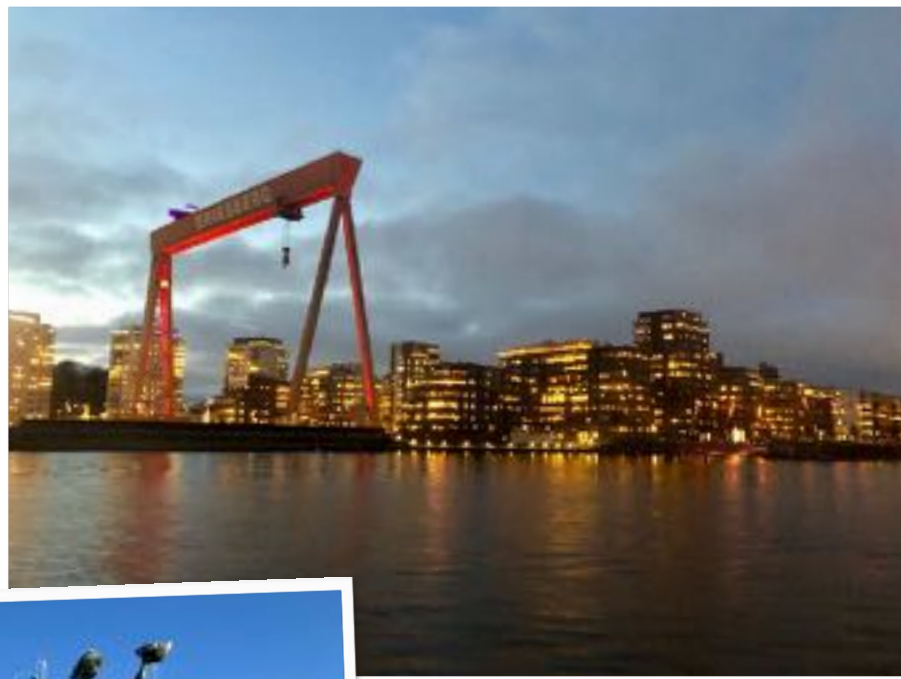


100+ sites to visit & things to do...





100+ sites to visit & things to do...

Welcome to Gothenburg and Sweden's amazing West Coast!

I don't know why you are coming to my home town, but you are most welcome. Gothenburg, the second largest city in Sweden, facing the west and for centuries the promise of a better future (aka the American Dream), is considered one of the hottest destinations in Europe according to the Guardian, the New York Times, Condé Nast, and others.

People have lived in the area ever since the ice retreated from the coastline after the latest ice age, and if you look around, you can find remnants of bronze age settlements, Viking ruins, etc.

The current incarnation of Gothenburg, after a couple of failed attempts (meaning the Danish destroyed them), was founded in 1621 by King Gustaf II Adolf, who's most famous for his war efforts on behalf of Protestants during the Thirty-year War between Catholics and Protestants. He died in the fogs at Lützen. This year we celebrate our 400th anniversary. I know, two years late. I'd be happy to tell you *that* story...

The King realized that Sweden lacked the expertise to build a modern city, with walls and moats to protect itself against yet another Danish assault. He invited architects, engineers, and craftsmen from all over Europe, and if you look closely at the older buildings you'll see similarities to Dutch and German architecture and many of the names of Gothenburg's most famous families are Scottish and English as well as the aforementioned.

This is what makes Gothenburg unique to this very day: we are an open and welcoming city. Today, almost 200 nationalities live (mostly peacefully) side by side, and the IT- & car industry of today relies on experts from China, India, France, and elsewhere. We are also a leading site for life sciences and pharmaceutical research and a university city with two universities and about sixty-thousand students.



Gothenburg is situated at the mouth of Göta Älv, Sweden's largest river, and to the north and south of the river lies a pearl of islands, the northern and southern archipelago. The river is also the border between landscapes, Bohuslän to the north, once a Norwegian province, and Västergötland. Just south of Gothenburg is the boundary to Halland, once Danish territory. For centuries, Gothenburg was a bridgehead to the western ocean and of vital strategic importance to Sweden. It made sense for Swedish kings to fortify the city and make sure it withstood assaults by our nemesis back then, the Danes (who also ruled over Norway.)

These days, we are all friends, Norwegians, Danes, and Swedes, and we shake our heads and smile when ancient history is mentioned. From Gothenburg, we often head over to Fredrikshavn, on Jutland, by ferry in about three hours. We love the ocean, and we love the kindness and relaxed attitude of the Danes, not to mention their Smørrebrød, beer, and aquavit.

