

NORDIC AND RUSSIAN TREASURES

21 days
20 nights

5
countries

travel type
Cultural



DESCRIPTION

● Day 1. Moscow (B, D)

Arrival in Moscow. Bus transfer to the hotel. Check-in at the hotel. Welcome dinner with folk program. Overnight in Moscow.

● Day 2. 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 its 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 3. 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 4. Moscow – St. Petersburg (B, L)**

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to the train station. Departure by speed train “Sapsan” to St. Petersburg (approx. 4h). Arrival and transfer to the hotel in St. Petersburg. Lunch at restaurant. Afternoon 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. Visit 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. Overnight in St. Petersburg.

● **Day 5. St. Petersburg (B, D)**

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. 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 6. 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 stay in St. Petersburg.

● **Day 7. St. Petersburg – boat tour (B, D)**

Breakfast at hotel. Morning boat trip in Neva River and canals (approx. 1,5 h.) Getting around St Petersburg by boat is one of the best ways to enjoy a romantic sightseeing in the city of rivers and canals. The combination of fascinating architecture and water in St. Petersburg, as well as in Venice, has a special charm. Free time in city. Dinner in the city centre with folk show. Overnight in St. Petersburg.

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

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Helsinki (390 km from St. Petersburg). Lunch en route. Afternoon arrival in Helsinki the capital of Finland. Helsinki is a modern European cultural city whose urban cosmopolitan lifestyle exists in perfect harmony with nature. Surrounded by the sea and its own archipelago, Helsinki offers visitors an endless number of possibilities. Overnight in Helsinki.

● **Day 9. Helsinki – Turku (B, D)**

Breakfast at hotel. Morning Helsinki sightseeing tour takes you around the harbors, 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. In the afternoon departure to Turku (170km, approx. 2,5 h). Turku is an old medieval European city with its cozy cobblestone streets, the medieval market square, the castle and the cathedral built in the 13th century, and fortified with stone in the 14th and 15th centuries. But also it is a modern vibrant city. In the summer Turku overflows with events and festivals like tango, middle age, music, theatre, art, design and much more Dinner and overnight in Turku.

● **Day 10. Turku - Stockholm (B, L)**

Breakfast at hotel. Morning city tour of Turku. Turku city tour provides overall picture of the city's history and sights (3 h). During the tour you will walk the cobblestone streets around the Old Town and visit the Cathedral of Turku, the medieval Castle – largest in Finland, the Market square and Hall, the magnificent Main Library. Lunch at restaurant. In the afternoon transfer to the cruise harbor and cruise to Stockholm by ferry (315km, approx. 11 h.). Overnight on board of ferry.

● **Day 11. Stockholm (B, L)**

Breakfast at ferry. 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 12. Stockholm – Uppsala – Sigtuna – Skokloster Castle – Stockholm (B, L)**

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Uppsala (71km, approx. 1 h). Morning sightseeing tour of Uppsala town starts in front of the grand Gothic Uppsala Cathedral, Scandinavia's largest and tallest cathedral from 1270. During the tour you will pass by the Uppsala University, Sweden's oldest university, which dates back to 1477, continue by the university library Carolina Rediviva with the famous Silver Bible, the Botanical Garden with the grand Linneum and end at Uppsala Castle. Lunch en route. Further drive 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. Overnight in Stockholm.

● **Day 13. Stockholm – Oslo (B, L)**

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Oslo (530km, approx 6-7 h). The route passes areas with typical Scandinavian scenery and thick forests, which will evoke the atmosphere of the fairy-tales 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 Oslo. Check-in at the hotel. Overnight in Oslo.

● **Day 14. Oslo (B, L)**

Breakfast at hotel. 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. Lunch at restaurant. 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. Overnight in Oslo.

● **Day 15. Oslo – Myrdal – Flåm – Gudvangen – Bergen (B, D)**

Breakfast at hotel. After breakfast board the train to Flåm. Norwegian Railway System is a masterpiece of Norwegian engineering is one of the world's steepest railway lines on normal gauge and has been billed as the most thrilling train ride in Scandinavia. The four hour journey is full of nature's best offerings so be ready to enjoy and shoot the picturesque memories. View pastures, waterfalls and snow-clad peaks, all nestled beautifully into the surrounding mountain side. Stop in Myrdal to see descent 2,600 feet past waterfalls, ravines and sheer cliffs. After Myrdal, change to the 1 hour journey over the world famous Flåmbana that stops on the way to let you enjoy the waterfalls. Lookout for the ferries dancing on the rocks with surreal music. Arrival in Flam. The name "Flåm" means "little place between steep mountains," surrounded by steep mountainsides, roaring waterfalls and deep valleys, this area is a paradise for everyone looking for a one-of-a-kind experience with nature. Afternoon enjoy a leisurely cruise on the breathtaking still waters of the the Aurlandsfjord and Nærøyfjord, the wildest and most spectacular branches of the Sognefjord. Arrival to Gudvangen. Transfer Gudvangen – Bergen. After arrival check in to your hotel and enjoy the evening at your leisure. Dinner and overnight in Bergen.

