Weekend Trip to Stockholm

When: 21-24 May 1999

Who: With Jinghai, Tieyan, Yin Bin and Bai Guanlai

It takes me two days to regain my energy. The travel to Stockholm is almost perfect -- we used three days to visit the city and bought whatever a stupid tourist should buy :-) --except one little pity -- I was stolen of a bag in the railway station :-( (not so bad, there is only food in it :-) So remember to be cautious any time at any place when travel to another city.

The four of us and Bai GuanLai went to Stockholm together. Stockholm is a typical European old city. The water divides Stockholm into many small areas, the most important ones (for tourist) are -- old town where the architecture has been almost unchanged since the 13th century featured with narrow streets and baroque style palace, and a new town in which you can find the shadow of a modern metropolis.

The first day we browsed the street, the shops and bought some food for the following days, because the next two days are public holidays which means all the supermarket will be closed. It is interesting that we encountered a public anti-NATO assemble at that day before which NATO's bombing damaged the Swedish ambassador's residence. To our surprise, there was a Chinese National flag among the various flags. The more surprising was that it was an old Swedish who hold up this flag and no Chinese was around. With a strong feeling that cannot be named explicitly, we joined the assembly and stood behind the old man. Not understanding what the spokes woman was saying didn't prevent us from sharing a sense of common indignity. I have always wondered what our human being had learned from the World war. We accumulate civilization for thousands of years, and we collect war for equal long history. We said "Never again, never again" while what we did is "Ever again, ever again". Isn't it ironic? Some times I think maybe there is a God try to make salvation for humans, and I would rather it is true. If otherwise, seems no hope for the mankind to get rid of the intrinsic sin. Kidding:-)

We intensified our sightseeing on the second day, because we bought a one-day Stockholm tourist card with which you can take local bus and visit most of the museum for free during that 24 hours. Most of the museums are those you will never visit as a local resident unless you are a stupid tourist :). There are indeed some worth seeing museums like the Vasa museum where a famous wooden warship sunk at her maid voyage. What I prefer is the Royal Canal tour by yacht. Along the river, in both sides there are characteristic private flat located among trees and grasslands. 50% of the land of Sweden is said to be covered with trees. Stockholm is called beauty on the water, because it is surrounded by water and consists of thousands of small islands. Given more time, I would spend a day visiting the archipelagos scattered around the city.

We live in a youth hotel for two nights, where you can make food by yourself. This kind of hotel is available in most of the European cities and it is relatively cheap and self-service. They provide stoves, ovens and bowls ... you can buy food in the nearby supermarket and cook it by hand. This is especially good for young people, students like us :-) What's more, the hotel we lived is located on a deprecated 17th century battleship called "af chapman". We slept on the cabin of the ship that had been served as resting room for crews.

The most famous souvenir of Stockholm is crystal. But they are terribly expensive. I had only bought a small piece. The third day was arranged with ambling across the old street and appreciating both natural and artificial work. I took many photos for the city. Stockholm is more magnificent than Olso, which I got a rough idea from photos. And comparably, Norwegian is more conservative than Swedish.