

OPERA IN STOCKHOLM 2018

1st to 5th June 2018



The Royal Palace at Drottningholm

Join us for a four night escorted tour to Stockholm of which the highlight will be two performances at the Royal Swedish Opera; Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* and Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier*. Our programme will focus on music including a fascinating backstage tour of the Opera House but, so as not to forsake the wealth of attractions on offer in this beautiful city, we have also included some guided excursions as well as time for independent exploration. June is a perfect time of year for such a visit as we have the advantage of the region's legendary long summer days.

One of Scandinavia's most lovely cities, Stockholm is often referred to as the "Venice of the North" and just outside the city is the vast archipelago consisting of more than 22,000 islands, rocks and skerries. We will visit the Unique Court Theatre of Drottningholm, the City Hall, where the Nobel Prize Banquet is held and the Vasa Museum which houses the great war ship that sank on its maiden voyage in 1628 and was salvaged in 1961. We will also explore the Old Town which dates back to the 13th century and consists of Medieval alleyways, cobbled streets and archaic architecture, including many fine restaurants.

For this unique tour we are once again delighted to be working with our associates 'Your Next Tour Sweden' who pride themselves in creating quality tours to the art and opera capitals of Europe and the USA, sourcing the highest level of classical entertainment for all their itineraries. Having worked with the company for some years we know them to be a tour operator of the most exacting standards.

YOUR TOUR LEADER - LENA NORDIN



Lena became a member of the soloist ensemble of the Royal Opera in Stockholm after a successful debut in Verdi's *Luisa Miller*.

Among the many roles she has performed there are Cleopatra, Donna Anna,

Contessa Almaviva, Antonia and Sophie. But first of all she has been acknowledged as a true Italian singer; the audience and the critics have highly praised her *Violetta*, *Norma*, *Maria Stuarda*, *M. Butterfly*, *Tosca*, and *Lady Macbeth*. For many years she was a regular guest at the Royal Opera in Copenhagen, mostly for Mozart roles, and she has also sung in Dresden, London, Salzburg, Berlin, Moscow, Wexford Festival, Savonlinna Festival, Finnish National Opera, Drottningholm Court Theatre, Darmstadt, Venice, Marseille, Lisbon, Miscolz and Sevilla. Concert engagements include performances in the USA, France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Italy and Scandinavia. In 1999 Lena Nordin was appointed "Royal Court Singer" by H.M Carl Gustaf, and in June 2003 she was presented the royal medal "Litteris et Artibus".



Royal Swedish Opera



The Old Town (Gamla Stan)



Vasa Ship Museum



The Orangery Restaurant



Hotel Kung Carl



Standard Double Room

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Stockholm, Sweden. Fly by scheduled flight to Stockholm. On arrival, transfer to Hotel Kung Carl, for our four night stay, which is conveniently located within walking distance of the Royal Swedish Opera. After some time at leisure, meet with your fellow travellers this evening for the Welcome Dinner.

Day 2 Drottningholm. After breakfast we will travel by bus to Drottningholm where we will visit Sweden's best preserved royal palace, Drottningholm Palace. The palace was constructed in the 17th century and is the permanent residence of the royal family and one of Stockholm's three World Heritage Sites. The palace features magnificent salons from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. We will take a guided tour of the antique and fascinating Drottningholm Palace Theatre, the best preserved 18th century theatre in Europe and the only one in the world that still uses the original stage machinery on a regular basis. We will also walk in the Palace Park to the Chinese Pavillion, a charming gift from King Adolf Fredrik to his wife Lovisa Ulrika in 1753. After this visit we will return to Stockholm by boat, and a typical lunch will be served on board. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure and this evening we will walk together to the Royal Swedish Opera for the performance of Tchaikovsky's opera *Eugene Onegin* which begins at 1900 hours. *Eugene Onegin* was first performed in Moscow in 1879 and is a well-known example of lyric opera, to which Tchaikovsky added music of a dramatic nature. The story concerns a selfish hero who lives to regret his blasé rejection of a young woman's love and his careless incitement of a fatal duel with his best friend.

