎ 51 95 49 00; Djurgårdsbrunnsvägen 24; admission free; ☹ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun, until 8:30pm Tue in spring & autumn) has an exhibit of maritime memorabilia and more than 1500 model ships. Displays also cover Swedish ship-building, sailors and life on board.

Get your robot fix at **Tekniska Museet** (Museum of Science & Technology; map pp68-9; ☎ 450 56 00; Museivägen 7; adult/child Skr60/30; ☹ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, 11am-5pm Sat & Sun), just around the corner from the maritime museum. It has exhaustive exhibits on Swedish inventions and their applications, including everything from motorbikes to mobile phones.

Etnografiska Museet (National Museum of Ethnography; map pp68-9; ☎ 51 95 50 00; Djurgårdsbrunnsvägen 34; admission free; ☹ 10am-5pm, 10am-8pm Wed) has excellent displays on various aspects of non-European cultures, including several

temporary exhibitions each year. The café is a treat, with great music, imported sweets and beverages, and authentically prepared foods from around the world.

About 500m from the museums is the 155m **Kaknästornet** (Kaknäs TV tower; Map pp68-9; ☎ 667 21 80; adult/child Skr30/15; ☹ 9am-10pm May-Aug, 10am-9pm Sep-Apr), the automatic operations centre for radio and TV broadcasting in Sweden. It opened in 1967 and is still the tallest building in the city. There's a small visitor centre on the ground floor and an **observation deck** and restaurant near the top, both of which provide stellar 360-degree views. There are guided tours at 2pm and 4pm.

Långholmen

This small island in the Mälaren lake once housed a prison, and **Långholmens Fängelsemuseum** (Prison Museum; Map p80; ☎ 668 0500; adult/child Skr25/10; ☹ 11am-4pm) occupies one of the old building's cells – the rest of the grounds has been converted into a hotel and STF hostel (see p89). The displays here cover 250 years of prison history.

To get to Långholmen, take the metro to Hornstull, then walk along Långholmsgatan. There are some very pleasant picnic and bathing spots on the island.

Södermalm

Known as the quirky, funky island, Söder is home to several galleries, design collectives, secondhand shops, and notable bars and restaurants, as well as some important museums.

Stockholms Stadsmuseum (City museum; Map p80; ☎ 50 83 16 00; Slussen; adult/child Skr60/free; ☹ 11am-5pm Tue-Sun, 11am-8pm Thu) is housed in the late-17th-century palace of Nicodemus Tessin the Elder, in Ryssgården. Exhibits cover the history of the city and its people, and it's worth a visit once you develop a romantic attachment to Stockholm.

Spårvägmuseet (Transport Museum; map pp68-9; ☎ 462 55 31; Tegelviksgatan 22; adult/child Skr30/15, incl Leksaksmuseet; ☹ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, noon-4pm Sat & Sun), in the Söderhallen transport depot near the Viking Line terminal, has around 40 vehicles, including horse-drawn carriages, Stockholm metro trains, vintage trams and buses.

Newly reopened and sharing an entrance with Spårvägmuseet, **Leksaksmuseet** (Toy Museum; Map pp68-9; ☎ 641 61 00; Tegelviksgatan 22; ☹ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, noon-4pm Sat & Sun) is an

oversized fantasy nursery full of everything you probably ever wanted as a child, including dolls, model railways, planes and cars. Children will enjoy themselves in the play-room and at the children's theatre.

Head to the northern cliffs of Södermalm for good views and evening walks among the old houses. Some interesting neighbourhoods lie around the **Katarina kyrka** (Map p80), in the park near **Sofia kyrka** (Map pp68–9), around the **Puckeln Shop District** (Hornsgatan) and on Lotsgatan and Fjällgatan, not far from the Viking Line terminal.

You'll get great views from the balcony of **Katarinahissen** (Map p80; ☎ 743 13 95; Slussen; adult/child Skr5/free; ☎ 7.30am–10pm Mon–Sat, 10am–10pm Sun), a lift dating from the 1930s that takes you up 38m to the heights of Slussen. If you prefer, zigzagging wooden stairs also lead up the cliffs to the balcony. At the top is one of the city's best restaurants, Gondolen.

Northern Suburbs

The areas just north of the city centre are full of green, open spaces. Several large parks, spanning from Djurgården in the south, form **Ekoparken** (see p79), the first such protected city area in the world. The less wild, more sculpted **Hagaparken** is also particularly pleasant for walks and bicycle tours and contains some interesting attractions.

MILLESGÅRDEN

Well worth the effort to reach it, beautiful **Millesgården** (Map p105; ☎ 446 75 94; Carl Milles väg 2, Lidingö island; adult/child Skr80/free; ☎ 11am–5pm mid-May–Sep, noon–5pm Tue–Sun Oct–mid-May, until 8pm Thu all yr) was the home and studio of sculptor Carl Milles, an interesting character whose sleek, delicate water sprites and other distinctive sculptures can be seen all over Stockholm. The grounds include a modern gallery for changing exhibitions of contemporary artwork, Milles' elaborately Pompeian house, and a beautiful outdoor sculpture garden where items from ancient Greece, Rome, medieval times and the Renaissance intermingle with Milles' own work. There's also a museum shop and a café. Take the metro to Ropsten, then bus 207.

NATURHISTORISKA RIKSMUSEET & COSMONOVA

The extensive **Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet** (National Museum of Natural History; map p105; ☎ 51 95 40

40; www.nrm.se; Frescativägen 40; metro T-Universitetet; admission free; ☎ 10am–7pm Tue, Wed & Fri, 10am–8pm Thu, 11am–7pm Sat & Sun) was founded by Carl von Linné in 1739. It's now Sweden's largest museum, packed with hands-on displays about nature as well as whole forests' worth of taxidermied wildlife, dinosaurs, marine life and the hardy fauna of the polar regions.

Adjoining **Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet** is **Cosmonova** (Map p105; ☎ 51 95 51 30; adult/child Skr75/50, no children under 5 admitted), a combined planetarium and Imax theatre. The diverse topics covered include Everest, Alaska, the oceans and outer space. It screens films on the hour; reservations are recommended.

HAGAPARKEN

Crowning a hilltop at Haga park is the amazing, brightly coloured **Koppärtälten** (Copper Tent; map p105; ☎ dawn–dusk), built in 1787 as a stable and barracks for Gustav III's personal guard. It now contains a café, restaurant and **Haga Parkmuseum** (admission free), with displays about the park, its pavilions and the royal palace, Haga slott (not open to the public).

Gustav III's Paviljong (Gustav III's Pavilion; ☎ 402 61 30; adult/child Skr50/25 by guided tour only; ☎ hourly noon–3pm Tue–Sun Jun–Aug) is a superb example of late neoclassical style; the furnishings and décor reflect Gustav III's interest in all things Roman after his Italian tour in 1782.

The charming **Fjärilshuset** (Butterfly House; ☎ 730 39 81; adult/child Skr70/30; ☎ 10am–4pm Tue–Fri, 11am–5:30pm Sat & Sun Apr–Sep, 10am–3pm Tue–Fri, 11am–4pm Sat & Sun Oct–Mar) has an artificial tropical environment with free-flying birds and butterflies. It's a wonderfully incongruous place to visit on a cold winter day.

To reach Hagaparken, take bus 515 from Odenplan to Haga Norra.

ULRIKSDALS SLOTT

Further north is the yellow-painted royal palace **Ulriksdal Slott** (Map p105; ☎ 402 61 30; Ulriksdals Park; guided tours adult/child Skr50/25; tours ☎ hourly noon–3pm Tue–Sun Jun–Aug; metro T-Bergshamra, then bus 503). This large, early-17th-century building was home to King Gustaf VI Adolf and his family until 1973. Several of their attractive apartments, including the drawing room, which dates from 1923, are open to the public. The **Orangeri** (adult/child Skr40/20) contains Swedish sculpture and Mediterranean plants. Queen Kristina's coronation carriage is also on show here.

Southern Suburbs

One of Stockholm's more unusual attractions is **Skogskyrkogården** (Map p105; Söckenvägen; metro to T-Skogskyrkogården; admission free), a cemetery in a peaceful pine woodland setting. The cemetery, designed by the great Gunnar Asplund and Sigurd Lewerentz, is World Heritage-listed in recognition of its unique design and the harmony of function and landscape. The area is dominated by a large granite cross, and there are a number of chapels scattered throughout, this is also where Greta Garbo is buried. It's a pleasant place for a walk.

Fjäderholmarna

These tiny, delightful islands ('Feather Islands') offer an easy escape from the city. They're just 25 minutes away by boat and a favourite swimming spot for locals. As they're located on the eastern side of Djurgården, take one of the **boats** (adult/child Skr75/35 return) that leave from either Nybroplan (half-hourly) or from Slussen (hourly) between May and early September. There are a couple of craft shops and restaurants here, though the main activity is relaxation. The last boats leave the islands at around midnight, making them a perfect spot to enjoy the long daylight hours.

ACTIVITIES

A number of activities are available in and around Stockholm, many of them water-based. Many people head for the coast and the islands of the archipelago (full of good swimming spots) or organise picnics in the parks and gardens. Summer sees both locals and visitors taking advantage of the good weather and long daylight hours to swim, sail, lounge on beaches, hike, walk or bicycle around. In winter, snowy days bring out cross-country skiers. The Tourist office can provide further details.

Swimming

There are indoor and open-air pools as well as a gym at **Eriksdalsbadet** (Map pp68–9; ☎ 50 84 02 50; Hammarby slussväg 8; entry adult/child Skr65/30) in the far south of Södermalm. If you want a relaxing swim in an extraordinary Art Nouveau bathing salon, try **Centralbadet** (Map p80; ☎ 24 24 00; Drottninggatan 88; Skr65–150; ☎ 6am–9pm Mon–Fri, 8am–9pm Sat & Sun), built in 1904. The entrance price includes access to the pool,

saunas and gym; treatments, such as massage, are available for an additional fee.

Swimming is also permitted just about anywhere people can scramble their way to the water; look for happy sunbathers clinging to the rocks around Riddarfjärden for a start.

Sailing/Boating

From **Sjöcafé** (Map pp68–9; ☎ 660 57 57; canoes Skr75/300; ☎ 9am–9pm), by the bridge leading to Djurgården, you can rent bikes, in-line skates, kayaks, canoes and rowboats. Opposite is **Tvillingarnas Sjöökrog** (Map pp68–9; ☎ 663 37 39; www.tvillingarnas.com in Swedish; Strandvägskajen 27), where you can rent sailing and motorboats in various sizes from April to September. Small boats are available from around Skr350 per hour; larger boats can be rented for a day, weekend or week. You can even rent a 40-foot sailing boat (with or without a skipper).

Cycling

Cycling is best in the parks and away from the busy central streets and arterial roads, but some streets have special cycle lanes (often shared with pedestrians). Bicycles can be rented from **Sjöcafé** (☎ 660 57 57; bicycles per hr/day Skr65/250). Tourist offices can supply maps of cycle routes, see p330 for further information.

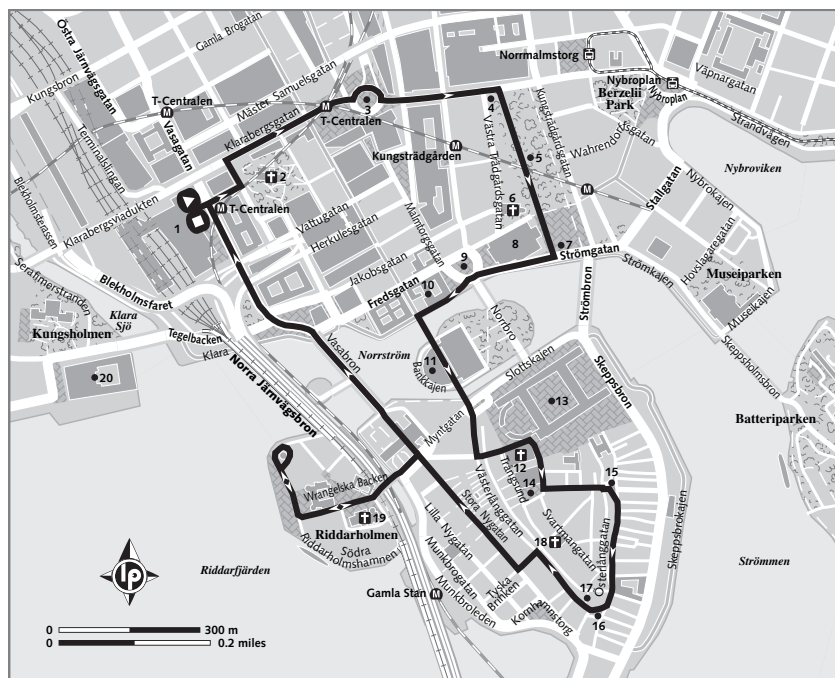
Hiking & Climbing

Serious hiking trips in the city are fairly limited, but the parks offer some good walks – the most popular area for short walks is Djurgården. Climbers have better options, with around 150 cliffs within 40 minutes' drive of the city. There's also Sweden's largest indoor climbing centre, **Klätterverket** (Map pp68–9; ☎ 641 10 48; Marcusplatsen 17, Nacka; member/nonmember Skr60/80) next to the J-train Sickla stop, with around 1000 sq metres of artificial climbing.

WALKING TOUR

Stockholm is a compact city, and many of its important historical sights can be visited in a couple of hours on a walking tour.

Starting in the middle at **Centralstationen** (1), cross Vasagatan and enter the side street Klara Vattugränd. Turn left onto Klara V Kyrkogatan, past the church **Klara kyrka** (2), where you can get information on all of Stockholm's churches, then turn right onto



Start/Finish: Centralstationen

Distance: 3.5km

Duration: 2-3 hours

Klarabergsgatan. This is one of Stockholm's main modern shopping streets, lined with designer shops, upscale boutiques and department stores such as Åhléns.

Follow Klarabergsgatan to **Sergels Torg (3)**, where you'll see frenzied commuters, casual shoppers, and possibly a demonstration or a shady deal going down. Regular art exhibitions are held in the basement arena of **Kulturhuset (4)**, which is worth a peek. Continue a short way along Hamngatan before turning right at the tourist office (Sweden House) into the pleasant **Kungsträdgården (5)**. This park, originally the kitchen garden for the Royal Palace, is now a popular spot for relaxing in the sun during the warm half of the year, and ice-skating during the other half. The 17th-century church **Sankt Jakobs kyrka (6)** has an ornate pulpit that's worth a quick look.

Walk through the park to its southern end at **Karl XII:s Torg (7)**, where there's a statue of the warmongering king Karl XII. On your right is **Operan (8)**, the Royal Opera House (opened in 1896) and across the road you'll see the narrow strait Norrström, the freshwater outflow from Mälaren lake. Continue along the waterfront, past Operan and **Gustav Adolfs Torg (9)**, to the grandiose **Sophia Albertina Palace (10)**; houses the Foreign Ministry), then turn left and cross the Riksbron bridge. Continue across the islet **Helgeandsholmen (11)**; Island of the Holy Spirit), between the two parts of Sweden's parliament building, **Riksdagshuset**. After crossing over the short Stallbron bridge, you'll arrive on **Stadsholmen**, which is home to the medieval core of Stockholm.

Cross Mynttorget and follow Västerlånggatan for one block, then turn left (east) into Storkyrkobrinken to reach **Storkyrkan (12)**, the city's cathedral and oldest building. Facing the cathedral across the cobbled square is **Kungliga Slottet (13)**, the 'new' Royal Palace (see p73 for more information). Källargränd leads southward to **Stortorget (14)**, where the Stockholm Bloodbath took place in 1520.

Three sides of the square are formed by quaint tenements painted in varying earthy-toned colours; on the fourth side of the square there's **Börsen**, the Stock Exchange and Swedish Academy building, now home to an excellent museum detailing the history of the Nobel prizes and their recipients.

The narrow streets of the eastern half of Gamla Stan still wind along their medieval 14th-century lines and are linked by a fantasy of lanes, arches and stairways. Head east along Köpmangatan to the small square **Köpmantorget (15)** and the oft-photographed statue of St George and the Dragon. Turn right into **Österlånggatan** and follow it past antique shops, art galleries, handicraft outlets and **Den Gyldene Freden**, which has been serving food since 1722, until you reach **Järntorget (16)**, where metals were bought and sold in days long past. From there, keep right and turn into Västerlånggatan, looking out for **Mårten Trotzigs Gränd (17)** by No 81: this is Stockholm's narrowest lane, at less than 1m wide. Follow Prästgatan to the lavishly decorated German church, **Tyska kyrkan (18)**.

Västerlånggatan is lined with shops and boutiques selling souvenirs, and attracts dense crowds, so (unless you're desperate for an ice cream in a waffle cone) follow the quieter parallel street, Stora Nygatan, instead. At Riddarhustorget, turn left (southwest) and cross the short Riddarholmsbron bridge to **Riddarholmen (Knights Island)**. The large church **Riddarholmskyrkan (19)** has an iron spire and a basement full of royal corpses. Beyond Riddarholmskyrkan, you'll come to the far side of the island, with great views across the lake to the impressive **Stadshuset (20)**; Town Hall) and the eastern end of **Kungsholmen (King's Island)**. Retrace your steps to Riddarhustorget, then turn left (northwest), cross over Vasabron and continue along Vasagatan back to Centralstationen.

