

# SCANDINAVIAN EXPLORER

with COPENHAGEN EXTENSION OPTION  
SOLOS ONLY 45 Years and Over



## 18 DAYS / 17 NIGHTS

This Scandinavian discovery uncovers the major highlights, with the special experience of travelling during the Scandinavian summer; enjoying sunshine through the day and night, highlight fjord cruising, famous rail journeys, and some historic hotels and highlight five star stays along the way

Arrive to Sweden's capital, and the home of ABBA, Stockholm for two nights before embarking on the overnight ferry crossing to Finland with the comfort of an ocean view cabin. Your tour of Finland starts in the country's capital, Helsinki before flying to Lapland, with journeys to some of Finland's smaller towns, getting to know the countryside and local way of life of the Sami people. The journey continues with an overland crossing to scenic Norway, including a highlight experience at Cape Nord, to witness the midnight sun and discovering her northern cities.

From the far north of Norway, we take a flight to the land of Fjords, stunning mountains and valleys. Revel in the beautiful countryside of Bergen renowned for its rugged glacial scenery, with a relaxing two night stay. Take a few incredibly scenic rail journeys including the Flåm Railway, considered one the world's most beautiful train journeys. You'll sail through beautiful fjords featuring majestic mountains and wild nature.

As your Scandinavia exploring comes to an end, take in the sights of Oslo with an easy paced two night stay.

Still wanting for more? Take the option to add an extension to Copenhagen, Denmark.

### **Extension: Copenhagen, Denmark** 4 days / 3 nights

From Oslo take the impressive overnight ferry (a small ship) with oceanview cabins, arriving to Denmark the next morning. Your local guide will meet the group on arrival to port, with two nights of stay and local sightseeing included and a superb farewell highlight dinner.

## FELLOW TRAVELLERS

You will enjoy this small group experience with a maximum group size of 20 travellers. This tour is exclusively for single-solo travellers, and the best of small group touring.



## TOUR INCLUSIONS

### ACCOMMODATION & MEALS

- 16 nights hotel stays including 5 star highlight stays
- 1 night outside cabin on ferry
- 17 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 11 dinners including highlight welcome & farewell dinners
- Welcome drink, arrival day

### SIGHTSEEING & GUIDES

- English-speaking locally based tour director\*\*
- English-speaking locally based guides as indicated by the itinerary
- Entrances for visits included on the itinerary

### TRAVEL

- One way economy airfare; Helsinki to Rovaniemi, Finland
- One way economy airfare, Tromsø-Bergen
- Fjelleisen cable car, Tromsø
- Floibanen funicular ride, Mount Floyen
- Rail travel including Flam Railway
- Fjord cruising as indicated by the itinerary
- Overnight ferry with exterior cabin, Stockholm to Helsinki
- Arrival airport transfer, Stockholm#

### ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Tips included for tour director, local guides, drivers, welcome and farewell dinners
- Porter service for overnight ferry
- Small group, not more than 20 travellers

# Arrival transfer day 1 of tour, or day prior given that group hotel is booked as part of tour package.

\*\* small groups are a driver-guide.

## TOP 5 REASONS TO JOIN

1. Age-matched holiday groups
2. Travel with like-minded solo travellers
3. Small groups
4. Early bird savings with many tours
5. Roommate matching option

## OPTIONAL EXTENSION: COPENHAGEN

- 1 overnight ferry, outside cabin
- 2 nights, deluxe hotel stay
- 3 breakfasts
- 2 dinners including a highlight dinner
- Private group sightseeing tours as per itinerary
- Local English speaking tour leader
- Local English speaking guide
- Canal cruise, Copenhagen
- Copenhagen cruise terminal pickup
- Tips for tour leader, guide & drivers

### Not included:

- Airfares (unless requested)
- Airport transfers (unless stated)
- Hotel porter service
- Travel insurance
- Excess baggage
- Visa or entry permit fees
- Any tips unless mentioned with inclusions
- Meals and beverages not specified on itinerary
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry & medical expenses
- Incidental expenses such as taxi fares, telecommunications

## ABOUT US

At *Encounter Travel* we offer holiday groups for solo travellers. All trips are age-matched so there's more chance you'll share your journey with like minded travellers.

Visiting destinations across Australia and around the globe, choose from short escapes to adventure trips and leisurely touring.

We are the winner of the Solo Travel Awards 2017 & 2018. We are ATAS accredited and a member of the Australian Council of Tour Operators (CATO).

