



# Stockholm

region of  
excellence



# Welcome to Stockholm

The Stockholm Region has many unique qualities. We would like to introduce you to three of them.

## Region of Excellence

### **Creative Stockholm...**

A number of great innovations have come from the Stockholm Region, by inventors including Alfred Nobel. Colour graphics for computers, the pacemaker, and Losec (an ulcer medicine) are more recent examples of the innovative forces at work in the region.

Today, knowledge is gathered into "clusters" – a gathering of expertise in various fields that help to advance and develop each other. The many universities and colleges in the region contribute actively to this creative environment, as well as the wide knowledge base of academic Stockholm. World-class research is carried out in a number of fields at the universities, as well as advanced education in a variety of disciplines.

Stockholm is also home to the Nobel Prize. Each year, the Nobel Prize is awarded to outstanding individuals in the fields of physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, peace and economics. Over the years, 24 laureates from the greater Stockholm Region have won the prize.

### **International Stockholm...**

Our history includes a long tradition of international exchange and collaboration. From the early voyages of the Vikings to the continental influence of city planning and architecture; from international trade, and production of iron and steel to the vibrant financial centre and multicultural environment that characterizes Stockholm today.

Stockholm ranks as one of the ten most popular congress destinations in the world, and offers outstanding opportunities for holding international meetings.

Children can attend German, French or international schools in the Stockholm Region. Our universities and research institutes are also influenced by this international culture; one example is the range of exchange programmes available to students and researchers in many of the universities.

Stockholm is a thriving metropolis and offers a wide range of cultural and sporting events. But you are never far from nature in Stockholm. Compared to other capitals, Stockholm is very safe and combines a modern, urban lifestyle with a small-town atmosphere.

The Old town  
of Stockholm in  
winter time.

### Beautiful Stockholm...

The change of seasons gives Stockholm its unique beauty and character. Every season has its own colour, air and ambience. Stockholm is a city on the water; "The Queen of Lake Mälaren" is an apt name; with a queen's inherent splendour and powerful rule over one of Europe's largest lakes – Lake Mälaren.

A long period of peace can be witnessed in Stockholm's rich cultural heritage. In the city centre, buildings still stand on their medieval foundations and a diversity of architectural styles including German Baroque, Italian Renaissance, French Classicism together with today's modernism, can all be admired.

The variety of museums, including the Vasa Museum, the many green areas surrounding the archipelago



and Lake Mälaren, with the Royal Palace at Drottningholm and the Viking village of Birka, all make Stockholm one of the most beautiful capitals in the world.

We would like welcome you to  
"Stockholm – Region of Excellence"!

Mats Hellström  
*Governor of the County of Stockholm*

Ingela Nylund Watz  
*Finance Commissioner County  
Council of Stockholm*

Annika Billström  
*Mayor, City of Stockholm*



# Economic Growth, Renewal and Integration

Stockholm is one of Europe's leading economic regions, with a high concentration of information technology, health care, industry and research. The region is a vibrant meeting point for business people and international conferences. Three quarters of the Nordic/Baltic companies in the Fortune 100 have their head offices here. International competitiveness is one of the three main objectives in the Regional Development Plan for the region.

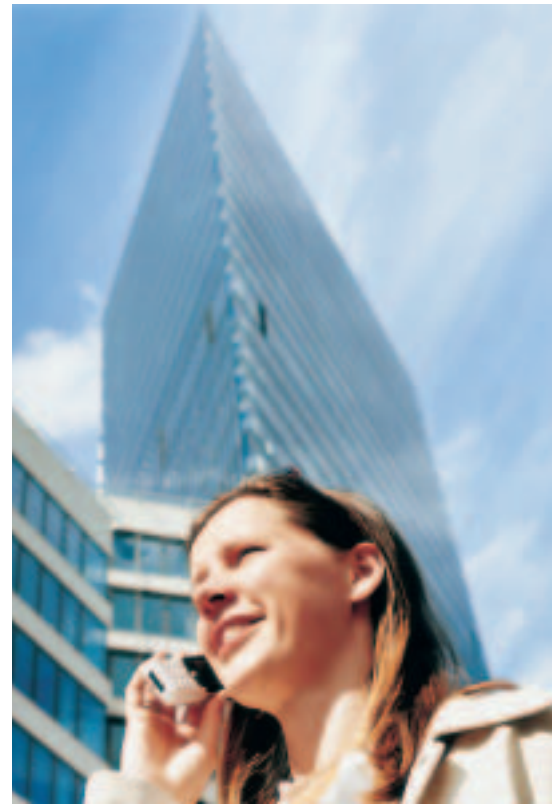
Stockholm has two times – 2000 and 2002 – received the award of Excellence for Innovative Regions. The "excellent" regions are evaluated by the European Commission following a strict set of economic and innovation indicators that classify them among the most successfully performing regions in Europe.

