

The logo for the Art Gallery of Hamilton (AGH) is a black square with the letters 'AGH' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

ART GALLERY OF HAMILTON PRESENTS

Travels with Tobi: Discover William Blair Bruce & Sweden's Artistic Landscape

September 17 - 27, 2026

FULL ITINERARY

Day 1: Sept. 17, 2026 ARRIVE STOCKHOLM (D)

Welcome to Sweden! Your artistic journey begins in the enchanting city of Stockholm, where timeless charm meets modern Nordic elegance.

Upon arrival, guests will make their own way to the hotel to begin their Scandinavian adventure.

Please note that hotel check-in may not be available until 3:00 p.m., so you may wish to store your luggage and explore the surrounding area or relax in the hotel's inviting lounge until your room is ready.

For those eager to start discovering the city, an optional afternoon group guided walking tour of Gamla Stan (Stockholm's Old Town) offers the perfect introduction. Departing from the elegant Grand Hotel, stroll through winding cobblestone streets lined with colourful 17th-century buildings, charming cafés, and boutique shops. Along the way, your local guide will share fascinating stories of Stockholm's history, royal heritage, and vibrant culture. Highlights include the magnificent Royal Palace, lively squares, and hidden alleyways that reveal the city's medieval roots.

As evening descends, the group comes together for a Welcome Dinner and Reception at the Viking Museum Stockholm, where you'll indulge in a four-course dining experience inspired by the flavours of the North. Traditional Nordic comfort dishes are reimaged with modern techniques, showcasing the region's best sustainable, seasonal ingredients.

Enjoy a tasting of three meads and one braggot (mölska)—a spirited nod to Viking tradition and a toast to new friendships.

Unwind and rest overnight at the stylish Scandic Grand Central Hotel (or similar), ideally located for exploring Stockholm's artistic and cultural treasures. Welcome to Stockholm, a city of art, history, and Scandinavian magic!

Accommodation: Scandic Grand Central or similar 4*, Standard Room (3 Nights)

Day 2: Sept. 18, 2026 STOCKHOLM (B/L/D)

After a restful night, enjoy a delicious breakfast at the hotel before meeting your Tour Director for another inspiring day in Stockholm. Your private coach will be at your disposal for 7 hours, ensuring a relaxed and comfortable journey as you explore the city's artistic highlights.

Your morning begins with a visit to Sweden's premier art institution, the National Museum of Stockholm. You will see your first major William Blair Bruce painting here. With your local guide, discover an extraordinary collection that spans centuries—from classical masterpieces to modern Swedish design. Wander through elegant galleries filled with works by Rembrandt, Renoir, and the great Nordic artists who shaped the country's creative legacy.

Following your tour, enjoy a delightful two-course lunch at the National Museum's elegant restaurant, where tradition meets innovation. Savour the dish of the day and a delectable dessert, both crafted from fresh, locally sourced Nordic ingredients that showcase the very best of Swedish cuisine.

In the afternoon, continue your artistic exploration with a visit to Prins Eugens Waldemarsudde, the former home and studio of Prince Eugen—an artist and patron of the arts. Nestled on Djurgården Island, this beautiful museum combines art, history, and nature, offering stunning views over the water and gardens that inspired the Prince's work.

As evening approaches, enjoy a comfortable transfer to and from dinner for a memorable meal at Restaurant Mårten Trotzig, located in the heart of Gamla Stan. Set within a charming 17th-century building, this cozy restaurant perfectly blends old-world ambiance with refined modern Swedish cuisine. Indulge in a three-course dinner featuring seasonal Nordic flavours—perhaps reindeer, salmon, or a creative vegetarian dish—served in a warm, candlelit setting that captures the spirit of Stockholm’s Old Town.

A day rich in art, culture, and taste - a true celebration of Sweden’s creative heart.

Day 3: Sept. 19, 2026 STOCKHOLM (B/L/D)

Start your morning with a hearty breakfast at the hotel before meeting your Tour Director for another wonderful day of discovery. Your private coach will be at your disposal for 4 hours, making it easy to explore Stockholm’s cultural gems in comfort and style.

