



Stockholm – the Rainbow Capital

From the wooden houses and bohemian working class houses up on the heights of Södermalm, down the narrow streets of cobble stone in Old Town, passing through shadows cast by the sharp church steeples and the bronze lions guarding the Royal Palace. Moving zigzag between the busy pedestrians at Sergels torg, like a human flood through modern steel and glass – walking through the lavish boulevards of Östermalm all the way out to the island arcadia of Djurgården.

Stockholm, with its more than 750 years in the making, stretches out on fourteen interconnected islands, all with their own unique characteristic, history and rich cultural life.

Despite its many islands most of the city's attractions can be reached on foot – and there's a good chance of experiencing a lot of things in a short period of time.

Sweden is one of the most liberal countries in the world when it comes to gay rights. If in some countries you have to look for a “gay friendly” bar to dare hold your boy or girlfriends hand, in Stockholm you can skip that step – if there was ever a capital city designed by gay people for gay people to enjoy, Stockholm would be it.

Predictable? No!

Dull? Never!

Boring? Haven't you been listening?

Gay life in Stockholm is like the city itself: easy accessible, hugely fun, easy on the eyes, varied, warm and welcoming.

The rainbow flag flies high all over the city, which is why Stockholm never really developed a gay district – but most of the gay scene can be found in the popular district of Södermalm and the Old Town.

So, is Stockholm the worlds gayest city? Find out for yourself!

- A city in full glory

Stockholm is a favorite destination for gays and lesbians in search of the latest trends, relaxing atmospheres and the best parties.

Visit our blog at www.visitstockholm.com/gay-lesbian for the best insights, tips and offers, or like our Facebook: “Stockholm in full glory” for all the latest news: www.facebook.com/StockholmFullGlory.

According to the site Girlports.com we are the first tourism board to make a true lesbian destination guide. On our blog there is also a Gay Guide to Stockholm. Both of these have recently been updated and improved.

We also recommend that you visit www.qx.se/english for even more suggestions.



- Where to stay

Nine hotels are members of the Stockholm Gay & Lesbian Network, from recently renovated luxurious old-timers like Grand Hôtel to our newest member, Rica Hotel Kungsgatan, located within the PUB department store!

All nine hotels are located in the city centre and have the best of Stockholm to offer: beautiful, stylish rooms, close to chic shops, hip bars and a fabulous nightlife.

Grand Hôtel was recently named Swedens “best hotel” and “best business hotel” at the World Travel Awards in London. At the same awards Berns hotel was named “best boutique hotel”.

www.stockholm-gay-lesbian-network.com/where-to-stay.

- Shop till you drop

Stockholm is a great place for shopping, and a perfect place to discover that Swedish fashion and design is so much more than skinny jeans and strangely named bookshelves from Ikea.

Different parts of the city offer different styles and designs. Visit Östermalm and indulge in tons of luxury shopping from Biblioteksgatan and eastwards, where you can find designer Efva Attlings new flagship jewelry store - or march straight to Södermalm, the “hipstified” bohemian part of the city and drown yourself in vintage and second hand shopping.

Would you like to know more? Dig deep into Stockholm Gay and Lesbian Network’s shopping guide on:

www.stockholm-gay-lesbian-network.com/shopping-guide.

- Attraction news

Sweden’s first spa inspired by the world’s oldest healthcare system, Ayurveda, has recently opened at our partner hotel **Clarion Hotel Stockholm**. In this exotic spa environment with its warm colors and unique design you can enjoy a massage with elements of both Indian and Swedish massage, try out pilates and yoga, float around in the magnificent pool with its glass roof or book the VIP-sauna – amongst many things.

If you are looking for that special Swedish atmosphere you should visit the Nordic Spa and Fitness at **Grand Hôtel**. The waters, islands and islets surrounding the city have inspired this fabulous spa. Feel the tranquility in the beautiful, summer warm pools or take a treatment that calms you down or cheers you up.