STOCKHOLM FOR CHILDREN

Stockholm is a very child-friendly city. The miniature crowd is welcome in restaurants, museums and most other places their parents go. Of the museums and attractions that cater specifically to children, the can't-miss option is **Skansen (p76)**, with its open-air format, petting zoo and glassblowers' workshop. **Nordiska Museet (p78)** has a children's play area in their replica of a historic village. **Junibacken (p78)** takes tykes and their par-

ents into the strange and wonderful world of Pippi Longstocking. **Gröna Lund Tivoli (p77)** is an amusement park on the island of Djurgården, with carnival rides, games and sugary snacks. **Leksaksmuseet (p79)** is full of toys, both to look at and to play with. **Kulturhuset (p71)** is a parent's dream – you can drop off the smallest kids at Rum for Barn, and keep teens entertained with do-it-yourself art projects in the workshop at Lava. **Stadsteatern (p100)** and **Dramaten (p99)** both run children's plays regularly.

TOURS

Stockholm Sightseeing (Map p80; ☎ 58 71 40 20; www.stockholmsightseeing.com) operates frequent cruises from early April to mid-December around the central bridges and canals from Strömkajen (near the Grand Hotel), Nybroplan or Stadshusbron; you will find ticket booths at these departure points. Some of the one-hour tours are free for Stockholm Card holders, but the two-hour tour, Under the Bridges of Stockholm (Skr170), covers more territory and passes under 15 bridges and through two locks, with a recorded commentary in several languages to fill in the history of the areas you pass by.

City Sightseeing (Map p80; ☎ 58 71 40 30; www.citysightseeing.com, Gustav Adolfs Torg) is the land-based sister operation, which runs daily tours of the city departing from Gustav Adolfs Torg between April and early October. There are coach tours of the city (Skr395, 2½ hours) and walking tours around Gamla Stan (Skr90, one hour). There are also combo trips offering sightseeing by coach and boat.

There's a one-hour **English-language guided walk** (🕒 7.30pm Mon, Wed, Thu summer, 1.30pm Sat & Sun Sep-May) through Gamla Stan with an authorised guide. Meet at the Obelisk at Slottsbacken, outside the royal palace; no reservation is needed.

To go back even further in time, take a cruise in a great old wooden ship done up to resemble a Viking longboat. **Svea Viking** (Map p80; ☎ 20 22 23; www.sveaviking.se; adult/child Skr150/50) runs regular 1½ hour sightseeing cruises of the city's waterways and out into the archipelago from midsummer to the end of August. You can't miss the ship, as it's moored outside the Royal Palace.

Stockholm is one of the few cities that allows hot-air balloons to fly over it. Book a tour with **Far & Flyg** (Map p80; ☎ 645 77 00; www.farochflyg.se;

Skr1795 per person; ☺ (May-Sep) for an incredible way to appreciate Stockholm's beauty.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

There are many festivals, concerts and other happenings on Sergels Torg and Kungsträdgården throughout the summer, and the major museums exhibit temporary exhibitions on a grand scale. *What's on Stockholm* lists daily events.

The biggest events in Stockholm are those celebrated throughout the country, such as Midsummer, Walpurgis Night, Lucia Festival, Christmas and New Year's Eve. See p315 for information on these traditional celebrations, and if you're in Stockholm at the right time, head to Skansen to participate in the festivities.

Lidingöloppet (www.lidingoloppet.se) The world's largest cross-country foot race, with 25,000 to 30,000 participants, is held in late September or early November in Lidingö, on Stockholm's outskirts.

Restaurangernas Dag In early June, Stockholm's restaurants set up tables in central Kungsträdgården and offer food, drinks and entertainment.

Stockholm International Film Festival (www.filmfestivalen.se) A major celebration of important cinema, held in November, the film fest often brings top international directors to town for speaking engagements.

Stockholm Jazz Festival (www.stockholmjazz.com) Held in mid-July, this is one of Europe's premier jazz festivals.

Stockholm Marathon (www.marathon.se) Run in June.

Stockholm Open (www.stockholmopen.se) A major international tennis tournament, held in October.

Stockholm Pride (www.stockholmpride.org) This gay and lesbian event is held annually in early August.

GAY & LESBIAN STOCKHOLM

The gay scene is well established in Stockholm, although Sweden's famous open-mindedness means people of every sexual orientation are welcome in any bar or club. There is no real 'gay district', although Södermalm is where a large section of the gay population lives and plays. The tourist office publishes a brochure listing popular gay venues, but probably the best source of local information is the free monthly magazine *QX*, found at many clubs, stores and restaurants around town. Its website (www.qx.se) may be more useful as it's more frequently updated.

RFSL (Map pp68-9; ☎ 736 02 12; www.rfsl.se in Swedish; Sveavägen 59), the national organisation for gay and lesbian rights, is a good source of information. In the same building is a gay bookshop, restaurant and nightclub, **Tip Top** (☎ 32 98 00).

Mandus (Map p80; ☎ 20 60 55; Österlånggatan 7) in Gamla Stan is a popular, fun gay-friendly hangout with excellent food. **Häktet** (☎ 84 59 10; Hornsgatan 82) is a fairly casual lesbian hangout in an old country manor.

The **Lady Patricia** (Map p80; ☎ 743 05 70; Stadsgårdskajen 152), a popular nightclub on board an old battleship, has frequent queer nights and drag shows every Sunday.

SLEEPING

Whether you choose youth hostels, B&Bs, big-name hotels or boutique digs, you can expect the quality of accommodation in Stockholm to be high. There's little danger you'll turn up to find your bargain-basement room is a fleapit. The trade-off is that it can be an expensive city to sleep in, but there are deals to be found. Most Stockholm hotels offer discounted rates on weekends (Friday, Saturday and often Sunday night) and in summer (from midsummer to mid-August), sometimes up to 50% off the listed price.

The handy booklet *Hotels and Youth Hostels in Stockholm*, available free from tourist offices, lists most hotels and their regular and discount rates. If you need help finding a place to stay, **Hotellcentralen** (Map p80; ☎ 508 285 08; hotels@svb.stockholm.se; inside Centralstationen; ☺ 24hr) books accommodation for a Skr60 fee (Skr25 for hostels).

A number of agencies, including **Bed & Breakfast Service** (☎ 660 66 54; info@bedbreakfast.se; www.bedbreakfast.se) and **Bed & Breakfast Agency** (☎ 643 80 28; info@bba.nu; www.bba.nu), can arrange apartment or B&B accommodation from around Skr300 per person per night.

Stockholm has HI-affiliated STF hostels (where a membership card yields a Skr45 discount), as well as SVIF hostels and independent hostels (no membership cards required). Many have options for single, double or family rooms. Generally, you'll pay extra to use the hostel's linen; bring your own sleeping sheet to save around Skr50 per night. Many hostels have breakfast available, usually for an additional Skr50 to Skr65.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

Vandrarhem af Chapman & Skeppsholmen (Map p80; ☎ 463 22 66; www.stfchapman.com; adult Skr155-230, child Skr100, 2-bed room from Skr460, nonmember fee adult/child Skr45/25) The legendary af Chapman is a storied vessel that has done plenty of travelling of its own. It's now well anchored in a superb, quiet location, swaying gently in sight of the city centre off the museum island of Skeppsholmen. Bunks in dorms below decks have a nautical ambience, unsurprisingly. Staff members are friendly and knowledgeable about the city and surrounding areas. Apart from showers and toilets, all facilities are on dry land in the Skeppsholmen hostel, where you'll find a good kitchen with a laid-back common room and a separate TV lounge. Laundry facilities and 24-hour Internet access are available. Stays on the boat are normally limited to five nights from May to September. The boat section of af Chapman will be undergoing repairs from September 2004, so call to find out if it has reopened; meanwhile the adjacent Skeppsholmen hostel is taking up the slack.

Hostels tend to fill up during the late afternoon in peak summer season, so arrive early or book in advance. They can also be busy in May, when Swedish school groups typically visit the capital.

The options below are divided by neighbourhood and price range, then listed in order of author preference. Room prices are for peak season unless otherwise noted.

Gamla Stan

This atmospheric part of town has a few accommodation options that place you right in the thick of the historic Old Town, though budget travellers may be out of luck.

MIDRANGE

Lord Nelson Hotel (Map p80; ☎ 50 64 01 20; www.lord-nelson.se; Västerlånggatan 22; s/d Skr1690-1790/1990-2090, summer & weekend s/d Skr850-1050/1450-1650) Yo-ho-ho, me scurvy barnacles! It's a tight squeeze but this pink-painted, glass-fronted building with the feel of a creaky old ship, is well worth checking into. At just 5m wide, the 17th-century building is Sweden's narrowest hotel. Its nautical theme extends to brass and mahogany furnishings, antique sea-captain trappings and a model ship in each of the small rooms.

Victory Hotel (Map p80; ☎ 50 64 00 00; www.victory-hotel.se; Lilla Nygatan 5; s/d Skr1990-2190/2490-3990, summer & weekend s/d Skr1150-1350/1750-2750) This early 17th-century building is literally full of nautical antiques, grandfather clocks, model ships and art. Most rooms are fairly small, but the museum-like suites are larger. There's also an apartment available for long-term rentals.

Lady Hamilton Hotel (Map p80; ☎ 50 64 01 00; www.lady-hamilton.se; Storkyrkobrinken 5; s/d Skr1790-

1990/2290-2490, summer & weekend s/d Skr950-1150/1550-1850) This is old-style luxury (with modern touches where it counts, for example in the bathrooms). The hotel dates back to the 1470s, and is packed with antiques and portraits of Lady Hamilton herself.

Mälardrottningen (Map p80; ☎ 54 51 87 80; www.malardrottningen.se; Riddarholmen; s/d cabins from Skr1100/1200) At one time the world's largest motor yacht, this place offers accommodation in very well-appointed cabins, each with en suite. The cosy vessel, launched in 1924, was previously owned by American heiress Barbara Hutton – it was a gift from her father for her 18th birthday!

Rica City Hotel Gamla Stan (Map p80; ☎ 723 72 50; www.rica.se in Norwegian & Swedish; Lilla Nygatan 25; s/d Skr1695-1895/1945-2045, summer & weekend s/d Skr950-1050/1490-1590) This 17th-century waterfront building has been a hostel and a Salvation Army headquarters. Its 51 rooms are pretty small, and despite the location none have a view of the water, but it's a classy place with unfussy Gustavian décor and good service. The hotel couldn't be better situated for soaking up the history and atmosphere of Gamla Stan; it's also in a prime spot for checking out Södermalm and the city centre.

TOP END

First Hotel Reisen (Map p80; ☎ 22 32 60; reisen@firsthotels.com; Skeppsbron 12; s/d Skr2199/2599, summer & weekend s/d Skr1258/1498) Stockholm's oldest hotel, the Reisen in olden days buzzed with sailors sipping coffee. The eight-storey waterfront building still has a distinct seafaring atmosphere. Rooms in this luxurious hotel feature exposed brick walls and dark wood panelling, wooden floors and sumptuous furnishings.

Central Stockholm

This part of town is the most convenient to Centralstationen, where most visitors first arrive.

BUDGET

City Backpackers (Map p80; ☎ 20 69 20; info@citybackpackers.se; Upplandsgatan 2A; dm from Skr190) The closest hostel to Centralstationen is City Backpackers, and it's a good choice for the clean rooms, friendly staff and excellent facilities including a kitchen, sauna, laundry and free Internet access.

Hostel Bed & Breakfast (Map p80; ☎ 15 28 38; hostelbedandbreakfast@chello.se; Rehngatan 21; dm/s/d Skr195/390/430) Near T-Rådmansgatan, north of the city centre, this is a pleasant, informal basement hostel with a kitchen and laundry. There's also a large, backpacker-friendly summer annexe here, with 40 dorm beds (Skr135).

MIDRANGE

Rex Hotel (Map pp68-9; ☎ 16 00 40; www.rexhotel.se; Luntmakargatan 73; s/d Skr900-1450/1450-1690, summer & weekend s/d Skr800-890/990-1090) This new hotel has recently taken shape in a renovated building, dating from 1866. It's comfortable, functional, and beautifully designed without being pretentious, pine floors, natural-tone fabrics and no unnecessary flourishes. And the location is one of Stockholm's most up-and-coming.

Queen's Hotel (Map p80; ☎ 24 94 60; queenshotel@queenshotel.se; Drottninggatan 71A; s/d Skr750-1390/795-1490, summer & weekend s/d Skr750-1250/795-1350) The Queen's Hotel is a pleasant place to stay in the middle of town. It has comfortable rooms with either shared or private facilities in an early 20th-century building on the pedestrian mall. There's also a marble staircase and an antique lift.

Central Hotel (Map p80; ☎ 56 62 08 00; bokning@centralhotel.se; Vasagatan 38; s/d Skr1625/1860, weekends s/d 995/1295) Central Hotel caters primarily to the business traveller, but it has comfortable small rooms, a good location and decent summer discounts, plus a pleasant glass-roofed breakfast area.

TOP END

Nordic Light Hotel (p80; ☎ 50 56 30 00; www.nordiclighthotel.com; Vasaplan 7; s/d Skr2500-3400/2900-3600, weekends s/d from Skr1290/1590, summer s/d from Skr1090/1390) Walking into the Nordic Light

means getting an object lesson in modern Scandinavian design. In the rooms, which are equipped to the hilt with all the comforts you'd expect in a top 'design hotel', the typical ocean-view paintings or abstract artwork on the walls have been replaced with individual, specially designed light exhibits, which guests can adjust to suit their mood.

Nordic Sea Hotel (Map p80; ☎ 50 56 30 00; www.nordicseahotel.com; Vasaplan 2-4; s/d Skr1290-3400/2400-3600, summer & weekend s/d from Skr690/1190) This sister hotel to the slightly more upscale and smaller Nordic Light has an impressive 9000L aquarium in the foyer. Its bar is the famous Icebar, built entirely of ice, where you can throw on a parka and mittens and drink chilled vodka concoctions out of little glasses made of ice.

Scandic Hotel Sergel Plaza (Map p80; ☎ 51 72 63 00; www.scandic-hotels.se; Brunkebergstorg 9; s/d from Skr1700/2200, weekends s/d from Skr1150/1250) Situated just off Sergels Torg, this enormous beast of a hotel caters for upscale business travellers, shoppers and the occasional fan of Stalinist architecture. It has more than 400 rooms and impeccable (if you're into that sort of thing) 1980's-era décor.

Rica City Hotel Kungsgatan (Map p80; ☎ 723 72 20; info.kungsgatan@rica.se; Kungsgatan 47; s/d Skr1650-1885/1900-2135, summer & weekend s/d Skr895-995/1345-1445) This will be right up your alley if you're in town to shop. It offers very comfortable rooms in the same block as the PUB department store (where Greta Garbo started her working career). The rooms have burnished wooden floors, tall windows and that typically Scandinavian brand of beautifully crisp, cream-and-beige furnishings in the kind of natural materials that make you feel like you're sleeping in tofu.

Grand Hotel Stockholm (Map p80; ☎ 679 35 00; www.grandhotel.se; Södra Blasieholmshamnen 8; s/d Skr2400-4100/3600-4500) This is where the literati, glitterati and other, more traditional nobility stay when they're in Stockholm. A waterfront landmark, with several exclusive restaurants and a surprisingly comfortable, yet very posh piano bar, this hotel may be the city's most sumptuous lodgings. Some rooms are in the royal Gustavian style, others are intriguing traditional/modern mixes. Room No 701 has a unique tower with a 360 degree view; No 702 is the astounding Nobel Room, where the literature prize-winner stays overnight.

Berns Hotel (Map p80; ☎ 56 63 22 00; www.berns.se; Näckströmögatan 8; s/d Skr2200-3800/2800-4100) Rooms

in this modern hotel, all equipped with CD players, range from 19th-century classical to the latest styles, making the utmost use of marble and lots of dark wood. The attached restaurant and series of bars, dating from 1863, is one of the grandest in the city.

Östermalm

This central neighbourhood is home to most of the city's upscale, exclusive boutiques, many of its finest restaurants, a huge number of excellent museums and some thumping nightlife. There's a good range of accommodation options too, from friendly hostels to top-of-the-line design hotels.

BUDGET

Backpackers Inn (Map pp68-9; ☎ 660 75 15; www.backpackersinn.se; Banérgatan 56; metro T-Karlaplan; dm from Skr130; ☎ late-Jun–mid-Aug) The STF Backpackers Inn, located in a fairly modern school building (during the summer holidays only), has 260 beds in seven-bunk classrooms and 40 beds in four-bed family rooms.

Östra Reals Vandrarhem (Map pp68-9; ☎ 664 11 14; www.ostrareal.com; Karlavägen 79; dm from Skr135; ☎ mid-Jun–mid-Aug) You'll feel like a naughty orphan sleeping in the austere dorms at this tremendous old-fashioned school building, dating from 1911. Rooms are basic, but common areas are large and comfortable, and have lots of atmosphere, with high ceilings and exposed-brick walls.

MIDRANGE

Birger Jarl Hotel (Map pp68-9; ☎ 674 18 00; www.birgerjarl.se; Tulegatan 8; s/d Skr1695-2150/2040-2450, summer & weekend s/d Skr990-1295/1195-1795) One of Stockholm's flagship design hotels, the Birger Jarl is a constant work-in-progress. Its overall style reflects its origin in the '70s, but each year the hotel brings in new Swedish designers to add or adjust an element of its interior décor. Even the 'standard' rooms are nicely in keeping with the prevailing sleek, modern Scandinavian aesthetic. Whichever room you end up in, it's worth asking if there are others open that you can peek into.

