



## *Stunning Stockholm, Fabulous Finland and Natural Norway*

*Join us for a very special 15-day tour through Sweden, Finland and Norway. We will start in Sweden's capital, Stockholm, cruise across the Baltic Sea to Helsinki Finland, tour all of Finland all the way up to Kirkenes, Norway (on the border to Russia), and we will end the tour with a 6-day cruise to Bergen on Hurtigruten, which is called "The World's Most Beautiful Voyage".*

### **Sunday July, 8**

*Depart USA*

Depart from Chicago O'Hare on a SAS non-stop flight to Stockholm, Sweden. Depart 4:25 PM

### **Monday, July 9**

*Stockholm*

Arrive Stockholm in the morning. City tour with a local guide. Check into the hotel. Afternoon free. Welcome dinner at the hotel.

### **Tuesday, July 10.**

*Stockholm*



Morning free. Check out from the hotel. Transfer to the Silja Line Terminal, where we will embark "**Silja Serenade**" for an overnight sailing to Helsinki, Finland. Depart 5 PM. Enjoy a buffet dinner at one of the ships restaurants. All alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included. After dinner you can shop in the many stores on board, enjoy the entertainment, or simply sit up on one of the upper decks and enjoy the beautiful sailing.

### **Wednesday, July 11**

*Helsinki*

Arrive via overnight ferry from Stockholm. Morning bus tour of Helsinki will take you on a tour of the city, Helsinki Cathedral, Senate Square, Uspenski Cathedral, the Parliament Building, Finlandia Hall, Temppelinaukio (Rock Church), and Sibelius Park. Your afternoon and evening are free. Shop the harborside open air market, Old Market Hall, or stroll to buy your memorabilia at Stockmann's Department Store (Iitala and Arabia glass, etc.). Eat at one of the trendy "fusion" cafes or a typical



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Finnish food restaurant (Finnish fare, salmon, dried meats and fish). Helsinki is a blend of Baltic architecture, Russian style, and modern buildings. Enjoy a walk around this compact city. Dinner on your own.

### **Thursday, July 12**

*Helsinki – Kuopio*

Today we depart for Kuopio via Lahti and Mikkeli. Just before Lahti we will encounter the largest lake in Finland, beautiful Päijänne. We will stop in Lahti to view the extensive ridge system and its ski hills, which have made Lahti a major winter sports center. Lunch and then on to Mikkeli, Finland's World War II headquarters of Field Marshal Gustav Mannerheim. Check out the museum on Finland's military history in his former headquarters. Late afternoon we're on to Kuopio, famous for its wonderful summer markets, and the June International Dance and Music Festival. Try freshly baked *kalakukko* (fish and pork in a rye crust), locally picked forest berries, and mushrooms. Tonight, after supper, you might want to try something really different: the world's largest smoke sauna. You have to take at least one while you're in Finland so try this one; it seats 60 in unisex fashion at about 90°F. We'll teach you proper sauna etiquette if you don't already know. If you are too modest, you can take a bus up to Puijo Hill, have supper at the revolving restaurant, and see one of the largest, pristine spruce forests in the world. (Don't worry, all those wolves will leave you alone!)

### **Friday, July 13**

*Kuopio – Oulu*

Today we will drive through the beautiful Finnish countryside on our way to Oulu, northern



Finland's largest city. Originally the center of a massive tar industry (necessary for wooden shipbuilding), Oulu is now a high-tech center with a major university. There is an excellent science museum and many quaint outdoor bars and summertime festivals. June is White Nights time now: the sun never really sets and it is light all through the night; this is the Land of the Midnight Sun and its opposite, the Polar Night during the winter. A miniature train-lookalike bus can take you around the city and late June is Tar-Burning Festival time, so there are plenty of

activities and markets and a very clean and nice downtown area. Dinner on your own.

### **Saturday, July 14**

*Oulu – Rovaniemi*

Today is a little bit shorter day, and our goal is Rovaniemi. Rovaniemi is the heart of Finnish Lapland and, by their own claim, the Home of Santa Claus.

