

SOUTH SWEDEN AND DENMARK

ITINERARY

DAY

1

DAY 1: WELCOME TO SWEDEN

Your holiday begins at Stockholm-Arlanda Airport, where you will be met by a driver and transferred to your hotel in the heart of Sweden's capital. For those who arrive early, we recommend buying 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. Suggested attractions include the Vasa Ship Museum or City Hall's famous Blue Hall, site of the annual Nobel Prize banquet.

Spend the night in Stockholm.

HIGHLIGHTS: Stockholm - Stockholm City Hall - Vasa Museum

DAY

2

DAY 2: CANDY CANES AND JÖNKÖPING

It's time to pick up your rental car and begin your unforgettable road trip! Drive through the scenic southern Swedish province of Småland towards the city of Jönköping. On the way, take a break in Gränna and visit one of the quaint candy shops that make the red and white striped Polkagris (candy cane), a traditional confection dating back to 1859.

Spend the night in Jönköping.

Driving distance approx. 330 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: Gränna - Jönköping

DAY

3

DAY 3: MEDIEVAL HISTORY AT KALMAR CASTLE

Continue to Kalmar, a town full of history, beautifully situated by the Baltic Sea. Visit the grand Kalmar Castle, originally built as a strategic defense tower in the 12th century and later renovated in the 16th century as a Renaissance palace.

Spend the night in Kalmar.

Driving distance approx. 220 km.

HIGHLIGHTS: Kalmar - Kalmar Castle

DAY

4

DAY 4: KINGDOM OF CRYSTAL

A short drive west of Kalmar brings you to the "Kingdom of Crystal" (Glasriket), an area consisting of four municipalities famous for its glasswork artisans. Here you can find over 50 glassworks factories and shops, many of which are open to visitors and offer unique hand-blown glass souvenirs in all shapes and colors. Some offer tours or demonstrations by master glassblowers or even let you test your own skills at shaping the molten

glass.

Continue south to Ystad and spend the night among its many traditional half-timbered houses.

Driving distance approx. 270 km.

HIGHLIGHTS: Kingdom of Crystal - Ystad

DAY

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DAY 5: CAPTIVATING COPENHAGEN

From Ystad, continue west through the province of Skåne to the city of Malmö, where the new Øresund Bridge allows an easy passage to Denmark and the royal capital, Copenhagen. This vibrant city is home to such marvels as the Amalienborg Palace, Christiansborg Palace (home to the Danish Parliament), the old harbour of Nyhavn, the famous Little Mermaid statue and much more. No visit to Copenhagen is complete without a stroll down Strøget, the famous pedestrian-only street, or a trip to the Tivoli Gardens, one of the world's oldest amusement parks and among the city's most famous attractions.

Spend the night in Copenhagen.

Driving distance approx. 105 km.

HIGHLIGHTS: Amalienborg Palace - Christiansborg Palace - Copenhagen - Little Mermaid - Nyhavn - Tivoli Gardens

DAY

6

DAY 6: CASTLES AND MANOR HOUSES

Continue west and cross the impressive Great Belt Bridge to the island of Funen (Fyn), often referred to as Denmark's Garden since most of its fruit is grown there. Spend the day on this picturesque island with its array of large manor houses and villages with half-timbered houses. We recommend a visit to idyllic Egeskov Castle, the best preserved Renaissance water castle in Europe, which was built in the 16th century on oak pillars in the middle of a peaceful lake. After the visit, continue driving towards Odense, where you may visit the Hans Christian Andersen Museum, located in the restored home where the famous fairy tale writer was born.

Spend the night in Odense.

Driving distance approx. 165 km.

HIGHLIGHTS: Egeskov Castle - Funen (Fyn) - Hans Christian Andersen Museum - Odense

DAY

7

DAY 7: FUN FOR ALL AGES AT LEGOLAND

Start the day with a drive northwest to Billund and visit Legoland, the world-famous theme park that shows what can be accomplished when imaginative designers are given 33,000,000 Lego blocks to play with! Legos have a rich history since their invention in the 1930s by Danish carpenter Ole Kirk Christiansen and the park is a must-see attraction whether you're travelling with children or just a child at heart. Legoland appeals to all ages and interests with its rides, attractions and giant Lego models of the Taj Mahal, Danish palaces, the Statue of Liberty and others displayed in a garden setting.

