



night. One of the more traditional places for lesbian parties is Kollingsborg, hosting girl clubs RedLight, Mouse Club and Club Caliente. The lesbian leather club hosts parties every month. Like in all the other girl clubs in Stockholm, transgender and otherwise trans-identified people are welcome, and the setting is cozy and friendly. (Curious visitors and lost tourists will not be scared!) To keep updated about parties and other activities coming up, be sure to check QX Magazine's online gay guide at www.qx.se. Along with all the latest LGBT news, its gaymap of Stockholm is essential.

The late summer Stockholm Pride Festival (end of July/early August) is the largest public event in the country – period. A week's worth of musical entertainment and art exhibitions, lectures and debates plus no small amount of partying, all culminate in a lively parade and outdoor celebration. Viking Bears, gay Christians, queer sports teams and out firemen... you name it, they're there.

Welcome to the unique quality of gay life in Stockholm. There's much to be discovered and even more to be experienced. The gay capital of Scandinavia awaits.



Information is taken from
<http://www.visitstockholm.com/en/Dine/Tips/Gay--Stockholm/>
and <http://stockholm-gay-lesbian-network.com/>

OUT & ABOUT

GAY TRAVEL GUIDES

Stockholm is a popular gay spot with rainbow flags in every district of the city. It has become a hot tourist destination for homo-bi-trans persons and many like it here because of the Swedish people's progressive view of HBT issues. But most come here for Stockholm's glittery parties, charming rainbow cafés, and summer's big Pride Festival.

Stockholm has no specific gay district; you'll find gay- and lesbian-friendly bars and clubs in Gamla Stan and Södermalm, as well as Kungsholmen and downtown. For more detailed information on nightlife and what's happening right now, go to www.qx.se, a webzine geared to gay audiences. You'll also find news, useful tips and guides on the website of Stockholm Gay & Lesbian Network, which is part of Stockholm Visitors Board. Following is a selection of cafés, restaurants, bars, and other places.



DINING OUT

Gay-popular highlights include the campily baroque and reliably tasty Torget, queen of the Gamla Stan scene. Le Rouge, also in the heart of Stockholm's old town, is the perfect place to grab a pre-dinner drink or while away the night with inspired dishes and chatty friends. In summer, balmy evenings see Kungsholmen's Riddarfjärden shore comes alive with slick outdoor restaurant/cafe Mälarpaviljongen, its floating pontoon deck overflowing with cocktailing queers. Nearby, funky little Göken offers well-crafted seasonal delights under glowing handbag-shaped lights.

NIGHTS OUT

Like any large city, the social calendar is ruled by the day of the week and shining season, as well as your own proclivities. Whatever your type for the night – jocks, cabaret, college, bear, leather, classy, dance or a quiet place for a beer with your boo – there's no shortage of gay venues to choose from. Add in the many gay-friendly boîtes and you've got heaps of social options. Those who want nothing less than a shoulder-to-shoulder scene scored by international DJs pack into multi-level Paradise or flock to Zipper Club for sweaty shufflin' between three dance floors and four bars. Fashionistas frequent the guest-list-only 2.35:1 +Gay in the clubby basement of pop-art opulent Berns Hotel on Saturday. Leathermen get their licks at the semi-private, strictly fetish focused Scandinavian Leather Men (SLM) pub and club nights. And it seems the whole town turns up on Sunday for lager and schlager (Sweden's own brand of highly danceable cheese-tastic euro pop) on the moored lightship turned

party boat Patricia. In summer, an energetic buzz takes strength from the seemingly never-ending sunset. The high-class mixed scene on the open-air steps of F12 is a good bet to tap into it.

In nightlife, nothing is more constant than change. QX magazine is a reliable source on the city's social scandal as well as the most up-to-date listings of gay-friendly bars, restaurants, clubs and events; its plainly laid out QX GayMap (also online at www.qx.se) is an easy-to-follow essential. Consult it while taking a fika – loosely translated, a traditional afternoon coffee and sweet pastry break – at cozy Chokladkoppen in the heart of Gamla Stan or head to Copacabana Café in grungier Södermalm. Adjoining an indie movie theater and around the corner from overstuffed queer bookstore Hallongrottan (named after a raspberry tartlet), the Copa is a laid-back place to meet locals and nosh vegetarian cuisine.

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

If in some countries you have to look for a "gay friendly" bar to dare hold your girlfriend's hand, in Stockholm you can skip that step. Straight clubs not only tolerate but welcome gays and lesbians to join the party. There are several watering holes exclusively for the lesbian community, most of them located in SoFo, the more bohemian part of Södermalm, referring to its location south of Folkungagatan street. Bars such as Roxy are crowded with girls flirting over beers on the weekend. Girl parties are frequently held all over Stockholm, attracting women of different ages and styles, all in the mood for dancing – and love. The largest and most popular clubs are Moxy and Club KG attracting well over a thousand party girls a