## CONTACT US

Encounter Travel  
Monday to Friday  
9:30am to 5pm (Sydney time)

Tel (AU) : 1300 653 692  
Tel (NZ) : 0800 653 692

E: [holidays@encountertravel.com.au](mailto:holidays@encountertravel.com.au)  
W: [encountertravel.com.au](http://encountertravel.com.au)

PO Box A1088 Sydney South  
NSW 1235 Australia

ATAS Accreditation: A10439  
CATO Accreditation: 45818310  
ABN 23 119 642 992



## SCANDINAVIAN EXPLORER

Our website has full trip details and content in this flyer is only a part of the information. For full details please refer to our website.

### TRAVEL DATES:

SAT 22 JUL - TUE 8 AUG 2023

### COPENHAGEN EXTENSION

TUE 8 - FRI 11 AUG 2023

### TOUR PRICE:

#### SCANDINAVIAN EXPLORER

\$TBA with your own room

#### COPENHAGEN EXTENSION

\$TBA with your own room

### SHARE & SAVE:

Ask us about our share and save option with our roommmate matching option.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Immerse yourself in Swedish culture with guided sightseeing, including the Viking Vasa Museum and Gamla Stan (old town)
- Visit ABBA museum, a tribute to the world renowned band.
- Change the pace with the overnight ferry cruise, with an exterior cabin to cross from Stockholm to Helsinki
- Get to know Helsinki highlights with a locally guided city tour.
- Gain insights in the rich Sami culture in Lapland.
- Visit a Husky dog camp outside Rovaniemi.
- Visit a working reindeer farm in Lapland
- Experience Nord Kapp (North Cape) with dinner.
- A relaxed two night stay in Tromsø, a major hub for the Artic Circle.
- Discover the Fjord country of Norway including a two night stay in Bergen
- Ride the Flåm Railway - in 2014 Lonely Planet named it the world's most beautiful train journey.
- Cruise the Naeroyfjord to Gudvangen; one of the beautiful fjord landscapes in Norway.



- Explore the Viking Ship Museum, Oslo
- Enjoy some highlight hotel stays
- 2 flights included; Helsinki to Rovaniemi, and Tromsø to Bergen to reduce lengthy road travel

Sweden. The day is at your leisure. In the evening, meet with fellow travellers and your guide at your hotel for a welcome drink and dinner in house.

Meals: Welcome Drink Dinner

### PRE TOUR STAY

Consider arriving a day before the tour start, or enjoy a stopover. You can relax and refresh after your flight. The cost of the additional night/s of stay applies. Ask our travel team about this option, and the additional costs.

### DAY 2 Stockholm, Sweden

Today's the perfect opportunity to get a feel for Sweden's capital. Situated at the mouth of Lake Mälaren, the city is spread across 14 islands on the coast, in the south east of Sweden.

With a local guide, we take in the sights of Stockholm, seeing all the main attractions and a stop for a scenic view point at Fjallgatan from where there is a truly spectacular view of the

### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1 Stockholm, Sweden

Welcome to Stockholm, the capital of



## SCANDINAVIAN EXPLORER

city's many islands and waters. Touring includes a walk around the beautiful Old Town, and seeing the Royal Palace, Parliament, and a guided tour of the world famous City Hall (site of the yearly Nobel Prize festivities) and Royal Park of Djurgården. We take time to visit the Vasa Museum (the 17th century warship which sank on her maiden voyage) and Skansen, the world's oldest open air museum.

There's the afternoon at leisure. In the evening, we head for dinner at city restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### DAY 3 Stockholm, Sweden / Overnight Ferry

There's some free time this morning and later this morning we head to ABBA Museum, an impressive tribute to this iconic band of Sweden, and the world. By mid afternoon it is time to be at the ferry terminal for the overnight cruise to Finland. Leaving Stockholm in daylight hours, relax and watch the scenic coastal view as you make your passage to Finland overnight with the comfort of an outside cabin and dinner onboard.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### DAY 4 Helsinki, Finland

Welcome to Helsinki, the capital of Finland. After arriving in the morning to Helsinki, and disembarking the overnight cruise, we take a city tour with a local guide. We cover the

the capitals most important and interesting parts such as the historical centre, Senate Square, Cathedral, City Hall, Presidential Palace, Finlandia Hall and Opera House. Stops at Sibelius Monument and Temppeliaukio church, also known as the Rock church (entrance fee applies).

Around mid afternoon, we check into the hotel. Helsinki is a wonderful city to walk around and explore at leisure and the afternoon is free for making your own discoveries.

