

# MAGIC MIDSUMMER

*Itinerary 5 days, 4 nights*

## Day 1 (thursday) Arrival

*(-/-/D)*

### Check-in 3pm

You will find Stiftsgården Rättvik next to the scenic lake Siljan, in the middle of Dalarna. The silence is near and the mountains contribute to a beautiful view regardless season. You will find trails for hiking just outside the doorstep. Take a stroll by the lake or just enjoy the view.

### 6pm Dinner (Stiftsgården)

Together with our Midsummer host we enjoy dinner talking about the days to come. What are the must & don'ts when it comes to celebrating midsummer in Sweden and Dalarna.

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## Day 2 (friday, Midsummer eve) Celebrations & traditions

*(B/L/D)*

### 8am Breakfast (Stiftsgården)

A rich breakfast buffet is served in the tastefully decorated restaurant. Just outside the window, the water of Siljan glitters and in the horizon the mountains form a scenic setting.

### 10 am Midsummer preparations (Stiftsgården)

Midsummer is the very high-point of summer in Sweden. People gather with relatives and friends to celebrate. We also celebrate together, at Stiftsgårdens courtyard. But first we will be picking flowers for the decoration of the maypole.

### 11.30 am Traditional midsummerbuffé (Stiftsgården)

For lunch, the chefs will serve traditional midsummer dishes such as local salmon, flavoured pickled herring, fresh summer potatoes, dill, chives and sour cream along with a big salad buffet.

### 1.30 pm Midsummer celebrations - *rehearsal* (Stiftsgården)

We meet at the courtyard to decorate the maypole and dance to the tunes of violin and traditional songs. We learn about the songs and dances that they are part of old traditions.

### 4.30 pm Midsummer buffet (Stiftsgården)

Again it's time for some traditional midsummer dishes, although this time in a much bigger scale.

### 5.30pm Midsummer celebration - *the real thing!* (Rättvik Gammelgård)

After the celebrations and Midsummer buffet at Stiftsgården we walk together to the big Midsummer celebration on a nearby homestead museum. To the tunes of violin and other instruments played by

locals wearing traditional clothes we will witness when the beautifully decorated maypole rises to the sky. The majority of the big crowd will then start the dance around the pole and you are invited! Soon you will find yourself jumping as a frog, playing air violin and much more. The museum café serves refreshments for those who wish. After the dancing we walk together back to Stiftsgården. The rest of the evening is free. Stroll by the shore or sit on the veranda by the lake and enjoy the brightest night in the year.

### **8 pm Performance (Rättvik church) OPTIONAL**

For those who wish there is a possibility to attend a unique guest concert in the local church after the midsummer celebrations. The church is situated next to Stiftsgården and the guests are Wooddale choir from Minnesota. It will be an unforgettable experience, for sure.

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## **Dag 3 (saturday, Midsummer day) History & nature**

*(B/L/D)*

### **8 am Breakfast (Stiftsgården)**

After yesterday celebrations, take your time this morning to enjoy the rich breakfast buffet and not at least the scenic views outside the window. If the weather is nice you can even have your breakfast outside. Depending on your plans for the day there is a possibility to bring some sandwiches and fruits from the breakfast buffet as lunch, or if you prefer, it is also easy to find a nice restaurant in the area.

### **9 am In the footsteps of history**

A guided walk in the very footsteps of local history. This is an informative walk along the shore of beautiful lake Siljan, next to the local church. During the walk the guide tell the exciting story of the lake Siljan area, about former king Gustaf Wasa and his local combatants as well as about Rättvik and the surroundings. At the end of the tour we attend the arrival of beautiful church boats which traditionally arrives at church just before the church service. A solemn event worth viewing, a must do on Midsummer day.

### **After noon - time to discover Rättvik by yourself**

Stroll around in the neighbourhood, take a swim in the lake, do some craft shopping, spend time resting at Stiftsgården or discover the nature. Midsummer is in the air and you will find swedes and others in festive mood everywhere. The day is yours to decide!

### **6 pm Dinner (Stiftsgården)**

We meet up to enjoy a nice dinner in the restaurant.

### **9 pm Night canoeing (Stiftsgården)**

An exciting excursion will take place in the bright summer night. We slide slowly into our canoes and paddle away in the magic light of the midsummer night. The sun still lights up the sky as it doesn't set properly. After a while we will go to shore and walk back to Stiftsgården. Along the way we learn more about the mythical traditions that form swedish Midsummer.

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## **Day 4 (sunday) Countryside experience**

*(B/L/D)*

### **8am Breakfast (Stiftsgården)**

Start slow and enjoy the breakfast. Perhaps you would like to take a morning walk or enjoy the peacefulness before the first scheduled activity for the day starts.

### **10.30 am Countryside bike ride**

A guided bike tour on the beautiful Swedish countryside. We'll visit scenic places as well as historic remains, all connected to centuries of interesting local limestone history. We'll look for the traces of the meteorite that struck the area some 377 million years ago. We'll also listen to the story of Rättvik and its surrounding villages, enjoy beautiful views of the genuine countryside and stop for refreshments at a scenic place along the way.

### **11.30 am Dinner preparations (Solgårdskrogen)**

When you arrive at Solgårdskrogen you will be guided around the grounds including the vegetable garden and the quail farm. You will be attending while the chief lowers a whole animal into the cooking pit. The animal will now cook away for hours in the pit whilst you attend your next activity, but not without a picnic basket containing a light lunch made from local ingredients.

### **7pm Dinner (Solgårdskrogen)**

When you return to Solgårdskrogen you will see the animal taken up from the pit and later we will enjoy it as part of an exclusive and delightful dinner. The evening is bright, the atmosphere warm and the surroundings scenic.

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## **Day 5 (monday) Departure**

*(B/-/-)*

### **8am Breakfast (Stiftsgården)**

Enjoy the rich breakfast buffet and the scenic view for the last time before leaving Rättvik and Dalarna.

### **11am Check-out & good bye!**

## **CONTACT & BOOKING**

### **Stiftsgården Rättvik**

*Booking department:*

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