

The Best of Sweden

Sweden presents visitors with an embarrassment of riches, everything from sophisticated cities to medieval towns to Europe's last untamed wilderness. To help you decide how best to spend your time in Sweden, we've compiled a list of our favorite experiences and discoveries. In the following pages, you'll find the kind of candid advice we'd give our close friends.

1 THE BEST TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

- Shopping in the “Kingdom of Crystal”:** Many visitors come to Sweden just to shop for glass. In the “Kingdom of Crystal,” which stretches some 112km (70 miles) between the port city of Kalmar and the town of Växjö in Småland province, some of the world's most prestigious glassmakers, including Kosta Boda and Orrefors, showcase their wares. At least 16 major glassworks welcome visitors to this area and offer cut-rate discounts in the form of “seconds”—goods containing flaws hardly noticeable except to the most carefully trained eye. Visitors can see glass being blown and crystal being etched by the land's most skilled craftspeople. See section 2, “Växjö,” in chapter 9.
- Viewing the Awe-Inspiring Northern Lights:** In the darkest of winter in the north of Sweden (called Lapland or Norrbotten), you can view the shimmering phenomenon of the northern lights on many clear nights, usually from early evening until around midnight. The sun and solar winds create this amazing light show when electrons from the sun collide with atmospheric atoms and molecules. See chapter 13.
- Touring the Land of the Midnight Sun:** Above the Arctic Circle, where the summer sun never dips below the horizon, you have endless hours to enjoy the beauty of the region and the activities that go with it—from hiking to white-water rafting. After shopping for distinctive wooden and silver handicrafts, you can dine on filet of reindeer served with cloudberry. You can even pan for gold with real-life pioneers in Lannavaara, or climb rocks and glaciers in Sarek's National Park. See chapter 13.

2 THE BEST ACTIVE VACATIONS

- Fishing:** Sweden offers some of the world's best fishing for fresh- and salt-water fish—its pristine lakes and streams are crystal clear, and many of them are extremely well stocked. See especially chapters 7 and 13.
- Golfing:** Many Swedes are obsessed with golf. Most courses, from the periphery of Stockholm to Björkliden (above the Arctic Circle), are open to the public, and enthusiasts can play under the midnight sun. Halland, south



of Gothenburg, is called the Swedish Riviera, and it's the golf capital of the country. Båstad is the most fashionable resort in Halland, and you can play a game of golf here at two prestigious courses: the **Båstad Golf Club** at Boarp (☎ 0431/783-70) and the **Bjäre Golf Club** at Solomonhög (☎ 0431/36-10-53), both located right outside the center of Båstad. See section 8, "The Bohuslän Coast & Halland," in chapter 7.

- **White-Water Rafting:** Sweden has some of Europe's best white-water rafting. Trips run the gamut from short and comfortable rides through peaceful landscapes to heart-stopping races on fast-running rivers. In Dalarna, the best white-water rafting is on the Västerdalälven River rapids, which are rated moderately difficult. In northern Värmland, 5km (3 miles) south of Höljes, you can take easy white-water trips in paddle boats. See chapter 12.
- **Hiking:** The Kungsleden (Royal Trail) provides the hike of a lifetime as it takes you through the mountains of Lapland,

including Kebnekaise, the highest mountain in Sweden (2,090m/6,857 ft.). This 500km (311-mile) trail cuts through the mountains of Abisko National Park to Riksgränsen on the Norwegian frontier. See section 4, "Tärnaby & Hemavan," in chapter 13.

- **Skiing:** In Lapland, you can enjoy both downhill and cross-country skiing year-round. In Kiruna, serious skiers head for the Kebnekaise mountain station, where skiing can be combined with dog-sledding and other winter sports. South of the city of Gällivare, you arrive at Dundret, or "Thunder Mountain," for some of the finest skiing in the north. The hotel to stay at here also is called **Dundret** (☎ 0970/145-60), and its staff possesses all the expertise needed to link you up with cross-country and downhill skiing alike. Inaugurated in 1955, its chairlift to the top of the slopes was the first of its kind in Sweden. For Dundret, see section 7, "Gällivare," in chapter 13.

