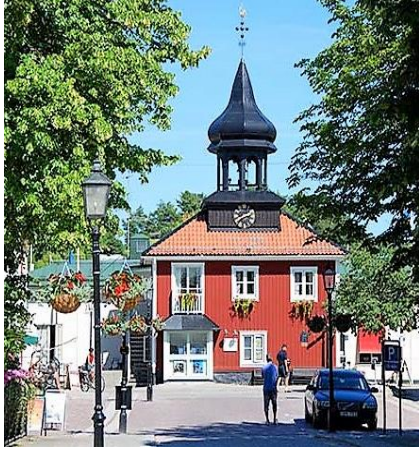


## SWEDEN: CENTRAL LAKES & ISLANDS OR WEST COAST BIKE PATH

7-day or 8-day inn-to-inn easy to moderate **SELF-GUIDED** cycling tours



Get a taste of Sweden that many visitors rarely experience, cycling in one of the most bike-friendly countries in Europe, with hundreds of kilometres of cycle paths and dedicated cycle routes. Summer (June to August) offers long days, short nights, comfortable temperatures; spring brings blooming wildflowers; autumn colourful trees, wild berries ripening, and cinnamon buns in many local bakeries.

These easy to moderate self-guided cycling tours offer two different sides of Sweden, both in landscape and culture. The first starts and ends in Stockholm and explores the rural landscapes and lush green meadows of **Södermanland** where there are few hills, and the cycling is mostly flat. There are castles and palaces to visit, and time to explore the small towns and pretty lakes. Viking sites, ancient runestones and rock carvings are on the agenda too, as is the pretty village of Trosa on the Baltic Sea with its iconic red houses and water views.

Alternatively, explore the West Coast, cycling the **Kattegattleden Bike Path**, Sweden's first national bicycle trail, a 370-kilometre bicycle route alongside the Kattegat arm of the North Sea. The path crosses the Halland region, from Helsingborg to Gothenburg, past sandy beaches, through picturesque fishing villages and on small city bike paths with usually very little traffic. Explore historic places including the medieval town of Falkenberg, 13<sup>th</sup> Century Varberg Fortress and glimpse the Tudor-style, Arts & Crafts influenced Tjolöholm Castle across the Kungsbacka Fjord, before ending your ride in the lively university city of Gothenburg.

### Vikings, Castles & Lakes from Stockholm

**7-days/6-nights**

**Departs every Sunday from May to September**

**Cost from:**

**\$2065** per person twin-share

26 May - 1 June, 1 September

**\$2145** per person twin-share

2 - 15 June, 18 - 31 August

**\$2225** per person twin-share

16 June - 17 August

Single supplement **\$825**

### West Coast Kattegattleden Bike Path: Helsingborg - Gothenburg

**8-days/7-nights**

**Departs every Saturday from May to September**

**Cost from:**

**\$2560** per person twin-share

25 - 31 May, 31 August - 7 September

**\$2640** per person twin-share

1 - 14 June, 17 - 30 August

**\$2720** per person twin-share

15 June - 16 August

Single supplement **\$955**

**Includes:** Accommodation with own bathroom in comfortable 3- & 4-star hotels, with breakfast included, hire of multi-gear touring bicycle, luggage transfers, detailed route notes and maps (1 set x per room), GPS data on request, emergency telephone assistance. Stockholm tour includes ferry fees on route as indicated.

**Not included:** Meals not mentioned, drinks, personal expenses, entrance fees, local city taxes (paid locally), bike helmet hire (not available) so we recommend you take your own for safety purposes. E-Bikes available on request for additional cost – please ask for details when booking.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**



## **STOCKHOLM: VIKINGS, CASTLES, LAKES & ISLANDS**

### **From Stockholm to Södertälje, Mariefred, Järna and Trosa**

This tour begins and ends in cosmopolitan Stockholm, an archipelago of 14 islands on Lake Mälaren. You are never far from water on this cycling tour, whether one of the many lakes and rivers of Södermanland, Lake Mälaren or the Baltic Sea. There is the chance to learn about Swedish history, from Viking times up until today, and to discover the royal palaces of Drottningholm, Gripsholm and Tullgarn. The route takes in parks and nature reserves, picturesque towns like Mariefred and Trosa and lush green landscapes.