Meals: Breakfast

### DAY 5 Helsinki to Rovaniemi, Finland

An early transfer to Vantaa airport for

our flight to Rovaniemi. On arrival to Rovaniemi, we are met and transferred to town for some local touring. We visit the Arctikum Museum, which tells the story of the North and the Arctic, offering a fabulous insight into the history and culture of Finnish Lapland.

In the afternoon visit a Husky Musher's camp to hear about these beautiful dogs' lives and training. Later today there's the option to visit Santa Claus Village with your tour director or take some time out at the hotel. The evening is at your leisure.

Meals: Breakfast (boxed)

### DAY 6 Rovaniemi to Inari, Finland

This morning, we drive north to Inari/Ivalo region. Along the way we visit a working Amethyst Mine, located in Lapland, in the town of Luosto; dig for your own purple amethyst gemstone of Lapland and learn about the amethyst stone and a geology stories. In the afternoon we continue to Inari/Ivalo and check into our hotel by early evening. Tonight, a relaxing dinner at our hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### DAY 7 Inari, Finland

We make the most of our day with morning and afternoon discoveries. There's a guided tour in the Sami Museum Siida, some free time in the museum and lunch at the museum's restaurant. Later, we hop on a boat that takes us for a cruise on Lake Inari. There's a stop along the way at the small island of Ukonkivi, which in the old days was used as a place for sacrifice by the Sámi people. On the way back the boat will pass an old cemetery island

To mark the end of the day we will visit a working reindeer farm. The Inari reindeer farm is owned by a local family, who are reindeer herders and where you can enjoy some of the warm hospitality and learn about the integral role of reindeer in the lives of the Sami people. This evening back at our hotel, the sauna awaits; very much a way of life in this northern part of our world.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### DAY 8 Inari, Finland to Honningsvåg,

## Norway

Today we drive to Karasjok, and visit the Sami Park cultural centre with a local guide. After, we travel to Norway and arrive to Honningsvåg. This evening there will be an 'arctic' experience at the Arctico ice bar.

### HIGHLIGHT EXPERIENCE

Later this evening we make our way to Nord Kapp (North Cape), one of the most northern points of Europe. We'll also dine in the Gallery. This is the renowned location of the midnight sun.

Tip: Rug up, it gets chilly at Nord Kapp, even though it's summer. A hat/beanie and gloves are highly recommended and also a warm jacket is a must. There's many hours of daylight in the far north, and we head back late to our hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### DAY 9 Honningsvåg to Alta, Norway

We continue our travels in northern Norway today to reach Alta, a town on Norway's northern coast. Arriving to Alta, we visit the Alta museum. It features exhibits and displays on Sami culture, Finnmark military history, the Alta hydro-electric project and the aurora borealis (northern lights). This evening dinner is included at our hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### DAY 10 Alta-Tromsø

We make our way to Tromsø today including scenic ferry crossings from Olderdalen to Lynseidet and Svensby to Breivikeidet. From Breivikeidet, driving to Tromsø. This afternoon, making the most of our long days of sunshine we take the cable car ride of Fjellheisen, in Tromsø, to the top of the mountain. We return to our hotel for dinner. Tromsø is a lovely city and this evening you may like to head out for a night cap and take in more of the daylight hours.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### DAY 11 Tromsø

Today in Tromsø, we visit the Arctic Cathedral, known as Tromsdalen Church (also known as Ishavskatedralen), a significant masterpiece as this cathedral is a landmark visible from the Tromsø

## SCANDINAVIAN EXPLORER

Sound, the Tromsø Bridge and when landing in Tromsø by aircraft. After the cathedral, we visit Polaria, a museum renowned for its Arctic experience. From mid afternoon the rest of the day is at your leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

### DAY 12 Tromsø-Bergen

Heading a long way south, we take a flight between Tromsø to Bergen. Bergen is renowned for its rugged glacial scenery, and the setting amongst seven mountains. It's a Norwegian port town that dates back to the 1770's. You have a relaxed afternoon and evening at your leisure to make your own plans. There is plenty to love about this picturesque town and we enjoy a two night stay to make the most of the location.

Meals: Breakfast

### DAY 13 Bergen

After breakfast we get to know Bergen 'The Heart of the Fjords' with a local guide. Although Norway's second largest city, it has the vibe of a small town and packed with charm and urban character.