3 THE BEST MARINE VACATIONS

- **Exploring the "Garden of Skerries" Around Stockholm:** Few cities enjoy a marinescape as dramatic as Stockholm's. The city is surrounded by some 24,000 islands and islets (some no more than skerries or rocks jutting out of the water), and the water is dotted with colorful yachts. You can easily explore the archipelago in summer, using the car ferries and bridges that connect it. The highlight of the journey is taking a boat trip from the center of Stockholm to the town of Sandhamn, a ride that will introduce you to the scenic highlights of a place many Stockholmers call home in summer. See section 7, "Side Trips from Stockholm," in chapter 6.
- **Riding Along the Göta Canal:** This canal, known as Sweden's "blue ribbon," links Stockholm in the east with Gothenburg in the west, and is one of Scandinavia's major tourist attractions. As boats travel along the canal, some of the most beautiful panoramas in Sweden unfold. The canal dates from 1810 and covers 565km (351 miles) of beautiful scenery. Artificial canals, lakes, and rivers are linked by a series of 65 locks, some of them rising 90m (295 ft.) above sea level. Any travel agent can book you on this trip. See section 1, "The Göta Canal," in chapter 11.
- **Angling on the Göta Älv:** The southwestern sector of Lake Vänern, which is part of the Göta Canal (see above), has

been called an angler's El Dorado, especially in the valley of the River Göta. The Göta Älv's well-stocked trout waters make for some of Scandinavia's finest spinning and fly-fishing. More than 30 different species of fish live in Lake Vänern, especially perch, pike, and different types of carp. Some 35,000 young salmon and trout are released annually to keep the waters well stocked.

- **Sailing the *Gustaf Wasa*:** The best way to go between the lakeside resorts of Mora and Leksand in Dalarna—the province most steeped in Swedish

folklore—is by boat. This way you can see and experience this most traditional of Swedish provinces from a seascape, as the scenery along the shoreline unfolds before you. Leksand itself is the doorway to the province's most scenic lake, Siljan. No less an authority than Hans Christian Andersen pronounced this trip idyllic. After a panoramic journey, you'll arrive in Mora, a provincial town in Upper Dalarna, where passengers disembark to see the Santa complex (Santa's house and factory). See section 5, "Leksand," in chapter 12.

4 THE MOST SCENIC TOWNS & VILLAGES

- **Sigtuna:** Sweden's oldest town, founded at the beginning of the 11th century, stands on the shores of Lake Mälaren, northwest of Stockholm. High Street, with its low-timbered buildings, is believed to be the oldest street in Sweden. Traces of Sigtuna's Viking and early Christian heritage can be seen throughout the town. See section 7, "Side Trips from Stockholm," in chapter 6.
- **Uppsala:** Located northwest of Stockholm, Uppsala is Sweden's major university city and boasts a celebrated 15th-century cathedral. Nearby Gamla Uppsala (see below) also is intriguing, built on the site of Viking burial grounds where animals and humans were both sacrificed. See section 7, "Side Trips from Stockholm," in chapter 6.
- **Lund:** This town, situated 18km (11 miles) northeast of Malmö, rivals Uppsala as a university town. It, too, is ancient, having been founded by Canute the Great in 1020. The town is filled with centuries-old buildings, winding passages, and cobblestone streets; a major attraction is its ancient cathedral, one of the finest expressions of Romanesque architecture in northern Europe. See section 3, "Lund," in chapter 8.
- **Visby:** On the island of Gotland, this once was a great medieval European city and former Viking stronghold. For 8 days in August, this sleepy Hanseatic town awakens for the annual Medieval Week, which features fire eaters, belly dancers, and tournaments. Visby's ruins of 13th- and 14th-century churches and memories of a more prosperous period are intriguing in any season. See section 2, "Gotland & Visby," in chapter 10.
- **Rättvik:** This is a great resort bordering Lake Siljan in the heart of Dalarna, a province known for its regional painting, handicrafts, and folk dancing. Timbered houses reflect Dalarna's old-style architecture, and on summer nights, fiddle music evokes the long-ago past. See section 7, "Rättvik," in chapter 12.
- **Jokkmokk:** Located just north of the Arctic Circle, this is the best center for absorbing Lapp (or Sami) culture. The Lapps hold their famous "Great Winter Market" here in early February, a tradition that is centuries old. You can visit a museum devoted to Sami culture in the center of town and then go salmon fishing in the town's central lake. See section 5, "Jokkmokk," in chapter 13.

