



GRAND CIRCLE TRAVEL®

Nordic Coastal Voyage: Norway, Finland & the Arctic Circle 2024

15-Day Grand Circle Cruise Tour

EXTEND YOUR TRIP

PRE-TRIP

Stockholm, Sweden

POST-TRIP

Copenhagen, Denmark

Your Day-to-Day Itinerary

GRAND CIRCLE TRAVEL

Grand Circle Travel, founded in 1958 to serve the American Association for Retired Persons (AARP), is the leader in international travel and discovery for Americans over age 50. Grand Circle vacations have been recommended by *The New York Times*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Travel + Leisure*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel*, and others. But our most impressive reviews come from our travelers. More than two million people have traveled with us, and the overwhelming majority say they'd gladly do so again.

GRAND CIRCLE CRUISE TOUR

During your Grand Circle vacation, you'll have reliable assistance available at all times from an on-site local Grand Circle Travel Program Director throughout your trip. He or she is fluent in English and can give you an inside perspective on your destinations. You will also be supported along the way by local tour guides, who lead you expertly through particular sites and cities.

Many Program Directors are graduates of professional education programs for travel guides. In addition, they receive specialized training directly from Grand Circle, based on what we've learned from past travelers about how to make the trip most enjoyable. Your Program Director offers both a deep knowledge of the region and a commitment to make this a very pleasant, informative, and rewarding travel experience for you.

He or she will provide sightseeing trips, handle all travel details, reserve optional tours you choose to take, oversee your Discovery Series events, and provide any other assistance you may need.

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » Choose to **purchase Grand Circle's airfare**, and your airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges are included. Or, make your own air arrangements
- » All flights within Scandinavia
- » **Accommodations** for 8 nights in comfortable rooms with private baths, and 5 nights aboard a Havila Norwegian Coastal Voyage Ship
- » **31 meals:** 13 breakfasts, 9 lunches, and 9 dinners (including 1 Home-Hosted Dinner)
- » **15 included features:** 13 guided tours and 2 exclusive Discovery Series events: Sami family visit · Home-Hosted Dinner
- » Exclusive services of a local **Grand Circle Program Director** (assigned to no more than 42 travelers)
- » **Gratuities** on your main trip for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- » **Personal headset** for all included and optional tours on your main trip (except tours offered through the Havila Coastal Voyage Ship)
- » Private motorcoach land travel
- » Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips
- » **5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next trip**

WHAT THIS TRIP IS LIKE

GROUP SIZE

- » A maximum of 42 travelers, led by a local Grand Circle Program Director

PACING

- » 15 days, with 4 hotel stays and a 5-night cruise
- » 1 internal flight of 1.5 hours

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- » Walk 2-3 continuous miles unassisted and participate in 2 hours of physical activities daily, including stairs
- » Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, or crutches

- » Travelers using other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them
- » We reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience

TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION

- » Uneven walking surfaces, including unpaved paths, hills, stairs, and cobblestones
- » Travel by 45-seat coach and train

CLIMATE

- » Daytime temperatures range from 35-80°F during cruising season

- » June–August are the warmest months
- » May and September weather can be unpredictable and change quickly

Nordic Coastal Voyage: Norway, Finland & the Arctic Circle

YOUR DETAILED ITINERARY

BEGIN YOUR TRIP WITH AN OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

3 nights in *Stockholm, Sweden*

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Day 2 Arrive Stockholm, Sweden

Day 3 Explore Stockholm • Optional Vasa Museum & Skansen tour

Day 4 Stockholm • Helsinki, Finland

Day 5 Helsinki • Join main trip

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Travel to Scandinavia today as you depart on your flight to Helsinki, Finland. Please refer to your individual air itinerary for exact departure and arrival times.

Day 2 Arrive Helsinki, Finland

- Destination: Helsinki
- Accommodations: Scandic Grand Marina or similar

Morning: Arrive in Helsinki, where a driver will meet you at the airport and assist you with the transfer to your hotel, where you'll be joined by your fellow travelers, including those who took our pre-trip extensions to *Stockholm, Sweden*.

Helsinki's historic center dates from the early 19th century, when Russia ruled Finland and designated this city as the country's new capital. As a result, the city has both a Russian look and a more modern layout than other

European capitals. Graced with many buildings by noted Finnish architects such as Alvar Aalto, Helsinki today is a masterpiece of urban design.

Depending on when you arrive, you may also enjoy a guided orientation walk with your Program Director to give you the lay of the land in your Helsinki neighborhood.

