

# SOUTH SWEDEN FULL CIRCLE

## ITINERARY

DAY

**1**

### DAY 1: WELCOME TO SWEDEN

This tour starts at the airport, where you are met and transferred to your accommodation in the heart of Stockholm. If you arrive early, we recommend getting My Stockholm Pass, which gives you free admission to a total of 75 experiences, free sightseeing tours, discounts to a number of restaurants, shops and much more. A visit to the Vasa Ship Museum and the City Hall, with its famous Blue Hall, where the Nobel Prize banquet is held each year, is highly recommended.

Spend the night in Stockholm.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Stockholm - Stockholm City Hall - Vasa Museum

DAY

**2**

### DAY 2: CASTLES ON THE WAY TO ÖREBRO

From Stockholm, you will drive west through an area famous for its many castles and manor houses, and explore the 16th-century Gripsholm Castle—enjoy the art exhibition inside and the castle's well-preserved interiors from different eras. You may also want to take a leisure ride on the train at Mariefred Railroad Museum, dating back to the end of the 19th century. Continue towards Eskilstuna, where you can visit the Rademachersmedjorna, a 17th-century blacksmith community, where the smiths are still busy with their craft.

Head on to Örebro where you will spend the night.

*Driving distance approx. 210 km*

*If your car rental pick up is on a Sunday or public holiday, please note that the car rental agency doesn't open their office until 15:00 in the afternoon. We might be able to arrange pickups outside these hours against an extra fee or assist you in rearranging your tour to make it fit. Please contact us for details.*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Gripsholm Castle - Mariefred Railroad Museum - Rademachersmedjorna Blacksmith Community

DAY

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### DAY 3: SCENIC ROUTE TO KARLSTAD

After a hearty breakfast, see the open-air museum in Wadköping, with its beautiful old buildings, craftspeople and shops. Also visit the 14th-century Örebro Castle and join a guided tour to learn about its remarkable past. After lunch start your drive west. If you are up for it the Nobel Museum in Karlskoga is well worth a visit and don't miss the 15 meters high Picasso sculpture in Kristinehamn, donated to the city by the artist in 1964. Kristinehamn also makes a great destination for an afternoon break.

Continue to Karlstad where you will spend the night.

*Driving distance approx. 115 km*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Nobel Museum - Picasso Sculpture by Kristinehamn - Wadköping Museum Village - Örebro Castle

DAY

**4**

### DAY 4: KARLSTAD - THE CITY OF SUNSHINE

The city of Karlstad, also known as the city of sunshine, lies on the river delta where two of Sweden's great natural waterways meet; the 500 km long Klara River and the mighty Lake Vänern, with its archipelago of 22,000 islands. Where river meets lake, you can enjoy this unique delta environment on its hiking trails or on a boat trip. Karlstad is also home to Värmland's Museum, containing the world's premier exhibition of the Värmland artists, as well as international artists and a fascinating multimedia presentation of the province Värmland's history. We also recommend a visit to Sangrundsparken, with its new sun terraces and expanded gardens.

After leaving Karlstad you will continue to Trollhättan where the next two nights will be spent. If the weather allows why not stop for a swim on the way?

*Driving distance approx. 175 km*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Karlstad - Lake Vänern - Sandgrundsparken - Värmlands Museum

DAY

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## DAY 5: GÖTA CANAL OR ISLAND SERENITY

Today you have the whole day to explore the surroundings of Trollhättan. Explore the impressive locks of Göta Canal. The Göta Canal is one of the most remarkable waterways in the world and one of the communication links between Sweden's two largest cities. The canal itself is 190 km long, most of it dug out by hand. The three separate Trollhättan lock terraces create an idyllic and green park area and here one finds lock segments from 1800, 1844, and 1916. The four locks that are in use today were inaugurated in 1916, and have a difference in level of 32 m. This is also the starting point for the boat trips offered in the summertime. Another place of interest is the Canal Museum that depicts the history of the Trollhätte-Canal by means of boat models, divers, and film presentations.

If you want to get out from the city a visit to the islands Orust or Tjörn is a good choice. Both islands offer great nature and culture and opportunities to find your own little hideaway for a swim in the sea.

*Driving distance if visiting Orust or Tjörn approx 165 km*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Göta Canal - Göta Canal Exhibitions - Trollhättan Locks & Trollhättan Falls

DAY

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## DAY 6: GOING TO GOTHENBURG

Enjoy a generous breakfast buffet before it is time to get going again. Drive south towards Gothenburg, Sweden's second largest city. You could take a detour to Marstrand, also referred to as Sweden's very own little St. Tropez, especially during the great sail races that takes place here. Enjoy a nice lunch or take a dip in the ocean from the cliffs. When continuing to Gothenburg, make sure you don't miss the Bohus Fort with its impressive walls and dark dungeons. If you arrive early to Gothenburg we highly recommend a visit to the amusement park Liseberg, located in the middle of the city or a stroll at "Avenyn" the main shopping and restaurant street.

Spend the night in Gothenburg

*Driving distance approx. 80 km (with detour to Marstrand approx. 125 km)*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Bohus Fortress - Liseberg Amusement Park - Marstrand

DAY

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## DAY 7: DOWN THE WEST COAST

Spend the first part of the day in Gothenburg, shopping, sightseeing or just relaxing. We recommend the Göteborg tourist card, which gives you free admission to city trams and attractions such as museums and the Liseberg amusement park. You can also take a guided boat tour on the canals of Gothenburg.

After lunch, drive to Halmstad where you will stay the night.