Day 3 Stockholm. After breakfast we take a sightseeing tour of Stockholm. Stockholm was founded on a small island to protect the entrance to Lake Malaren. This island is now the Old Town, also known as 'The Town between the Bridges'. The Royal Palace was rebuilt in the 18th century after a disastrous fire, and is now one of Europe's largest with over 600 rooms. We visit City Hall, with its interesting architecture by Ragnar Ostberg. Its position by the water clearly shows how much the architect was inspired by the Doge's Palace in Venice. The City Hall is well known for the Nobel

Prize ceremonies, and every year the Nobel Prize Banquet is held on the 10th of December in the Blue Hall followed by dancing in the Golden Hall with its 18 million gold mosaic tiles. We also visit the Vasa Ship Museum in the Nature Park Djurgarden. Since 1990 the Vasa Museum houses the great war ship that went down on its maiden voyage in 1628 and was salvaged in 1961. We will enjoy a lunch with Swedish specialties in the Vasa restaurant before returning to the hotel for an afternoon and evening at leisure.

Day 4 Stockholm. Enjoy a day at leisure. We recommend a visit to Skansen, the famous outdoor museum on the Island of Djurgarden, or the Nordic Museum on the same island. The Royal Palace is also open, with the Royal Apartments, Gustaf III's Museum of Antiquities, the Royal Chapel and the Treasury. A hidden treasure is the German Church in the Old Town, from the time when Stockholm had a huge number of German tradesmen living and working here. Prior to tonight's performance we take a backstage guided tour of the Royal Swedish Opera which was founded by King Gustaf III in 1773, but the actual theatre building is from 1898. The famous Masquerade Ball in which Gustav III was killed took place in the old Opera House in 1792, and this fatal event is the background of Verdi's famous opera *Un Ballo a Maschere*, but to satisfy the censor authorities of that time Verdi had to disguise his hero, calling him Riccardo, Governor of Boston. The performance of Strauss' opera *Der Rosenkavalier* begins at 1800 hours. The opera was first performed in Dresden in 1911. Set in the mid-18th century the plot is a comic intrigue involving the aristocratic Marschallin who has a young lover, Octavian, but she knows that their love will end. Together with Octavian, she plots to save the beautiful young Sophie von Faninal from a loveless marriage to the boorish Baron Ochs. By disguising himself as a serving wench, Octavian manages to pique the lecherous Ochs's attentions and arranges it so that Sophie's father discovers Ochs's philandering ways leaving her free to marry Octavian. The Marschallin graciously gives her blessing to the match. Although a comic opera, *Der Rosenkavalier* also operates at a deeper level. Conscious of the difference in age between

herself and Octavian, the Marschallin muses in bittersweet fashion over the passing of time, growing old and men's inconstancy.

Day 5 Stockholm to London. After breakfast we transfer to Stockholm airport for our return scheduled flight to London.

HOTEL KUNG CARL

For our stay in Stockholm we will be based at Hotel Kung Carl, one of the city's oldest hotels which is situated in the central Stureplan neighbourhood, perfect for exploring the sites and cultural attractions. Housed in an elegant early 1900s building, the hotel has 43 elegant hotel rooms, each one unique with different styles and furnishings such as antique clocks, mirrors and art by famous Swedish artists. Many of the rooms also feature high ceilings, chandeliers and other elegant original features. The hotel combines classic style with modern design and the room amenities include complimentary Wi-Fi, satellite televisions, tea and coffee making facilities, bathrobes and hairdryers. The hotel's restaurant, Kung Karls Bakficka, serves traditional Swedish dishes with a modern twist and the popular cocktail bar serves drinks and small dishes. There is also a small gym with a view over the surrounding rooftops. A huge advantage of the location of our hotel is that after our two performances we are within walking distance of the Royal Swedish Opera.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin Room: **£2295** Single Room: **£2795**

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Four nights accommodation at the Hotel Kung Carl in a Standard Room with breakfast daily • One dinner & two lunches with wine, beer and soft drinks • Two 'Orchestra Stall' tickets to the Royal Swedish Opera • Excursions as detailed • Local English speaking guides • Services of a Tour Leader from 'Your Next Tour Sweden'.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visa.

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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.