5 THE BEST PLACES TO GO BACK IN TIME

- **Gamla Uppsala** (Uppsala): Some 1,500 years ago, the Kingdom of the Svea (Swedes) was ruled from a spot outside the modern university city of Uppsala, north of Stockholm. Gamla Uppsala, 5km (3 miles) north of the city center, is now one of the most revered historic spots in Sweden. Here Viking life dominated, and animals and humans were sacrificed to pagan gods. It is suspected, although not authenticated, that three Swedish kings dating from the 6th century were entombed here. See section 7, “Side Trips from Stockholm,” in chapter 6.
- **Skansen** (Djurgården, Stockholm): Called “Old Sweden in a Nutshell,” this is the best open-air museum in all of Sweden in terms of numbers of dwellings and authenticity. Some 150 structures were moved from places ranging from the château country in southwest Sweden to as far north as Lapland. From manor houses to windmills, they’re all here, giving visitors an idea of how Sweden used to look. This is an especially valuable stop for visitors who see only Stockholm and don’t have time to visit the rest of the country. Folk dancing and concerts enliven the atmosphere, and young Swedes demonstrate the creation of handicrafts from the 17th and 18th centuries. See p. 120.
- **Kivik Tomb** (Bredaror): The Kivik Tomb was discovered in 1748 in the château country of Sweden, north of

the coastal town of Simrishamn. It immediately became the most important Bronze Age discovery in the country. One of the former members of the discovery team compared it to being “invited into the living room of a Bronze Age family.” Not only the usual bronze fragments were uncovered but also some grave carvings and, most notably, tomb furniture. A total of eight runic slabs depict scenes from everyday life, including horse-drawn sleigh-riding, plus a bit of prehistoric humor in what appears to be a troupe of dancing seals. See p. 251.

- **Eketorp Ring-Fort** (Öland): This fortified village, built inside of a ring-shaped enclosure for defensive purposes, is the most important of more than a dozen prehistoric forts known to have existed on Öland in prerecorded times. It appears that the heavily protected village was inhabited by various settlers from A.D. 300 to 1300. Swedish archaeologists have filled the settlement with the Iron Age–style houses that once existed here, and they have reconstructed a massive wall along its edges. Although it is a reconstruction, it is believed to be an authentic replica of what the ring fort and village once looked like, giving amazing insight into life in the Sweden of ages ago, when prehistoric people fought to survive in an inhospitable terrain. See p. 294.

6 THE BEST MUSEUMS

- **Millesgården** (Lidingö, outside Stockholm): Sweden’s foremost sculptor, Carl Milles (1875–1955), lived here and created a sculpture garden by the sea that now has been turned into a museum. Milles relied heavily on mythological

themes in his work, and many of his best-known pieces are displayed here. See p. 124.

- **Nationalmuseum (National Museum of Art; Stockholm)**: One of the oldest museums in the world (it celebrates its

217th birthday in 2009), the National Museum houses Sweden's treasure-trove of rare paintings and sculpture. From Rembrandt to Rubens, and from Bellini to van Gogh, a panoply of European art unfolds before your eyes. In addition to paintings, you'll find antique porcelain, furniture, and clocks. See p. 119.

- **Vasamuseet (Royal Warship *Vasa*; Stockholm):** In the Djurgården, this 17th-century man-of-war, which is now a museum, is a popular tourist attraction. The *Vasa* is the world's oldest known complete ship. It capsized and sank on its maiden voyage in 1628 before horrified onlookers. The ship was salvaged in 1961 and has been carefully restored; 97% of its 700 original sculptured decorative motifs were retrieved. See p. 121.
- **Göteborgs Konstmuseum (Gothenburg):** This is the city's leading art museum, a repository of modern paintings that's strong on French Impressionists, including van Gogh and Bonnard. Modern artists, such as Picasso and Edvard Munch, also are represented, as are sculptures by Milles. See p. 186.
- **Åjtte (Jokkmokk):** In true Lapp country, this is the best repository of artifacts of the Sami culture. Integrating nature with culture, the museum is the largest of its kind in the world. It depicts how the Lapps lived and struggled for survival in a harsh terrain, and features the houses they lived in as well as the animals and weapons needed for their livelihood. See p. 372.

