

Northern Highlights + St. Petersburg

Guaranteed departures:

14 nights Oslo – St. Petersburg
Tuesdays –
July 18



Day 1: ARRIVE OSLO

Transfer from Oslo Gardermoen Airport to hotel in connection with your flight arrival. **Dinner and accommodation at Radisson BLU Plaza Hotel Oslo**, ideally situated close to the Karl Johans Gate. Your tour escort will meet you at 19.50 hrs (before dinner) in the hotel lobby.

Day 2: OSLO - ULVIK

After breakfast departure from Oslo, driving via Hønefoss along the charming Halling Valley to the tourist resort town of Geilo. **Buffet lunch at Bardøla Mountain Hotel**. After lunch cross the wild Hardanger Mountain Plateau to Fossli, stopping to view the thundering Vøringsfoss Waterfall with a vertical drop of 180 m. **Dinner and accommodation at Brakanes Hotel**, ideally located on the banks of the fjord.

Day 3: ULVIK - BERGEN

After buffet breakfast, start of scenic tour along the beautiful Hardanger Fjord, famous for its many fruit orchards, via the towns of Øystese and Norheimsund, arriving in Bergen around midday. **Lunch at a local restaurant**. Afternoon 2 hours tour of Bergen, including a visit to the popular Fish and Flower Market, the famous Bryggen Harbour with its gabled packhouses, and the old Hanseatic Quarter. You will also ride on the funicular to Mt. Fløyen, for the best views of the city and fjords way below. **Accommodation at First Hotel Marin**.

Day 4: BERGEN - FLÅM - BALESTRAND

After breakfast departure from Bergen and drive via Dale to the town of Voss. Board the train in Voss for a ride on the beautiful Bergen Railway to the mountain station of Myrdal. From Myrdal ride on the amazing Flåm Railway, a masterpiece of engineering descending 2.838 feet in less than one hour. The descent to the fjord side village of Flåm offers opportunities for photo shots of exciting waterfalls and mountain scenery. After a short rest in Flåm, start of approx. 2 hours cruise by boat along the narrow Aurlands and Nærøy Fjords, both branches of the Sogn Fjord, the longest and deepest fjord in the world. Enjoy the spectacular scenery of cascading waterfalls, sheer mountain cliffs, snow-clad peaks, and a variety of wildlife. After disembarking in Gudvangen at the head of the Nærøy Fjord, continue by coach through the amazing Stalheim Canyon and Nærøy Valley, across the Vika Mountains to Vangsnes, for the short ferry crossing to the beautiful resort of Balestrand. **Dinner and accommodation at Kvikne's Hotel**, superbly located on the banks of the fjord and surrounded by mountains.



Day 5: BALESTRAND – A DAY IN THE FJORDS

Day free in Balestrand, giving you the opportunity to enjoy the outstanding beauty and nature of the fjords. The day starts with a traditional Norwegian buffet breakfast in the hotel's elegant dining room. You may want to spend the morning relaxing on the hotel terrace, breathing in the fresh mountain air and enjoying the spectacular views. We can also recommend a visit to the local aquarium and art gallery, or you may prefer to rent a bike or rowing boat from the hotel, or even go on foot up to the nearest mountains. A walking tour of the village of Balestrand, with its historic buildings and other interesting sites can also be arranged. **Dinner and accommodation at Kvikne's Hotel.**



Day 6: BALESTRAND - GEIRANGER

After breakfast departure from your hotel by ferry from Dragsvik to Hella, followed by a scenic tour along the northern side of the Sogn Fjord to Sogndal. The tour continues by road to Fjærland, passing under the Jostedal Glacier, the largest in Europe, to the village of Skei at the northern end of beautiful Lake Jølster. Descend to the beautiful Nord Fjord, making a detour at Olden to visit the world-famous Briksdal Glacier. The journey up to the glacier will be made in open cars to give you the best of views. Afterwards **lunch** will be served in sight of the glacier. During the afternoon the tour continues via Loen and Stryn, to the picturesque village of Hellesylt. From here you go on board the ferry for the one hour's cruise along the spectacular Geiranger Fjord, possibly the most impressive of all the Norwegian fjords. During the cruise you will pass close by some magnificent waterfalls, such as the Bridal Veil and the Seven Sisters. **Dinner and accommodation at the excellent Union Hotel**, overlooking the Geiranger Fjord.

Day 7: GEIRANGER - OSLO

From the top of the famous Serpentine Road, you have the opportunity to digest some amazing views of the fjord, before crossing the rugged Grotli Mountains to Lom, well known for its 14th century stave church. The tour continues via Lake Vågå, before descending the magnificent Gudbrands Valley to the popular tourist town of Lillehammer. **Lunch in Lillehammer.** After lunch the journey continues alongside Lake Mjøsa, Norway's largest lake, back to Oslo. **Dinner and accommodation at Radisson BLU Plaza Hotel Oslo**

Day 8: OSLO - STOCKHOLM

After breakfast departure from Oslo, continuing by coach towards the Swedish border. Cross into the attractive province of Värmland to arrive in the city of Karlstad on Lake Vänern, the largest in Sweden. **Lunch in Karlstad.** After lunch the tour continues through a landscape of forests and sparkling lakes to reach the Swedish capital in the late afternoon. **Dinner and accommodation at the Clarion Hotel Sign,** first class hotel centrally located.

