

Stunning Scandinavia

Lapland, Finland,
Sweden and Norway

Departs 22nd June 2026

Blue Dot Travel



Itinerary correct as at 19 Nov 2024, but subject to change. ALL flights to be confirmed. www.bluedottravel.com.au



STUNNING SCANDINAVIA LAPLAND, FINLAND, SWEDEN AND NORWAY

Perched at the top of Europe, the Nordic nations of Finland, Sweden, and Norway are a quirky mix of cultures that live amidst some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world. These countries are known to be at the forefront of modern thinking, yet they hold fierce to their cultures and simple ways of life. Their remote location and sparse population make this trio an irresistible destination for travellers seeking tranquillity, tradition and the wild outdoors.

Finland is a country of contrasts, from vibrant and modern Helsinki to the serene wilderness above the Arctic Circle. Long before the states drew borders to separate the Nordic countries, Lapland existed as a cultural and ethnic region. The Sámi call their territory "Sápmi" and have their own language, culture, and traditions. Today, it remains a united ancestral land covering four countries, and you'll explore the lakes, forests and local communities in Finland and Sweden.

Crossing into Norway, we would typically say, "Get your cameras ready,"... but the sheer beauty of nature here cannot be captured; it can only be experienced. From the colourful fishing villages of the Lofoten Islands, dwarfed by the towering granite peaks, to the achingly beautiful Geirangerfjord and Nærøysfjord. Conventional roads are no match for this environment, and much of our travel is by boat and train, keeping us close to the scenery as it unfolds. Steeped in history dating back to the 11th Century, the coastal cities of Trondheim, Bergen and Oslo are all fascinating in their own right.

To add the final dust of magic to this enchanting region, you'll be travelling against the backdrop of the famed midnight sun. The surreal experience of a sunlit night means more time for exploring, and landscapes are cast in a continually changing glow. The atmosphere amongst locals is vibrant as they take advantage of the extra daylight, and it's contagious.

Join us for an unforgettable journey where nature's beauty meets rich cultural heritage.



Departure, Thursday 22nd June IN TRANSIT

Depart Australia for Helsinki, the capital of Finland. We will provide you with an individualised flight itinerary for your trip.

Day 1, Friday 23rd June ARRIVE HELSINKI

We'll be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel in Helsinki, where we'll stay for two nights. Some of our group will arrive from Australia, and some will arrive from Longyearbyen, so depending on flight schedules, we may take a brief walking tour before meeting for our welcome dinner. **D**



Day 2, Saturday 24th June HELSINKI

Helsinki is renowned for its extraordinary architecture and intriguing mix of Eastern and Western influences. This captivating capital has a lot to offer,

with a stunning location on the Baltic Sea, lush natural surroundings, and a thriving arts scene. We'll visit the city's most significant landmarks, such as the Senate Square, the Lutheran Cathedral, the elegant Uspenski Cathedral, the Sibelius Monument and finally, the Temppeliaukion Church,

a unique example of modern architecture excavated directly into solid rock. We'll visit a local market where you can grab a bite, then your afternoon is free to explore this fabulous city before meeting for dinner at a local restaurant. **B/D**

Day 3, Sunday 25th June HELSINKI – ROVANIEMI

Helsinki is built on a headland, surrounded by hundreds of lush green islands and around several canals. This morning, we'll explore the city's beautiful shoreline onboard a canal cruise. The cruise will take us past the historic Suomenlinna Fortress, Helsinki Zoo on Korkeasaari Island, an impressive fleet of icebreakers, and the picturesque Degerö Canal. After lunch, you can explore the boutiques and galleries of the Design District before we meet for dinner. Enjoy this beautiful city's late twilight as we board our overnight train to Rovaniemi. These modern trains are comfortable and well-equipped with private sleeping cabins. The extended daylight hours provide stunning views on our journey North to Lapland. N.B. The sleeper cabins have bunk beds, so please talk to us if mobility is a concern for you, as a flight add-on may be possible. **B/D**



Day 4, Monday 26th June ROVANIEMI – GAMMELSTAD – JOKKMOKK

We'll arrive in Rovaniemi around 07:30am and have breakfast at a local cafe before strolling around the "gateway to the Arctic". Sitting at latitude 66°33 the town marks the crossing of the Arctic Circle and entry into Lapland. Saying "Moikka" (goodbye) to Finland, we'll cross into Sweden and visit the UNESCO-listed 'church village' of Gammelstad. The extreme weather and geography of Northern Scandinavia made it difficult for churchgoers to get to church, so they built "church villages" where they could sleep overnight and stay for masses and church celebrations. Gammelstad's collection of over 400 red cottages and the original church is the best-preserved example in Scandinavia. After lunch, we'll continue to Jokkmokk, an area known for its stunning nature and rich Sami history, where we will spend two nights. We'll be staying at a rustic but cosy lodge set on the shores of Lake Talvatis. **B/D**



Day 5, Tuesday 27th June JOKKMOKK (LAPLAND)

Jokkmokk, just north of the Arctic Circle, was known as the meeting place for trade, gatherings and festivals from the surrounding areas.