A&Be Hotell (Map p80; ☎ 660 21 00; www.abehotel.com; Grev Turegatan 50; s/d Skr490-790/590-890) Staying in this small, pretty, old-fashioned hotel is like crashing with an elderly aunt – flowery couches, anonymous portraits of the aristocracy, potted plants and lampshades galore. It's comfy but not fussy.

Crystal Plaza Hotel (Map p80; ☎ 406 88 00; www.crystalplazahotel.se; Birger Jarlgatan 35; s/d Skr1525-1825/2025-2325, summer & weekend rates s/d Skr850-1050/1250-1550) With an impressive eight-storey tower, neoclassical columns and classical-style artwork, this wonderful hotel, housed in an 1895 building, offers both old-fashioned and modern rooms with excellent facilities.

TOP END

Lydmar Hotel (Map p80; ☎ 56 61 13 00; www.lydmar.se; Sturegatan 10; s/d from Skr1500/2400, weekends from Skr1280) Frequented by the seriously hip, this is a 'concept hotel' with the main concept being musical – elevators have 10 choices of soundtrack, touring bands often stay here, and there's live music in the lounge most nights. Rooms are stylishly decorated, and categorized by clothing sizes – from S to XXL – each with its own cutting-edge design. But you won't need to spend too much time there when so much is going on downstairs. The chic lounge is always packed with artistic-looking fashion slaves checking each other out mercilessly.

Djurgården

There's only one hotel on the pretty green island of Djurgården, but it's a doozy.

Scandic Hotel Hasselbacken (Map pp68-9; ☎ 51 73 43 00; hasselbacken@scandic-hotels.com; Hazeliusbacken 20; s/d from Skr1790/2090, weekends from Skr1490) It's hard to imagine a lovelier setting for a stay in Stockholm than this 1925 building on a slope overlooking the amusement park Gröna Lund. The hotel's plush amenities (saunas, satellite TV) and its location on Djurgården round out the luxurious-retreat experience. There's a top-notch restaurant attached, and the lounge has live music most nights.

Långholmen

BUDGET

Långholmen Hotell & Vandrarhem (Map pp68-9; ☎ 668 05 10; www.langholmen.com; hostel dm member/nonmember Skr205/250, children Skr105/130, s cell Skr390/480, 2-bed cell Skr248/293, hotel s/d Skr995-1240/1240-1540, weekend/summer discounts available) Guests at this hotel/hostel, in a former prison on the small island of Långholmen, sleep in bunks in a cell. The friendly, efficient staff members assure you they will not lock you in. There are good kitchen and laundry facilities, and the restaurant serves meals all day. The pun-tastic website talks

about the hostel's 'strong convictions' and asserts that it is 'captivating'.

Södermalm

Södermalm, a 15-minute walk or quick subway ride from the Viking Line boats and Centralstationen, is the best bet for interesting budget or midrange accommodation. At the other end of the spectrum, it's also home to the chic new Clarion.

BUDGET

Zinkensdamm Hotell & Vandrarhem (Map pp68-9; ☎ 616 81 00; www.zinkensdamm.com; Zinkens väg 20; hostel dm from Skr185, s without bathroom from Skr440, hotel s/d Skr1240/1540, summer & weekend s/d Skr890/1190) With a foyer that looks like one of those old Main Street façade re-creations you find in cheesy museums, the Zinkensdamm STF is unabashedly about playtime. It's attractive and well equipped – complete with a zany, pink-and-white guest kitchen – and caters for families with kids as well as pub-going backpackers, so it can be crowded and noisy, but that's the trade-off for fun. The hostel breakfast buffet isn't spectacular, but hostellers can buy the much better hotel breakfast.

Den Röda Båten – Mälaren/Ran (Map p80; ☎ 644 43 85; www.theredboat.com; Söder Malärstrand, Kajplats 6; dm Skr195-230, d Skr490-595) 'The Red Boat' is a hotel and hostel on two vessels, Mälaren and Ran. The hostel section is the cosiest of Stockholm's floating accommodations, thanks to lots of dark wood, nautical memorabilia and friendly staff. Hotel-standard rooms are also excellent.

MIDRANGE

Rival Hotel (Map p80; ☎ 54 57 89 00; www.rival.se; Mariatorget 3; s Skr1990-2740, double Skr2290-3040, weekend s/d Skr1190/1340) An exciting place that provides a great example of cohesive design, the Rival is the brainchild of ABBA's Benny Andersson and two other backers. Retro architecture pervades the building. Each room is decorated with posters from great Swedish films and comes with a teddy bear to make guests feel more at home. The complex, which sits at the edge of the lovely, tree-lined Mariatorget, includes a vintage 1940s movie theatre with an adorable foyer which sparkles like a red jewel. There's a good café and bakery adjoining the theatre, and on the opposite side is a nice lounge. The swank

cocktail bar is pure over-the-top Art Deco. Several rooms have views over the square.

Hotel Tre Små Rum (Map pp68-9; ☎ 641 23 71; www.tresmarum.se; Högborgsgatan 81; rooms without bathrooms Skr695) Rooms have been added over the years, so the hotel belies its name (Three Small Rooms) and now has seven, but the charm of this quaint 18th-century hotel in a quiet district of Södermalm hasn't been diluted. With its rough-hewn vanilla-coloured walls, Italian-style décor, high ceilings and wooden floors, it's one of the nicest hotels in Stockholm.

Columbus Hotell (Map pp68-9; ☎ 50 31 12 00; www.columbus.se; Tjärhovsgatan 11; s/d Skr950-1250/1250-1550, summer & weekend s/d Skr695-950/895-1250; rooms in budget annex s/d/tr Skr695/895/1095) This highly recommended place is in a quiet part of Södermalm, near T-Medborgarplatsen, and is set around a cobblestone courtyard by a pretty park. As well as the budget rooms (which have TV, telephone and shared bathroom facilities), there are classy hotel-standard rooms.

Hotel Anno 1647 (Map p80; ☎ 442 16 80; www.anno1647.se; Mariagränd 3; s/d Skr1495-1795/1695-2295, summer & weekend s/d Skr850-1295/1050-1595) This historical building has labyrinthine hallways and a range of rooms, most with private modern bathrooms and wooden floors. Some rooms have tiled Swedish stoves, toilets with chains, chandeliers or rococo wallpaper.

TOP END

Clarion Hotel (Map pp68-9; ☎ 462 10 00; www.clarionstockholm.com in Swedish; Ringvägen 98; s/d Skr1895-3645/2545-3845, summer & weekend s/d Skr1195-2595/1595-2895) Entering this hip new hotel in Söder is like walking into a modern-art museum – and in fact the wide ramp leading into the foyer, dotted with stylishly uncomfortable-looking furniture, was modelled on the Tate Modern. The foyer features a huge wall mural and sculptures by Kirsten Ortved, and the funky lounge bar next to the front desk is full of attractive, well-dressed people. Rooms are furnished with sleek chaise lounges, enormous beds with designer sheets, massive windows and the notable absence of clutter that marks out typically modern Swedish minimalist décor. It's almost too much, but it's unarguably impressive.

Scandic Hotel Malmen (Map pp68-9; ☎ 51 73 47 00; www.scandic-hotels.se, Götgatan 49-51; s/d from Skr1715/2015, weekends from Skr1015) An enormous,

unbeautiful box, this functionalist building dating from 1951 is pretty on the inside. Its pleasant rooms feature the clean lines and up-to-date design typical of the Scandic chain, with a major bonus being location – the hotel is smack in the middle of Söder's vibrant nightlife. Its piano bar stays open late, so it can get obnoxiously crowded with drunken louts when nearby bars close.

Hilton Stockholm Slussen (Map p80; ☎ 51 73 53 00; www.hilton.com; Guldgränd 8; s/d from Skr1990, summer & weekend from Skr1450) Perched between the chaotic Slussen interchange and Södermalm's underground highway, Sweden's first Hilton features grand marble staircases and vast, stylish public areas. Rooms are strongly influenced by contemporary design, and foyer furniture is from the Fritz Hansen-Oxford design series.

Kungsholmen

This mostly residential and nontouristy island has one large and high-quality sleeping option.

First Hotel Amaranten (Map pp68-9; ☎ 692 52 00; www.firsthotels.com; Kungsholmsgatan 31; s/d Skr1499-2499/1899-2699; summer & weekend s/d Skr798-1348/1048-1548) The hotel equivalent of a swanky modern office building, this large complex has all the standard comforts. Rooms are decorated with typically Swedish modern design and geared to serve the business traveller; if you've left your laptop at home, you can borrow one from the front desk.

Outlying Areas

BUDGET

If things get desperate in the city, there are more than 20 hostels around the county that can be easily reached by SL buses, trains or archipelago boats within an hour or so. There are also a number of summer camping grounds, which usually offer cheap cabin accommodation as well. Some more options are mentioned in the Around Stockholm section, see p104.

Klubbensborg (Map p105; ☎ 646 12 55; Klubbensborgsvägen 27; beds from Skr180, 6-bed cabin Skr1500) This is a pleasant SVIF hostel in a gorgeous lakeside setting southwest of the city centre. There are several buildings that date from the 17th century, plus a kitchen, laundry, café and summer camping area. The downside is that it's a meandering 1km walk from the closest metro station (T-Mälärhöjden).

Bredäng Camping (Map p105; ☎ 97 70 71; bredangcamping@telia.com; Stora Sällskapetets väg; sites Skr175, dm Skr150, 4-bed cabins Skr450; ☽ mid-Apr-late Oct) This place is 10km southwest of the city centre in a pleasant lakeside location. It's well equipped and has a hostel and cabins. Take the metro to T-Bredäng, then walk 700m. If you're driving, it's well signposted from the E4/E20 motorway.

Hotel Formule 1 (Map p105; ☎ 744 20 44; Mikrofonvägen 30; metro T-Telefonplan; rooms Skr360) The Formule 1 is just about the cheapest option going, with small, uninspiring rooms that accommodate up to three people. Facilities are shared, and it's 4km southwest of town, but who can argue at that price?

TOP END

Hotel J (Map pp68-9; ☎ 601 30 00; www.hotelj.com; Ellensviksvägen 1, Nacka Strand; T-Slussen then bus 404 or 443; s/d Skr1395-2195/1795-2595, summer & weekend from Skr1150) Hotel J is a popular weekend getaway for Stockholmers, and has serious Great Gatsby overtones. The breezy blue-and-white summer house, built in 1912, is named after the boats used in the America's Cup. The scent of good-natured, nonchalant wealth wafts unmistakably through the air here. Rooms are decorated with furnishings by the hip design store R.O.O.M.

EATING

Stockholmers take their food seriously. A meal in an upscale restaurant is treated as a culinary adventure. Most restaurants in the city lean towards providing the dinnertime crowd with a unique experience – not just filling hungry bellies. As much fun as this can be, it also means that finding a casual place to grab a quick bite can be a challenge. If you want a quick, utilitarian meal, your best bet is to visit one of Stockholm's many small cafés. Aside from the beloved Swedish ritual of coffee and cakes, these cafés also serve filling lunches – seafood salads, ham-and-cheese pie (quiche), baguettes filled with salami and brie, and typical Swedish sandwiches (*smörgåsar*).

The more traditional restaurants in Stockholm specialise in *husmanskost*, or classic Swedish 'plain food.' But the city's increasingly varied cultural makeup means you can also find cuisine from a huge variety of cultures. Leading up to the Christmas holidays – and year-round at a few places –

SOMETHING SPECIAL

Den Gyldene Freden (Map p80; ☎ 24 97 60; Österlånggatan 51; mains from Skr250, 2-/3-course menu Skr418/468, husmanskost Skr96-185; ☎ dinner Mon-Fri, lunch & dinner Sat until midnight; metro T-Gamla Stan) Once owned by famed Swedish painter Anders Zorn, and now run by the Swedish Academy – the folks responsible for awarding the Nobel Prize for Literature – Den Gyldene Freden (meaning ‘the golden peace’) is a cornerstone in Stockholm’s cultural history. Its three barrel-vaulted cellar dining rooms (two with plasterwork paintings) have been open continuously since 1722. There are few better places in town for classic *husmanskost*, particularly the plate of pickled herring with *Västerbottens ost* (Skr155). There are also traditionally prepared dishes of reindeer, goose, duck and salmon, all with interesting accompaniments such as red wine-dill sauce, mashed pumpkins, mushrooms from local forests, or the Swedish standby, almond potatoes.

you’ll find the justifiably famous Swedish smörgåsbord. August and midsummer bring two of our beloved Swedish specialities to the table: *surströmming* and crayfish (*kraftor*). The former is incredibly pungent Baltic herring that’s been tinned and fermented for up to a year; the latter demands a relatively labour-intensive dining process that tends to shatter inhibitions. Both are acquired tastes and best accompanied by plenty of *snaps*.

Cafés and restaurants usually serve a weekday lunch special (or a choice of several) called *dagens rätt* at a fixed price (typically Skr65 to Skr85) between 11.30am and 2pm Monday to Friday. It’s a practice originally supported and subsidised by the Swedish government with the goal of keeping workers happy and efficient all day, and it’s still one of the most economical ways to sample top-quality Swedish cooking.

For a quick, inexpensive snack, it’s hard to beat a *grillad korv med bröd* – your basic grilled hotdog on a bun – available for Skr10 to Skr20 from carts all over the city.

Gamla Stan

BUDGET

Café Art (Map p80; ☎ 411 76 61; Västerlånggatan 60; sandwiches from Skr35) This barrel-vaulted and brick-lined cellar is a low-key, atmospheric retreat from the Old Town’s shopping mayhem. Nestle in for coffee and cake, shrimp salad or a salami-and-brie baguette.

Hermitage (Map p80; ☎ 411 95 00; Stora Nygatan 11; dinner Skr70) This is a welcoming vegetarian restaurant that’s well worth a visit. There’s a hearty *dagens rätt* available weekdays for Skr65 to Skr75.

Sundbergs Konditori (Map p80; ☎ 10 67 35; Järntorget 83; lunch specials Skr59) This is the oldest bakery-café in Stockholm, dating from 1785,

and has a fine early 20th-century-style interior, complete with a copper samovar full of self-serve coffee. The café serves delicious hot sandwiches, pies, omelettes, lasagne and an assortment of to-die-for pastries.

Chokladkoppen (Map p80; ☎ 20 31 70; Stortorget; cakes & snacks Skr30-70) This narrow café, strewn with wax-encrusted candlesticks, has wonderful coffee and cakes, plus outdoor seating on bustling Stortorget – what better way to spend a sunny afternoon? It shifts into a gay-friendly disco in the evening.

MIDRANGE

Zum Franziskaner (Map p80; ☎ 411 83 30; Skeppsbron 44; *dagens rätt* Skr65, husmanskost Skr92-225; ☎ closed Sun) Founded in 1421 by German monks, and claiming to be the oldest restaurant in the city, Zum Franziskaner serves German and Austrian beers (bottled) and sausages as well as enormous Swedish *husmanskost* meals. The herring plate with *Västerbottens ost* claims to be an appetizer but is easily meal-sized; the delicious *isterband*, a savoury Swedish country sausage, comes on a vast bed of potatoes in cream sauce. Although the current building dates from 1906, it looks like a museum inside, with well-preserved wooden stalls, ornate cabinets and ceiling artwork.

Källaren Diana (Map p80; ☎ 10 73 10; www.kallaren.diana.com; Brunngränd 2-4; starters Skr85-185, mains Skr185-285; ☎ dinner) One of the best ways to brush up on your knowledge of Swedish herring in all its forms is to hit the herring boat (fondly nicknamed the ‘Skiff of the Archipelago’) in Diana’s vaulted cellar rooms. Offered as an appetizer, the ship-shaped *sill* and *strömming* buffet – with dozens of varieties – easily makes a meal, especially with a finger or two of *snaps* with it. The cured

reindeer salad (Skr85) is uniquely pungent and satisfying. Diana’s turns into a late-night disco at weekends.

Siam Thai (Map p80; ☎ 20 02 33; Stora Nygatan 25; *dagens rätt* from Skr65, mains Skr95-165; ☎ closed Sun) The cosy basement restaurant of this vividly decorated place serves up a range of authentic mild to spicy Thai dishes in huge portions.

TOP END

Pontus in the Greenhouse (Map p80; ☎ 23 85 00; Österlånggatan 17; starters Skr215-400, mains from Skr295; ☎ 11.30am-3pm & 6pm-11pm Mon-Fri, noon-4pm & 5.30-11pm Sat) Just across from the St George monument, this stylish modern restaurant with greenish décor was declared the best in Sweden in 2000 and it deserves the fine reputation. You can eat while seated at a central bar or at regular tables. Courses, including Beluga caviar and Greenhouse canapés, are so pretty to look at you might not want to eat them.

Leijontornet (Map p80; ☎ 14 23 55; Lilla Nygatan 5; starters Skr165-195, mains Skr275-320; 3-/5-course menu Skr420/675; ☎ 6-10.30pm Mon-Sat, closed Sun) Leijontornet’s basement dining room includes the foundations of a 14th-century tower. The brick-vaulted ceilings and candlelight add to the atmosphere, but the furnishings feature modern design. The superb menu, one of the city’s finest, includes fish, duck, game and vegetarian dishes. There’s also a cheaper, midrange Italian-style *bakficken* menu. The bar menu offers a few tapas plates (three for Skr125) should you just want to linger over a drink.

