

A Walkabout around historical Blasieholmen and Nybroviken in Stockholm along the Baltic Sea water inlet to Stockholm.

Our walkabout will start at Kungsträdgården (King's Garden) and continue along the streets around Blasieholmen towards Nybroviken (New Bridge Bay), where we will view many objects of interests. We will receive more value from the walkabout if we develop a better understanding of the local history of an area when we are viewing the many visual objects.

I'm arriving at Kungsträdgården Metro Station (1), located in the district of Normalm. The platform is located approximately 115ft (34m) under ground. During the exit from the metro station I see several relics rescued from the many buildings demolished, during the sometimes tragic redevelopment period of central Stockholm during the period of the 1950s and 1960s. I continue walking along the Birgit Nilsson Allè towards the Stockholm Ström waterfront area. Birgit Nilsson was the Swedish world known dramatic opera soprano excelling in Wagner style operas. The park Kungsträdgården is divided into four distinct spaces: Square of Charles XII; Molin's Fountain; Square of Charles XIII and "Fountain of Wolodarski". My absolute favorite is Charles XII statue, on my right in the middle of the park, with his arm pointing eastward. The story is that he had some unfinished business with the Russians (what's new...). During the spring time Kungsträdgården presents a stunning view of flowering cherry blossoms for the visitor. I soon arrive at Stockholm Ström and see the Royal Castle to my right across the water and the famous Grand Hotel (2) and Nationalmuseum (3) to my left. I'm walking along Södra Blasieholmskajen towards Skeppsbron and I stop to talk to some tourists planning day trips in the archipelago starting from Stockholm Strömkajen ferry station. This is a one to two hour ferry trip that is very enjoyable during pleasant weather conditions. Unfortunately the National Museum is closed for repair until 2017, but some of their art can be seen at Konstakademin located at Fredsgatan 12. It is a pity, that we currently can not see it, as this is one of the paintings in the National Museum which describes well the Swedish *national epic*, an epic poem or literary work, which seeks or is believed to capture and express the essence or spirit of the Swedish people.



Area around Blasieholmen and Nybroviken
Photo: Arlid Vågen



Walking map for this Walkabout



Charles XII statue



Nationalmuseum (2) is the national gallery of Sweden, located on the peninsula Blasieholmen in central Stockholm.

Photo: Holger Ellaard



The Stockholm Palace or The Royal Palace is the official residence and major royal palace of the Swedish monarch. Stockholm Palace is located on Stadsholmen, in Gamla stan in the capital.

Photo by; sipview

The painting I have in mind is *Midvinterblot* (disambiguation) by the artist Carl Larsson painted in 1915. The painting depicts a legend from *Norse mythology*, and you can read more about it in Wikipedia.



I continue my walk towards Museikajen when I suddenly hear loud marching band music across the water. It is the Royal Guard Band (Livgardets Dragonmusikkår) on their way to the Royal Castle for the changing of the guards. This is an event I never miss during my visits to Stockholm. I turn left on the street following the quay toward the old Custom House built in 1874. Believe it or not but the authorities are planning to demolish this old house for a new *Nobel Museum* built in glass and steel. I'm wondering if the authorities lost all wit and senses (vett och sans in Swedish) clearly knowing everything that has been destroyed during the demolition period in the 1960's.



Photo by: 199pema

After passing the beautiful Custom House building (4) I turn left towards Nybrokajen when a overwhelming view with clear blue water, beautiful buildings, white ferry ships appear which blows my mind and a small tear falls from my eye. This is a moment when I realize I have so much to live for, so much left yet to do when visiting Stockholm.



Nybroviken
Photo: Stockholm pictures



Waxholms Ships



Waxholms Ships, 1940
Photo: Lennart af Pedersen

I continue my walk towards *Berzelii Park* when I pass a well known fish restaurant *Wedholms Fisk* (5), one of the best in Stockholm, and I stop in for lunch. I see *Nybroviken* to my right. It is so beautiful in the mid day sun light. For some reason this reminds me of an old disturbing story about the place. There is a Swedish term; *Ståplats i Nybroviken* (Standing Room Only at Nybroviken Bay); A murdered man was found in 1966 at Nybroviken Bay in upright standing position with a cement overcoat... In the comic strips this was called *Ståplats i Nybroviken*. Here I see the local ferry ships that have been transporting people to and from this area to places around Stockholm for more than 100 years. I'm entering the *Berzelii Park* and sit down on a park bench to collect all the impressions from my walk. *Berzelii Park* (7) is a small park in central Stockholm. The park is the location of the China Theater, the Berns Salonger Restaurant and Theater (8). When I was a young man, many years ago, I went dancing at *Berzelii Terassen* on top of the theater building which was one of the "in-places", if you were interested in modern jazz and dance music in Stockholm. In "*Orkesterjournalen*", which was a publication addressing the jazz scene in Stockholm, they wrote "Den som älskar jazz har mycket att hämta på *Berzelii Terassen*" translated to "Anyone who loves jazz has a lot to learn from the *Berzelii Terassen*". This was a wonderful time of opportunities for young people in Stockholm. After a short rest I'm crossing *Hamngatan* to enter the *Hallwylska museet* (*Hallwyll Museum*) (9) which is a national museum housed in this historical house. This is a must see, as it present to the viewer a picture of the aristocratic life style in late1800s.



Ferry Nybroviken 1896
Photo: Stockholms Källan



Berzelii Park by Nybroviken
Photo: Helge Höfödt

After spending some interesting time in the museum I continue along the street towards the waterfront and in the corner between Hamngatan and Nybroviken I see a Stockholm phenome “Mannen i gatan” (the man in the street) (10) by K.G. Bejemark symbolizing the maintenance workers in Stockholm. Artists using the comedian Hasse Alfredsson as a model for the worker. The statue was later moved to Södermalms torg.



Mannen i gatan by KG Bejemark

At the north end of Berzelii park I see the statue of the person that gave the park its name of the park Jöns Jacob Berzelius (uncovered 1858) (11). Now I'm crossing over to Strandvägen and the Royal Dramatic Theatre (12) which is Sweden's national stage for "spoken drama", founded in 1788. Around one thousand shows are put on annually on the theatre's eight running stages. A visit to this theatre is recommended for anyone that is looking for Swedish history through spoken drama.



Royal Dramatic Theatre

Time is passing fast and I hurry up towards the Strandvägen Quay passing the ticket kiosk (13) for the Feather Island ferry and I'm boarding the tram to Djurgården for a late walk on the island.

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More information for the interested:

Wikipedia: Type in Blasieholmen or Nybroviken

Type in Norse Mythology

Type in Södermalms Torg

Internet/Google: Type in Stockholmskällan and search for Blasieholmen peninsula, or Nybroviken.

Youtube: Type in Blasieholmen or Nybroviken for videos.

Book: Per Anders Fogelström “En bok om Stockholm” (in Swedish)