We'll arrive around lunch-time, so you will have some time to wander around this interesting city. There are plenty of shops and attractions dedicated to St. Nicholas. This is the center of Sami cultural heritage and preservation. The city itself was destroyed by the Germans in World War II and rebuilt so that the streets radiate out from the center to form a pattern of reindeer antlers. The reconstruction of the city was designed by the famous Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. We will spend part of the afternoon at the Santa Claus Village. Rovaniemi is right on the Arctic Circle so you will get to stand on the latitude line marking it. We'll have time to do some Christmas shopping and see what makes Rovaniemi such a major stop for summer and winter visitors. Dinner at the hotel

### **Sunday, July 15**

*Rovaniemi – Kirkenes, Norway*

This is our last day in Finland, and we have a long day of driving through the beautiful Finnish Lapland towards Kirkenes, Norway, where we will arrive in the afternoon. Kirkenes is our boarding city for the Hurtigruten cruise down the Norwegian coast. Dinner at the hotel.

### **Monday, July 16 – Saturday, July 21**

*Cruise with MS Finnmarken from Kirkenes to Bergen*



After a good breakfast at the hotel, we will embark MS Finnmarken for a breathtaking cruise towards Bergen. The ship departs at 12:45 PM.

*MS Finnmarken was built in 2002 and belongs in the same class as MS Trollfjord and MS Midnattsol. She is the only ship with both a swimming pool and a Jacuzzi on deck. A special feature on MS Finnmarken is the bow, and you can actually go from deck 5 all the way to the tip. The ship is beautifully appointed and decorated in an Art Nouveau style.*



DAY	HIGHLIGHTS	TRAVEL ROUTE SOUTHBOUND	PORT	Summer 04.15-09.14	Winter 01.01-04.14 09.15-12.31
<b>DAY 7:</b> Kirkenes – Berlevåg	As you turn south the northbound ports visited by night are now seen by day, each season bringing its own beauty to the journey, as spring and summer flowers give way to autumn and the glaciers reflect the dazzling rays of the sun.		Kirkenes Arrive Vardø Depart Vardø Båtsfjord Berlevåg	12:45pm 4pm 5pm 8:30pm 10:30pm	12:45pm 4pm 5pm 8:30pm 10:30pm
<b>DAY 8:</b> Mehamn – Tromsø	Hammerfest, the world's most northerly town is our first major stop, before continuing to Tromsø and a chance to enjoy the midnight concert in the Arctic Cathedral.		Mehamn Kjøllefjord Honningsvåg Havøysund Arrive Hammerfest Depart Hammerfest Øksfjord Skjervøy Arrive Tromsø	1:15am 3:30am 6:15am 8:30am 11:15am 12:45pm 3:45pm 7:45pm 11:45pm	1:15am 3:30am 6:15am 8:30am 11:15am 12:45pm 3:45pm 7:45pm 11:45pm
<b>DAY 9:</b> Tromsø – Stamsund	Passing through the legendary Lofoten Islands the ship negotiates an intricate network of inlets and isles. This is one of the most beautiful stretches of the Norwegian coast and for many it is the most stunning part of your journey south. You can opt for an overland excursion from Harstad, rejoining the ship in Sortland, before moving on to what is the highlight of the voyage for many, a possible detour into the spectacular and dramatic Trollfjord. This remarkable day is completed with an evening return to Svolveær and a farewell to the islands at Stamsund.		Depart Tromsø Finnsnes Arrive Harstad Depart Harstad Risøyhamn Sortland Stokmarknes Arrive Svolveær Depart Svolveær Stamsund	1:30am 4:45am 8am 8:30am 11am 1pm 3:15pm 6:30pm 8pm 10pm	1:30am 4:45am 8am 8:30am 11am 1pm 3:15pm 6:30pm 8pm 10pm
<b>DAY 10:</b> Bodø – Rørvik	Crossing the Arctic Circle and sailing past the famed peaks of the Seven Sisters you enter a world of legends and folklore, before a chance to enjoy the award-winning maritime museum at Rørvik.		Arrive Bodø Depart Bodø Ørnes Nesna Sandnessjøen Brønnøysund Rørvik	2am 4am 7:15am 11:15am 1:30pm 5pm 9:30pm	2am 4am 7:15am 11:15am 1:30pm 5pm 9:30pm
<b>DAY 11:</b> Trondheim – Ålesund	An early arrival in the medieval city of Trondheim gives you an opportunity to explore and maybe visit the Nidaros Cathedral. The voyage then continues out of the Trondheimsfjord and past Hitra Island, making brief calls at Kristiansund and Molde before a midnight call at Ålesund.		Arrive Trondheim Depart Trondheim Kristiansund Molde Arrive Ålesund	6:30am 10am 5pm 9:30pm Midnight	6:30am 10am 5pm 9:30pm Midnight
<b>DAY 12:</b> Ålesund – Bergen	Your arrival in Bergen sees the end of this magnificent journey and it is time to say good-bye to the ship and "på gjensyn" (until we meet again) to friends, fellow passengers and your crew.		Depart Ålesund Torvik Måloy Florø Arrive Bergen	0:45am 2:15am 5:45am 8:15am 2:30pm	0:45am 2:15am 5:45am 8:15am 2:30pm