7 THE BEST CASTLES & PALACES

- **Drottningholm Palace and Theater (Drottningholm):** Lying 11km (6³/₄ miles) from Stockholm on an island in Lake Mälaren, Drottningholm, or "Queen's Island," has been dubbed the Versailles of Sweden. It is a magnificent royal residence, a gem of baroque architecture with a palace, gardens, a Chinese pavilion, and one of the most remarkable court theaters in Europe. Since 1981, Sweden's royal family has occupied the south wing. See p. 123.
- **Kungliga Slottet (Stockholm):** One of the few official residences of the royal family that is open to the public, this palace in Gamla Stan (Stockholm's Old Town) dates back 700 years. Encompassing 608 rooms, it is used today by the Swedish king and his family mainly for ceremonial occasions. The 18th-century Royal Apartments, with their painted ceilings, glittering chandeliers, and heirloom tapestries, are the highlight of any visit. See p. 114.
- **Castle of Bosjökloster (Lund):** The origins of this former Benedictine convent date from 1080. Closed in the 1500s, at the time of the Reformation, it fell into disrepair but has since been restored to some of its former glory. Situated on the shores of Lake Ringsjö, today the castle is surrounded by a recreation area with beautiful gardens. The great courtyard here is one of high drama, with thousands of flowers and exotic shrubs. You can bring along a picnic lunch to enjoy on the grounds. See p. 245.
- **Kalmar Slott (Kalmar):** Once called "the key to Sweden," this historic castle was the setting for the Kalmar Union that temporarily united the thrones of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden in 1397. The original structure dates from the 12th century, but in the 16th century, King Gustav Vasa rebuilt it, and his sons eventually transformed it into a Renaissance palace. The castle is the major site in this port city in southern Sweden, which also makes a good base

for exploring the “Kingdom of Crystal,” the bargain-filled area of glassworks manufacturers (see above). See p. 269.

- **Läckö Slott** (Lidköping): Lying in the vicinity of the pleasant little town of Lidköping, this castle on the waters of Lake Vänern is straight from a fairy tale. Between 1298 and 1681, 250 rooms were built, many quite large; only the royal palace in Stockholm is larger than Läckö. As you approach from a distance,

its distinctive white walls, towers, and turrets seem to rise out of the water. The palace furnishings eventually were carted off and the rooms left bare, but over the years many of the original furnishings have been reclaimed and returned. A visit here and a walk through the once-royal grounds is a highlight of any trip to the waters of Lake Vänern. See p. 315.

8 THE BEST CATHEDRALS & ABBEYS

- **Riddarholm Church** (Stockholm): Evoking pre-Reformation Sweden, this is one of the best-preserved Franciscan churches left in northern Europe. After being consecrated at the turn of the 14th century, it served for centuries as the mausoleum for Swedish royalty. The church’s cast-iron steeple, which dates from 1841, remains one of the most distinctive landmarks of the Stockholm skyline. The interior is especially impressive; coats of arms of knights of the Order of Seraphim, founded in 1336, cover the walls. The floor is paved with gravestones. After you visit the church, you can walk through Stockholm’s Old Town, Gamla Stan. See p. 125.
- **Uppsala Domkyrka** (Uppsala): This twin-spired Gothic structure, nearly 120m (394 ft.) tall, was constructed in the 13th century. Today the silhouette of this largest cathedral in Scandinavia dominates the landscape, affording Uppsala the status of ecclesiastical capital of Sweden. Its layout is simple compared with other major European cathedrals, yet its high Gothic aura is nevertheless impressive. In one of the chapels on the south aisle, you can visit the tomb of the philosopher Emanuel Swedenborg (1688–1772). See p. 156.
- **Domkyrkan (Cathedral of Lund; Lund)**: The apex of Romanesque architecture in Sweden, this imposing twin-towered gray sandstone cathedral is one of the most ancient in Sweden. Building on it started sometime in the 1080s by King Canute II, though it wasn’t consecrated until 1145. Some of the sculptural details of its architecture evoke Lombardy or other parts of Italy. This is especially evident in its apse, which dates from the 1130s. See p. 240.
- **Vadstena Abbey** (Vadstena): Sweden’s greatest abbey, on the shores of Lake Vättern, is dedicated to its patron saint, St. Birgitta. In the Middle Ages, the abbey was at the center of a pilgrimage, which earned it the appellation of “Rome of the North.” One of the most important stopovers for those taking the Göta Canal trip, Vadstena is dominated by its Klosterkyrkan, or Abbey Church, built between the mid-14th and 15th centuries to the specifications of its founder, St. Birgitta herself. This Gothic church is rich in art and relics from the Middle Ages. See p. 285.
- **Kiruna Kyrka** (Kiruna): This church in the far north of Sweden, in the midst of Lapland, would hardly make it in the grand cathedral circuit of northern Europe. It is, however, one of the most

unusual churches in the world and raises a lot of eyebrows at first sight. It was constructed in 1912 like a stylized Sami tent, with an origami design of rafters and wood beams. In Lapland, it is hailed as “the Shrine of the Nomadic people.” A free-standing bell tower in

front is supported by props and the tombstone of the founder of Kiruna. The altarpiece scene representing Paradise as a Tuscan, not Lappish, landscape is the only incongruous note. See section 8, “Kiruna,” in chapter 13.

