

THE LUXURY COLLECTION®

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IN CONVERSATION WITH
CHITRANGDA SINGH
AT FAIRMONT, JAIPUR

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF
AMSTERDAM

GREAT EXPECTATIONS-
VOLVO XC90
EXCELLENCE HYBRID

THE IMPERIAL -
AN ART TOUR OF THE
COLONIAL HOTEL

the magazine for the connoisseur of luxury

Taking stock in

STOCKHOLM

- By Aruna Rathod



*The Swedish capital
offers a superb melange
of museums,
monuments and meat-balls*

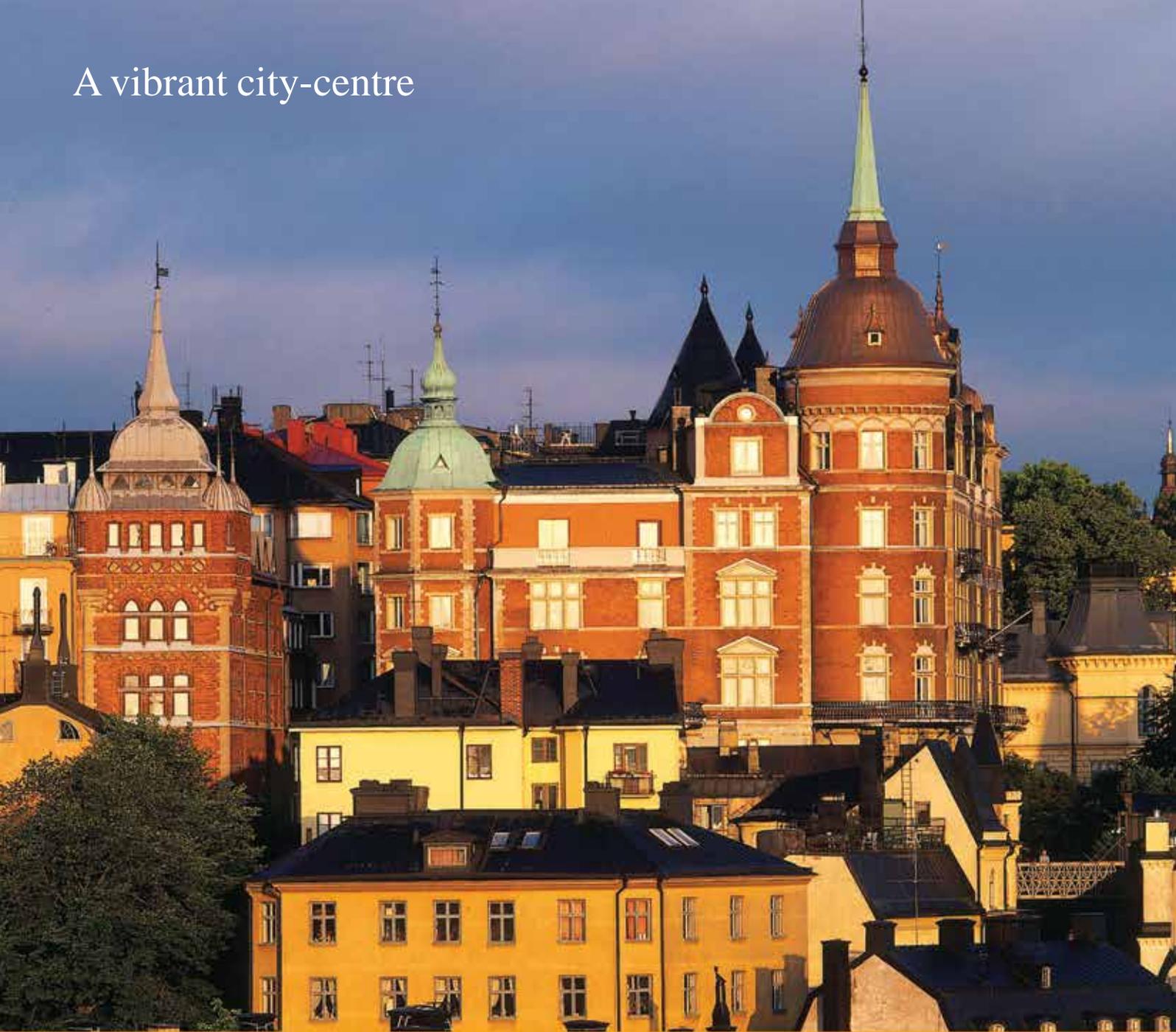
The first impression of Stockholm was that of a city full of energy and people. Bustling with traffic and tourists, the capital has a lot to offer to travellers from around the world. Cuisines right from Ethiopian to Thai and Indian, Spanish and Greek, are all easily available, making dining an easy option – either on the go or in the setting of a restaurant of your choice.

