

Travel with Me
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INSIGHT VACATIONS & TRAVEL & TRAVEL WITH ME

Grand Tour of Scandinavia

24 June to 13 July 2018

Day 1 Welcome to Copenhagen

On arrival at Copenhagen Airport, your transfer shuttle service will leave for your hotel at 09:00, 11:00, 13:00 & 15:30. In the evening, join your Tour Director for a warm and friendly Welcome Reception, a pleasant dinner and wine followed by a visit to the glittering lights and enchanting atmosphere of the world-famous Tivoli Gardens.

Hotel: Radisson Blu Scandinavia, Copenhagen **Welcome Reception and Dinner**

Day 2 Wonderful, Wonderful Copenhagen

Start the day by meeting Hans Christian Andersen's Little Mermaid, gazing wistfully across the harbour. Follow this with a visit inside the Christiansborg Palace, seat of the Danish Government, to marvel at the opulent interior. See the Rosenborg and Amalienborg Palaces and the Renaissance Stock Exchange. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Hotel: Radisson Blu Scandinavia, Copenhagen **Buffet Breakfast**

Day 3 On to Stockholm, City of Islands

In the morning, leave Denmark and cross over the Oresund bridge to Sweden. Your journey will take you through a patchwork of fertile farmlands and along the peaceful shores of Lake Vattern. Continue to Stockholm, which is set on 14 beautiful islands. In the evening, perhaps try the local cuisine served in traditional surroundings?

Hotel: Hilton Slussen, Stockholm **Buffet Breakfast**

Day 4 The Sights of Stockholm and board your Baltic Sea Cruise

Join a Local Expert for your visit to the City Hall's 'Gold Room' where the Nobel Prize banquets are held. Then continue into the medieval island heart of the city to view the cathedral, walk through the Old Town and see the Royal Palace. The afternoon is at leisure. Don't miss the opportunity to visit the Vasa Galleon - a marvellous impression of life on board a 17th century naval vessel. In the evening, embark on a Baltic cruise to Finland through the largest archipelago in the world. Enjoy dinner on-board and marvel at the sea views from the comfort of your A-Class cabins.

Hotel: Cruising **Buffet Breakfast, Dinner**

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Day 5 Fashionable Helsinki

(Relaxed Start) Helsinki is famous as a global trendsetter in design, fashion, stunning architecture and lush parks. Disembark your Baltic cruise and with a Local Expert, visit the astonishing modern 'Church in the Rock'. Also see the Sibelius Monument and Finlandia Hall. Why not stop for lunch in one of the cafés, at the colourful market located by the harbour? Afterwards you could spend time browsing the vast array of stalls selling local souvenirs, handicrafts as well as fruits, vegetables and world class pancakes.

Hotel: GLO Art Hotel, Helsinki **Buffet Breakfast**

Day 6 Lakes and Forests to Kuopio

Travel through a land of beautiful lakes and forests. In the afternoon, make your ascent of Kuopio's Viewing Tower. The splendid panorama will reveal why Finland is called the land of a thousand lakes.

Hotel: Atlas, Kuopio **Buffet Breakfast, Dinner**

Day 7 The Road to Rovaniemi

Journey towards the Arctic and into Lapland, the home of the Sami people. Travel via the port and university town of Oulu, to Rovaniemi, the modern capital of the region.

Hotel: Santa Claus Hotel, Rovaniemi **Buffet Breakfast, Dinner**

Day 8 Rovaniemi and Lapland

(Relaxed Start) Join a Local Expert to see the Town Hall, designed by Alvar Aalto and visit Rovaniemi Church. Next, a delight for the young at heart! Visit the Santa Claus Village where it is Christmas all year round. Meet Santa, visit the post office and cross the Arctic Circle - you'll receive a certificate to prove you were there!

Hotel: Santa Claus Hotel, Rovaniemi **Buffet Breakfast**

Day 9 Cross the Arctic Circle to Ivalo

(Relaxed Start) In the morning, you may want to visit the open-air museum and Arktikum before journeying north on the road of the four winds, where you may see reindeer roaming freely as you head for one of the oldest churches in Lapland. Travel through Europe's last great wilderness to see the national park near the gold centre of Tankavaara.

Hotel: Hotelli Ivalo, Ivalo **Buffet Breakfast, Dinner**

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[Day 10 The North Cape and the Sun that never Sets](#)

Cross the rolling tundra into Norway to stop at Karasjok, the seat of the Sami Parliament and a centre of Sami culture. Visit a Sami folk museum, then it's on through unique scenery to the North Cape. With only the Svalbard Islands separating you from the North Pole, it literally feels like you are at the end of the world. In the evening, journey to the northernmost point of Europe in search of the midnight sun, where you will enjoy champagne and caviar in one of the most special places on earth.

