

BEST OF SCANDINAVIA & THE BALTICS

Tour Overview

 Start Point Copenhagen	 End Point Warsaw	 Meals 19 Breakfasts 1 Lunch 7 Dinners	 Transport Air-conditioned coach	 Tour Type Fully-guided tour
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Itinerary

Day 1: Start of tour in Copenhagen

 Dinner  Four Points Flex by Sheraton Copenhagen Arena (or similar)

Today is the beginning of this exciting Best of Scandinavia and the Baltics tour! Arrive in Copenhagen, Denmark's capital city and meet up with your tour leader and the rest of the group. Later, head off on an exciting tour of Copenhagen with a local guide! Complete an exciting first day with a welcome dinner in the city centre.

Included:

- Enjoy a guided tour of Copenhagen

Day 2: Copenhagen: Free Day

 Breakfast  Four Points Flex by Sheraton Copenhagen Arena (or similar)

Explore Copenhagen at your leisure during the free day today! Enjoy a visit to Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen's famous amusement park, or see the Rundetaarn, an astronomical observatory which offers stunning views. The best way to soak up Copenhagen's history and culture is with today's optional excursion. Start with a canal cruise, visit the National Museum, and explore a local food hall before discovering Freetown Christiania.

Optionals:

- Discover Copenhagen

Day 3: Copenhagen - Odense - Aarhus - Hirtshals (Overnight Ferry)

 Breakfast  Fjord Line Hirtshals-Bergen Ferry (or similar)

Take in views of the Danish countryside as the coach travels to Odense. Embark on an orientation tour of this city which is the birthplace of fairytale writer Hans Christian Andersen. Next, head to Aarhus and experience its contemporary artworks, Viking exhibits and an open-air museum! Later, arrive in Hirtshals and hop aboard the overnight ferry to Bergen in Norway.

Included:

- Discover Odense on an orientation tour
- Explore the unique city of Aarhus
- Relax on an overnight ferry cruise to Norway

Day 4: **Overnight ferry - Bergen**

 Breakfast  Quality Hotel Edvard Grieg (or similar)

Say hallo to Norway! Admire the natural scenery as the ferry cruises towards Bergen. Arrive and set off on an orientation tour. Bergen is home to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Bryggen Quay and is known as the gateway to Norway's spectacular fjords! This evening, join the optional excursion to explore picturesque fishing villages and enjoy a traditional Norwegian dinner.

Included:

- See Norway's fjords
- Explore Bergen on an orientation tour

Optionals:

- Coastal Norway: Fishing Villages & Norwegian Dinner
-

Day 5: **Bergen**

 Breakfast  Quality Hotel Edvard Grieg (or similar)

Bergen is yours to explore on this free day. The Bergen+ optional excursion is highly recommended to get a true taste of the city. This excursion includes a ferry cruise, a guided tour of Bryggen and a trip on the Fløibanen funicular up Fløyen mountain! Look forward to breathtaking views of the city. Finally, visit Bergen's unique Magic Ice Bar!

Optionals:

- Bergen+
-

Day 6: **Bergen - Flam - Oslo**

 Breakfast, Dinner  Scandic Oslo Airport (or similar)

Depart Bergen and travel to Gudvangen, located at the end of Nærøyfjord, one of Norway's most famous fjords! Join today's optional excursion to a Viking Village followed by a scenic cruise through the Nærøyfjord and Aurlandsfjorden towards Flam. Later, stop at Borgund's famous Stave Church en route to Oslo. Arrive in the evening and enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Included:

- Experience Norway's scenery
- Visit Gudvangen
- See Borgund's Stave Church

Optionals:

- Viking Village and Norwegian Fjords Cruise
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Day 7: **Oslo**

 Breakfast  Scandic Oslo Airport (or similar)

Discover Oslo, Norway's compact and captivating capital. Head out for a walking tour with a local guide. Highlights include the Royal Palace and the Akershus Castle. Afterwards, enjoy a free day to experience all that Oslo has to offer. Explore on your own or discover some of Oslo's gorgeous green spaces and fascinating museums with the Oslo+ optional excursion.

Included:

- See the highlights of Oslo with a local guide

Optionals:

- Oslo+
-

Day 8: **Oslo - Karlstad - Örebro - Stockholm**

 Breakfast, Dinner  Môtel L (or similar)

Located halfway between Oslo and Stockholm, Karlstad is today's first stop. Then, visit Örebro, home to Sweden's most beautiful city centre as well as a striking 13th-century castle. Next, travel to Stockholm, Sweden's vibrant capital. Get your first glimpse of Stockholm upon arrival and, after checking into the hotel, enjoy traditional Swedish meatballs for dinner!

Included:

- Discover Karlstad on an orientation tour
- Marvel at the historic Örebro
- Explore Stockholm with a local guide
- Tuck into Swedish meatballs

Day 9: **Stockholm**

 Breakfast  Môtel L (or similar)

See more of Stockholm on a locally-guided tour this morning. See the Royal Palace, AF Chapman ship and walk through Gamla Stan. The rest of the day is yours. Join the optional Stockholm Heritage & Vasa Discovery excursion and uncover Viking treasures, a legendary gold room and a 17th-century warship that sank on its maiden voyage across two of Stockholm's most celebrated museums.

Included:

- Explore Stockholm with a local guide

Optionals:

- Stockholm Heritage & Vasa Discovery

Day 10: **Stockholm (Overnight Ferry)**

 Breakfast  Tallink (or similar)

Enjoy one last morning in Stockholm, with time to explore, shop or simply soak it all in. This afternoon, travel to the port to catch the overnight ferry to Helsinki. Look forward to great onboard entertainment and scenic views. Tonight, choose to treat yourself to a Baltic Ferry Feast, a massive buffet dinner with unlimited drinks!

