

Stockholm

The places I find myself suggesting to people visiting Stockholm. Entirely personal, very biased and definitely not comprehensive.

Check Google Maps or the venue's website for current opening hours, prices and booking information.

Updated 22 July 2026

Museums

ABBA The Museum

WHAT IT IS

A museum dedicated to the Swedish pop band ABBA

WHY I LIKE IT

It is super camp and fun, intends to have a different vibe from history or art museums, it has interactive stuff anyone can enjoy, and pretty good music. The shop is the greatest place to get alternative souvenirs for your friends, like Agneta-shaped fridge magnets.

WORTH KNOWING

Obviously, if you don't like ABBA this is not for you. But also, if you like ABBA a lot, like a proper fanatic, you might find it a bit shallow. I personally think it is too short of an experience, but I am indeed a proper ABBA fanatic.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Fotografiska

WHAT IT IS

A photography museum. They usually have interesting exhibits; check the website.

WHY I LIKE IT

It's a bit of a messy walk from Slussen to the building because of all the construction, but the place is nice, and they have a nice gift shop too. At the top there is a restaurant with nice views. They have some lockers in the basement with a digital lock that most people need like 20 minutes to figure out, but it adds to the experience.

WORTH KNOWING

Can be a bit pricey if you are not at least interested in a couple of the exhibits. But they usually offer you some cava when you go in, which I guess is nice if you actually drink alcohol. They should give like a piece of chocolate for people like me and the children that usually ran amok in there.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Moderna Museet

WHAT IT IS

Contemporary art museum

WHY I LIKE IT

A pretty large permanent collection with cool stuff like a pool of mud that makes sounds (my fave), and some great temporary exhibits. The museum is in Skeppsholmen, which is also nice for a short walk and views. There are fun sculptures outside the museum too. Right next door there is an architecture museum named ArkDes that's also nice to see. Good cafes on both. And the museum shop is also good for presents.

WORTH KNOWING

Given that you like contemporary art, I can't think of anything. Gets a bit crowded on the weekends.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Nationalmuseum

WHAT IT IS

Classic art museum

WHY I LIKE IT

A lot of good classic art, plus a very nice cafe

WORTH KNOWING

Can't think of anything. Can be a time sink and if you don't care about classic art you are just wandering around indoors. Nice for a cosy winter morning though.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Nobel Prize Museum

WHAT IT IS

A museum about stuff loosely related to the Nobel Prize

WHY I LIKE IT

It's a bit like the Victoria and Albert Museum in that there is a lot of variety and some things are interesting and others are not, but there is something for almost everyone. Also some interesting exhibits sometimes.

WORTH KNOWING

Despite the Nobel Prize name, I think probably walking around Gamla Stan is a better use of the time.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Nordiska Museet

WHAT IT IS

A museum dedicated to Swedish culture

WHY I LIKE IT

Maybe an alternative to the Nobel Prize Museum. Also tons of random stuff thrown together. The building is nice.

WORTH KNOWING

Same as the Nobel Prize Museum: not sure you want to spend a lot of time inside when you can see so much around the city, but nice for a rainy day.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Prins Eugens Waldemarsudde

WHAT IT IS

Some random art gallery/museum

WHY I LIKE IT

You can probably skip going into the actual gallery unless you need to use the toilets (for free). But the area is so nice, just go up the hill, see the views. Sit on the bench and have a bite there or something.

WORTH KNOWING

Nice when the weather is nice, not so nice otherwise.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Vasa Museum

WHAT IT IS

A museum where people can see a ship that sank near Stockholm hundreds of years ago

WHY I LIKE IT

People go nuts for the ship; it almost feels bad to say you have been in Stockholm and NOT seen the Vasa. But the appeal depends on how much you actually like ships or dioramas explaining how everyone horribly drowned. But also, some interesting meta-learnings on how the ship was basically a project management fail: too many features can sink your product.

WORTH KNOWING

Usually very crowded. Unless you REALLY are into reading every piece of info offered to you, seeing the ship is actually quite a short experience.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Eat

Café Pascal

WHAT IT IS

Hipster cafe

WHY I LIKE IT

Hip gays swear by this place. If you prefer SOFO vibes over Mariatorget, this is the place to go.

WORTH KNOWING

Usually crowded.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Cykelcafé Le Mond

WHAT IT IS

Hipster brunch cafe

WHY I LIKE IT

This is a cycling-themed cafe—not that I have ever seen anyone with a bicycle or cycling gear in there. Food is good.

