



## Following in the Footsteps of Astrid Lindgren

This tour takes you to the home of Astrid Lindgren's characters – step into the magical world of Emil and Pippi Longstocking! Experience our capital city on water during a springtime in bloom, and enjoy plenty of experiences for all the family!

### Day 1 25.05.2012 Arrival

13:00 Meet and greet at the airport with your local Italian speaking tour guide.

A drive through the rural countryside outside Vimmerby. Heather in bloom line the roads, giving way to dense, dark forests. Scattered stone boulders define the landscape, and one can only wonder what feats of strength and determination were needed to clear the land for agriculture and pasture. Typical red wooden houses, with white-painted window frames blend into the rustic setting – Sweden is a country sure to leave you with lifetime memories.

Continue to Vimmerby and check into your hotel.

Walk through Vimmerby village centre and see for yourself where Astrid Lindgren received much of her inspiration. The main street, still positioned as it was back in the Middle Ages, is an enlightening example of how preservation and renovation can be combined and can complement each other.

### Day 2. 26.05 Astrid Lindgren's World

The settings and characters from Astrid Lindgren's books come to life at Astrid Lindgren's World.

Pippi Longstocking, Six Bullerby Children, Brothers Lionheart, Rasmus and the Tramp, Emil of Lönneberga and Ronja, the Robber's Daughter can all be found here.

The bus collects you in the morning and takes you to the park. Return by bus in the evening to the hotel.

### Day 3. 27.05 08:00 Check out and return to Stockholm. (340 km, approx. 5 hrs + stops)

Today you experience the true world of Astrid Lindgren!

Visit the real Bullerby village where Astrid Lindgren found most of her inspiration, where the films were made, and where her father Samuel August grew up. A café, a small store and a shop can be found here.

Continue on to Mariannelund. En route, you enjoy wonderful views before you drive into the town. Do you remember what Emil said when he hoisted Ida up the flagpole? "Ida, can you see Mariannelund?" Mariannelund also has a café where you can enjoy a bite to eat, and don't ever miss the sweet shop – only real sweets, the type on sale at markets, are made here.

As you leave Mariannelund, you pass a sign with "Katthult 9" on it. You soon arrive in Katthult village, famous for the films and books about Emil. Visit the house where you see everything you loved about the Emil films, including Emil's little woodshed, Alfred's house and the flagpole.

Close by the village Kvill is one of Europe's largest trees – the Kvill Oak. It measures about 14 metres in circumference. Stop for a moment and imagine just what may have happened here over the past 1,000 years, while this oak tree has been standing still. Just imagine if trees could speak! It is just a short walk from the parking area, and well worth a visit.

We continue north through the rural landscape of Småland to Linköping from where you take the motorway to Stockholm city centre and your hotel for the evening, Rica Stockholm, located just in front of the old market place at Hötorget and the pedestrian street to the Old Town.

**Optional:** A panoramic tour of Stockholm, 2 hrs before check in around 17:00-18:00. Due to the holiday – we expect the city to be a little more relaxed than usual!

#### **Day 4. 28.05.08 Departure**

11:00 Check out and meet with your guide for a visit to the Vasa Museum before you leave Stockholm (13:00) for Skavsta airport.