

PANORAMIC SCANDINAVIA

DENMARK ♦ NORWAY ♦ SWEDEN

AUGUST 5 - 17, 2024

TRUE
TRAVELS



Monday, August 5

Our journey begins with an overnight flight to Copenhagen, Denmark.

Tuesday, August 6 (Dinner)

Arrive in **Copenhagen, Denmark** where we will be met by our local English-speaking guide. Depart from the airport aboard our deluxe private motor coach for an **orientation tour of Copenhagen**. After our tour we'll check into the **Scandic Copenhagen** (or similar). Dinner is included this evening at a local restaurant.

Wednesday, August 7 (Breakfast, Dinner)

After breakfast we'll depart from the hotel for a **full day tour of North Zealand**. We'll travel through the Danish countryside where we'll pass the famous **"Dyrehaven" Royal Deer Park** with its hundreds of deer and 300 year old Beech tree forest before proceeding to **Helsingør** (Elsinore), one of the oldest towns in Denmark. The town has many medieval houses and commercial buildings dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. Entire streets of restored houses retain the atmosphere of this provincial town. After lunch on your own at a local Danish Inn, we will tour one of the world's most famous castles, **Kronborg Castle**. Set on the cliffs of Elsinore above the Baltic shore, Kronborg is the legendary home of Hamlet, Shakespeare's Prince of Denmark. Next we will drive past the Queen's summer residence in **Fredensborg** and then visit **Frederiksberg Castle** which contains the **National History Museum** featuring paintings, tapestries, porcelain, silver and furniture. Our return trip to Copenhagen will take us past thatched-roof inns, posh palatial residences, and magnificent forests and lakes. This evening we will have dinner inside the world-famous **Tivoli Gardens**. Enjoy a delicious **Danish welcome dinner** followed by time to explore the area on your own. This twenty-acre garden, set in the center of Copenhagen, was created for the young at heart with its fountains and lakes, brass bands, arcades and rides. Stroll among the beautiful flowers and listen to the music.

Thursday, August 8 (Breakfast, Dinner)

We check out of our hotel after breakfast and depart with our **local guide** for a **city tour**. Our tour will take us along **Hans Christian Anderson Boulevard** and past many of Copenhagen's scenic highlights. We'll cross the picturesque canal and pass **Christiansborg Palace**, the seat of the Danish Parliament, and continue past the **Naval Church** where many Royal events take place. We'll also drive by **Amalienborg Palace**, the Queen's residence and make a photo stop at one of Copenhagen's most famous sites, the **Little Mermaid**. We will visit the **Vor Frues Kirke** (the Church of Our Lady) which has been Copenhagen's Cathedral since 1924. Thorvaldsen's marble sculptures of Christ and the Apostles can be seen inside. The tour ends at the pier where we will **board an overnight ship to Oslo**. This modern ship has everything to make your journey a special one. Enjoy a sumptuous buffet dinner, relax in the bar, and dance late into the evening before retiring to your comfortable cabin.

Friday, August 9 (Breakfast)

Enjoy breakfast on board ship as we sail up the **Oslo Fjord** past charming towns and small islands. Upon arrival in **Oslo, Norway** we will be met by an English-speaking **local guide** and depart on a **city tour**. The tour will include a stop at beautiful **Frogner-Park** with its renowned **Vigeland Sculptures** and the famous **Holmenkollen Ski Jump**.

From the ski jump you'll have a unique view over Oslo and the surrounding area. We will also visit the impressive **Fram and Kon Tiki Museums**. Later we will drive past the medieval fortress of **Akershus**, the **Royal Palace** and the **Town Hall**. After the tour, we'll check into **Thon Bristol** (or similar) for one night. The afternoon is free in Oslo. Perhaps take an arbor cruise, experience the Resistance Museum where history comes alive, or visit the Munch Museum, which houses a collection of art created by Norway's most famous artists. Take a stroll along the main street, Karl Johan, past the National Theater and Norway's Parliament. Take a short walk to the Royal Palace or ride on the clean modern subways. There's so much to see and do in this lively city.



Saturday, August 10 (Breakfast, Dinner)

We leave the hotel after breakfast and drive across the **Sollihoegda Mountain Plateau** and along the shores of the scenic **Tyri fjord** to the **Hadeland Glassworks**. We will see skilled craftsmen transform molten glass into works of art, visit the **Glass Museum** and have the opportunity to shop for a wide variety of glass items at bargain prices. Later we'll continue our journey through the **Hallingdal Valley** and across the wild and barren **Hardangervidda**, home to large herds of reindeer and hill dairy farms. Our next stop will be at **Fossli** to view the magnificent **Voeringfoss Waterfall**, where the Bjoreia River plunges vertically 600 ft. into a narrow rock basin. Then we'll descend through a series of tunnels and hairpin curves and past the glistening fjords to the village of **Lofthus**. This area is called **Ullensvang** and boasts more fruit trees than any other Norwegian community, a medieval church, waterfalls draping the cliffs, the **Folgefonn glacier** capping the mountains across the fjord, and the composer **Edvard Grieg's studio hut**. The beauty of this district has provided inspiration for great works of art, literature and music for hundreds of years. Many of Grieg's melodies had their origin in this part of the country. Upon arrival we will check in at the **Hotel Ullensvang** (or similar). This evening enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel.

