



This travel package planned & escorted by Jane Sorenson

The Scandinavian (Denmark, Sweden & Norway)

15 Days: July 22– August 5, 2012



Awesome mountain vistas, tranquil fjords, cascading waterfalls, colorful landscapes and charming people are just a few of the reasons to visit Scandinavia. Explore this land of trolls, fairy tales and Viking ships as you experience the area's best!



July 22 a Hawkeye Stages motorcoach and shuttles pick up in our scheduled departure cities on the way to Des Moines. You and your experienced international tour manager will check in for your flight to **Copenhagen**, Denmark. Forget about the worries of airport travel – we're here to help!

July 23 we arrive in Copenhagen, Denmark's capital. Rest or explore until 6 pm when you gather to meet your traveling companions for a "welcome drink", hosted by your tour director.

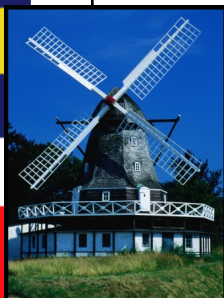


July 24 sightseeing with a local guide features the Church of Our Savior and the Stock Exchange on the way to **Christiansborg Palace**. The Palace houses the Parliament, Supreme Court, Prime Minister's Office and elegant Royal Reception Rooms. Drive past the National Museum and the Royal Theater, stop for pictures of **Amalienborg Palace**, residence of the Royal Family. Four buildings are set around a spacious cobblestone square where Royal guards are always posted. We'll finish our sightseeing at perhaps one of Denmark's smallest but most recognized landmarks, the **Little Mermaid statue**. Tonight, visit **Tivoli Gardens**, the city's colorful amusement park. King Christian VIII allowed this amusement park to be built in the 1840s on the basis that "when people amuse themselves, they would forget politics." It is a beautifully-

illuminated collection of elegant restaurants, gardens, concert venues and more. (B)



July 25 we begin the day with a stunning morning drive over one of the world's largest suspension bridges constructed off-shore to the fairy tale island of **Funen**, "the Garden of Denmark." Visit the **home** of Denmark's most famous writer **Hans Christian Andersen** at Odense one of Denmark's oldest cities. Cross the Little Belt waterway to Jutland, the only part of Denmark attached to mainland Europe. Arrive in Arhus and visit **Den Gamle By**, a fascinating collection of completely furnished Old Danish town houses, shops, a theatre, school and a windmill. We overnight in **Arhus** a major seaport and enjoy time to shop in the pedestrian area near the hotel (B,D)



July 26 at Frederikshavn, board a **ferry** for the 3-hour crossing of the strategic Kattegat to **Gothenburg**, Sweden's second-largest city. From these rocky shores, the mighty Vikings set forth back in the 9th and 10th centuries. See area landmarks during an **orientation drive** of Gothenburg and tonight enjoy time on your own to explore this bustling harbor town of 500,000 people. (B,D)

July 27 we'll drive through the area often referred to as the "breadbasket" of the country: miles of fertile farmland strewn with tidy farms, followed by industrial



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towns like Huskvarna and Norkoping, major Baltic seaports. This afternoon we arrive in **Stockholm**, capital of Sweden. Believe it or not, this beautiful city is actually situated on 14 islands between Lake Malar and the Baltic. This city dates to 1252 and the islands are only a few hundred yards apart - you can literally walk five minutes and journey from sparkling skyscrapers to medieval neighborhoods. (B)



July 28 we're in for a fascinating day of sightseeing with a local guide. On Stockholm's **Gamla Stan** (Old Island) we'll visit the 608-room **Royal Palace** with its incredible Baroque and Rococo interior decor. We'll visit **Riddarholm Church**, best known for ornate royal burials, and we'll tour the blue and gold chambers in the **City Hall**. Even though we're not in the running for a Nobel Prize, we'll see where the Nobel Peace Prize banquet is held each year. Looking for more adventure? You may decide to visit the restored intricate carvings aboard the *Vasa*, the ship Gustav II Adolf commissioned in the 1620s for the Thirty Years' War. (B)

July 29 this morning, visit **Uppsala**, the country's oldest university town. Admire the glorious stained-glass windows in its huge gothic **cathedral**. Via the prehistoric burial mounds of Old Uppsala, then travel to **Dalarna**, home to the symbol of Sweden - the Dala Horse. We'll **overnight in Mora** by Lake Siljan, once home to painter Anders Zorn (known for local portraits and peasant culture) and now host to the world's longest and oldest ski-race, Vasaloppet, annually held in March. (B,D)



July 30 we're in for a scenic day as we further explore rustic Dalarna, then enter Norway. Pass strategic Elverum, rebuilt after total destruction during World War II. We'll pass by Lake Mjøsa on our way to Lillehammer, the scenic mountain village that hosted the 1994 Winter Olympics. Enjoy a guided visit of the fascinating **Maihaugen open-air museum** - with more than 50,000 objects and 130 buildings, it is Norway's largest museum of farming culture. (B,D)



July 31 bask in the majestic mountains, dark pine forests, sparkling lakes, and silvery trout streams during your leisurely journey through Valdres and the Fillefjell area. Before arriving in Flåm, stop for pictures at **Borgund's stave church**, built by staking wooden planks upright into the ground. This church is famous for its beautiful exterior and remains virtually unchanged since the Middle Ages. (B,D)