Although the region was hard hit by the IT slump, the Stockholm Region with Kista and its core continues to rank highly as a European IT/telecom city. In fact, different bench-marking surveys have pointed out the region of Stockholm as number one in Europe when coming to innovative achievements.

The liberation of Eastern Europe is especially significant for Sweden and the Stockholm Region. The Stockholm Region is an important metropolitan area in the Baltic Sea area and constitutes a dominating economic player in the gateway to Sweden. Increased free trade, a free capital market and

Sweden's membership in the European Union have radically changed conditions for the export industry. 40 percent of the region's industrial production is exported.

Ylva Söderbergh, a young IT-manager, in front of Kista Science Tower.



# Infrastructure and housing

Public transport is essential for both inhabitants and visitors to the Stockholm Region. Efforts are now underway within the Stockholm Region to develop a well-functioning transport system that enables transport between important regional centres, which is crucial to the growth and welfare of the Stockholm Region. During morning rush hours, about 70 percent of all commuters use public transport.

During 2003, flights from Arlanda will leave for 125 international and 39 Swedish destinations. Arlanda has a passenger volume of around 16 million per year, 63 per cent consists of international travellers. Although SAS is the leading airline, 63 airlines, 56 of them international, fly into Arlanda. SAS is the dominant airline at Arlanda. SAS was one of the founders of the Star Alliance, which travels to 184 destinations in about 130 countries. SAS serves as the official carrier for conferences and

events in Sweden, which gives special ticket prices for participants, and for business class travellers, this also applies to accompanying passengers.

The Stockholm Region is growing rapidly and now has 1.85 million inhabitants. The greater Stockholm Region, known as the Stockholm-Mälars Region, consists of five counties and more than 3 million inhabitants within a two-hour commuting area. The region increases by about 15,000–20,000 new inhabitants every year. But very little new housing has been constructed over the last years. In the Regional Development Plan 2001, housing is an important issue. Many summer cottages have become permanent houses.



In the eastern part of Stockholm a new city area called Hammarby Waterfront is constructed. It is the biggest building project in modern time and will house 20,000 inhabitants in the future.



# Sustainable development

Development of the Stockholm Region requires long-term planning and coordination. The Office of Regional Planning and Urban Transportation oversees and coordinates the regional spatial planning and development of the Stockholm Region. As a regional think-tank, it provides the county's 26 municipalities and other interested players within the Stockholm Region with analyses, statistics and development perspectives for land and water usage, the environment and the archipelago.

After several years of work, the Regional Development Plan for the Stockholm Region (RUF 2001) has now been finalised and can be implemented. The overall objective is to create long-term sustainable development in the region, with social and economic balance.

The measures described in each area are based on sustainability. The consequence assessment shows that the development plan contributes positively to the sustainability of the region. All regional players must co-operate in the process to ensure long-term, sustainable development in the Stockholm Region.

Stockholm has many prerequisites for sustainable development. An intensification of land usage has been stimulated to combat urban sprawl. This also provides a basis for more effective and environmentally sound district heating, improved public transport, shorter travel routes, and better service. High and equal living conditions is one of the objectives for the Stockholm Region.

# Stockholm – City of Science

Stockholm is Scandinavia's leading academic region with 70,000 students (2,500 visiting students), 5,500 PhD students, 7,000 teachers and researchers, and 20 universities and colleges, numerous research institutes, science academies and scientific libraries. Altogether, over one hundred thousand people are involved in higher education and research, around one tenth of the population.

The geographical area in and around the four universities – Karolinska Institutet, the Royal Institute of Technology(KTH), Stockholm University and Stockholm School of Economics – form a concentrated centre of learning that can be favourably compared with the best in Europe. The area offers a high concentration of knowledge, intensive activities in teaching, research and health care as well as business. Everything in the area bears a strong international stamp, enhanced by many hundred foreign students and reserachers

representing a wide variety of nations. A large number of international companies are also located in the area.

Stockholm's universities and colleges offer traditional university subjects, and tertiary studies in music, theatre, art and dancing. They charge no tuition fees, as undergraduate education in Sweden is fully financed by the Government.

There is a long tradition of co-operation between hi-tech companies and academic researchers in the Stockholm Region. In some fields, this tradition of co-operation has lead to the development of leading global products. Two particularly interesting fields are Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) and Bioscience, with stem cell research, for example. A very close collaboration between research and the market in both these areas is taking place at Electrum, Novum, Teknikhöjden, Stockholm BioScience

and Karolinska Science Park. These are the five major Competence Centres in Science Parks Stockholm.