Lunch/Afternoon: Yours to do as you please. Your Program Director will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Day 3 Explore Helsinki

- Destination: Helsinki
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Scandic Grand Marina or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: After a welcome briefing, set off on an included Helsinki city tour.

Among the highlights is Senate Square, where you'll discover many ornate Empire Neo-classical buildings, including the 19th-century Lutheran Cathedral, whose central tower dominates the city. Like Times Square in New York City, this is the place where residents gather for celebration of special occasions, such as New Year's Eve and Independence Day (December 6th). Admire the onion domes of Uspenski Cathedral, the most important Russian Orthodox church in Finland. As you wind your way through the city, you'll notice how the sea is an integral part of Helsinki; the city spreads out onto islands, peninsulas, and along coves among which boats of all descriptions navigate.

Lunch/Afternoon: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations. You might choose to browse the cuisine available at the local market.

Dinner: Get acquainted with your Program Director and your fellow travelers over a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 4 Helsinki • Ivalo

- Destination: Ivalo
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Ivalo Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: The morning is free for your own discoveries. Later, depart for Ivalo in northern Finland—flying to Rovaniemi airport, then completing the journey overland by bus (about a three-hour drive).

Ivalo is your base of exploration for Lapland, the home of the Sami, the indigenous people who have lived in northern Scandinavia since prehistoric times. Lapland, also called Samiland, spans northern parts of Finland, Norway, and Sweden. Although the Sami are a minority of today's population in northern Finland, their cultural traditions endure.

Lunch: Upon arrival in Rovaniemi, we'll enjoy lunch at a restaurant in Santa's Village, declared the official home of Santa Claus.

Afternoon: After lunch, you'll transfer to the hotel, and the rest of the afternoon is free to explore. Your Program Director will be happy to recommend free time activities.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 5 Ivalo • Visit Siida Museum • Sami family visit • Home-Hosted Dinner

- Destination: Ivalo
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Ivalo Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Begin a day full of insight into rural life in Finland, starting with a visit to the Siida Museum, which focuses on Sami and northern Lapland culture and nature.

Next, enjoy an intimate look into this unique culture during an **Exclusive Discovery Series** visit with a Sami family, where you'll learn about the importance of reindeer and their role in the life of the Sami.

Lunch: Join your hosts for an included Sami-style lunch on the farm.

Afternoon: Visit a husky farm in the countryside, where you'll chat with the workers and learn about the part that their friendly dogs play in this pastoral way of life.

Dinner/Evening: Enjoy another enriching cultural encounter during a Home-Hosted Dinner with a local Finnish family. This **Exclusive Discovery Series** event offers yet another unique insight into daily life in Finland, as you converse with your hosts and sample their specialties.

Day 6 Ivalo • Kirkenes, Norway • Embark ship

- Destination: Coastal cruising
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hurtigruten Norwegian Coastal Voyage Ship

Activity note: On select departures, some ship cabins feature double beds which cannot be separated. Please call our Travel Counselors for details.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Travel to Norway through rural Lapland and cross the border to Kirkenes, a Norwegian port. Strategically significant for its iron ore resources, Kirkenes was occupied by 100,000 Nazi troops during World War II.

Lunch/Afternoon: Board your Hurtigruten Norwegian Coastal Voyage ship early this afternoon in time for lunch onboard. Shortly after you embark, the ship sets sail to begin one of the world's most scenic coastal cruises, with the islands and mountains of Norway as your constant companions. As a working vessel, your ship visits many ports, and if its strict cargo delivery schedule allows, you'll have time at some of them to go ashore for sightseeing.

Dinner: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

Day 7 Explore Hammerfest • Coastal cruising

- Destination: Coastal cruising
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hurtigruten Norwegian Coastal Voyage Ship

Breakfast: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: As you cruise along the coast of the Norwegian county of Finnmark today, you sail through a region filled with "northernmosts." First, the ship docks at Hammerfest, Europe's northernmost city, where the midnight sun shines from mid-May to late July. Hammerfest is a small modern town at the top of the world that makes a memorable port of call as you begin your journey southward down the coast.

Lunch: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: Continue your cruise towards Vesteralen.

Dinner: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

Day 8 Visit Vesteralen • Hurtigruten Museum • Svolvær • Lofoten War Memorial Museum • Coastal cruising

- Destination: Coastal cruising
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hurtigruten Norwegian Coastal Voyage Ship

Breakfast: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: Cruise south today, reaching the Lofoten Islands, where towering mountain peaks rise sharply from the sea to form dramatic vistas in the arctic light. This is one of Scandinavia's scenic highlights, which has inspired generations of artists.

