

FIVE COUNTRIES EXPEDITION

14 days
13 nights

5
countries

travel type
Cultural

DESCRIPTION

● Day 1. Copenhagen (B, D)

Arrival in Copenhagen. Bus transfer to the hotel. Check-in at the hotel. Like many other Scandinavian, Denmark's charming capital is very much a city of water, built on two main islands connected by bridges, surrounded by the sea, and interlaced with canals. This city is developing a reputation for being one of the most environmentally friendly cities in the world with a laid-back atmosphere, where people cycle along the canals. Dinner and overnight in Copenhagen.

● Day 2. Copenhagen – Oslo (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Copenhagen city tour (approx. 3 hours) is an excellent way to see main highlights of the city including Christiansborg Palace, home to the Danish Parliament, the Old Stock Exchange, Royal Theatre, Tivoli Gardens, the colorful harbor district of Nyhavn and Amalienborg Palace – Winter residence of the Royal Family to see the changing of the Guard and followed by a stop by world-famous Little Mermaid, inspired by H. C. Andersen's fairytale. Lunch at restaurant. In the afternoon transfer to the cruise harbor and cruise to Oslo by ferry (500km, approx. 17 h.). Overnight on board.

● Day 3. Oslo (B, D)

Breakfast on board. Morning sightseeing tour of the Norwegian capital to see all of Oslo's main attractions (2 h.), such as the Royal Palace, the City Hall, the Akershus fortress, admire a magnificent view of the Oslo Fjord from Holmenkollen Hill for a birds-eye view of the city and fjord far below. Afternoon we will visit the Viking Ship Museum, with its three Viking vessels, the Polar exploration ship Fram. The Vigeland's Park, one of the major Scandinavian cultural treasures, will welcome us with the sculptures of Gustav Vigeland, who dedicated his life to his artistic works. Dinner and overnight in Oslo.

● Day 4. Oslo – Stockholm (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Stockholm (530km, approx 6-7 h). The route passes areas with typical Scandinavian scenery and thick forests, which will evoke the atmosphere of the fairytales of Trolls, lakes, as well as agricultural areas. Stop for lunch at Örebro town. After lunch visit at Örebro Castle, a medieval castle fortification, standing in the centre of modern Örebro town, surrounded by a moat. Built for defense and once was used as prison, during the Vasa era it was rebuilt as a magnificent, royal castle. Further drive to Stockholm. Check-in at the hotel. Overnight in Stockholm.

● Day 5. Stockholm (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Morning City tour by bus and a walking tour of Stockholm (3 h). During the excursion you will visit two squares on Riddarholmen and Söder island, walk through the Old Town, where you will pass narrow streets and alleys of the medieval part of the city. The

excursion continues through the central parts of the modern Stockholm – City Hall. Lunch at restaurant. Acquaintance of the Stockholm continues with visit to Vasa Museum (1,5 h), the Scandinavia's most visited attraction. In the large ship hall stands the warship Vasa – the only remaining, intact 17th century ship in the world. The lower rig of it has been rebuilt, complete with masts, stays and shrouds. Overnight in Stockholm.

● Day 6. Stockholm – Helsinki (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Morning trip to Sigtuna, Sweden's oldest town, founded in the 10th century. Today it is a cozy town of narrow streets, colorful wooden houses, plenty of restaurants and hotels, classy souvenir shops and galleries. During the sightseeing tour of the Sigtuna you will see the gothic St. Mary's church, the ruins of the ancient churches, Old Town Hall, which is Europe's smallest city hall and runestones that are scattered through the town. Visit at nearby located Skokloster Castle, a one of the main attractions in the region, former residence of one of Gustav II Adolf's generals. The castle interior from the mid 17th century has been kept completely intact. Transfer back to Stockholm. Lunch. In the afternoon transfer to the cruise harbor and cruise to Helsinki by ferry (500km, approx. 17 h.). Overnight on board.

● Day 7. Helsinki (B, L)

Breakfast on board. Helsinki is truly located at the crossroads of Western and Eastern culture and it is reflected everywhere in the green and lively Finnish capital. Helsinki sightseeing tour takes us around the harbours, up central Mannerheim Street and by the Parliament Building, the Finlandia Hall, market square, and the Sibelius Monument and for a visit at the famous Church-in-the-Rock. Lunch at restaurant. Afternoon visit at Suomenlinna Fortress, built in the second half of the 18th century by Sweden on a group of islands located at the entrance of Helsinki's harbour. This fortress is an especially interesting example of European military architecture of the time. Overnight in Helsinki.

