

I was most fortunate to be able to accompany a friend last week on a 4 day trip to Sweden & Holland.

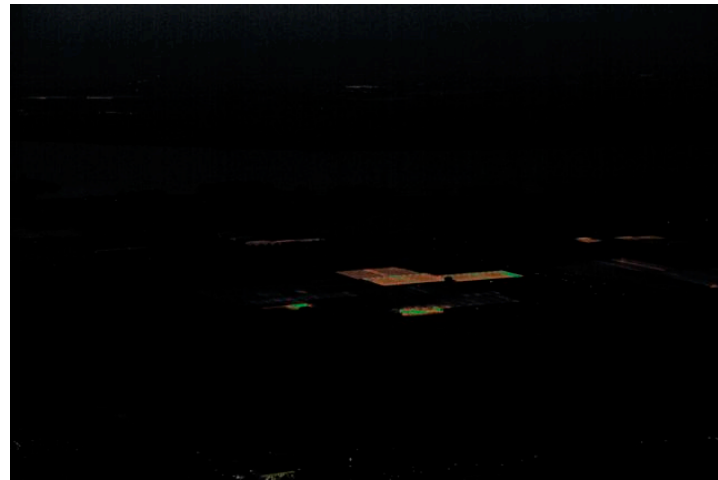


We left IAD in early evening; a strong tailwind delayed our takeoff for @ 45 min.; Amsterdam has noise restrictions and planes may not overfly the city until 7 AM.

Heading east I spied the setting sun reflected on the wing.

Below are some of the many greenhouses which are spread out over the countryside; seen on approach to Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam.

Stockholm is a clean, cosmopolitan city. We walked from our hotel near Central Station to the old town, or Gamlastan, and through the newer parts on the way back. Below, the 'new' town is to my back and 'old' town is ahead.



Stockholm, and the surrounding area, is an archipelago. I don't have my guidebook, so cannot give too many details from this point on.....



Just as a Tree Grows in Brooklyn, a dandelion finds a niche along the waterfront.







Large boats need strong hardware.



GamlaStan had many narrow, cobble sidestreets leading to residents' homes. Very much a reminder of Venice.



Amazing young may playing water goblets.







Stockholm was safe to walk about after dark.

I thought we'd see punk, piercings, groups of loud, unruly kids, etc; Nope...that wave has passed and gone..... instead I saw elegant, stylish clothing and young adults; very modern architecture; and a clean, welcoming bi-lingual (!) city.

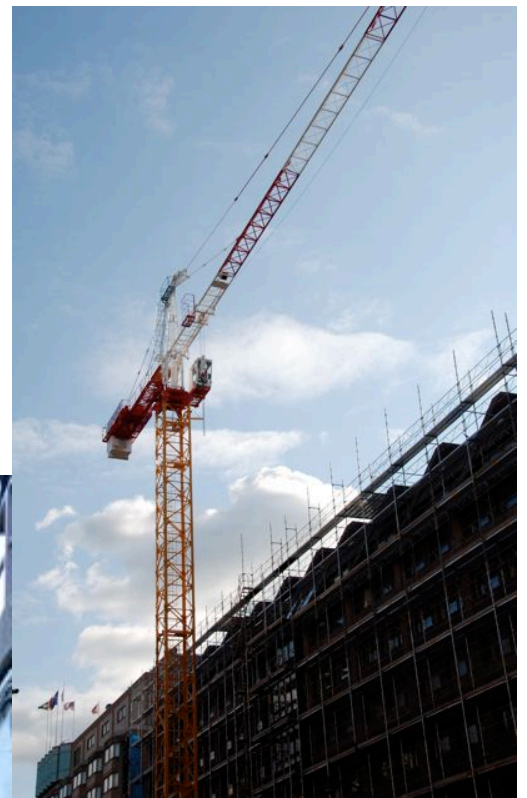
The second day, when I set out solo on a short, shopping trip, I found the 'punk' section not far from the hotel, but certainly not an intimidating area.

The old coexisting with the new.

The construction crane breaks the skyline in every direction .



An important sight...but this one announced itself before it was seen.



Next....touring the region by water.

**BOATS!**

