



CST# 2001110-40

**San Francisco Los Angeles New York Chicago Houston Vancouver Beijing**

## 10-Day Nordic Capital Explorer

Tour Code: UKH10

Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Finland

Departure Dates: (2023) 3/26, 4/23, 5/28, 6/25, 7/23, 8/27, 9/24, 10/29

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Thoughtful planning of tour route and itinerary offers you the best experience in exploring these six Nordic countries!
- Travel from Reykjavik, Iceland to Copenhagen, Denmark efficiently and comfortably by an inland flight.
- Witness the exceptionally rare and spectacular landscapes along Iceland's famous Golden Circle tour route.
- Enjoy a unique outdoor spa experience at the world-renowned Blue Lagoon in Iceland.
- Visit Amalienborg Palace, the present residence of Denmark's royal family and the iconic statue "The Little Mermaid", the character of the notable fairy tale of the same name written by the famous Danish writer Hans Christian Anderson (1805-1875).
- Unforgettable overnight experience in deluxe ocean-view cabins on European cruises from Denmark to Norway and Sweden to Estonia, allowing you admire the charming coastal sceneries along the Nordic and Baltic Seas.
- Explore the Viking Ship Museum in Norway and gain in-depth understanding of Viking maritime history.
- Diversified authentic cuisines, including Swedish meatballs, Nordic-style seafood, pirate-style buffet on cruise, hotel breakfast buffets, etc.
- Accommodate at convenient 4-star upscale hotels throughout the trip.
- Experienced and professional bilingual tour leader offering attentive and inviting services.

### ADMISSIONS & TRANSFERS INCLUDED:

- ❖ Kerid Crater
- ❖ Blue Lagoon
- ❖ Viking Ship Museum
- ❖ Stockholm City Hall
- ❖ Vasa Museum
- ❖ Tempeliakio Church
- ❖ Iceland → Denmark by inland flight
- ❖ Denmark → Norway on DFDS Cruise (overnight in ocean-view cabin)
- ❖ Sweden → Estonia on Silja Cruise (overnight in ocean-view cabin)
- ❖ Estonia → Finland by ferry

## ITINERARIES:

### 1 Hometown Reykjavik, Iceland

### 2 Reykjavik - Golden Circle: Kerid Crater (admission incl.) - Gullfoss Waterfall - Thingvellir National Park - Strokkur Geysir (L)

Hotel: Grand Hotel Reykjavik or similar

**Kerid Crater:** Of 55 meters deep and 170 meters wide, Kerid Crater is an at least 3000-year-old volcanic crater lake in southern Iceland along the Golden Circle tour route. Most of the crater wall is steep with barely little vegetation while a small part of it is blanketed with thick red moss, creating strong color contrast with its striking aquamarine water and the surrounding landscape.

**Gullfoss Waterfall:** Also known as the “Golden Falls” as the water spray shining under the bright sun, the Waterfall was formed by flash flood waters flowing through the cracks in the lava layers. It is the largest waterfall in Europe in terms of volume. This iconic waterfall of Iceland and its environments were designed in 1979 as a nature reserve offering a spectacular view of the forces and beauty of untouched nature.

**Strokkur Geysir:** The most active geyser in Iceland that erupts vigorously up to 15 or 20 meters every 4-10 minutes, making it another must visited attraction on the Golden Circle route.

### 3 Hallgrimskirkja Church - Blue Lagoon (admission incl.) Copenhagen, Demark (B)

Hotel: Copenhagen Island Hotel or similar

**Blue Lagoon:** A world famous natural geothermal spa in Iceland and the largest lagoon in the world. Its warm mineral-rich spring water will definitely help restoring energy, rejuvenating skin, and even healing from some skin diseases. *(Note: Please bring along your swimsuits. Towels are included in the admission.)*

### 4 Amalienborg Palace - Gefion Fountain - Little Mermaid - Town Hall Square - Nyhavn Harbor - DFDS Cruise Oslo, Norway (B/D: Cruise Buffet)

Overnight at DFDS Cruise (upgrade to ocean-view cabin)

**Amalienborg Palace:** Constructed in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, Amalienborg Palace has since become the principal residence of the Danish royal family. Visitors can experience the royal history at the museum and sense the life of one of the world’s oldest monarchies at the beautiful palace square. There is also changing of the Royal Guard daily at noon.

**Little Mermaid:** Based on the popular fairy tale of the same name by the famous Danish author Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875), this 1.25-meter-tall bronze sculpture was created and displayed on a rock of 1.8m wide by the seaside. It is Copenhagen’s icon and has been adopted as the city’s tourism authority VisitCopenhagen’s logo.

**Nyhavn Harbor:** Copenhagen’s newly developed entertainment district being transformed from a 17-th century waterfront, lining with brightly colored townhouses, bars, cafes and restaurants. The old wooden ships along the canal become the new icon of the city.

**5 Oslo - Vigeland Sculpture Park - Nobel Peace Center - City Hall Square - Parliament House - Viking Ship Museum (admission incl.) - Karlstad, Sweden (B/L: Seafood)**

Hotel: Scandic Karlstad City or similar

**Vigeland Sculpture Park:** The largest sculpture park by a single artist in the world, houses a collection of the great Norwegian artist Gustav Vigeland's life work, comprising over 200 sculptures in granite, bronze and wrought iron which all represent the cycle of human life and emotions. Among them the most famous one is *The Monolith* which stands at the highest point in the Park and depicts 121 human figures clinging and floating together, being interpreted as a vision of resurrection as well as hope for spirituality.