#### **Suggested itinerary:**

##### **Day 1: Arrive Stockholm**

Arrive in Stockholm mid-afternoon in time for a stroll through Sweden's capital. Gamla stan, the city's Old Town, dates to medieval times, and the narrow cobblestone streets and waterfront are lined with colourful buildings. Stockholm Cathedral, the Nobel Museum, and the Vasa maritime museum, with its well-preserved 17<sup>th</sup> Century warship, are all worth a visit if time permits. Your bikes will await your arrival at the first hotel.

##### **Day 2: Stockholm to Södertälje**

**cycling @ 60km**

Ride along an ancient trade route beside Lake Mälaren that has existed since the Viking Age, passing the World Heritage-listed 17<sup>th</sup> Century Drottningholm Palace, private residence of Sweden's royal family. The gardens, grounds and parts of the palace are open to visitors; visit the Chinese Pavilion built in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century when the European fashion for *Chinoiserie* was at its zenith and boasting fine examples of Chinese and Japanese decorative arts and lacquer-work. Afterwards continue by bicycle and ferry to Södertälje.

##### **Day 3: Södertälje to Mariefred**

**cycling @ 45km**

Worth a short detour today is Taxinge Palace at Nykvarn, sometimes called the 'Cookie Palace', known for its elaborate and extensive cake buffet featuring over 60 different cakes, cookies, and pastries. Work off all that cake by cycling on quiet roads to Gripsholm Castle in the quiet town of Mariefred. In the 1370s, Bo Jonsson Grip built a castle on a promontory which expanded several times over the centuries. It houses the national portrait collection of over 4000 works tracing the art of portraiture from the 1400s to present day. You can extend your ride by cycling to Selaön island, which has ancient runestones and a significant gravesite dating to Iron Age times, and where stone grave markers were placed to form the outline of a ship.

##### **Day 4: Mariefred to Järna**

**cycling @ 45km**

Cycle through remote nature reserves and the peaceful rural landscapes of Sörmland. The region's many rivers and lakes were formed by glaciation and by tectonic movements creating a rift valley. The cycling is gently undulating, although no hill is taller than 100 metres, and your ascents are rewarded with pleasant views of tranquil green countryside dotted with lakes, rivers, and forest. Stay tonight in the small town of Järna, a centre for the study and development of Rudolf Steiner's philosophy of anthroposophy, with bio-dynamic and permaculture farms, Steiner schools, and an alternative bank and hospital.

##### **Day 5: Järna to Trosa**

**cycling @ 50km**

A day of cycling through tranquil lakeland scenery, from Järna to the idyllic Baltic Sea town of Trosa, a film location for movies and television. En route you may like to detour to Tullgarn Palace, an 18<sup>th</sup> Century summer palace known for its fine interior décor. End your day with a stroll through the narrow laneways and alongside the Trosa River, with its typical red or yellow painted houses and lovely water views. There are several good restaurants serving local seafood – perhaps try the fresh crabs, salmon, or smoked fish for dinner.

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### Day 6: Trosa to Stockholm

**cycling @ 55km**

Cycle northwards to meet the ferry and then take the local commuter train with your bike (avoiding traffic, ticket paid for locally) to Stockholm. Make your way to your hotel for your last night in the capital, perhaps with a typical Swedish dinner in a nearby restaurant.

### Day 7: Departure day

Tour arrangements end after breakfast. Ask us about cost and availability of extending your stay in Stockholm.



## WEST COAST: KATTEGATTLEDEN BIKE PATH

### From Helsingborg to Gothenburg

The Kattegattleden Bike Path on Sweden's west coast forms a part of the 5,900-kilometre EuroVélo North Sea Cycling Route. This 8-day (7-night) cycling tour allows you to sample a portion of that epic coastal journey. From Helsingborg, the route mostly follows the sea, travelling through open countryside, nature reserves and verdant farmland. As you draw closer to Gothenburg the landscape changes, with scenic cliffs, lush forests, sheltered bays and quaint harbours.

The culinary speciality of this region is seafood – locally caught lobster, prawns, langoustines, mussels, oysters and of course herring, served in almost any way you can imagine – smoked, fried, pickled, marinated, baked, *au gratin*, with dill, beetroot, mustard, onion, or even blackcurrants or lingonberry jam. The west coast has so much to offer, from picturesque fishing villages to rural countryside to charming, laid-back cities – and this relaxed self-guided cycling tour is the ideal way to discover it all.

### Suggested itinerary:

#### Day 1: Arrive Helsingborg

Arrive in Helsingborg mid-afternoon and check into your centrally located hotel. Helsingborg is just 1½ hours by train from Copenhagen (Denmark) via Malmö (Sweden). You stay in the centre of Helsingborg with easy access to the city's main attractions, including the medieval watchtower Kärnan and St. Mary's Church. Your bikes will await your arrival at the first hotel.

