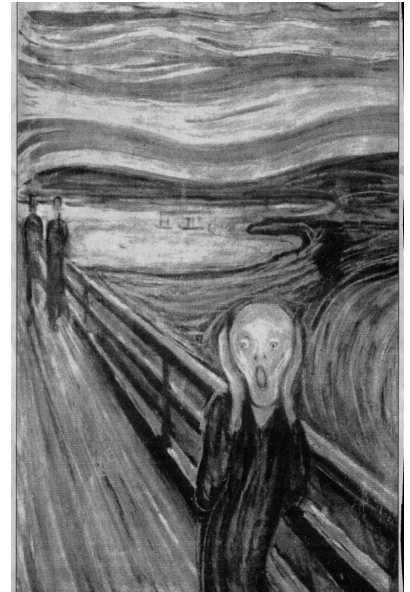


Scandinavia Now



007Must

IS S FIN Many of the places made famous in the twenty-one **James Bond** films have become tourist destinations in their own right. The winter scenes in the latest 007 film *Die Another Day* (below) were shot in Iceland. The car chase was filmed on the frozen Jökulsárlón between Skaftafell and Höfn on the south coast. You can see **Jökulsárlón** from the road to Höfn and with a scooter and a guide you can also revisit the movie scenes and go up to the glaciers at both Skaftafell and Höfn. The rest of the action was filmed at **Vatnajökull** where there are various tours available. You also see an ice hotel at Vatnajökull but that was only in the movie. For the real thing you have to go to Sweden, Finland or Canada. The famous **Jukasjärvi ice hotel** (www.icehotel.com) is the first of its kind in the world and it already has a franchisee in Quebec with many others to follow. And if the tourists start asking for it, there might very well be an ice hotel in Iceland too before too long (www.icetourist.is). If you are visiting Finland during the next two or three months you may want to try out the **Ice Hotel in Kakslauttanen**, 250 kilometers north of the North Pole (www.kakslauttanen.fi). Here you can stay in a snow igloo or sleep in an igloo made of glass and watch the night sky, or even catch the northern lights from your bed. To warm yourself up you can go to what is described as the world's biggest smoke sauna.



MustMunch

N Oslo's **Munch Museum** is once again open to the public. After armed robbers took off with Edvard Munch's masterpieces *The Scream* (above) and *Madonna*, the museum was closed down and underwent a security upgrade. The interior has now been transformed from one large room with movable dividing walls to several permanent rooms of various sizes, to make it more difficult for potential robbers to get their bearings. Visitors have to follow a set path through the museum. An entry control system, similar to those found in international airports, including metal detectors and ticket gates, has been installed. The building has a separate exit area, making it impossible for visitors to return to the entrance once they have moved through the security checks. Extra surveillance systems have been added, as have bullet-proof glass shields to protect the paintings. The Norwegian media are calling the museum "Fortress Munch". The refurbishment of the museum has cost the city of Oslo 38 million kroner. The stolen paintings have not been recovered, though five men are in custody in connection with the robbery last August. Visitors now have to make do with less spectacular versions of Munch's famous pieces in the form of a pastel of *The Scream* and a lithograph version of *Madonna*. Besides this, the Munch Museum has 1 100 paintings, 18 000 prints and 4 500 drawings in its ownership.

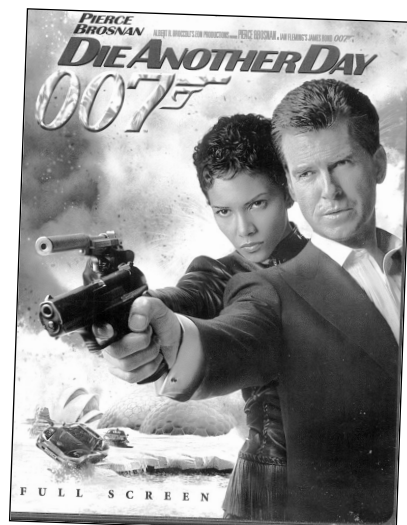
MustPrice

S DK N The cost of living in **Stockholm** (above) is the lowest among the Scandinavian capital cities, according to a survey by Mercer Human Resource Consulting. Stockholm ranks as the 18th most expensive world city behind **Copenhagen**, which ranks 8th and **Oslo**, which ranks 10th. Tokyo remains the world's most expensive city, followed by Osaka. London moves down one position in the rankings to take third place, followed by Moscow which also drops a place this year. Asuncion in Paraguay is the least expensive city in the survey.

With New York as the base city scoring 100 points, Stockholm scores 96.8, Copenhagen 109.5 and Oslo 105.3.

