

Stockholm

Stockholm has a world-leading design scene, picture-book palaces and an enviable berth in the waters of an idyllic archipelago – so it's an easy city to fall for. But it's more than just looks that grace this place; there's also a crop of new restaurants that has brought variety to a once one-dimensional food scene. In the hotel industry too, recent openings have upstaged the staid options, while shops teem with Swedish-made goodies and fashion-forward brands.

Need to know

Get to grips with the basics

- 01 **Talking points:** Swedes are for the most part flawless (yet occasionally shy) English speakers; be patient and polite and you will be understood.
- 02 **Hot and cold:** Stockholm's winters are long and cold so shop and restaurant owners spend more on appealing interiors. Summers, by contrast, are effervescent, short and celebrated. Pack for the season.
- 03 **Cab concerns:** Taxis are unregulated in Sweden so a company can choose to charge you whatever it likes per kilometre. Look up and call a specific company or hail an app-powered alternative.
- 04 **To their credit:** Tap-and-go card payment is ubiquitous. Most taxis allow you to pay with plastic, as do a surprising proportion of shops and restaurants.
- 05 **Bare truths:** A hug is preferred to a kiss on first meeting (though a shake is often required in more formal circles) and straight talking preferred to the more dramatic greetings common in southern Europe.

Hotels

Swedish stop-ins

- 1 **At Six, Norrmalm**
Tasteful number

Its 343 rooms (43 of them suites) sport a sooty palette, with long emerald-coloured Carrara marble desks and Alcantara wardrobes that the designers were asked to make capacious enough to hold a Nobel Gala gown.

6 Brunkebergstorg, 111 51
+46 (0)8 5788 2800
hotelsatix.com

- 2 **Hotel Skeppsholmen, Skeppsholmen**
Never mind the barracks

Many of the pastel-hued buildings that make up this 78-room hotel are former military barracks that were built in 1699. Södermalm firm Claesson Koivisto Rune has preserved the finishes.

1 Gröna gängen, 111 86
+46 (0)8 407 2300
hotelskeppsholmen.se

- 3 **Nobis Hotel, Norrmalm**
Top location

Nobis sits on the equivalent of London's Park Lane or Mayfair: Norrmalmstorg Square. Its 201 rooms are generous in size and festooned with dark-wood floors and comfy Duxiana beds.

2-4 Norrmalmstorg, 111 86
+46 (0)8 614 1000
nobishotel.se

Food and drink

Step up to the plate

- 1 **Babette, Vasastan**
Pizza perfection

Residents flock here for a delectable marriage of Italian, French and Swedish food. The pizzas are as good as their Neapolitan rivals and best prefaced with the lemongrass almonds.

6 Roslagsgatan, 113 55
+46 (0)8 5090 2224
babette.se

- 2 **Bröderna Svedman, Vasastan**
Veggie table

Brothers Per and Ola Svedman are primarily known for fresh fruit and vegetables but there's also a counter where you can sit and enjoy something delicious – and organic – to eat.

54 Dalagatan, 113 25
+46 (0)7 0422 5899
brodernasvedman.se

- 3 **Kafé Konditori Valand, Vasastan**
Enduring love

In 1954 Stellan Åström designed and opened a café and hired a young Polish woman to work there. More than 60 years later Magdalena, who became Mrs Åström, still comes in each week to bake an array of traditional Swedish pastries.

48 Surbrunnsgatan, 113 48
+46 (0)8 300 476

- 4 **Café Pascal, Vasastan**
Family affair

The superlative brew here is sourced from Lund-based Love Coffee Roasters; modest but excellent food completes the offering. Few patrons take their coffee to go: the atmosphere is as much of an attraction as the black stuff.

4 Norrtullsgatan, 113 29
+46 (0)8 316 110
cafepascal.se

- 5 **Bleck, Södermalm**
Park it

Sat in Lilla Blecktornsparken, this restaurant-bar's main allure is the rustic terrace; perched under a towering oak tree and softly lit by twinkling fairy lights, it sees Stockholmers clinking glasses until 01.00 on Fridays and Saturdays.

68 Katarina Bangata, 116 42
+46 (0)8 452 9559
restaurangbleck.se

Retail

Simple sell

- 1 **Austere, Östermalm**
Fully furnished

Parquet flooring and blue walls set a tasteful tone for what's within, including Richard Palmquist ceramics, the W171 Alma pendant by Wästberg and angular Arrow tables from founder Fredrik Carlström and designer Erik Järkil.

8 Nybrogatan, 114 34
+1 (844) 287 8373
austere.co

- 2 **Triwa, Östermalm**
Timely endeavour

In 2007 four friends created a range of Stockholm-made timepieces with leather straps from Swedish tannery Tärnsjö Garveri. Their pink Elding Oscarson-designed shop opened in 2014 and also stocks the brand's sunglasses.

13 Grev Turegatan, 114 46
+46 (0)70 140 8957
triwa.com

- 3 **Appletrees, Norrmalm**
Shirt shrift

All the shirts here are made from Egyptian cotton in a factory just outside Milan. The shop also stocks accessories, including Mulberry silk scarves and Japanese selvedge denim jeans.

29 Artillerigatan, 111 45
appletrees.se

- 4 **Saman Amel, Östermalm**
Keeping it simple

This atelier doesn't look like your average tailor. Inside a white room its founders Saman Amel and Dag Granath are surrounded by grey double-breasted blazers and crisp white shirts. Their pieces are handmade in Italy, with tweaks in Stockholm.

21 Kommendörsgatan, 114 48
+46 (0)7 6199 7086
samanamel.se

Vocabulary

Local lingo

- 01 **Förlåt:** Sorry
- 02 **Härligt:** Wonderful
- 03 **Hej:** Hello
- 04 **Hejdå:** Goodbye
- 05 **Lagom:** Not too little, not too much
- 06 **Precis:** Exactly
- 07 **Ska vi fika?:** Shall we have a coffee?
- 08 **Skål:** Cheers
- 09 **Ta det lugnt:** Take it easy
- 10 **Tack:** Thank you



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