

# Scandinavia



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# **Plan Your Trip**

# **Itineraries**





# 🗽 Scandinavia in a Nutshell

This quick hop jaunts around southern Scandinavia's classic sights. With just a week, it's essentially one city in each of Denmark, Sweden and Norway; extra time allows more detailed exploration.

Start in **Copenhagen**, admiring the waterfront, museums and lights of Tivoli at night. Take a day-trip to the cathedral

and Viking Ship Museum at **Roskilde** or Hamlet's castle at **Helsingør**.

Next, train it to **Stockholm** and get into the design scene and the watery town centre. An overnight train takes you to **Oslo** to check out Munch's work and the city's extraordinary museums. From Oslo, a long but scenic day includes the rail trip to **Flåm** and a combination boat and bus journey along the Sognefiord to



Kronborg Slot (p65), Denmark

**Bergen**, Norway's prettiest city. Out of time? Fly out from Bergen.

Otherwise, head to **Kristiansand**, where there's a ferry to **Hirtshals**. Nose on down to **Aarhus** – don't miss the ARoS art museum. From here, it's an easy train back to Copenhagen.

Extra days? A side trip from Stockholm on a Baltic ferry could take you to **Hel-sinki** or picturesque **Tallinn**.

Other stops could include **Gothen**burg or **Kalmar**; more fjord-y Norwegian experiences at **Fjærland** and **Geiranger**; or extra Danish time at **Odense**.









Top: Polar bears (p365), Svalbard, Norway Bottom: Sami reindeer-fur handicrafts (p467)



This thorough visit to the north takes in Santa, Sámi culture, spectacular coastal scenery and opportunities for excellent activities. It'll be a completely different experience in summer or in winter.

Take the overnight train from **Helsinki** to **Rovaniemi**. Visit the fabulous Arktikum, chat with Santa Claus and stock up on anything you might need for your wilderness adventure; it will be a while before you see another town this big. Head north, crossing the Arctic Circle to **Saariselkä**, a base for great activities, whether hiking in the adjacent Urho Kekkonen National Park in summer or husky-sledding trips in winter. There's a huge range of other things on offer year-round, too.

From here it's a short hop to the Sámi village of **Inari**, where Siida is a wonderful exhibition on Lapland's nature and indigenous cultures. Check out the craft shops too, and the impressive parliament building. To continue the theme, head onward to **Karasjok**, Inari's Norwegian counterpart and an important meeting place for representatives of different Sámi groups.

From Karasjok (and Inari) summer buses run to **Nordkapp**, where you can stand at the top of Europe and gaze out towards the utter north. From nearby **Honningsvåg**, each the *Hurtigruten* coastal steamer to the stunning **Lofoten Islands**, possibly stopping in lively **Tromsø**. Did we say Nordkapp was the top of Europe? We lied; from Tromsø there are flights way north to **Svalbard**, demesne of polar bears and an epic Arctic experience to really impress the folks back home.

Take some time to enjoy the Lofoten Islands, doing some cycling and visiting the Lofotr Viking Museum. When you're done, the *Hurtigruten* heads right down to Bergen, but jump off in **Narvik** and take the train to **Kiruna**, a remote Swedish mining town, and, in winter, home to the famous Icehotel. On the way, stop off for some hiking or aurora-watching at stunning **Abisko National Park**. Also be sure to check out the Sámi village and typical reindeer-herding region of **Jokkmokk**.

From here, you could fly, train or bus all the way south to **Stockholm**, cut back into Norway to continue your trip down the coast, or head to the Finnish border at **Haparanda/Tornio** to head back to Helsinki from there.

# Finland & the Baltic

Starting in Stockholm, this itinerary follows the old trading routes around the Baltic and covers plenty of Finland, including the capital, Helsinki, and beautiful Lakeland, also taking in the sumptuous Baltic city of Tallinn.

Kick things off in **Stockholm**, for centuries a Baltic trading powerhouse. Admire its picturesque Old Town and ponder that famously neutral Sweden once ruled most of the Baltic from here. Take a day trip to ancient **Uppsala** before taking advantage of Stockholm's cheap, luxurious overnight ferries to Helsinki. Don't overdo it on the duty-free booze, because you'll want a good view of the spectacular arrival in **Helsin-ki**, where you should investigate the cathedrals, market halls, modern architecture and design scene. Catch a classical concert at Musiikkitalo or a rock gig at legendary Tavastia.

From here, a good excursion heads east to the town of **Porvoo**, with its picturesque wooden warehouses and cathedral. Back in Helsinki, it's an easy boat ride across the Baltic to medieval **Tallinn**, a historic treasure trove that's worth a couple of days' exploration. If time's short, take a day trip.

In summer, take the train to the shimmering lakes of **Savonlinna**, with its awesome medieval castle and opera festival, and/or **Kuopio**, to steam up in its large smoke sauna. If you have the time, historic lake boats travel between these and other inland Finnish towns, a fabulously leisurely way to travel on a sunny day. A side trip from either of these towns can take you to **Joensuu**, from where you can visit the Orthodox monastery of **Valamo** or what is deservingly claimed to be Finland's best view at **Koli National Park**.

