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Scandinavian Escape - 12 Days

Start point: Copenhagen
End point: Copenhagen

DAY 1: Arrive in Copenhagen (D)



Welcome to the start of your Scandinavian adventure! Your tour leader will be waiting for you at our hotel during the afternoon. After everyone's checked in, we'll enjoy an included dinner where you can get to know your fellow travellers and learn a bit more from your tour leader about what incredible experiences the next 12 days will bring!

Experiences

Get to know your fellow travellers and your Expat Explore tour leader this evening at the included dinner.

Accommodation

Park Inn Copenhagen Airport

Other Foods to try

If you're arriving in Copenhagen this morning, why not try smørrebrød for lunch? Smørrebrød is the famous Danish 'open sandwich', consisting of a piece of rye bread (rugbrød) and toppings (pålæg) like cold cuts, meat, fish, cheese or spreads.

DAY 2: Explore Copenhagen (B)



After breakfast your tour leader will take you to meet up with an expert local guide who will show you highlights of the Danish capital, including the famous Nyhavn waterfront, Rosenborg castle and the little mermaid statue. This afternoon you'll have some free time to further explore; options include the Tivoli Gardens, a famous amusement park and pleasure garden, and the Rundetaarn, an astronomical observatory that offers fantastic views of the city.

Experiences

Enjoy a walking tour of the Danish capital with an expert local guide, during which you will see sights including the Rosenborg castle and the little mermaid statue.

Accommodation

Park Inn Copenhagen Airport

Other Foods to try

Voted in 2014 by the Danish public as the national dish of Denmark, 'Stegt flæsk med persillesovs' is a crispy pork belly dish served with potatoes and parsley sauce.

DAY 3: Odense - Skagen – Frederikshavn (B/D)



Make sure you prepare your camera this morning, because you'll be witnessing some absolutely stunning Danish countryside! Our first stop today is Odense, where we'll enjoy an orientation tour of the home town of prolific author and fairy tale writer Hans Christian Andersen. We'll then make our way to the town of Skagen, where you'll have the chance to walk to the tip of the Grenen sandbar peninsular, the northmost point of Denmark. After a full day of exploring we'll head to Frederikshavn for a relaxing dinner at our hotel!

Experiences

Experience Odense, the hometown of Hans Christian Andersen.

Visit Grenen peninsula, the northmost point of Denmark.

Accommodation

Hotel Frederikshavn Sømandshjem

Other Foods to try

With a vast coastline there is a variety of Danish seafood dishes - for lunch you could try the Danish version of fish & chips; plaice fillets breaded and fried, served with remoulade (similar to tartar sauce), and chips.

DAY 4: Frederikshavn – Oslo (B)



Three countries in one day! This morning we'll take a ferry across to Gothenburg before driving on to Oslo (don't worry, we'll come back to Sweden later on in the tour!). On arrival in the Norwegian capital we'll enjoy a walking tour with an expert local guide, who will show you sights including Akershus Castle, Oslo Opera House, the Parliament building and the Royal Palace.

Experiences

Enjoy a walking tour of Oslo with a local guide.

Accommodation

Park Inn by Radisson Oslo

Other Foods to try

If you have a sweet tooth make sure you try 'Krumkake'. Meaning 'curved or crooked cake' in English, krumkake is paper-thin rolls of thin waffle rolled around a wooden spoon, eaten plain or filled with whipped cream.

DAY 5: Oslo – Bergen (B)



As we travel from Oslo to the west coast we'll journey through the heart of Norway, witnessing the incredible scenery changing from emerald green landscapes to cobalt blue fjords to white snow-clad mountains. This evening we'll arrive in Bergen, Norway's second-largest city and known as "the city among the seven mountains". The beautiful Unesco World Heritage-listed Bryggen quay is the highlight, while Norway's famous fjords are just a short journey away.

Upon arrival, your Expat Explore tour leader will take you on an orientation walking tour of Bergen, introducing you to the highlights of Norway's first capital and former seat of royalty, including the old Hanseatic wharf Bryggen, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Bergen Fortress.

Experiences

Experience the stunning landscape of Norway's heartland from the comfort of your Expat Explore tour bus.

Orientation walking tour of Bergen.

Accommodation

Thon Hotel Bergen Brygge

Other Foods to try

Norway is the second largest exporter of seafood in the world; the icy cold, clean waters offer an abundance of high quality fish. Traditional seafood meals include the famous smoked salmon, while brave travellers can sample rakfisk - fermented trout!