Central Stockholm

BUDGET

Vetekatten (Map p80; ☎ 21 84 54; Kungsgatan 55; tea, coffee & snacks from Skr25; ☎ 7.30am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat, noon-5pm Sun) Very grandmother-friendly, the labyrinthine Vetekatten is one of the city’s best-known traditional cafés, with lots of small rooms and a great atmosphere. You can also buy baked goods, large sandwiches and cakes to take away.

Ritorno (Map p80; ☎ 32 01 06; Odengatan 80-82; coffee & pastries from Skr25; ☎ 7am-10pm Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm Sat, 10am-6pm Sun) With scrumptious pastries and a sweet back room that looks like the foyer of an antique movie house that’s fallen on hard times, Ritorno is one of the most comfortable cafés in Stockholm. Miniature jukeboxes grace each table (and they

actually work!), smoking students glare into textbooks, and punks and pensioners commingle with families.

MIDRANGE

Sabai Sabai (Map p80; ☎ 790 09 13; www.sabai.se; Kammakargatan 44; mains Skr85-179; ☎ dinner) Friendly and laid-back Sabai Sabai, frequently named as Stockholm’s best Thai restaurant, serves great food in an ornate tropical-style interior. The extensive menu includes wok, noodle, curry, fish and seafood dishes. Reservations are recommended.

Tranan (Map pp68-9; ☎ 52 72 81 00; Karlbergsvägen 14; starters Skr55-125, mains Skr95-265; ☎ dinner until 1am) This stylish, busy place on Odenplan looks like a classic French bistro, with its rustic furniture and checked tablecloths. It’s one of the most popular neighbourhood restaurants in Stockholm, constantly recommended by devoted locals. It has an excellent and comprehensive international menu, including a traditional Swedish herring platter. Don’t miss the basement bar.

Marknoi (Map pp68-9; ☎ 30 70 70; Odengatan 94; mains Skr121-184; ☎ lunch & dinner, Sat & Sun dinner only) This award-winning, friendly and unpretentious restaurant is fairly small, with minimalist styles. The mild to hot dishes on the menu include many types of meat and fish, and a less expensive vegetarian selection. Book well in advance.

Bistro Boheme (Map p80; ☎ 411 90 41; Drottninggatan 71A; mains Skr65-175) This place has weird designer furniture (gigantic chairs), huge beer mugs, a tiled bar with loud music, and a beer garden in summer. The menu includes Czech goulash soup and vegetarian lasagne – ask about the all-you-can-eat Sunday soup.

Grill (Map p80; ☎ 31 45 30; www.grill.se; Drottninggatan 89; starters Skr95-195, mains Skr135-285; ☎ lunch & dinner until 1am, 10pm Sun) This oddly homely restaurant, started by renowned chefs Melker Andersson and Danyel Couet, inhabits a sprawling space that looks like a furniture store, with 10 small dining areas set up like demo living rooms. The menu is arranged by grill type: rotisserie, charcoal, barbecue, etc. Mix and match with Asian table-grilled tuna, BBQ beef brisket, blackened salmon, wood-fired duck, scrumptious desserts – and don’t neglect the extensive wine list, also conveniently organised by flavour. The restaurant’s service is casual and accommodating.

Lao Wai (Map pp68-9; ☎ 673 78 00; Luntmakargatan 74; mains Skr100-185; ☎ dinner Tue-Sat) This strictly vegetarian restaurant is heavy on philosophy (it's less a menu than a manifesto) and simple in presentation. In a small white room with simple wooden tables, spices coax miraculous flavours out of various tofu and vegetable combinations.

Restaurant KB (Map p80; ☎ 679 60 32; Smålandsgatan 7; starters Skr95, dagens husmanskost Skr120-150, mains Skr180-250, bar menu Skr75-125; ☎ 11.30am-midnight Mon-Fri, 5pm-midnight Sat) KB stands for *Konstnärs Bar* – (the artists' bar). On the ground floor of Konstnärs Husset, which provides housing, studio space and classes for artists, the restaurant serves traditional Swedish cuisine in arrangements that highlight each plate's visual beauty. The assorted herring dishes and anything vegetarian or fish-based are highly recommended. The attached bar has wall paintings from 1931.

TOP END

Franska Matsalen (Map p80; ☎ 679 35 84; www.franska.matsalen.se; Grand Hôtel Stockholm, Södra Blasieholmshamnen 8; mains Skr195-485, set menu (ind veg) Skr895-1300; ☎ 6-11pm Mon-Fri) The ornate French restaurant at the Grand Hôtel fairly wallows in decadence, with elaborate chandeliers, lots of dark wood and deep red carpets. It has been called the best restaurant in Sweden, and the food is spectacular. A twist on beef Wallenberg made with pheasant, a cheese plate with chanterelle-lingonberry chutney, port-braised foie gras with figs, sage-beetroot ravioli, curry apple scallops – are you salivating yet? There's also an extensive French wine list. A smörgåsbord lunch is available 11.30am-3pm weekdays in the hotel's Grand Veranda.

Verandan (Map p80; ☎ 679 35 86; Grand Hotel Stockholm, Södra Blasieholmshamnen 8; breakfast Skr185, mains Skr105-300, buffet Skr315) Less likely to break the bank is Verandan. Here you can enjoy a huge smörgåsbord breakfast, with 124 hot and cold dishes to choose from. There's also a plentiful, traditional lunch buffet (May to September) and dinner buffet (year-round), which includes all the Swedish dishes you have been hankering to try.

Operakällaren (Map p80; ☎ 676 58 00; Jakobs Torg 10; starters Skr275-310, mains Skr380-410, tasting menus from Skr895 (Skr550 veg); ☎ 5-10pm) The finest place within the Opera House is the century-old Operakällaren, with its fantastic décor,

paintings and extravagant furnishings. The gourmet menu, printed in French, includes caviar, fish, hare and pigeon. It's also known as the place to go for the ultimate traditional *julbord* (Christmas smörgåsbord). Men must wear a suit and tie to be admitted. To dine here on weekends, you'll need to book a fortnight in advance, and more around the winter holidays.

Bakfickan (Map p80; ☎ 676 58 08; mains Skr85-125; ☎ 11.30am-midnight Mon-Sat) With superb service, Art Nouveau decor, stools around the bar and opera-related photos, this little restaurant – the 'back pocket' of Operakällaren – serves gourmet Swedish *husmanskost* at moderate prices. Try the assorted herring, boiled potatoes and crispbread. Look out for opera singers, who tend to eat here after a performance.

Eyubi (Map pp68-9; ☎ 673 52 36; www.eyubi.com in Swedish; Döbelnsgatan 45; mains Skr60-195, meze platter Skr180; ☎ 5pm-midnight Tue-Thu, 1am Fri & Sat; closed Midsummer-Aug; T-Rådsmansgatan) Dramatically situated in a former car park, at the end of a long concrete hallway lined with photos by cutting-edge Stockholm artists, Eyubi makes it clear straightaway that it is no ordinary Mediterranean restaurant. Its classy industrial style and sophisticated menu – where hummus and tabbouleh rub shoulders with saffron-marinated chicken, scampi and lime-orange salmon – draw the trendy and arty from all over the city.

Östermalm

BUDGET

Sturekatten (Map p80; ☎ 611 16 12; Riddargatan 4; cakes & pies Skr15-70, baguettes Skr65; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm Sat & 11am-6pm Sun) This café looks like a full-grown dollhouse, with three levels and featuring a quaint late-19th-century ambience, with antique chairs, paintings and lamps. This is where the ladies-who-lunch take their mothers-in-law. In summer, if there's room, you can *fika* (a uniquely Swedish word meaning to meet up friends or family to have coffee and cake) in the cute little courtyard.

MIDRANGE

Grodan Grev Ture (Map p80; ☎ 679 61 00; Grev Turegatan 16; lunch Skr95, mains Skr97-202, dinner mains Skr127-219; ☎ 11.30am-1am Mon-Thu, until 2am Fri & Sat) This huge, sophisticated place includes modern dining areas, a raging cocktail bar and a

picture-windowed 18th-century-style room with ornate plasterwork, antique paintings and lighting worthy of Rembrandt. The French-leaning menu includes venison, pike and vegetarian lasagne and is popular with young professional types.

Örtagården (Map p80; ☎ 662 17 28; www.ortagarden.se; Nybrogatan 31, first fl of Östermalms Saluhall Bldg; dagens lunch Skr70, lunch buffet Skr75; ☎ 10.30am-9.30pm Mon-Fri, 11am-8.30pm Sat, noon-8.30pm Sun) Perched unobtrusively above the food market in Östermalms Saluhall, this vegetarian restaurant offers an extensive buffet at lunch and dinner in a setting reminiscent of a courtyard garden, with fountains and ferns galore.

Sturehof (Map p80; ☎ 440 57 30; Stureplan 2; mains Skr95-330; ☎ 9am-2am Mon-Fri, noon-2am Sat, 1pm-2am Sun) One of Stockholm's busiest restaurants, particularly in summer when the terrace is perpetually hopping, Sturehof has a modern menu vast enough to satisfy every taste. Fish dishes are recommended, as is the tiny O-bar in the basement.

Tures (Map p80; ☎ 611 02 10; Sturegallerian 10; mains Skr88-165) Highly recommended, this pleasantly dark, red-and-black decorated café sits in the middle of the highbrow Sturegallerian shopping mall. Try the excellent fried herring and *Västerbottens ost*. It's a great place for *fika* or a beer break if your knees get weak while shopping in the mall's exclusive boutiques.

Djurgården

BUDGET

Blå Porten (Map pp68-9; ☎ 663 87 59; Djurgårdsvägen 64; pastries from Skr15, mains Skr65-105; ☎ 11am-7pm, until 9pm Tue & Thu, longer hr in summer) Best on a sunny day, when you can linger over lunch in the garden, this café next to Liljevalchs Konsthall offers an amazing display of baked goods. The Swedish and international meals are particularly recommended.

MIDRANGE

Rosendals Trädgårdskafé (Map pp68-9; ☎ 54 58 12 70; www.rosendalstradgard.com in Swedish; Rosendalsterrassen 12; cakes & pies from Skr35; ☎ winter 11am-4pm Tue-Sun, summer 11am-5pm; bus 47, 15 min walk from Djurgårdsbron), Rosendals is an idyllic spot for a fruit pastry and coffee in the summer or a warm cup of *glögg* (mulled wine) and a *lussekatte* (saffron bun) in winter. If the weather is ugly, skulk around the gardens and greenhouses, look moody and pretend you're Strindberg.

TOP END

Restaurang Hasselbacken (Map pp68-9; ☎ 51 73 43 07; www.restauranghasselbacken.com; Hazeliusbacken 20; 2-/3-course menu Skr325/375; ☎ 1-10pm Mon-Sat late Jun to mid-Aug (restricted menu); otherwise 10am-2pm & 5-10pm Mon-Fri, 1-10pm Sat & 1-9pm Sun) This restaurant, in Scandic Hotel Hasselbacken, serves fine classical Swedish meals with foreign influences in a wonderful jewel box dining room dating from 1923. The menu includes such twists on *husmanskost* as reindeer fillet with *Västerbottens ost* potatoes and morelcurrant gravy. There is a superb ceiling and a raised dining area with alcoves and sofas.

Wårdshuset Ulla Winbladh (Map pp68-9; ☎ 663 05 71; www.ullawinbladh.se in Swedish; Rosendalsvägen 8; starters Skr95-140, mains Skr195-290) Named after one of Carl Michael Bellman's lovers, this villa was built as a steam bakery for the Stockholm World's Fair (1897) and now serves fine food in an early 20th-century-style restaurant with a garden setting. The menu features international dishes and traditional Swedish meals, including meatballs and crayfish tails, and it's known for its outstanding herring smörgåsbord.

Södermalm

BUDGET

Nystekt Strömning (Map p80; Södermalmstorg; ☎ hr vary, generally lunch & dinner) The best place to get fried (*stekt*) herring in all of Stockholm is this unassuming cart outside the metro station at Slussen. Combo plates cost about Skr30 to Skr45, and there are picnic tables outside, perfect for people-watching while you eat.

Soda (Map p80; ☎ 462 00 75; Bellmansgatan 26; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-7pm Sat & Sun) This is a smoky café full of moody teens and twenty-somethings mooning over their diaries and stealing secret glances at each other. Soda serves coffee American-style in huge green and yellow mugs. It has endearing indie-rock artwork on the walls, and best of all it'll let you read its diaries.

MIDRANGE

Östgöta Källaren (Map pp68-9; ☎ 643 22 40; Östgötögatan 41; mains Skr80-180; ☎ until midnight) This place has everything to recommend it – a dimly lit romantic atmosphere, friendly service and unpretentious *husmanskost* like Swedish meatballs, *pytt i panna* and all sorts of fish. It's a nice place to linger over a beer or glass of wine.

Pelikan (Map pp68-9; ☎ 55 60 90 90; Blekingegatan 40; mains Skr75-185; ☎ dinner daily & lunch Sat & Sun; minimum age 23) This well-established place has a unique atmosphere with rooms in three different styles, including a German-style beer hall with monkeys painted on the pillars and ceiling. The food is good – the menu is classic *husmanskost*, and there's usually a vegetarian special on the blackboard.

Koh Phangan (Map pp68-9; ☎ 642 68 65; www.kohphangan.nu in Swedish; Skånegatan 57; mains Skr125-265; ☎ until 1am) This outrageously kitsch Thai restaurant has to be seen to be believed. It's best at night, when you can enjoy your meal in a real *tuk-tuk* to the accompanying racket of crickets and a tropical thunderstorm. The food is good, but service tends to be sluggish. There's a DJ after 10pm, Tuesday to Sunday.

Creperie Fyra Knop (Map p80; ☎ 640 77 27; Svarstengatan 4; crepes from Skr35, mains Skr60-80; ☎ dinner Mon-Fri, lunch & dinner weekends) Fyra Knop serves excellent crepes in an intimate, romantic little place, with lots of small rooms tucked away just off the main drag in Söder. A good place for a quiet chat before you hit the clubs down the street.

Folkhemmet (Map pp68-9; ☎ 640 55 95; Rensternas Gata 30; mains Skr120-198, set menus Skr85/125/215; ☎ dinner, bar until 1am) Filed under 'only in Sweden' is this madly popular socialist-run bar and restaurant, named after the Social Democratic Party's conception of a welfare state (the name means 'the people's home'). But the food is nowhere near as proletarian as that might imply. The ambitious menu, which changes eight to 10 times a year, features such combinations as red-beet tartlets and asparagus salad with truffle vinaigrette.

TOP END

Gondolen (Map p80; ☎ 641 70 90; www.eriks.se in Swedish; Stadsgråden 6; 2-/3-course menu Skr320/395, weekday lunch Skr95-295, dinner Skr255-450; ☎ lunch & dinner until 1am) This restaurant is top of the heap, both figuratively and literally. With perhaps the most unusual location in Stockholm – it is situated at the top of Katarinahissen, the Slussen elevator built in 1883 – Gondolen offers fantastic views, a dizzyingly patterned wood floor, very comfortable armchairs in the bar and some great fine food. Swedish style dishes such as the herring plate and the warm cloudberry with ice cream are particularly recommended.

Kungsholmen BUDGET

Thelins (Map pp68-9; ☎ 651 19 00; www.thelinskonditori.se in Swedish; St Eriksgatan 43; coffee & cakes from Skr35; ☎ 7.30am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat & Sun) A traditional, old-fashioned *konditori* with red velvet theatre-style furniture, faux-Parisian white streetlamps sticking up in the middle of the dining area and curtained-off booths in the large back room, Thelins is all charm. Its display case contains some of the best and most beautiful cakes and pastries in Stockholm.

MIDRANGE

El Cubanito (Map pp68-9; ☎ 650 12 38; www.elcubanito.se; Scheelegatan 3; starters Skr60-70, mains Skr125-195; ☎ dinner, bar until late) This tiny Cuban bar and restaurant's luscious dark wooden floor, pressed-tin bar and decorative ceramic tiles give it the lived-in feel of a stylish old bodega. On the menu are favourites such as *ropa vieja*, fried plantains, tropical chicken and flan for dessert, plus specialities such as *arroz a la Hemingway*, red snapper marinated in cardamom and Cuban approaches to Swedish ingredients, such as fillet of venison in lingon and guava. You can also, of course, get Cuban cigars and a wide selection of rum drinks.

Salzer (Map pp68-9; ☎ 650 30 28; John Ericssonsgatan 6; starters Skr12-150, mains Skr160-220, Sunday brunch buffet Skr150; ☎ 5pm-midnight Mon-Sat, noon-8pm Sun) The menu at this well-liked *kvarterskrog* (neighbourhood bar) features Swedish and continental choices, including vegetarian. The Swedish country sausage called *isterband*, served over potatoes in a cream sauce, is a favourite dish here. You can also try the local Kungsholmen brew, Lundbergs lager. Prices are lower in the 'Propeller *bakfickan*' so called because John Ericsson, after whom the street is named, invented the propeller.