## **Stockholm Academic Forum**

Stockholm Academic Forum is a collaborative enterprise – unique in Sweden – between eight universities and colleges in Stockholm. The aim is to facilitate and increase inter-institutional collaboration, and develop interaction between institutions, businesses, industry and the public. Regional development and growth is also a central issue. Participants in Stockholm Academic Forum are: the University College of Dance, the Karolinska Institute, the University College of Arts, Crafts and Design, the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm Institute of Education, the Stockholm School of Economics, Stockholm University and Södertörn University College.

## **Stockholm BioScience**

Three of Sweden's most prestigious universities, the Karolinska Institute,

the Royal Institute of Technology and Stockholm University, are creating a new centre for bioscience in the very middle of the city – Stockholm BioScience. The aim of the joint project is to create new and exciting opportunities for bioscience breakthroughs, based on world-class multidisciplinary research. Stockholm BioScience will offer a new and stimulating environment focused on bioscience activities, with attractive research facilities and commercial and industrial spaces, all within easy walking distance of the city centre. Stockholm BioScience is built on a scenario for tomorrow's research milieu, where the cornerstones are excellence in science and business, diversity and quality in life, and nearness. This is a truly exciting development, based on one of Europe's best prerequisites for creating a world-class facility.

#### **EuroScience Open Forum 2004**

In 25–28 August 2004, Stockholm will host the groundbreaking initiative EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF). ESOF 2004 is the first pan-European scientific meeting ever staged to provide an interdisciplinary forum for open dialogue, debate and discussion on science and technology in society.



The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm is the awarding institution for the Nobel Prize in Physics. Professor Martinus J.G. Veltman from the Netherlands received the prize in 1999 from the hand of the Swedish King, Carl XVI Gustaf.

# Culture and entertainment

The cultural environment also contributes to the image of the Stockholm Region. The region is an internationally recognized centre for design, media and entertainment.

The history of Stockholm dates back to the 13th century, and the Old Town – one of the largest in Europe – provides a vivid image of past centuries.

The medieval saint, the Holy Birgitta, was born in the northern part of the Stockholm Region in 1303. She is one of Sweden's best-known figures and in 1999 Pope John Paul II proclaimed Birgitta the patron saint of Europe.

The Royal Palace in Drottningholm, just outside of Stockholm, was the first Swedish site on the World Heritage List. Drottningholm Palace is now the residence of the Swedish Royal Family. Drottningholm Theatre is one of the best-preserved baroque theatres in Europe. It was built in 1764-66. The Drottningholm Music by composer Johan Helmich Roman is dedicated to the Palace and the theatre.

Stockholm has 70 museums and the Vasa Museum and Skansen (an outdoor museum) are well known internationally. These are the most visited museums in Sweden, with almost 800,000, respectively, 1.3 million visitors each year.

Stockholm is also known as the "Design Capital".





# Contacts

**City of Stockholm**  
[www.stockholm.se](http://www.stockholm.se)  
[infointernational@stadshuset.stockholm.se](mailto:infointernational@stadshuset.stockholm.se)

**Council of Stockholm**  
[www.ab.lst.se](http://www.ab.lst.se)  
[lansstyrelsen@ab.lst.se](mailto:lansstyrelsen@ab.lst.se)

**Council for the Stockholm-Mälars Region**  
[www.malardalsradet.se](http://www.malardalsradet.se)  
[info@malardalsradet.se](mailto:info@malardalsradet.se)

**Office of Regional planning  
and Urban Transportation**  
[www.rtk.sll.se](http://www.rtk.sll.se)  
[rtk@rtk.sll.se](mailto:rtk@rtk.sll.se)

**Karolinska Institutet**  
[www.ki.se](http://www.ki.se) [info@ki.se](mailto:info@ki.se)

**Stockholm Academic Forum**  
[www.stockholmsakademiskaforum.se](http://www.stockholmsakademiskaforum.se)  
[info@stockholmsakademiskaforum.se](mailto:info@stockholmsakademiskaforum.se)

**Stockholm BioScience**  
[www.stockholmbioscience.com](http://www.stockholmbioscience.com)  
[ola.bjorkman@cmi.ki.se](mailto:ola.bjorkman@cmi.ki.se)

**Stockholm Region European Committee**  
[www.stockholmregion.org](http://www.stockholmregion.org)  
[lillian.westerberg@stockholmregion.org](mailto:lillian.westerberg@stockholmregion.org)

**Stockholm Visitors Board**  
[www.stockholmtown.com](http://www.stockholmtown.com)  
[info@svb.stockholm.se](mailto:info@svb.stockholm.se)

**EuroScience Open Forum**  
[www.esof2004.org](http://www.esof2004.org)  
[gabriella.norlin@esof2004.org](mailto:gabriella.norlin@esof2004.org)