“Almost 400 years old ship celebrates its fiftieth birthday”. Confusing headline? Well, yeah. The magnificent 17th century ship Vasa sank after an embarrassingly short maiden voyage in the year 1628. 1961 the ship was successfully salvaged from the bottom of the sea, and today it is displayed at the “one of a kind” **Vasa Museum**. In 2011 it’s been exactly 50 years since the impressive warship broke the surface - something that is recognized throughout the year.

Mamma Mia, here we go again. Or, more correctly, here we go for the very first time. In 2011 the **Stockholm City Museum** introduced its newest themed city walk: the ABBA City Walk. Stroll down memory lane in the footsteps of Sweden’s largest pop group and relive Stockholm in the seventies. During the walk you will also learn more about the transformation of Stockholm City and the emergence of the Swedish “velour man”.

- What’s going on?

In the 90’s **Halloween**, a tradition previously not celebrated in Sweden, invaded our homes. During a week or so at the end of October and the beginning of November the city is overwhelmed by hot zombies and gorgeous blood suckers. Check out the [QX gay map](#) for more information.

Considering that Sweden only has a population of 9 million it is quite impressive that the **Stockholm Pride** Parade attracts about half a million spectators and 50.000 participants. With those crazy numbers it is not the least surprising that the city has hosted Europride twice. www.stockholmpride.org

The Stockholm Gay Community celebrates the queen of light – **Lucia** – in a special way on the night between December 12 and 13. Expect more than the traditional glögg (mulled wine), saffron bun and gingerbread when gay lucia goes to town.

Stockholm turns into something out of a faeries/fairy tale during Christmas time. Glistening snow and warm inviting lights flowing from every window. At the same time the air is vibrant with the sounds of parties in every nook and cranny. Look for **Pink Christmas** and you might soon find yourself in the lap of a blond Christmas elf.

If you're looking for a winter treat – besides the blond Christmas elf – then take the antique tram to Djurgården for a traditional Swedish julbord (Christmas buffet) at restaurant **Solliden**.

An old favorite have returned to Stockholm's gay nightlife. The club **Judy's**, named after actor and gay icon Judy Garland, have again opened its doors after a couple of years of silence. Open mike nights invite you to take to the stage and do standup or sing a song. Friday's are bookmarked for the club Lezzie Friday's.

Summer came and went, but Kolingborgs summer club **Sthlm Night Fever** remained. At this classic Stockholm location this nightclub offers great music and a dancebar with lounge every Wednesday.

Kling & Paymans Glory Hole is a new club at Berns, hosted by dj and drag queen Miss Inga. Glory Hole, which is a part of the larger club 2.35:1, will offer you a variety of well-known DJ's showering you in tech house all night long.

- Community information

QX is the largest LGBT-media publisher in Scandinavia with QX monthly, QX.se, Internet community Quiser.com and QX online GayMap. QX Publishing started 1995 with the aim to create communication platforms for the LGBT-community in Scandinavia. QX publishes a monthly magazine and manages the web site QX.se, covering entertainment news as well as political and cultural events.

- Restaurants

The **F12 Group** has opened three new restaurants in Stockholm this year. As usual when it comes to F12 the restaurants all have different orientations and are placed in creative environments:

Köttbaren – the meat bar – continues on the ongoing meat trend in Stockholm. Köttbaren is made up of three things: a restaurant, a boutique and a bar that all specializes in meat. The establishment is located on Tegnergatan in central Stockholm.

Ever heard of plank steak? This Hungarian dish has over the year been Swedified and is now considered a Swedish classic, much like béarnaise sauce and macaronis with falukorv (falu sausage). At **Villa Godthem** out on Djurgården plank steak became a hit the instant the restaurant re-opened its 19th century doors. This is a perfect place to spend dark autumn evenings.

Miss Voon in central Stockholm is a modern restaurant combining taste from all the Asian cuisines, but with a European basis - freshness, simplicity and a distinct character in taste. Miss Voon also has a sashimibar that serves raw fish and seafood. If you're not planning to eat, enjoy a drink at the bar.

To **find out more about what's going on in LGBT Stockholm** have a look at:

visitstockholm.com/gay-lesbian

facebook.com/StockholmInFullGlory

twitter.com/gaystockholm

twitter.com/lesbiansthlm

Pressroom and service to the travel trade

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