WORTH KNOWING

If you want brunch on weekends, you should arrive early; it gets crowded.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Drop Coffee

WHAT IT IS

Hipster cafe

WHY I LIKE IT

For the vibes. The Mariatorget gays and (upscale) hipsters like it. I don't think there is anything particularly remarkable about it; it is just a nice cafe.

WORTH KNOWING

Usually crowded on the weekends and late afternoons. But they close early anyway.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Espresso House

WHAT IT IS

A widely available cafe chain.

WHY I LIKE IT

This is like the Starbucks of Sweden. Actually this chain basically killed Starbucks over here. There are like one or two Starbucks left, but there are Espresso Houses everywhere else. Not the best food, and some of the places could use some maintenance, so it can be a bit hit or miss.

WORTH KNOWING

Mostly an option when there is nothing better nearby and you urgently need to find a toilet.

[Website](#)

Fabrique

WHAT IT IS

Semi-posh bakery and cafe.

WHY I LIKE IT

People who hate Vete-Katten normally like Fabrique. More industrial-looking decor, mismatched chairs and tables that look like they have been stolen from a homeless shelter. Fabrique places will make you feel bohemian while asking you for quite a lot of money. But the breakfast sandwiches are good, actually. They have some bread with walnuts that is very tasty. And some flatbread with seeds that works better if you are on a low-carb, high-fat diet. The Fabrique in Slussen is super spacious and you can also sit outside.

WORTH KNOWING

The sandwiches go fast. By midday they are basically gone. No Wi-Fi that I have seen.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Greasy Spoon

WHAT IT IS

OG brunch cafe

WHY I LIKE IT

This was super hyped a few years ago. EVERYONE wanted to have brunch on Sunday there. I think the furore went down together with the popularity of the avocado toast. Still pretty decent food.

WORTH KNOWING

If you want brunch on weekends, you should arrive early; it gets crowded.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Johan & Nyström

WHAT IT IS

Slightly less hipster cafe

WHY I LIKE IT

If Drop Coffee is full, you come here and see if they have space. Other than that, people seem to like the coffee. I don't drink coffee, so I can't really have an opinion. But it is a "respected" brand of coffee and some of the offices I have worked in served this brand.

WORTH KNOWING

Usually crowded on the weekends and late afternoons. But they close early anyway.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Kafé Plattan at Kulturhuset

WHAT IT IS

Vegan cafe inside Kulturhuset.

WHY I LIKE IT

A bit of a cave, but super convenient cafe that serves vegan food and treats. Very relaxed atmosphere if you need a bite around Sergel and don't want the typical fast food, or anything fancy.

WORTH KNOWING

Keep the receipt so you can use the toilets for free!

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Kaferang

WHAT IT IS

Cafe serving grilled sandwiches, breakfast toast, and similar food.

WHY I LIKE IT

A nice alternative to the larger chains. I go a lot because they have a place right around the corner from me. The grilled sandwiches are good! They have a lot of weird overpriced lemonades, which are good when you don't drink coffee or alcohol.

WORTH KNOWING

Sometimes they go overboard with the mustard. Ask that they put the sauce on the side if you are not sure.

[Website](#)

St Paul

WHAT IT IS

Yet another slightly less hipster cafe

WHY I LIKE IT

Honestly, when you don't drink coffee or eat pastries, all these places around Mariatorget are the same. You just go to the one that has a place to sit. People like what they bake here, from what I understand.

WORTH KNOWING

Usually crowded on the weekends and late afternoons. But they close early anyway.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Vete-Katten

WHAT IT IS

A bakery / cafe chain in Stockholm

WHY I LIKE IT

Well, I think they have like 3-4 of these in the city, but go to the one on Kungsgatan. Before ordering anything, just walk around. It has these old-lady tea-room vibes that some people love (like me) and some people hate. Their overnight oats are probably laced with cocaine; there is no other way to explain how addictive they are. Tourists usually go there for the princess cake. They are open late—like 20h, but that's late for cafes.

WORTH KNOWING

Usually crowded on weekends and some evenings. They cannot make hot chocolate with plant-based milk; they have a pre-made mix that tastes nice but cannot be customised.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Enter/Exit

WHAT IT IS

Vegan place in Gamla Stan

WHY I LIKE IT

Gamla Stan usually has a lot of tourist-trap places serving meatballs or fancy bistro stuff, and this is a decent urban vegan place.

