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**Stockholm - A Great Destination That Is Kind To Your Budget**

**By Marc A. De Jong**

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Sweden is one of the most affordable travel destinations in Western Europe. This statement would have raised some eyebrows a few years back, but it has become reality. So why not go to Stockholm this year?

Leaders from both continents may have different opinions about world politics, but US travelers love Europe, just like Europeans love to see the US. Some American tour operators and travel agencies even expect to sell more trips to Europe this year than ever before.

That is remarkable. The dollar-euro exchange rates make a European vacation far from cheap nowadays.

If you want to see Europe without losing too much money, you should pick destinations that have not switched to the euro.

Sweden is a great choice. Sweden is an EU country (no visa required for Americans), but the Swedes still pay with crowns, not with euros.

To check if prices in the Nordic country are really that much lower, I compared prices of three well-located three-star hotels in the Swedish capital Stockholm with similar hotels in the popular capitals of two euro-countries, Paris and Rome.

The difference was incredible. Rates in Stockholm started between 113 and 125 US dollar per night. In Rome you had to pay between USD 155 and 184 and in Paris between USD 167 and 222 USD.

And those are just hotel rates. Restaurant prices in Stockholm have gone down in recent years as well, at least for foreigners.

I also went to a popular airline ticket seller and searched for the lowest airfare. The cheapest ticket from New York to Stockholm cost USD 851, while the best tickets to Rome and Paris cost USD 897

each.

But hey, you're not picking a travel destination because of money alone! You want to see something too!

Well, don't worry about that. Stockholm is often called the most beautiful capital in the world, and rightly so.

The city is built on 14 islands and has another 24,000 just around the corner. Wherever you go you will always get a glimpse of water. It's a very green city too. Stockholm is the only capital in the world with a legally protected national park within the city borders.

And that's not all. There's a well-preserved old town centre with medieval streets and alleys. The city has about 100 museums that are all different and appealing to all ages - and many even have free admission.

The vibrant nightlife and modern shopping district keep you busy after sightseeing, while the relaxed atmosphere and stunningly clean streets only add to your holiday mood.

See you in Stockholm this year? You should be there already!

Marc A. De Jong is journalist and editor of the

. This site tells you all

about the major attractions, events, how to get there, where to stay, and gives lots of other practical tips. Including blog and RSS feed.

## **Stockholm – The Most Beautiful Capital In The World?**

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### **Stockholm – The Most Beautiful Capital In The World? by Marc A. De Jong**

Stockholm is not as big and famous as Paris, London or New York. Still it is regarded as one of the most beautiful capitals in the world. The Swedish city captures the heart of every visitor.

Arriving in Stockholm is already something special. From your plane you will see the water, the immense green areas, the fourteen islands with the colorful buildings that make up Stockholm ..... You are in a holiday mood even before you set your first step on Swedish ground.

Located between the lake Mälaren and the Baltic Sea, Stockholm is sometimes called the Venice of the North. And, indeed, there is water everywhere. However, you don't need a gondola to get around. An extensive bus and subway network takes you everywhere.

## Stockholm – A Great Destination That Is Kind To Your Budget

Stockholm and Sweden don't make the news regularly. Sweden is a sparsely populated, but rich country and the nine million Swedes lead a wealthy calm life. They are modest, helpful, tolerant, and speak excellent English - which makes Stockholm even more pleasant to visit.

The city is remarkably clean. It's a very safe place too. Swedish crime figures are among the lowest in the world.

Stockholm has a rich history and many points of interests. Take a walk in Gamla Stan, the old town centre with its medieval streets, well-preserved houses and royal palace. Visit the world's first open-air museum Skansen, which is a joy even if you are not a museum fan. Or make a boat trip in the archipelago: no less than 24,000 islands and rocks create majestic sceneries you will never forget.

But even modern Stockholm has a lot to offer. Nightlife in the Swedish capital is hip, the Scandinavian design goods in shops are hard to resist, and the once controversial business district around Sergels Torg becomes one of the most vibrant parts of town in summer.

Stockholm mixes the latest trends and developments with ancient Nordic culture and tradition, located in an area with an almost magic natural charm. It's truly one of the world's most beautiful capitals.

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