

A WEEKEND IN · EUROPE'S MOST UNDERRATED SUMMER TRIP

STOCKHOLM

*A whimsical city on the water, built from fourteen islands
and a couple hundred years of good taste.*

BASE

Gamla Stan

DURATION

3 Days

BEST SEASON

Jun – Aug

FROM THE EDITOR

A CITY THAT DOESN'T SIT STILL

"The sky barely gets dark. You just keep going, and so does the city."

BRANT PINVIDIC, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Stockholm is old in the way that matters. Cobbled lanes older than most countries, church spires you can spot from three islands over, and buildings painted the kind of ochre and rust you only get from a few hundred years of doing it the same way. It is also, somehow, one of the most walkable capitals in Europe. You cross a bridge and the century changes.

Go in summer and you get the version of the city everyone else wishes they'd booked. Long days, warm light, a sky that barely gets dark before it starts getting light again. Locals call it the best two months of their year for a reason. The streets stay full well past dinner, the water in the archipelago actually invites you in, and the whole place feels wide awake at hours it has no business being wide awake.

What surprised us both was how alive it felt. Not manicured-postcard alive, actually alive: languages stacking on top of each other in Gamla Stan, old record shops next to candy stores that make the stuff in the window, a palace guard changing formation two streets from a club night getting started. Add in the colour, painted facades in mustard and rust and that faded Falu red, and the Old Town tips into something close to a fairytale. Not a manufactured one. Just a very old city that happens to still look the part.

Three days is enough to get the shape of it. Go in June, July, or August if you can. Ditch the plan for at least one afternoon. That's when Stockholm actually gets you.

— **BRANT**

ACCOMMODATION

WHERE TO STAY

One stay, the whole weekend. This is a house in Duvbo, a quiet pocket just outside central Stockholm, and it is the kind of Airbnb you stop looking for other Airbnbs to compare it to.



PHOTO: REJECT AVERAGE — THE DUVBO HOUSE

Book The House — Duvbo

This is one of Brant's top five favourite Airbnbs anywhere in Europe. A real family home, not a staged rental: turn-of-the-century house, five bedrooms, a private pool, and a sauna built right into the bathroom. We spent most of the trip not going out. Cooking outside, swimming, sitting on the patio until it got late, which in a Stockholm summer takes a while.

Five minutes from Stockholm City by commuter train. No car needed the entire stay.

→ **BOOK DIRECT ON AIRBNB**

Why This One

Brant has stayed in a lot of Airbnbs across Europe. This one made the top five, and it's easy to see why after a night here: the decor is genuinely considered, not generic rental furniture, and the layout means the group actually spends time together instead of splitting off into separate rooms with a TV each. Two living rooms, a full kitchen, and a dining table built for the whole group to sit around outside.

Book it the moment your dates are set. Family-sized homes like this one in the Stockholm area move fast in the summer months.

TIMING

WHEN TO GO

This guide is built for summer. Long daylight, an archipelago you actually want to swim in, and a city that stays outdoors well past a normal dinner hour.

Spring

Apr — May

The ice is gone, the parks are turning green, and the crowds haven't arrived yet. Some outdoor terraces and boat routes are still ramping up for the season.

SHOULDER

Summer

Jun — Aug

The window. Sunrise before 4am, sunset past 9pm, and a sky that barely gets fully dark in between. Every ferry, terrace, and archipelago route is running.

BEST OVERALL

Autumn

Sep — Nov

Cooler, quieter, and the Old Town's colours turn genuinely golden. Daylight shortens fast toward November, so plan outdoor time earlier in the day.

QUIET BEAUTY

Winter

Dec — Mar

Short days, Christmas markets, and a different city entirely. Some archipelago boat routes cut back for the season. Not the trip in this guide.

SNOW SEASON

Brant & Megan's Recommendation

June through August, full stop. That's the run where the daylight barely quits, the archipelago boats are all running, and the city itself feels like it's putting on a show. One thing worth planning around: because it barely gets dark, either book a stay with proper blackout curtains or bring an eye mask. Nobody warns you about this part until you're wide awake at 3am wondering why the sun's already up.

HOW THE DAYS UNFOLD

THE WEEKEND FRAMEWORK

Land Friday, eat in a dungeon that night. Spend Saturday on the island. Spend Sunday getting lost in the Old Town before one last look at the water. Every stop below, one of us has actually done.

01

FRIDAY NIGHT · GAMLA STAN

Land. Find The Door. Go Underground.

Straight from the airport to a dinner that sets the tone for the whole trip: a 14th-century vaulted cellar under the Old Town, entered through an unmarked black door down a dark alley. Full story on the next page.

02

SATURDAY · DJURGÅRDEN

Ferry Over. Ride The Insane Coaster. Meet A Viking.

A scenic ferry ride to the museum island. An amusement park with the wildest coaster of the trip, a warship raised from the harbour floor, and a Viking history museum that actually corrects the myths. Full story two pages on.

03

SUNDAY · OLD TOWN TO ARCHIPELAGO

Fika Crawl. Palace Guard. Wooden Boat Goodbye.