MustRead

FIN **Finland, Cultural Lone Wolf** (*Intercultural Press ISBN 1-931930-18-X*) by Richard D Lewis is the inspiring story of Finland's journey from a war-battered nation with a struggling economy in 1945 to a truly accomplished country that is not only a world leader in mobile phones, as well as management of water resources, but a country that has been voted the most competitive by the World Economic Forum for several years in a row. This is also a story about a people who have more saunas than cars, and who drink more alcohol and coffee per head than any other nation. Lewis traces Finnish culture and history from its tribal origins to modern times showing how the country's "lone wolf" inclination exhibits itself in cultural pursuits, foreign policy, in accommodations, and reactions to outsiders and in the changing structures of the economic activities.



Scandinavia Now



*Stockholm,
James Bond,
The Scream
&
New Nordic Films*

MustFilms

The Nordic films of the film festival circuit this year do not bear the names of the major filmmakers like Lars von Trier and Aki Karismäki but they all come loaded with good reviews. At the **Vancouver International Film Festival**, from September 29 to October 14, 2005 you can check out the Danish movie **Accused** (*top right*) which is a suspenseful drama about a middle-class father who is accused by his teenage daughter of sexually abusing her. Also from Denmark comes **Dark Horse**, the latest slacker comedy from Dagur Kari, (director of *Noi Albinoi*) that follows the exploits of Daniel, a graffiti artist who has withdrawn from all social conventions; his rotund buddy Grandpa, who works in a sleep clinic while training to be a soccer referee; and Franc, the bewitching bakery girl they both crave. The **Dog Nail Clipper** (*top left*) is the winner of five "Jussies" - the Finnish Academy Awards. This is the story about an idealist wounded in the head during WWII who refuses to give up on life and his fellow humans. The stunning cinematography of northern Finland is a bonus. Iceland will be represented by the movie **Screaming Masterpiece**. The Norwegian film **Kissed by Winter** is about Victoria, a Swedish doctor fleeing a personal tragedy in a small Norwegian town. When the body of a young Iranian immigrant is discovered frozen in the snow, she finds herself drawn into the mystery surrounding his death. This is director Sara Johnsen's debut feature and it is a finely crafted thriller, chillingly drawn, yet oddly touching. From Sweden comes Maria Blom's assured debut **Dalecarlians**.

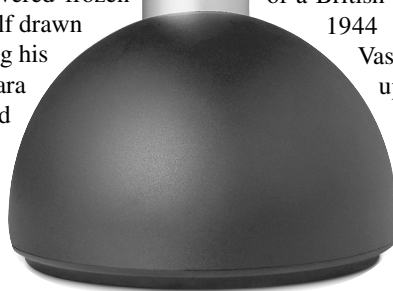
MustPhone

DK Here comes another beauty from Denmark. The long, slender **BeoCom2** phone from Bang & Olufsen is very comfortable to hold and unlike any other cordless phone. Thirty-two centimeters in length and slightly curved, the aluminum handset comes in silver, black, blue, dark grey, or yellow.



MustRead

N **Silent Patriot** by Astrid Karlsen Scott (www.nordicadventures.com) is a great read for those interested in WWII history. Here is a story about 18-year-old Hugo Munthe-Kaas who became the youngest recruit in the campaign when the Germans attacked northern Norway in 1940. A stint in the underground followed before the British Intelligence Service snatched him up as a secret agent. Gruelling commando training ensued in England after which Hugo was sent back to Norway to set up an undercover network of coastal radio operators. He crossed the Atlantic in a fishing vessel, submarine, in an amphibian plane, transport planes and in the bomb cradle of a British Mosquito aircraft. In 1944 he parachuted into Vassfaret to help set up up guerrilla bases to train underground Milorg men for the last battle against Hitler's army. The hero was much decorated after the gruelling war.



MustSymphony

FIN If you want to take in a concert at a bargain price you cannot do better than attend a dress rehearsal of the Helsinki Philharmonic at **Finlandia Hall**. You will enjoy superb music in award-winning architecture for only 2 euros. Concerts start at 10am. www.hel.fi/filharmonia

IkeaMust

S You must give it to IKEA to come up with a flat-packed sofa that you can easily bring home in the car by yourself. Otherwise there is not that much new in the new **IKEA catalogue** (*that you pick up at the store, download at www.ikea.com or in Canada phone 1-800-661-9807*), but the big news is that the prices have come down so dramatically that the catalogue is even more of a must! In Sweden the world's largest free publication gets reviewed on the culture pages of the newspapers because it is supposed to tell us a lot about people's lives and aspirations.



MustExchange

<i>Danish Kroner</i>	DKR 1 = CAD 0.20
<i>Approx. Rates</i>	DKR 1 = USD 0.16
<i>Finland Euro</i>	EUR 1 = CAD 1.46
<i>Approx. Rates</i>	FIM 1 = USD 1.23
<i>Icelandic Kroner</i>	IKR 1 = CAD 0.02
<i>Approx. Rates</i>	IKR 1 = USD 0.01
<i>Norwegian Kroner</i>	NKR 1 = CAD 0.18
<i>Approx. Rates</i>	NKR 1 = USD 0.15
<i>Swedish Kroner</i>	SEK 1 = CAD 0.16
<i>Approx.</i>	SEK 1 = USD 0.13