



SCANDINAVIAN ODYSSEY: DENMARK, SWEDEN & NORWAY

Immerse yourself in spectacular Nordic landscapes, Scandi art and design and grand castles on this two-week journey through Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



Europe, Denmark, Sweden,
Norway



14 days from AU\$26,875 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Immerse yourself in spectacular Scandinavian landscapes, Scandi art and design and grand castles on this two-week journey. Experience cultural and culinary treasures, visit renowned museums, stroll through stunning waterfront neighbourhoods, cruise through pristine fjords and admire Mother Nature at her most dramatic.

Journey Highlights

- Enjoy a fascinating journey through three lively Scandinavian capitals, taking in rich history, contemporary art and singular architecture, all while learning about unique, distinct cultural traditions
- Discover Stockholm's Old Town, one of the best-preserved medieval city centres in Europe
- Explore the Vasa Museum, as well as Drottningholm Palace with its breathtaking grounds
- Discover some of Copenhagen's most unforgettable castles: Christiansborg, Frederiksborg and Kronborg
- Enjoy a guided visit to Kistefos Sculpture Park, renowned for its display of contemporary sculptures in a natural setting
- Ride the iconic Bergen and Flåm mountain railways for breathtaking scenery
- Explore picturesque Bergen, ancient trading port of the Hanseatic League



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Copenhagen, Denmark

Welcome to the Danish capital and transfer to your landmark hotel, located in the heart of the city. Copenhagen is a vibrant city known for its picturesque canals, historic architecture, and a harmonious blend of modern design with traditional charm. Home to iconic landmarks like the *Little Mermaid* statue and the colourful Nyhavn waterfront, Copenhagen offers a rich cultural experience in a setting that seamlessly fuses the old and the new.

Villa Copenhagen

Day 2: Copenhagen

Embark on a captivating guided morning tour of Copenhagen in a private first-class vehicle. Highlights includes the City Hall Square, Tivoli Gardens — home to the world's second-oldest amusement park, the Naval Church, the National Museum, and Kings New Square — home of the Royal Danish Theatre known for their world-famous ballet. Traverse the picturesque Nyhavn canal with its picturesque houses and vessels, marvel at the Gefion Fountain, and stop for a photo of the famous *Little Mermaid* statue. Pause at Amalienborg Palace and, if time allows, explore the Royal magnificent Reception Rooms in Christiansborg Palace that are still in use by the Danish Royal family.

This afternoon, immerse yourself in Copenhagen's canal charm on a boat cruise offering a local's perspective. Uncover favourite spots and hidden gems, with the flexibility to explore further by making stops along the way. Gain insights into how Danes engage with their waterways and witness the rapid changes unfolding in the harbour area. It's a unique opportunity to discover the city's character through the eyes of a local, navigating both tradition and transformation.

Villa Copenhagen / Meals: B

Day 3: Copenhagen

Embark on a journey to discover two spectacular Danish castles — Kronborg and Frederiksborg. In Helsingør, explore the medieval old town with its ancient cobbled streets and multihued houses in different architectural styles before visiting the imposing Kronborg Castle, the setting for Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Inside, marvel at the opulence of the Renaissance Ballroom and the intricate craftsmanship of the Chapel, both echoing with centuries of royal history. The King's Apartments showcase regal luxury, while the Casemates and the Maritime Museum provide insights into the castle's strategic defenses and Denmark's maritime legacy.

On the return journey to Copenhagen, enjoy an optional visit to the majestic 17th century Frederiksborg Castle (additional cost). Often called Denmark's Versailles, it is the largest Renaissance castle in Scandinavia, with beautifully decorated rooms offering a journey through Danish history, and is surrounded by a spectacular garden in Baroque style.

Villa Copenhagen / Meals: B

Day 4: Copenhagen - Stockholm, Sweden

After breakfast, you will be privately transferred to Copenhagen Central Station for your First Class train journey to Stockholm. Sweden's capital, Stockholm harmoniously blends history and modernity across its 14 islands. From the historic charm of Gamla Stan and culturally rich museums to its scenic waterways and innovative architecture, the city captivates with its blend of tradition and modern flair.