But enough history, that is my livelihood, to show you around our beautiful city, and guide you to some of the treasures Gothenburg and the West Coast have to offer.

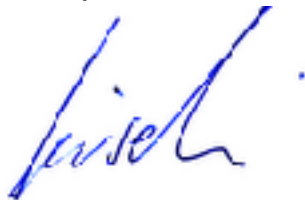
I would like to invite you to a guide with one hundred things you may want to consider seeing when you are in town, including museums, restaurants, natural sights, etc. And if you want to hear/learn more, call me. I'd be happy to show them to you and tell you all about them... This is by no means a comprehensive list. There are plenty of other places, venues, etc. that aren't mentioned here. It's a living document.

There are other resources, of course. The most important one is the official tourist site of the city. You'll find it [here](#). There you can lose yourself in all the opportunities on offer: concerts, happenings, parties, events, you name it. It'll be there waiting for you. The tourist bureau may be found in two locations downtown: in the shopping mall, Nordstan, and on Kungssportsplatsen near King's Square. Both also sell tourist knick-knacks and have guides on site who can help you.

Another valuable site for visitors is our public transport company, Västtrafik. They also offer apps to purchase tickets and all the timetables. They are responsible for all public transport not just in the city itself but all of West Sweden. Handy.

I hope you enjoy your trip and once again, welcome to my hometown! We update this guide regularly, but things do change, especially when it comes to restaurants and hotels. Please feel free to provide feedback on this list. It's yours to use but it's not as good as having your personal guide to show you around. ;-)

Our passion is our promise!



Hans Hirschi, your guide

Sights within city limits:

1. **Nordstaden**: that's the old neighborhood behind the main city square in the old town (within the moats.) These days mostly offices for the city administration, but it also hosts some historic buildings, like the city museum, **Kronhuset**, the city's oldest profane building, and the former offices of an iconic newspaper fighting the nazis. Cafés, Nepalese food, bars with craft beers, handicraft stores, etc. invite you to linger for a bit. On the eastern side of the neighborhood, toward the central station, you'll find an enormous mall, Nordstan, where you can shop until you drop. Literally!

2. **Haga**: one of the city's most famous neighborhoods, lined with traditional three-story wooden houses. After almost having been entirely torn down in the fifties and sixties, a couple of streets have been rescued and carefully restored. Many quaint shops, cafés, and restaurants can be found here, not to mention Gothenburg's largest cinnamon buns!

3. **Vasastan**: what Haga was to workers, Vasastan was to the upper classes. The only neighborhood in Gothenburg with square street layouts (as known from the U.S.), this neighborhood boasts some of the most impressive 19th-century architecture in the city: playful, massive, towers, small balconies, alcoves, etc. You name it, you'll find it in Vasastan. If you're into architecture, you'll be able to roam about here for hours on end. Many restaurants and cafés are worth a visit. Why not check out the main building of the University of Gothenburg, with over fifty-thousand students? Btw, it's one of the largest in the country. Typical Swedish 19th-century architecture at the entrance to a small park.

4. **Johanneberg**: this neighborhood right behind **Götaplatsen** is home to some of the most beautiful villas and homes in the city, on a hill. Take a walk and be impressed by the attention to detail on some of those residences.

5. **Renströmsparken**: also behind the Arts Museum is this park which played a major role during the tricentennial celebration of

Gothenburg in 1923 (yeah, I know, two years late...) There's a pond, a small park and you can see how the Faculty of Humanities complex and the university library are getting ready for an exciting future. Not that you care, but this is also my *alma mater*. The park, is also where the main exhibit halls of the 1923 exhibition stood, all around the pond. It's also home to a playground which is perfect on a rainy day!

6. Trädgårdsföreningen: this park just outside the city's moat is a beautiful oasis, a venue for concerts, and a place to stay and linger, to dangle your soul. There is a beautiful rosarium, a palm house, etc. And yeah, since it's smack downtown, it's likely close to your hotel. The park continues on the other side of the Avenue (our main street of sorts) as **Kungsparken** squeezed in between two major traffic arteries in the city. Lots of benches and lawns invite you to sit down and have an urban picnic.

7. **Churches**: let me just mention a couple of churches worth visiting. **Domkyrkan**, our cathedral downtown, is an impressive building and a great place for classical music. **Oscar Fredrik's kyrka** off Linnégatan is also quite impressive and very distinctive, but my personal favorite is **Masthuggskyrkan**, this massive dark red brick building rising from the rock (that's what the architect intended), towering above the hill it stands on. Great views from up there.