Day 9: STOCKHOLM

The day starts with a 4 hours guided tour of the city. Famous sights include the Royal Palace, Parliament Buildings, Cathedral, Royal Theatre, etc. You will also visit the enchanting Old Town (Gamla Stan) with its narrow cobbled streets and numerous antique shops. Highlight of the tour is a visit to City Hall with its impressive Blue and Golden Halls, where the Nobel Prize banquet is held each year. Afternoon free in Stockholm, with possibility to visit the famous Vasa Museum or take one of the popular canal tours. **Accommodation at the Clarion Hotel Sign.**



Day 10: STOCKHOLM - HELSINKI

Morning free in Stockholm. Afternoon transfer from hotel to pier, for embarkation on a luxurious cruise ferry of the Silja Line. 17.00 hrs: Departure from Stockholm, sailing slowly through the picturesque archipelago past numerous small islands. **Dinner on board.** Choice of entertainment, bars, shops and casino. **Accommodation is in 2-berth outside cabins (seaside) with shower/WC.** We recommend you to bring an overnight bag for this cruise, to avoid having to bring suitcases to and from your cabin.



Day 11: HELSINKI

Enjoy your **buffet breakfast** as you sail into Helsinki harbour. After disembarkation 3 hours guided tour of Helsinki. Famous sights include the Senate Square, Uspenski Cathedral, Parliament House, Finlandia Hall, Sibelius Park & Monument, Underground Temple, and much more. During the afternoon you can explore the busy market place or the many souvenir shops close to the harbour. Finnish crystal and leather goods are an excellent buy. **Dinner and accommodation at the Haven Hotel,** another first class hotel centrally located.

Day 12: HELSINKI - ST. PETERSBURG

Breakfast followed by transfer by coach from hotel to railway station. 10.00 hrs: Departure from Helsinki on train "Allegro" for St. Petersburg. Lunch box on train. 14.36 hrs: Arrival in St. Petersburg. Coach transfer from railway station to hotel combined with 1 hour's guided boat cruise along the Neva River and visit at St. Isaac's Cathedral. **Welcome dinner** incl. shot of vodka and 1 glass wine, **and accommodation at Ambassador Hotel**, a four star hotel located in the city centre, near the famous Mariinsky Theatre.



Day 13: ST. PETERSBURG

Buffet breakfast at hotel. The day begins with a transfer to Neva River cruise harbour for cruise by hydrofoil to Peterhof, including Grand Palace and lower parks with fountains. **Lunch at local restaurant.** After lunch, tour of the world-famous Hermitage Art Museum and the State Rooms of the Winter Palace. Return to hotel. **Dinner and accommodation at Ambassador Hotel**

Day 14: ST. PETERSBURG

Buffet breakfast at hotel and 3 hours panoramic tour of the city by coach with local English-speaking guide. St. Petersburg is a city of outstanding architectural beauty, famous for its magnificent palaces, cathedrals, fountains and bridges and the tour includes sights as the Square of Arts, the Russian Museum, the Cathedral of Our Saviour on the Spilt Blood, Griboedov canal, Nevsky prospect, the Palace Square with the Winter Palace, the spit of the Basil's Island, the Menshikov Palace, the Senate Square, and the Bronze Horseman. A visit will be paid to Peter & Paul Fortress. **Lunch at local restaurant.** After lunch, transfer to town of Pushkin followed by a visit to Catherine's Palace including the famous Amber room. Return to St. Petersburg. This evening you will be taken to see a colourful Russian folklore show at the Nikolaevsky Palace, with snacks during the intermission. **Dinner at the Dostoevsky Restaurant. Accommodation at Ambassador Hotel**

Day 15: ST. PETERSBURG DEPARTURE

Buffet breakfast at hotel followed by transfer to the Airport for your flight home.

Price includes:

14 nights Oslo – St. Petersburg

- * 13 nights' accommodation including daily 3-course or buffet dinner (except on second day in Stockholm and in Bergen) and buffet breakfast, in centrally located first class hotels, all rooms with private facilities.
- * 6 lunches on days 2,3, 6, 7, 8, 13 and 14, plus packed lunch on train Helsinki – St. Petersburg.
- * 3 hours guided tours of Helsinki and 4 hours Stockholm, all entrances included.
- * Panoramic tour of Bergen incl. ride on the Bergen Funicular to Mt. Fløyen.
- * Ride on the Bergen and Flåm Railways, Voss-Myrdal-Flåm.

- * 2 hours cruise on the Sogn and Nærøy Fjords, and 1 hours cruise on the Geiranger Fjord.
- * Excursion in open car to the Briksdal Glacier.
- * All internal ferry crossings in Norway.
- * Overnight cruise Stockholm – Helsinki, incl. accommodation in 2-berth outside cabins with shower/WC, dinner and buffet breakfast on board.
- * Train Helsinki – St. Petersburg, including coach transfers between hotels and railways stations.
- * Complete programme in St. Petersburg, including 3 hours city tour, visit to Peter & Paul Fortress, St. Isaac’s Cathedral, Hermitage Museum and Winter Palace, Pushkin, 1 hour’s guided canal tour, plus folklore show at Nikolaevsky Palace incl. snacks during intermission and dinner at Backstage Restaurant.
- * Hydrofoil from St. Petersburg to Peterhof, incl. entrance to Lower Parks and Grand Palace
- * Luggage assistance at all hotels while with the group.
- * English speaking tour escort throughout.
- * Transportation by modern deluxe coach with reclining seats and seatbelts.
- * Transfers airport/hotel on first and last days. Transfers to/from a different airport than the one mentioned in the tour programme may incur a supplement. Please refer to Airport Transfers under General Information & Conditions.

Prices:

14 Nights Oslo – St. Petersburg

USD 5,370.00 per person.

single supplement USD 1320.00

For more information, please contact Scandia World Travel at 800-722-4322