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**Saturday, July 21**

*Bergen*

Arrive Bergen at 2:30 PM. Transfer to our hotel. Afternoon free to explore Bergen on your own. Dinner at the hotel.

**Sunday July 22**

*Bergen – Chicago*

Transfer to the airport in the morning. Depart Bergen airport at 11:25 AM for Copenhagen, then we will fly from Copenhagen to Chicago O’Hare at 3:45 PM. Arrive Chicago 5:45 PM.

***Tour Manager***



Tour manager on this trip will be **Mr. Rhinehart Lintonen**. He recently retired as a Social Studies Teacher from Elkhorn Area High School, WI. He is Finnish by descent, and he speaks Finnish. He has been travelling in Europe with both adult groups and student groups every summer for more than 30 years. His knowledge about Finland especially will make this tour a very unique experience!

Visit us at [www.noramtours.com](http://www.noramtours.com)

Contact us at 262-743-1814, or [info@noramtours.com](mailto:info@noramtours.com)



**Tour includes:**

- 15-day tour program, including a 6-day cruise on Hurtigruten and a one night cruise on Silja Line
- Transatlantic airfare from Chicago, IL, to Stockholm, Sweden, and return from Bergen, Norway to Chicago, IL
- Tour Manager service during the whole trip

**Land:**

- 7 nights hotel
- 7 breakfasts
- 5 dinners (on your own in Helsinki and Oulu)
- Bus transportation in modern motor coaches according to the itinerary in Stockholm, through Finland to Kirkenes.
- Transfer bus from the ship to the hotel, and from the hotel to the airport in Bergen
- Local guide in Stockholm and Helsinki
- Baggage handling in all the hotels (1 piece of luggage per person)

**Sea:**

- Cruise from Stockholm to Helsinki in inside cabin
- Breakfast and dinner on the Silja Line cruise.
- 6-day cruise with Hurtigruten from Kirkenes to Bergen in inside cabin
- Full board on the Hurtigruten cruise

Contact us for a quote on cabin upgrade on the cruises.

**Tour price:**

**\$4595** per person in double room / inside cabin

**\$6295** per person in single room / inside cabin

Last day for registration for this tour is **Monday, March 5, 2012**

The tour price is based on a minimum 25 people in the group, and an exchange rate of USD/EUR of 1,30 (1.30 USD for 1.00 EUR) . If the exchange rate goes over 1.30, the prices might be subject to adjustments.

**Payment schedule:**

At sign up:	\$1000
March 5, 2012	\$1000
April 1, 2012	\$2595 <i>Or remaining balance</i>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$4595</b>

**Cancellation policy on this tour:**

Before March 5, 2012	Full refund
Between March 5 and April 1:	\$1300 cancellation fee
After April 1, 2012:	No refund