



Designer breaks in southern Sweden

Discover the trend-setting region of Skåne and its capital Malmö

September 2017 – Sweden’s lively third city of Malmö and the wider region of Skåne have long been recognised by Swedes as the country’s epicentre of art and design culture. A university town just over the bridge from Copenhagen in the far south of Sweden, Malmö’s visitors cannot fail to be impressed by its architecture, museums and galleries, designer shopping and arts and crafts scene.

Arts and crafts

The region’s cultural richness stems from a long tradition of arts and crafts, including ceramics, textiles, silver-smithing and glassblowing, which has inspired internationally renowned designers such as [Signe Persson Melin](#), [Märta Måås Fjetterströms](#), and [Bente Brosbol Hansen](#).

Visitors to the region will come across a seemingly endless number of fantastic yet friendly galleries, studios and workshops, not to mention artist-owned cooperatives. Amongst the very best are [Formargruppen](#), a shop-come-gallery situated in the very centre of Malmö with an ever-changing range of high quality handmade art and appliances, and [Keramiskt Center](#) in Höganäs which celebrates Skåne’s long history of pottery by gathering work from the very best Swedish ceramic artists. For a list of top arts and crafts galleries and cooperatives, go to visitskane.com/design-shopping/top-5-shops-local-crafts.

Visitors who might want to explore their own creative sides should head to [Incendi](#), a glass-blowing studio in Höör, central Skåne, where it is possible to try the craft under the supervision of experienced glassblowers. Glassblowing sessions must be booked in advance and start from SEK 900 (approximately £84).

Designer accommodation

With its top cultural credentials, the impeccable interior design and architecture at many of Skåne's hotels will come as no surprise.

The latest addition to the fold is the [Wanås Hotel](#), opened in spring 2017 and located within an 18th century historic building on the Wanås Estate. Its 11 rooms combine Nordic design and sustainability, with locally sourced materials and salvaged timber from the estate sitting side by side with contemporary art. It is also home to an internationally acclaimed [sculpture park](#) that includes more than 70 site-specific works by artists from all over the world, in addition to temporary exhibitions, performances, artists' talks, workshops and guided tours. Rates start from SEK 1,650 (£147) per person per night, including breakfast.

In Malmö city, the [Hotel DUXIANA](#) is a must for anyone who likes a good night's sleep in stylish surroundings. It is owned by DUX, a family company famed in Scandinavia for their super comfortable, precision engineered beds, and the whole hotel has been beautifully designed to promote deep sleep and rejuvenation. Guests can also relax in one of DUX's many designer chairs, enjoy fika over a trend-setting DUX table and snuggle up in fine DUX linens and duvets. Rates start from SEK 990 (£96) per room per night on a B&B basis.

Alternatively, try the [Story Hotel](#) which opened last autumn in the Western Harbour area of Malmö, close to the Turning Torso. Featuring 360 degree views of Malmö and Copenhagen and a 'Black Box' studio for events, film and game production, the 95-room property has a slick modern design and aims to 'invite the city in' with curated creative experiences. For example, the hotel has collaborated with top DJs, artists and designers to put together a city guide that unveils their Malmö to guests via words and images. Rates start from 990 SEK (£95) per room on a bed and breakfast basis, based on two sharing.

Shopping

Those in the market for a piece of Swedish design, regardless whether a large-scale piece of furniture or a nifty gadget, will find Skåne offers a huge selection of places at

which to shop for both small scale local designers and larger Scandinavian brands. All the pieces in the region's designer shops are united with a common Swedish design theme, of creating something beautiful yet ultimately functional.

Whilst most of these stores are found in Malmö, there are also some real gems in the surrounding smaller towns and countryside. Must-visit city stores include [Norrgravel](#), an interior design brand whose unique designs are characterized by simplicity and functionality, as well as sustainable, organic production, and [Olsson & Gerthel](#), a stylish interior design boutique with everything from small gifts to exclusive sofas, all by top quality Scandinavian designers. Malmö's 'alternative' shopping centre [Mitt Möllan](#) is also well worth a visit – a formerly run down old mall, it has been transformed into a hub and meeting place for the city's creatives. It features numerous independent arts, design and fashion stores, as well as office spaces and one of the city's favourite food courts, with highlights including vegan ice cream and root fermented tea. There's also the green concept store [AB Småland](#) which offers a hand-picked range of home interiors and fashion in organic or recycled materials, as well as vintage furniture, plants, workshops and a café.

Outside of Malmö, two of the best finds are [Blå Station](#), a family owned brand located in the picturesque town of Åhus, which produces cutting edge modern furniture centred around birch wood and stainless steel, and [Klippans Yllefabrik](#), a wool factory in the small town of Klippan that creates beautifully cosy blankets, pillows and textiles in strong colours.

Museums and design centres

One of Sweden's leading design hubs, [Form och Design](#), is situated in the very centre of Malmö offering exhibitions, lectures, workshops and seminars on every aspect of Scandinavian design, from urban planning through to fashion and illustration. The centre aims to promote a wide range of design ideas and projects, as well as being a meeting point for designers, academics, tradespeople and members of the public. As well as the exhibition space, there is a cosy café selling delicious cakes and a shop with gems from local artists and designers, as well as modern Scandinavian design classics.

Another must-visit art and design venue is Malmö's [Moderna Museet](#), a museum of modern and contemporary art situated in an iconic 1901 electricity plant building, which was extended in 2009 to include a further annex covered in bright orange perforated metal. As well as being architecturally stunning, the museum features rotating exhibitions of internationally-acclaimed modern art.

Design-led culinary experiences

One of the many signs that design is an important part of Skåne's culture is the prolific use of top local designers by the region's leading restaurants. Michelin-starred Daniel Berlin and Vollmers restaurants are great examples of this. Daniel Berlin sources all of its crockery from a potter called [Lena Willhammar](#), based in Åhus, who produces almost creamy looking porcelain. Meanwhile, Vollmers sources all of its porcelain from Malmö-based [Anna R Kinman](#), whose colourful glazed dishes make a lasting impression. Of course, for many food destinations, it's not just the crockery that is design-led. Malmö's brand new [Malmö Saluhall](#) food court and restaurants [Lyrans Matbar](#) and [Västergatan](#) match superb architecture with equally impressive interiors.

Architecture

Whilst Skåne's rich history has given it numerous stunning old buildings and castles, the more modern ones are arguably equally striking. Malmö's [Turning Torso](#) is an excellent example – Scandinavia's tallest building, this tower twists and turns to give the city's skyline a dramatic, futuristic feel. The building overlooks the [Öresund Bridge](#), connecting Sweden to Denmark, which is a further masterpiece of architectural engineering, as well as Malmö's [Western Harbour](#) area which has been transformed from an industrial shipyard to a design-led residential and cultural space, powered by renewable energy.

For further details on Sweden and how design shapes the country and its people, go to www.visitsweden.com

- Ends -

Media contacts:

Visit Sweden team at Four Communications:
visitsweden@fourcommunications.com / 0203 697 4200