The Westfjords (Iceland)

Surround yourself in Iceland's most dramatic landscapes, including jagged bird cliffs, broad multihued beaches, jaw-dropping coastal fjords, immense central mountains and tiny fishing villages embracing traditional ways of life.

Inari (Finland)

A prime viewing spot for the Aurora Borealis, Inari lies near the national park of the same name and is the start or endpoint for the spectacular 425km Kungsleden hiking trail.

Abisko (Sweden)

This tiny village is home to the wonderful Siida museum devoted to Sámi culture and environment, and a great base for hiking in the nearby Lemmenjoki National Park and Kevo Strict Nature Reserve.

Daugavpils (Latvia)

With a fairly well-preserved historical centre and a mighty fortress, Daugavpils has more recently been put on the tourist map by the new Rothko Centre devoted to contemporary art.

Brest (Belarus)

A prime viewing spot for the Aurora Borealis, Abisko lies near the national park of the same name and is the start or endpoint for the spectacular 425km Kungsleden hiking trail.

Odesa (Ukraine)

An energetic, decadent boomtown of pastel-coloured neoclassical buildings, famous for its Potemkin Steps sweeping down to the Black Sea and Ukraine's biggest commercial port.