You'll step off the ship at Harstad for an included tour of Vesteralen's mountainous landscapes—featuring a stop at a local farm—as well as Sortland, a small town located on the island of Hadsel.

Lunch: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: The ship will then sail to Stokmarknes on the island of Hadseløya. Here, you may choose to visit the Hurtigruten Museum, which features exhibits centered around Norway's storied maritime history.

Later, board the ship and set out for Svolvær, located on the island of Austvågøy and beneath the two-horned mountain called the Svolvær Goat (*Svolvaergita*).

Dinner: Onboard in the ship's dining room as you cruise towards Svolvær.

Evening: The evening is yours to spend as you choose. Your Program Director can offer suggestions.

Day 9 Sandnessjøen • Explore Bronnoysund • Coastal cruising

- Destination: Coastal cruising
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hurtigruten Norwegian Coastal Voyage Ship

Breakfast: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: From the Lofotens, your cruise takes you across the broad Vestfjord, then south across the Arctic Circle.

Sail past the island of Alsten, with soaring views of the De Syv Søstre ("The Seven Sisters") Mountains. Then, cruise to Bronnoysund, a town that has seen a rise in economic growth in recent years—including serving as home to the largest limestone mine in Northern Europe, as well as prosperous industries like wood processing. You'll explore the town on an included discovery walk.

Lunch: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: You'll continue sailing south, taking in the fjords as you go.

Dinner: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

Day 10 Explore Trondheim • Coastal cruising

- Destination: Coastal cruising
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hurtigruten Norwegian Coastal Voyage Ship

Breakfast: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: Today, you'll visit ports displaying amazing contrasts between old and new. First, enjoy an included Trondheim city tour.

Founded in AD 997, this was once the capital of Norway, as well as an important pilgrimage site for followers of St. Olav, a Norwegian king and Catholic martyr. The city's old *veitene* (narrow alleys) wind among its markets, Archbishop's Palace, Old Town Bridge, and historic 17th-century warehouses. You'll tour the city and get a look at the outside of the city cathedral before returning to the ship.

Lunch: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: Resume your cruise by sailing out through the beautiful Trondheimsfjord.

Dinner: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

Day 11 Disembark ship • Explore Bergen

- Destination: Bergen
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Thon Hotel Orion or similar

Breakfast: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: Enjoy passing a beautiful archipelago of islands as you cruise towards Bergen.

Lunch: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: Disembark the ship and set out on a tour of Bergen. The *Bryggen* (Wharf) area contains the fascinating historical buildings that inspired UNESCO to declare the city a World Heritage Site. Built after the Great Fire of 1702, these old wooden counting houses and warehouses with their stately gables stretch along the harbor and narrow alleyway and once served as the headquarters for the Hanseatic League.

After you check in at your hotel, enjoy a short vicinity walk to orient yourself with the neighborhood with your Program Director.

Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Day 12 Bergen • Optional *Music of the Fjords* tour

- Destination: Bergen
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Thon Hotel Orion or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Enjoy a day to experience more of Bergen at leisure. You could explore the 13th-century Bergen Cathedral, the charming Old Town, and the Aquarium, known for its rare penguins.

Or, join us for an optional tour to discover the *Music of the Fjords*. Begin your exploration of Norway's musical legacy at the home of Edvard Grieg, one of the most important composers of the Romantic era of the 19th century. Grieg's works helped to launch Norway into prominence on the international scene, and to define the Romantic genre as a whole. Learn more about his legacy during a tour of his home (now a museum) and then be treated to a piano concert performed by a professional pianist.

Lunch: If you've elected to join our optional tour, you'll enjoy an included lunch at a local restaurant in Bergen. Otherwise, lunch is on your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: Today's musical optional tour continues at your next stop, where, after lunch, you'll attend a demonstration of the traditional musical instruments featured in

the performance of Norwegian classical music. An expert musician will introduce you to their unique sounds during a short performance.

Return to Bergen this afternoon, where the rest of the day is free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Day 13 Bergen • *Norway in a Nutshell* tour • Borgund Stave Church • Oslo

- Destination: Oslo
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Thon Hotel Opera or similar

Activity Note: Your itinerary for the day is subject to change based on available train schedules.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Embark on an included *Norway in a Nutshell* tour, making discoveries by both train and motorcoach. Travel by train from Bergen to Myrdal early this morning. At Myrdal, you'll hop aboard the vintage Flam Railway for a spectacular ride across the steep and narrow Flam Valley. You'll admire waterfalls and glacier-carved ravines as you ride towards Flam, where you'll board a motorcoach that will take you to Oslo.

