

# Norwegian Splendor: Denmark & Norway 2019

June 13-28, 2019



***Information session: Saturday, January 26, at 11am, D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts.***

As the Midnight Sun turns night into day, Scandinavia shines. From the cosmopolitan capitals of Copenhagen and Oslo to Norway's magnificent fjord country, your small group encounters Scandinavia at its best. The 16-day journey begins with sightseeing in delightful Copenhagen. Visit Rosenborg Castle and Christianborg Palace and travel to Elsinore, setting of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Board an overnight ferry to Oslo, transferring to the ski resort of Gaala. Journeying to Geiranger along Norway's "roof," ascend Mount Dalsnibba for a stunning view of dramatic Geirangerfjord. More astonishing scenery leads to charming Bergen, which touring reveals. Travel through the breathtaking Western Fjord District to Lofthus. Boarding the storied Flåm Railway, enjoy a thrilling ascent of the Flåm Valley. Visit the Hardanger Nature Center and Voringfoss Waterfall en route to Oslo, where touring includes the renowned Viking Ship Museum and other highlights. Explore the beautiful Swedish capital, Stockholm, on an optional 4-day/3-night post-tour extension.

Day 1: June 13<sup>th</sup>. Depart U.S. for Copenhagen, Denmark



Day 2: June 14<sup>th</sup> - Arrive Copenhagen. After arriving in the Danish capital today, this evening we meet our fellow travelers and Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director at a welcome dinner and briefing about the journey ahead at Copenhagen's festive Tivoli Gardens. D

Day 3: June 15<sup>th</sup> - Copenhagen. A half-day tour introduces us to this most livable of cosmopolitan cities. We visit Christianborg Palace, seat of the Danish Parliament; visit the popular Little Mermaid statue; and stroll along the

narrow, historic streets of downtown to City Hall Square. The remainder of the day is free to explore independently. B

Day 4: June 16<sup>th</sup> – Copenhagen. We embark this morning on a full-day excursion, first to Elsinore (Helsingør in Danish), site of Kronborg Castle – the infamous setting of Shakespeare’s Hamlet – where our tour includes the Royal Chambers and Ballroom. This afternoon we visit the Karen Blixen House and Museum in coastal Rungsted. Save for her years in Africa, the writer known as Isak Dinesen (Out of Africa) spent most of her life here where she was born in 1885. The house boasts its original furniture and décor; the site itself comprises the house, a museum, bird sanctuary, and park. B, L



Day 5: June 17<sup>th</sup> - Copenhagen/Oslo, Norway. After a morning at leisure, we set off mid-day for Rosenborg Palace, where we see the dazzling crown jewels; and the cozy fishing village of Dragor, with its historic buildings and cobblestone streets. Later we board the overnight DFDS ferry to Oslo, settling in our private outside cabins and enjoying dinner on board. B,D

Day 6: June 18<sup>th</sup> - Oslo/Lillehammer/Gaala. Upon disembarkation this morning, we board our coach for the journey north to ski country. We stop along the way in Lillehammer (site of the 1994 Winter Olympics) to visit the open-air museum at Maihaugen, among Norway’s most visited cultural attractions. Mid-afternoon we depart for the village of Gaala and our ski lodge hotel. B,L,D



Day 7: June 19<sup>th</sup> - Gaala/Geiranger. A day of beautiful scenery is in store as we travel from Gaala to Geiranger, en route negotiating hairpin bends to the summit of Mount Dalsnibba (alt. 4,900 feet) for stunning views of Geirangerfjord and the mountains, lakes, and waterfalls beyond. We reach the popular village of Geiranger mid-afternoon and get our first up-close look at Norway’s most dramatic fjord. A UNESCO site, it measures 10 miles long and 960 feet deep. B,D

Day 8: June 20<sup>th</sup> - Geiranger Today’s excursion on Eagle Road to Herdalssetra promises abundant thrills as we ride along 11 hairpin turns through mountain passes, catching glimpses of the dramatic fjord along the way. We visit a local farm for lunch then return to Geiranger mid-afternoon. Before dinner at our hotel tonight, we enjoy a reception there to view a private vintage car collection. B,L,D



Day 9: June 21<sup>st</sup> - Geiranger/Bergen. We can expect scenic overload on our full-day journey to Bergen from Geiranger. A series of ferry rides takes us across Geirangerfjord, past tiny villages and tumbling waterfalls, and amid steep mountains plunging into the fjord’s placid waters. Upon arrival in Bergen this evening, we enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. B,D

