

**Stockholm Grand tour:** This exciting tour of the beautiful capital of Sweden will begin with your pick-up at port in a comfortable A/C vehicle. You can sit back and relax as you enjoy your city highlights driving tour that will be your introduction to this stunningly lovely city.



### Stockholm

This lovely city, spread across 14 islands at the mouth of the Stockholm archipelago, has been settled since the Stone Age. The city of Stockholm, founded in 1252, is the cultural, media, political, and economic center of Sweden.

**Ah, Stockholm – where modernity meets tranquility. You will enjoy your visit to this super photogenic city where, no matter where you go, you are no more than a few feet from snapping a spectacular photo.**

**Below is a brief introduction to just some of the visual treats in store on your amazing Stockholm Grand Tour:**

### The Royal Palace:



Stockholm Palace, located on Stadsholmen (city island) in Gamla Stan (old town), is the official residence of the Swedish monarch (the actual residence of King Carl XVI Gustaf is at Drottningholm Palace). The Palace was largely built during the eighteenth century in the Italian Baroque style, on the spot where the "Tre Kronor" castle burned down in 1697. Boasting 1430 rooms, it is one of the largest royal palaces in the world still in use. The Palace is open to the public and offers no less than five museums. The Royal Palace also contains the Armory, with royal costumes and armor, as well as coronation carriages and magnificent coaches from the Royal Stable. Additionally, the palace hosts the colorful parade of soldiers and the daily changing of the guard.



**Royal Palace: Changing of the Guards and Parade of Soldiers**



**Fjällgatan view point**

When in Stockholm, do as the Stockholmers do - enjoy the fantastic views from Fjällgatan, located on Södermalm. Perched high up on the edge of a cliff above the docks of the Finland ferries and Slussen, this view point lays the city out at your feet with a great panorama over the Old Town, Djurgården and the island of Skeppsholmen.

**Vasa Museum:** The Vasa Museum, located on the island of Djurgården, is Sweden's most popular museum and Stockholm's #1 attraction. The Vasa Ship is not the only attraction in this museum. There are historic artifacts and exhibitions, film showings, a nice shop and a restaurant in the museum.



**The Vasa warship:**

In 1628, the highly-decorated warship Vasa sailed from Stockholm on her maiden voyage - and sank immediately due to major flaws in her construction design. More than three centuries later, the Vasa was rediscovered and is today the world's only preserved 17th-century ship. The museum allows you to view the Vasa ship from six levels



**Vasa model**



**Vasa detail**



**Gamla Stan - Stortorget**

**Stortorget** (*The Big Square*) is a small public square in Gamla Stan and is the oldest square in Stockholm, the historical center on which the medieval urban conglomeration gradually came into being. Today, the square is frequented by tens of thousands of tourists annually, and is occasionally the scene for demonstrations and performances. It is traditionally renowned for its museums, and offerings of traditional handicrafts and food.

## Charming Gamla Stan



Gamla Stan, the Old Town, is one of the largest and best preserved medieval city centers in Europe, and one of the foremost attractions in Stockholm. This is where Stockholm was founded in 1252.

All of Gamla Stan and the adjacent island of Riddarholmen are like a living pedestrian-friendly museum full of sights, attractions, restaurants, cafés, bars and places to shop. Gamla Stan is also popular with aficionados of handicrafts, curios and souvenirs. The narrow winding cobblestone streets, with their buildings in so many different shades of gold, give Gamla Stan its unique character. Even now cellar vaults and frescoes from the Middle Ages can be found behind the visible facades.

There are several beautiful churches and museums in Gamla Stan, including Sweden's national cathedral Stockholm Cathedral and the Nobel Museum. The largest of the attractions in the district is the Royal Palace, one of the largest palaces in the world with over 600 rooms. In addition to the reception rooms, there are several interesting museums in the Palace, including the Royal Armory, with royal costumes and armor. There you can see the parade of soldiers and the daily changing of the guard, provided you are there when this occurs.

Västerlånggatan and Österlånggatan are the district's main streets. The city wall that once surrounded the city ran inside these streets along what is now Prästgatan. In the middle of Gamla Stan is Stortorget, the oldest square in Stockholm. Stortorget is the central point from which runs Köpmangatan, the oldest street in Stockholm, which was mentioned as early as the fourteenth century.

