



Berlitz

STOCKHOLM

POCKET GUIDE

TOP 10 ATTRACTIONS



DROTTHINGHOLM PALACE

Described as the Versailles of Sweden.
See page 70.



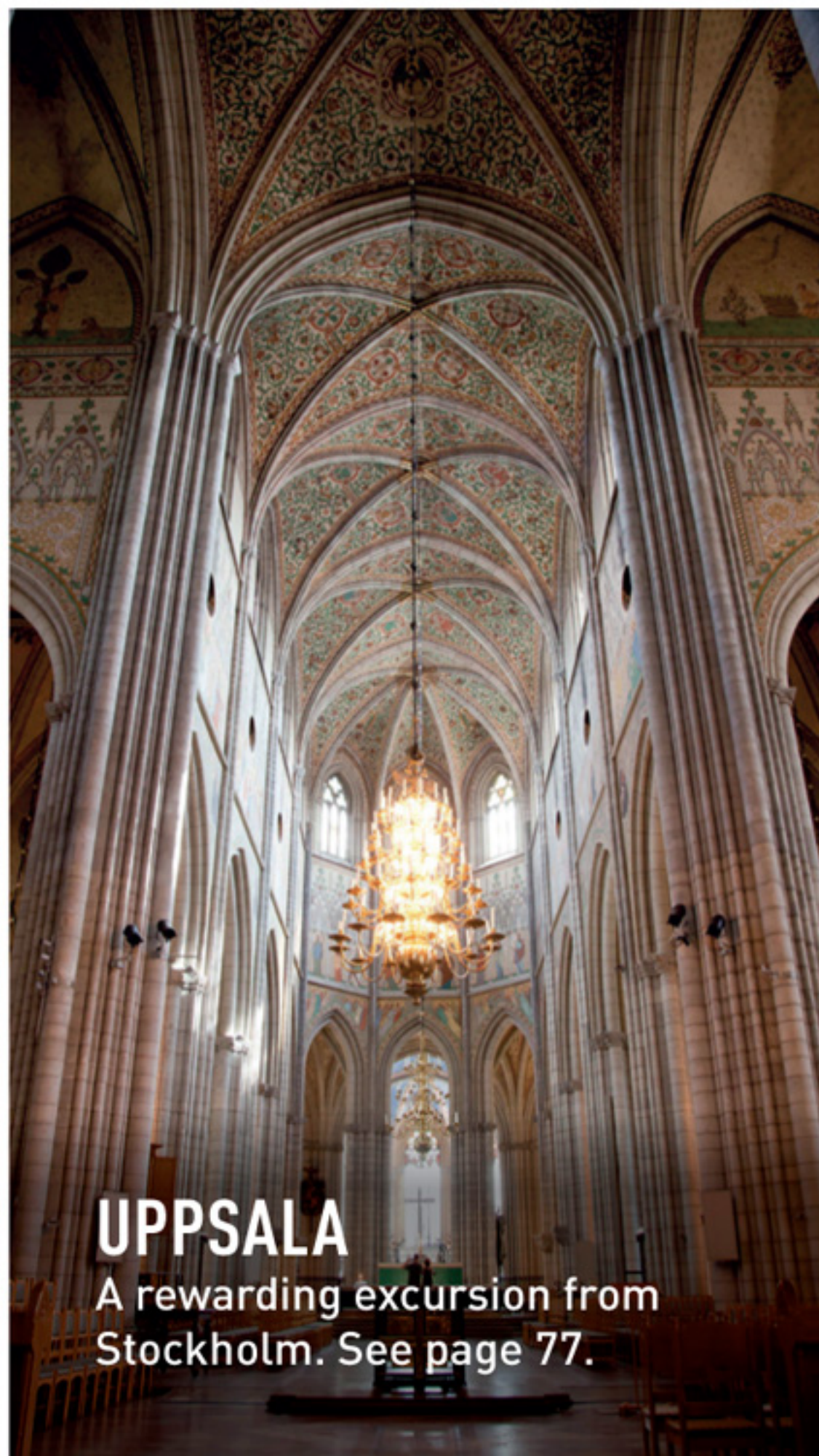
SKANSEN

Step into Sweden's past at the
open-air museum. See page 53.



STADSHUSET

The City Hall dominates Stockholm's
skyline. See page 41.



UPPSALA

A rewarding excursion from
Stockholm. See page 77.



