



Stendörren Nature Reserve
Courtesy of Trosa Tourist Office

Great Drives

Stockholm

Stockholm - Making Swede love

Get up close and personal with nature in an **Avis hire car**.

If you're in the mood for romance, the deep blue waters of the stormy Baltic Coast provide a dramatic backdrop. Head inland however, and the scene changes from brightly-coloured fishing villages to lakes and lush green parkland, where magnificent stately homes are ensconced in ornate gardens.

Test drive this two-day tour for the best of Sörmland.

Pick up your Avis hire car from [Stockholm airport](#) and head southeast on the 279 road to pick up the E20/E4 road to the coast at **Nyköping**. With the archipelago of islands on your right, follow the coast to the Stendörren Nature Reserve. Then it's on via **Nynäs** to the 19th-century fishing village of **Trosa**, before you turn inland to **Gnesta** and wind your way between the lakes of **Klämningen** and Nyckelsjön to **Mariefred**, on the shores of **Lake Mälaren**. Follow the banks of the lake to **Strängnäs** and then head back down to the airport, stopping at Johannisdal's Café in Sparreholm on the way.

High Points en route

Stendörren – State of nature

Leave the car at the osprey-shaped Nature Centre for a heads-up about the wildlife you can expect to see here (including sea eagles, if you're lucky), and organise a trip to the fishermen's leasehold at **Griskär**, which is only accessible by boat.

Bomans Hotel – Room with a view

This family-run, boutique hotel looks out on the boats bobbing about in **Trosa Harbour**. Book yourself into Minisuite 8, which is decorated in the style of a 19th-century country house – all lavish drapes and detailed wallpaper.

Ebba von Wachenfeldt's studio – Take home

From multicoloured candle holders that look like little sweets to curiously-shaped vases and bottles, glass artist Ebba von Wachenfeldt's studio in **Skeppsta** is the ideal place to buy a cool prop for your house. Chances are, no-one else will have one yet...

Lake Marviken – Paddle power

Spend the afternoon exploring this bottle-green lake bordered by lush forests – enjoy the drive, then stop and stroll. With nothing but the sound of splashing paddles to disturb the peace, life will slow down to a refreshing crawl.

Sigurd carving – Art rocks

This huge, 11th-century rock, hidden in the trees on the road between **Sundbyholm** and **Torshälla**, has a carving that tells the story of a distinguished Viking family.

AVIS

We try
harder.

High Points en route - Free time on your hands? Take your pick from the following five gems:

1/ Julita Manor – Wedding cake

The 19th-century stately home, with its butterscotch and white-exterior, looks like a huge meringue when seen from a distance. After wandering the estate – which has its own parks, gardens and church – you'll want to stay the night.

2/ Vingåker factory outlet – Cool kit

Vingåker is Sweden's biggest outlet store, an easy drive from the capital. If you feel the need to splash some cash, this is the place to do it. Along with well-known brands like Quicksilver and Miss Sixty, you'll be able to get your mitts on cool kit by Swedish label, Nudie Jeans.

3/ Archipelago – Treasure islands

You could spend weeks exploring the 500-plus islands that lie off the Baltic coast – many of them uninhabited. If time's short, though, book a boat trip to **Aspskär**, where you can barbecue on the beaches.

4/ Parken Zoo, Eskilstuna – Park life

Hands up if you've ever seen a white-handed gibbon. What about a lowland tapir? Brush up on your knowledge of obscure animals at the **Parken Zoo** in **Eskilstuna**, or head straight to the **amusement park** here and let fear bring you closer...

5/ Sörmland – Saddle up

Get a different view of the Sörmland countryside – on the back of a Norwegian Fjord horse. There are **500km of trails** to choose from here, broken up into bottom-friendly chunks of 20-40km. You don't have to be John Wayne to get involved, and there are plenty of coffee-stops along the way.



Avis Great Drives Route Map: Stockholm

Need to know

Round trip

311 miles (500 km)
approx 6-7 hours driving time.

Best time to come

From June-August to see the Sörmland countryside at its greenest.

Soundtrack

Eyes Open by Snow Patrol

Essential item

Apple iTrip (play your iPod through the car stereo).

With offices in 4000 locations in 114 countries, Avis can help with your car rental needs wherever you are in the world – and help turn a drive into an experience.

For car hire tips or to see other road trips in the Avis Great Drives series visit our blog www.wetryharder.co.uk

To book visit www.avis.co.uk or call **08445 818181**

Last updated August 2010.

