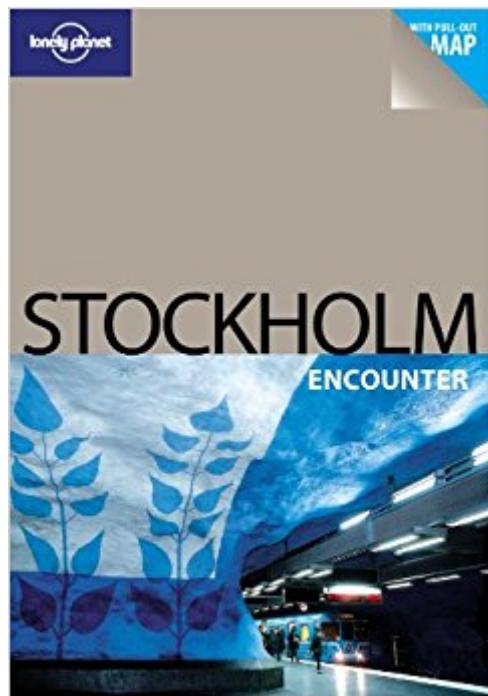


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Lonely Planet Stockholm Encounter



Synopsis

What Will Your Stockholm Encounter Be? Wandering the cobbled lanes of Gamla Stan, the city's 11th-century birthplace Sampling a cloudberry truffle at Chokladfabriken Pondering pygmy marmosets at the open-air Skansen museum Savoring fika (coffee and cake) in the barrel-vaulted cellar of CafÃƒÂ© Art Picking up some new threads at trendsetting Acne's flagship store Zipping around the Baltic Sea on a RIB (Rigid Inflatable Boat) Discover Twice The City in Half The Time Full-color pull-out map and detailed neighborhood maps for easy navigation Our expert author recommends the very best sights, restaurants, shops and entertainment Unique itineraries, from keeping your budget under control to embracing the city during its Nordic winter chill Locals share their insights: a gallery owner on where to find the best new artists, a bartender on Sweden's drinking dens and a local blogger's loves and hates

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Customer Reviews

Sherman's Travel, April 2007'...Encounter guides...discreet in size, but generous enough on page count to provide a fuller city experience minus the hefty guidebook load.' --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Who We Are At Lonely Planet, we see our job as inspiring and enabling travelers to connect with the world for their own benefit and for the benefit of the world at large. What We Do * We offer travelers the world's richest travel advice, informed by the collective wisdom of over 350 Lonely

Planet authors living in 37 countries and fluent in 70 languages. * We are relentless in finding the special, the unique and the different for travellers wherever they are. * When we update our guidebooks, we check every listing, in person, every time. * We always offer the trusted filter for those who are curious, open minded and independent. * We challenge our growing community of travelers; leading debate and discussion about travel and the world. * We tell it like it is without fear or favor in service of the travelers; not clouded by any other motive. What We Believe We believe that travel leads to a deeper cultural understanding and compassion and therefore a better world.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

(This book was published in Sept. 2007, so if you are reading it after a new edition comes out, perhaps things have changed). The best thing about this book is its compact size, which makes it easy to tote with you. We (I and a partner) were in Stockholm for five weeks for a sort of working vacation, and had it with us every day, so that we could make plans quickly if we found ourselves with extra time. Mostly, that worked well. A bigger book would have been a drag to carry around, and this one has the key info you need to find things to do: descriptions, maps, opening times, and prices. It is divided into descriptions by neighborhood, and within each neighborhood, describes the categories of "see, shop, eat, drink and play." Each neighborhood section begins with a small map of that neighborhood, with all of the places of interest marked. In addition, the book comes with a bigger pull-out map of all of Stockholm. My rating for the book is not higher because of a couple of errors that cost us valuable time, and because overall, the maps aren't as good as they should be. First, the maps. The pull-out map in the back of the book is of low quality (budget paper not made to last, hard to read, doesn't include all street names). The neighborhood maps are useful for pinpointing locations of things to do, but you often need a better map to then navigate your way there. We got a *much* better map free in our hotel--it had glossy paper that held up better to constant use, and was much more readable. Unfortunately, we didn't have the better map with us one day when we went to a movie, and on the Lonely Planet map, the theater was incorrectly placed. This caused a lot of needless walking back and forth, and caused us to choose between either cutting short our planned meal or missing the film (we finally found the theater on the other side of the street and down the road from where it was marked. It hadn't moved recently, so this was just a map error). My biggest problem with the book, though, is that the opening hours listed for Skansen, Stockholm's open-air museum, are misleading! This is a major tourist destination and there's not much excuse for getting the hours wrong. The hours are listed (for mid June to August, when we were there) as 10 to 10. We got there at 7 p.m. expecting to spend 3 hours, and were told