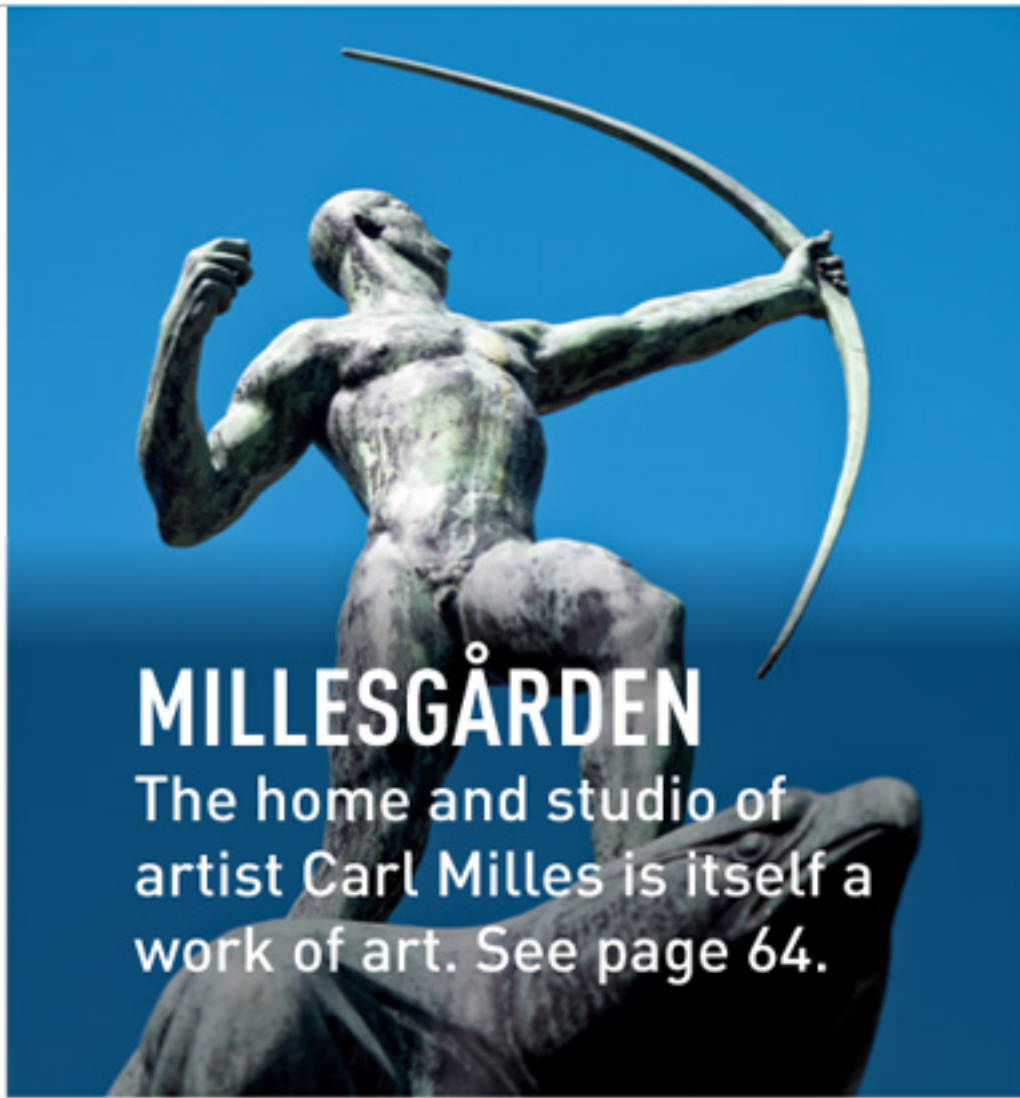
HALLWYLSKA MUSEET

A patrician mansion displaying over 70,000 objects. See page 57.



NATIONALMUSEUM

Sweden's largest art collection. See page 44.



MILLESGÅRDEN

The home and studio of artist Carl Milles is itself a work of art. See page 64.



VASAMUSEET

The permanent home of the 17th-century Vasa warship. See page 49.



MODERNA MUSEET

A stunning building housing one of the finest collections of modern art in the world. See page 45.



KUNGLIGA SLOTTET

The Changing of the Guard at the Royal Palace should not be missed. See page 28.

A PERFECT DAY



9.00am

Breakfast

Take advantage of the large spread of cooked meats, cheese, herring and smoked salmon that most hotels supply as a buffet breakfast.



11.30am

Garden delight

Head for Kungsträdgården, the former aristocratic gardens, to enjoy open-air concerts and street performances in summer and ice skating in winter.