WORTH KNOWING

This is inside a place called Bacchi Syre, in case you cannot find it. Can also get crowded, but you can order to take away and eat on a bench in Slussen or near the water if the weather is nice.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Eatnam

WHAT IT IS

Vietnamese "fast" food

WHY I LIKE IT

There are a few of these around the city. Food is pretty good, with decent vegan options. The Banh-mi to go is a premium alternative to buying a sandwich at a supermarket if you want to eat in a park or while taking a walk.

WORTH KNOWING

They usually have the English menu right next to the register. Useful because the dish names are borderline impossible to remember.

[Website](#)

Falloumi

WHAT IT IS

Casual restaurant focused on falafel.

WHY I LIKE IT

If you are in Skanstull, there are a few nice places you can go, but I like this one. They serve falafel and halloumi in various combinations and they have interesting decor.

WORTH KNOWING

Nothing really, but the pitas and wraps tend to be quite huge and the sauce can be a bit too much, so you can always ask them not to go ballistic if you want.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Hermans

WHAT IT IS

Vegan buffet restaurant.

WHY I LIKE IT

The most popular vegan buffet, and probably the best one. Up in the Söder hills overlooking Fotografiska and with great views. Food is mainly salads, stews, lasagna, curries, etc. Nice bread. Easy to overeat if you are not careful.

WORTH KNOWING

Pricey, but it is a buffet. Dessert is not included, but they have a nice selection too. And you can also go there just for a treat.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Holy Greens

WHAT IT IS

Uncomplicated salad chain

WHY I LIKE IT

Salad chain all over the city. Good if in a rush and you need to eat something relatively healthy. They do "warm" dishes too. You can make your own mix if their menu doesn't work for you, which is what I do.

WORTH KNOWING

They usually keep a sheet with the menu in English around. And many of the restaurants make you order from a screen, and you can choose a language anyway.

[Website](#)

Mahalo

WHAT IT IS

Vegan restaurant.

WHY I LIKE IT

Delicious vegan food. Nice for brunch or lunch.

WORTH KNOWING

A bit too crowded sometimes for lunch. Some dishes are a bit strong. Check if they are spicy or have tons of sauce you would rather not have. They have a policy saying they won't let you use a laptop during the peak times.

[Website](#)

Meatballs for the People

WHAT IT IS

Meatball restaurant that also offers vegan meatballs.

WHY I LIKE IT

Well, been there only once, but it is a good alternative to the tourist meatball places in Gamla Stan. They make tons of varieties of meatballs including plant-based.

WORTH KNOWING

Nothing really. It is a bit of a walk from the closest subway stop but nothing too bad.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Organico

WHAT IT IS

Mostly plant-based restaurant.

WHY I LIKE IT

Love this place. Usually more relaxed than Mahalo, but maybe with less food variety. Mainly burgers, salads, wraps, and soup. In the summer they serve outside in the square.

WORTH KNOWING

The burgers are served with tortilla bread instead of burger buns. Be aware.

[Google Maps](#)

Letiz Gelato

WHAT IT IS

Award-winning gelato shop in Gamla Stan.

WHY I LIKE IT

Pistachio Ice Cream!

WORTH KNOWING

It is Gamla Stan; expect tons of tourists if you are there on a weekend.

[Google Maps](#)

SNÖ

WHAT IT IS

Ice cream shop next to Vasaparken.

WHY I LIKE IT

Pistachio Ice Cream!

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

StikkiNikki Vegan

WHAT IT IS

Popular ice cream chain.

WHY I LIKE IT

There are several shops around the city, but the Mariatorget one is vegan-only. I don't think they have pistachio, though.

WORTH KNOWING

If you sit in Mariatorget and hear terrifying noises, don't be scared; it is just the self-emptying bins. So hi-tech.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Cinemas

Bio Rio

WHAT IT IS

Arthouse cinema that also shows older films.

WHY I LIKE IT

Other than the regular releases, they have a cycle of older movies, which is good for a Sunday morning at the cinema.

WORTH KNOWING

They have a "breakfast combo"—the food is not good. Don't buy that. Instead, go to Vurma or Embargo across the street for food after the movie. Also, most of the movies are '80s and '90s and they repeat them a lot.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Capitol

WHAT IT IS

A fancy cinema showing both current releases and older films, with food available in the auditorium.