#### Day 2: Helsingborg to Ängelholm

**cycling @ 60km**

Begin your west coast journey with a ride along the waterfront promenade in Helsingborg, soon passing by Sofiero Palace, once a summer residence for Swedish royalty. It is noted for its extensive park and grounds, planted with over 500 species of rhododendron. Continue along the coast through quaint fishing villages and past small marinas to Höganäs, known for its salt-glazed stoneware – there are exhibitions and a shop at the Ceramic Centre. Then cycle across the Kulla peninsula, passing vineyards, small farms and artists' cottages. Today ends in Ängelholm, with its long sandy beach and numerous art galleries and craft shops.

#### Day 3: Ängelholm to Halmstad

**cycling @ 75 - 95km**

From Ängelholm follow the coast to Vejbystrand, cycling through open meadows and several small coastal communities. In Magnarp you can stop for lunch at an out-of-the-way (but recommended) seafood restaurant in the harbour area. Cut inland across the Bjäre peninsula to the seaside resort town of Båstad. Continue alongside one of Sweden's longest stretches of sandy beach and the resorts of Skummeslövsstrand and Mellbystrand. You pass the Tönnersa and Gullbranna nature reserve with its shifting sand dunes and pine forest. There is an optional detour to an Iron Age burial ground near Laxvik. Your destination is Halmstad, which like much of this region passed hands between Denmark and Sweden many times.

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#### **Day 4: Halmstad to Falkenberg**

**cycling @ 60km**

Sweden's most popular beach, Tylösand, awaits today. Past the long sandy sweep of Tylösand, continue cycling northwards along the coastline with sea views at every turn. As you leave Halmstad and the nearby beach resorts behind, the cycle route passes through more rural countryside and nature reserves and there are several small farm gates selling local produce. The route leads you over beautiful Grimsholmen to Falkenberg, which is one of the oldest medieval towns in the region.

#### **Day 5: Falkenberg to Varberg**

**cycling @ 40km**

Fishing villages, artists and artisans are plentiful on your route today. Träslövsläge has a bustling harbour lined with brightly painted boathouses and is a centre of the lobster fishing industry. There is a seafood restaurant at the harbour, which is a good place to eat if you arrive around lunchtime.

Varberg, your destination for tonight, is home to an impressive fortress, parts of which date back to the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. The museum in the fortress is worth a visit, not least to see Bocksten Man, the remains of a 14<sup>th</sup> Century man who met a violent death and was discovered in a peat bog at a nearby farm in 1936. His clothing, personal effects and even his hair are remarkably well-preserved. Also at Varberg is the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Grimeton radio station, built in the 1920s for wireless transatlantic communication, and the 1903 bathhouse with its mix of Gothic and Moorish architectural styles; it is still in operation if you're game for a traditional sauna.

#### **Day 6: Varberg to Kungsbacka**

**cycling @ 60 - 70km**

North of Varberg the landscape changes – sandy beaches become fewer and smaller, and the rocky coastline starts to dominate as you begin to get glimpses of islands. Cycle onwards past horses grazing in pastures to Kungsbacka.

#### **Day 7: Kungsbacka to Gothenburg (Göteborg)**

**cycling @ 40 - 65km**

Leaving Kungsbacka you cycle alongside the Kungsbacka Fjord and get glimpses of Tjolöholm Castle, a Tudor-style manor house with influences from the Arts & Crafts movement. You pass Vallda and Särö, seaside resorts that were once a playground of the royal family and Gothenburg high society. Afterwards you reach a disused railway line, now converted into a bike path. Cliffs, forests, bays and marinas line your path into Gothenburg, a lively university city with a bustling nightlife, neoclassical architecture, many parks and gardens, and streets lined with rattling, old-style blue and white trams.

#### **Day 8: Departure day**

After breakfast you are free for your onward travel arrangements. Gothenburg is 3 hours by train to either Stockholm or (via Malmö) Copenhagen. Alternatively, the airport has flights departing to Stockholm and other major European cities. Or extend your stay in Gothenburg – ask about cost and availability of extra nights.



**Outdoor Travel** also offer cycling holiday destinations include several areas of Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, England and Scotland, Romania, Austria, Poland, Hungary, in the Czech Republic, the USA, Canada, China, Vietnam, New Zealand and Australia.

#### **Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations**

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