8. Feskekôrka: though not a church, it looks like one. It is currently undergoing extensive renovations and we don't know when it will re-open. Traditionally, fish was sold in the open but the city fathers (moms needn't apply back then) decided this wasn't hygienic enough and built this church-like building where fishmongers gathered ever since 1874. This has become a bit of a tourist trap and while I often show it to tourists, I normally don't go in. Most locals buy their fish from local fishmongers all over the city. Fish and seafood are musts around here. Freshest in Sweden!

Currently closed for renovations

9. Stora Saluhallen: this is to meats, veggies, and fruit what **Feskekôrka** is to fish and seafood. recently renovated and with several eateries, and a weekly outdoor market on nearby King's Square, this is a nice place to see what Swedes are into in terms of culinary delights.

10. Drottning Kristina's Castle: not sure why it is called that, because the good queen (daughter of the city founder) was never here and the tiny cabin certainly is no castle. But it is a cute building and one of the oldest ones in town, named after our most famous queen so who cares, right? It's off King's Street on the riverside, up a hill.

11. Skansen Krona: on a hill just behind the Haga neighborhood lies Skansen Krona, part of the old fortification of Gothenburg. These days a pretty viewpoint with a café on sunny days.

12. **Linnégatan**: one of our parade streets, named after our famous biologist (see item 33) with lots of shops, restaurants, and some amazing residential buildings, some from the early 19th century. It starts at **Järntorget**, from where you'll most likely also enter **Haga**.

13. **Långgatorna**: opposite **Haga**, across from **Järntorget** lies an interesting neighborhood, the first, second, third, and fourth "long streets", part of **Masthugget**, a workers' neighborhood which to this day comes across a bit bohème and scruffy with sex clubs, pubs, eateries from many different cultures (Indian, Korean, Thai, etc.) and a great street party every year. Probably one of the few areas downtown that hasn't been gentrified yet.

14. **Stenpiren / Opera House**: this is one of my favorite places in the city. The views across the river to the northern shores and the old shipyards are spectacular. Plus: water! From **Stenpiren** you can catch a ferry down/across the river and back. You can walk toward the **Opera House** and visit our international **casino** or the world's largest floating maritime museum. I would also highly recommend a

visit to our opera, if you're here during their season. In musical, modern dance, or opera, every production is of high quality.

15. **Avenyn / Götaplatsen**: the avenue is our main street, broad, and lined with shops, restaurants, and nightclubs. It begins down by the Opera House and stretches (after a name change to Avenyn) up to Götaplatsen, a huge square built to commemorate the 300th anniversary of our city. The square is lined with museums, our theatre, and a symphony and is overlooked by the **statue of Poseidon**. He's to Gothenburg what the Statue of Liberty is to New York. Don't miss a visit to the **Arts Museum** with famous paintings and an exquisite collection of Skagen Art, 19th-century paintings in a particular style that capture the unique summer light here in Scandinavia. The **Gothenburg Symphony** is where the country's most famous orchestra resides. Also worth a visit is the **public library** just off Götaplatsen. Plenty of food, drink, and shopping along the way.

16. Liseberg: I have to visit our amusement park. It has something for all ages, from concerts and dancing to thrilling roller coasters, a really (I mean it) scary haunted hotel to just beautiful scenery, and a park with a gazillion flowers. And restaurants for different tastes. The entrance fee will let you enjoy the park itself and any concerts, but the rides cost extra. If you like rollercoasters, get an all-day pass and avoid weekends and the month of July. Also, gray weather means more people. Sunshine will draw people to the beaches. Just saying.

17. **Ramberget / Keiller's Park**: there is no better place to get a 360° view of Gothenburg. It is high enough to see just about everything: nearby Volvo Trucks, the quickly developing northern river shore (watch Scandinavia's tallest skyscraper being built nearby), see the river, and all the many different neighborhoods of Gothenburg. On a clear day, you can see out to the western border of Gothenburg, **Vinga**!

18. **Lindholmen / Eriksberg**: this is the most dynamic part of Gothenburg, our Gangnam of sorts. When the old shipyards closed

down, the city invested heavily in IT (development, research) and it is now a hub for many international companies, particularly within the automotive sector. Having said that, you can still find naval history everywhere. I particularly recommend walking up to **Slottsberget**, where the first workers of the shipyards built their homes in the traditional west coast style. This was one of the first big restoration projects in the 1980s. Walk toward **Eriksberg** and see the transformation as Gothenburg has been adding tens of thousands of residents for almost twenty years with brand new condos sprouting up everywhere. For another year or so you can also visit the seaworthy replica of the **Gothenburg**, our most famous **East India Farer**.

