

Asian art in Scandinavia? Ja wisst! (It's true!)



Chinese Pavilion at Drottningholm Palace

SAA's Scandinavian Summer Tour: Stockholm, Gothenburg and Copenhagen Preceded by a 'Medieval Weekend' on the island of Gotland August 9 – 19, 2024

Scandinavia – often associated with Viking legends and modern design -- seems an improbable destination for the pursuit of great collections of ancient Asian art. Yet countless Swedish and Danish archaeologists, missionaries, diplomats and private individuals have donated objects to collections in Stockholm, Gothenburg and Copenhagen, where this tour will take members of the Society for Asian Art in August. Expect an eye-opening, edifying and entertaining experience!

Highlights

- Our tour kicks off with an entertaining weekend in the Hanseatic city of Visby, on the island of Gotland, where we will partake in the largest medieval festival in Europe.
- In Stockholm, we will have a curator-led visit at the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities - whose collections from China, Korea, Japan, India and Southeast Asia are nearly unmatched in Europe – and have a rare opportunity to see archaeological finds from northern Vietnam made by archaeologist Olov Janse in the 1930s. Important finds from Tibet, Mongolia and Xinjiang made by Sven Hedin in the early 20th century will be shared at the nearby Museum of Ethnography.
- Onwards to Gothenburg, on what is often referred to as Sweden's "Left Bank," where our VIP tour at the Röhsskamuseet will mine one of Europe's oldest collections of Chinese costumes, textiles and other crafted objects, as well as vessels from the Banshan tombs from 2500 BC.
- In Copenhagen, we will take a guided tour of the exquisite Islamic collection at The David -- by far the largest of its kind in Scandinavia and among the most important in the Western world -- hosted by the Museum Director and curators. The collection covers virtually the entire classical Islamic world, from Spain in the west to India in the east, and spans the period from the 7th to the 19th century, with all artistic media represented. There is much to see of Asian art as well on a curator-led visit at the National Museum of Denmark and at the Ny Museum Glyptotek with its Egyptian collection and 19th-century French masterpieces.

- Last but not least, visits to the ABBA Museum in Stockholm and Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen for some fun; an afternoon at Drottningholm Slott, the private residence of the Swedish royal family and a UNESCO World Heritage site, for tours of the palace, its exotic Chinese Pavilion, and remarkable Court Theatre, with the option to stay for an evening performance of the grand French baroque opera, *Armide*.
- We will end with a closing dinner in Copenhagen spotlighting the best of Danish cuisine – and the satisfaction of knowing we made the most of our long summer days in Scandinavia!
- Throughout we will stay in four-star hotels selected for their location and atmosphere.

The trip is limited to 20 SAA members. Registrations accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Itinerary in Brief

Friday, August 9th - Reception

- Arrive in Visby on the island of Gotland no later than today
- Check-in to the **Clarion Hotel Wisby**, situated inside the city wall, for 2 nights
- Check out **Medieval Week** events (see: <https://www.medeltidsveckan.se/en/welcome/>)
- **Welcome reception and orientation** at the hotel

Saturday, August 10th – Breakfast

- Full day to explore **Medieval Week** events

Sunday, August 11th – Breakfast

- Morning at leisure to explore the walled city
- Afternoon ferry in 1st class (3hr15) and shuttle bus (1hr) to Stockholm
- Check-in to the **Radisson Collection Strand Hotel**, wedged between the waterways and city center and in walking distance to key attractions, for 4 nights

Monday, August 12th – Breakfast

- Private guided tours at the **Vasamuseet**, which displays the only almost fully intact 17th-century ship that has ever been salvaged; and at **ABBA The Museum**, with interactive audio and video stations that tell the story of one of the best-selling music acts in the history of pop
- Free time to visit other museums of Swedish history and a top art gallery nearby

Tuesday, August 13th – Breakfast

- **Walking tour of Gamla Stan**, Stockholm's Old Town
- Head west of the city by boat through scenic Lake Mälaren to Drottningholm. (*one hour*)
- Special visit at **Drottningholm Palace**, the primary residence of the Swedish royal family and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, mainly because of the **Court Theater** and the **Chinese Pavilion**, which we will tour, along with the Palace itself
- **OPTIONAL:** A night at the opera... a **French baroque opera, *Armide***, to be precise, performed in the unique atmosphere of the dimly lit and beautifully preserved old theater at Drottningholm. Included in the opera package: best-available seat, interval snack box, and return to Stockholm by coach. Add-on cost: \$180.