August 1 today we're in for a real treat. We'll embark at Flåm for a leisurely **cruise** on the spectacular Sognefjord, the largest and deepest fjord in Norway. Land at Gudvangen and drive to Stalheim for a dazzling panoramic view over Naerøy Fjord. "Getting there will be half the fun" as your professional driver navigates one of the curviest, steepest roads you've ever seen. We'll board the incredible **Flåm Railway**. In just 12 miles, ascend 2,845 feet through breathtaking beauty on your way from Flåm to Myr-

dal. Continue on to picturesque **Bergen**, "Gateway to the Fjords," founded in 1070 by King Olav Kyrre. On your **orientation tour** you will hear about its 11th-century origins and its association with the Hanseatic League. Colorful Hanseatic Houses, built by German Merchants of the Medieval Hanseatic League, line the Bryggen. Two thousand merchants would sell (or often barter) their wares on the first level. The second level often contained small beds where apprentices or even sons would sleep. The merchants would sleep on the third level. (B)

August 2 you'll wake up in **Bergen**, Norway's second largest city, which dates to 1070. Its ice-free harbor made it an important international trading and military center for centuries. Envision brightly-painted wooden houses, cobbled streets and wooden warehouses, nestled between 7 mountains and you will have a picture of this typical Scandinavian city. Visit the colorful fish market, stroll through the narrow lanes of ancient Bryggen or ride the funicular up to Mount Floyen. Drive along the beautiful Hardangerfjord, then cross by **ferry** before climbing up to **Voringfossen**, Norway's most celebrated and mightiest waterfall, plunging 476 feet into the gorge below. Continue across the Hardangervidda mountain plateau to the **ski resort of Geilo**, one of the most popular tourist destinations



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in Norway. Skiing takes place November until May. (B,D)

August 3 in Torpo, admire a **stave church**, symbol of Norwegian heritage. Continue along the scenic road between the Steinsfjord and ice-blue Tyrifjord and arrive in **Oslo**, the capital city of Norway. This 1,000-year old city is on a fjord and surrounded by forest but it's far from old or rural in appearance. The harbor's once run-down warehouses have been replaced with the trendy Aker Brygge with shopping, restaurants and galleries. (B)

August 4 **sightseeing** with a **local guide** features the **National Theater, Parliament** and the **Royal Palace**. Visit **Frogner Park** which contains the life work of sculptor Gustav Vigeland. Nearly 200 bronze modern (and some very humorous) statues are distributed over this 75-acre park. The "Monolith of Life," a pillar of 121 human bodies as well as the "Wheel of Life" and the "Fountain," which portray the cycle of life are all on our agenda. The afternoon is free. As an option, take a tour where you admire the relics of Norway's great seafaring past such as 1,000-year-old ornamental Viking ships. Tonight, we celebrate as a farewell dinner brings your vacation to a triumphant conclusion. (B,D)

August 5 revisit all the wonders of Scandinavia while you pack up your memories and begin the journey home. After breakfast this morning, we transfer to the Oslo airport for our return flight. Upon arrival in Des Moines, a Hawkeye Stages motorcoach will be waiting to transport you to your departure city. (B)

This 15-day Scandinavian package includes: Transportation between our scheduled departure cities and Des Moines International Airport, round-trip air transportation (based on Des Moines, call for information & rates from other US air gateways), transfers between airport and hotel, ground transportation while abroad, lodging for 13 nights, luggage handling, sightseeing tickets/admissions to bolded attractions 13 full Scandinavian breakfasts and 7 dinners (meals inclusive of tax and gratuity).

\$5,021 per person, double occupancy

\$5,659 single room accommodations

Reservations: anytime as long as space is available

Deposit: \$500 per person, due with reservation

Balance due: May 10

Early Booking Discount: \$50 per person if deposit is received by September 21.

Peace of Mind Protection: Not available for this travel package, but affordable cancellation protection and travel insurance are available. Detailed information will be sent with your confirmation or call for advance information. Without protection, the following penalties will apply, regardless of the reason for cancellation:

Cancellation prior to May 10, a \$50 per person penalty applies plus air penalties.

Cancellation from May 11-June 21, a 20% penalty applies plus air penalties.

Cancellation from June 22-July 10, a 30% penalty applies plus air penalties.

Cancellation from July 11-18, a 50% penalty applies plus air penalties.

Cancellation on or after July 19, a 100% penalty applies.

Scheduled departure cities: Ames, Cedar Rapids, Clear Lake, Coralville, Decorah, Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Newton and Waterloo.

A valid passport is required for this travel package.

Air/rail/cruise tickets are subject to supplemental price increases which may be imposed after purchase due to additional costs imposed by a supplier or government (such as increased fees, fuel surcharges, taxes and/or foreign exchange fluctuations). To offset these fees, you may be charged post-purchase price increases by NorthLand Travel.

When circumstances arise beyond our control, NorthLand Travel reserves the right to make itinerary changes.



Activity Meter - 2.5

Moderate itinerary + - some standing or stairs, a few blocks of walking plus options for additional activities

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