19. **Färjenäs**: this small park has history, both as the landing point of the old ferry crossing the river (before the famous **Älvsborgs Bridge** was opened for traffic) but also because it was the site of one of Gothenburg's predecessors, **Nya Lödöse**, which was destroyed by the Danes (see the introduction.)

20. **Rya Skog**: just a couple of kilometers further west lies Rya Skog, Gothenburg's oldest natural reserve, squeezed in between the oil refinery and our city sewage plant. As small as it may be, it's a beautiful place and I often visit to walk around. It's an old oak forest and wetland/swamp. There are also bronze age remnants to be found. Very few people come here, a true hidden gem.

21. **Klippan / Röda sten**: on the southern shore of the river, you'll find art, Röda Sten, a rock painted in red (the entire area is named after it), and the ruins of a castle after which our biggest park, **Slottsskogen**, is named. But it's also a quirky neighborhood and you can walk to the old naval base, **Nya Varvet**.

22. **Majorna / Kungsladugård**: this is an old neighborhood in typical style, ground floor in stone and two stories above in wood. It's a neighborhood that's been recently gentrified with lots of bars, great restaurants, and broad streets lined with trees.

23. Guldhedstornet: in this architecturally interesting neighborhood (imagine a rental with a fireplace?) from the 1950s you'll find this pretty impressive water tower with its café. Open Thursdays to Sundays. Great views included.

24. **Önnered / Fiskebäck**: this is an affluent area in the southwest, but what you shouldn't miss is the coastline with large marinas, lots of boats, canals, and traditional boat houses. The view west toward the nearby archipelago adds to the overall impression. Pretty! Eat at Jungman Jansson or Sjöboa. Fiskebäck is also home to some of the fishing boats still calling Gothenburg home. Our boats are labeled GG.

25. **Långedrag/Saltholmen**: more marinas, but Saltholmen is also where you can take a swim in the summer or just take sunbathe. There are cafés and since the street car (line 11 and—summer only—9) has a terminus here, and since this is where you catch the boats to the archipelago, it's easy enough to get here. Get off a couple of stops earlier, visit Långedrag (good lunch at Långedrag Vårdshus), and take in all the impressive villas lining the coastline. If open, Oscar II Fortress is worth a visit.

26. **Southern archipelago**: this isn't just one destination, it's a pearl of islands and each of the main ones has its character and is worth a visit. Why not just take one of the boats (price is included in your streetcar ticket) and head out to any of the islands or just sit upstairs in the café of one of the three larger boats and enjoy a coffee while you watch the landscape pass by? Twice a day you can also get a boat from **Stenpiren**, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. There are four lines: 281 to **Donsö-Vrångö**, 282 to **Styrsö**, 283 to **Brännö**, and 284 to **Stora Förö** (summer only.) Items 27 to 32 highlight some of my favorite islands.

27. **Brännö**: artsy and laidback. Great pizza at the shipyard, long walks with amazing views of the harbor from **Galterö Nature Reserve**, and typical coastal architecture inland.

28. **Köpstadsö**: the island where wheel-barrels rule. No traffic whatsoever, perfect for walks. But beware no restaurants, so BYO food and drink or grab the next ferry to Styrso. Few permanent residents here, but lots of cute summer residences.

29. **Styrso**: this is the main and largest island and has all the services for the island residents including a dentist, optometrist, and a clinic. The four settlements are each very different. Don't miss **Bratten** (modern with affluent villas from the 19th century), **Byn** (the "village" with the church and typical architecture) as well as **Tängen** (a traditional old fishing village.) Styrso also sports about 20 km of walking paths along beaches and through the forest and plenty of historic sights from the bronze age and onward as well as the highest viewpoint (**Stora Rös**) of the islands with amazing views. Great food at Öberska Huset where you can also catch a concert on warm summer nights. Two grocery stores and a couple more eateries. Summer beaches on Bratten and **Halsvik**.

30. **Donsö**: beautiful, traditional coastal settlement and the highest concentration of shipping companies in Sweden. Donsö is almost like a society of its own, very tight-knit, centered around churches and shipping. Eat great food at **Isbolaget**.