9 THE BEST HOTELS

- **Grand Hotel** (Stockholm; ☎ 08/679-35-00; www.grandhotel.se): Opposite the Royal Palace, this is the most prestigious hotel in Sweden; many well-known people have stayed here, including Nobel Prize winners. Set on the waterfront, it dates from 1874 but is continuously renovated to keep it in state-of-the-art condition. The rooms have been luxuriously redecorated, and the bathrooms are made of Italian marble with under-floor heating. In 2006, the Grand was vastly improved and enlarged with 72 additional bedrooms and a luxurious new penthouse. See p. 77.
- **Nordic Hotel** (Stockholm; ☎ 800/337-4685 or 08/505-630-00; www.nordic-hotel.se): Unique for the Swedish capital, this hotel is as modern and dramatic as the 21st century itself. Turning to the cold Arctic waters of the north and the northern lights for its architectural inspiration, the hotel creates an “only in Sweden” aura that definitely makes you feel like you’re in the far north of Europe. See p. 80.
- **Victory Hotel** (Stockholm; ☎ 08/506-400-00; www.victory-hotel.se): In the Old Town, this small but stylish hotel ranks among the top in Sweden. Originally built in 1642, the hotel is famous for treasure once buried here (part of which can be seen at the Stockholm City Museum). The well-furnished bedrooms, with modern beds, typically have exposed beams and pine floors. On a small rooftop terrace, tables are arranged around a fountain. See p. 88.
- **Radisson SAS Scandinavia Hotel** (Gothenburg; ☎ 800/333-3333 in the U.S., or 031/758-50-00; www.radissonsas.com): Since its opening in 1950, Gothenburg’s premier hotel has hosted everybody who’s anybody, including the Beatles. Located on Gothenburg’s attractive main boulevard, near the cultural center, it’s a cosmopolitan hotel with a fresh and contemporary ambience. The best double rooms are quite spacious and decorated in a semimodern, sleek style; about a quarter of the guest rooms are equipped with balconies. See p. 174.
- **Elite Plaza** (Gothenburg; ☎ 031/720-40-00; www.elite.se): This is not only the newest but also one of the very best hotels to open in Gothenburg in recent years. A 19th-century insurance company was gutted and recycled into a superior first-class hotel with many of its original architectural features intact. The building got a new lease on life, and visitors to Gothenburg today have a place to stay that’s as good as some of the most superior lodgings in Stockholm. See p. 172.
- **Elite Hotel Marina Plaza** (Helsingborg; ☎ 042/19-21-00; www.marina-plaza.elite.se): This innovative hotel faces out from the port city of Helsingborg over the Öresund and toward the eastern coast of Denmark, across from

“Hamlet’s Castle.” A nautical decor prevails, and large glass windows are typical of the sleek, contemporary architecture of Sweden. With its rock gardens, abundant flowers, and fountains, it is a lovely place to spend the night in grand comfort and style. See p. 218.

- **Stadshotell** (Kalmar; ☎ 0480/49-69-00; www.profilhotels.se): With very reasonably priced rooms (at times less than 900SEK/\$180/£90 a night for a double), this is an exceptional choice for lodgings in this historic port city in southeastern Sweden. A landmark hotel—constructed in 1906 but completely modernized in 1999—it still retains its look of romanticized architecture, with gables and a bell tower. Many Art Nouveau embellishments remain, including cut-glass chandeliers and an Edwardian-style library. Its bedrooms are the largest and most comfortable in town. See p. 270.
- **Halltorps Gästgiveri** (Borgholm; ☎ 0485/850-00; www.halltorpsgastgiveri.se): It has been a restaurant longer than it has been a hotel, but this inn on the Baltic Island of Öland still dates from 1850. Bedrooms are light and airy and frequently renovated, ensuring a good night’s sleep in comfort and style. Its restaurant, Bakfickan, or “hip pocket” in English, is one of Öland’s best. See p. 301.
- **Ronnums Herrgård** (Vargön; ☎ 0521/26-00-00): One of the most idyllic stopovers along the Göta Canal is in Vargön, which a poet once labeled “Little Paris.” In this charming setting, you can enjoy

life in a restored 18th-century manor house with yellow clapboards and a red roof, nestled amid its own parklike grounds. Even better, this taste of how life was lived in old Sweden comes at a very reasonable price. See p. 323.