Upon arrival you are met by your private driver for transfer to your hotel, perched on scenic Norrmalmstorg Square. After settling in, enjoy a guided stroll through Gamla Stan — the city's quaint Old Town — one of the best-preserved medieval city centres in Europe.

Nobis Hotel / Meals: B

Day 5: Stockholm

Set out on a full-day guided tour of Stockholm beginning at City Hall. Known for hosting the annual Nobel Prize banquet in its Blue Hall, the building's distinctive brick façade and spire featuring the golden Three Crowns make it a prominent feature of Stockholm's skyline. Delve deeper in to Gamla Stan, exploring its narrow cobblestone streets, colourful buildings, quaint shops and medieval architecture, as well as iconic sites such as the seven-hundred-year-old Cathedral of Stockholm, the Royal Palace – the official residence of the Swedish monarch, historic Stortorget Square and the narrow Marten Trotzigs Alley.

This afternoon, proceed to the Vasa Museum to learn of the salvaged 17th-century Vasa warship. With over 98 percent of its original structure intact, this unique maritime treasure adorned with intricate sculptures. Sinking on its maiden voyage in 1628 and salvaged in 1961, the ship has undergone meticulous restoration for nearly half a century, approaching its initial grandeur. Return to your hotel and spend the evening at leisure.

Nobis Hotel / Meals: B

Day 6: Stockholm

Embark on a guided tour of the 17th century Drottningholm Palace, private residence of the Swedish royal family and one of Stockholm's three World Heritage Sites. See its lovely gardens and Court Theatre, tucked into the stunning palace grounds. Next visit the Chinese Pavilion on the grounds of picturesque Drottningholm Park, known for its fine, *chinoiserie*-accented rococo interiors. The remainder of the day is yours to spend at leisure.

Nobis Hotel / Meals: B

Day 7: Stockholm – Oslo, Norway

This morning you will be privately transferred to Stockholm Central Station for your First Class train journey to Oslo, Norway. Upon arrival you are met by your private driver for transfer to your stylish hotel The Thief, ideally situated in the heart of Oslo's Bygdoy Peninsula.

Oslo, the capital of Norway, is a vibrant city known for its scenic location along the Oslofjord, and its captivating blend of history, art, and outdoor experiences.

The Thief / Meals: B

Day 8: Oslo

Spend the morning exploring Oslo with a local guide. Begin with a walk around the stunning Opera House, offering breathtaking views of the Oslo fjord. Continue to the historic and imposing Akershus Fortress for a brief walk and photo stop, a central player in Norwegian history for 700 years. Stroll through Vigeland's Park to see sculptures by Gustav Vigeland, pass by the Royal Palace and explore Karl Johan, the main thoroughfare.

This afternoon, visit Norsk Folkemuseum, Norway's largest cultural history museum. The Open-Air Museum boasts 160 buildings representing diverse regions, time periods, and social classes. Notable features include the Gol Stave Church from 1200 and exhibitions covering contemporary history, folk art, traditional costumes, toys, and Sami culture, providing a rich overview of Norway's cultural heritage.

The Thief / Meals: B

Day 9: Oslo

Enjoy a guided visit to Kistefos Sculpture Park, renowned for its display of contemporary sculptures by both Norwegian and international artists in a natural setting. Located on the grounds of an historical pulp mill, the park offers a unique blend of art and nature, providing visitors with an immersive and aesthetic experience. Includes a visit to The Twist, a gallery, bridge and sculpture all in one. Set in the middle of the sculpture park, the 15,000-square-foot structure is on the must-see list for art and architecture lovers everywhere.

The Thief / Meals: B

Day 10: Oslo - Voss

Following breakfast, you will be privately transferred to Oslo Central Station to board the Bergen Railway, Northern Europe's highest stretch of track, roughly 100 kilometres of which runs through wild mountainous terrain. On the scenic route to Myrdal, breathe in the majestic landscape before transferring to the Flåm Railway, one of the world's steepest.