31. **Vrångö**: the most remote island, part of a nature reserve, with great beaches that are frequently visited by tourists in the summer with direct boats from Saltholmen. The beach is in the south of the island. Just follow the crowd (or don't!) Don't miss stopping by Hamnkrogen Lotsen for delicious seafood or spending a restful night at Kajkanten.

32. **Vinga**: you have to grab a tour ship from downtown (summer only) to get there, but it's a beautiful island and the outermost (western) part of the city of Gothenburg. Further west lies Denmark and the Jutland peninsula. If you're into music, you might be interested in the famous Swedish songwriter **Evert Taube** who was born and raised here.

33. **Slottsskogen**: our main city park and green lung, Gothenburg's Central Park so to speak. Here you find moose, reindeer, seals, and penguins, to name a few of the species in the animal park (no entry fee.) But above all, long walks, amazing trees, and huge lawns that invite you to barbecue or play games. In the summer, this is the venue for our famous music festival Way Out West.

34. Botanical Garden: if you've heard of Carl Linnaeus, you know that he invented the modern naming convention for plants and wildlife. He also brought a lot of plants to our country and so have many researchers after him. Here you can find a great exhibit of many of them in a beautiful setting. Always worth a visit. There's also a great café with organic food.

35. **Änggårdsbergen Natural Reserve**: if you reach the far end of the Botanical Garden you come to a gate. If you keep going you'll enter this amazing natural reserve. Lakes, ancient trees, and paths stretch for miles and miles. A beautiful and wild place. Perfect for long hikes.

36. **Delsjön**: along the freeway to the airport, in the eastern parts of the city lies this amazing lake system with outdoor sporting venues, and long paths to walk on (run or jog.)

37. **Vättlefjäll Nature Reserve**: this park system is in the northernmost part of Gothenburg and reaches neighboring communities. Lakes, forests, and hikes for every heart's delight.

38. **Kattegatt**: did I mention how beautiful our ocean is? On a sunny day, few things beat a trip on a boat out on the open sea. We have so many islands, most of the uninhabited except for seals and birds, that you'll find many of the locals take their boats out into the outer bands to find a lonely islet to anchor at, to skinny-dip and enjoy a family picnic.

39. **Stora Amundön**: in the south of our city is another natural reserve and what a beauty it is. Winter or summer, you can enjoy

long walks along rocky shores. In the summer, lay on the large boulders and cliffs and catch some rays or take a swim.

Sights outside city limits:

40. **Northern archipelago:** while the southern islands are car-free, the northern islands are reached by car ferry. They are much larger and have a different atmosphere. I recommend a visit to **Hönö Klåva** with great restaurants and uninhibited views of the open sea or why not **Rörö** with lots of nature? These islands are a community of their own with a townhouse on the island of **Öckerö**, after which the entire commune is named.

41. **Rising Island.** this is the fourth largest island of Sweden and home of Volvo (cars and trucks.) But it's also suburbia, home to the largest harbor in Scandinavia and mostly farmland. Three city boroughs exist on the island, Lundby (affluent, well-developed), Västra Hisingen (with some poorer communities and coastal regions), and Norra Hisingen, which is mostly just farmland. If you have a day to just ride out on a bike, you'll see just how diverse this island is. One minute you're in an affluent area, the next you see a halal butcher on the ground floor of a huge 1960s apartment complex and the next you stare at a cow standing alone in a meadow.

42. Gunnebo Castle: in neighboring Mölndal you'll find this private castle, built by one of Gothenburg's richest. Take a stroll through the gardens, grab a "fika" (coffee and cake) at the café, and picture this place 120 years ago...

43. **Kobergs fideikomiss & castle:** this is one of my favorite places in West Sweden. A huge estate about an hour's drive north of Gothenburg, complete with Cinderella castle, loads of small red cottages in the forest, and large herds of deer (I guarantee you'll see them!) There's also plenty of wild boar, but in all likelihood, you'll only see the mess they make in the forest. I often come here in the fall to pick mushrooms. Peaceful.

44. Tjolöholms Castle: south of Gothenburg, in the commune of Kungsbacka, you'll find this small Tudor-style castle with huge grounds by the sea. Nice for a walk and different scenery.

45. **Marstrand**: the island of Marstrand is about an hour's drive north of Gothenburg, way out west. Its fortress looms large atop the island and the village at its feet to the east is traditional and largely built in the 18th and 19th centuries. There are some great eateries on the island and stunning views. You can reach it by bus or car and take the small ferry out to the island. In the summer there are boat races taking place here and you'll see some amazing sailboats and yachts in the marina.