Discover narrow cobblestone alleys and the UNESCO World Heritage site Bryggen, "The Hanseatic Wharf", the most obvious remnant from the time Bergen used to be the centre of trade between Norway and the rest of Europe.

Take the Fløibanen Funicular up Fløyen Mountain for panoramic views. The Fløibanen is a funicular railway in the Norwegian city of Bergen. It connects the city centre with the mountain of Fløyen, with its mountain walks and magnificent views of the city.

This afternoon is the perfect opportunity to stroll around town, or you may like to join a Mostraumen fjord tour. A popular option also is a visit to the Edvard Grieg Museum Troidhaugen, once the home of Edvard Grieg, a Norwegian composer and pianist. Dinner is at your leisure; maybe opt for dinner at the Bergen Fish Market located in the heart of the city.

Meals: Breakfast

### DAY 14 Bergen – Flam – Gudvangen – Stalheim

An earlier start today, to drive to Voss, the starting point for the first of our train journeys today to Myrdal. From Myrdal we travel to Flam on the Flåm Railway, considered to be one of Norway's most important and spectacular tourist attractions. The Flåm Railway is 20 km long with 20 tunnels and took 20 years to build! In 2014 Lonely Planet named it the world's most beautiful train journey.

In the afternoon, we cruise by ferry from Flam along the Naeroyfjord to arrive to Gudvangen, enjoying the beautiful fjord landscape. You will sail through UNESCO's World Heritage-listed fjords featuring majestic mountains. Arriving to Gudvangen we then transfer to the small regional village of Stalheim, firstly visiting the open air museum then checking into our hotel with dinner in-house.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### DAY 15 Stalheim – Laerdal

A relaxed morning start, leaving Stalheim for Laerdal today. Along the way some local discoveries including a visit to Undredal for a local cheese tasting and to the Borgund Stave Church, built around 1180 and it's exceptionally well preserved. Various other visits today are also possible, including a stop at the Stegastein viewpoint (weather dependent), experience the Laerdal 24km long tunnel and go to the Flam historical brewery in Flamsbrygga. A relaxed evening in house in by the edge of Fjord in Laerdal.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### DAY 16 Laerdal - Oslo

This morning we make our way by road to Oslo, one of the longer drives. We set off earlier today, first for Lillehammer, the home of the 1994 winter Olympics. It's here we visit The Ski museum and take an elevator ride to The Ski Jump Tower 'Skiforennigen'. From Lillehammer we drive onto Oslo to check into our hotel and have the rest of the day and evening at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

### DAY 17 Oslo, Norway

It's a fabulous morning discovering Oslo, including a visit to the Viking Ship Museum and Vigeland Park.

The afternoon is at leisure. You may like to visit the Kontiki, Fram or Much museums. Or for anyone with an interest in modern architecture the impressive new Oslo Opera House is well worth a visit. Oslo is also home to the National Gallery, housing one of the world's most recognised artworks 'The Scream' painted artist Edvard Munch.

Tonight, a wonderful farewell group dinner to mark the end of our Scandinavian exploring.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### DAY 18 Oslo, Norway

Your wonderful Scandinavia discoveries come to a close, or opt to see more and join us in Denmark with the extension option: Copenhagen 4 days/3 nights.

Meals: Breakfast

### EXTENSION OPTION: COPENHAGEN, DENMARK 4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS

#### DAY 18 (day 1) Norway to Denmark

The final morning in Oslo is at leisure. This afternoon, a group transfer to the port to embark on an overnight ferry to cruise from Oslo to Copenhagen with the comfort of outside cabins. It's a large passenger ferry (like a small ship) including dining facilities; a relaxing way to travel to Denmark.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 19 (day 2) Copenhagen

Arrive to Copenhagen's cruise terminal, disembark and meet with a local tour leader who joins the group to share discoveries of the city and her surrounds. You won't be left short of things to do in Copenhagen. Scandinavia's largest city is a treasure trove of art, history, architecture, and modern design. The city artfully mixes fairytale settings like palaces, castles and elegant gardens with cutting-edge style and contemporary chic.

From port we head out of the city, driving north along the coast road, and taking in the view to picturesque seaside towns and fishing villages. We arrive to the historic town of Helsingør (also known as

## SCANDINAVIAN EXPLORER

Elsinore). Admire the famous Kronborg castle, site of Shakespeare's tragedy about Hamlet, Prince of Denmark from the outer canon bastions (outside stop only). We continue on, driving through the magnificent countryside to the town of Hillerød where we visit Frederiksborg Castle, built by king Christian IV in 1601-1625. This pearl of a renaissance castle is now home to the National Historical Museum of Denmark and contains treasures of paintings, tapestry, porcelain, silver, and furniture as well as the Knight's Hall and a Chapel.