Day 10: June 22<sup>nd</sup> - Bergen. We see the highlights of this beautiful city, Norway’s second largest, on a morning tour, including Trolhaugen, country home of composer Edvard Grieg; the lively fish market; the colorful 14th-century Hanseatic merchants’ quarter of Bryggen (a UNESCO site); and 16th-century Bergenhus fortress. The afternoon is free to enjoy Bergen as we wish. B

Day 11: June 23<sup>rd</sup> - Bergen/Lofthus. On today's journey to Lofthus, we travel through the breathtaking scenery of Norway's Western Fjord District. Along the way, we stop to see the 150-foot Steindal Waterfall then at a floating salmon farm in this premier fish farm region. Last, we visit Steinstoe, one of the country's largest orchards, where we enjoy a tour led by the family of the owner then get to know them over cake and coffee. Mid-day we reach our hotel, with the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner tonight is at our hotel. B,D



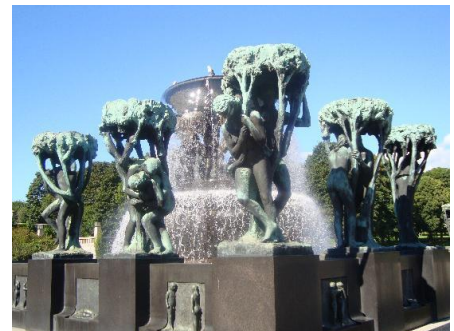
Day 12: June 24<sup>th</sup> - Lofthus/Flåm. It's a day of extreme beauty and diverse transportation as we travel by coach to Gudvangen, where we board a ferry for Flåm, traversing stunning Naeroyfjord, a UNESCO site. After free time in Flåm, we embark the storied Flåm Railway for a thrilling hour-long, 12-mile route ascending the 2,900-foot-deep Flåm Valley. We pass through 20 tunnels that spiral in and out of mountains, curve around 21 hairpin bends, pass the mighty Kjosfossen Waterfall, and cross the Flåm River three different times. Our exhilarating excursion ends in Myrdal, where we board another train for the brief trip to Voss. Here we meet our coach for the return journey to our hotel via the 4,600-foot Hardanger Bridge, one of the world's longest suspension bridges. B,L,D



Day 13: June 25<sup>th</sup> - Lofthus/Oslo. En route to Oslo, we stop in Eidfjord to tour the Hardanger Nature Center showcasing the natural and cultural worlds of fjord country. Later we stop for photos at Voringfoss Waterfall, considered Norway's most beautiful. We reach Oslo early this evening. B

Day 14: June 26<sup>th</sup> - Oslo. This morning we visit the Viking Ship Museum, housing the well-preserved remains of wooden ships that crossed the ocean in search of new lands more than a thousand years ago. We also tour the nearby Kon-Tiki Museum, with the original vessels and artifacts from Thor Heyerdahl's 1947 voyage across the Pacific. This afternoon is free for independent exploration. B

Day 15: June 27<sup>th</sup> - Oslo. A half-day tour of the pastoral Norwegian capital features the National Gallery, with Norway's largest collection of fine arts; and Vigeland Sculpture Park, with its intriguing bronze and granite sculptures of human figures by artist Gustav Vigeland. Then this afternoon is free to explore on our own; tonight we gather for a farewell dinner at our hotel. B,D



Day 16: June 28<sup>th</sup>. Depart for Boston. We transfer to the airport this morning for our return flight to the U.S. B

B = Breakfast included L = Lunch included D = Dinner included

**Cost:**

**\$6,484**, total price from Boston. (\$5,995 air and land inclusive plus \$489 airline taxes and fees)

Single Supplement, please add \$1,395.

## Inclusions:

- Round-trip air transportation from Boston
- 14 nights' accommodations: 13 nights in Superior First Class, First Class, and unrated hotels; 1 night aboard DFDS ferry
- 27 meals: 14 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 9 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Ferry, rail, and private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

## Post-Tour Extension: Stockholm – On Your Own.

June 28<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup> (4 days/3 nights)

Days 16-18: June 28<sup>th</sup> - Depart for Stockholm. Add an independent stay in the delightful Swedish capital to extend your Scandinavian sojourn. Stockholm is the cultural, media, political, and economic center of Sweden. Stockholm is one of the most crowded museum-cities in the world with around 100 museums. It has a vibrant art scene with a number of internationally recognized art centers, as well as renowned theatres featuring drama, ballet and music, from classical and opera to contemporary. B

