

NORTHERN CAPITALS

A JOURNEY TO COPENHAGEN, OSLO, STOCKHOLM, HELSINKI and TALLINN

DESIGNED AND OPERATED BY CLUB EUROPA FOR
PARKLAND COLLEGE
Champaign, Illinois



Typical street/canal view in Copenhagen

Day 1
May 31
Sun

Transatlantic flight from the United States to Copenhagen, Denmark
07:15 pm: Flight SK944 departs Chicago O'Hare ORD (inflight meals)



Day 2
Jun 1
Mon

ARRIVAL / COPENHAGEN (Denmark)
10:45 am: arrival at Copenhagen Kastrup Airport CPH

Time will be allowed for money exchange at the airport – Denmark still deals in Danish Kroner - DKK
Meet and greet by Club Europa escort
Service of private motorcoach for transfer to the city
After check-in: visit of the nearby Tivoli Gardens in the heart of Copenhagen, the
second-oldest amusement park in the world with a rich history.
xx:xx pm: welcome dinner at local restaurant is included
MENU: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Overnight at Hotel xxxxxxxxxxxxxx / COPENHAGEN



Copenhagen (København in Danish) is the capital and most populous city of Denmark, located on the islands of Zealand and Amager. It's known for its blend of historic charm and modern design, a strong focus on sustainability, a vibrant cultural scene, and the famous Tivoli Gardens. The city is connected to Sweden by the Øresund Bridge and is a major economic and cultural hub for Scandinavia.

The city is famous for its cycling culture, innovative architecture and design (including being a World Capital of Architecture), New Nordic Cuisine, iconic landmarks like the Little Mermaid statue (photo above), Nyhavn, and Christiansborg Palace. Also well-known are its colorful canal-side buildings, the long *Strøget* pedestrian shopping street, and its vibrant nightlife and cultural scene.

Day 3 COPENHAGEN

Jun 2 Breakfast at hotel

Tue **xx:xx am:** private coach and local, licensed guide for a city tour of Copenhagen,
(*This is partially a WALKING TOUR! Please wear comfortable shoes!*)

The tour will end at the *Carlsberg Brewery* for a visit and a tasting of some of their fine brews - the visit and beer-tasting are included

Free time for lunch (on own)

The afternoon is free for individual or group activities, such as further sightseeing, shopping, etc. And highly recommended for the art lover: a visit to the *Carlsberg Glyptotek*, an outstanding fine art museum. The collection represents the private art collection of Carl Jacobsen, the son of the founder of the Carlsberg Breweries.

Dinner is on one's own

Overnight at Hotel xxxxxxxxxxxx / COPENHAGEN

Day 4 COPENHAGEN

Jun 3 Breakfast at hotel

Wed After breakfast: short drive to the nearby town of ROSKILDE, located just west of Copenhagen. Next to its harbor, the Viking Ship Museum has 11th-century vessels and an active boatyard. In its center, the Gothic, twin-spired Roskilde Cathedral holds the tombs of many Danish kings and queens. The nearby Museum of Contemporary Art sits in a former royal mansion. West of the city, the huge *Land of Legends* open-air museum recreates Stone Age and Viking life.

Free time for lunch (on one's own) and return to Copenhagen

The afternoon is free.....plenty of suggestions will be made available

Dinner is on one's own

Overnight at Hotel xxxxxxxxxxxx / COPENHAGEN



Oslo City Hall: the building as it stands today was constructed between 1931 and 1950, with an interruption during the Second World War. It was designed by architects Arnstein Arneberg and Magnus Poulsson. It is built of red brick and has two towers, one 63 meters tall and other 66 meters tall. The bricks used are larger than what was typical at the time of construction but are roughly the same size as bricks used in the Middle Ages. The eastern tower has a carillon set of 49 bells. Various events and ceremonies take place in the building, notably the *Nobel Peace Prize ceremony*, which takes place every December.



Day 5

Jun 4

Thu

COPENHAGEN > OSLO (Norway)

Breakfast at hotel

xx:xx am: private long-distance coach departs for Oslo

This is a travel day – the distance is about 380 miles

The main part of the drive runs along the west coast of Sweden, offering the opportunity - after crossing the iconic Øresund Bridge into Sweden - to make scenic stops in places like Malmö, Helsingborg, Varberg, Gothenborg. The last sixty miles of the total distance will be spent on Norwegian roads.