Spisa Hos Helena (Map pp68-9; ☎ 654 49 26; www.spisahoshelena.se in Swedish; Scheelegatan 18; starters Skr75-100, mains Skr130-200; ☎ lunch & dinner, closed Sun) This tiny, atmospheric bar and restaurant, with rich red walls and low candlelight, emphasises grilled fish and seafood, as well as offering nouvelle twists on traditional meals like beef Rydberg or Swedish meatballs with pickles, lingon and potatoes. The small bar area up front is a warm, cosy place to meet for a drink and one of Helena's homemade truffles (Skr22).

Market Halls

The colourful market halls are excellent places to sample both local and exotic treats.

Östermalms Saluhall (Map p80; Östermalmstorg; www.ostermalmshallen.se in Swedish; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Mon-Thu, until 6.30pm Fri & 4pm Sat – until 2pm Sat in summer; T-Östermalmstorg) More upscale than Hötorgshallen, Östermalms Saluhall is excellent for fresh fish and meat, as well as hard-to-find cheeses. The building itself is a Stockholm landmark, designed as a Romanesque cathedral of food in 1885. For a quick lunch, belly up to the bar at Depå Sushi; for more substantial fare, check the extensive *dagens rätt* board at the classy Tysta Mari (Skr60 to Skr85). The pastries at Amandas Brödbod are gorgeous. There's a clean, well-lit and free toilet in the far corner opposite the entrance.

Hötorgshallen (Map p80; Hötorget; www.hotorgshallen.se; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Thu, 10am-6.30pm Fri, 10am-4pm Sat, summer 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat; T-Hötorget) Located in the basement below Filmstaden cinema, Hötorgshallen has several fine specialist food shops selling meat, fish, cheese, groceries, coffee and tea, plus Asian fast-food stands, kebabs and the like. At lunchtime, locals cram themselves into a galley-themed dining nook of Kajsas Fiskrestaurang for huge bowls of *fisksoppa* (fish stew) with mussels and aioli for Skr75 – a treat not to be missed. Outside in the square there's a daily street market with stalls selling flowers, fruits and vegetables and knick-knacks.

Söderhallarna (Map pp68-9; Medborgarplatsen 3; www.soderhallarna.aos.se in Swedish; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Wed, 10am-7pm Thu & Fri, 10am-4pm Sat; T-Medborgarplatsen) This more modern food hall includes a great vegetarian restaurant, deli, cheese shop, an Asian supermarket and a pub that has live jazz most nights. It's not the most atmospheric place, so plan on enjoying your lunch outdoors on Medborgarplatsen.

Self-Catering

The handiest central supermarket is **Hemköp** (Map p80; Klarabergsgatan 50; ☎ 8am-9pm Mon-Fri, 10am-9pm Sat & Sun), in the Åhléns department store. Others include the following:

ICA Baronen (Map pp68-9; Odengatan 40; ☎ 8am-10pm; T-Odenplan)

Vivo T-Jarlen (Map pp68-9; inside the Östermalmstorg Tunnelbana station; ☎ 7am-9pm Mon-Fri, 10am-7pm Sat, noon-6pm Sun) Enter from Frev Turegatan.

Coop Konsum (Map p80; Katarinavägen 3-7; ☎ 7am-9pm Mon-Fri, 9am-9pm Sat & Sun; T-Slussen)

DRINKING

Stockholm's an expensive but stylish place to drink – there are virtually no dives and almost every place has interesting design elements or a stylish atmosphere. Which isn't to say there are no cosy neighbourhood pubs – it's just that in Stockholm, such places look a little more fantastic than usual. You can drink in ornate mansions, monastic cellars, vanilla-lit beer halls or sleek bars with designer lighting, but you'll have some trouble finding a truly boring bar in this city. It seems that almost every decent restaurant and pub in Stockholm has a cool bar attached, and many cafés bring in a DJ of an evening and, *voilà*, another groovy bar is born.

Södermalm is the prime spot for varied nightlife, while Östermalm, especially around Stureplan, is the place to go for the ultrachic discos and mile-long queues.

Mass-market Swedish beers are virtually indistinguishable from one another by flavour, so locals generally order by grade, not brand. The usual order is a *storstark* – which translates to a 'big strong' – if you're not feeling up to a big strong, you can also order a *mellanöl*, or medium beer. Local mega-brew lagers, such as Spendrups, Pripps or Falcon, cost anywhere from Skr35 to Skr52 a pint, and imported beer or mixed drinks can be twice that. The legal drinking age in Sweden is 18 years, but many bars and restaurants impose significantly higher age limits.

Some of the best places to check out include the following.

Soldaten Svejlk (Map pp68-9; ☎ 641 33 66; Östgötagatan 35) In this crowded, amber-windowed, wooden-floored pub, decorated with heraldic shields, you can get great Czech beer, including the massively popular Staropramen, on tap. There are also simple and solid Czech meals (Skr75 to Skr115); try some of the excellent smoked cheese along with your beer. Be sure to arrive early – there are often long queues for tables.

Kvarnen (Map pp68-9; ☎ 643 03 80; Tjärhovsgatan 4; ☎ until 3am) A cheerful mixture of Hammarby football fans and Left Party former communists regularly packs Kvarnen, one of the best bars in Söder. The vast beer hall dates from 1907 and seeps tradition. Beyond the scruffy old beerhounds and college boys though, there's a hot dance party in the back room, featuring some of the city's best DJs.

Queues are fairly constant but, for once, justifiable.

Cliff Barnes (Map pp68-9; ☎ 31 80 70; Nortullsgatan 45; ☎ until 1am Mon-Sat) Named after the loser from the *Dallas* TV soap. People come here to sing along to popular tunes, dance on the tables and get inebriated. It's a hugely popular beer-hall-type place with an outdoor bar in summer.

Wirströms (Map p80; ☎ 21 28 74; Stora Nygatan 13; ☎ until midnight Mon-Fri, 1am Sat & Sun) This place feels more like a medieval dungeon than an Irish pub – the dark, mysterious, brick-vaulted cellar goes on forever. Arrive early to find a candlelit corner and snuggle in with a pint of Guinness (Skr52). Bar meals and sandwiches (including vegetarian options) are available for Skr75 to Skr95. There's live music in the evenings from Wednesday to Saturday.

Berns Salonger (Map p80; ☎ 56 63 20 00; www.berns.se; Berzelii Park; ☎ until 1am Mon-Tue, 3am Wed-Thu, 4am Fri & Sat, midnight Sun) With half a dozen bars spread across three levels, this grand mansion of a bar is drenched in history but buzzing with contemporary energy. On the basement level is a popular disco; there's also a wine bar, a cocktail bar, a mirrored bar and a terrace.

Icebar (Map p80; ☎ 50 56 30 00; www.nordichotels.se; inside the Nordic Sea Hotel, Vasaplan 4; admission Skr125; ☎ until midnight Mon-Sat, 3-9pm Sun) Of course it's silly, but you're intrigued, admit it. Built entirely out of ice; you drink from ice-carved glasses at tables made of ice. The admission price gets you warm booties, mittens, a parka and one drink; refills cost extra, but you'll probably be too cold to want one anyway.

Storstad (Map pp68-9; ☎ 673 38 00; Odengatan 41; ☎ until 1am Mon-Tue, 3am Wed-Sat) This super-trendy bar is the dictionary definition of Stockholm style, with its bright-white walls, right-angle bar and enormous picture windows. It has a more relaxed vibe than usual, though – this is one of the few places in town where someone might noticeably try to pick you up. DJs play most nights.

Akkurat (Map p80; ☎ 644 00 15; www.akkurat.se in Swedish; Hornsgatan 18; ☎ until 1am Mon-Sat) Fans of beer should make a point of visiting Akkurat. It has a huge selection of Belgian ales as well as a good range of Swedish-made microbrews, notably the semidivine Jämtlands Bryggeri trio: Heaven, Hell, and Fallen Angel. There's also a vast wall of whiskey, and mussels are on the menu.

August Bar & Bistro (Map pp68-9; ☎ 644 87 00; Folkungagatan 59; ☎ until 1am) Comfortable, classy and laid-back, this place has become the haven of the Medborgarplatsen area's hipsters who have outgrown Söderkällaren but are tired of waiting to get into Kvarnen. It serves beer, wine and affordable bar food.

Bonden (Map pp68-9; ☎ 641 86 79; Bondegatan 1C; ☎ until 1am) In this small bar, located by a cow sign outside the door, you'll find a strangely curved ceiling with 19th-century-style light bulbs. It's a nice place to sit and have a quiet chat, but it fills up fast. Next door is the larger, more rock-oriented Bonden Club.

East (Map p80; ☎ 611 49 59; www.east-restaurang.se; Stureplan 13; ☎ until 3am) The dance floor here gets seriously hopping at night, but there are always a few quiet seats near the bar where you can relax over cocktails, sake and sushi.

Halv Trappa Plus Gärd (Map p80; ☎ 611 02 75; Lästmakargatan 3; ☎ until 3am, closing at 1am Mon-Tue) The back patio here has its own bar and heaters, making it a popular summertime hangout – if you can get in. The classy, labyrinthine bar and chill-out lounges are notoriously well-protected from anything that might seem less than the height of fashion. Dress like the mannequins in the Filippa K windows and try to arrive by 10pm.

Lydmar Hotel Lounge (Map p80; ☎ 56 61 13 00; www.lydmar.se; Sturegatan 10; ☎ until 1am Sun-Thu, 2am Fri & Sat) If it's not absurdly crowded with attractive young business types, the Lydmar's lounge is a great place to relax with a cocktail and feel incredibly swank.

SYSTEMBOLAGET

The state-owned alcohol monopoly is the only place to buy real booze to take home. A complete listing is given at the back of the price list or on the Internet; the following are a few of the central branches:

Systembolaget (www.systembolaget.se) Grev Turegatan (Map p80; ☎ 611 2270; Grev Turegatan 3; ☎ 10am to 6pm Mon to Wed, 7pm Thu, 6.30pm Fri, 10am to 2pm Sat); Klarabergsgatan (Map p80; ☎ 21 47 44; Klarabergsgatan 62; ☎ 10am to 8pm weekdays, 10am to 3pm Sat); Regeringsgatan (Map p80; ☎ 796 98 10; Regeringsgatan 44; ☎ 10am to 7pm weekdays, 10am to 2pm Sat)

ENTERTAINMENT

Check the local papers (see p71) for up-to-date listings of entertainment events, particularly the Friday *På Stan* section of *Dagens Nyheter* newspaper.

Nightclubs

Going out dancing is a popular pastime for the young and beautiful in Stockholm. The fanciest places have an entry charge of Skr50 to Skr150, but you're likely to spot a local sports celebrity at the bar. For more variety or an alternative to the slick disco scene, try one of the city's many salsa clubs or an indie-rock haven like Mondo.

Sturecompagniet (Map p80; ☎ 611 78 00; www.sturecompagniet.se in Swedish; Sturegatan 4; admission Skr120 after 10pm Fri & Sat; ☎ 10pm-5am Wed-Sat) One of the more welcoming clubs in Stureplan, this ornate, high-ceilinged, red-velvet-curtained bar also serves decent food.

Spy Bar (Map p80; ☎ 54 50 37 01; www.thespybar.com in Swedish; Birger Jarlsgatan 20; admission Skr125; ☎ 10pm-5am Wed-Sat) Nicknamed 'the Puke' (because spy in Swedish means vomit), this bar is the ice queen of the club scene – you can't help wanting to get in, but you hate it because it won't let you.

La Habana (Map pp68-9; ☎ 16 64 65; Sveavägen 108; ☎ until 1am) This Cuban restaurant turns into a crowded salsa bar at night, with limber-legged Swedes and Latinos intermingling over *cuba libres* and *mojitos* in the basement.

Mondo (Map pp68-9; ☎ 673 10 32; Medborgarplatsen 8; ☎ until 3am) This newly opened club and cultural centre, in a former school building, puts on unusual, top-notch events every night of the week. It has a bar/restaurant, a large dance floor and music hall, and a tinier club upstairs, plus a gallery and a small movie theatre.

Live Music

Live jazz is extremely popular in the capital and there are a number of excellent venues that show-case it and an annual jazz festival is held in mid-July. All the following clubs have admission charges, which will vary depending on what's featuring on the night.

Glenn Miller Café (Map p80; ☎ 1003 22; Brunngatan 21A; ☎ 5pm-midnight Mon-Thu, 5pm-1am Fri & Sat; T-Hötorget, bus 1, 43, 52, 56) This tiny jazz and blues bar draws a faithful, fun-loving crowd to its performances. It's also known for serving excellent, affordable *husmanskost* meals.

Jazzclub Fasching (Map p80; ☎ 21 62 67; www.fasching.se in Swedish; Kungsgatan 63; ☎ until 1am Mon-Thu, 4am Fri & Sat; tickets Skr20-200; T-Centralen, bus 1, 47, 53, 69) A world-renowned jazz club, Fasching hosts local artists and unknowns as well as big names in the international

jazz world. It's a small, cosy place, with a great view from the balcony but limited standing room.

Stampen (Map p80; ☎ 20 57 93; www.stampen.se; Stora Nygatan 5; ☎ 8pm-1am Mon-Wed, until 2am Thu-Sat; tickets Skr100-150; T-Gamla Stan, bus 3, 53, 55, 59, 76) This well-known club in Old Town, with timeworn, quirky décor and a friendly vibe, has blues and some jazz concerts every night; there's a free blues jam featuring local musicians at 2pm on Saturday afternoons.

Mosebacke Etablissement (Map p80; ☎ 55 60 98 90; www.mosebacke.se in Swedish; Mosebacketorg 3; ☎ 4pm-1am Mon-Thu, Sun, until 2am Fri & Sat; tickets Skr80-250; T-Slussen, bus 3, 46, 53, 76) Well-known acts of all genres play at the historic Mosebacke, where the sophisticated, regal atmosphere augments any style of music. The outdoor bar here offers a great view of the city.

Concerts & Theatre

Stockholm is a theatre city, with outstanding dance, opera and music performances; for an overview, pick up the free *Teater Guide* from tourist offices. Ticket sales are handled by the tourist office at Sweden House, or you can buy direct from **Biljett-Direkt** (☎ 0771-70 70 70; www.ticnet.se). Tickets generally aren't cheap and they're often sold out, especially for Saturday shows, but you can occasionally get good-value last-minute deals. Operas are usually performed in their original language, while theatre performances are invariably in Swedish.

Konserthuset (Map p80; ☎ 50 66 77 88; www.konserthuset.se; Hötorget; tickets Skr50-350) This venue features classical concerts and other musical events, including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Operan (Map p80; ☎ 24 82 40; www.operan.se; Gustav Adolfs Torg; tickets Skr135-460) The Royal Opera is the place to go for opera and classical ballet. It also has some bargain tickets in seats with poor views for as little as Skr40, and occasional lunchtime concerts for Skr140 (including lunch).

Folkoperan (Map p80; ☎ 616 07 50; www.folkoperan.se; Hornsgatan 72; tickets Skr250-390) Folkoperan stages unconventional productions of opera and modern ballet that bring the audience close to the stage.

Dramaten (Map p80; ☎ 667 06 80; www.dramaten.se in Swedish; Nybroplan; tickets Skr175-280) The Royal Theatre stages a range of plays in a fantastic Art Nouveau environment.

Stockholms Stadsteatern (Map p80; ☎ 50 62 01 00; Kulturhuset, Sergels Torg; tickets around Skr200) Regular performances are staged here, plus guest appearances by foreign theatre companies.

Globen (☎ 0771-31 00 00; www.globen.se; Globen-torget 2; metro T-Globen) This is the big white spherical building (it looks like a giant golf ball) just south of Södermalm. Globen's arenas stage regular big-name pop and rock concerts, as well as sporting events and trade fairs.

Sport

Bandy matches, a uniquely Scandinavian phenomenon, take place all winter at Stockholm's ice arenas. Impromptu ones happen in the square at Medborgarplatsen, while official games are scheduled at Zinkensdamms Idrottsplats.

Zinkensdamms Idrottsplats (☎ 668 93 31; Ringvägen 12-14; 🕒 Nov-Feb 8am-2pm Tue-Thu, 8am-11pm Sat, 1-4pm Sun; T-Zinkensdamm) Watching a bandy match at Zinkensdamm is great fun. The sport, a precursor to ice hockey but with more players (11 to a side) and less fighting, has grown massively popular since the late-'90s rise of the Hammarby team. There's a round vinyl ball instead of a puck, and the rules are similar to football, except that you hit the ball with a stick instead of kicking it. The season lasts from November to March, meaning it's vital to bring your own thermos of *kaffekask* – a warming mix of coffee and booze.

To really see Swedish sports fans in action, head along to an ice hockey game. Contact **Globen** (☎ 600 34 00; www.globen.se; Arenavägen, Johanneshov; tickets Skr150-200; T-Globen) for details; matches take place here up to three times a week from October to April (tickets cost Skr100 to Skr160). There are regular football fixtures here too.

Impromptu public skating areas spring up during the winter at Kungsträdgården in Norrmalm and in Medborgarplatsen in Södermalm. Skate-rental booths next to the rinks hire equipment for Skr35 to adults, Skr10 for children.

SHOPPING

There's no shortage of gorgeous Swedish design products in Stockholm, but souvenirs, handicrafts or quality Swedish products in glass, wood or pewter are relatively expensive, and some are not easy to cart around or

send home. If you make any large purchases, be sure to ask about tax-free shopping.