Begin with a visit to the fascinating Nordiska Museet (Nordic Museum), Sweden’s largest museum of cultural history.

Set within a grand Renaissance-style building on Djurgården Island, it showcases the everyday life, traditions, and craftsmanship of the Nordic people through the centuries, from folk art and fashion to home design and celebrations.

Next, step into maritime history at the world-renowned Vasa Museum, home to the magnificent 17th-century warship Vasa, which sank on her maiden voyage and was miraculously salvaged 333 years later. Explore the ship’s intricate carvings and learn about life aboard Sweden’s most famous vessel—a must-see highlight of Stockholm.

After your visit, enjoy a relaxing two-course lunch at the Vasa Museum Restaurant, where modern Swedish cuisine is served with stunning views of the harbour. Savour a fresh salad followed by the dish of the day, crafted from seasonal local ingredients. Dine in the bright, airy hall or on the sunny waterfront terrace—a perfect pause between adventures.

The afternoon is yours to enjoy at leisure—perhaps stroll along Djurgården’s leafy paths, visit nearby galleries, or shop for Swedish design treasures.

In the evening, your coach will transfer you to the Wallmans Dinner Theatre, where you’ll enjoy an unforgettable Dinner + Show (Bronze Package). Experience an evening of lively entertainment, gourmet dining, and sparkling Swedish hospitality as talented performers bring the stage to life.

After the show, guests will make their own way back to the hotel or continue to explore Stockholm’s vibrant nightlife. A perfect blend of art, culture, and fun - a day to remember in Sweden’s stunning capital!

Day 4: Sept. 20, 2026 STOCKHOLM TO GOTLAND, VISBY (B/D)

Begin your morning with a delicious breakfast at the hotel, then meet your Tour Director to prepare for a day of travel and discovery. After group check-out between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m., board your comfortable coach transfer from the city hotel to Stockholm Arlanda Airport for your domestic flight to the enchanting island of Gotland.

Your flight from Stockholm to Visby (ARN/VBY) includes priority boarding and 23 kg of checked luggage, with a short and scenic journey of just one hour, offering a bird’s-eye view of Sweden’s stunning archipelago as you travel to the Baltic Sea’s largest island.

Upon arrival at Visby Airport, you’ll enjoy a coach transfer to your city hotel, followed by an inspiring two-hour guided walking tour with a local expert.

Discover the magic of medieval Visby, a UNESCO World Heritage treasure and one of the best-preserved historic towns in Northern Europe. Stroll along the impressive 13th-century city walls, take in breathtaking views of the Baltic Sea, and visit the elegant Sankta Maria Cathedral. As you wander through cobblestone streets lined with rose-covered cottages and charming ruins, your guide will share captivating tales of merchants, pirates, and royalty, bringing the island’s rich past vividly to life.

In the evening, gather for a delightful three-course dinner at Wisby Hof, where warm hospitality meets classic Swedish flavours in a cozy, welcoming setting.

Relax and unwind overnight in a standard room at the Clarion Hotel Wisby (or similar), a beautiful historic property blending old-world charm with modern comfort, perfectly located in the heart of this fairytale town. Welcome to Visby, where history, culture, and coastal beauty come together in timeless harmony.

Accommodation: Clarion Hotel Wisby or similar 4*, Standard Room (6 Nights)

Day 5: Sept. 21, 2026 GOTLAND (B/D)

Begin your morning with a hearty breakfast at the hotel before meeting your Tour Director for another day of exploration on the beautiful island of Gotland.

Your day starts with a fascinating guided tour of the Gotlands Museum, where history truly comes alive. Step back through time as you discover Viking relics, medieval treasures, and ancient artifacts that tell the story of Gotland's unique heritage. Knowledgeable local guides will share captivating insights into the island's evolution, from its prehistoric roots to its vibrant modern culture, offering a deeper understanding of this storied island's past.