- **Elite Stadshotellet Karlstad** (Karlstad; ☎ 054/29-30-00; www.elite.se): In the heart of the folkloric province of Värmland, this hotel, with its neo-baroque facade, is one of the most impressive of the 19th-century hotels remaining in Sweden. If you like old-fashioned style but modern comfort, this is for you. From its British-inspired pub to the gourmet restaurant, it’s a winner. See p. 334.
- **The Ice Hotel** (Jukkasjärvi; ☎ 0980/668-00; www.icehotel.com): Surely there is no hotel in all of Europe as curious as this one deep in the heart of Swedish Lapland. Every winter, the hotel is carved out of the ice at a point 200km (124 miles) north of the Arctic Circle. Come spring, the igloo-shaped hotel literally melts away. In its glacial setting, guests can check in for an icy night—hopefully with a good bed partner. If you’ve ever dreamed of living like an Eskimo, here is your chance. See p. 382.
- **Scandic Hotel Kramer** (Malmö; ☎ 040/693-54-00; www.scandic-hotels.com/kramer): A wholesale redesign has given this old favorite a new lease on life for its postmillennium reincarnation. Increasingly, the Kramer is becoming *the* place to stay in Malmö for many discerning visitors, although the hotel competition is rough here. See p. 229.

10 THE BEST RESTAURANTS

- **Operakällaren** (Stockholm; ☎ 08/676-58-00): Opposite the Royal Palace, this deluxe restaurant has long been the standard by which the competition is judged. Still going strong after all these

years, it is deservedly the most famous restaurant in Sweden—and the best. Its French-inspired cuisine with Swedish overtones is world-class. See p. 93.

- **Paul & Norbert** (Stockholm; ☎ 08/663-81-83): With only eight tables on the fashionable Strandvägen, this exclusive and innovative restaurant is set in a patrician residence dating from 1873. It's the creation of German owner Norbert Lang. In winter, the Swedish game served here is without equal in the entire country—just try the pigeon with Calvados sauce. And you can always count on something tempting and unusual; sautéed sweetbreads in nettle sauce, anyone? See p. 93.
- **Gripsholms Vårdshus Restaurant** (Mariefred; ☎ 0159/347-50): If you're seeking traditional Swedish food with French overtones, this is the best dining choice on the periphery of the capital. Local game dishes, including wild grouse, are featured in autumn, and marinated salmon with a mild mustard sauce is a year-round favorite. Tastings also can be arranged in the wine cellar. See p. 161.
- **Sjömagasinet** (Gothenburg; ☎ 031/775-59-20): By far the most intriguing restaurant in town, this is one of the finest places to go for seafood on the west coast of Sweden. In the western suburb of Klippan, the converted 1775 warehouse serves an array of fresh fish whose flavor never diminishes, regardless of the sauce or preparation. The fish and shellfish *pot-au-feu*, with a chive-flavored crème fraîche, is worth the trek. See p. 180.
- **Årstiderna I Kockska Huset** (Malmö; ☎ 040/23-09-10): In a North German-style building from 1523, the leading restaurant of Sweden's "third city" is a bastion of good eating—its dishes are fresh, handled with skill, and served with flair. You'll be as impressed as we were by the exceedingly good cuisine, which attracts a crowd of prime ministers, artists, and theater people alike. See p. 231.
- **Gastro** (Helsingborg; ☎ 042/24-34-70): The kitchens of Sweden and France come together at this restaurant that has emerged as the best in town. Lots of fresh fish, from the straits of Helsingborg and the Baltic, appear on the menu. Many Danes cross the strait for dinner here. See p. 220.
- **Kalmar Hamn Krog** (Kalmar; ☎ 0480/41-10-20): Since it opened in 1988, this international restaurant has quickly moved to the front of the line. Hailed as the best in this historic port city, it prepares reasonably priced food with flair, using only market-fresh ingredients, deftly handled by the staff. The chefs borrow freely from the world's larders, using spices or ingredients from any country where their culinary imaginations wander. See p. 272.
- **Halltorps Gästgiveri** (Borgholm; ☎ 0485/850-00): On the historic Baltic island of Öland, this dining room serving Swedish food takes you back to the good old days. You can feast on the dishes beloved by your great-grandparents—provided they came from Sweden. Herbs and vegetables come from suppliers who grow them right on the island, and the local fishers bring in their catch of the day. The place is charming and a bit stylish, and it occupies one of the oldest manor houses on the island. See p. 301.