DesignTarget (www.designtarget.se) Götgatan (Map p80; ☎ 462 35 20; Götgatan 31, Södermalm; Sergels Torg (Map p80; ☎ 50 83 15 20; Basement, Kulturhuset, Sergels Torg B) Catch the city's cutting-edge new designers before they're famous enough to be unaffordable at a branch of this cooperative décor store; there's a central branch in the basement of Kulturhuset, and one on Söder's main drag.

Hennes & Mauritz (H&M; Map p80; ☎ 796 54 46; Sergels Torg) Heaven for the budget-conscious couture-seeker, H&M specialises in classy Swedish knockoffs of designer clothing.

Svenskt Tenn (Map p80; ☎ 670 16 00; Strandvägen 5) For a taste of Swedish design history that's literally museum-calibre, visit this deluxe shop and be careful not to drool over the beautiful furniture and interior design pieces!

Naturkompaniet (Map p80; ☎ 24 19 96; Kungsgatan 26) If you're gearing up for outdoor activities, this outdoor equipment shop sells a wide selection of gear; there are branches across the city.

A handy place to buy souvenirs is in one of the big department stores – most have basements full of high-quality, typically Swedish gift items to wrap and carry, or ship, home. Good choices include the following places:

NK (Map p80; ☎ 762 80 00; Hamngatan)

PUB (Map p80; ☎ 402 16 11; Drottninggatan 72-6)

Åhléns (Map p80; ☎ 676 60 00; Klarabergsgatan 50)

For smaller shops selling authentic handicrafts, look into **Svensk Hemslojd** (Map p80; ☎ 23 21 15; Sveavägen 44) and **Svenskt Hantverk** (Map p80; ☎ 21 47 26; Kungsgatan 55).

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Air

The main airport in Stockholm, **Stockholm Arlanda** (☎ 797 60 00; www.lfv.se), is 45km north of the city centre and can be reached from central Stockholm by both bus and express train (see opposite).

Bromma airport (☎ 797 68 74) is 8km west of Stockholm and is used for some domestic flights. **Skavsta airport** (☎ 0155-28 04 00), 100km south of Stockholm, near Nyköping, is also used for domestic flights and some low-cost carriers.

The **SAS** (☎ 020 72 77 27) network serves 27 Swedish destinations from Arlanda, and has international services to Copenhagen,

Oslo, Helsinki and a host of other European cities including Amsterdam, Brussels, Berlin, Dublin, Frankfurt, Geneva, Hamburg, London, Madrid, Manchester, Milan, Moscow, Munich, Paris, Reykjavik, Riga, St Petersburg and Tallinn. The airline also flies directly to Chicago, New York and Bangkok.

Finnair (☎ 020 78 11 00) flies from Stockholm to Turku, Vaasa and Tampere, and several times daily to Helsinki.

Boat

Silja Line (☎ 22 21 40; www.silja.com) runs ferries to Helsinki and Turku. **Viking Line** (☎ 452 40 00; www.vikingline.fi) ferries run to Turku and Helsinki. **Tallink** (☎ 666 60 01; www.tallink.ee) ferries go to Tallinn (Estonia).

Bus

Most long-distance buses arrive and depart from Cityterminalen, which is connected to Centralstationen. Here you'll find the **Busstop ticket office** (☎ 440 85 70; Cityterminalen; 🕒 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri), which represents the big concerns such as Eurolines and Y-Bussen, along with many of the direct buses to the north.

Swebus Express (☎ 0200 21 82 18; www.swebusexpress.se; 2nd level, Cityterminalen) runs daily to Malmö (9¼ hours), Göteborg (seven hours), Norrköping (two hours), Kalmar (six hours), Mora (4¼ hours), Örebro (three hours) and Oslo (eight hours). There are also direct runs to Gävle (2½ hours), Uppsala (one hour) and Västerås (1¼ hours).

Ybuss (☎ 020 033 44 44; www.ybuss.se in Swedish; Cityterminalen) runs services to Sundsvall, Östersund and Umeå. You'll also find a number of companies running buses from many provincial towns directly to Stockholm. See the relevant destination chapters for details.

Car & Motorcycle

The E4 motorway passes through the city, just west of the centre, on its way from Helsingborg to Haparanda. The E20 motorway from Stockholm to Göteborg via Örebro, follows the E4 as far as Södertälje. The E18 from Kapellskär to Oslo runs from east to west and passes just north of the city centre.

For car hire close to Centralstationen, contact **Statoil** (Map p80; ☎ 20 20 64; Vasagatan 16), or **Avis** (Map p80; ☎ 20 20 60; Vasagatan 10B).

Train

Stockholm is the hub for national train services run by **Sveriges Järnväg** (SJ; ☎ 0771-75 75 75; www.sj.se) and **Tågkompaniet** (☎ 020 44 41 11; www.tagkompaniet.se in Swedish).

Centralstationen (Stockholm C; 🕒 5am-midnight) is the central train station. At the domestic **ticket office** (🕒 7.30am-8pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-6pm Sat, 9.30am-7pm Sun) there are special ticket windows, where you can purchase international train tickets between 10am and 6pm, Monday to Friday. If your train departs outside these times, you can buy a ticket from the ticket collector on the train.

Direct SJ trains to/from Copenhagen, Oslo and Storlien (for Trondheim) arrive and depart from Centralstationen, as do the overnight Tågkompaniet trains from Göteborg (via Stockholm and Boden) to Kiruna and Narvik; the Arlanda Express; and the SL *pendeltåg* commuter services that run to/from Nynäshamn, Södertälje and Märsta. Other SL local rail lines (Roslagsbanan and Saltsjöbanan) run from Stockholm Östrastationen (T-Tekniska Högskolan) and Slussen, respectively.

In the basement at Centralstationen, you'll find lockers costing Skr35 to Skr75 (depending on size) for 24 hours, toilets for Skr5, and showers (next to the toilets) for Skr25. These facilities are open 5am to midnight daily. There's also a left-luggage office, open daily, and a **lost property office** (☎ 762 25 50; 🕒 10am-6pm Mon-Fri).

Follow the signs to find your way to the local metro (T-bana) network; the underground station here is called T-Centralen.

GETTING AROUND To/From the Airports

The **Arlanda Express** (☎ 58 88 90 00; tickets from Skr200) train from Centralstationen takes only 20 minutes to reach Arlanda; trains run every 15 minutes from about 5am to midnight. The same trip in a taxi costs around Skr350, but agree on the fare first and don't use any taxi without a contact telephone number displayed. **Taxi Stockholm** (☎ 15 00 00) is one reputable operator.

The cheaper option is the **Flygbuss** service between Arlanda airport and Cityterminalen. Buses leave every 10 or 15 minutes (Skr89, 40 minutes). It's also possible to arrange a connecting **Flygtaxi** (Skr115) to meet you at your Flygbuss stop and take you directly to your door. Tickets for both can be

purchased on arrival at the Flygbuss counter at Arlanda airport's main terminal.

Bicycle

Stockholm has a wide network of bicycle paths and in summer you won't regret bringing a bicycle with you or hiring one to get around. The tourist offices have maps for sale, but they're not usually necessary if you have a basic city map already.

Top day trips include Djurgården; Drottningholm (return by steamer); Haga Park or the adjoining Ulriksdal Park or a loop from Gamla Stan to Södermalm, Långholmen and Kungsholmen (on lakeside paths). Trails and bike lanes are clearly marked with traffic signs. Some long-distance routes are marked all the way from central Stockholm: Nynäsleden to Nynäshamn joins Sommarleden near Västerhaninge and swings west to Södertälje. Roslagsleden leads to Norrtälje (linking Blåleden and Vaxholm). Upplandsleden leads to Märsta north of Stockholm, and you can ride to Uppsala via Sigtuna. Sörmlandsleden leads to Södertälje.

Bicycles can be carried free on SL local trains, except during peak hour (6am to 9am and 3pm to 6pm weekdays). They are not allowed in Centralstationen or on the metro, although you'll see some daring souls from time to time.

Sjöcafé (☎ 660 5757; ☎ 9am-9pm), by the bridge across to Djurgården, rents out bikes for Skr65/250 per hour/day (with options for longer rentals). For about the same price they also rent in-line skates, another good way to get around.

Boat

Djurgårdsfärjan city ferry services connect Gröna Lund Tivoli on Djurgården with Nybroplan and Slussen as frequently as every 10 minutes in summer (considerably less frequently in the low season); a single trip costs Skr20 (free with the SL Tourist Card or a monthly SL card).

Car & Motorcycle

Driving in central Stockholm is not recommended. Small one-way streets, congested bridges and limited parking all present problems; note that Djurgårdsvägen is closed near Skansen at night, on summer weekends and some holidays. Don't attempt to drive through the narrow streets of Gamla Stan.

Parking is a major problem, but there are *P-hus* (parking stations) throughout the city; they charge up to Skr50 per hour, though the fixed evening rate is usually more reasonable. If you do have a car, one of the best options is to stay on the outskirts of town and catch public transport into the centre.

Public Transport

Storstockholms Lokaltrafik (SL; www.sl.se) runs all tunnelbana (T or T-bana) metro trains, local trains and buses within the entire Stockholm county. There is an SL information office in the basement of Centralstationen near the Sergels Torg entrance (open until 11.15pm), which issues timetables and sells the SL Tourist Card and Stockholm Card. You can also call ☎ 600 10 00 for schedule and travel information from 7am to 9pm weekdays, and 8am to 9pm on weekends.

The Stockholm Card (p72 for more information) covers travel on all SL trains and buses in greater Stockholm. The 24-hour (Skr80) and 72-hour (Skr150) SL Tourist Cards are primarily for transport and only give free entry to a few attractions. The 72-hour SL Tourist Card is good value, especially if you use the third afternoon for transport to either end of the county – you can reach the ferry terminals in Grisslehamn, Kapellskär or Nynäshamn, as well as all of the archipelago harbours. If you want to explore the county in more detail, bring a passport photo and get yourself a 30-day SL pass (Skr600, or Skr360 for children age seven to 18 and seniors).

On Stockholm's public transport system the minimum fare costs two coupons, and each additional zone costs another coupon (up to five coupons for four or five zones). Coupons cost Skr10 each, but it's much better to buy strips of tickets for Skr110. Coupons are stamped at the start of a journey. Travelling without a valid ticket can lead to a fine of Skr600 or more. Coupons, tickets and passes can be bought at metro stations, Pressbyrån kiosks, SL railway stations, SL information offices, and from bus drivers.

International rail passes (eg Scanrail, Inter-rail) aren't valid on SL trains.

BUS

While the bus timetables and route maps are complicated, they're worth studying as there are some useful connections to suburban

THIS MAP
NOT AVAILABLE
IN PICK & MIX

attractions. Ask **SL** (☎ 600 10 00) or any tourist office for the handy inner-city route map *Innerstadsbussar*.

Inner-city buses radiate from Sergels Torg, Odenplan, Fridhemsplan (on Kungsholmen) and Slussen. Bus 47 runs from Sergels Torg to Djurgården, and bus 69 runs from Centralstationen and Sergels Torg to the Ladugårdsgärdet museums and Kaknästorret. Useful buses for hostellers include bus 65, which goes from Centralstationen to Skeppsholmen, and bus 43, which runs from Regeringsgatan to Södermalm.

Inner-city night buses run from 1am to 5pm on a few routes. Most leave from Centralstationen, Sergels Torg, Slussen, Odenplan and Fridhemsplan to the suburbs.

Check where the regional bus hub is for each outlying area. Islands of the Ekerö municipality (including Drottningholm palace) are served by buses with numbers 301 to 323 from T-Brommaplan. Buses to Vaxholm (the 670) and the Åland ferries (the 637 to Grisslehamn and 640 or 631 to Kapellskär) depart from T-Tekniska Högskolan. Odenplan is the hub for buses to the northern suburbs, including Hagaparken.

TRAIN

Local *pendeltåg* trains are useful for connections to Nynäshamn (for ferries to Gotland), to Märsta (for buses to Sigtuna and the short hop to Arlanda Airport) and Södertälje. There are also services to Nockeby from T-Alvik; Lidingö from T-Ropsten; Kårsta, Österskär and Näsbyark from T-Tekniska Högskolan; and to Saltsjöbaden from T-Slussen. SL coupons can be used on these trains, or you can pay on board.

TRAM

The historic **No 7 tram** (☎ 660 77 00) runs between Norrmalmstorg and Skansen, passing most attractions on Djurgården. Separate fees apply for those with a Stockholm Card (adult/child Skr20/10), but the SL Tourist Card is valid.

METRO

The most useful mode of transport in Stockholm is the tunnelbana, run by SL. Its lines converge on T-Centralen, connected by an underground walkway to Centralstationen. There are three main lines with branches. (See the Stockholm Metro map p103 for

route details). The blue line has a comprehensive collection of modern art decorating the underground stations, and several stations along other lines are decorated as well, often by famous artists.

Taxi

There's usually no problem finding a taxi, but they're expensive, so check for a meter or arrange the fare first. The flag fall is Skr35, then about Skr7 per kilometre. At night, women should ask about *tjejtaxa*, a discount rate offered by some operators. Reputable firms are **Taxi Stockholm** (☎ 15 00 00), **Taxi 020** (☎ 020 93 93 93) and **Taxi Kurir** (☎ 30 00 00).

AROUND STOCKHOLM

You can explore the county of greater Stockholm with the SL Tourist Card or monthly passes that allow unlimited travel on all buses and local trains. Free timetables are available from the SL office in Centralstationen or the SL terminals at Slussen or Östrastationen.

The delightful islands of the Stockholm archipelago are within easy reach of the city. Ferry services aren't expensive and there's a travel pass available if you want to tour around the islands for a while. On warm and sunny summer days, you could easily believe you're in the south of France rather than in the northern reaches of Europe.

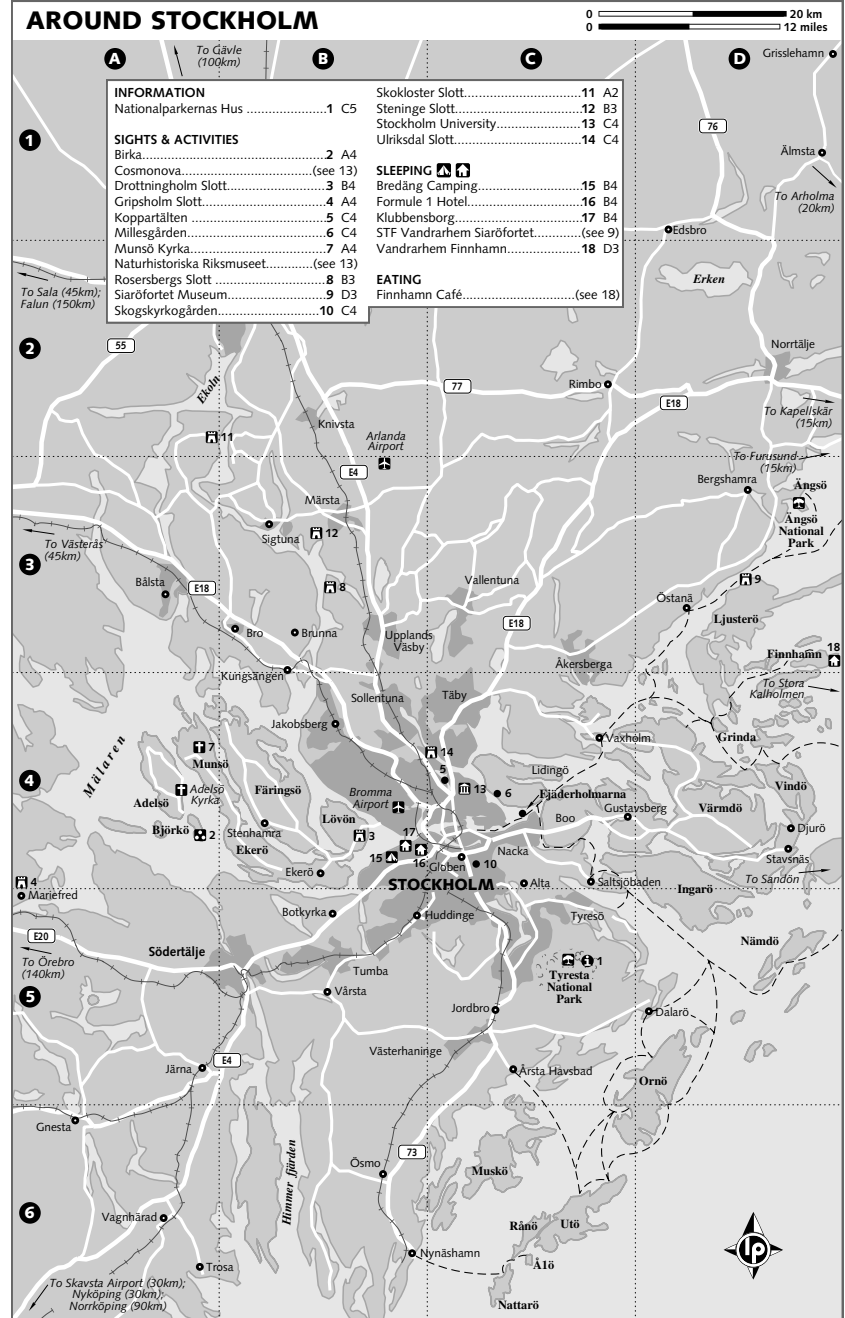
EKERÖ DISTRICT

The pastoral Ekerö district, just 20km west of Stockholm, is home to the fabulous Drottningholm castle as well as several large islands in Mälaren lake, a dozen medieval churches and the Unesco World Heritage site at Birka.

