

Walking in Malmo, Sweden

by James Werning, Demand Media



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Walking in Malmo, Sweden, can be a sensual experience, with all the sights, sounds and smells you would hope to find in a bustling European port city. The abundance of parks, city squares, shops, galleries and historic sites could keep a visitor walking for weeks without getting bored. Malmo is the third largest city in Sweden, with a population of just over 300,000. It is a pedestrian-friendly city, so feel free to start walking in nearly any direction from the moment you set foot in Malmo.

Where to Walk

If you want a good mix of Swedish culture, head for the city center and Stortorget Square, with its impressive fountain, statuary, historic architecture, street artisans and seasonal festivals. Grab a map of popular destinations from a hotel, train station or tourist information center and aim for any of the museums or historical sites. St. Peter's Church is Malmo's oldest building, dating back to the early 14th century. Gamla Vaster is a charming quarter of the city with its colorful buildings, brick houses, art galleries and coffee shops. If you desire a more peaceful, less metropolitan walk, Ribersborg Park has scenic paths along the beach, while Folkets Park, Slottsparken, Pildammsparken and Kungsparken offer a delightful ribbon of gardens through the center of town.

Listen While you Walk

Several audio tour options are available for those who like to listen while they walk. A free downloadable audio guide is available for use on MP3 players from OnSpotStory.com. For the cost of a normal cellphone call, you can dial in to the same audio guide while you walk. GPSmyCity.com can point you to an amazing iPhone walking tour app, complete with Malmo maps, photos and text. More conventional audio tours of the city are offered at the Malmo tourist information centers and through local bookstores.

Sustainable Malmo

In 2011, Malmo signed a covenant with more than 3,000 European cities that are committed to reduce carbon emissions 20 percent by 2020 and 40 percent by 2030. Malmo hopes to run on 100 percent renewable energy by 2030. A key part of this plan is to encourage people to walk and bike more. Half of all car trips in Malmo are 3.1 miles or less. You possibly won't find a city more committed to making sure that your walking experience is positive and affirmative. Expect to see more street-level improvements for Malmo bikers and hikers in the near future.

Practical Considerations

Malmo weather is temperate and generally pleasant, although ocean breezes keep the air cooler and moister than inland cities. Average temperatures range from 54 to 69 degrees Fahrenheit in August; February temperatures average from 28 to 36 degrees. August is the wettest month with 2.9 inches of precipitation. Drink plenty of fluids and wear sunscreen on hot summer days. Naturally, you will want to carry rain gear on days when precipitation is probable. Wear a sturdy pair of hiking shoes that give good support against the uneven cobblestones you might encounter on your walk. Perhaps most importantly, try not to get lost. Although many people speak English as a second language, you don't want to risk being unable to find your way back to familiar territory on a dark, stormy night.

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Resources

- [Malmotown.com: Top 11 Attractions in Malmo](http://www.malmo.se/English/Sustainable-City-Development.html)

About the Author

James Werning has authored books and numerous articles published on various websites. His scripts have aired for over 15 years on radio stations across the United States and Canada. He has a master's degree in communications from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

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