Turning west, head to the dynamic cultural city of **Tampere**, visiting its quirky museums and re-imagined fabric mills, and patronising its interesting cafes and restaurants. Then it's on to the third member of the trinity of Finnish cities, intriguing **Turku**, with excellent museums of its own, a towering castle and cathedral, and some very quirky drinking dens. From here you can get a ferry back to Sweden via the **Aland islands**. Stop off here for as long as you wish and tour the archipelago by bike.





Top: Koli National Park (p175), Finland Bottom: Musiikkitalo (p136), Helsinki, Finland













Top: Landmannalaugar (p266), Iceland Bottom: Vestmannaeyjar (p269), Iceland



This trip takes in a little of Denmark then takes to the seas in true Viking style as you head to Iceland, brooding volcanically in the mid-Atlantic, via a stop in the bird-rich archipelago of the Faroes.

Fly into **Copenhagen**, taking some time to absorb its addictive atmosphere. Get in the mood for your sea crossing by visiting the Viking Boat Museum at nearby **Roskilde**. Then hit north Jutland and the beautiful dunes at **Skagen**, where, at the sandy headland of Grenen, two seas meet at Denmark's northernmost tip.

Jump aboard the Smyril Line ferry leaving from nearby **Hirtshals**. In summer there are two ferries running per week, so you can make a three-day stop in the remote **Faroe Islands**, but in the low season it's either nine hours there or a whole week. If you manage some time on the islands, giggle at the comical puffins on the awesome cliffs of **Mykines** and take a boat trip to visit the immense seabird colonies at **Vestmanna**.

The ferry continues to Iceland, arriving at **Seyðisfjörður**. From here journey along the south coast past **Skaftafell**, a national park area that is one of Iceland's most spectacularly scenic regions, offering great hiking and unforgettable glacier walks. If you've got time to explore, head to the interior for the amazing geoscapes of **Landmannalaugar**. Take the three-day hike to Pórsmörk, one of Europe's most spectacular walks. The tough extra day to **Skógar** takes you across some of the country's newest lava fields. Next, you could head out to see the bird life and traditional communities of the **Vestmannaeviar** islands.

Hit the capital **Reykjavík**, enjoy the nightlife, visit the Saga Museum and take a trip to the Blue Lagoon. Then travel around the Ring Rd to the north of the island, where an R&R stop at peaceful fjord-side **Akureyri** can include a side trip to the **Mývatn** natural thermal baths and the steaming volcanic landscape of **Krafla**.

From here, you can return to the ferry terminal to head back to Copenhagen by sea if you're still game, otherwise you can fly back from Reykjavík.

# **Map Legend**

# Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Ŏ Jain
- 0 lewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- ø Shinto Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

# Activities. Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kavaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

# Sleeping

- Sleeping Camping
- Eating

Eating

# Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

## Entertainment

Entertainment

# Shopping

Shopping

# Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate ♣ Hospital/Medical
- @ Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- (II) Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

# Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse Lookout
- ▲ Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- ) ( Pass Picnic Area
- Waterfall

# **Population**

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province) Citv/Large Town
- Town/Village

# Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- ++ Cable car/Funicular
- - Cycling
- -@- Ferry
- Metro station
- Parking
  - Petrol station
  - S-Bahn/Subway station
  - Taxi
  - T-bane/Tunnelbana station

- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

# Routes

Tollway Freeway

Primary Secondary

Tertiary Lane

Unsealed road Road under construction

Plaza/Mall Steps

> = = Tunnel Pedestrian overpass

Walking Tour Walking Tour detour

Path/Walking Trail

## **Boundaries**

--- International

 State/Province Disputed

Regional/Suburb Marine Park

Cliff - Wall

# **Hydrography**

River, Creek Intermittent River Canal

Water

Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake

Reef

# Areas

Airport/Runway Beach/Desert Cemetery (Christian) Cemetery (Other)

Glacier

Mudflat Park/Forest

Sight (Building)

Sportsground

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#### Mara Vorhees

Finland Mara writes about food, travel and family fun around the world. Her work has been published by BBC Travel, Boston *Globe*, Delta Sky, Vancouver *Sun* and more. For Lonely Planet, she regularly writes about destinations in Central America and Eastern Europe, as well as New England, where she lives. She often travels with her twin boys in tow, earning her an expertise in family travel. Follow their adventures and misadventures at www.havetwinswilltravel.com.



#### Benedict Walker

Sweden An Australian BA (Communications) graduate and travel agent by trade, Ben whittled away his twenties gallivanting around the globe before landing his first Lonely Planet gig, *Japan*. Aside from writing guidebooks, he's also written and directed a play, toured Australia managing the travel logistics for top-billing music festivals and is currently exploring his original major of photography and film-making. Join his journeys on Instagram: @wordsandjourneys.