Wednesday, August 14th – Breakfast

- Morning at leisure
- Curator's tour at **Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities** with Michel Lee, Curator of the China and Korea collection, including a special session with the Janse East Asian collections from northern Vietnam
- Free time to visit the Moderna Museet and ArkDes, or other nearby sites
- Visit to the **Museum of Ethnography** with a Collections Manager focusing on finds by Sven Hedin from Tibet, Mongolia and Xinjiang

Thursday, August 15th – Breakfast

- **High-speed train from Stockholm to Gothenburg** in 1st Class (*3+ hours*)
- Check-in to the centrally located **Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel** in Gothenburg for one night

- Afternoon curator-led tour at the **Röhsskamuseet** focusing on Chinese and Japanese craft, as well as Swedish craft and design from the 20th century inspired by Asian Art

Friday, August 16th – Breakfast

- **High-speed train from Gothenburg to Copenhagen** in 1st Class (3hr49)
- Check-in to **Hotel Sankt Petri** in Stockholm for three nights, originally a department store and today a hotel icon, well located near the metro station at Nørreport with a direct link to the airport
- Director- and curator’s tour of the Islamic collection at **The David**, among the most important in the Western world, and time on your own to see the special exhibition about Islamic calligraphy
- Consider visiting the world-famous and historic amusement park at **Tivoli Gardens** this evening, when the park is at its most magical after dark. *One ticket per person is included.*

Saturday, August 17th – Breakfast

- Curator’s tour of the **National Museum of Denmark**
- Free time to explore Copenhagen’s urban districts on foot or by boat: Tivoli Gardens (if you did not already go), the harbor area of Nyhavn, the former warehouse district of Norhavn with its architectural gems, the cutting-edge Danish Architecture Center, and more

Sunday, August 18th – Breakfast, Dinner

- Guided tour at **Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek**, itself a monumental gem, renowned for its antiquities and 19th century French art, focusing on the ancient Egyptian art collected by founder and brewing magnate Carl Jacobsen
- Free time for independent exploration. Consider visiting the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (about 35 minutes by train from the Copenhagen Centralstation)
- **Farewell dinner** at one of Copenhagen’s top-rated restaurants

Monday, August 19th - Breakfast

- Depart or extend your stay.

TOUR PRICE PER PERSON (based on a minimum of 16 participants)	
Tour Cost, based on double	\$3,395
Tour Cost, based on single	\$4,590 including a single supplement of \$1,195

TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE AND MAKE A PAYMENT:

1. Have your photo ID and medical insurance card handy, as you will need to enter this information on the Registration Form.
2. Click on this link to open the Registration Form: <https://tri.ps/F3pvF>

Or simply call Travel Muse to register over the phone.

Trip insurance is not required but is strongly encouraged to protect your trip investment should you cancel or need to interrupt your trip. To preview coverage provided by USI Travel Insurance Services, a flyer is attached for your review.

An e-brochure with the detailed tour program and the Participant Travel Agreement including the cancellation policy may be downloaded from the Registration link.

For questions or assistance to register, please contact Meg MacDonald, Travel Muse Inc., at meg@travelmuse.net or (617) 480-0250.

What's Included

Accommodations	Ten nights total: 2 at Clarion Hotel Wisby (in Visby), 4 at Radisson Collection Strand (Stockholm), 1 at Radisson Blu (Gothenburg), and 3 at Hotel Sankt Petri (Copenhagen), including taxes
Meals	Breakfast daily, one welcome reception with two glasses of wine or beer per person and a cheese-andcharcuterie platter, and one farewell dinner including wine
Transportation	Ferry and shuttlebus from Visby to Stockholm (Aft Lounge seating); and high-speed train tickets for Stockholm to Gothenburg and from Gothenburg to Copenhagen (Business Class seating)
Curator and Docent Tours	As indicated in the itinerary
Entrance Fees to Museums	As indicated in the itinerary
Other Entrance Fees	Two day passes to Medieval Week, one day pass to Tivoli Gardens (Friday after 6 p.m. or any other day)
Other Tickets	Walking tour of Stockholm's Gamla Stan (Old Town)
WiFi	Complimentary WiFi internet access at the hotels

What's Not Included

Arrival/Departure Expenses	To Visby (VBY) and from Copenhagen (CPH)
Airport transfers	To and from the hotels
Meals	Meals not otherwise included
Transportation	From and between sites by taxi or ride-share services, as indicated in the itinerary. Note: Uber and Lyft are banned in Denmark; Viggo and Taxa 4x35 are the available ride-hailing taxi services in Copenhagen.

Payment Terms

Tour Cost

\$3,395 per person, based on double occupancy

\$4,590 per person, single occupancy (\$1,195 supplement)

Registrations and Payment Schedule

- Deposit of \$1,500 per person upon registration
- Balance due no later than 60 days prior (June 10th, 2024) by major credit card, ACH or check

Cancellation Policy

When a participant cancels, the following schedule of per person charges is incurred:

Written Notice of Cancellation received:	Refund / Cancellation Fees (Per Person): *
On or before June 10 th , 2024	Refund all monies minus \$500 non-refundable fee
After June 10 th , 2024	No refund

** Travel insurance is the best way to protect your tour investment. Information will be sent to you upon receipt of your Registration.*

A complete Itinerary is provided on the Registration weblink (powered by WeTravel). The complete Terms and Cancellation Policy are stipulated in the Participant Tour Agreement, which is posted on the Registration weblink and which you will need to provide a signature indicating that you have read and understand the Agreement.