Start slow in Gamla Stan with cinnamon buns and a wander through the whimsical shop-lined streets. Detour to IKEA out of sheer curiosity, scoot across town to the Royal Palace for the changing of the guard, then end the weekend on a classic wooden boat out into the archipelago.



PHOTO: REJECT AVERAGE — THE DJURGÅRDEN WATERFRONT & THE NORDIC MUSEUM

THE FRIDAY NIGHT FEATURE

DINNER IN A DUNGEON

Megan's pick, and it's not close. Find a narrow alley in the heart of Gamla Stan. Find the big black door. Go down the dark steps. What's waiting underneath is a fully functional restaurant built into 14th-century vaults, once used as a dungeon, sitting right below the Old Town's oldest square.



PHOTO: REJECT AVERAGE — CAFÉ & RESTAURANG STEN STURE

Café & Restaurang Sten Sture

TRÅNGSUND 10 · GAMLA STAN

BEST MEATBALLS

Set in cellar vaults dating back to the 1300s, right on Stortorget. The space has real history: it's where Swedish officer Jacob Johan Anckarström was arrested in 1792 before his execution for assassinating King Gustav III, and the vaults once connected by secret passage to the Royal Palace and Stockholm Cathedral. You can't stop noticing small details in the decor the whole meal.

"The meatballs were my favourite of the whole trip, and the Princess Cake was incredible. The service had everyone laughing and joking. It's unlike anything else in the Old Town." — Megan Boshoff, Managing Editor

Good To Know

Mention that Megan from Reject Average Magazine sent you. Reservations run through TheFork, or call ahead directly. Find them on Instagram @cafestenstergamlastan for a look at the space before you go.

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THE SATURDAY FEATURE

ONE ISLAND, EVERYTHING ON IT

Djurgården is the island where Stockholm keeps its best afternoon. Take the ferry over, it's a genuinely scenic ride, and everything from here is walkable: an amusement park, a raised warship, and a Viking museum, all within a few minutes of each other.



PHOTO: REJECT AVERAGE / MEGAN BOSHOFF — THE VASA MUSEUM & GRÖNA LUND AT DUSK

Gröna Lund & The Insane Coaster

Stockholm's amusement park is built tight against the waterfront, everything close enough to walk between rides. The must-do is Insane: a free-spinning coaster where the cars rotate independently as you move through the course. Genuinely one of the wildest rides either of us has been on, and it's not a long walk from anywhere else on the island.

THE VASA MUSEUM

A 17th-century warship, fully preserved and raised from Stockholm harbour, housed under one roof. Unlike any other museum either of us has walked through. You genuinely can't believe the scale of it until you're standing in front of it.

THE VIKING MUSEUM

A free guided walkthrough led by a guide in Viking-era dress, focused on correcting the popular myths about Viking society and what daily life actually looked like. It ends with a short boat ride through staged scenes. More informative than expected.

Round it out with the Nordic Museum, closer to a real art exhibition than a history lesson, with an exterior building worth the walk on its own. Food trucks are scattered across the island, so skip the sit-down lunch and grab something quick between stops.

GOOD TO KNOW

PRACTICAL REALITY

THE SL APP

Download the [SL app](#) before you land; it covers the metro, buses, trams, commuter trains, and most ferries under one ticket. Buy and activate a pass right in the app by QR code, no kiosk needed. A 72-hour pass gets you unlimited travel across all of it, including the ferry over to Djurgården. Check current pricing in-app, since fares shift periodically.

THE SUNLIGHT PROBLEM

Summer in Stockholm barely gets dark. Book a stay with proper blackout curtains, or pack an eye mask. This is the one detail that catches first-time visitors off guard more than anything else on this list.

ON THE BUSES

No cash accepted, card or app only, and you board through the front door. Keep your ticket active and visible; a fare inspection without a valid ticket carries a real fine.

GETTING AROUND ON FOOT

The city centre is compact and flat enough to walk most of it. E-scooters (Voi, Bolt, Lime) are scattered on every corner. Scan the code on the street and go, no docking station required.

THE METRO ITSELF

Stockholm's T-bana is sometimes called the world's longest art gallery: over 90 of roughly 100 stations carry murals, mosaics, or rock-cut installations. T-Centralen and Kungsträdgården are two of the more striking stops, both easy to pass through on the way into Gamla Stan.

THE ROYAL PALACE

The changing of the guard runs daily, with the fuller ceremonial version through summer. Timing shifts by season, so confirm the exact schedule closer to your dates.

The Archipelago Send-Off

End the trip with a classic wooden boat cruise through the archipelago. Strömma runs the historic vessels out of Nybroviken and Skeppsbron, near the Royal Palace, a fitting way to say goodbye to the city.

→ [STROMMA.COM/EN-SE/STOCKHOLM](https://stromma.com/en-se/stockholm)

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

GALLERY



READY TO GO?

Book the Duvbo house the moment your flights are set, family-sized Airbnbs like this one move fast in summer. Everything else in this guide is tested and ready to follow.

BOOK THE HOUSE

PLAN WITH BRANT

Book the house on Airbnb

Sten Sture · @cafestensturegamlastan · cafe@cafestensture.se

Vasa Museum · The Viking Museum

Gröna Lund · Nordic Museum

SL Transit · Archipelago Cruise