Lunch: Enjoy an included light lunch before you head to Borgund Stave Church.

Afternoon: Explore Borgund Stave Church, a medieval church built in the 13th century with stark, uniquely Scandinavian architecture. It is now a museum, preserving this rare type of

church for future generations. Arrive in Oslo later in the afternoon, where you'll arrive this evening and check into your hotel.

Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Day 14 Explore Oslo

- Destination: Oslo
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Thon Hotel Opera or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Explore Oslo on an included tour during which you'll visit the whimsical Vigeland Sculpture Park, featuring a collection of more than 200 granite, bronze, and wrought iron statues examining the cycle of life and the human form, including world famous works like *The Monolith* (a 46-foot high obelisk composed of 121 intertwined bodies). You'll also stop at the *Fram* Museum, dedicated to the history of Norwegian polar exploration. The centerpiece of the museum is the *Fram* itself, a wooden vessel used by Fridtjof Nansen, Otto Sverdrup, Oscar Wisting, and Roald Amundsen to explore both the North and South poles in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The *Fram* is now housed as a museum ship where visitors can explore its preserved interior.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: Free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations. You might choose to visit the National Gallery, featuring works of art by Norwegian masters, including native son Edvard Munch. You might also consider visiting Akershus Castle, a medieval fortress that houses the Norwegian Resistance Museum, which documents efforts

to overthrow the Nazis, who occupied Norway during World War II. Or view the Royal Palace, constructed between 1825 and 1848 and the official residence of Norway's royal family, and Oslo City Hall, where the Nobel Peace Prize is presented every tenth of December.

Dinner: Join your fellow travelers at your hotel for a Farewell Dinner to recount your favorite memories from your Norwegian vacation.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 15 Oslo • Return to U.S.

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the Oslo airport for your flight home. Or begin your post-trip extension in *Copenhagen, Denmark*.

END YOUR TRIP WITH AN OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION

4 nights in *Copenhagen, Denmark*

Day 1 Oslo, Norway •
Copenhagen, Denmark

Day 2 Explore Copenhagen

Day 3 Copenhagen

Day 4 Copenhagen

Day 5 Copenhagen • Return to U.S.

OPTIONAL TOURS

During your trip you will be able to book optional tours directly with your Program Director. He or she will ask you to confirm the payment for these tours by filling out a payment form. Optional tours can only be purchased with a credit or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards. We also accept Visa and MasterCard debit cards, but it must be a debit card that allows you to sign for purchases.

In order to correctly process these charges, there can be a delay of 2–3 months from the date of your return for the charges to be posted to your account. Therefore we ask that you use a card that will not expire in the 2–3 months following your return.

Please note: *Optional tour prices include gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers, are listed in U.S. dollar estimates determined at the time of publication, and are subject to change. Optional tours may vary.*

Music of the Fjords

(Day 12 \$140 per person)

Delve into the musical history of Norway on this half-day optional tour. Begin at the former home of Edvard Grieg, a legendary Norwegian composer of the Romantic era. Grieg's works helped to put Norway on the musical map, and to define this era of classical music. Tour his home (which is now a museum) and then attend a concert performance by an expertly-trained pianist.

Then, after lunch (included in the cost of this optional tour), you'll attend a demonstration of the traditional Norwegian musical instruments featured in the performance of Norwegian classical music.

PRE-TRIP

Stockholm, Sweden

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » **Accommodations** for 3 nights, including 1 night aboard a ferry
- » **5 meals:** 3 breakfasts and 2 dinners
- » **1 included tour:** Stockholm
- » Dedicated services of a local Grand Circle Program Director
- » **Gratuities** for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- » All transfers

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

Old World beauty, cutting-edge design, and an island-hopping layout—Stockholm is one of the world’s most singular cities. Discover the regal palaces, modern art, and verdant parks of Sweden’s capital and experience the vibrant cosmopolitan culture thriving in a landscape once home to the Vikings.

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Depart the U.S. today on your flight to Stockholm. Please refer to your personal air itinerary for exact departure and arrival times.