Drottningholm

The royal residence and parks of Drottningholm on Lovön are popular attractions and easy to visit from the capital. If you're not short of time you can cycle out to the palace. Otherwise, take the metro to T-Brommaplan and change to a bus numbered between 301 and 323. If you're driving, there are few road signs for Drottningholm, so get hold of a decent map. The car park is second on the left after crossing Drottningholmsbron.

Strömma Kanalbolaget (Map p80; ☎ 58 71 40 00; www.strommakanalbolaget.com) will take you to



the palace by boat. They have frequent boats departing from Stadshusbron (Stockholm) daily between May and mid-September, and weekends between mid-September and the end of October (one way/return Skr90/120).

It's a good idea to use the Stockholm Card here, as otherwise seeing everything on the grounds can get expensive.

DROTTNINGHOLMS SLOTT

Still home to the royal family for part of the year, the Renaissance-inspired main **palace** (☎ 402 62 80; www.royalcourt.se; adult/child Skr60/30; ☎ 10am-4.30pm May-Aug, noon-3.30pm Sep, noon-3.30pm Sat & Sun Oct-Apr), with its geometric baroque gardens, was designed by the great architect Nicodemius Tessin the Elder and begun in 1662, about the same time as Versailles. You can either walk around the wings open to the public on your own, or take a one-hour guided tour (no additional charge; English tours at 11am, noon, 1pm and 3pm daily from June to August, reduced schedule rest of the year). Tours are recommended, especially for an insight into the cultural milieu that influenced some of the decorations.

The **Lower North Corps de Garde** was originally a guard room but it's now replete with gilt-leather wall hangings, which used to feature in many palace rooms during the 17th century. The **Karl X Gustav Gallery**, in baroque style, depicts the militaristic endeavours of this monarch, but the ceiling shows battle scenes from classical times. The highly ornamented **State Bedchamber of Hedvig Eleonora** is the most expensive baroque interior in Sweden and it's decorated with paintings that feature the childhood of Karl XI. The painted ceiling shows Karl X and his queen, Hedvig Eleonora. Although Lovisa Ulrika's collection of more than 2000 books has been moved to the Royal Library in Stockholm, her library here is still a bright and impressive room, complete with most of its original 18th-century fittings. The elaborate staircase, with statues at every turn, was the work of both Nicodemius Tessin the Elder and the Younger. Circular **Drottningholms Slottskyrka** (admission free), the palace chapel, wasn't completed until the late 1720s.

DROTTNINGHOLMS SLOTTSTEATER & TEATERMUSEUM

Slottsteater (Court Theatre; ☎ 759 04 06; www.drottningholmslottsteater.dtm.se; admission by tour adult/child

Skr60/40; tours ☎ hourly 12.30pm-4.30pm May, 11.30am-4.30pm Jun-Aug, 1.30pm-3.30pm Sep) was completed in 1766 on the instructions of Queen Lovisa Ulrika. This extraordinary place was untouched from the time of Gustav III's death (1792) until 1922. It's the oldest theatre in the world still in its original state; performances are held here in summer (see opposite) using 18th-century machinery, such as ropes, pulleys and wagons. Scenes can be changed in less than seven seconds.

Illusion was the order of the day here, and accordingly the theatre makes use of fake marble, fake curtains and papier-mâché viewing boxes. Even the stage was designed to create illusions regarding size.

The interesting guided tour will also take you into other rooms in the same building. You'll see hand-painted 18th-century wallpaper and an Italian-style room (*salon de déjeuner*) with fake three-dimensional wall effects and a ceiling that resembles the sky.

KINA SLOTT

At the far end of the gardens is **Kina Slott** (☎ 402 62 70; adult/child Skr50/25; ☎ 11am-4.30pm May-Aug, noon-3.30pm Sep), a lavishly decorated Chinese pavilion built by King Adolf Fredrik as a birthday gift to Queen Lovisa Ulrika (1753). It was restored between 1989 and 1996 and is now in its original condition. There's a **café** on the premises serving good waffles, and the admission price includes guided tours, which run at 11am, noon, 2pm and 3pm daily from June to August (the schedule is reduced from May to September).

On the slope below Kina Slott, the striking **Guards' Tent** (admission free; ☎ noon-4pm Jun-mid-Aug) was erected in 1781 as quarters for the dragons of Gustav III, but it's not really a tent at all. The building now has displays about the gardens and Drottningholm's Royal Guard.

EATING

Bring a picnic with you and enjoy it in the gardens, or dine in one of the two restaurants by the palace. There's also a small kiosk by the driveway entrance.

Drottningholms Paviljongen (☎ 759 04 25; light meals Skr35-100, mains Skr120-185) Close to the boat dock, this café with outdoor seating, serves light meals like sandwiches and heartier mains, as well as coffee and cakes.

Drottningholms Wårdshus (☎ 759 03 08; mains Skr185-230) Opposite the palace grounds, this

is a little more upmarket. It offers an extensive menu, with simple *husmanskost* dishes, such as meatballs, from Skr95 and fancier meat and fish mains.

ENTERTAINMENT

Drottningholms Slottsteater (☎ 660 82 25; www.drottningholmslottsteater.dtm.se; Drottningholm; tickets Skr100-410) This is a beautiful, small 18th-century theatre at the royal palace. It stages opera and ballet productions in summer that are well worth attending.

Ekerö & Munsö

These long and narrow islands in Mälaren lake are joined together and have a main road running most of their length. The free car ferry to Adelsö departs from the northern end of Munsö.

The two churches of Ekerö and Munsö both date from the 12th century. **Munsö kyrka** is an interesting structure with a round-tower and a narrow steeple.

Buses 311 and 312 frequently run out here from T-Brommaplan in Stockholm.

Birka

The Viking trading centre of **Birka** (☎ 56 05 14 45; www.raa.se/birka; ☎ 11am-6pm May-Sep), on Björkö in Mälaren lake, is now a Unesco World Heritage site. It was founded around AD 760 with the intention of expanding and controlling trade in the region. The village attracted merchants and craft workers, and the population grew to about 700. A large defensive fort with thick dry-stone ramparts was constructed next to the village. In 830, the Benedictine monk Ansgar was sent to Birka by the Holy Roman Emperor to convert the heathen Vikings to Christianity and he lived in Birka for 18 months. Birka was abandoned in the late 10th century when Sigtuna took over the role of commercial centre.

The village site is surrounded by a vast graveyard. It's the largest Viking age cemetery in Scandinavia, with around 3000 graves. Most people were cremated, then mounds of earth were piled over the remains, but some Christian coffins and chambered tombs have been found. The fort and harbour have also been excavated. A cross to the memory of St Ansgar can be seen on top of a nearby hill.

The **Birka Museum** (☎ 11am-6pm May-Sep) is excellent. Exhibits include finds from the

excavations (which are still proceeding), copies of the most magnificent objects, and an interesting model showing the village as it was in Viking times.

Cruises to Birka run from early May to late September; the round-trip on Strömma Kanalbolaget's *Victoria* from Stadshusbron, Stockholm, is a full day's outing (Skr255). The cruise price includes a visit to the museum and a guided tour in English of the settlement's burial mounds and fortifications. Call ☎ 5871 40 00 for details; boats leave around 9am. Ferries do not run during the midsummer holidays.

Boats also leave from Adelsö (Hovgården) to Birka (Skr95, including museum entry); call ☎ 711 14 57 for details. Summer cruises to Birka depart from many other places around Mälaren, including Mariefred, Södertälje, Strängnäs and Västerås.

VAXHOLM

There's a good reason this pastoral island runs thick with tourists in summer. About 35km northeast of the city, Vaxholm is dotted with the kind of quaint summerhouses kept by the fashionable set in the 19th century. The settlement was founded in 1647, and the oldest buildings are in Norrhamn, a few minutes' walk north of the town hall. There's also interesting architecture along Hamngatan, as well as galleries, boutiques and souvenir shops.

Vaxholm is the gateway to the central and northern reaches of the archipelago. It's a pleasant place with many attractions and a relaxed atmosphere, and it's well worth a visit.

Information

There's a **tourist office** (☎ 54 13 14 80; info@visitvaxholm.com, www.vaxholm.se; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun Jun-Aug, 10am-3pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat & Sun Sep-May) inside the *rådhus* (town hall), off Hamngatan; look for the onion dome, a product of the *rådhus* rebuilding in 1925. Also on Hamngatan are a bank, supermarkets and other services.

Sights

The construction of **Vaxholm Kastell** (Citadel; ☎ 54 17 21 57; adult/child Skr50/free; ☎ noon-4pm mid-Jun-mid-Aug), a fortress on an islet just east of the town, was originally ordered by Gustav Vasa in 1544, but most of the current structure dates from 1863. The fortress was

attacked by the Danes in 1612 and the Russian navy in 1719. Nowadays, it's home to the National Museum of Coastal Defence and a restaurant-conference centre. The ferry across to the island departs regularly from Söderhamn (the bustling harbour) and the admission price is included in the fare.

The **Hembygdsgård** (☎ 54 13 17 20; Trädgårdsgatan 19; admission free; ☎ 11am-4pm Sat & Sun May-Aug) preserves the finest old houses in Norrhamn. The **fiskarebostad** is an excellent example of a late-19th-century fisherman's house, with a typical Swedish fireplace. The café here is open daily from May to mid-September.

Sleeping & Eating

Bogesund Vandrarnhem (☎ 54 13 22 40; dm Skr210) By a castle 5km southwest of Vaxholm, this is a pleasant, well-equipped STF hostel located in peaceful countryside. Bus 671 stops on the main road about 500m from the hostel.

Waxholms Hotell (☎ 54 13 01 50; info@waxholms.hottel.se; Hamngatan 2; s/d from Skr900/1025) Just opposite the harbour front, this hotel is a mixture of Art Nouveau and modern styles. Discounted rooms are available here in July, and on weekends year-round. This grand place is in the centre of the action, and there are restaurants on the premises, including Kabysen with meals from Skr100 to Skr200 and a popular outdoor terrace.

Moby Dick (☎ 54 13 07 05; Söderhamnsplan 1; meals Skr75-150) On the waterfront, Moby Dick has an extensive menu offering pizza, pasta, salad and more.

Getting There & Away

Bus 670 from the metro station T-Tekniska Höskolan runs regularly to the town.

Waxholmsbolaget (Map p80; ☎ 679 58 30; www.waxholmsbolaget.se) boats sail frequently between Vaxholm and Strömkajen in Stockholm (about 40 minutes). **Strömka Kanalbolaget** (Map p80; ☎ 58 71 40 00; www.strommakanalbolaget.com) sails between Strandvägen and Vaxholm three times daily from mid-June to mid-August (one way/return Skr115/150), and once daily the rest of the year (no services in December and January).

STOCKHOLM ARCHIPELAGO

Ask anyone in Stockholm what one summer activity no visitor should miss, and most will tell you to see the archipelago. With anything between 14,000 and 100,000 islands,

depending on whom you ask (the general consensus is 24,000), the archipelago around Stockholm is surprisingly accessible and very rewarding. Every Stockholmer's dream is to own a little red summer cottage on a rocky islet, but visitors can rent them even for short stays, and regular boats offer great opportunities for outings.

Information

For information on cabin and chalet rental in the archipelago, contact **Destination Stockholms Skärgård** (☎ 54 24 81 00; dess.skarg@dess.se, www.dess.se; Lillström, SE-18497 Ljusterö).

For excellent information about the archipelago, in English and other languages, check out www.skargardsstiftelsen.se.

Activities

The biggest boat operator in the archipelago is **Waxholmsbolaget** (Map p80; ☎ 679 58 30; www.waxholmsbolaget.se). Timetables and information are available from its offices outside the Grand Hotel on Strömkajen in Stockholm, and at the harbour in Vaxholm, as well as online. It divides the archipelago into three areas: *Norra Skärgården* is the northern section (north from Ljusterö to Arholma); *Mellersta Skärgården* is the middle section, taking in Vaxholm, Ingmarsö, Stora Kalholmen, Finnhamn, Möja and Sandhamn; and *Södra Skärgården* is the southern section, with boats south to Nämdö, Ornö and Utö.

Waxholmsbolaget's Båtluffarkortet pass (Skr300 for five days) gives unlimited rides on its services plus a handy island map.

If your time is short, a recommended tour is the Thousand Island Cruise offered by **Stromma Kanalbolaget** (Map p80; ☎ 58 71 40 00; www.strommakanalbolaget.com; Nybrokajen), running daily between late June and mid-August. The full day's tour departs from Stockholm's Nybrokajen at 9.30am and returns at 8.30pm; the cost of Skr900 includes lunch, dinner, drinks and guided tours ashore. The boat pulls in to a number of interesting islands, and there are opportunities for swimming.

Islands

ARHOLMA

Arholma is one of the most interesting islands in the far north of the archipelago. Everything was burnt down during a Russian invasion in 1719. The lighthouse was rebuilt in the 19th century and it's a well-known landmark. It

became a popular resort in the early 20th century. It's noted for its traditional village and chapel, and has fine sandy beaches and good swimming from the rocks.

Arholma has a summer café, a shop, a simple camping ground and bike rental. **Vandrarnhem Arholma** (☎ 0176-560 18; beds Skr120; ☎ yr-round) is a pleasant STF hostel in a renovated barn; advance booking is essential.

You can take bus 640 from Stockholm Tekniska Höskolan to Norrtälje, then 636 to Simpås (two to six daily), followed by a 20-minute ferry crossing to the island (Skr30).

ÄNGSÖ

This island, 15km south of Norrtälje, was declared a national park as early as 1909, despite being only 1.5km long and 600m wide. It is characterised by meadows, virgin woodland and magnificent displays of wild flowers (especially in spring). You may also see ospreys, sea eagles and great-crested grebes.

You can't stay overnight in the park, but there are boat trips (from Furusund) and guided walks; contact **Norrtälje tourist office** (☎ 0176-719 90) for current details. Bus 621 runs every hour or two (fewer at weekends) from T-Danderyds sjukhus (Stockholm) to Norrtälje, and buses 632/634 run three or four times daily from Norrtälje to Furusund. Alternatively, there are boats from Stockholm and Vaxholm to Furusund (Skr100).

SIARÖFÖRTET

The tiny island of Kyrkogårdsön, in the important sea lane just north of Ljusterö (40km due northeast of Stockholm), may be only 400m long but it's one of the most fascinating islands in the archipelago.

After the outbreak of WWI, military authorities decided that the Vaxholm Kastell wasn't good enough and, in 1916, construction of a new fort began on Kyrkogårdsön. This powerful defence facility, Siaröfortet, was never used in anger. Renovated in 1996, it's now open as a **museum** (admission free) and a visit is highly recommended. You'll see the officers' mess, kitchen, sleeping quarters and tunnels, plus two impressive 15.2cm cannons (they're trained on passing Viking Line ferries!) There are no fixed opening times; contact the STF hostel to arrange a tour.

STF Vandrarnhem Siaröfortet (☎ 54 24 30 90; beds Skr165; ☎ May-Sep) is an excellent STF hostel in the old soldiers' barracks. Canoe

hire and breakfast are available; advance booking is recommended.

Waxholmsbolaget ferries to Siaröfortet depart from Strömkajen in Stockholm and sail to Siaröfortet via Vaxholm once or twice daily. The journey takes 1½ hours from Stockholm, or 50 minutes from Vaxholm (Skr100 and Skr90 respectively).

FINNHAMN

This 900m-long island, northeast of Stockholm, has rocky cliffs and a small beach with good swimming opportunities. Finnhamn is fairly trendy, attracting wealthy visitors from Stockholm and beyond. If you want to escape or if accommodation is booked up, you can camp in the woods.

Vandrarnhem Finnhamn (☎ 54 24 62 12; info@finnhamn.nu; dm Skr230; ☎ yr-round) is an STF hostel in a large converted warehouse, with boats available to hire. It's the largest hostel in the archipelago; advance booking is essential. The **Finnhamn Café** (☎ 54 24 64 04) serves good meals, and has a lovely view.

You can sail with **Waxholmsbolaget** (Map p80; ☎ 679 58 30) from Strömkajen (Stockholm) to Finnhamn, via Vaxholm, up to five times daily (Skr115, two hours). **Cinderella Båtarna** (Map p80; ☎ 58 71 40 50) also sails here daily from Strandvägen in Stockholm (Skr125).

SANDÖN

Sandön is 2.5km long and has superb sandy beaches that are reminiscent of the Mediterranean on a sunny day. Sandhamn is the northern settlement on the island, but the best beaches are at Trovill, near the southern tip. The wooden houses and narrow alleys of Sandhamn are worth exploring too. However, the island is a popular destination for partygoers and wealthy sailors – many regattas start or finish here. As a result of this, the place is rather expensive and it is best visited just as a day trip. Camping is prohibited.

Sandhamns Vårdshus (☎ 57 15 30 51; s/d from Skr550/850) first opened in 1672 and still serves good food. Popular **Dykarbaren** (☎ 57 15 35 54; mains around Skr140) is a fashionable restaurant/bar just 50m from the quay, with lunch specials from Skr75.