● **Day 16. Bergen (B, L)**

Breakfast at hotel. After breakfast sightseeing tour of Bergen you will be introduced to the main sights of this remarkable city, view of the Bryggen area of old wooden houses that is part of the UNESCO World Heritage, as well as the traditional Fish Market. Lunch at restaurant. Afternoon transfer to the cruise harbor and cruise to Hirtshals by ferry (570km, approx. 18,5 h). Overnight on board of ferry.

● **Day 17. Hirtshals – Skagen – Aarhus – Odense (B, L)**

Breakfast at ferry. Transfer to Skagen. Trip on the Sand Worm out to Grenen beach, the tip of Denmark where the 2 seas, Skagerrak and Kattegat, meet in clashing waves. The line between two seas is a breathtaking and wondrous sight. Further drive to Aarhus, the second-largest city in Denmark with a perfectly preserved old town, located in the geographical centre of Denmark. It is modern and cosmopolitan city, but also it has a lot of quaint small-town charm. Lunch at restaurant. City tour of Aarhus introduces you to the main city's sights. During th tour you will drive through the city's old and picturesque streets out to the Aarhus harbor and on to the south part of the city, passing Marselisborg Palace, the summer residence of the Danish royal family, and the Marselisborg Memorial Park. Tour includes as well Aarhus University, the City Hall, Concert Hall Aarhus, the 'Den Gamle By' (The Old Town), Scandinavian Congress Center. Transfer to Odense. Overnight in Odense.

● **Day 18. Odense – Roskilde – Copenhagen (B, L)**

Breakfast at hotel. Morning walking tour of the old Odense, along Odense River through the old town, with narrow cobbled streets and small low-ceilinged houses. Tour includes visits to the gothic Saint Canute's cathedral, the only example of true Gothic architecture in Denmark and to the H. C. Andersen museum. The museum exhibits paper cuttings, drawings and many of his personal belongings. Further drive to Roskilde. Short walk through the old streets to the Royal Dome. Visit at the Dome and continue to the famous Viking Ship Museum just a few minutes outside the town. Lunch en route. Arival to Copenhagen. 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. Overnight in Copenhagen.

● **Day 19. Copenhagen (B, L)**

Breakfast at hotel. After breakfast morning 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. Free time in Copenhagen. This city is now by far the largest and most important town in Denmark, with numerous Museums and the hippest Nightlife in the country. Enjoy a laid-back cycling or strolling along the medieval streets or take a canal tour to get the best views onboard the canal boats, visit free town of Cristiania without a doubt one of Denmark's most popular tourist attractions. Overnight in Copenhagen.

● **Day 20. Copenhagen – Kronborg Castle – Fredensborg Palace – Frederiksborg Castle – Copenhagen (B, L)**

Breakfast at hotel. After the breakfast we leave Copenhagen and head north, for almost a whole hour, the coastline of Sweden follows us. We drive through the magnificent Danish countryside and pass the coastline to Helsingør and Kronborg Castle. It is quite easy to understand why William Shakespeare chose Kronborg Castle as the setting for his famous play 'Hamlet'. Enjoy the beautiful surroundings and feel the atmosphere taken through the Chapel and the Knights' Hall (the longest room in Northern Europe) and the dark casemates. Lunch en route. After the break, our tour continues to Fredensborg. The Queen's summer residence of Fredensborg Palace is attractively located in the middle of a lovely park, bordering the idyllic Esrom lake. The next highlight on this tour of many highlights is Frederiksborg Castle, built by King Christian IV. This pearl of history, built in magnificent Renaissance style, is now a national historical museum. It contains paintings, tapestries, porcelain, silver and furniture of great historical value. In the afternoon transfer back to Copenhagen. Overnight in Copenhagen.

● **Day 21. Copenhagen (B)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to airport. Departure.