*Driving distance approx. 140 km*

*Driving distance approx. 140 km*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Gothenburg - Liseberg Amusement Park

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## DAY 8: SOUTH SWEDEN IN MINIATURE

For wildlife explorers and anyone who likes to go for a swim, the island Hallands Väderö is well worth a visit. The ferry from Torekov takes only 30 minutes and on the island guided tours and seal-watching tours are available (needs to be booked well in advance), as well as sandy beaches and rocks to jump in the deep blue from.

Back on main land make a stop at the Fredriksdal Museums and Gardens in Helsingborg. This is the province Skåne in miniature with 360,000 square metres of unique settings, buildings and gardens. Here, the history and diversity of the countryside are carefully kept alive. Take an explanatory walk, watch the animals grazing or join the manor maids for an interesting tour. Buy a bag of old fashioned sweets in the old town quarter, or your favorite rose in the flower shop. Find answers to your questions on nature or folklore, or just lie back and relax in a hammock.

After the visit, continue to Malmö where you will stay the night.

*Driving distance approx. 180 km*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Fredriksdal Museums and Gardens - Hallands Väderö

DAY  
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## DAY 9: WONDERFUL COPENHAGEN

After breakfast we recommend a visit to Lilla Torg. This marketplace is a local meeting point and one of the coziest places in Malmö with lots of restaurants and cafes. The rest of the day can be spent either in Malmö or you can drive over the 7845 meter long Öresund Bridge for a visit to Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark. Here you can visit all the main sights, such as the famous Little Mermaid statue, a symbol of the city, the National Museum and Christiansborg Palace. After a day in Denmark drive to the charming city Ystad.

Spend the night in Ystad.

*Driving distance approx. 140 km*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Christiansborg Palace - Lilla Torg - Little Mermaid - Øresund Bridge

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## DAY 10: SWEDEN'S SOUTH COAST

After a nice breakfast, take a look around Ystad, one of the most picturesque cities in Sweden with more than 300 idyllic half timbered houses. Today's drive takes you northeast and the first stop is Ales Stenar, a giant stone formation more than 1,000 years old. As you drive along the coast, don't miss Glimmingehus, one of the best-preserved medieval forts in Scandinavia, dating back to 1499 and the 13th-century village of Mörrum, known for its river salmon, and pay a visit to the salmon museum, Laxens hus, for some historic information. In Karlshamn there are many nice restaurants suitable for lunch and you can also visit the Swedish Punsch museum, containing exhibits from one of the two largest Punsch factories in the 1800s. You can also see how snus (snuff) and cigars were made in the tobacco storehouse in the days when tobacco was grown in the area.

Continue north and enter the Kingdom of Crystal where you will spend the next two nights.

*Driving distance approx. 300 km*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Ales Stenar - Glimmingehus - Karlshamns Museum - Laxens hus - The Salmons house - Swedish Punsch Museum - Ystad

DAY

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**DAY 11: THE KINGDOM OF CRYSTAL**

Drive around the “Kingdom of Crystal” (Glasriket) and visit some of its most famous glassworks. There are more than 50 glassworks in this area, and many of them are open to visitors. If you are lucky, you can find a really nice souvenir in one of the glasswork to prices way less than the souvenir shops in the cities. Stay the night here.

Is crystal not your thing? No problem, you can drive to the city of Kalmar, beautifully situated by the Baltic Sea. Visit the Kalmar Castle, strategically important to Swedish defense in the past. And from here why not take the bridge over to Öland, Sweden’s second largest island. The options on Öland are unlimited, visit one of Sweden’s most beautiful beaches, shop in Borgholm or visit the Öland Zoo with its large aqua park.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Borgholm - Kalmar Castle - Kingdom of Crystal - Öland Zoo

DAY

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**DAY 12: FAIRYTALES AND CANDY CANES**

Enjoy another wonderful Swedish breakfast before it is time to drive north towards Vimmerby. This is the home town of the world famous Swedish author Astrid Lindgren. Here you will find a specially built village for Pippi Longstocking and other famous characters featured in her books. On the way north we also recommend a stop in Gränna where the striped candy canes were invented 1859. Visit one of the shops and see how this delicious candy is made. End the drive in Vadstena, beautifully situated by Lake Vättern. In the centre of Vadstena, right beside Lake Vättern, you will find Vadstena Castle, one of Sweden’s best-preserved Renaissance castles.

Spend the night in Vadstena.

*Driving distance approx. 335 km*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Astrid Lindgren’s World - Gränna - Vadstena Castle

DAY

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**DAY 13: BACK TO STOCKHOLM**

See the sights around Vadstena Castle, the Cloister and the little 12th-century town itself before starting the drive back to Stockholm. We recommend a stop in Linköping to visit the open-air museum “Old Linköping,” which shows how a small town in Sweden looked like hundred years ago. You can visit the houses and see how Swedish people lived in the old days. A nice stop for lunch would be in the pretty little town of Trosa by the coastline. You can also visit the 18th-century Tullgarn Castle, which features some of the most beautiful interiors from the period. At arrival to Stockholm, return the rental car and check in to your centrally located hotel. Rest of the day is free to explore Stockholm with its many restaurants, cafes and bars.

Spend the night in Stockholm.

*Driving distance approx. 265 km*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Stockholm - Tullgarn Palace - Vadstena Abbey & Museum - Vadstena Castle

DAY

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**DAY 14: DEPARTURE**

Enjoy one last Scandinavian breakfast before it is time to check out from your hotel. Transfer to Arlanda Airport is provided by private taxi. Passengers departing with the afternoon flight will have time for some last-minute shopping, a perfect way to end your holiday.

**Note:** *Extra days and activities in Stockholm before or after the tour can easily be added to this package; contact us for details.*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Stockholm

*Whatever your needs, we are here to help. If you have any questions about our packages or services, please do not hesitate to contact us.*

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