Hotel: Scandic Honningsvåg **Buffet Breakfast, Dinner**

[Day 11 Through Finnmark to Alta](#)

(Relaxed Start) Maybe set out on a bird watching safari in the morning before returning to the mainland and travelling to Alta.

Hotel: Scandic, Alta **Buffet Breakfast**

[Day 12 A World of Adventure in Alta](#)

(Relaxed Start) In the morning, enjoy time at leisure in Alta. Maybe check out the prehistoric UNESCO-protected rock carvings or take a wilderness river trip? Later, at a working Husky farm, learn about the Alaskan Huskies and Arctic dog sleigh racing. The dogs are only allowed to bark when they know it's time for running! Afterwards, delight in a wonderful barbecue dinner.

Hotel: Scandic, Alta **Buffet Breakfast, Signature Evening**

[Day 13 Narvik & the Norwegian Campaign](#)

Travel through stunning northern scenery, past mountains and fishing villages to Narvik. Along the way, see the fjord where the battleship Tirpitz hid out and hear tales of one of the first large-scale battles of World War Two.

Hotel: Scandic, Narvik **Buffet Breakfast**

[Day 14 Across Tysfjord to Mosjøen and its Sea Street](#)

Take a ferry across Tysfjord and pass Rago National Park - its fjords cutting deep into the landscape. Bid farewell to the Arctic before reaching Mosjøen, a pleasant town on the Vefsnfjord, that has a large concentration of listed wooden buildings and Norway's oldest octagonal church.

Hotel: Fru Haugans Hotel, Mosjøen **Buffet Breakfast, Dinner**

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Day 15 Laksfoss Falls to Trondheim, Capital of the Vikings

Drive through Namdalen then watch for salmon leaping upstream to their spawning-grounds at the mighty Laksfoss Falls. Continue via the village of Hell to Trondheim, seat of the ancient Viking kings, and Norway's third largest city. Trondheim has always reflected the changing fortunes of Norway and is full of interest; see the Market Square dominated by its statue of Olav Tryggvason, Norway's national shrine, the Nidaros Cathedral, the Tyholt Tower and Old Town Bridge.

Hotel: Radisson Blu Royal Garden, Trondheim **Buffet Breakfast**

Day 16 Geiranger, Jewel of the Fjords

Begin the most scenic days you will ever experience. Norwegian Fjordland - a dream world of soaring mountains, icy glaciers and rivers which cascade thousands of feet into the green valleys below. Cross the Dovre Mountains, which form Norway's oldest National Park. Arrive at the mirror-smooth waters of Geirangerfjord to embark on a spectacular cruise beneath towering cliffs and cascading waterfalls. Your hotel is in a superb setting overlooking the beautiful Norwegian Fjord landscape.

Hotel: Union, Geiranger **Buffet Breakfast, Dinner**

Day 17 Geiranger at Leisure

(Relaxed Start) Enjoy a whole day of relaxation amid the fjords and mountains, a UNESCO World Heritage area. Consider taking an optional scenic drive along the amazing Troll's Road, a masterpiece of engineering when it was built over 70 years ago.

Hotel: Union, Geiranger **Buffet Breakfast, Dinner**

Day 18 The Capital of Oslo

Travel via lakes and snow-capped peaks to Lom – home to one of Norway's most beautiful stave churches. Continue through the countryside of 'Peer Gynt', immortalised by Ibsen, to Oyer where you may catch a glimpse of the world's largest troll! After stopping in Lillehammer, it's on to the modern Norwegian capital of Oslo.

Hotel: Clarion Collection Hotel Bastion, Oslo **Buffet Breakfast**

Day 19 Cosmopolitan Oslo

In the morning, sightseeing with a Local Expert will show you the spires and ramparts of medieval Akershus Castle guarding the harbour, the Royal Palace, and includes a visit to the Viking Long Ship Museum. Visit Frogner Park, housing the intriguing sculptures by Gustav Vigeland, before an afternoon at leisure. In the evening, round off your tour with a farewell Celebration Dinner and a glass of wine to toast to new friends.

Hotel: Clarion Collection Hotel Bastion, Oslo **Buffet Breakfast, Celebration Dinner**

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Day 20 Out of Oslo

Departure transfers arrive at Oslo Airport at 07:15 & 10:15.

Buffet Breakfast