Day 2 Arrive Stockholm, Sweden

- Destination: Stockholm
- Accommodations: Grand Central by Scandic or similar

Morning: Upon arrival, you’ll be met at the airport and assisted to your hotel. Stockholm is an archipelago within an archipelago, the city occupying a cluster of 14 islands floating among 24,000 that make up a 60-mile chain. You’ll enjoy a walk around the vicinity of your hotel to introduce you to the area in which you’ll be staying.

Lunch/Afternoon: Yours to do as you please. Your Program Director will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

Dinner: On your own tonight. Your Program Director can point out restaurants in the neighborhood.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 3 Explore Stockholm • Optional Vasa Museum & Skansen tour

- Destination: Stockholm
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Grand Central by Scandic or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: See the charms that lure one in five Swedes to live in the capital city, as you enjoy an included sightseeing tour of Stockholm. You’ll see the Stadhuset (City Hall), known world over as the site of the Nobel Prize banquet. Designed in 1923, this romantic facade is not just the city’s seat of government, but

is also a national symbol, as the building's 300-foot tower, topped with three golden crowns that represent Sweden's coat of arms, will attest. Right before lunch, those who chose to take the optional tour will head to the Vasa Museum, dedicated to a 17th-century warship. In 1628, the Vasa, a fearsome warship with 64 guns and 300 soldiers, set off on a maiden voyage two years in the making—and then sank in the harbor. Like the later Titanic, the Vasa was an epic ship that became a symbol of tragedy and Sweden never forgot her. Hundreds of years later, in 1961, the Vasa was raised from the seabed and returned to land. Today, restored and preserved, still outfitted with its original masts, deadeyes and blocks, the Vasa is one of Stockholm's most well-loved icons.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations. Those who take the optional Vasa Museum & Skansen tour will sit down for an included lunch.

Afternoon: Free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations. Those on the optional tour will take a funicular ride to the center of Skansen, located at the top of Djurgården, a forested island at the center of Stockholm. Skansen is the oldest continually operating outdoor museum in the world, founded in 1891. A 75-acre 19th-century village in which living history performers demonstrate baking, glass-blowing, leather tanning, shoemaking, silversmithing, and more, Skansen immerses visitors in a rural way of life its founder saw disappearing as the 20th century approached. The village hosts folkloric performances for a taste of traditional Swedish music and dance. You'll also find a collection of Nordic animals—from livestock to wildlife like wolverines and lynx—for a richer perspective of life in the archipelago.

Dinner: Enjoy an included Welcome Dinner with your fellow travelers at your hotel tonight.

Evening: Yours to spend as you please. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Day 4 Stockholm • Helsinki, Finland

- Destination: Helsinki
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Silja Overnight Ferry or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: At leisure. Your Program Director will happily share their insider tips. You might delve into the earliest roots of Swedish culture at the National Historical Museum, whose collections span 10,000 years from the Stone Ages to the Middle Ages. It features artifacts from the Viking era, centuries-old textiles, a Gothic collection, and a "Gold Room" housing 114 pounds of objects (not to mention almost 450 pounds of silver work).

Lunch: Lunch is on your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: After lunch, you'll board your overnight ferry and cruise towards Helsinki, Finland.

Dinner: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll take advantage of the ferry's many modern amenities, including a lively promenade featuring shops and cafes, as well as live onboard entertainment.

Day 5 Helsinki • Join main trip

- Destination: Helsinki
- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: Disembark the ferry in Helsinki, where you'll begin your *Nordic Coastal Voyage: Norway, Finland & the Arctic Circle Cruise Tour*.

OPTIONAL TOUR

Vasa Museum & Skansen

(Day 3 \$165 per person)

Your tour starts at the mighty Vasa Museum, dedicated to a historic 17th-century warship that is treasured as one of Stockholm's most well-loved cultural legacies. Then, after lunch (included in the cost of your optional tour), visit Skansen, the oldest continually operating outdoor museum in the world. Here you'll tour a 75-acre 19th-century village in which living history performers demonstrate baking, glass-blowing, leather tanning, shoemaking, silversmithing, and more, immersing yourself in a rural way of life that disappeared as the 20th century approached.

POST-TRIP

Copenhagen, Denmark

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » **Accommodations** for 4 nights, including 1 night aboard a ferry
- » **5 meals:** 4 breakfasts and 1 dinner
- » **1 included tour:** Copenhagen
- » **Copenhagen Card:** Free entrance to more than 60 attractions and free public transportation within the city
- » Dedicated services of a local Grand Circle Program Director
- » **Gratuities** for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- » All transfers

POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

Copenhagen's native son Hans Christian Andersen rendered Danish life as a fairy tale, but you'll see plenty of evidence that the real thing is just as memorable. Revel in a three-night stay that allows you to explore the city at your own pace.