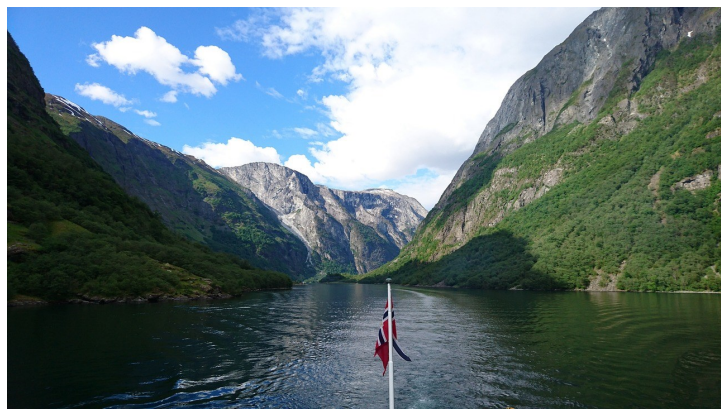


Sunday, August 11 (Breakfast, Dinner)

After breakfast at the hotel, the morning is free to explore the village of Lofthus. Perhaps take a seaplane across the impressive Folgefonn Glacier. This afternoon we depart from Lofthus for a short drive to **Kinsarvik**. We will take the **fjord ferry** across the **Hardanger Fjord** to the village of **Kvanndal**. Upon disembarking, our motor coach journey will continue past charming villages, steep mountains and dramatic waterfalls. Then we'll take a tour of **Hardanger Akvasenter** fish farm and indulge in some fresh salmon samples. This afternoon we will drive through more breathtaking countryside to **Steinsdalfoss**, a beautiful waterfall on the Fosselva River. It is possible to walk behind this thundering 100 foot wall of water! We will then drive across the magnificent wild gorge of **Tokagjelet Ravine** with its tunnels, roaring rivers and waterfalls on our way to the old Hanseatic town of **Bergen**. Established in the year 1070, Bergen has been the destination of travelers from all around the world for almost one thousand years. The city is Norway's second largest city, with over 225,000 inhabitants. Bergen is called "the city with green lungs" because of its many beautiful parks. Upon arrival we will check into the **Hotel Norge** (or similar) for two nights. Dinner is included this evening.

Monday, August 12 (Breakfast)

Breakfast is included at the hotel this morning before we depart with our local **English-speaking guide** for a **city tour** of Bergen. Our tour begins with a drive past Bergen's colorful **Fish and Flower Market**. This monument to medieval life and trade is found in a series of 14th and 15th century warehouses along the Quay - a working model of life in bygone times. We will also pass **Haakonshallen**, the medieval Viking Hall built in 1261 as a royal ceremony hall. The Hall is still used today for many royal ceremonies and special occasions. Our tour continues past **St. Mary's Church**, the oldest building in Bergen built in the early 12th century. We will visit **Troldhaugen**, the home of the renowned composer **Edvard Grieg**, which is now a museum. The home is beautifully situated overlooking **Nordaas Lake**. Grieg composed many of his best-known works here, and he and his wife are buried here. Grieg's studio, piano and notes are all on display. After our visit, we will return to the hotel. The afternoon is free for you to explore Bergen at your leisure. Perhaps take a trip with the cable car to Mount Floyen for a breathtaking view of this seafaring town, make a



visit to some of the many museums or just take a quiet stroll through the historic cobble-stoned streets. This evening we will attend a performance of **Grieg in Bergen, Concert & Story**.

Tuesday, August 13 (Breakfast, Dinner)

We depart from Bergen after breakfast and drive along panoramic fjords, rivers, lakes and waterfalls to **Gudvangen** where we will board a **ferry** for a **cruise** along the impressive **Naeroy** and **Aurlands Fjords**, and the beautiful **Sogne Fjord**, the longest and deepest fjord in the world. Disembark at the small fjord village of **Flaam** where we will board the **Flaam Railway**, one of the most remarkable examples of rail

engineering in the world. It is only 12.4 miles long, but it ascends 2,845 feet in less than one hour from Flaam to Myrdal Station. Enjoy the breathtaking view over the Flaam Valley and the thundering sound of waterfalls as you pass by. Arrive at the Myrdal Station where we'll connect with the **Bergen Railway** for a scenic ride to the village of Gol. At Gol we will board our motor coach for a short drive to the resort center of **Sanderstoelen**. Upon arrival we will check into the **Storefjell Resort Hotel** (or similar) for one night. Dinner is included this evening.