The twisting tunnels that spiral in and out of the mountains bear witness to the most daring and skilled engineering in Norwegian railway history. The Flåm Railway is one of Norway's most significant attractions, travelling through some of the country's wildest and most magnificent scenery. On the 20 kilometre long train ride, peer at rivers cutting through deep ravines, waterfalls cascading down steep, snow-capped mountains and tiny farms clinging dizzily to sheer slopes. Arrive into the village of Flåm where you will be transferred by private vehicle to Voss, a charming town nestled amidst stunning fjords and surrounded by picturesque landscapes of lakes and mountains.

Elva Hotel / Meals: B

Day 11: Voss

Today your adventure begins with a ferry ride through the narrow and spectacular Nærøyfjord, featured on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Enjoy stunning views of steep mountains with snow covered tops that stretch up to 1800-metres above sea level, cascading waterfalls and picturesque villages that dot the landscape.

Continue on with a private vehicle to visit the Stegastein Viewpoint offering stunning panoramic views of Aurlandsfjord and the surrounding mountains, and Undredal Village, a charming village known for its scenic beauty, traditional Norwegian architecture, and goat cheese production where you will enjoy a cheese tasting at a picturesque location with views of the fjord.

Afterwards, return to Voss for a scenic ascent of Mount Hanguren on the Voss Gondola, providing stunning views of Voss, its lakes, and the surrounding mountains.

Elva Hotel / Meals: B

Day 12: Voss - Bergen

This morning you will transfer by private vehicle to Bergen. Founded in 1070, the beautiful city of Bergen was up until 1830 the largest town in Norway and a centre of commerce and shipping.

Enjoy a guided tour on arrival. Walk through the typical Bryggen quarter with its picturesque colourful, crooked wooden houses with pointed gables facing the harbour, see St. Mary's Church as well as the fish markets at the old Hanseatic wharf where all the seafood specialities from northern Scandinavia are sold.

Travel outside Bergen to visit Fantoft, a stave church dating to the 13th century. Afterwards, return to Bergen and board the Funicular to the summit of Mount Fløyen, offering spectacular panoramic views of Bergen, its surrounding fjords, and the picturesque landscapes.

Opus XVI / Meals: B

Day 13: Bergen

Embark on a scenic journey by boat along the stunning Hardangerfjord to the picturesque village of Rosendal. Explore this slice of Norway in miniature your own way. Options include leisurely strolls through the beautiful village, gallery explorations, hiking through magnificent scenery suited to all skill levels, as well as more adventures activities such as kayaking, canoeing and glacier hiking.

A 1.5-kilometre walk leads to the Baroniet, Scandinavia's smallest castle from 1665, surrounded by a charming rose garden and a delightful garden cafe. Additionally, the Folgefonn Centre offers insights into Folgefonna National Park, water's journeys, climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable use of natural resources.

Tonight, head to the pier to embark on a unique fjord to table dining experience. Take in the best of Bergen's mountain, fjord and sea scenery on the 25-minute boat trip out to Holmen where you will indulge in an exceptional meal that connects you with the rich culinary heritage of the region, all set against the breathtaking backdrop of scenic fjord views.

Opus XVI / Meals: BD

Day 14: Depart Bergen

Transfer to the airport by car only for your flight back home.

Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

Villa Copenhagen



Conscious luxury would be the proper motto to describe this gorgeous oasis in the city centre. Villa Copenhagen provides the most supreme hotel experience while taking responsibility for its impact on the planet — melding sustainability with the full 5-star experience.

The 390-room villa is housed in the old Danish Central Post and Telegraph office and retains stunning Neo-Baroque architecture — from the high ceilings and herringbone floors to the paintings of anti-Impressionist master, Vilhelm Hammershøi. Surround yourself with tasteful opulence, all designed by the award-winning Universal Design Studio.

The onsite bakery is a unique way to introduce guests to Copenhagen's eminent bakery culture, while the sleek Courtyard Bar housed under the vast glass ceiling serves simple Nordic fare and some of Copenhagen's best cocktails. For something more substantial the quirky Brasserie Kontrast won't disappoint with a passion for local, organic and sustainable produce.