DAY 6: Bergen - Free day

Enjoy a free day to explore the beautiful Norwegian city of Bergen, or choose to take one of our optional excursions to explore the surrounding area. The Fløibanen funicular will take you to the top of Mount Fløyen, which offers magnificent views of Bergen and a variety of walking routes. You can also join a half-day tour to Skjerjehamn, where you'll enjoy a four hour sailing from Bergen and see the incredible maelstroms (whirlpools).

Optional Excursions

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 7: Norwegian Fjords – Lillehammer (B/D)



There are more than a thousand fjords in Norway, with most concentrated on the west coast, so we'll be perfectly located today as we explore the scenic heartland of Norway on our way to Lillehammer. We'll take a stop off along the way in Gudvangen, a village located at the end of Nærøyfjord, arguably Norway's most famous fjord. You'll have the opportunity to take a cruise along the Nærøyfjord and Aurlandsfjorden fjords to Flam - still blue water is framed by towering cliffs, massive waterfalls and snow capped peaks - the easiest picture-postcard photo's you will ever take.

Experiences

Experience Norway's stunning heartland as we drive past glaciers, fjords, forests and mountains.

Accommodation

Hafjell Resort AS - Hotel & Apartments

Other Foods to try

Akevitt is Norway's national drink, an alcoholic beverage made from potato and flavoured with a variety of herbs and spices, including caraway and dill. It is drunk throughout Scandinavia during the festive period and at weddings, and as an aperitif before a meal

DAY 8: Lillehammer - Dalarna area (B)



Today we'll continue on our journey and cross into Sweden, where the stunning natural landscapes keep coming as we take a scenic drive through the mountains and deep forests to the Dalarna area in central Sweden - keep an eye out for elk and moose! Dalarna is famous for the Dalecarlian horse, a traditional Swedish hand-painted wooden horse statuette painted in bright colours.

Experiences

Enjoy a scenic drive through Sweden.

Accommodation

Scandic Lugnet Falun

Other Foods to try

Smörgåsbord is a traditional Scandinavian meal that originated in Sweden, served buffet-style with a variety of hot and cold dishes. Typical dishes include köttbullar (meatballs), prinskorvar (mini sausages), sill (pickled herring) and gravad lax (cured salmon).

DAY 9: Dalarna – Stockholm (B/D)



On our arrival in Stockholm we'll enjoy a walking tour with an expert local guide. You'll be introduced to the highlights of Sweden's capital including the Royal Palace, the narrowest alley and the AF Chapman ship. This evening enjoy an included dinner.

Experiences

Enjoy a walking tour of central Stockholm, where an expert local guide will introduce you the highlights of Sweden's capital.

Accommodation

IBIS Styles Stockholm Jarva

Other Foods to try

Many traditional dishes employ simple, contrasting flavours, such as the traditional dish of meatballs and brown cream sauce with lingonberry jam. Swedish meatballs (köttbullar) are typically made with beef, or a mix of beef, pork and sometimes veal.

DAY 10: Stockholm - Free day

Enjoy the day exploring the city of Stockholm! Gamla Stan is the old town, comprised of red, orange and terracotta-coloured buildings overlooking narrow cobblestone streets. The numerous islands that make up the town offer fascinating walks, especially through the Djurgården, where you can visit Skansen, the open-air Swedish history museum.

Attractions to discover in your free time

The Vasa Museum	Sept- May 10:00-17:00 Jun-Aug 8:30-6:00	Adults: 130 SEK, Children: under 18 free
The Royal Palace	Sep-May 10:00-16:00 Jun-Aug 10:00-17:00	Adults: 150 SEK, Children: under 18 free

Optional Excursions

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 11: Stockholm – Copenhagen (B)



Today you are on the final leg of your Scandinavian tour, look out for lakes, forests and rolling fields as we drive through the Swedish countryside. Just before we get to Copenhagen, we will stop at the town of Helsingør. This town is home to Kronborg Castle, known to many as 'Elsinore' and the setting for Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'. We'll see the castle from the water as we take a short ferry from Sweden back to Denmark.

Experiences

Visit Helsingør, and catch a sight of Hamlet's Kronborg Castle.

Accommodation

Park Inn Copenhagen Airport

Other Foods to try

Denmark is famous for its pastries - the tradition of multilayered sweet pastry that originated in Vienna but was then developed into a Danish speciality (in Danish it is known as 'wienerbrød' or 'Viennese bread').

DAY 12: End of tour (B)



Today, our tour concludes after breakfast. Be sure to share your contact details with your fellow travellers. We hope you've enjoyed your Scandinavia Escape tour as much as we have!

Experiences

If you would like to extend your stay in Copenhagen after the tour, please contact us to confirm the hotel.