46. **Bohus Fästning**: this fortress is the former southernmost border point of Norway, which was part of the Kingdom of Denmark until 1805. The fortress can be found just outside the city of Kungälv in Bohuslän and only became Swedish in 1658. During the summer the fortress sometimes serves as a concert venue, but its location, on a small island towering above the Göta River, where it forks into two (Nordre Älv and Göta Älv) thus also creating Hising Island is quite impressive.

47. **Bohuslän**: there is so much to see here that I can't name them all, all those quaint coastal settlements, islands, etc. Too many to mention. If you have time, preferably by car or train (from Gothenburg to Strömstad on the border to Norway), go visit the region, drive around, you can get to even the westernmost places by car, but beware, it's slow going and the distances are significant, and you'll likely have to travel back the same way you came. Points 47-52 are some of my favorite spots in **Bohuslän**.

48. **Tjörn / Orust / Klädesholmen / Åstol**: even further north are the islands of Tjörn and Orust, some of the largest in Sweden. By themselves, they are worth a visit, but **Skärhamn** on Tjörn has a nice marina and a beautiful museum, and from Tjörn you can drive out to **Klädesholmen** (famous for its herring canning) or take a ferry

out to **Åstol**, which is a pearl of a small coastal village. Tightly packed houses on this tiny islet.

49. **Smögen**: as you approach the border to Norway, this fishing village is famous for its boathouses, bars, and restaurants and is a famous destination for Midsummer, particularly for the party crowds. I almost prefer **Kungshamn**, calmer. But off-season, on a sunny day? Beautiful!

50. **Lysekil**: this town, with city privileges, lies beautifully on the inlet to Sweden's southernmost fjord, Gullmarn. It has a maritime museum and a lot of maritime research is happening around here. The town itself is worth a visit if you're nearby.

51. **Gullmarsfjorden**: this is Scandinavia's southernmost fjord. Typically a Norwegian feature, Gullmarsfjorden is biologically interesting, because it's deep, it features Sweden's only coral reefs (no, don't picture those kinds of corals) and it boasts a big maritime science laboratory. The summer cabins lining the coast, the pine trees, and just the whole scenery will make you take picture after picture!

52. Rock carvings in Tanum: as a student of the Nordic cultures, this was almost a religious experience. This is almost at the border to Norway, a good two hours by car on the freeway north, but wow! What an amazing collection of petroglyphs! Need I mention that it's a UNESCO World Heritage Site?

53. **Skagen**: why not take the Stena ferry (3 hr one way) and cross the Kattegatt to reach **Fredrikshavn** and from there the train up north to Skagen? A typical Danish town and further north you'll find the tip of **Jutland** with its dunes and the place where the oceans meet, the **North Sea** and **Skagerrak**. The light here in the summer is quite spectacular and has given rise to the Skagen school whose works can be seen at the **Gothenburg Arts Museum**.

Museums:

54. Universeum: right next door to **Liseberg** is our science museum, which is most famous for the “path of the water” from an alpine stream to the ocean, complete with fish, and an underwater tunnel to see the sharks. They also have a tropical forest with monkeys, huge snakes, and sloths. And on the other side of the wall a bunch of experiments and exhibits to bring science closer to our young ones. But to be honest, most of us just go to see the water as it flows from the top of the building to the ocean at the bottom. Worth a visit! They also currently have a large dinosaur exhibit on the roof.

55. The Museum of World Culture is one of our national museums showcasing other cultures. Often the exhibits focus on a particular theme and migration is often mentioned. Entry is free and if you have an hour or two to spare, this is a great place to linger, expand your mind and have your assumptions questioned. One of my favorite past exhibits included photographs about child abuse in Afghanistan which had me weeping right there on sight. Their curators know how to put together powerful exhibits!

56. Stadsmuseet: our city museum is quite something. It used to be the headquarters for the East India Company which made Gothenburg rich. For the past 150 years, its housed our local museum, currently focusing on the almost 400 years of history of the modern city.

57. Maritima Centrum: the world’s largest floating ships museum. There’s a submarine, a warship, a lighthouse ship, and several other vessels to visit, right next door to the **Opera House**.

58. Röhsska Museet: our local and internationally famous design museum just reopened after extensive renovations. Swedish design is famous. Here you can learn how it developed over the centuries, but there are also foreign collections and temporary exhibitions to behold. A personal favorite of mine.