12 noon

Retail therapy

Pay a visit to one of Scandinavia's finest department stores, Nordiska Kompaniet (NK) and you will soon understand why Sweden has such a high reputation for design.

10.00am

Gamla Stan gambol

Walk over to Stockholm's Old Town to soak up the historic atmosphere and architecture and meander along the alleyways, including Mårten Trotzigs Gränd, the city's narrowest street. Browse in the shops on Västerlånggatan, then treat yourself to a coffee or an ice cream in Stortorget.

1.30pm

Lunch

At the northern end of Kungsträdgården is Victoria, a popular restaurant with outside tables facing on to the square where you can enjoy a plate of traditional Swedish meatballs.

IN STOCKHOLM



5.30pm

Cocktail hour

Enjoy a cocktail, or perhaps a glass of aquavit, at Josefina. If it's a sunny day be sure to find a seat outside on one of the sofas to do full justice to the waterfront views.

2.30pm

Animal magic

Back at the waterfront, take the short boat trip to Djurgården, remembering to admire the grand façades of Strandvägen to your left en route, and reach Skansen in time to watch the brown bears being fed in the zoo area and perhaps watch crafts such as glass-blowing or pottery, depending on the calendar.

7.00pm

Culture

Take a boat back to the city centre and enjoy either an opera or ballet at Stockholm's historic Opera House (Kungliga Operan).

9.00pm

Musical chairs

Keeping with the operatic theme, have dinner at Operakälleran (book ahead) as much for the beautiful dining room as for the food. Or, for a slightly cheaper, less formal alternative, opt for the adjacent Operabaren, with its lovely Art Deco interior.

10.30pm

Nightcap

Head north to Norrmalm, the main nightlife area of the city, for a shot or two of one of the 70 vodkas on offer at the Naglo Vodkabar. If you have more energy and fancy partying the night away, move on to nearby Spy Bar.

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INTRODUCTION

Stockholm, the capital of Sweden, well deserves the honour of being considered one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Dramatically situated at a point where the Baltic Sea and the waters of Lake Mälaren collide and fight for supremacy, the city has been splendidly endowed by nature. In fact, only the city centre to the north is situated on the mainland, with the rest of it spread gracefully, if unevenly, over 14 islands that are connected by no fewer than 40 bridges; no wonder it is called 'the city that floats on water'. Natural beauty, though, is just one part of the city's charm. Stockholm also has a glittering array of monuments, museums, restaurants and other fascinating attractions.



Celebrating New Year in Stockholm

THE MAKING OF A CAPITAL

Stockholm essentially owes its existence to its natural waterways, although we have the forward-thinking 13th-century regent Birger Jarl to thank for the sweeping city-on-water panorama that greets visitors to Stockholm today. Jarl ordered the fortification of a settlement between the Baltic Sea and Lake Mälaren, turning Stockholm into a major re-loading port for trading



vessels plying northern Europe. With the Vikings long departed, and continental Europe entering a period of economic growth, this strategically placed settlement grew within a hundred years to become Sweden's largest.

It's no wonder settlers were drawn to Stockholm. Various early conquerors left their mark in terms of magnificent pieces of architec-

ture – notable among them were Gustav Vasa who instigated the building of the Tre Kronor (Three Crowns) castle, a landmark later transformed into a Renaissance palace; and Nicodemus Tessin the Elder, who as the city's first appointed architect was behind the new Royal Palace, the classical Royal Palace of Drottningholm and the beautiful and elegant Riddarhuset (House of Nobility).

Stockholm has at various points been a significant cultural centre and key trading hub. Steam trains and freight trains, merchants and nobility have all passed through this city, leaving their mark in one way or another. In the drive for renewal following World War II, Stockholm endured its fair share of 1960s and 70s concrete blocks, mercifully curtailed in the mid-1970s. Thankfully, the city's shape and character, its classic buildings and medieval atmosphere remains largely intact. Today, the city is not only the seat of the national parliament (Riksdagshuset), the Royal Palace (Kungliga Slottet) and many other places of historical interest, but is also the country's financial and business hub. And over one-sixth of the total population of Sweden calls the Stockholm area home.

Three Crowns

Gustav Vasa, who conquered the city from the Danes in 1523, built the original Tre Kronor (Three Crowns) castle. Adopted as the symbol of Stockholm, the Three Crowns are seen most dramatically at the very top of the Stadshuset (City Hall) tower.