

# Capitals of Scandinavia



# Capitals of Scandinavia





## Day 1 | Welcome to Copenhagen



Hans Christian Andersen would have been right at home in 21st-century Copenhagen. The Danish capital hasn't lost any of its fairy-tale charm over the centuries, as you'll come to discover on your first day exploring this colourful city. On arrival, transfer to your Stays With Stories accommodation, the historic Phoenix Hotel in the heart of Copenhagen's most elegant district. Discover the hotel's rich history from the late 17th century, through both World Wars and up to the present day, restored to its former glory. Start your Scandinavian adventure with a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience in Amager Fælled. Then spend your free time strolling through the happiest city in the world before joining your Travel Director and fellow travellers at 17:00.

**Meals:** Dinner

**Hotel:** Phoenix

## Day 2 | Explore Historic Copenhagen

Connect with the heartfelt hygge of your Danish hosts when you join a Local Specialist this morning for a sightseeing tour that will reveal all the highlights of Copenhagen's Old Town. See the distinctive dragon-tail spire of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Børsen (Stock Exchange), Christiansborg Palace and the Little Mermaid, demurely seated on a rock overlooking Langelinie Promenade. See the home of Denmark's beloved royal family, Amalienborg Palace, then spend the rest of the day exploring Copenhagen your way. Enjoy a cold øl overlooking the colourful façades of Nyhavn or perhaps join an Optional Experience to the Danish Riviera, past ancient fishing villages to the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Frederiksborg Castle.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Phoenix

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**North Zealand Riviera and Castle Tour** - Enjoy the quaint scenery of the Danish Riviera's conservation heritage route, as you pass through ancient fishing villages and modern marinas. Gain an introduction to coastal life in Scandinavia before continuing to the magnificent Frederiksborg Castle, a palatial residence built by the royal family in the 17th century.

Adult: 60.00 EUR

**Green Hills and Hygge** - First, a visit to the top of Copenhagen's modern mountain, with the best views over the Baltic city. As Danes enjoy their summer skiing, we will learn about the vision behind this amazing project: the building, architecture and sustainability of the hill and its power plant inside. Then, to the fairy-tale village of Dragør, with its thatched cottages and pretty working harbour. You'll wander past tiny houses, learn a little of the history and enjoy a taste of traditional Danish specialties.

Adult: 75.00 EUR

**Wonderful Copenhagen** - Denmark is probably the closest you'll be to living in a fairytale land, and today we are guided from once upon a time to happily ever after. We visit the crown jewels guarded in Rosenborg Castle.

through the Latin quarter to see the Round Tower and Copenhagen Cathedral where King Frederik and Queen Mary were married, as well as visiting the picturesque Nyhavn (New Harbor), embracing Copenhagen and the best introduction to romantic Denmark.

### Day 3 | Journey to Oslo



For now, it's a fond farvel to Copenhagen and a bright and cheery hej to Sweden, as you cross the Øresund by ferry and wind your way north, through the Swedish countryside past Gothenburg to Norway. You'll want to keep your camera at the ready to capture the scenic landscapes that line your route to Oslo, Norway's modern buzzing capital, where the Norwegian philosophy of *friluftsliv* can be felt along the flower-lined boulevards and bustling waterfront promenades.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Scandic Solli

### Day 4 | Vikings and More in Oslo



Tread in the footsteps of the Vikings this morning as you join your Local Specialist for a sightseeing tour that will reveal Oslo's long-standing seafaring heritage. See the medieval fortress of Akershus, the elegant Royal Palace and Oslo Opera House, which seems to rise up from the water in all its marble, granite and glass glory. Visit a wonderland of Norwegian sculptures left behind by Gustav Vigeland in his sculpture park, then enjoy a free afternoon to explore the city on your terms. You could choose instead to embark on an Optional Experience to learn about Norwegian explorers.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Scandic Solli

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***The Fram Museum*** - Today we'll take a walk on the stunning marble roof of the Oslo Opera House, rising from the waves, before sailing across the harbour to visit the one of the most famous Norwegian museums. The 19th-century polar exploration ship Fram is the museum's namesake, it visited both the Arctic and the Antarctic more than a hundred years ago and is a must see!

Adult: 53.00 EUR

***Norwegian Skiing Traditions*** - Today we'll visit an ultra-modern skiing museum, perched 1,400 feet in the air. Here, our Local Specialist will share 4,000 years of skiing history, while we enjoy incredible panoramic views of Oslo's ski jump.

Adult: 47.00 EUR

***Above and beyond the Oslo Fjord*** - Ahoy and welcome on board a cruise on the fascinating Oslo fjord. We hoist the colours on a state of the art electric vessel and have a guided commentary while taking in the stunning scenery. Next our journey takes us up to Holmenkollen mountain for amazing vistas over the city and fjord.