WHY I LIKE IT

Premium cinema experience, nice architecture inside—it feels like you are in a historic place. You can go there and get served charcuterie, cheese, pizza, and cava. I have seen groups of women getting hammered while watching A Star Is Born, so yeah...

WORTH KNOWING

Probably more expensive than it should be. The reclining seats are not that comfortable. Make sure to get some that are not too close to the screen; it is a bit cramped.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Filmstaden Scandinavia

WHAT IT IS

IMAX and VIP screens.

WHY I LIKE IT

The only IMAX place in Stockholm.

WORTH KNOWING

It is outside the inner city—you have to go all the way to Solna and take a commuter train (Pendeltåg) or the tram, depending where you are.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Filmstaden Sergel

WHAT IT IS

A large central multiplex with many screens.

WHY I LIKE IT

The main cinema in the city centre, with 16 screens. Most commercial movies are released here.

WORTH KNOWING

Screen 1 is super large. Screens 2-5 are mid-size. The rest are pretty small.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Rigoletto

WHAT IT IS

A central cinema with a large main screen

WHY I LIKE IT

This place was renovated a few years ago and they turned it into a fancy cinema with reclining motorised chairs, generous space, food and drinks. Very nice if they are playing a movie you want to see.

WORTH KNOWING

Higher price than other cinemas in the Filmstaden chain.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Places to go

Drottningholm Palace

WHAT IT IS

Palace outside the city centre.

WHY I LIKE IT

A royal residence, very nice building, nice gardens, nice everything. You can probably skip if you are here for 2 days, but otherwise, it is probably worth taking the trip.

WORTH KNOWING

It's a bit outside of the city; you can make it a half-day adventure by going on the boat.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Gamla Stan

WHAT IT IS

Old city

WHY I LIKE IT

Probably Stockholm's tourist hotspot. Everyone comes here. Just walk around; it's not that large.

WORTH KNOWING

Crowded. If you hate cringe souvenir shops, maybe you should avoid spending too much time on the main streets.

Hagaparken

WHAT IT IS

Large park with historic buildings.

WHY I LIKE IT

Large park up north with a lot of historical buildings, like random temples, the Pavilion, Koppartälten (1800s building that looks like a tent with a cafe inside), etc. Can just be nice to walk around for an hour or two.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Humlegården

WHAT IT IS

Small central park.

WHY I LIKE IT

Not the largest park, but unlike Kungsträdgården, this is more of a classic, nice park with grass and trees, and you will find groups of friends sitting around having picnics and playing games.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Kungsträdgården

WHAT IT IS

City centre park

WHY I LIKE IT

Not so much of a park as a gathering place with some trees and some grass on one end. But it is nice. In winter you have the ice rink, in spring you get the cherry blossoms, and there is usually stuff happening, like concerts, events, publicity stunts, etc. There are cafes and restaurants on the sides.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Mariaberget and Monteliusvägen

WHAT IT IS

Waterside walk with views

WHY I LIKE IT

Really nice views, and a charming walk uphill in Södermalm. Nice for photos of the city for your Instagram posts.

WORTH KNOWING

It is not a super long walk, but you can make a walking tour out of it by combining it with other landmarks around here.

Mariatorget

WHAT IT IS

Square in Södermalm

WHY I LIKE IT

Small square, nothing that remarkable about it, but the surroundings have a lot of cafes and restaurants, and it has a bit of a gay neighbourhood vibe to it, with Side Track and SLM being around the corner.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Sergels torg

WHAT IT IS

Most popular town square

WHY I LIKE IT

You will probably visit it even if you don't plan to, just because it is in the middle of everything. On weekends there is always something going on, from art installations to interpretive dance to protests and more, and many times it's everything at the same time.