We'll visit Ájtte, the

Swedish Mountain and Sami Museum, to learn more about the story of the Sápmi people, their life and survival in a demanding climate and environment. Afterwards, we'll visit a traditional reindeer farm. Reindeer have played an important role in Finnish history and have been herded by the Sámi people for centuries. Their meat and fur are still used to this day. We'll take a light hike in the forests around Solberget, where the reindeer forage for food, then return to share a Swedish "Fika" (tea or coffee with homemade cakes). Upon returning to our lodge, you may wish to take a walk or relax in the quintessential Swedish sauna. **B/L/D**

Day 6, Wednesday 27th June JOKKMOKK – KIRUNA – NARVIK

After breakfast, we'll drive to the town of Kiruna. The original town was built on an active iron ore mine, which caused the ground beneath to deform and sink. Closing the mine was not an option, so the people of Kiruna underwent a massive relocation project to move their town two kilometres away to the location it stands today. We'll briefly walk through the town, then visit the Icehotel. Created in a new guise every winter, it's made entirely out of natural ice from the Torne River. More than just a hotel, it's truly an art exhibition and expression of creativity. After lunch we'll cross the border into Norway and continue to Narvik, nestled between the mountains and the fjords. We'll visit the War Museum, which focuses first on Nazi Germany's attack on Norway and the subsequent occupation. However, it also examines universal questions about war and its consequences through photography, film, and sound. Check in to our hotel for a one night stay. **B/L**

Day 7, Thursday 28th June NARVIK – LOFOTEN

Get your camera ready as we travel into the Lofoten region today. This amazing archipelago offers stunning scenery

with steep mountain peaks, Arctic fjords, tiny fishing settlements and rich wildlife. Exploring it during the never-ending summer days and the Midnight sun is quite special. Our stops en route include the white sand beach of Ramberg (we dare you to swim!), Henningsvær, a fishing village comprised of several islands connected by bridges, and the picturesque village of Nusfjord. We'll spend one night in Svolvær, the main hub for the surrounding islands. Your evening is free to take photos or explore the arts and culture centre near the hotel. **B/L**

Day 8, Friday 29th June LOFOTEN – BØDO

Leaving Svolvær, we'll continue our exploration of the Lofoten region, heading South. We'll stop in Reine, an authentic living fishing village famous for its scenic location by the Arctic



Ocean and majestic Lofoten peaks. We'll continue to the southernmost point of the islands and visit Å, a tiny fishing village that gives meaning to the word "remote". The local museum is a fascinating glimpse into the harsh life of the area's early settlers. We'll conclude our day in Bodø where we'll stay for one night. Our hotel offers stunning views over the majestic Lofoten mountains or watching the Hurtigruten Coastal Express boats as they cruise past. **B/D**



Day 9, Saturday 30th June BØDO – TRONDHEIM

After breakfast, we'll take a short flight to Trondheim. With its colourful warehouses, waterways, and historical centre, Norway's third-largest city is a pleasure to explore. On arrival, we'll walk part of the fantastic "City River Walk," which passes through the fjords, canals, and historic city bridge. In the late afternoon, we'll check into our hotel for a two-night stay. There'll be time to freshen up before meeting for dinner at a local restaurant. **B/D**

Day 10, Sunday 1st July TRONDHEIM

This morning, we'll visit the Trøndelag Open-Air Folk Museum. With over 80 historical buildings from the Trondheim area, it offers a charming representation of the wooden houses that dominated the cityscape from the 18th Century until today. Next, we'll visit Nidaros Cathedral, the world's northernmost Gothic cathedral, built in 1070 over the tomb of St. Olav, the Viking king who brought Christianity to Norway. The 172 steps to the top of the cathedral are dark and narrow, but the climb is well worth it for the unrivalled views of the city. The rest of your day is at leisure to wander the charming streets of Baklandet, with its quaint cafes and artisan shops or visit one of the city's museums. **B/L**



Day 11, Monday 2nd July TRONDHEIM – ÅNDALSNES

This morning, we'll drive for several hours through national parks and forests to Dombås, where we will board the famous Rauma railway. On the 115 km long journey between Dombås and Åndalsnes, the train passes through spectacular mountain formations, powerful waterfalls,

superb stone bridges and the wide fjord. The views are so stunning it was named "the world's most scenic train journey" by Lonely Planet in 2023. We'll ride the Romsdal gondola 1679 metres up the towering mountainside for views of the surrounding fjords, then check in to our hotel in Åndalsnes for a one-night stay and dinner. **B/D**