Afterward, enjoy lunch at your leisure at one of Visby's charming cafés or restaurants, perhaps trying some local specialties or freshly caught Baltic seafood.

In the afternoon, reconnect with nature on a serene guided tour of the Visby Botanical Garden, one of the town's most peaceful and picturesque spots. As autumn begins to tint the landscape with hues of gold and crimson, stroll among late-blooming flowers, perennial plants, and historic trees that have graced this garden for centuries. Your expert guide will share stories about Gotland's flora, the garden's history, and the cultural connections between the island's people and its natural beauty. This 45-minute tour offers a gentle, relaxing experience, perfect for photography, reflection, and soaking in the calm atmosphere of this coastal haven.

As evening falls, gather with your group for a delightful three-course dinner at Vårdshuset Lindgården Restaurang, one of Visby's most beloved dining establishments. Surrounded by classic Swedish elegance and warm hospitality, savour a meal inspired by local flavours and seasonal ingredients—a perfect way to end a day filled with art, history, and the timeless beauty of Gotland.

Day 6: Sept. 22, 2026 GOTLAND (B/D)

Enjoy a relaxing breakfast at the hotel before meeting your Tour Director for another inspiring day on Gotland — one that celebrates the artistic legacy of William Blair Bruce himself.

Today, your coach will be at your disposal for 8 hours as you journey to some of Visby's most meaningful artistic landmarks. Begin with a visit to the Burmeisterska House. Carolina Benedicks-Bruce (1856-1935), William Blair Bruce's wife, was a strong advocate for the preservation of the 17th-century Burmeisterska House. An accomplished sculptor, she was the first woman to enroll in the sculpture class at the Royal Swedish Academy of Arts. She later went to France and worked at the artists' colony in Grez-sur-Loing, where she met her husband.

Continue to the Brucebo Museum, the couple's former home, which they designed and built, and studio overlooking the sparkling Baltic Sea. Step into their world and explore the beautifully preserved home, filled with original artworks, furnishings, and artifacts that offer an intimate glimpse into their lives and artistic pursuits. Surrounded by lush gardens and serene coastal views, it's easy to see why Brucebo became such a wellspring of inspiration.

As evening falls, enjoy a memorable dinner at Brucebo House, where you'll dine in a truly atmospheric setting steeped in art and history. Savour a delicious meal featuring local flavours and seasonal ingredients while soaking in the tranquil beauty that once inspired two remarkable artists.

Day 7: Sept. 23, 2026 GOTLAND (B)

Start your day with a delightful breakfast at your hotel and a brief meeting with your Tour Director. Today is at leisure, allowing you to soak in the artistic spirit of Gotland at your own pace. You may choose to explore the landscapes and seascapes that inspired the celebrated Canadian painter William Blair Bruce, wander through charming villages, or visit local galleries and art studios. Options are available for those who wish to deepen their connection with the island's creative atmosphere, making it a relaxing day of art, inspiration, and personal discovery. Examples of other activities could be: spending more time in the house, in the studio on the shore of the Baltic, exploring the grounds and the studio cottages, or visiting Carolina's grave.

A day of creativity, culture, and connection, celebrating the spirit of William Blair Bruce in the place he called home.

Day 8: Sept. 24, 2026 GOTLAND (B/L)

After a nourishing breakfast at the hotel, meet your Tour Director and set off on a full-day adventure to one of Gotland's most captivating destinations—Fårö Island, famed for its dramatic landscapes, artistic heritage, and tranquil charm. With your coach at your disposal for 8 hours, sit back and enjoy the scenic drive as you travel north through rolling countryside and across the short ferry crossing to this remarkable island.

Your first stop is the Fårö Museum and Bergman Center, dedicated to the life and work of the legendary Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman, who called Fårö home for many years.

Explore fascinating exhibits that showcase Bergman's creative process, his deep connection to the island, and the profound influence its stark beauty had on his films. The museum also offers insight into local history, culture, and the distinctive character of Fårö's community.

