STOCKHOLM AND A SLICE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

ITINERARY

**DAY 1: A COOL START IN STOCKHOLM**

Your holiday begins at Stockholm-Arlanda Airport where your driver waits to greet you and escort you to your hotel in the heart of Sweden’s remarkable capital.

Being a city spread over 14 islands, there is no shortage of scenic waterfront to explore by foot. From your hotel, you’ll find that many attractions, restaurants and pubs are within easy walking distance. Suggested attractions include the Vasa Ship Museum or City Hall’s famous Blue Hall, site of the annual Nobel Prize banquet.

This evening it’s time to experience Stockholm’s coolest bar – ABSOLUT ICEBAR STOCKHOLM. Here in the world’s first permanent ice bar, the temperature is a cool -5°C all year round, and the entire interior, including the glasses, is made from 100% pure, clear ice from the Torne River in Swedish Lapland. The rest of your evening is free to explore the city’s many cafes, restaurants and nightclubs.

Spend the night in central Stockholm.

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

**DAY 2: STOCKHOLM IN A NUTSHELL**

The morning starts with a Stockholm sightseeing tour (2.5 hours), taking you to the most significant sights in the city, including the Old Town and Djurgården, the king’s ancient hunting grounds. This combined bus and boat tour really gives you Stockholm in a nutshell! After the tour we highly recommend spending more time in Old Town with its many narrow alleys, historic buildings and handcraft boutiques.

Spend another night in central Stockholm.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Djurgården - Fjällgatan - Gamla Stan (Old town of Stockholm) - Royal Palace of Stockholm - Stockholm City Hall

**DAY 3: DOWN THE SOUTH COAST**

After breakfast it’s time to pick up your rental car and start you drive south towards the coastal town of Västervik. About 100 km south of Stockholm your drive takes you through Nyköping, one of Sweden’s oldest towns founded in 1187. Here, you can stop for a visit to the picture-perfect Nyköping Castle overlooking the river.

Your next leg of the journey takes you to the Göta Canal, the remarkable 190-km waterway that connects Sweden’s two largest cities. At the small city of Söderköping, take a break to watch boats pass through the canal’s impressive locks and visit the Canal Harbour with its many boutiques, exhibitions, handicraft shops and Sweden’s largest ice cream shop, Smultronstället—a real treat for the taste buds!
Afterwards, continue down the coast to Västervik, your final destination for the evening. This idyllic small town offers beautiful views of its archipelago, delicious locally-produced food and attractions like the Västervik-Hultsfred narrow-gauge railway, a living museum depicting how a rural train journey was undertaken some 40-50 years ago.

Spend the night in Västervik.

Driving distance approx. 285 km / 177 miles.

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:** Canal Harbour / Göta Canal - Göta Canal - Nyköping Castle - Smultronstallet - Västervik-Hultsfred narrow-gauge railway

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**DAY 4: FAIRYTALES & CANDY CANES**

Drive west towards Vimmerby, the hometown of world-famous Swedish author Astrid Lindgren. Here you will find a theme village featuring Pippi Longstocking and other famous characters from Lindgren’s books. On the way north we also recommend a stop in Gränna, the town where the striped candy cane was invented in 1859. Visit one of the local confectionery shops and see how this delicious candy is made before heading to Vadstena, a small 12th-century town beautifully situated by Lake Vättern. In the centre of Vadstena, right beside the lake, you will find Vadstena Castle, one of Sweden’s best-preserved Renaissance era castles.

Spend the night in Vadstena.

Driving distance approx. 245 km / 152 miles.

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

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**DAY 5: COUNTRYSIDE SCENERY TO ÖREBRO**

Visit more of the sights around Vadstena Castle, including the Cloister, before starting your drive towards Örebro. We also recommend seeing the Sigurd rock carving, created over 1,000 years ago. Then continue east to Mariefred through an area famous for its many castles and manor houses, including the 16th-century Gripsholm Castle, famous for its exquisite art exhibitions and well-preserved interiors from different eras.

On arrival to Örebro, head to the open-air museum in Wadköping with its beautiful old buildings, craftspeople and shops. Another great option for history buffs is a visit to the 14th-century Örebro Castle, where you can join a guided tour to learn about its remarkable past.

Spend the night in Örebro.

Driving distance approx. 115 km / 71 miles (with detour to Linköping approx. 175 km / 109 miles).

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Old Linköping - Vadstena Abbey & Museum - Vadstena Castle - Wadköping Museum Village - Örebro Castle

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**DAY 6: THE CASTLE ROUTE TO STOCKHOLM**

For the last leg of your trip, drive towards Eskilstuna and pay a visit to Rademachersmedjorna, a 17th-century blacksmith community. We also recommend seeing the Sigurd rock carving, created over 1,000 years ago. Then continue east to Mariefred through an area famous for its many castles and manor houses, including the 16th-century Gripsholm Castle, famous for its exquisite art exhibitions and well-preserved interiors from different eras.
Upon return to Stockholm, drop off your rental car and check in to your centrally located hotel. Then the rest of the evening is yours to enjoy the capital city and its dazzling nightlife!

Spend the night in central Stockholm.

Driving distance approx. 210 km / 130 miles.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Gripsholm Castle - Rademachersmedjorna Blacksmith Community - The Sigurd Carving

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**DAY 7: DEPARTURE**

Enjoy one last Scandinavian breakfast before checking out of your hotel. When it's time to depart, transfer to Arlanda Airport is provided by private taxi. Passengers departing on an afternoon flight will have time for some last-minute shopping, a perfect way to end your holiday.

**Note:** We can add activities in Stockholm or extra days before or after the tour; contact us for details.

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.

Nordic Visitor | Tel: +354 578 20 80 | info@nordicvisitor.com | nordicvisitor.com