### **Mårten Trotzigs alley**

Mårten Trotzigs gränd (Mårten Trotzigs alley) is hard to find. It's the narrowest alley in Gamla Stan, only 90 centimeters wide at its narrowest point. Make sure not to miss Riddarholmen Church. The church is a royal burial church, and was built as a Franciscan monastery for the so-called Grey Brother monks in the thirteenth century.



### Full tour description

After meeting your guide and driver at the port, you will be driven along the embankment towards the Old Town, passing the **Royal Palace**, which contains the State Apartments, the Crown Jewels, the Hall of State and Royal Chapel, Royal Armoury and Palace Museum.

Then we will drive to **Fjällgatan Street**, from where you will have a breathtaking view of the city. We shall then go to Södermalm Island where your guide will point out to you the house where the world famous scientist **Alfred Nobel** lived.

Our tour will give you the opportunity to see all aspects of today's Stockholm; we will continue to **Stureplan Square**, the centre of Stockholm's night life, and later in the tour you will see the modern parts of the city, the commercial district with banks and other office buildings, and the elegant bohemian and artistic districts on the southern island.

Then, we will head to the **Vasa Museum**, home of the Royal warship Vasa. The Vasa, built for King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden in record time between 1626 and 1628, was the mightiest warship in the Swedish fleet, intended to strike fear into the hearts of enemies. However, the ship had a sad destiny: she sank in the Stockholm harbor only a few minutes after setting sail on her maiden voyage on August 10th 1628. 333 years after this disastrous event the Vasa was salvaged; now she is one of the very few 17th century ships still in existence, and certainly the one in the best state of preservation. She is one of Stockholm's favorite attractions, and to see her is an exciting experience

Then we shall take you on a walking tour of Stockholm's historic center, **Gamla Stan**, one of Stockholm's foremost attractions. Gamla Stan, the Old Town, is located on three islands; the largest and most visited one is Stadsholmen, which was the island upon which the city was founded in 1252. Today's Gamla Stan is an amazingly well preserved 13th century town and one of the largest preserved medieval city centers in Europe. Gamla Stan is a charming picture book of narrow, winding cobblestone streets and medieval alleyways, some of which barely allow room for two pedestrians to pass. Your guide will tell you many stories and legends - it seems that each house here has its own story to tell.

After the walking tour in the Gamla Stan our vehicle will head back to the port.

Price includes:

- Guide for 5 hours per itinerary
- Driver with comfortable air-conditioned vehicle for 5 hours
- Shopping opportunities in the Old Town, museum's shop
- Admission fees to Vasa museum

### **Stockholm GRAND Tour**

07:30

Arrive in Stockholm

08:00-8:15

A warm meet and greet on the pier

08:15-9:00

Your introduction to Stockholm will begin with a City Highlights drive tour that will give you an overview of the most significant Stockholm landmarks: Parliament building, The Royal Opera, The Royal Palace and Royal Dramatic theatre. Enjoy the views of well-preserved renaissance palaces of the 17th and 18th centuries and the charming district containing many fine examples of Jugendstil (Art Nouveau) architecture. The two stops on Riddarholmen Island and Fjällgatan will offer breathtaking views over the city and offer excellent photo opportunities

9:00-10:30

Tour the Vasa Museum, home of the Royal warship Vasa and the #1 attraction in Stockholm

10:30-10:45

Scenic drive to the historical part of Stockholm, Old city, or Gamla Stan, for your walking tour

10:45-11:30

Your guide will make your Gamla Stan walking tour both exciting and educational: You will learn about the many hidden treasures of this amazingly well preserved 13th century town with its picture book cobblestone streets and medieval alleys. Your guide will reveal the most important historical moments in the Swedish history, many of which took place right here, in the Old Town

11:30-12:30

Free time in Gamla Stan at your disposal: enjoy some local cuisine, shopping or visit one of the many fabulous museums located in the area - your guide will happily suggest some options and help with directions.

12:30-12:40

Join the bus for the return ride to the port

13:00

Arrive back to the pier

OR - you may choose the following option:

At the conclusion of your tour, you may elect to remain in vibrant and exciting Gamla Stan (Old Town) and make your own way back to the ship. The Old Town is a paradise if you want to experience the pulse of the city. This district has Stockholm's biggest selection of restaurants, tourist shops, studios and museums. There are many wonderful walks and things to explore here. There are so many amazing venues that require further exploration in Gamla Stan - ask us or your guide for a list of suggestions.