Waxholmsbolaget (☎ 679 58 30) sails from Strömkajen to Sandhamn, via Vaxholm, one to four times daily (Skr115, two hours). **Cinderella Båtarna** (☎ 58 71 40 50) do the same run regularly from Strandvägen (Skr125).

Strömma Kanalbolaget (☎ 58 71 40 00) runs tours from Nybroplan to Sandhamn daily between mid-June and mid-August (one way/return Skr130/225), departing at 10am and returning at 6pm (with two hours at Sandhamn). The price includes a one-hour guided walking tour around Sandhamn.

UTÖ

Utö is a delightful island in the southern section of the archipelago – it's 13km long and up to 4km wide. The road and track network make it popular with cyclists.

You can get a reasonable sketch map of the island from the **tourist office** (☎ 50 15 74 10; ☹ 10am–4pm Mon–Fri Apr–Sep), found in a small cabin by the guest harbour at Gruvbryggan, also known as Gruvbyn (the northernmost village). When the tourist office is closed, ask at the *vårdshus*, which is just up the hill.

Sights & Activities

Most of the sights are at the northern end of the island, near Gruvbryggan. The most unusual is Sweden's oldest iron mine, which opened in 1150 but closed in 1879. The three pits are now flooded – the deepest is Nyköpingsgruvan (215m). The **mining museum** (opposite the *vårdshus*) keeps variable hours, so check locally. The well-preserved, 18th-century **miners' houses** on Lurgatan are worth a look, and the **windmill** (☹ 11am–3pm) is fun. The best **sandy beach** is on the north coast, it's a 10 minute walk from the *vårdshus* in the direction of Kroka. To see the **glaciated rock slabs** on the east coast, walk for about 20 minutes through the forest towards Rävstavig.

Sleeping & Eating

Open from May to September, the **STF hostel** (☎ 50 42 03 15; receptionen@uto-varldshus.se; Gruvbryggan; dm Skr200), associated with the nearby *vårdshus*, is in a former summer house. Reception and meals are at the *vårdshus*.

Utö Vårdshus (☎ 50 42 03 00; receptionen@uto-varldshus.se; 2-person chalets with breakfast per person low/high season Skr800/1000) This is the only hotel on the island and isn't cheap, but facilities are good and there's the bonus of the on-site **restaurant**, considered the best in the archipelago. Lunch specials are about Skr80, à la carte dinner mains around Skr200. There are also a couple of popular summer bars here.

You may prefer to try the more down-to-earth café **Dannekrogen** (☎ 50 15 70 79), near

the Gruvbryggan harbour, or even the bakery and supermarket.

Getting There & Around

The easiest way to reach Utö is to take the *pendeltåg* (commuter train) from Stockholm Centralstationen to Västerhaninge, then bus 846 to Årsta Havsbad. From there, Waxholmsbolaget ferries leave up to a dozen times a day for Utö (Skr65, 45 minutes), but make sure you know whether your boat stops at Spränga or Gruvbryggan first. Ask at the **guest harbour** (☎ 50 15 74 10) about bike hire (from Skr75 per day).

KAPPELLSKÄR

Kapellskär is so tiny it can't really even be described as a village – there's little to it except for a camping ground, hostel and large ferry terminal. The coastline, however, is spectacular, dotted with small, still-working fishing villages, and the surrounding countryside is delightfully pastoral. Most people come here for ferry connections to Finland and Estonia; see p328 for details.

There is also a small memorial for the 852 passengers killed in the Estonia ferry disaster of September 1994; it's up the hill across the main road from the ferry terminal.

There's an **STF hostel** (☎ 0176-441 69; Riddersholm; beds Skr140-150; ☹ yr-round) off the E18, 2km west of the ferry terminal; you'll need to book in advance if you plan to stay outside of the peak summer season (mid-June to mid-August), and there's no restaurant, so bring your own food.

Viking Line's direct bus from Stockholm Cityterminalen to meet the ferries costs Skr65, but if you have an SL pass, take bus 640 or 644 from T-Tekniska Högskolan to Norrtälje and change to 631, which runs every two hours or so (infrequently at weekends).

TYRESTA NATIONAL PARK

Some of the best hiking and wilderness scenery can be found in the 4900-hectare Tyresta National Park, only 20km southeast of Stockholm. The park, established in 1993, is noted for its virgin forest, which includes 300-year-old pine trees. This is a beautiful area, with rocky outcrops, small lakes, marshes and a wide variety of birdlife, and it's an easy, worthwhile trip if you're looking for a reason to get out of the city and into nature.

At the southwestern edge of the park is **Nationalparkernas Hus** (National Parks Visitors Centre; ☎ 08-745 33 94; adult/child Skr30/15; ☹ Tue–Sun). Here you can discover all of Sweden's national parks (28 at the time of research) through exhibitions and slide shows, but be sure to check out the centre itself – it is built in the shape of Sweden, complete with all 41 corners! There are even 'lakes' on the floor, indicated by different stones.

Ask for the national park leaflet in English and the *Tyresta Nationalpark och Naturreservat* leaflet in Swedish, which includes an excellent topographical map at 1:25,000 scale. From the visitors centre there are various trails into the park. *Sörmlandsleden* track cuts across 6km of the park on its way to central Stockholm.

Access to the park is easy. Take the *pendeltåg* to Haninge centrum (also called Handen station) on the Nynäshamn line, then change to bus 807 or 834. Some buses run all the way to the park, others stop at Svartbäcken (2km west of Tyresta village).

SIGTUNA

One of the cutest and most historically relevant villages in the area lies just 40km northwest of Stockholm. Sigtuna, the most pleasant and important historical town near the city, was founded around AD 980. It's the oldest surviving town in Sweden, and the main drag, Stora gatan, is probably Sweden's oldest main street.

Around the year 1000, Olof Skötkonung ordered the minting of Sweden's first coins in the town. Ancient church ruins and rune stones are scattered everywhere – there are about 150 runic inscriptions in the area, most dating from the early 11th century, typically located beside ancient roads.

Most of Sigtuna's original buildings were consumed in devastating late-medieval fires, but the main church survived and there are many quaint streets and wooden buildings still following the medieval town plan.

INFORMATION

The friendly **tourist office** (☎ 59 25 00 20; turism@sigtuna.se; Stora gatan 33; ☹ 10am–6pm Mon–Sat, 11am–5pm Sun Jun–Aug, 10am–5pm Mon–Fri, 11am or noon–3pm Sat & Sun rest of yr) is in an 18th-century wooden house, Drakegården. There are banks and supermarkets nearby, also on Stora gatan.

SIGHTS

During medieval times there were seven stone-built churches in Sigtuna, but most have since crumbled. The ruins of the churches of **St Per** and **St Lars** can be seen off Prästgatan. **St Olof church** was built in the early 12th century, but was ruined by the 17th century. The adjacent **Mariakyrkan** (☹ 9am–4pm Sep–May, 9am–8pm Jun–Aug) is the oldest brick building in the area – it was a Dominican monastery church from around 1250, but became the parish church in 1529 after the monastery was demolished by Gustav Vasa. There are restored medieval paintings inside and free summer concerts are held weekly.

Sigtuna Museum (☎ 59 78 38 70; Stora gatan 55; adult/child Skr20/free; ☹ noon–4pm Tue–Sun Sep–May, noon–4pm Jun–Aug) looks after several attractions in the town, all of them on Stora gatan and near the tourist office. **Lundströmska gården** (adult/child Skr10/5; ☹ noon–4pm Jun–Aug, noon–4pm Sat & Sun Sep) is an early-20th-century, middle-class home and adjacent general store, complete with period furnishings and goods. **Sigtuna rådhus** (admission free; ☹ noon–4pm Jun–Aug, noon–4pm Sat & Sun Sep), the smallest town hall in Scandinavia, dates from 1744 and was designed by the mayor himself. It's on the town square opposite the tourist office. The main museum building has displays of gold jewellery, runes, coins and loot brought home from abroad.

The magnificent private palace **Steninge Slott** (☎ 59 25 95 00), 7km east of Sigtuna, dates from 1705 and was designed by Nicodemus Tessin the Younger. On the guided palace tour (Skr55; noon and 2pm daily in summer), you'll see luxuriously ornate interiors; in the beautiful grounds there is also the excellent **Cultural Centre** (gallery tour Skr75; ☹ yr-round). In a converted stone barn dating from the 1870s, you'll find an art gallery, glassworks, a candle-making area, café and restaurant.

Another palace, **Rosersbergs Slott** (☎ 59 03 50 39; tours adult/child Skr50/25; ☹ 1am–3pm mid-May–Aug), is on Mälaren lake about 9km southeast of Sigtuna. It was constructed in the 1630s and used as a royal residence from 1762 to 1860; the interior has excellent furnishings from the Empire period (1790–1820) and Queen Hedvig Elisabeth Charlotta's conservation room is quite extraordinary.

Best in a light snow, **Skokloster Slott** (☎ 018-38 60 77; adult/child Skr40/20), around 11km due northwest of Sigtuna (26km by road), is an exceptionally fine whitewashed baroque

palace with a fragile beauty unusual in Sweden. It was built between 1654 and 1671 and has impressive stucco ceilings and collections of furniture, textiles, art and arms. There's a small café at the palace. Guided tours run daily from April to October; it's a good idea to call in advance to check times, as the schedule is complicated and ever-shifting.

Skoklosterspelen is a popular medieval festival held at Skokloster Slott. It lasts five days in mid-July and includes around 350 performances, such as tournaments, exhibitions, concerts, 18th-century activities.

The nearby **motor museum** (☎ 018-38 61 06; adult/child Skr50/25; ☹ noon-4pm May-Sep), adjacent to the *wårdshus* opposite the palace, is one of dozens in Sweden that has a well-preserved collection of vintage cars and motorcycles.

SLEEPING & EATING

Sigtuna Stadshotell (☎ 59 25 0100; info@sigtunastads hotell.se; Stora Nygatan 3; s/d Skr1600/2150, discounted to Skr1550/2150) The pick of the town's lodgings is the central, newly renovated, Sigtuna Stadshotell. The décor is all pale, sleek and very stylish, and the upmarket restaurant and bar areas have lovely lake views.

Sigtunastiftelsens Gästhem (☎ 59 25 89 00; Manfred Björkquists allé 2-4; s/d Skr800/950) This attractive, imposing place is run by a Christian foundation and looks like a cross between a cloister and a medieval fortress, but rooms are much cosier than that would imply.

Stora Brännbo (☎ 59 25 75 00; Stora Brännbovägen 2-6; s/d from Skr900/1000, discounted to Skr450/650) This is a large hotel and conference centre just north of the town centre.

Tant Brunn Kaffeutaga (☎ 59 25 09 34; Laurentii gränd) In a small alley off Stora Nygatan, this is a delightful 17th-century café set around a pretty courtyard. It's well worth seeking out for its home-baked bread and pastries; just watch your head as you walk in, as the roof beams sag rather dangerously.

Farbror Blå Café & Kök (☎ 59 25 60 50; Stora torget 14; mains Skr100-145) This central café, adjacent to the town hall, does a variety of homey dishes, including salads and burgers, as well as cheaper snacks. It's the 'uncle' (*farbror*) to the 'aunt' of Tant Brunn (above); both names are taken from a popular children's story.

GETTING THERE & AROUND

Travel connections are easy from Stockholm. Take a local train to Märsta, from where there

are frequent buses to Sigtuna (570 or 575). Bus 883 runs every hour or two from Uppsala to Sigtuna. To get to Rosersbergs Slott, take the SL *pendeltåg* train to Rosersberg, then walk the final 2km to the palace (sign-posted). For Skokloster, take an hourly SJ train to Bålsta, then the infrequent bus 894.

Strömma Kanalbolaget (☎ 58714000; www.strommakanalbolaget.com) offers full-day cruises four times a week from June to August between Stockholm and Uppsala via Sigtuna and Skokloster. The price (from Skr600) includes lunch, dinner and guided tours; with 1½ hours in Sigtuna and 1¾ hours at Skokloster.

MARIEFRED

☎ 0159

Tiny, lakeside Mariefred is a pretty little village that draws visitors to its impressive castle, Gripsholm Slott.

INFORMATION

Visit the **tourist office** (☎ 297 90; malarturism@strangnas.se, www.mariefred.se; ☹ Jun-Aug, Mon-Fri Sep-May) and pick up a map and notes (in English) for a self-guided walking tour of the idyllic village centre, with cobblestone streets and many 18th-century buildings.

SIGHTS

Gripsholm Slott (☎ 101 94; adult/child Skr60/30; ☹ 10am-4pm mid-May-mid-Sep, noon-3pm Sat & Sun mid-Sep-mid-May) is the epitome of castles, with its round towers, spires and drawbridge. It contains some of the state portrait collection, which dates from the 16th century and you can explore the well-decorated rooms.

Originally built in the 1370s, Gripsholm Slott passed into crown hands by the early 15th century. In 1526, Gustav Vasa took over and ordered the demolition of the adjacent monastery. A new castle with walls up to 5m thick was built using materials from the monastery, but extensions, conversions and repairs continued for years. The oldest 'untouched' room is Karl IX's bedchamber, dating from the 1570s. The castle was abandoned in 1715, but it was renovated and extended during the reign of Gustav III (especially between 1773 and 1785). The moat was filled in and, in 1730 and later in 1827, two 11th-century rune stones were found. These stones stand by the access road and are well worth a look; one has a Christian

VISITING ÅLAND

Although there's plenty to keep you busy in Stockholm, you might be interested in catching a boat across Åland (popular with local day-trippers). Technically Finnish, the Åland islands (population 25,400) are unique and autonomous, with their own flag and culture. This goes back to a League of Nations decision in 1921, after a Swedish-Finnish dispute over sovereignty. Åland took its own flag in 1954 and has issued stamps (prized by collectors) since 1984. Both the euro and Swedish krona are legal tender here. A number of Swedish dialects are spoken, and few Ålanders speak Finnish.

Although Åland joined the EU along with Finland in 1995, it was granted a number of exemptions, including duty-free tax laws which allowed the essential ferry services between the islands and mainland Finland and Sweden to continue operating profitably.

The islands are popular for summer cycling and camping holidays; there are medieval churches, ruins and fishing villages to explore. The capital (and only town) of Åland is Mariehamn. In summer, it is crowded with tourists but still manages to retain its village flavour and the marinas at the harbours are quite pretty when loaded up with gleaming sailing boats. The main pedestrian street, Torggatan, is a colourful and crowded hive of activity, and there are some fine museums – enough to allow a leisurely day's exploration. Åland's most striking attraction is the medieval castle, Kastelholm, in Sund 20km northeast of Mariehamn. You can only visit on guided tours, which run frequently (in English) from June to August.

For more information visit **Sweden House** (Hamngatan 27, Stockholm), where there's a travel agency, specialising in the islands. The main companies operating between Sweden and Åland (and on to Finland) are **Viking Line** (www.vikingline.aland.fi) and **Silja Line** (www.silja.com), while **Eckerö Linjen** (www.eckerolinjen.fi), **Anedin Linjen** (www.anedinlinjen.com) and **Birka Cruises** (www.birkacruises.com) operate only between Åland and Sweden. Once on the islands, you can cycle almost anywhere using the bridges or the network ferries.

cross, while the other describes an expedition against the Saracens. The castle was restored again in the 1890s, the moat was cleared and the drawbridge rebuilt.

You can also visit nearby **Grafikens Hus** (☎ 231 60; adult/child Skr50/free; ☹ 11am-5pm May-Aug, 11am-5pm Tue-Sun Sep-Apr), which is a centre for contemporary graphic art and printmaking.

SLEEPING & EATING

STF Vandrarhem Mariefred (☎ 367 00; receptionen.gripsholm@redcross.se; beds Skr190; ☹ mid-Jun-mid-Aug) This hostel with excellent facilities is only 500m west of the castle in lovely grounds. It's a Red Cross educational centre for most of the year, but during summer break the student lodgings are turned into hostel accommodation.

Gripsholms Vårdshus & Hotell (☎ 347 50; info@gripsholms-varldshus.se; Kyrkogatan 1; s/d from Skr1400/1600) This place opened in 1609, this is Sweden's oldest inn. This charming and elegant place has 45 individually furnished rooms, full of antiques, and many rooms have great views of the castle. There is also a highly regarded restaurant here, with a beautiful setting and main courses for around Skr250.

Gripsholms Slottscfé (☎ 100 23; meals Skr65-160)

In the gardens by the castle, this is a good place for coffee and cake, or for light meals such as quiche, salad or sandwiches.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Mariefred isn't on the main railway line – the nearest station is at Läggesta, 3km west, with hourly trains from Stockholm. A **museum railway** (☎ 210 06; one way/return Skr40/50) from Läggesta to Mariefred runs on weekends from mid-May to September (daily from midsummer to mid-August), hourly during the day; call to check schedule. Bus 304 runs hourly from Läggesta to Mariefred.

The steamship *S/S Mariefred* (☎ 08-669 88 50) departs from Stadshusbron (Stockholm) for Mariefred, daily from mid-June to mid-August, and weekends only from mid-May to mid-June and mid-August to mid-September (round-trip Skr250). A round-trip ticket from Stockholm, including an SJ train, the museum railway, admission to the castle and *S/S Mariefred*, costs around Skr350 one way and is available at tourist offices.

© Lonely Planet Publications. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'