

Grand Tour of Scandinavia

May 19 – June 8, 2012



Sail the brackish Baltic Sea, cross rolling tundra and glassy fjords on your search for the Midnight Sun, all the while enjoying the local culture, history and pristine scenery.

Tour Pace: This tour is well paced with two night stays in Copenhagen, Rovaniemi, Narvik, Geiranger and Oslo; there are one-night stays in the more northern regions. Magnificent driving days offer frequent stops for refreshments & photo opportunities.

Hotels: In the major cities, enjoy modern, well-appointed hotels; the Radisson Blu in Copenhagen and Oslo being two excellent examples. In the more remote areas of the north, hotels tend to be smaller scale and traditional, like the North Cape's Rica Hotel Honningsvåg.

Day 1 - DEPART CANADA

Board your overnight flight (not included).

Day 2 - COPENHAGEN AT LEISURE

Welcome to Scandinavia! On arrival at Copenhagen Airport, transfers leave for the tour hotel at 10:30, 12:30 & 15:30. Then you are at leisure. Tonight enjoy a Welcome Reception with drink and a light meal, followed by a visit to the glittering lights and of the world famous Tivoli Gardens.

Hotel: Radisson Blu Scandinavia

Meals: Welcome Reception

Day 3 - COPENHAGEN SIGHTSEEING

You are introduced to Hans Christian Andersen's Little Mermaid gazing wistfully across the harbour, before a highlight visit takes you inside the Christiansborg (the Danish Parliament). See the Rosenborg and Amalienborg Palaces and the Renaissance Stock Exchange. Consider also joining a tour through the Danish countryside.

Day 4 - COPENHAGEN - STOCKHOLM

Take in the view of Kronborg Castle reputedly the Elsinore home of Hamlet, as you cross over the Oresund to Sweden. Your journey takes you through fertile farmland to Gränna where an authentic local lunch has been arranged. Continue to Stockholm, which is set on 14 beautiful islands.

Hotel: Radisson Blu Royal Viking

Meals: Buffet Breakfast / Highlight Lunch

Day 5 - STOCKHOLM - OVERNIGHT CRUISE

The charms of Sweden's capital are revealed with your local guide. Visit the City Hall's 'Gold Room', where Nobel Prize banquets are held, the medieval Old Town and see the cathedral and Royal Palace. Embark on a Baltic cruise to Finland through the largest archipelago in the world. Enjoy dinner on board and then enjoy the sea views from the comfort of your A-Class cabins.

Meals: Buffet Breakfast / Dinner

Day 6 - HELSINKI SIGHTSEEING

Disembark in Helsinki to visit the astonishing modern 'Church in the Rock'. Also see the Sibelius Monument, Finlandia Hall, the Russian Orthodox church and the lively market. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Tonight, choose your own Dine-Around restaurant from a selection in the heart of Helsinki.

Hotel: Radisson Blu Plaza

Meals: Buffet Breakfast / Dine Around

Day 7 - HELSINKI - KUOPIO

Travel through a land of beautiful lakes and forests today! This afternoon enjoy an ascent of Kuopio's Viewing Tower. The splendid panorama will reveal why Finland is called the land of a thousand lakes.

Hotel: Sokos Kuopio

Meals: Buffet Breakfast / Dinner

Day 8 - KUOPIO - ROVANIEMI

On towards the Arctic and into Lapland, the home of the Sami people. Your destination is Rovaniemi, the modern capital of the region.

Hotel: Rantasipi Pohjanhovi Meals: Buffet Breakfast / Dinner

Day 9 - ROVANIEMI SIGHTSEEING

Visit the town hall, designed by Aalvar Aalto and the Cathedral. Later, perhaps choose to view the open-air museum and try a traditional Lapp dinner.

Meals: Buffet Breakfast

Day 10 - ROVANIEMI – ARCTIC CIRCLE – SAARISELKÄ

Visit the Santa Claus Village today where it is Christmas all year round, crossing the Arctic Circle at the same time - and receive a certificate to prove it. You may see herds of reindeer roaming freely as you head for one of the oldest churches in Lapland. Travel through Europe's last great wilderness to visit the national park near the gold centre of Tankavaara.

Hotel: Holiday Club Saariselkä

Meals: Buffet Breakfast / Dinner

Day 11 - SAARISELKÄ – KARASJOK – NORTH CAPE

Cross the rolling tundra into Norway to stop at Karasjok, the seat of the Sami Parliament and a centre of Lapp culture. Visit a Lapp folk museum then it's then on through unique scenery to the North Cape. Your hotel is in Honningsvåg on Mager Island, from where you will journey at night to the northern most point of Europe in search of the Midnight Sun.

Hotel: Rica Honningsvåg

Meals: Buffet Breakfast / Dinner

Day 12 - NORTH CAPE - ALTA

Return to the mainland, travelling through stony, near deserted Finnmark to Alta, situated on one of the world's richest salmon rivers.