WORTH KNOWING

Can get crowded

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Skeppsholmen

WHAT IT IS

Small island in the city centre

WHY I LIKE IT

Charming island with museums and nice views. There is a small castle (Kastellet Stockholm) on the even smaller island to the south.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Stockholm City Hall

WHAT IT IS

The city hall

WHY I LIKE IT

Nice building, nice views. You can get a guided tour. In the summer, it is common to see people getting married and taking pictures at the back while random topless people are doing yoga on the side. Contrasts are fun.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Tanto

WHAT IT IS

Park in Södermalm

WHY I LIKE IT

On top of being a nice park, you can walk around some cute wooden houses that are part of a community garden. Very charming.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

The Royal Palace

WHAT IT IS

The Royal Palace

WHY I LIKE IT

If you are into palaces, this is one of the two you probably want to visit. Nice to look at; you can go in for a fee and see the museums. Outside, there is sometimes a changing of the guard and things like that. Surely there is a schedule somewhere; check online.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Gröna Lund

WHAT IT IS

Amusement park with rides and games and food

WHY I LIKE IT

The main (only?) amusement park in the city. It has a slightly decadent vibe like something out of the 80s and I keep waiting for vampires to show up because I have seen Lost Boys too many times. But the rides are fun and you can have a great day in there.

WORTH KNOWING

The Wild Mouse ride looks like a mild thing for children. IT IS NOT. Tip: If you go on Midsummer when all the Swedes are out getting drunk somewhere in the country it is actually less crowded and nice! Oh, and don't expect much of the food.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Artipelag by boat

WHAT IT IS

Art gallery in the middle of nowhere

WHY I LIKE IT

You can go for the art, but really, most people go for the vibes. A nice-looking building near the water, walks around the forest, and super nice toilets (for real, they are the best). It is very relaxing over there. There is a boat that gets you there, and you see pretty houses along the way. You can also get there by bus, and you need to switch lines in Gustavsberg, which is super charming.

WORTH KNOWING

The boat only runs in the core summer months, so check before you go. The restaurant is pricey, but you can be cheap and bring your own food and still eat on the terrace. They have pretty decent pastries though.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Drottningholm by boat

WHAT IT IS

Boat trip from central Stockholm to Drottningholm Palace.

WHY I LIKE IT

Let's face it. After you've seen the palace once, it is a bit boring to go back. So when my friends visit and want me to take them there, I trick them into taking the boat because it is always more exciting to be on a boat. This ride is on Lake Mälaren, and you take the boat from the pier near Stadshuset.

WORTH KNOWING

I think you can book some lunch or food on the boat. I have never done it, but check the website.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Vaxholm by boat

WHAT IT IS

Picturesque town in the archipelago

WHY I LIKE IT

Going to Vaxholm is just an excuse to jump on a boat and go around the islands, which is really nice if the weather is good. You can walk around, have an ice cream or eat at a restaurant and then go back. There is a fortress museum on the island right across if you are super into that sort of thing.

WORTH KNOWING

You can go on a faster modern ferry or one of those cute steamboats. But if you hate the boat for some reason, you can always come back on a bus!

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Swimming

Artificial beach in Gamla Stan

WHAT IT IS

Tiny "beach" to sit down and chill in Gamla Stan

WHY I LIKE IT

Nice-looking and relatively new area that is easy to miss when passing by Gamla Stan. I haven't really taken a swim in there, and not sure I would, but it is still just relaxing to sit there. It has benches, swings, there is some sand, so maybe it does qualify as a beach!

WORTH KNOWING

In order to get there, just go in the Gamla Stan T-bana tunnel and go up the stairs instead of taking the trains.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Frescati nude beach

WHAT IT IS

Nude swimming area with gay cruising.

WHY I LIKE IT

I am not into nude beaches, but since I am constantly asked about this place, I am copying what Sniffies says: "Mixed nude beach with cruising in the woods up the mountain behind." Now you know.

WORTH KNOWING

Before deciding that having sex in the bushes is a good idea, you probably want to be aware of the danger of ticks and maybe get vaccinated. Yes, I am a party pooper.

Kärsön nude beach

WHAT IT IS

Nude swimming area with gay cruising.

WHY I LIKE IT

The "main" gay beach in Stockholm, according to my friends. I have never been there, but according to Sniffies, "nude sunbathing and swimming on the cliffs. Cruising in the woods behind. Mixed nude beach at the northern tip, so don't go too far."

WORTH KNOWING

Before deciding that having sex in the bushes is a good idea, please make sure you are vaccinated against ticks. Yes, I am a party pooper.

Långholmen

WHAT IT IS

Swimming spot in the city centre

WHY I LIKE IT

There are a few places you can swim on this island, so check the map. If you get tired of swimming, you can go and check out the hotel on the island that used to be a prison and get a drink there.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Sickla Strand

WHAT IT IS

Lakeside swimming area in Sickla.