Spend the night in Billund.

Driving distance approx. 105 km.

HIGHLIGHTS: Billund - Legoland

DAY

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DAY 8: VIKING AGE STONES AND AARHUS

On your way to Aarhus (Århus), take a break at Jelling, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to visit the famous burial mounds and the 10th century Jelling stones with runic inscriptions by the Viking kings Gorm the Old and Harald Blue Tooth. Then, continue on to the picturesque city of Silkeborg in the heart of the Danish Lake District, where you can trek up Denmark's highest hill, the 147 metre high Himmelbjerget.

Finally, make your way to Aarhus, the second largest city in Denmark, where you will spend the night.

Driving distance approx. 110 km.

HIGHLIGHTS: Aarhus - Himmelbjerget - Jelling - Silkeborg

DAY

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DAY 9: LIVING HISTORY IN AARHUS

Before leaving Aarhus, we recommend a visit to Den Gamle By (The Old Town), an open-air "living history" museum with a collection of renovated houses from all over Denmark to give visitors a feel of what daily life was like centuries ago. Meander through the museum's cobblestone streets where you may encounter such characters as the shoemaker's wife, the organ grinder, or the town spinster! Next, it's time to drive north to Frederikshavn, where you can check out the Palm Beach just north of the city if the weather is nice. Otherwise, you may enjoy a visit to the Bangsbo Manor, which dates back to the 1580s and today houses a museum and archive of regional history.

Spend the night in Frederikshavn.

Driving distance approx. 185 km.

HIGHLIGHTS: Bangsbo Manor - Den Gamle By - Frederikshavn

DAY

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DAY 10: FERRY TO GOTHENBURG

If you have time in the morning, you could take a scenic detour to the city of Skagen at the northernmost point of Denmark where the Kattegat (Baltic Sea) and the North Sea meet. After lunch, a ferry takes you from Frederikshavn to Gothenburg, Sweden's second largest city where you are free to spend the rest of the day shopping, sightseeing or just relaxing. You can also visit the Liseberg amusement park with its assortment of thrilling rides and games.

Spend the night in Gothenburg.

(Optional round-trip detour to Skagen is approx. 80 km. The ferry to Sweden is approx. 3 hours.)

HIGHLIGHTS: Gothenburg

DAY

11

DAY 11: BORÅS ZOO AND KARLSBORG FORTRESS

A short drive east brings you to the city of Borås, where you can visit the Borås Zoo, an oasis of green in the heart of the city. This zoo displays hundreds of animals in natural surroundings such as elk, bears, wolves, elephants, giraffes, and many more.

Continue north to Karlsborg and visit the Karlsborg Fortress and the Göta Canal before continuing around the lake to Vadstena.

Spend the night in Vadstena.

Driving distance approx. 320km.

HIGHLIGHTS: Borås Zoo - Göta Canal - Karlsborg - Karlsborg Fortress

DAY
12

DAY 12: VADSTENA AND TROSA

Start the day by exploring 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. Continuing onwards to the charming town of Trosa, we also recommend a visit to the lavish 18th century Tullgarn Castle, which features some of the most exquisite interiors in a blend of rococo, Gustavian and Victorian styles.

Spend the night in Trosa.

Driving distance approx. 195km.

HIGHLIGHTS: Trosa - Vadstena - Vadstena Castle

DAY
13

DAY 13: GRIPSHOLM CASTLE ON THE WAY TO STOCKHOLM

Head north to Mariefred and explore the 16th century Gripsholm Castle, which is famous for its well-preserved interiors from the different epochs as well as for housing the Swedish State's portrait collection. From Mariefred it's only one more hour of driving to Stockholm, where you will drop off your rental car and check in to your centrally-located hotel. The rest of your day is free to explore the city's many attractions, restaurants, and nightlife.

Spend the night in Stockholm.

Driving distance approx. 150km.

HIGHLIGHTS: Gripsholm Castle - Mariefred - Stockholm

DAY
14

DAY 14: STOCKHOLM AND DEPARTURE

If you're departing on an afternoon flight, use the morning to catch up on one last museum or head to a cafe for one last Swedish *fika* (coffee break), a perfect way to end your holiday. Enjoy a private transfer to Stockholm-Arlanda Airport when it's time to head home.

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

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