Included:

- Catch an overnight ferry to Finland

Optionals:

- Baltic Ferry Feast

Day 11: **Helsinki**

 Breakfast, Dinner  Radisson Blu Seaside Hotel (or similar)

Welcome to Helsinki, the capital of Finland! Dock at the port, travel to the harbourside hotel and meet up with a local guide for a driving and walking tour. See famous sights including the Havis Amanda, Senate Square and Helsinki Cathedral. Not forgetting Uspenski Cathedral and Kauppatori Market! Tonight, enjoy an included dinner with the group.

Included:

- Discover the highlights of Helsinki with a local guide
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Day 12: **Helsinki: Free Day**

 Breakfast  Radisson Blu Seaside Hotel (or similar)

Experience Helsinki and explore this diverse city at your leisure today. Join the Helsinki+ excursion to discover Suomenlinna Fortress, have a picnic lunch on the island, then enjoy a Finnish pastry and coffee at a famous café. Alternatively, explore at your own pace. Visit one of the many museums, marvel at Helsinki's unique architecture or enjoy a meal with an ocean view.

Optionals:

- Helsinki+

Day 13: **Helsinki - Tallinn**

 Breakfast, Lunch  Metropol Hotel (or similar)

Travel to the Baltic States! Catch a ferry and sail across the Gulf of Finland. Arrive in Tallinn, Estonia's capital city, and enjoy lunch at a medieval restaurant in the atmospheric Old Town Square. Afterwards, embark on a walking tour led by a local guide! See historic sites including St Olav's Church and Tall Hermann Tower. Enjoy a free evening.

Included:

- Catch a ferry from Helsinki to Tallinn
- Enjoy lunch at a mediaeval restaurant in Tallinn
- Tour Tallinn with a local guide

Day 14: **Tallinn - Pärnu - Latvian Military Cemetery - Riga**

 Breakfast  Hestia Hotel Jugend (or similar)

The tour continues to Latvia. Along the way, stop in the Estonian resort city of Pärnu. Next, cross the border into Latvia and enjoy a visit to Saulkrasti, a scenic, coastal town. Arrive in Riga, Latvia's capital, and experience the Brothers' Cemetery before checking into the hotel. Later, embark on an orientation walking tour of Riga's striking old town.

Included:

- Sightsee in Pärnu
- Enjoy a stop in Saulkrasti
- Visit the Latvian Military Cemetery
- Discover Riga; Latvia's vibrant capital

Day 15: **Riga - Hill of Crosses - Trakai - Vilnius**

 Breakfast, Dinner  Art City Inn Hotel (or similar)

Lithuania awaits! First stop is the Hill of Crosses, a famous religious sight. Next, visit Trakai, known for its magical island castle! Finally, arrive in Vilnius, Lithuania's historic, cultured and quirky capital. Explore Vilnius's Baroque Old Town and sights like the Vilnius Cathedral and the Church of St Anne on an orientation tour. Enjoy a local dinner tonight.

Included:

- Visit the Hill of Crosses
 - Discover Trakai Castle
 - Explore Vilnius; capital of Lithuania
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Day 16: Vilnius - Masurian Lake District - Gdansk

 Breakfast, Dinner  Hampton by Hilton Gdansk Old Town (or similar)

Another exciting new country is on the agenda for today - Poland. Enjoy a drive through the Masurian Lake District, home to over 2,000 lakes! Admire the stunning scenery and find a spot to enjoy lunch. Later this evening, arrive in Gdansk and embark on an orientation tour of this beautiful, historic port city. Afterwards, enjoy an included dinner.

Included:

- Enjoy a scenic drive through the Masurian Lake District:
- Discover Gdansk; an enchanting Polish port city

Day 17: Gdansk

 Breakfast  Hampton by Hilton Gdansk Old Town (or similar)

This morning, join a local guide for a walking tour of Gdansk's highlights and important historic areas. Afterwards, the day is free to spend as you wish! Admire the city's unique Dutch-influenced architecture or meander along the charming waterfront. History buffs will enjoy a visit to the European Solidarity Centre which covers the Polish fight for freedom from the USSR.

Included:

- Explore Gdansk with a local guide

Day 18: Gdansk - Malbork Castle - Toruń - Warsaw

 Breakfast, Dinner  Novotel Warsaw Center (or similar)

Today's first stop is Malbork Castle - a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the largest castle in the world! Next up is Toruń. This UNESCO-listed, mediaeval town is charmingly renowned for its Museum of Gingerbread! Take part in a fun and interactive gingerbread workshop. Finally, head to Warsaw, the capital of Poland. Enjoy dinner at the hotel tonight.

Included:

- Explore Malbork Castle
- Enjoy a gingerbread workshop in Torun

Day 19: Warsaw

 Breakfast  Novotel Warsaw Center (or similar)

After breakfast, embark on a locally-guided tour of Warsaw. The rest of the day is yours. To gain further insight into this fascinating city, join the Warsaw Cultural Highlights optional excursion. This evening's optional Chopin & Polish Flavours Evening offers a concert in Warsaw's Royal Castle, and a three-course Polish dinner at a cosy restaurant in the Old Town.

Included:

- Explore Warsaw with a local guide

Optionals:

- Warsaw Cultural Highlights
- Chopin & Polish Flavours Evening

Day 20: End of tour in Warsaw

 Breakfast

Enjoy one last breakfast with the group as the trip comes to an end this morning. Be sure to swap contact details with your newly made travel friends so that you can stay in contact after returning home. We hope to see you back on tour again very soon!

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