## Day 5 | Onwards to Stockholm



Enjoy a scenic drive south through Norway's lush forest landscapes to Sweden, bound for its enchanting capital. Journey past Lake Vänern, the largest lake in Sweden, before stopping in the countryside to Connect With Locals at a special Be My Guest lunch. Husband and wife team Niklas and Anna will welcome you to their renovated 19<sup>th</sup>-century church and explain their philosophy of using local produce to delight all your senses. Later, arrive in Stockholm and indulge in a free evening to explore 'Beauty on Water'. Consider joining an Optional Experience to the first Ice Bar in the world.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Hotel:** Elite Palace

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***The Cool Capital*** - Discover the best views over beautiful Stockholm as we stroll through the old working class heritage area on Södermalm. Later, we visit the world's first Ice Bar and take a drink in glasses made of pure river ice. Adult: 54.00 EUR

## Day 6 | Discover Beautiful Stockholm



Style and substance are qualities Stockholm has in abundance, as you'll discover when you join your Local Specialist for a sightseeing tour this morning. See Stockholm's historic mother church, Storkyrkan, the Royal Palace and the Swedish Parliament, then Dive Into Culture on a visit to the City Hall, home to the annual Nobel Prize banquet. This afternoon perhaps join an Optional Experience to explore the maritime heritage of the city, or simply do as the locals do and indulge in fika (coffee and cake), embracing the Swedish philosophy of lagom. Tonight consider an Optional Experience to cobble Gamla Stan to admire its medieval history on a walking tour, followed by a traditional Swedish meal in a local restaurant.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Elite Palace

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Maritime Stockholm*** - Dive into the fascinating story of Stockholm's relationship with the sea. Our Local Specialist will explain the age of Viking exploration and the fish and fur trade before a real life encounter with the past on a visit to the 17th century Swedish royal warship Vasa. Magnificently restored after spending three centuries on the sea floor, she now occupies a state of the art, purpose-built home designed to preserve her well into the future. A unique and unmissable experience. Adult: 64.00 EUR

***Old Town and Dinner*** - Discover beauty and history combined during a walk in the fairy tale Gamla Stan, where little has changed since the 16th and 17th centuries. Then enjoy delicious Swedish cuisine in a popular local restaurant, with a drink included. Adult: 71.00 EUR



## Day 7 | Embark on an Overnight Cruise



A leisurely start to your day could see you embark on some last-minute souvenir shopping or savouring steaming sweet Swedish cinnamon rolls in Stortorget. Consider an Optional Experience to Drottningholm Palace. The cool capital of Finland beckons as you board your overnight cruise to Helsinki, passing through Stockholm's archipelago across the Baltic Sea.

**Meals:** Breakfast

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Drottningholm & Lake Mälaren*** - We start with a leisurely drive out to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Drottningholm Palace, the official residence of the Swedish royal family. Here we will explore the magnificent gardens with our local specialist before sampling traditional Swedish cinnamon buns and coffee. Afterwards we will board a turn-of-the-century ship to travel across beautiful Lake Mälaren back to Stockholm. An unforgettable experience.  
Adult: 67.00 EUR

## Day 8 | Arrive in Vibrant Helsinki



Continue your cruise across the Baltic, arriving in Helsinki in time to join your Local Specialist for a sightseeing tour of all the city's highlights, its Swedish and Russian heritage and some hidden gems. See the modern marble façades of Finlandia Hall, the Senate and the colourful stalls in Market Square. This evening, join your fellow travellers for a Farewell Dinner to raise a glass of aquavit and toast your epic adventure across the capitals of Scandinavia. Kippis!

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Holiday Inn City Centre

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Finnish Countryside and Design*** - Finnish design and architecture is world famous and is inspired by the unique landscape and climate of Scandinavia. Today we will journey into the Finnish countryside to visit Hvitträsk, a unique architectural jewel that gives an insight into the character and soul of the Finns. Our Local Specialist will explain how it was constructed in harmony with the pristine natural environment, and what is meant when people say that "being a Finn is a state of mind".  
Adult: 37.00 EUR

## Day 9 | Helsinki at Leisure



Today is yours to explore Helsinki at leisure or perhaps consider joining a full-day Optional Experience to cruise to the beautiful capital of Estonia, Tallinn. With its walled, cobbled Old Town, you will feel like you've stepped into the pages of a fairytale.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Holiday Inn City Centre

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**A Day in Estonia** - Come with us on an adventure to Estonia, the smallest and most northerly of the Baltic states. We'll cruise across the Baltic Sea to Estonia's stunning UNESCO World Heritage-listed capital, Tallinn, where we will meet a local specialist who will show us all the treasures of the medieval Old Town. Still protected by the remnants of the old city wall, Tallinn is a labyrinth of medieval houses, shops and laneways, abounding with stories and legends. Afterwards there will be plenty of free time to shop and have some lunch before we return to the port for the journey back to Helsinki. Onboard we will enjoy an amazing buffet dinner of fresh Finnish & Nordic cuisine, with drinks included.

Adult: 159.00 EUR

*\*This optional experience involves reservation and pre-payment. Cancellation within 5 days will incur a 50% cancellation fee.*

## Day 10 | Farewell Scandinavia



After a memorable journey exploring the history and culture of four Scandinavian nations, all that's left is to say a fond farewell to your new friends and prepare for your return journey home. Find out more about your free airport transfer at [trafalgargroup.com/freetransfers](https://trafalgargroup.com/freetransfers).

**Meals:** Breakfast