Lunch (enroute) is on one's own

Upon late afternoon arrival: check into the Oslo hotel - free time for a walkabout

Dinner at hotel or local restaurant is included

Menu: xxxxxxxxxxxx

Overnight at Hotel xxxxxxxxxxxx / OSLO

Day 6

Jun 5

Fri

OSLO

Breakfast at hotel

xx:xx am: meeting with local guide for a comprehensive tour of Norway's capital

Free time for lunch (on own)

Free afternoon

For art lovers, *Munch Museet* (munchmuseet.no), open 10am-4pm, celebrates the work of the country's most famous artist: Edvard Munch. The National Gallery also has a Munch room of its own, which includes one version of his most famous work, *The Scream*. Open daily except Mondays, 10am-6pm weekdays, 11am-5pm weekends.

Dinner is on one's own

Oslo boasts several fantastic eateries. Sentralen (sentralen.no) in the city center specializes in Nordic cuisine with modern twists and excellent wines, particularly from Austria.

Overnight at Hotel xxxxxxxxxxxx / OSLO



Given Norway's history of Arctic and Antarctic exploration, it is hardly surprising the city has a museum dedicated to its most famous exploratory vessel.

The *Fram* was used for three polar expeditions and, on the third, was helmed by Roald Amundsen when he became the first person to plant a flag at the South Pole in 1911. While the schooner takes pride of place, there's plenty more to see, including expedition equipment, polar explorer portraits and freeze-frame photos.

<https://framuseum.no/>

**Day 7**

Jun 6

Sat

OSLO and TRAIN to STOCKHOLM (Sweden)

Breakfast at hotel

Private transfer from the hotel to Oslo Central Station

xx:xx am: Train xxx departs Oslo Central Station**xx:xx am:** Arrival at Stockholm Central Station

Lunch aboard train is on one's own

Time will be allowed for money exchange at the Station – Sweden uses the Swedish Kroner - SKR!

Welcome by our local assistant – private transfer to the hotel

xx:xx pm: dinner at hotel or local restaurant is included**Menu:** xxxxxxxxxxxx

Overnight at the Hilton Slussen Hotel / STOCKHOLM

Money Matters

As full members of the European Union, Finland and Estonia use the EURO for their financial transactions.

The other Scandinavian countries still use their individual currencies:

Danish Kroner (DKK), Norwegian Kroner (NOK), and Swedish Kroner (SKR).

However, these three countries have largely moved to a **cash-free society**. In many stores, restaurants, and other businesses, paper money and coins are **no longer accepted**. If you prefer to pay in cash, it's best to ask in advance whether it will be accepted.



Stockholm, the capital of Sweden, encompasses 14 islands and more than 50 bridges on an extensive Baltic Sea archipelago. The cobblestone streets and ochre-colored buildings of Gamla Stan (the old town) are home to the 13th-century Storkyrkan Cathedral, the Kungliga Slottet Royal Palace and the Nobel Museum, which focuses on the Nobel Prize. Ferries and sightseeing boats shuttle passengers between the islands.

Day 8

Jun 7

Sun

STOCKHOLM

Breakfast at hotel

xx:xx am: private coach for in-depth city tour with our local, licensed guide.

The tour includes a visit to the *Vasa Museum* (admission included)

The *Vasa Museum* is a maritime museum, located on the island of Djurgården. The museum displays the only almost fully intact 17th-century ship that has ever been salvaged – the 64-gun warship *Vasa* sank on her maiden voyage in 1628. The Museum opened in 1990.

Free for lunch (on one's own)

The afternoon is free for individual or group activities, such as further sightseeing.

Dinner is on one's own

Overnight at the Hilton Slussen Hotel / STOCKHOLM

Day 9

Jun 8

Mon

STOCKHOLM and OVERNIGHT FERRY to HELSINKI (Finland)

Breakfast at hotel

After breakfast: free morning

Free time for lunch (on one's own)

xx:xx pm: private transfer from hotel to the port of Stockholm

xx:xx pm: check-in aboard VIKING LINES' vessel *Gabriella* or *Cindarella*

04:30 pm: ferry departs Stockholm for Helsinki

xx:xx pm: dinner aboard ship is included

Overnight aboard the FERRY from Stockholm to Helsinki

NOTE: Change some Dollars into EUROS while on board – Finland is part of EURO land.