Returning to Copenhagen, we cruise the city's canal with the Grand Tour from Nyhavn, passing some of Copenhagen's best sights and attractions showing a perspective of the city from the water. Before the afternoon comes to an end, visit Tivoli Park with some time at leisure, then continue to our Copenhagen hotel.

This evening, make your own local discoveries, taking advantage of a long day of daylight.

Meals: Breakfast

### SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Arrival 'meet & greet' at port by your local tour leader, Copenhagen
- A full day of escorted touring
- Entry to Frederiksborg Castle
- The Grand Tour' cruise from Nyhavn
- Entrance to Tivoli Park

### DAY 20 (day 3) Copenhagen

This morning there's a guided half day city tour of 'Wonderful Copenhagen' featuring her major attractions; Town Hall Square, Stroegget, one of the world's longest pedestrian streets, Ny Carlsberg's Glyptotek, the National Museum, Christiansborg Palace (site of the Danish parliament), Stock Exchange, Holmen Church, National Theatre, Nyhavn's canal quarters, photo stops for the Royal Palace and the famous Little Mermaid, and Rosenborg Castle (where the Royal crown jewels are kept).

This afternoon is set aside for your own local discoveries at your leisure. Tonight, come together for an impressive farewell highlight dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Highlight Dinner

### SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Copenhagen half day guided city tour
- Afternoon at leisure
- An impressive farewell dinner

### DAY 21 (day 4) Copenhagen

Your visit comes to an end this morning, or you can always opt to extend your stay.

Meals: Breakfast

*Itineraries may be subject to change, due to circumstances outside of our control. If there is any itinerary change prior to departure of significance, we aim to inform you prior to travel. Itinerary changes while on tour will be informed by your tour leader/guide while on tour.*

~ END ~

## HOTELS

Hotels range between 3 to 5 stars. Some of the smaller destinations have less options for hotels and are 3 to 3.5 stars. Other destinations including the city stays feature 4 to 5 star hotels.

Stockholm: Hotel Reisen  
Overnight Ferry: Sweden-Finland  
Helsinki: Hotel Katajanokka  
Rovaniemi: Arctic Light Hotel  
Ivalo: Hotel Ivalo  
Honningsvag: Scandic Honningsvag  
Alta: Scandic Hotel Alta  
Tromsø: Radisson Blu Hotel  
Bergen: Clarion Hotel Admiral  
Stalheim: Stalheim Hotel  
Laerdal: Lindstroem Hotel  
Oslo: Clarion Hotel The Hub

## EXTENSION TO COPENHAGEN

Overnight Ferry: Norway/ Denmark  
Copenhagen: NH Collection  
Copenhagen

Twin share rooms may have single beds.

## GETTING THERE

Starts: Stockholm, Sweden  
Ends: Oslo, Norway

Copenhagen Extension  
Ends: Copenhagen, Denmark

## ARRIVAL

Airport Transfers are included on arrival to Stockholm given that;

- you arrive on day 1 of the tour or
- you arrive the day prior to the tour commencement, and have extended your stay and booked the pre tour group hotel with us as part of your tour package.

## DEPARTURE

Departure hotel to airport transfers are not included. There is the option to book this service in advance as part of your tour package. If another group member is on the same flight as you, it is a shared transfer service. A service fee applies. If you are making your own flight arrangements, we require your flight itinerary no later than 35 days prior to travel (and even if you are not making airport transfer arrangements with us). Where transfers are part of your arrangement, if your itinerary is not provided to us within the required timeframe, you forfeit the airport transfers or additional fees may be incurred for the service.

## DISCLAIMER

Any content in this publication maybe subject to change or correction, and without notice. We have taken great care to prepare and publish the trip information and in good faith we believe it to be accurate at the time we published the information. However, as is the nature of travel, plans may need to change from time to time and often unexpectedly.

If trip details need to change, in most cases your final documentation issued prior to your departure will be updated. However, it's also possible that an itinerary change may be necessary while on the trip. It could be related to unexpected weather or road conditions or another example could be an announcement of a closure of a facility we planned to use. In these cases, we will make all best endeavours to provide an alternative, of equivalent or similar standard. Information in this publication is in part, and for full trip details please refer to our website. Full terms and conditions are available on our website and provided when a quote is issued.