Day 1 Oslo, Norway • Copenhagen, Denmark

- Destination: Copenhagen
- Included Meals: Dinner
- Accommodations: DFDS Seaways Overnight Ferry

Morning: At leisure in Oslo to enjoy the extra time to further explore Norway's capital city and its many notable museums.

Lunch/Afternoon: Yours to do as you please. Your Program Director will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner with your fellow travelers onboard in the ferry's dining room as you cruise the scenic waters.

Evening: Depart for a leisurely overnight cruise to Copenhagen, Denmark aboard a DFDS Seaways Ferry, which features private cabins and a variety of onboard amenities.

Day 2 Explore Copenhagen

- Destination: Copenhagen
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Copenhagen Strand Hotel or similar

Activity Note: In order to use the Copenhagen card, you will need to have a smartphone to download it, as it is a digital card. Your Program Director will inform you of the app you will need prior to your arrival and assist you with activating your card. Once the card is downloaded and activated, you do not need access to Wifi to use it.

Breakfast: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: Arrive in Copenhagen. The world's oldest capital city is also among the most welcoming in Scandinavia—the Danes are known for being more extroverted than their neighbors, as you'll experience during your stay here.

As you transfer to the hotel, take in the sights of Copenhagen during a panoramic city tour with your Program Director en route, giving you a glimpse of the city's colorful houses, canals, charming pedestrian squares, and innovative modern architectural designs. After you've settled into your room, join your Program Director on a discovery walk of the area around your hotel, where you might find a number of shops or cozy cafes to return to during your time at leisure in this compact capital.

You'll receive a personal Copenhagen Card which allows entry to 60 of the city's attractions and free transport on the bus, metro, and train lines. This card will be your passport to exploring the city at your leisure over the next few days, allowing you to follow your interests to the activities and destinations that most appeal to you.

Lunch/Afternoon: Yours to do as you please. Your Program Director will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

Dinner: On your own. Whether you want rustic traditional seafood or high-end "New Nordic" cuisine (in which Danish staples like elderberry, herring, and salmon are infused with modern techniques and ingredients from around the world), your Program Director will have plenty of suggestions. You can choose from a true smorgasbord of options—Copenhagen boasts more than 2,000 restaurants and cafes.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendation. Perhaps

watch the lights come on at Tivoli Gardens, an 1843 amusement park where the 25 rides are complemented by three dozen restaurants, an open-air performance space, an aquarium, concert halls and theaters.

Day 3 Copenhagen

- Destination: Copenhagen
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Copenhagen Strand Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Choose to join your Program Director for a day trip to one of the city's outlying villages, using your included Copenhagen card for transportation. Or, if you'd rather spend the day exploring independently, your Program Director will be happy to provide you with suggestions for visiting the gems of Copenhagen that best suit you. Perhaps your discoveries of Copenhagen—pronounced with a long "a," like in the word "name"—will lead you to Nyhavn (New Harbor), the 17th-century waterfront and canal area that is now the heart of entertainment in the city. Bars, cafes, and restaurants outline the waterway, and dozens of vividly painted 300-year-old houses add to the lively feel of this district. But you'll also find a more solemn note in the main square of Nyhavn, which features an oversize anchor to honor the Danish sailors who lost their lives in World War II.

Lunch/Afternoon: Yours to do as you please. Your Program Director will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Day 4 Copenhagen

- Destination: Copenhagen
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Copenhagen Strand Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: You may choose to join your Program Director for a discovery walk through the city, or you can opt to set off on your own independent discoveries. Perhaps you'll travel back in time today by seeking out some of the local castles. Rosenborg Castle houses the crown jewels inside but boasts a gem of natural beauty outside: 40 acres of lush royal gardens. At Amalienborg Palace, a quartet of royal residences framing a grand courtyard, you may enjoy the public ritual of the changing of the guard.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: Free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations. Maybe you'll choose to visit the Opera House, one of the most modern concert halls on Earth, or the nearby Marble Church, which took 150 years to complete, and boasts an elegant dome resting atop twelve pillars. If you're feeling up for a hike, following the 686-foot indoor spiral ramp leading to the top of the *Rundetaarn* (Round Tower), which is Europe's oldest observatory. The viewing platform 100 feet above the street offers beautiful vistas of the city.

Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Day 5 Copenhagen • Return to U.S.

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the airport for your flight home.