Day 19: July 1st - Depart for Boston. We transfer to the airport this morning for our return flight to the U.S. B

**Cost: \$795; Single supplement, please add \$295.**

### Your Tour Price Includes:

- Air transportation Oslo/Stockholm, inclusive of airline taxes and fees
- 3 nights' accommodations at Six Hotel (First Class)
- 3 meals: 3 breakfasts
- Transfer to airport

### Accommodations:

Days 2-4: Scandic Copenhagen, Copenhagen // First Class – The Scandic Copenhagen sits in the center of Copenhagen, within easy walking distance of the Tivoli Gardens and just across the street from The Lakes, a chain of peaceful waterways popular with pedestrians and bicyclists. This contemporary hotel's amenities include a restaurant and bar, fitness center, sauna, bicycles for rent, complimentary Wi-Fi internet access, and laundry service. Air-conditioned guest rooms have private bath with hair dryer, in-room safe, ironing facilities, TV, and phone.



Day 5: DFDS Ferry, Copenhagen – A modern overnight cruise ferry holding some 1800 passengers, the DFDS ferry traveling between Copenhagen and Oslo offers a host of amenities and activities, including several restaurants and bars, nightclub, cinema, three small indoor pools, Jacuzzi, sauna, and tax-free shopping. Each small yet comfortable cabin has a private toilet and shower, and sea view.

Day 6: Wadahl Hotel, Gaala – This century-old hotel enjoys a tranquil and serene mountain setting in the heart of Norway's ski country. The hotel prides itself on offering guests hospitality in a traditional Norwegian setting. Amenities include a swimming pool, sauna, tennis, and miniature golf; restaurant, fireplace lounge, and bar. The hotel also offers laundry and dry cleaning service and Internet access. The 100 guest rooms have private bath with hair dryer (upon request), mini-bar, TV, and phone.

Days 7-8: Hotel Union, Geiranger // First Class – Dating to 1891 and rebuilt in 1979, the fourth-generation family-run Hotel Union sits amidst the splendid scenery of Geirangerfjord, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Amenities and facilities of the 197-room hotel include indoor and outdoor pools, spa, several restaurants and bars, Internet access, and a collection of vintage cars (including a 1919 Cadillac) once used to drive visitors around the area. Comfortable guest rooms have private bath with hair dryer, TV, and phone. Please note that due to the unique nature of the hotel, rooms may vary.

Days 9-10: Radisson Blu Royal, Bergen // Superior First Class – The recently renovated Radisson Blu Royal is superbly located in the city center of Bergen near the historic wharf area. The hotel offers two restaurants and a bar; a fitness center with sauna and solarium; a safe at reception; room service; and laundry service. Each of the 263 guest rooms has private bath, tea- and coffee-making facilities, mini-bar, TV, and phone.

Days 11-12: Hotel Ullensvang, Lofthus // Superior First Class – Family run for five generations, this gracious 172-room hotel sits on the eastern shore of Sorfjorden, part of majestic Hardangerfjord. The hotel has two restaurants, a bar, and several lounges; Internet access; indoor swimming pool; indoor tennis court; fitness room; golf simulator; Jacuzzi; sauna; and solarium. During the summer guests can lounge in the delightful fjord garden (where composer Edvard Grieg's cottage still stands), swim in the surprisingly comfortable waters of the fjord, or explore the fjord by row boat or paddle boat. Guest rooms have private bath with hair dryer, mini-bar, TV, and phone.

Days 13-15: Clarion Hotel, The Hub, Oslo // First Class – The Clarion Hotel The Hub boasts Oslo's best location with close proximity to the city's best bars, concerts and restaurants. The 810-room hotel features a gym, relaxation area, bar and restaurant, which, in addition to serving good food and drinks, offers stunning views of the Opera house, Bjørvika and the Oslo Fjord. Guest rooms have private bath with hairdryer, TV and telephone.

Stockholm, Post Tour Extension:

Days 16-19: At Six Hotel, Stockholm / Extension // First Class – At Six is a five star design and art hotel in central Stockholm. With interiors imagined by Universal Design Studio and Arts curated by Sune Nordgren. Guest rooms have private bath with hairdryer, TV and telephone, minibar, down duvet and down pillows, high security safe and high speed internet.



**For more information or to register call 413-263-6800, etc. 382 or 377. Email: [jfontaine@springfieldmuseums.org](mailto:jfontaine@springfieldmuseums.org)**