WHY I LIKE IT

This is where I usually go because I live nearby. There are three decent-looking decks and a beach. I never go to the beach (there are kids), and the two decks on the north side are always full of people. I love the southern deck though. People swim in there and then they sit on the patch of grass nearby to sunbathe.

WORTH KNOWING

Going after a rainy day is not the best; the road to get there is covered in slugs and tiny frogs that you will inevitably end up stepping over. Ugh.

[Google Maps](#)

Tanto Strandbad

WHAT IT IS

Swimming spot and sauna at Tantolunden.

WHY I LIKE IT

If you are too lazy to walk to Långholmen you can basically swim in Tanto. They are probably going to be equally crowded at peak time anyway. There is a sauna in there too, which is nice if you want the full experience.

WORTH KNOWING

The sauna is a membership club, but they sell tickets to the general public sometimes; check the website!

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Drinks

I don't drink alcohol and I go to bed early, so adjust your expectations accordingly.

Medborgarplatsen bars

WHAT IT IS

A cluster of bars around Medborgarplatsen.

WHY I LIKE IT

There are a bunch of bars in Medborgarplatsen and also going up Götgatan. Honestly, I can't tell them apart, so you go there and find the one you like best. Further up the street and to the right there is Omnipollos Hatt, which some colleagues of mine were obsessed with. If you like weird beer and pizza in the most uncomfortably tight place possible, you should absolutely check it out!

WORTH KNOWING

It gets crowded and loud on weekends. But nice to see the locals in their environment. It is very educational.

Mosebacketerrassen

WHAT IT IS

Outdoor terrace.

WHY I LIKE IT

Fairly spacious outdoor area with nice views. It can get a bit crowded but is nice and casual and you don't have to really dress up or anything. Sometimes they have live music.

WORTH KNOWING

If the weather is bad, maybe think twice. Also, this area used to be a bit rough at night, but I think it's gotten better. But just so you know.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Nytorget bars

WHAT IT IS

Bars around Nytorget and the surrounding SoFo area.

WHY I LIKE IT

More picturesque than Medborgarplatsen. With the little red houses around, it gives more hipster vibes (I mean, as hipster as gentrified SOFO gets these days). Not as many bars, but enough choice.

WORTH KNOWING

You have to walk a bit to get there; it's not close to a subway stop.

Pelago

WHAT IT IS

Large seasonal rooftop venue with views.

WHY I LIKE IT

Cross the bridge from Mosebacke and go up the stairs. This is a newish place; the building was under renovation for a long time. You can just check the views and go, but if you want, you can also have a drink.

WORTH KNOWING

I find the crowd slightly on the pretentious side, but maybe it's just me; I am a bohemian nerd. There are queues sometimes when it gets crowded, and it's sad seeing people on that bridge just waiting.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Secret Garden

WHAT IT IS

Gay bar in Gamla Stan.

WHY I LIKE IT

Gay bar that tourists don't realise is a gay bar, which is probably a good thing since the audience is quite mixed. Pub food, beers, etc. They have a nice area to sit outside.

WORTH KNOWING

Because tourists don't realise it is a gay bar, it is likely that you are the only gay person sitting there, especially earlier in the day.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Side Track

WHAT IT IS

Gay bar in Mariatorget.

WHY I LIKE IT

One of the few gay bars around. Beers and pub food, that kind of vibe.

WORTH KNOWING

People there are more on the bear/biker/leather side of things, if that's your cup of tea.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

SLM Stockholm

WHAT IT IS

Gay fetish membership club.

WHY I LIKE IT

SLM is a membership club run by volunteers and basically a decent option, considering there is almost nothing else in Stockholm if you are looking for this kind of thing. The club is in an underground space and runs theme nights. Some days it is just a regular pub. On some other days it's leather, or rubber, etc., and you have to follow their dress code. Check the website.

WORTH KNOWING

You need to be a member BEFORE going in. If you are just visiting, you can get a temporary membership that's reasonably priced. Looks quite intimidating but they are pretty friendly.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

TAK

WHAT IT IS

Central rooftop bar and restaurant.

WHY I LIKE IT

Rooftop drinks. Honestly, not sure what else to say; I've been there once and had a lemonade. Seems very popular and there are usually queues in the summer.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Trädgården

WHAT IT IS

Large open-air club beneath a bridge.