**Day 12, Tuesday
2nd July
ÅNDALSNES –
GEIRANGER**

Trollstigen, or "Troll's Ladder," is one of Norway's most iconic drives, winding through breathtaking landscapes

and past cascading waterfalls. Built in 1939, Trollstigen was an important transport passage between the villages of Åndalsnes and Valdalen and is a true masterpiece in engineering. Its 11 hairpin turns ascend steeply through the mountains and dramatic cliffs. At some locations, you will discover that the road is carved into the mountain and, in other places, built in stone. This spectacular drive concludes in Geiranger, a picturesque village at the end of the Geirangerfjord, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its dramatic cliffs and lush greenery. We'll check in to our hotel for a one-night stay, then head out for a light hike in this spectacular location. **B/D**

**Day 13, Wednesday 3rd July
GEIRANGER – SUNNFJORD**

This morning, we'll explore the famous Geiranger Fjord on a 1-hour cruise to Hellesylt. Steep mountains and spectacular waterfalls surround the fjord, and the small farms clinging to the mountainsides look almost uninhabitable and have remained untouched in modern times - accessible only by boat and on foot. Keep your cameras ready as we drive through Norway's jaw-dropping scenery to the Sognefjord area. Our journey is approx. 200km, but it will take the rest of the afternoon as we stop for photos of the verdant valleys, glaciers and ever-changing mountains. On arrival at our hotel in Sunnfjord, there'll be time to relax and take it all in. **B/D**



**Day 14, Thursday 4th
July
SUNNFJORD –
NÆRØYFJORD – FLÅM
– BERGEN**

After breakfast, we'll drive through the Fjordlands of Norway towards Flåm. The sheer size and scope of

the fjords and mountains mean that the best way to navigate the landscape is by combining roads, ferries, and trains. Today is a long travel day but a truly memorable one. We'll arrive in Flåm in the morning and join a boat to Gudvangen, passing more precipitous mountains and mighty waterfalls. The drawcard for this trip is Nærøysfjord, the world's narrowest fjord, also added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2005. The journey passes historic villages with the Aurland's stone church dating back to the 1200s. After our boat trip, we'll continue to the Flåm Railway, rivalling Rauma for the title of "world's best train journey". Travelling from sea level to the mountain station of Myrdal,

it's one of the steepest railways in the world and affords a stunning variety of scenery during the short trip. Finally, we'll board another train from Myrdal to the beautiful city of Bergen, where we'll spend the next two nights. Our arrival will be late, and you may wish to purchase a light meal from the dining car on the train journey. **B**



**Day 15, Friday 5th
July
BERGEN**

Perched atop the dramatic fjords of Western Norway, the city of Bergen was founded in 1070 A.D.

During the 12th and 13th centuries, when the Kingdom of Norway was at the peak of its power, Bergen was the capital of Norway. Its beautifully preserved wooden buildings are protected as a UNESCO World Heritage site. We'll take a walking tour of Bergen's highlights, including a visit to the famous Fish and Flower Markets, the old Bryggen Harbour, the popular Hanseatic Quarter and the ancient Maria Church. Your afternoon is free to explore this fabulous city. You may wish to ride the funicular to Mount Floyen for spectacular city views. Dinner is at your leisure.

B/L



**Day 16, Saturday 6th July
BERGEN TO OSLO**

Today, we'll take our final breathtaking rail journey to Norway's capital, Oslo. Our bags will be transferred from our hotel in Bergen to our hotel in Oslo so we can sit back and enjoy the journey. This scenic journey takes about seven hours and showcases the country's natural beauty and cultural heritage, passing mountain landscapes, fjords, and picturesque villages along the way. There's a dining car for light snacks along the way, and we'll reach Oslo in time for dinner at a local restaurant. **B/D**



**Day 17, Sunday 7th July
OSLO**

This morning, we'll meet a local guide for a tour of Oslo's city centre. We'll visit the Parliament Building, the National Theatre, the new Opera House, Royal Residence and the City Hall, where the Nobel Peace Prize is presented each year. Next, we'll visit the Vigeland Sculpture Park where the work of Norway's famous sculptor, Gustav Vigeland, is displayed. The park is his life's work, comprising over 200 granite, bronze, and wrought iron sculptures celebrating the circle of life. In the afternoon, we'll visit the fantastic Norwegian Folk Museum, representing how people lived in Norway from 1500 to the present. The 160 buildings in the Open-Air Museum represent different regions in Norway and Sami culture. We'll return to our hotel to freshen up before meeting for our farewell dinner. **B/D**

**Day 18, Monday 8th July
OSLO & DEPARTURE**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home or your next destination. **B**

STOCKHOLM EXTENSION: Interested in spending time in Sweden's beautiful capital? 3 night Stockholm package available, please ask us for details.



Icon indicates a day where there is **moderate physical exertion**. A basic level of fitness is required: eg. A trek over 'mostly flat' terrain or climbing several flights of steps without the support of handrails or elevators.



Icon indicates a day where there is a **particularly active section**. A good level of fitness is required: eg. A longer trek over non-groomed, uneven terrain, or ascending to reach a panorama. May also include exposure to higher altitude. **An alternate activity may be offered if you choose to sit out an active section.** Please call - we are happy to discuss each tour in more detail.