"now, you know all the shops are closed, right?" Of course we didn't know, since Lonely Planet didn't tell us. All of the little shops where you can watch artisans at work, etc. close at 5 p.m.! You can indeed pay to get in and walk around until 10 p.m., but you will be walking around looking at closed-up buildings! (And I suppose you can see the animals). Since we had gone to some inconvenience to get there (two bus rides plus the subway), needless to say this was a big disappointment. A minor annoyance about this book is that its overly clever, "hip" tone can be tiresome - sometimes more objective, straightforward description would be preferable. Another issue is that because the book is organized by neighborhoods, the degree to which there is homogeneity within each neighborhood is exaggerated, seemingly in order to draw contrasts between them. For example, Södermalm is described as "a latte-laced mix of experimental art, gritty bars, and retro chic." This is accurate for parts of Söder, but certainly not all or even most of it. Sometimes the writing style is downright offensive; for example, the Jewish Museum is described as "a kosher little museum" with "nifty pull-out display cabinets" which "cover everything from the Holocaust... to Torah silverware..." The juxtapositioning of the term "nifty" with "Holocaust" is grating. For all of its limitations, though, this was the single most useful of the three Stockholm/Sweden guides I purchased, since all had their pros and cons. It's just that it could have so easily been better. If hotels and tourist info shops can provide such great maps for free, why can't Lonely Planet get one for their book? (In fact, they can--the maps in the Lonely Planet Dublin book are SO much better).

We used this and another guide book to assist us in our 10 day trip to Stockholm and Uppsala region of Sweden. The maps were excellent and it helped us determine how best to allot our precious time. Our top two Stockholm highlights: the Vasa and Millesgården. If you venture to Uppsala, you can see viking mounds and follow St. Erik's path.

There isn't really anything in this book that you can't find with a little basic web research. If you are an experienced traveler, it isn't going to help you at all. For a newcomer to the foreign travel experience, it might be a good primer.

I bought this for a quick visit to Stockholm. I wanted to know what not to miss and how to get between sites efficiently. The material is not organized well for my needs. And, the font is so tiny that I grew weary of searching. I finally resorted to the official Stockholm website and skipped this book.

a reasonable guide to this bratuiful city

I visited Stockholm in July 08 for the first time, using Stockholm Encounter as my guide. The book was very well written - vivid and entertaining, and captured the city well. Also the neighbourhood-based format worked well - saved lots of to-ing and fro-ing. The book yielded up some great finds. A few places seemed to have closed down since the book was published, but I guess this is inevitable in a large city. Overall the reviews were accurate, and for a book of its size I thought that it packed in a lot of interesting information on different aspects of the city, like design and food. I'd happily recommend this book for an insider's view of the city.

I bought this book prior to vacationing in Stockholm. I am still in the Stockholm area and this book is ALWAYS with me. In fact I have decided to move here (not because of the book of course) but I think I will continue to use it regularly when I return for a more permanent stay. The format of the book makes it very easy to navigate through Stcokholm which is made up of several islands. The book is broken up into these islands/neighbourhoods but has an overview map and description at the front so it's very complete. Also, it should be noted that the size of the book is perfect - small and easy to carry but still packed with information. Have fun in Stockholm! AND ... carry comfy shoes so you can really enjoy the city by foot. Wow ... it's beautiful!

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