59. Konstmuseet: our museum of art is located on the far end of **Götaplatsen**, behind **Poseidon**. A huge building in massive yellow brick stone, housing an amazing collection of paintings and sculptures, including works from Dalí, Picasso, van Gogh, etc, but also the famous Skagen painters. Right next door is Konsthallen, focusing on modern art. I've seen some of the most extraordinary art there.

60. Volvomuseet: yes, we are the home of Volvo, cars, trucks, buses, plane engines, and Penta ship engines. Here in this museum, you can relive the history of Volvo, from the first truck in the 1920s to the modern adventures with China. If you love cars, this is a must. It's located in the heart of our harbor and if you're lucky you might even see a big cruise ship docked nearby. In 2024, the museum will move into a brand-new building next to Liseberg, downtown.

61. Sjöfartsmuseet: completely renovated, it's a museum focusing on the seafaring history of Gothenburg with brand new and larger aquariums which have always been a part of the museum's force of attraction. You can also enjoy the views from the platform over the river and contemplate what the lady on her pillar is praying for...

62. Museum of Natural History: it doesn't compare to its namesake in New York, but it sports an actual blue whale. They don't have that in New York. There is a lot of history around that whale and how it ended up beached on the west coast a long time ago. It was mounted and even served as a tiny café for a while. You can still go inside it. Probably the only place in the world with a walk-in blue whale...

63. Akvarellmuseet: this museum is to be found on the island of Tjörn, about an hour and a half north of Gothenburg. It is what it says, a museum of the art of aquarelle painting. They also have cabins to rent to visiting artists.

Sports & cultural activities:

64. **Ullevi**: let's start here, at our main stadium where the biggest outdoor concerts take place, as well as big soccer games and athletic events.

65. **Gamla Ullevi**: oddly a new stadium not old (as the name "gamma" suggests), and the home turf for three of our soccer clubs, IFK Göteborg (in our top league), GAIS & ÖIS. It's also the national stadium for our women's soccer team.

66. **Scandinavium**: do you like hockey? It's the home arena of European and current Swedish champions Frölunda Indians. It's also a concert arena and once a year the venue of the Gothenburg Horse Show.

67. Åby Travbana: this is where you go if you like to see horses with sulkies race around a track and make bets.

68. Galoppbanan: more Horse racing? This is the place to see horses race with the jockey in the saddle.

69. **Bravida arena**: home of another soccer team, BK Häcken, also in Sweden's top soccer league and our current Swedish champions!

70. Svenska Mässan: our indoor fair, Sweden's largest, home of many annual events including the internationally acclaimed Book Fair each September. But also shows about boats, cars, and dozens of other trade fairs.

71. **Partille Arena**: do you enjoy handball? One of Sweden's best clubs is based here and they keep winning national championships, both women's and men's.

72. **Skarpe Nord**: interested in Sweden's third largest sport, bandy? head north to **Kungälv** and their arena Skarpe Nord where they play this odd mixture of ice hockey and floorball every winter.

IFK Kungälv used to be a top team but was sadly demoted a couple of years ago due to financial problems.

73. Göteborgsoperan: do you love opera? Musical? Modern dance? This is the place to be in Gothenburg. Our dance company is internationally renowned with world premieres every year and the opera is currently working itself through Wagner's Ring. Great performances in a great location.

74. Stadsteatern: you'll need to speak Swedish here, but our city play house sets up plays that will make you ponder. The venue from the 1920s is also worth a visit as such.

75. Göteborgs Konserthus: this is where our symphonic orchestra performs, and they've been directed by some of the world's leading directors, including Gustavo Dudamel et al. They are our national symphonic orchestra and play in a hall with amazing acoustics.

76. Lorensbergsteatern: one of many private playhouses in Gothenburg, near Götaplatsen. Their repertoire is more on the humorous side, but often enough, they'll make you think of a deeper meaning.

77. Storan: the old opera house right off the old city by the moat. This beautiful white building now hosts concerts, plays, and performances by many different artists.

78. Pustervik: one of the city's leading concert, performance, and event stages. Also a club. Right near **Järntorget**.

79. Backa Teater: this is the stage for young people. Their plays and performances are geared toward young people who—as they say—"feel, think, and want to." To get there, take the ferry across the river from **Stenpiren**. Alight at **Lindholmen**.

80. Filmstaden Bergakungen: this is the place to watch movies, a mostly underground cinema multiplex with over a dozen silver



screens and a restaurant showcasing the latest movies from Hollywood and Swedish blockbusters.