● Day 8. Helsinki – St. Petersburg (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to St. Petersburg (390 km from Tallinn). Lunch stop en route. Arrival in St. Petersburg. Panoramic city tour of St. Petersburg (approx. 3 h.), also called as "Northern Venice", to see the famous Nevsky Prospect, the main street of the City, the Kazan Cathedral, the Admiralty with its gilded top, the largest Church in St. Petersburg – the Blood Church and stop by the ensembles of Palace Sq. with Winter Palace, Hermitage and Alexander Column and Mariinsky Palace. Overnight in St. Petersburg.

● Day 9. St. Petersburg – Peter and Paul Fortress (B, D)

Breakfast at hotel. Morning visit at the Peter and Paul Fortress (approx. 1, 5 h.) – the oldest construction in Saint Petersburg and put up for fortification purposes but never been attacked. Founded by Peter the Great, who himself took part in the construction of the building, enjoy the beauty of one of the world's great architectural masterpieces, the golden Peter and Paul Cathedral. Afternoon visit to the Hermitage (approx. 3 h.), one of the largest and most important art museums in the world. Its art collections include more than 3,000,000 masterpieces and represent the development of world culture and art from the Stone Age to the 20th Century. Dinner and overnight in St. Petersburg.

● Day 10. St. Petersburg – Peterhof – Tsarskoye Selo (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Excursion to Peterhof, the former summer residence of Russian tsars near St. Petersburg (29 km from St. Petersburg). The "Russian Versailles" is known for its elegant gardens, magnificent Castles and numerous fountains and cascades. Lunch at restaurant. Excursion to Tsarskoye Selo (Pushkin) and visit the Catherine Palace with the legendary Amber Room. Tsarskoye Selo is Rastrelli's masterpiece and one of the best examples of Russian

baroque, which include Peterhof with the finest residences Tsar of Russia. Overnight in St. Petersburg.

● Day 11. St. Petersburg – St. Isaac’s Cathedral – Moscow (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Morning visit of St. Isaac’s Cathedral (approx. 1,5 h.): the largest Church in Russia and one of the finest architectural works and capable accommodate about 10,000 people. Lunch at restaurant. Transfer to the train station. Departure by speed train “Sapsan” to Moscow (approx. 4h). Arrival and transfer to the hotel in Moscow. Overnight in Moscow.

● Day 12. Moscow – Kremlin (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Morning city tour of Moscow to see its main historic architectural and cultural monuments (approx. 3 h.) During the tour you will visit Vorobyevi Hills where you will get an incredible view of the city, you will proceed to Moscow State University which is an example of architecture from the time of Stalin, the Diplomatic Village, Triumphal Arch and much more. The tour will be finished at the Red Square, the so-called heart of the capital. Lunch at restaurant. Visit of Kremlin and it’s cathedrals (2 h.) Moscow Kremlin – one of the largest and most beautiful architectural ensembles in the world, which includes visits of Archangel’s and Annunciation Cathedrals, the Armory, seeing an exhibition in the Assumption belfry and admire the Tsar Bell and the Tsar Cannon, famous masterpieces of the Russian casting. Overnight in Moscow.

● Day 13. Moscow – Sergiev Posad – Moscow Metro and Arbat (B, D)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Sergiev Possad (70 km from Moscow, approx. 6 h) – the city founded around the sacred place of the Russian land and the World Cultural Heritage sight – the Trinity Sergius Lavra, which is Trinity Sergius Lavra monastery named respected Russian saint Sergius. Transfer back to Moscow. Afternoon continues with discovering other highlights of Moscow – its famous Metro and Arbat street (approx. 3 h.) This tour introduces the history and architecture of the Metro subway system and includes travels by Metro to see the most famous stations that are uniquely designed with decorative elements including mosaics, statues and marble staircases. The tour proceed to Old Arbat street, one of Moscow’s oldest streets. The street has gone from being the headquarters of Ivan the Terrible’s secret police to the center of aristocratic life in Moscow in the 18th century to finally being the center of the Russian bohemian life. Dinner and overnight in Moscow.

● Day 14. Moscow (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport. Departure.