

Stockholm City Hall

Engelska

Welcome to Stockholm City Hall. During the tour you are welcome to take photos, even using flash, except in the Oval Room where the use of flash is not permitted. We request that during the tour you do not leave the group, sit on the furniture or touch any objects. Please switch off the sound on your mobile phone for everyone's comfort. Enjoy the tour!

Stockholm City Hall was built between 1911 and 1923 and was designed by the Swedish architect Ragnar Östberg. It is one of the most prominent buildings in Sweden constructed in the National Romantic style. Ragnar Östberg was also inspired by Italian Renaissance palaces and therefore built the City Hall with two piazzas – Borgargården and the Blue Hall. The City Hall was built as a workplace for Stockholm's politicians and civil servants and is still used in the same way today. The building also has ceremonial halls for meetings and parties.

For a long time the architect wanted to paint the brick walls in the **Blue Hall** blue, but he changed his mind when he saw how beautiful the red brick was. Although the hall remained red, he kept the name "Blå Hallen" (Blue Hall) because it was already in general use among Stockholmers. The Nobel Banquet takes place here in the City Hall's largest ceremonial hall on 10 December every year. However, the actual prize award ceremony does not take place at City Hall. The Blue Hall also houses one of the largest pipe organs in Scandinavia, with 10,000 pipes and 135 stops.

The **Council Chamber** is where the 101 members of Stockholm Municipal Council meet. The meetings are open to visitors, who are welcome to sit on one side of the gallery. On the opposite side there is a gallery for journalists. The painted opening in the beamed ceiling is designed to resemble a Viking longhouse.

The Vault of the Hundred is found in the lower part of the 106-metre tower. The ceiling consists of one hundred small vaults. Here you can see the carillon, which represents St. George and the Dragon. In the summer it rotates and the figures appear on the outside of the tower when the bells in the tower chime. In the wall of the Vault of the Hundred there is a large hole which is part of the ventilation.



The walls in the **Oval Room** are covered in tapestries which were woven at the end of the 17th century in Beauvais, France. In order to protect them, flash photography is not permitted in this room. On Saturdays civil weddings take place here.

From the **Prince's Gallery** you can see the view over Lake Mälaren and Stockholm's shores. On the other side of the room you can see the same motif in a painting by Prince Eugen. The black pillars are made of diabase rock. By the windows facing the water there are reliefs featuring male and female characters from Norse and classical mythology.

In the **Three Crowns Chamber** draperies of silk and silver thread hang from the walls. On one wall there is a painting from the 1790s of a view over Stockholm. On the opposite side there is an oak cabinet containing figures which represent prominent people from Swedish history.

The walls of the **Golden Hall** are decorated with mosaics created by Einar Forseth, depicting the history of Sweden from the 9th century to the 1920s. The images consist of more than 18 million mosaic pieces made of glass and gold. "The Queen of Lake Mälaren", that is, Stockholm in human form, sits on a throne and beside her there are figures and buildings from the rest of the world. The ball after the Nobel Banquet take place in the Golden Hall.