Sweden consists of 14 islands connected by bridges and waterways. With its Viking history, when in Sweden, a visit to the Vasa museum is a delight. The seventeenth-century ship is magnificent and what makes it unique is that more than 95 percent of the ship is in original condition. The 69-meter-long warship Vasa sank on its maiden voyage in the middle of Stockholm in 1628 and was salvaged 333 years later in 1961.

Stockholm has something for everyone – fans of the Swedish band ABBA can pay a tribute and visit the ABBA Museum, while those seeking thrills can visit the Grona amusement park next door, which has roller coasters, rides and tons of entertainment. Those interested in photography can visit Fotografiska, located at the edge of a cliff, offering panoramic views. The venue holds exhibitions regularly by renowned photographers from around the world.

Take in some history at Gamla stan, the Old Town, one of the largest and best preserved medieval city centres. Stockholm was founded here in 1252. Gamla stan and the adjacent island of Riddarholmen are largely pedestrian-friendly and offer plenty of attractions, restaurants, cafés, bars, and places to shop. Gamla stan is very charming with its many artistic stores – with handicrafts, curios and souvenirs.

A vibrant city-centre



The large blue building in the Hotorget heart of Stockholm is the city's Concert Hall. It's a special building with a sculpture called the Orpheus Fountain in front of it, created by Swedish sculptor Carl Milles. The Nobel Prize Award ceremony is held here since 1901. It has a grand facade with 10 Corinthian columns. The square in front of the hall is called the Hotorget market place that sells colourful flowers and fruit.

The best way to cover the sights of the Swedish capital is a combination of the Hop-on-Hop-off bus and the boat tours. The bus tours begin at 10 am and it takes about two hours to complete the entire route. Some stops are interesting to note as they cover the ports of Stockholm where gigantic cruise liners from all over the world dock.

With the Hop-on-Hop-off boat tour, watching Stockholm from the sea is charming, with towering pinnacles and grand structures presenting themselves with each passing moment. The boat has fewer stops, but covers the key attractions of Stockholm. Stops include the Royal Palace, Nybroplan, the Vasa Museum, Skeppsholmen, Grona Tivoli, Fotografiska and Gamla Stan.

Staying in style

I was curious to check out my room after arriving in Stockholm since Sweden is the design capital of the world. Scandinavian designs are famous all over the world, and Sweden is a show case for innovation. Swedish-design furniture, household objects and glassware have a practical, democratic aesthetic and increasingly sustainable approach to design. I witnessed this in the reception lobby itself that was done up simply and the friendly staff helped us check in. On alighting from the lift, the corridor itself was a representation of Swedish Design - the corridor was super wide, with room numbers in an extra large type placed against a bright coloured background, making it easy to read.

Sky Hotel Apartments was founded in Linköping in 2009, on the 19th floor of the tallest residential building called Tornet – thus inspiring the name Sky. Today the Sky Group has two fantastic properties – one in the quaint town of Linköping and the other in Stockholm’s beautiful Lindhagensgatan neighbourhood.

My room was spacious, bright and airy. Every bit of furniture had enough space around it. The lights were functional yet artistic and included a large pendant light over the dining table, sufficient reading lamps and bright lights for the entire room. The pale palette using white and cream was set off by the simple straight-line grey sofa. A bold element was added with the orange cushions and throw.

The wall-to-wall windows brought in plenty of sunlight. A big bathroom in wide and grey with a shower cubicle and large mirror and wash basin lent an element of spaciousness. The Bistro at the hotel is a great place for an early drink or snack and dinner and what’s better than trying out a local dish – the Swedish meatballs served in a creamy gravy sauce and mashed potatoes, lingonberry jam, pickled gherkins along with bread and butter.

