

SCANDINAVIA

Detailed Itinerary

DAY 1, Friday - Depart for Denmark

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DAY 2, Saturday - Arrive in Copenhagen

Arrive in the lively Danish capital of Copenhagen; transfer to your hotel. (Airport transfers not included.) Time to rest and relax, or begin your independent discovery of this sophisticated city. In the early evening, join your Tour Manager and fellow travelers for a Welcome Drink and orientation on the wonderful journey that awaits you in Scandinavia. Overnight: Copenhagen

DAY 3, Sunday - Copenhagen City Tour, Tivoli Gardens, Welcome Dinner

This morning, enjoy a city sightseeing tour of Copenhagen. View the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek Museum and the National Museum, the colorful 17th-century harbor district of Nyhavn, and Amalienborg Palace, the winter residence of the Danish Royal Family as well as the site of the changing of the Guard. Visit the Gefion Fountain, the largest monument in the city which was designed and erected in 1908 by Danish artist Anders Bundgård, and the iconic Little Mermaid statue. End the tour with a visit to the Royal Reception rooms in Christiansborg Palace*, the seat of the Danish Parliament, Prime Minister's Office and Supreme Court. Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure to explore the city on your own, or join the optional North Zealand Castle Tour to the Danish countryside and Riviera. This evening, a highlight visit to Tivoli Gardens,* the most visited theme park in Scandinavia and the second oldest amusement park in the world. Then enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant

Optional: North Zealand Castle Tour (PM)

Overnight: Copenhagen

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4, Monday - Travel to Gothenburg, Sweden

This morning, bid farewell to Denmark as you travel to Sweden via the mighty 5-mile-long Öresund Bridge. Upon arrival in Gothenburg, take an orientation tour of the city. Founded in the 17th-century, this lively university town is known for its parks, sporting events and modern opera house. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure. You may choose to take a cruise on the canals and harbor, or opt for a trip to the Liseberg amusement park, one of the most popular in Europe

Overnight: Gothenburg

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5, Tuesday - Travel to Oslo, Norway; Oslo City Tour

This morning, travel to Oslo, the capital of Norway. Upon arrival, enjoy a city tour. Pass the National Theater, the 19th Century Royal Palace and visit the main square to view the Cathedral. Next, visit the Vigeland Sculpture Park, designed by Gustav Vigeland. The park contains 192 sculptures with more than 600 figures. The park's most popular attraction is the Monolith column, measuring 46 feet high with 121 human figure reliefs, it is carved from a single block of granite and took three stone sculptors 14 years (1929-43) to complete. Continue to the modern City Hall to conclude the city tour.

Overnight: Oslo

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6, Wednesday - Full Day in Oslo

Enjoy a full day at leisure in Oslo. Stroll the shopping streets, linger at a café or visit one or more of its world-class museums. In the morning, perhaps join a local guide for the optional Treasures of Oslo tour. Admire the highlights of Norway's great seafaring tradition as you enjoy a guided visit to see three 1,200-year-old ornamented Viking ships which are the best preserved in existence, followed by a visit to the Kon-Tiki Museum

Optional: Treasures of Oslo (AM)

Overnight: Oslo

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7, Thursday - Travel to Lillehammer

This morning, travel to Lillehammer. Situated at the northern end of Lake Mjøsa, the town is perhaps most famous for hosting the 1994 Winter Olympic Games. Enjoy an orientation tour, which includes a view of the ski jump. Spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure to explore Lillehammer on your own. Tonight, dinner at the hotel

Overnight: Lillehammer

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8, Friday - Lom Stave Church, Travel to Sogndal

This morning drive to the village of Lom where you will visit one of the largest and best preserved stave churches in Norway.* Built around 1150, the church's unique facade appears to have been plucked from a medieval fairytale. Next, drive via Sognefjellet (weather permitting), the highest mountain pass in Northern Europe known as the "roof of Norway", through the dramatic Norwegian countryside. Pass glaciers, pine forests and perhaps reindeer, as well as Galdhøpiggen, Norway's highest mountain in the Jotunheimen National Park. Overnight in the heart of the Fjords

*Please Note: Entry to Lom Stave Church interior only available when church services are not in session

Overnight: Sogndal

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9, Saturday - Sognefjord Cruise, Flam Railway, Travel to Bergen

Today, enjoy a leisurely cruise on the breathtaking still waters of the Sognefjord, the longest and deepest of all the Norwegian Fjords. Then, a real highlight as you board the world famous Flam Railway for a mountain train ride into Norway's high glacial regions. View pastures, waterfalls and snow-clad peaks, all nestled beautifully into the surrounding mountainside. Ascend to 3,000 feet within 12 miles for one of the most scenic views of Norway. Continue to your hotel in Bergen, Norway's second-largest city. A major distributor of the wealthy trading guilds of the Hanseatic League, many residents of this 11th-century city still earn their livelihoods from the sea

Overnight: Bergen

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10, Sunday - Full Day in Bergen

Enjoy a full day at leisure to explore the beautiful city of Bergen independently. Bergen is an important cultural hub located in the middle of the region known as De syv fjell, or the Seven Mountains. This morning, perhaps join the optional Highlights of Bergen tour. The city served as an old trading port and has maintained a bustling harbor since the 11th century as part of the Hanseatic League. Visit Troidhaugen, the home of famous Norwegian composer, Edvard Grieg. Grieg's home stands majestically overlooking the fjords and was a great inspiration for his music. During your tour stroll through the narrow lanes of ancient Bryggen, visit the 750-year-old Haakon's Hall, scene of the medieval Royal court's ceremonies. In the afternoon you may choose to visit the Bergen Museum, the famous fish market, or take a stroll along the harbor to admire traditional Norwegian architecture. Tonight, a farewell dinner at a local restaurant

Optional: Highlights of Bergen Tour (AM)

Overnight: Bergen

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 11, Monday - Depart Norway

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight. (Airport transfers not included.)

Meals: Breakfast