81. Hagabion: love film noir and indie movies? Then come here, off Linnégatan, and enjoy movies for a smaller audience. Hagabion shows some of the best movies you've probably not heard of.

82. Borås Djurpark: picture elephants and giraffes in a Swedish habitat. No? Head to the next big city in the east, Borås, and experience it in real life. This zoo has all the big animals in big enclosures and no, no palm trees or baobabs, but pines, spruces, and oaks. You heard me. A great place to visit with kids.

83. Nordens Ark: here's another great zoo, but this one specializes in endangered species and biological diversity. You'll find it about an hour and a half north of Gothenburg in Hunnebostrand, near the freeway E6 toward Oslo.

My favorite restaurants:

84. Wagner's Bistro: Formerly the owner of another favorite place of mine, which has sadly declined a lot after he left, but his new place downtown is well worth a visit. Great wines to compliment his cooking.

85. Fiskekrogen: downtown, a stone's throw from **Gustaf Adolfs Square** and **Stenpiren**, this is also a great place for fish and seafood. Expensive, quiet, and traditional.

86. Café Öbergska: on the island of Styrö, this restaurant is situated right by the boat stop and sports a beautiful herb garden where one can lounge and relax in the summer. They serve really good food and desserts (including vegan options.) not to mention a unique selection of wines. There's also a bakery and the local heritage museum is upstairs.

87. Hamnkrogen Lotsen, Vrångö: If you're in the archipelago and crave seafood, this is where to go.

88. Isbolaget, Donsö: Excellent food, and a place to stay (or have a conference) on the island of Donsö.

89. Tapasbaren: this is my husband's favorite place and I can't fault him. In homey **Majorna**, this is Spanish tapas Swedish style. Fresh ingredients, great service, continuously changing menu. Do not miss their bread (from the next-door bakery) and aioli!

90. Enoteca Maglia: also in **Majorna** you'll find this Italian restaurant. Excellent food and service (I've got a thing for good service!)

91. Dorsia: I sometimes eat lunch here when I'm downtown. This place is very unusual. Kitsch, but in a classy way. And the food is really good. A tad expensive.

92. Bee 🏳️: for us queers and friends, Bee is both a restaurant, a bar, and on weekends a nightclub of sorts. Decent food and good service. Everybody's welcome. Attached to **Stora Saluhallen** on **King's Square** downtown.

93. Wrapped Burrito Bar: a cheap but fun lunch place across the street from our cathedral. TexMex burritos, your way, quick and filling.

94. JOS hälsocafé: do you like poké bowls? This is the Swedish answer to it, served with freshly squeezed juices and smoothies. There are two venues in Gothenburg, one near the **cathedral** and one on **Avenyn**.

My favorite hotels:

95. Upper House, ★★★★★: Sweden's best hotel. Impeccable service, an amazing concierge, great views all around, and a beautiful spa. A five-star luxury hotel within the **Gothia Towers hotel** across the street from **Liseberg** and atop the **Swedish Fair**.

96. Elite Plaza Hotel, ★★★★★: A great hotel in the old town, a stone's throw from our cathedral. This is where Bruce Springsteen resides when he rocks our soccer stadium, **Ullevi**, for his famous concerts.

97. Clarion Hotel Post, ★★★★★: On Queen's Square, opposite our central railway station you'll find the impressive old Post office, carefully renovated into a four-star hotel.

98. Hotel Royal, ★★★: Gothenburg's oldest hotel with style, in the old city. Privately owned and independent. Smack downtown.

99. Barken Viking, ★★★: Why not spend a night on an old ship, like this four-masted bark from 1906? The Viking is a floating hotel next door to our famous **Opera House**.

Shopping:

100.Nordstan: this is one of Scandinavia's largest malls, consisting of several buildings filled with stores on several floors. The streets in between are still considered streets and the place is open 24x7 even though it's roof-covered.

101.Nordiska Kompaniet: this is our local version of Harrod's. You'll find the finest goods here. Pricey but has decent service.

102.Frölunda Torg: my personal favorite. A big mall, easily accessible by street car, bus or car, but not as overrun and it has all the shops I need, most of the time.

103.**Downtown (Kungsgatan, Drottninggatan, Kyrkogatan, Fredsgatan)**: this is where you'll find a great many specialty shops and stores, clothing, footwear, design, etc. Go for a stroll and when you get tired, take a break in one of the countless cafés.