After your visit, enjoy a leisurely two-course lunch at Fårö Strandcafé, perfectly situated near the stunning Sudersand Beach—renowned as one of Europe's most beautiful stretches of sand. Here, you'll dine on fresh, seasonal dishes such as vibrant salads, hearty fish or meat entrées, or comforting pasta, all prepared with care and local ingredients. Take in the breathtaking coastal views, breathe in the fresh sea air, and savour the relaxed, beachside atmosphere that makes Fårö so unforgettable.

The rest of the afternoon offers time to absorb the island's serene beauty before returning to Visby—your heart full of inspiration from a day spent amid Sweden's cinematic landscapes and coastal splendour.

Day 9: Sept. 25, 2026 GOTLAND (B/D)

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel, then spend the day as you wish—today is yours to relax and explore at your own pace.

Your Tour Director will be available to offer suggestions or assist with planning optional activities, whether that means wandering Visby's cobblestone lanes, discovering local artisan shops, visiting additional galleries, or simply soaking in the charm of this medieval seaside town.

Later in the day, a transfer will take you to and from dinner, where an unforgettable culinary experience awaits at Restaurant ROT. Nestled in the Gotland countryside, ROT is known for its five-course tasting menu that celebrates local, seasonal, and sustainable ingredients sourced directly from the island. Each dish is a work of art, creative, beautifully presented, and deeply connected to the rhythms of nature.

Savour this exceptional dining experience in an intimate, rustic setting where the passion for craftsmanship and flavour shines through every course. It's the perfect way to toast the journey so far, an evening of fine food, warm company, and the unique spirit of Gotland.

Day 10: Sept. 26, 2026 GOTLAND TO STOCKHOLM (B)

Start your day with a relaxing breakfast at the hotel before meeting your Tour Director for the journey back to Stockholm. Board your coach for transfer from the hotel to the airport, where your domestic flight awaits.

Take your flight from Visby to Stockholm (VBY/ARN) with priority boarding and 23 kg checked luggage, enjoying a smooth and scenic journey back to the Swedish capital. Upon arrival at Stockholm Arlanda Airport, a coach transfer will take you to your city hotel, giving you time to settle in and relax after your travels.

Tonight, unwind and enjoy the comforts of your standard room at Hotel C Stockholm (or similar), reflecting on the incredible experiences, artistic discoveries, and cultural treasures you've explored over the past days. Stockholm awaits with more charm and inspiration, whether for a quiet evening or an optional evening stroll through its vibrant streets.

Accommodation: Hotel C Stockholm or similar 4*, Standard Room (1 Night)

Day 11: Sept. 27, 2026 DEPART STOCKHOLM (B)

Enjoy a final breakfast at the hotel, savouring the last moments of your Swedish adventure. At the appointed time, check out and gather in the hotel lobby with your Tour Director, and as you wait for your fellow travellers to gather to travel to the airport, take a moment to reflect on the incredible artistic journey through Stockholm and the Island of Gotland.

Take time to revisit the inspirations and stories of the many artists you've encountered along the way, from the legacy of William Blair Bruce at Brucebo Museum to the vibrant contemporary art and historic studios in Stockholm. Reflect on the creative spirit that flows through Visby's medieval streets, its galleries, and coastal landscapes, and the rich artistic traditions that make Sweden such a unique cultural destination.

Share memories, photographs, and favourite moments with fellow travellers as you bid farewell to the artists, galleries, and museums that brought this journey to life. This is a day to celebrate creativity, inspiration, and the enduring beauty of Swedish art, leaving you with lasting impressions and a renewed appreciation for the artists who shaped both Visby and Stockholm.

Your group will enjoy a coach transfer from the hotel to Stockholm Arlanda Airport, providing a smooth and comfortable journey as you prepare for your onward travels. This final transfer marks the end of the tour, leaving you with lasting impressions of Sweden's art, culture, and scenic beauty.