After spending 333 years at the bottom of the sea, the Vasa now stands proudly on display in Stockholm. This remarkable 17th-century warship is the best preserved of its kind in the world, with an astonishing 98% of its original structure still intact. Visiting the Vasa Museum offers a rare chance to step back in time and witness a masterpiece of naval history.

The most visited museums in Stockholm:

Vasa Museum – Houses the resurrected 17th-century Swedish sunken warship.

Nordic Museum – The museum explores life in the Nordic region with a focus on humanity, from the present day back to the 16th century.

National Museum – The museum explores life in the Nordic region, highlighting the human experience from the 16th century to the present day.

Moderna Museet – Stockholm's museum of contemporary art houses over 130,000 domestic and international works.

Nobel Prize Museum – The Nobel Prize Museum welcomes visitors to explore exhibitions, educational programs, talks, and discussions addressing important contemporary issues.



Day 10 HELSINKI

Jun 9

Tue

Breakfast aboard ship is included

10:10 am: ferry from Stockholm arrives at the port of Helsinki

Disembarkation and welcome by local, licensed guide

Private coach for a guided city tour

Free time for lunch (on own)

Mid-afternoon: tour ends at the hotel

Check-in and time to relax and unwind

xx:xx pm: dinner at hotel or local restaurant is included

Menu: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Overnight at the xxxxxxxxx Hotel / HELSINKI



Helsinki, capital and largest city (pop. 650,000) of Finland, is the leading seaport and industrial city of the country. Helsinki lies in the far south of Finland, on a peninsula fringed by fine natural harbors that protrudes into the Gulf of Finland. The most northerly of continental European capitals, Helsinki is often called the “white city of the north,” because many of its buildings are constructed of a local light-colored granite.

Helsinki is known for its modern design and architecture, vibrant cultural scene, and extensive sauna culture. Visitors can explore its contemporary design district, experience authentic Finnish saunas like Löyly and Allas Sea Pools, and discover unique Nordic cuisine. The city also offers picturesque sea views, numerous islands and green spaces, and a compact, walkable urban environment with a thriving arts and nightlife scene.

Day 11 HELSINKI

Jun 10 Breakfast at hotel

Wed

This is a free day in Helsinki – suggestions will be provided

Begin your journey in the city’s most iconic square, where Carl Ludvig Engels’s neoclassical masterpieces frame the grand Helsinki Cathedral. Climb the cathedral steps for a stunning view of the rooftops, then slip into the National Library of Finland, a hidden gem with gilded ceilings and marble columns. Ease into the day with a relaxed brunch at Café Engel, a historic café with the best cathedral views in town.

Lunch is on one’s own – perhaps in one of the city’s market halls or in the port area for a warm bowl of *Lohikeitto* (salmon soup)

Or alternatively: since 1891, Fazer Café Kluuvikatu has been the go-to place for locals and visitors alike, serving Finnish pastries, chocolates, and light lunches in an elegant Art Deco setting. Founded by Karl Fazer, the café is a living piece of Finnish history—this is where the country’s most famous chocolates, Fazer Blue, were born.

Dinner is on one’s own

Take in the city from above at Toppa, a stunning restaurant perched high above the skyline. Located in the Sokeripala Building, the restaurant offers floor-to-ceiling windows that give you panoramic views stretching across the rooftops and out to the sea.

Overnight at the xxxxxxxxx Hotel / HELSINKI



A tremendous piece of architecture, the *Temppeliaukio Church* (also known as the church of the rock) was built in 1968 and opened in 1969 - it swiftly became one of Helsinki's most renowned attractions. Maintaining the original character of the square is the fundamental concept behind the building that was designed by brothers Timo and Tuomo Suomalainen in 1961. The interior was excavated and built directly out of solid rock and is bathed in natural light which enters through the skylight surrounding the center copper dome. <https://architectuul.com/architecture/temppeliaukio-church>



Day 12 HELSINKI > TALLINN (Estonia)

Jun 11

Thu

Breakfast at hotel

After breakfast: free morning in Helsinki

Lunch is on own

xx:xx pm: private transfer from hotel to the port of Helsinki

xx:xx pm: check-in aboard VIKING LINES' vessel to Tallinn

xx:xx pm: ferry departs Helsinki for Tallinn

xx:xx pm: ferry arrives at port of Tallinn

Private transfer from the port to the hotel

Check-in and time to relax

Dinner at Restaurant xxxxxxxxxx

MENU: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Suggestion: an after-dinner stroll through the narrow cobblestone streets in the old part of town

Overnight at the xxxxxxxxx Hotel / TALLINN

NOTE: When leaving Finland, keep some EUROS – Estonia is also a EURO country.



