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5 REASONS WHY STOCKHOLM IS AN AWARD-WINNING CITY



[Stockholm](#), the capital of Sweden triumphed at the [British LGBT Awards](#) as Destination of the Year. Having been to Stockholm a few times, we couldn't think of a more worthy winner. This is, after all, the place "where narrow streets meet open minds", a city passionate about LGBT diversity and equality and that extends to not just those who live in it, but also those who have the pleasure of visiting it. But what are the things that led to Stockholm winning this highly regarded accolade? Well we're sure our readers and the voters each had their individual reasons, but here are our 5 things that make Stockholm an amazing place to visit.

1. A BIG GAY SUMMER

This summer, Stockholm plays host to a summer of LGBT fun and frolics. In August, Stockholm is host to the largest LGBTQ sporting festival, [Eurogames](#) with 5,000 participants descending on the city for the event, not to mention fans and spectators. And this is after its annual [Stockholm Pride](#), the largest of the Scandinavian Pride festivals.



2. SIX YEARS OF EQUAL MARRIAGE

Stockholm and Sweden on the whole is celebrating six years of equal marriage for LGBT people and when it was written into law, the bill was overwhelmingly backed by the Church of Sweden. But same sex couples had been afforded the same legal common-law partnerships as early as 1995 – just an illustration of how LGBT rights is part of the city's DNA. In fact, sexual activity between people of the same gender was decriminalized as early as 1944.



3. EUROPE'S MOST GAY FRIENDLY CAPITAL CITY

According to the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA), Sweden is Europe's most gay-friendly country, with extensive legislation protecting gay and lesbian rights, including anti-discrimination laws and gender-neutral marriage legislation. In 2006, an EU member poll showed 71% of Swedes as pro-gay.



4. BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE

Stockholmers are beautiful on the inside and out. OnePoll.com placed the capital of Sweden as a top 10 city for good looking people. Having been ourselves, we totally agree!



5. A GAY AND LESBIAN NETWORK

The Stockholm Gay and Lesbian network is a project within the Stockholm Visitors Board set up to uniquely market and develop Stockholm as an attractive destination to gay and lesbian travellers. As far as we know, this is pretty much the only such network of its kind in the world, funded by the city and partners who are passionate about LGBT travel into the city. The network has its own website and blog – the perfect place to seek up to date inspiration on the city as well as to find out more about the partners of the network – hotels, restaurants, places to visit and other gay and lesbian related resources. gaylesbian.visitstockholm.com