

By Kenneth Lagström

Night OUT!

THERE'S NO BETTER WAY TO EXPLORE A NEW CITY THAN GETTING OUT AND FEELING THE LOCAL PULSE IN ORDER TO GET A SENSE FOR WHAT MAKES THE PLACE GENUINE, AND TO CREATE SOME GREAT NEW MEMORIES TO TAKE HOME.

STHLM has been undergoing a range of changes for the better, especially in the summer months. Concerted efforts have helped the city to retain its genuine spirit even if, like so many other global cities, it swaps many of its local residents for new visitors in the summer-time. Streets that are normally bumper to bumper in the winter become pedestrian walkways in the summer, opening the city up to a wealth of new possibilities. The transformation is all down to a concept known as Living STHLM which has been developing each year since 2015. It's a scheme that has been largely modelled on Bryant Park in New York, which truly blossoms in the summer thanks to a number of seasonal initiatives centered around environment, culture and entertainment.

The city runs its own initiatives and everyone is invited to take part! Business and visitors alike all contribute with their own unique efforts and presence. In total, there are around 20 different places all across STHLM that are characterized by these efforts in the summer and the best part is that everything happens in the city's most public of spaces – outdoors. So why not experience STHLM in a slightly different way – enjoy another kind of night out in the city's bright and airy summer evenings (or days)!

I would like to highlight two streets in particular, both in different parts of town and with their own histories, and both part of the initiative over several years.

Rörstrandsgatan Street in the northern neighbor-

hood of Vasastan was a center for porcelain production in the 18th century and home to the prestigious Rörstrand Porcelain Factory. There are a lot of local streets that still bear traces of this history, with names in Swedish like clay or stoneware, to name just a few examples. Also remaining from the area's history is a smaller part of Rörstrand Castle, which has since been incorporated together with the Filadelfia Church. From the northern part of the street (numbers 30–64), visitors can enjoy an incredible view over Karlberg Palace and Karlberg Canal. The street is also known for its many restaurants and cafés which really come to life along this pedestrian street in the summer, creating a truly fantastic atmosphere. The municipality does its part by supplying flowers, benches and other decorations that help the local street life and atmosphere to really rise above all expectations.

Swedenborgsgatan, named after scientist Emanuel Swedenborg, is a street located on Södermalm, which is a neighborhood that was originally inhabited by working class Stockholmers but is now regarded as the hipster part of town. The street shoots out from the cute little park in Mariatorget Square. Swedenborgsgatan is home to a number of restaurants and cafés with outdoor seating and a cozy little wine bar by the name of dryck, which means drink in Swedish. Thanks to the combined efforts of the city and these restaurants, the atmosphere along the street is wonderfully familiar and incredibly welcoming. And if – against all expectations – the sun decides not to show its face, visitors in the area can head instead to the Rival boutique hotel with its top-class 10-meter bar on the ground floor, right by the entrance at Mariatorget Square.

Enjoy and experience STHLM the New York way and get a taste for a different kind of STHLM – a great memory to take home with you! 📍



FROM THE TOP: RÖRSTRANDSGATAN. PHOTO: ERIK JONDELIUS, STOCKHOLMS STAD
SWEDENBORGSGATAN. PHOTO: ERIK JONDELIUS, STOCKHOLMS STAD
RIVAL BOUTIQUE HOTEL'S TEN METER BAR.

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