

# 18th-Century Sweden: The Golden Age of Gustavian Style

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In 1771, the future Gustav III returned to his native Sweden from the French court at Versailles to ascend the throne as king after his father's sudden death. The young monarch had been profoundly inspired by French Neoclassical architecture and decorative arts. Later trips to France and Italy gave further impetus to Gustav's passion for the classical. During his reign (1772-1792), Sweden rose to a level of architectural and cultural sophistication never known before. The king transformed this once removed European country into the "Paris of the North," setting a standard of style for most levels of Swedish society that continued well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Join us on this ten day excursion as you discover the truly beautiful and singularly charming Gustavian style of architecture and decoration, which has attained great popularity in America. The tour is led by Lani Summerville of Classical Excursions and Dr. Johan Cederlund, author of the book entitled *Classical Swedish Architecture & Interiors: 1650-1840*. We will be hosted by the aristocratic owners of such ancestral country manor houses as Elghammar. Swedish curators and historians will give us exclusive tours and will introduce us to the classical works of such important Swedish architects and designers of the period as Hårleman, Rehn, Adelcrantz, the Masreliez brothers, Sergel and many others. Many of the manor houses and palaces on the tour are featured in the book, *Neoclassicism in the North: Swedish Furniture and Interiors, 1770-1850* by Håkan Groth, as well as *Classical Swedish Architecture & Interiors: 1650-1840*, and are open exclusively for our group.

Our accommodations for this trip include the elegant five star hotel in Stockholm along with a historic inn located in the charming town of Mariefred. Our private motor coach will transport us to all sights on the tour. As the tour is limited to 20 people, please reserve your space by contacting lani Summerville at [lani@classicalexcursions.com](mailto:lani@classicalexcursions.com) or 413-446-8728

## Tour Highlights:

A five night stay in a five star hotel in the heart of historic Stockholm.

A private tour of **Sturehof Manor house**, renowned for its unique collection of Marieberg tile stoves and its original 18<sup>th</sup> century Gustavian interiors.

A private tour of **Drottningholm Palace, Court Theatre** and the **Chinese Pavilion**. The Drottningholm Court Theatre is considered to be one of the best preserved 18<sup>th</sup> century theatres in the world, still containing the original sets and operating machinery.

A private tour of the renowned **Masreliez Rooms** in Old Town. One of the few 18<sup>th</sup> century apartments left intact in Stockholm. Most of the interior wall paintings and paneling remain along with a wealth of period furnishings from the Gustavian era.

A visit to **Svindersvik Manor House**, one of the best preserved early Gustavian houses in Sweden. Designed by Court architect Carl Harleman in 1740. Svindersvik is a rare gem, not to be missed.

A visit to the “Palladian” estate **Elghammar**, privately owned by Duchesse Christina d’Otrante and containing all of its original Russian Empire and late Gustavian furnishings. This grand home was designed by the Court Architect of Catherine the Great, Giacomo Quarenghi.

A day touring 18<sup>th</sup> century houses and collections such as **Hammarby, Leufsta Bruk** and others, with renowned preservationist and author **Lars Sjöberg**.

A visit to the privately owned 17<sup>th</sup> century **Olivehult** manor house complete with all the original 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> century interiors.

A private tour of **Gunnebo**, the stunning neoclassical masterpiece in Gothenburg.

A special visit to the **Tessin Palace** and its French parterre garden. The palace was built as the home of royal court architect Nicodemus Tessin the younger and is now used as the official residence of the governor of Stockholm. The interiors are considered to be the best preserved examples of 17<sup>th</sup> century French interiors in the world.

A private visit to the restrained **Gustav III’s pavilion at Haga**

A tour of the privately owned **Thureholm manor house**, designed by Carl Harleman in 1730 and considered to be the first house designed in Sweden implementing the French floor plan for interior design. Harleman went on to become the Court Architect and was responsible for many of the interiors at the Royal Palace in Stockholm.

A private tour and dinner at **Ovedskloster**, one of Sweden’s finest 18<sup>th</sup> century manor houses, still owned by the original family and containing all of its original furnishings.

A lecture by **Johan Cederlund**, author of the landmark book *Classical Swedish Architecture & Interiors 1650- 1840* and current Director of the Anders Zorn Museum & Collections, Mora, Sweden.

\*For a complete list of included sights please request a full day-by-day itinerary, this is just a partial listing. Sites subject to change.