**Nobel Peace Center:** Established at the City Hall Square in 2005, the Centre presents Nobel Peace Prize winners and their work as well as to promote its initiatives in awareness, involvement and reflections on wars, peace and conflict resolution. Close to the Centre is the Oslo City Hall where the Nobel Peace Prize Award Ceremony taking place on the 10<sup>th</sup> December every year.

**Viking Ship Museum:** Located on Oslo's Bygdoy Peninsula, the Museum is one of the most important Nordic Viking cultural treasures and one of the most popular tourist attractions in Norway. It displays 5 gigantic original Viking ships and the most comprehensive collection of Viking-era artifacts in the world.

**6 Karlstad - Stockholm - Old Town - Royal Palace Square - Drottningholm Palace (optional) - Skansen Open Air Museum (optional) (B/L: Swedish meat balls)**


Hotel: Clarion Hotel Sign or similar

**Old Town:** Located on the island of Stadsholmen, Stockholm's Old Town is the original city centre with history dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century but most buildings are from the time between 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is a glorious labyrinth of charming cobbled streets, alleyways, faded mustard and rust-colored townhouses and meeting squares. We can still see some murals from the Middle Ages on the outside walls of the buildings. It is hard to believe that the Old Town was once considered a slum when it is now a popular tourist attraction packing with cafes, restaurants, souvenir shops, studios, galleries and museums.

**Royal Palace Square:** It houses the Royal Palace or Stockholm Palace, the official residence and executive office of the Swedish royal family, while their actual residence is Drottningholm Palace. The baroque-style Royal Palace was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and has a square floor plan with 1,430 rooms, a large courtyard and other features like museums, galleries, library, etc. The changing of the royal guards on the Square is a top tourist attraction which attracts crowds of visitors every day at around noon.

**Drottningholm Palace:** The private residence of the Swedish royal family located in a suburb of Stockholm and originally built in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. With its castle, perfectly preserved theatre, Chinese pavilion and gardens, the Palace is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the finest example of a northern European royal residence being inspired by the Palace of Versailles.

**Skansen Open Air Museum:** The name "Skansen" coming from the mound as Charles XIV had built for his son Oscar I use as a playground, this Museum is the world's oldest open-air museum and zoo and was established by Artur Hazelius in 1891 to showcase the original Sweden in the 18<sup>th</sup> century with about 160 houses and farmsteads from every part of the country, presenting the real Swedish life before the industrial era.

**7 Stockholm City Hall (admission incl.) - Vasa Museum (admission incl.) - Silja Cruise  Tallinn, Estonia (B/D: Cruise Buffet)**

Overnight at Silja Line Cruise (upgrade to ocean-view cabin)

**Stockholm City Hall:** The iconic landmark of Stockholm by the waterfront. Completed in 1923, the City Hall is a massive red brick structure of typical Nordic architectural style featuring a Golden Hall which is decorated with over 18 million gold mosaic tiles and used to host the Nobel Prize banquet every year. Its 106-meter-tall tower overlooks the entire central Stockholm.

**Vasa Museum:** A maritime museum in Stockholm displaying the only almost fully intact 17<sup>th</sup>-century warship Vasa that sank on her maiden voyage in 1628. After spending 333 years on the bottom of the sea, it was finally salvaged. Today Vasa is the world's best preserved 17<sup>th</sup> century ship and the most visited museum in Scandinavia.

**8 Tallinn - Kadriorg Palace - Alexander Nevski Cathedral - Old Town  Helsinki, Finland (B/D)**

Hotel: Clarion Hotel Helsinki or similar

**Kadriorg Palace:** Located by the Baltic Sea, Kadriorg Palace is a Baroque architecture built by Russian emperor Peter the Great in the 17<sup>th</sup> century as the royal summer residence. Surrounded by a garden of fountains, hedges and flowerbeds, it currently houses Kadriorg Art Museum exhibiting a collection of Western European and Russian art from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Alexander Nevski Cathedral:** Tallinn's largest and grandest orthodox cupola cathedral overlooking the entire Old Town. It was built in a typical Russian Revival style between 1894 and 1900 when the country was part of the Russian Empire and is dedicated to Saint Alexander Nevsky who in 1242 won the Battle of the Ice on Lake Peipus, in the territorial waters of present-day Estonia.

**9 Helsinki - Temppeliaukio Church (admission incl.) - Old Town - Sibelius Monument - Uspenski Cathedral - Senate Square - Sea Fortress Suomenlinna (optional) (B/L)**

Hotel: Clarion Hotel Helsinki or similar

**Temppeliaukio Church:** Quarried out of the natural bedrock, Temppeliaukio Church is also known as Rock Church. Its spectacular atmosphere and unique architecture made with copper dome, exposed granite rocks and concrete beams present the most perfect blend of natural and artificial.

**Uspenski Cathedral:** Completed in 1868, Uspenski Cathedral is the main cathedral of the Orthodox Church of Finland and the largest Orthodox Church in Western Europe. The east-facing crosses on top of its 13 minarets symbolize Jesus and the Twelve Apostles. With its golden cupolas and redbrick facade, the Church conveys one of the clearest symbols of the Russian impact on Finnish history.

**Sea Fortress Suomenlinna:** Existing one of the largest fortifications in the world, Sea Fortress Suomenlinna was built on a group of islands off Helsinki originally to defend Sweden against invasion of the Russian Empire and to serve as a fortified army base, complete with a dry dock. In the history of military architecture, it is an outstanding example of general fortification principles of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1991. With a wall of 6km long, over 100 cannons, exciting tunnels, museums, guided tours, cafes and restaurants; it is Helsinki's top attraction. Currently, about 800 residents are still living there.

**10 Helsinki  Hometown (B)**

After breakfast, transfer to airport for return flight to hometown.

*< Itineraries may be subject to change. >*