WHY I LIKE IT

Just a club, but it's curious to see with the bridge location and gets popular in the summer months; they also do concerts sometimes.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Shopping

Gallerian

WHAT IT IS

Small inner-city mall with IKEA and restaurants.

WHY I LIKE IT

Tons of shops but fairly compact. Usually too loud, but going down to IKEA is always weirdly soothing, and the toilets next to it are wonderful. You have to pay 15 kr, but they have great lighting and bird-chirping noises that take peeing to a whole new level.

WORTH KNOWING

If you go to buy something at Stadium, for the love of god, don't use the changing rooms. The overhead lighting will make you question your life choices.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

MOOD

WHAT IT IS

Shopping mall

WHY I LIKE IT

Yet another indoor shopping centre. This one is a bit more chill than Gallerian; it has quite a lot of restaurants distributed across several floors, plus some boutiques, but they are less flashy than the brands in Gallerian.

WORTH KNOWING

Restaurants are quite busy at lunchtime on weekdays because there are tons of offices in the area.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

NK

WHAT IT IS

Fancy central department store.

WHY I LIKE IT

This is like Stockholm's Harrods; you know they have a bit of everything and most of it is probably overpriced. They even have Christmas animatronics (or whatever they are) in the windows that people stop and take videos of.

WORTH KNOWING

Buying in this place always makes me feel like I am Julia Roberts in Pretty Woman and I am being bullied by snobby salespeople. Still, it is the only place that sells the Shu Uemura hair product I use, so I am condemned to come back.

[Website](#) [Google Maps](#)

Sturegallerian

WHAT IT IS

Small upscale inner-city mall.

WHY I LIKE IT

Like the posh version of Gallerian. Everyone here tends to be blonde and wear a blue suit. I would probably never set foot in this place, but the Björn Borg shop where I get my underwear is there and they run decent sales a few times a year. You also have to go in if you want to access the Sturebadet Spa.

WORTH KNOWING

They have been renovating since forever, so it is a bit of a mess now but still nice.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Spas

Centralbadet

WHAT IT IS

Historic central spa and bathhouse.

WHY I LIKE IT

Well, as the name says, it is in the city centre and it has historical vibes. Has a pool, various baths, and a ton of different saunas. Slightly cheaper than other alternatives.

WORTH KNOWING

It is being renovated this year, so bad timing! The pool water is colder than you would hope at a spa, but maybe not a bad thing.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Grand Hôtel Nordic Spa & Fitness

WHAT IT IS

Upscale hotel spa.

WHY I LIKE IT

Only been here once, but quite impressive facilities. The locker area is so nice that I spent most of the time there in the male sauna or reading. The pools and baths could be warmer but everything is so well maintained. They also have a small but pretty decent gym. And you can stay the whole day if you want, no pressure to leave in 3 or 6 hours like the other spas.

WORTH KNOWING

You can have some food there but it will cost you. One of the packages they have includes breakfast at the hotel and it is really nice, so probably get that one and skip lunch.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Sturebadet

WHAT IT IS

Upscale historic spa.

WHY I LIKE IT

Everything you would hope for from a spa. Pool, steam saunas, etc. And they also have a gym. My friend Doanna had a membership to this place for a year and she loved it despite the price tag. Most other humans are probably OK going once every few years.

WORTH KNOWING

Can get pricey and they keep bundling the entry with some lunch or dinner you may or may not want.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Vana Spa at Elite Hotel

WHAT IT IS

Small hotel spa.

WHY I LIKE IT

I like this one because it is a short walk away from my place, but it is pretty small. They have a nice pool (could be warmer but OK), a dry sauna, a couple of cold plunges, and a hammam, which is actually the best thing. The steam in there is just crazy, you can't even see the other people. They also have a gym if you want to use it.

WORTH KNOWING

A bit expensive for what it is, but it has decent offers in the summer months.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)

Yasuragi

WHAT IT IS

Japanese-inspired spa that works as a six-hour visit or an overnight stay.

WHY I LIKE IT

My fave. Great for a chill day when you are super tired. If you are super super tired, an overnight is even better, and they have an amazing breakfast. It's just basically a bunch of pools and saunas you just circle around. You don't need to take anything; they give you a swimsuit and anything you need. Some of the packages include food, either lunch or dinner.

WORTH KNOWING

Outside of the city but not too far away. You can just get the ferry from the city and walk like 5-10 min. Also buses, and an Uber there is not that expensive either.

[Website](#)

[Google Maps](#)