After a day of exploration, take to the roof for a dip in one of the city's only 25-metre naturally warmed pools. Enjoy the view and take a wander through the picturesque hidden garden.

Nobis Hotel, Stockholm



The Nobis Hotel has become one of Stockholm's most popular hotels, located in the heart of Sweden's capital, close to the King's Garden and grand harbour front.

Housed in two 19th-century buildings overlooking Norrmalmstorg Square, the hotel retains a strong sense of history. The interiors offer a more laid-back Scandinavian style, minimal and subtle in design. Understated elegance continues into the 201 hotel rooms. Choose from Deluxe, Superior and Standard rooms, or opt for one of the luxurious suites. All rooms feature modern amenities, and views over the courtyard or city. We particularly love the Panorama Suite with its 180-degree city views and VIP entrance to the Café Opera nightclub.

The resident Chef de Cuisine, Isabella Morrone serves up Italian classics at Caina Restaurant while light Mediterranean snacks, such as paninis and stuzzichinis, can be enjoyed at the Bistro. Following dinner, immerse yourself in the vibrant hub of social activity at Gold Bar, where the resident mixologist serves chic cocktails surrounded by mirror-clad walls.

The Thief Hotel, Oslo



Arty hotel, The Thief is situated in Tjuvholmen, the new 'energetic heart' of Oslo, and a key centre for contemporary art.

Owned by an eccentric billionaire with a passion for art, the hotel oozes extravagance and glamour. You'll find unusual sculptures and works by Warhol and Gormley around the hotel; while room keys grant exclusive access to Astrup Fearnley Contemporary Art Museum, just a short distance from the hotel.

The 118 spacious rooms enjoy luxury touches: think rainforest showers, floor to ceiling windows and private terraces overlooking the stunning Oslofjord waterfront. The décor combines timeless elegance with modern art and design, and comfort and cosiness throughout.

Once guests have had their fill of sightseeing, they can unwind with a drink inside the hotel bar, a favourite hangout for some of Norway's elite, or take in the outstanding views from the roof terrace.

Opus XVI Hotel, Bergen



Music is never far away when you stay at the aptly named Opus XVI. The now-trendy former bank is owned by the descendants of Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg, famous for his work on Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*.

Here you will find 65 rooms and suites christened in honour of his compositions. Each of the suites are individually designed with modern interiors, and a subtle classic touch. The décor consists of muted colours, dark cabinetry and gold accents. Some rooms enjoy views towards Mount Fløyen while others look down over the quiet plaza of Vågsallmenningen.

Close to the coast, you can expect inventive seafood dishes in the delightful Restaurant XVI. The chef and his team are passionate about local ingredients and create a three- and five-course menu which includes everything from langoustine and monkfish to goats' cheese.

Just a short walk from this heritage hotel guests can find the famous fish market, the bustling pier and the Fløibanen funicular which travels high above the city and shows why Bergen is known as the 'capital of the fjords'.

Elva Hotel, Voss



This Scandi star is a designer hotel with a passion for gastronomy and nature.

The hotel is made up of one main building and five mini houses — each with two to three stylish, paired back suites. Picturesque windows in all overlook a tranquil lake and forested mountains. Every room is named after a cascading waterfall found along the nearby rivers.

While the call of the wild is never far away, it is the culinary experience that sets this boutique hotel apart. The fine dining restaurant follows the seasons and serves exquisite tasting and wine pairing inspired by local produce from the Voss and Westland region. Visit in autumn and you can expect a seven-course menu of pumpkin, baked tusk fish and wild mushrooms, while summer the cosy café and bar features barbecue Bratwurst from Voss Gardsslakteri and ratatouille.

After a day spent white-water rafting, river boarding or kayaking, Elva has a rustic wood-fired sauna and three bubbling hot tubs where you can enjoy a drink overlooking the glassy waters of the lake.

Abercrombie & Kent

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