Hotel: Rica Alta

Meals: Buffet Breakfast / Dinner

Day 13 - ALTA AT LEISURE

A day has been set aside for you to enjoy at your own pace.

Meals: Buffet Breakfast

Day 14 - ALTA – NARVIK

Today pass the fjord where the battleship Tirpitz hid out during World War Two. Travel through some of the most stunning northern scenery, past mountains, fjords and fishing villages to Narvik.

Hotel: Rica Narvik

Meals: Buffet Breakfast / Dinner

Day 15 - NARVIK – MOSJOEN.

Take a ferry across Tysfjord and pass Rago National Park, its fjords cutting deep into the landscape. Bid farewell to the Arctic before reaching Mosjoen, a pleasant town on the Vefsnfjord, which has the oldest octagonal church in Norway.

Hotel: Fru Haugans

Meals: Buffet Breakfast / Dinner

Day 16 - MOSJOEN – TRONDHEIM

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, to admire the cathedral.

Hotel: Clarion Trondheim

Meals: Buffet Breakfast

Day 17 - TRONDHEIM – GEIRANGER

Cross the Dovre Mountains, which form Norway's oldest National Park. Arrive at the mirror-smooth waters of Geirangerfjord to embark on a spectacular Highlight cruise beneath towering cliffs and cascading waterfalls. Your hotel is in a superb setting overlooking the beautiful Norwegian Fjord landscape.

Hotel: Union

Meals: Buffet Breakfast / Dinner

Day 18 - GEIRANGER AT LEISURE

A day of relaxation amid the fjords and mountains, a UNESCO World Heritage area. Consider taking an excursion along the amazing Trolls' Road.

Meals: Buffet Breakfast / Dinner

Day 19 - GEIRANGER – LOM – LILLEHAMMER – 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 to come face to face with the world's largest Troll. After stopping in Lillehammer, it's on to Oslo.

Hotel: Radisson Blu Scandinavia

Meals: Buffet Breakfast

Day 20 - OSLO SIGHTSEEING

A panoramic tour takes in the medieval Akershus Castle guarding the harbour and the Royal Palace and includes a visit to the Viking Long Ship Museum. Visit Frogner Park, housing the

unique and controversial sculptures by Gustav Vigeland, before an afternoon at leisure. This evening, enjoy a Celebration Dinner with wine.

Meals: Buffet Breakfast / Celebration Dinner

Day 21 - RETURN TO CANADA

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

Meals: Buffet Breakfast

INCLUDED FIRST CLASS SERVICES

- Escorted by a professional Tour Director
- Headsets for all guided visits and walking tours
- Enjoy the unique comfort of Insight's luxury air-conditioned 40 seat coach with extended leg room and on-board restroom
- Insight Hotels include all service charges, taxes and portorage
- Cruise in A-Class cabins with sea views and flat screen TV
- Insight Traveller Welcome pack
- Airport arrival and departure transfers at scheduled times on Day 2 and Day 21 (Should your flights not coincide with these transfers, please make your own way to/from the airport or purchase a transfer)

INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS

- Copenhagen: Visit the world-famous Tivoli Gardens. Admire the interior of Christiansborg. See the Little Mermaid, Stock Exchange and the Rosenborg & Amalienborg Palaces.
- Stockholm: Visit the City Hall's 'Gold Room' where the Nobel Prize banquets are held. Walk through the Old Town and see the cathedral and Royal Palace.
- Helsinki: Visit the 'Church in the Rock', Sibelius Monument and see the Finlandia Hall.
- Kuopio: Ascend the viewing Tower for spectacular views.
- Rovaniemi: Visit the Cathedral and architect Alvar Aalto's Lapponia House. Visit the Santa Claus Village Receive an Arctic Circle certificate
- Sodankylä: Visit one of Lappland's oldest churches.
- Karasjok: See the Sami Parliament and visit a Lapp folk museum
- North Cape: Go in search of the Midnight Sun.
- Hell: Tell all your friends you've been there!

Trondheim: See the Cathedral.

- Geirangerfjord: Take in the scenery on your highlight cruise.
- Lom: See the 12C Stave Church.
- Oslo: See the impressive Akershus Castle and Royal Palace. Visit the controversial Vigeland sculptures in Frogner Park. Visit the impressive Viking Long Ship Museum.
- Scenic Drives: Peer Gynt Valley, Rago National Park and Norwegian Fjordland

INCLUDED QUALITY DINING

- A Welcome Reception with light buffet meal (WR)
- Choose from a selection of restaurants in Helsinki on your Dine-Around evening (DA)
- End-of-tour Celebration Dinner with wine in Oslo (CD)
- 19 Buffet Breakfasts (BB) and 10 three-course table d'hôte Dinners, or Buffets, plus tea or coffee (D)

Land only \$5975.00pp dble, \$7615.00 single. **Avoid the single supplement – ask about Insight's single share program.**

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