

Stockholm is an amazing summer city, since it is built on a cluster of islands. It's never far to the ocean and you can swim right in the heart of the city if you like. It's close to the archipelago and if you want to stay in the city there are a number of activities and places worth visiting. Information about the city and its buildings are well described in guidebooks and online. Here are a few tips as a complement to the guidebooks.

Lodging

There are several hotels and youth hostels in Stockholm. Here are a few examples:
Langholmens hotel and youth hostel: www.langholmen.com

Zinkendamms youth hostel: www.zinkensdamm.com

Hotel Rival: www.rival.se Even if you don't end up staying at this hotel, their breakfast and bar at night is recommended. This hotel is one of the nicer ones in Stockholm with a great location right by Maria Square. One of the owners is no less Benny Andersson from ABBA.

To Do

In the guide books all of the Stockholm's sights are described, but since the city is built on water I strongly recommend sightseeing by boat. Most of them depart from Nybroviken or Strandvagen. For example go to: www.stromma.se

A day tour of Stockholm's coastline is also strongly recommended, if you have time – book yourself at a hotel or youth hostel on an island for a night. To see boat departures and tips on islands go to: www.waxholmsbolaget.se or www.cinderellabatarna.com

Fun and Food

When it comes to night life it's mainly the area around Stureplan in the city and Medborgarplatsen/Mariatorget on Sodermalm that are the most popular.

Here are a few Sodermalm favorites:

If you want to stay in town and the weather is beautiful on a Saturday or Sunday, walk around on Street, a market by Hornstull on Sodermalm where they each week have a new theme. For more info go to: www.streetinstockholm.se (info in English). Here you can sit by the water under a parasol and have a cup of coffee. Some nights there are also concerts and nightlife.

Don't miss the walk from Street to Arstavikens water to Skanstull. There's a great chance that you get stuck along the way on one of the coffee shops- or at "reggae-fiket", - a shed along the way where you can drink coffee in a hammock or beach chair by the water. A little further, almost by Skanstull you can find "Nyfiken Gul", a bar/outdoor restaurant where colored lights are lit and you can chose from a beer or your own choice of barbeque cooked on one of the big grills. This is an event that could actually lead to a laid back conversation despite the usually reserved Swedes.

More info by phone: +46-8-6425202.

If you are up for something else after “Nyfiken Gul”, follow the beach a little further after you passed Skanstullsbron. Over here you can find a Swedish Viking ship that has been built into a Thai restaurant/bar. On the outside seating you can dip your feet in the sand and sip Thai beer as you watch the boats go by. More info by phone: +46-8-4629483.

A little further on the doc there is a free boat that goes to “Hammarby Sjostad” and with its modern architecture is definitely worth a visit. Don’t miss a visit to the restaurant “Goteborg” on Midskeppsgatan 31, here you can sit with your legs dangling over the pier and eat or drink cocktails. More info: www.gotet.info or by phone: +46-31-139933.

Close by there is also maybe Stockholm’s most well hidden treasure “Boule & Bersa”. They are only open during sunny/nice days and even though they can be hard to find they are most definite worth a visit for a beer or some food. Don’t forget cash since this is one of the few restaurants in the city where they won’t accept credit cards.

For map go to: www.boulebersa.se/index.htm

A cozy street that has many restaurants and cafes that we can recommend is Rorstrandsgatan in Vasastaden.

Mosebackes Terrace by Mosebacke has a beautiful view over the city. It’s a popular outdoor place where you could eat or have a glass of wine. www.mosebacke.se
In the same building, but higher up there is Sodra Teatern which arranges concerts and bar nights. Their terrace is even nicer. Even from inside there is a fantastic view of the city. Right below there is “Fjallgatan”, a street where tourists are commonly taken to look at the city and eat ice cream. From Mosebacke and Sodra Teatern you are very much watching from a “front row seat” so to speak.

A variety of cultural activities to recommend

There are many museums/galleries in Stockholm. Here are a few of my private favorites:

Gallery Kontrast on Hornsgatan. www.gallerikontrast.se/

The Museum of Architecture on Skeppsholmen (don’t miss the outdoor patio, could be difficult to find so ask when you enter. Don’t get this mixed up with Museum of Modern Art’s restaurant which is not as cozy).

Moderna Museet on Skeppsholmen. www.Modernamuseet.se/

The National Museum, by the bridge to Skeppsholmen. www.nationalmuseum.se

Kulturhuset (the house of culture) on Sergels Square right in the middle of the city. Great exhibitions, often free. www.kulturhuset.stockholm.se/

Bonniers Hall of Art is a new private hall of art with an amazing coffee shop.
www.bonnierskonsthall.se

Ersta Hall of Art is probably Sweden's smallest hall of art and maybe worth a visit due to the bar "El Mundo". For more info: www.erstakonsthall.se/

Shopping

In the city most of the shops are around Drottninggatan, Kungsgatan, Hamngatan and Biblioteksgatan. Here you can find the bigger department stores mixed with smaller shops. In the other parts of town there are more of the smaller boutiques.

Read more on shopping at: www.stockholmtown.com or www.sofa.se