Tallinn, Estonia's capital on the Baltic Sea, is the country's cultural hub. It retains its walled, cobblestoned Old Town, home to cafes and shops, as well as Kiek in de K  k, a 15th-century defensive tower. Its Gothic Town Hall, built in the 13th century and with a 64m-high tower, sits in historic Tallinn's main square. St. Nicholas Church is a 13th-century landmark exhibiting ecclesiastical art. <https://visittallinn.ee/eng>

Day 13 TALLINN

Jun 12 Breakfast at hotel

Fri

xx:xx am: city tour with local, guide – mostly on foot so solid shoes are recommended!

Tallinn once consisted of two feuding medieval towns. The lower of the two, the Old Town, was an independent city, a Hanseatic trading center filled with German, Danish, and Swedish merchants who hired Estonians to do their menial labor. The walk to its central square is lined with these medieval merchant traders' home/warehouse/offices, featuring delightful touches from the Golden Hanseatic Age.

Lunch is on one's own

The afternoon is free for further sightseeing, last-minute shopping, etc.

xx:xx pm: our farewell dinner will be served at the *Olde Hansa* medieval restaurant

<https://www.oldehansa.ee/>

MENU: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Overnight at the xxxxxxxxx Hotel / TALLINN

Day 14

Jun 13

Sat

RETURN TO THE U.S.

Breakfast at hotel

xx:xx am: private coach for **early** transfer to Tallinn Airport

Services of Club Europa escort terminate after transfer and check-in

Return flight to the U.S.:

06:25 am: Flight SK1771 departs Tallinn Airport (TLL)

06:25 am: arrival at Stockholm Arlanda Airport (ARN)

08:00 am: Flight SK401 departs Stockholm Arlanda Airport (ARN)

09:15 am: arrival at Copenhagen Kastrup Airport (CPH)

01:55 pm: Flight SK943 departs Copenhagen Kastrup Airport (CPH)

04:10 pm: arrival at Chicago O'Hare Airport (ORD) (inflight meals)



Please Note

The use of motor coaches within many European cities is dramatically restricted, and in some cases, not possible. Distances to be covered on foot, as well as walking through historic sites, can sometimes be challenging. Comfortable walking shoes are highly recommended!

Included are:

- Twelve overnights at superior tourist or moderate first-class hotels, centrally and conveniently located, with twin or double occupancy. Brochures and/or websites of the hotels will be provided before final reservations.
- All breakfasts, buffet style
- Six dinners
- Experienced, multilingual Club Europa escort for the entire tour
- Services of local, licensed guides for sightseeing as noted
- Services of deluxe motorcoach (equipped with A/C) as noted (all highway tolls, parking fees, drivers' expenses and city permits included)
- Entrance fees as noted in the itinerary
- Both airport transfers (Copenhagen and Tallinn)
- Overnight ferry from Stockholm to Helsinki
- All applicable local taxes
- Gratuities to coach drivers and local guides
- Round trip air: Chicago > Copenhagen // Tallinn > Chicago (taxes and fuel surcharges as of October 2025 also included)
- Train from Oslo to Stockholm, including all transfers between hotels and stations
- Andy Benz of Club Europa is available for preparatory meetings as needed



Not included are

- Meals other than mentioned
- Drinks with dinners (please note that table water is not always free of charge in Europe)
- Luggage handling (not included for cost savings)
- Expenses of a personal nature (i.e. passport, laundry, insurance, European Travel Authorization, souvenirs, etc.)
- Airport transfers in the United States
- Gratuities to escort (€5.00 per person per day for the escort is standard)



Important

The rules of travel to Europe will change starting in late 2025 or early 2026, visitors from over 60 visa-exempt countries will be required to have a travel authorization to enter most European countries.

We are following this matter closely and will keep you informed.

https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias_en

Passport

As for all international travel, you need a valid passport.

Ensure your passport is valid at least six months beyond the date of your return.