Wednesday, August 14 (Breakfast, Dinner)

After breakfast we will leave Sanderstoelen and drive through more of Norway's breathtaking countryside, along the shores of **Lake Mjoesa**, Norway's largest lake. We'll proceed through rich farmland to **Kongsvinger**, a fortress situated on the **River Glomma**, Norway's longest river. After our tour of this 17th-century fortress, we will cross Norway's border to **Karlstad, Sweden**, located on the northern shores of **Lake Vaenaren**, Sweden's largest lake. Karlstad is a cathedral town and the seat of the regional government. Upon arrival we will check into the **Scandic Hotel Winn** (or similar) for one night. Dinner is included this evening.



Thursday, August 15 (Breakfast)

We depart from Karlstad after breakfast and ride through the fertile Swedish countryside to the historic town of **Mariefred**. We will have time to stroll through the colorful narrow streets of this quaint old town. Next we will visit the well-known **Gripsholm Castle** for a **guided tour**. This royal mansion dates back to 1383 but the present towered structure was begun in 1535. Fully restored, Gripsholm is today an outstanding museum that features the **Swedish National Portrait Collection**. After our visit we will continue to **Stockholm**, the Capital of Sweden, where we will check into the **Scandic Downtown Camper** (or similar) for two nights.

Friday, August 16 (Breakfast, Dinner)

Breakfast is included at the hotel this morning before we depart on a **guided tour** of **Stockholm**. Our **English-speaking local guide** will take us to visit the famous **City Hall**, with its elegant Golden Hall, site of the Nobel Prize Banquet. We will also walk through **Old Town** with its cobblestone streets, medieval buildings and 13th-century Cathedral. Our walk will also take us past the **Royal Palace** and the **Stock Exchange** before we rejoin the coach to go to the **Southern Island** where we will have a splendid view over the city and the harbor. Our tour then takes us to the park island of **Djurgården**, an area that was formerly a royal hunting preserve, before we visit the unique **Vasa Ship Museum**, which features the warship Vasa built in 1628. The afternoon is free for exploring Stockholm. Laced with canals and bridges, unique in its blend of tradition and innovation, Stockholm has a charm and sophistication all its own. Some of Scandinavia's finest museums are found here. This evening we will enjoy a **farewell dinner** at a local restaurant in the old town.

Saturday, August 17 (Breakfast)

Following breakfast at the hotel, we will transfer to Stockholm's Arlanda Airport for our return flight home.

Tour Cost per person:

\$XXXX Double

\$XXXX Single

TOUR INCLUDES

ROUND TRIP AIRPORT TRANSFERS FROM MINNEAPOLIS

ROUND TRIP AIRFARE

DELUXE MOTOR COACH TRANSPORTATION

ELEVEN NIGHTS IN FIRST CLASS HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

BAGGAGE HANDLING AT HOTELS (WHERE AVAILABLE)

19 MEALS: 11 BREAKFASTS AND 8 DINNERS

ALL ACTIVITIES AND ENTRANCES AS LISTED IN THE ITINERARY

ALL TOUR-RELATED GRATUITIES FOR INCLUDED MEALS, LOCAL GUIDES, AND DRIVERS

ALL TOUR-RELATED TAXES AND FEES

SERVICES OF AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING TOUR MANAGER

SERVICES OF A TRUE TRAVELS HOST

NOT INCLUDED

OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION

Reservations:

Please submit a completed reservation form along with your **\$250 per person deposit** to:

**True Travels, Attn: Rhonda True
921 North Pennsylvania Ave.
Mason City, IA 50401**

Phone: 641-530-0963

E-mail: mctrue travels@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to

True Travels

Deposit: \$250 per person

Balance due: April 16, 2024



TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: All passengers must carry a **passport** valid for at least six months (February 18, 2025) beyond the return date of the trip. A passport card is not acceptable for this trip. In addition, all U.S. travelers entering the European Union must apply online for an ETIAS Visa Waiver prior to departure and pay the application fee, which is expected to be €7 per person. Details on how to apply for the ETIAS Visa Waiver will be communicated at final payment time.

TRAVEL PROTECTION: An optional travel protection plan is available for **\$XXX per person in double occupancy and \$XXX in single occupancy**.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All payments are fully refundable for cancellations received by **April 16, 2024**. Although every effort will be made to refund passenger payments, cancellations received after this date will be subject to the penalties imposed by our suppliers, as well as a **\$150 cancellation fee**. All payments are fully refundable for cancellations received by **April 16, 2024**. Although every effort will be made to refund passenger payments, cancellations received after this date will be subject to the penalties imposed by our suppliers, as well as a \$150 cancellation fee. It is highly suggested that all travelers help protect their vacation investment by purchasing an optional travel protection plan. Your group representative can provide information on a plan offered by Travel Guard. Should the passenger purchase travel protection and need to cancel after **April 16, 2024**, a travel protection claim must be filed with Travel Guard. Please note that we encourage all travelers to purchase a plan at the time of initial trip deposit and that the premium is refundable for cancellations received before **April 16, 2024**.

* Insurance is underwritten by National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, Pa. a Pennsylvania Insurance Company (NAIC #19445), currently authorized to transact business in all states and the District of Columbia.

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