## **Donna Wheeler**

Norway Donna became a travel writer after various careers as a commissioning editor, creative director, digital producer and content strategist. She has written guidebooks for Lonely Planet for more than ten years, including the *Italy*, *Norway*, *Belgium*, *France*, *Austria* and *Australia* titles. Donna's work on contemporary art, architecture and design, food, wine, wilderness and cultural history also can be found in a variety of other publications. She loves cities, mountains and the sea.



#### Belinda Dixon

lceland Only happy when her feet are sandy, Belinda has been (gleefully) travelling, researching and writing for Lonely Planet since 2006. A trained radio journalist, her innate nosiness means few likely-looking sleep spots go unexplored. Belinda is also an adventure writer – see her VideoBlog posts at https://belindadixon.com



#### Mark Elliott

Denmark Mark Elliott had already lived and worked on five continents when he cowrote Asia Overland, one of the first guides to help backpackers cross the then-new states of the former USSR. He has since authored (or co-authored) around 60 books including dozens for Lonely Planet. He also acts as a travel consultant, occasional tour leader, video presenter, speaker, interviewer and blues harmonicist.



#### Catherine Le Nevez

Finland Catherine has travelled to around 60 countries, completing postgraduate qualifications in Creative Arts in Writing, Professional Writing, and Editing and Publishing along the way. Over the past dozen-plus years she's written scores of Lonely Planet guides and articles, as well as work for online and print publications. Her top travel tip is to go without any expectations.



## Virginia Maxwell

Finland Based in Australia, Virginia spends at least half of her year updating Lonely Planet destination coverage in Europe and the Middle East. Though the Mediterranean is her major area of interest, Virginia also writes LP guides to Finland, Armenia, Iran and Australia. Follow her @maxwellvirginia on Instagram and Twitter.



# Craig McLachlan

Sweden Craig has covered destinations all over the globe for Lonely Planet for two decades. Based in Queenstown, New Zealand for half the year, he runs an outdoor activities company and a sake brewery, then moonlights overseas for the other half. Craig is also a Japanese interpreter, pilot, photographer, hiking guide, tour leader, karate instructor and budding novelist. Check out www.craigmclachlan.com.



#### Hugh McNaughtan

Tallinn A former English lecturer, Hugh swapped grant applications for visa applications, and turned his love of travel intro a full-time thing. Having done a bit of restaurant-reviewing in his home town (Melbourne) he's now eaten his way across four continents. He's never happier than when on the road with his two daughters. Except perhaps on the cricket field...



## **Becky Ohlsen**

Sweden Becky is a freelance writer, editor and critic based in Portland, Oregon. Though raised in the mountains of Colorado, Becky has been exploring Sweden since childhood, while visiting her grandparents and other relatives in Stockholm and parts north. When she's not covering ground for Lonely Planet, Becky is working on a book about motorcycles and the paradoxical appeal of risk.



# Andy Symington

Andy has worked on over a hundred books and updates for Lonely Planet (specialising in Europe and Latin America), and has published articles on numerous subjects for a variety of newspapers, magazines and websites. He part-owns and operates a rock bar and has written a novel. When he's not travelling the world, he can be found in his adopted home in northern Spain. Andy wrote the Plan and Survival Guide sections of this book.



# **OUR STORY**

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, Across Asia on the Cheap. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born. Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne,

Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

# **OUR WRITERS**



# **Anthony Ham**

Norway Anthony is a freelance writer and photographer who specialises in Spain, East and Southern Africa, the Arctic and the Middle East, working for Lonely Planet and other publications in the US, UK and Australia. An Australian, Anthony found his spiritual home in Madrid: arriving on a one-way ticket in 2001, he finally left ten years later, speaking Spanish with a Madrid accent and married to a local. Now back in Australia, Anthony continues to travel the world in search of stories.



## Alexis Averbuck

Iceland Alexis has travelled and lived all over the world, from Sri Lanka to Ecuador, Zanzibar and Antarctica. For Lonely Planet, Alexis specializes in Iceland, France, Greece and Antarctica. She also writes for the BBC, international magazines and newspapers and online platforms, presents travel TV programs and exhibits her oil paintings and watercolors.



## Carolyn Bain

Denmark A travel writer and editor for more than 20 years, Carolyn has lived, worked and studied in various corners of the globe, including Denmark, London, St Petersburg and Nantucket. She has authored more than 50 Lonely Planet titles, with her all-time favourite research destination being Iceland. Her love of the country recently led her to relocate from Melbourne, Australia to Reykjavík.



#### Oliver Berry

Norway Oliver has been a writer and photographer for Lonely Planet for more than a decade, working on more than thirty guidebooks. His writing for Lonely Planet and other newspapers and magazines has won several awards, including The Guardian Young Travel Writer of the Year and the TNT Magazine Peoples Choice Award. Read more at www.oliverberry.com.



#### Cristian Bonetto

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# OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

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