

Baltic Jewels & the Midnight Sun



Day 1 — Stockholm, Sweden

Begin your cruise in Stockholm's stunning archipelago, nestled where Lake Mälaren meets the Baltic. Take in this amazing city spread over 14 islands and its 13th-century Old Town, or Gamla Stan, with German-influenced architecture. Consider a trip to the Vasa Museum to see an amazingly preserved 17th-century ship, or indulge in a smörgåsbord complete with traditional smoked salmon. Or opt to visit Skokloster Castle in the Swedish countryside.

Day 2 — Stockholm, Sweden

Spend the morning exploring Stockholm's architectural and natural wonders. Perhaps you will embark on an intimate boat tour and take in the breathtaking cityscape from the waters. Attend a private performance at the famed opera house. Or head on your own to the heart of the city to stroll the inviting footpaths of Djurgården Island, once a royal game park and today a picturesque recreational area blanketed in green. We depart in the early afternoon for a scenic cruise through the Stockholm archipelago.

Day 3 — Helsinki, Finland

Spend the day in Helsinki, known as the "White City of the North." Take an included city tour and view the Uspenski Cathedral; its 13 magnificent green and gold domes represent Christ and the apostles. Nearby is Porvoo, a charming medieval town with cobblestone streets that weave between historic wooden buildings. Or travel to the home of composer Jean Sibelius at Ainola and take in a concert at the summer school. Alternatively, visit the 18th-century Suomenlinna Fortress, one of the world's largest historic maritime fortresses. Another highlight is the spectacular Temppeliaukio Church, also known as the "Rock Church"—a subterranean sanctuary with rough-hewn walls of granite.

Day 4 — St. Petersburg, Russia

From morning through the next day, explore majestic St. Petersburg. Enjoy an included tour that shows you St. Isaac's Cathedral, the Peter and Paul Fortress, Nevsky Prospekt and more. Our overnight stay allows time to choose an optional tour of the Hermitage Museum, an evening at a private concert and more, as we will be spending the night in port.

Day 5 — St. Petersburg, Russia

Awake in St. Petersburg for a second day of exploration. Today you can choose to return to the city for a more detailed look at the wonders on display or journey into the countryside to visit the magnificent summer palaces of the tsars of Russia. If you didn't take yesterday's included guided tour, you can do so today. Or opt for one of the many optional tours.

Day 6 — Tallinn, Estonia

As you take a stroll through the meticulously restored medieval streets of old town Tallinn, you will feel the aura of the 14th and 15th centuries of the Estonian capital. Essential is a visit to the colossal Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, built in the Russian Orthodox style. Explore the sumptuously Baroque Kadriorg Palace, intended as a summer residence for Catherine the First of Russia, now the home of the foreign art collection of the Art Museum of Estonia. Last but not least, feast on marzipan, for this is the honey and almond confection's birthplace. Intricate edible creations can be found throughout the city, and should be sampled as often as possible.

Day 7 — Cruise the Baltic Sea

Relax today aboard your ship. Learn more about your upcoming destinations during an intriguing port talk, and explore your ship, perhaps unwinding in The Spa, where you can enjoy the Snow Grotto and Sauna, or by taking a dip in the Infinity Pool. Tonight, try a regional specialty in The Restaurant, or take in a recent movie in one of our three theaters—two indoor and one under the stars at the Main Pool.

Day 8 — Gdańsk, Poland

Gilded Goldwasser. Glowing amber. Gothic cathedrals. Your stop in Gdańsk is a visit to one of the richest cities in the Hanseatic League of old. Spend the morning strolling the remarkably restored Old Town with its mix of Gothic, Renaissance and baroque styles. Perhaps you'll indulge in the traditional pierogi dumplings, or a glass of gold-flecked Goldwasser—a liqueur created here in the 16th century. Or, opt to explore the medieval Teutonic stronghold of Malbork Castle, the world's largest brick castle and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 9 — Berlin, Germany

From port, take the included transfer through the scenic countryside of the Mecklenburg region to Germany's historic capital, Berlin—just a few hours away—where you will have the day to explore. Here you can discover at your own pace the major sights of the Berlin Wall, Alexanderplatz square and Checkpoint Charlie. Alternatively, on an optional tour take lunch in the Käfer restaurant, which perches atop the magnificent Reichstag.

Day 10 — Copenhagen, Denmark

Originally a Viking fishing village founded in the 10th century, the Danish capital boasts over 850 years of history. With an entire day to explore, pass the brightly colored houses of Nyhavn, or New Harbor, once the home of Hans Christian Andersen. Discover the sumptuously rococo interiors of Amalienborg Palace, the winter residence of the Danish royal family. You may also want to consider a trip to the ornate Kronborg Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the inspirational setting of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. This fairy-tale city provides plenty to explore, including delights for your palate at one of the many Michelin-starred restaurants, where you can indulge in a decadent lunch or an early dinner.

Day 11 — Ålborg, Denmark

Founded by the Vikings in the late 900s, this historic city straddles both sides of the Limfjord Sound. Spend the morning strolling along to Nytorv (New Square) to see the Renaissance-style Jens Bang's House, the baroque-style Town Hall, and the charming 14th-century Budolfi Church. Take in the lively Jomfru Ane Gade, a street lined with trendy cafés and restaurants. Or, opt for a tour led by a local chef to taste traditional aquavit, an herb-infused spirit distilled here since the 15th century.

Day 12 — Stavanger, Norway

From the heart of the Old Town, where your ship berths, you will have the morning and early afternoon to explore. Start here in the old quarter, Gamle Stavanger, which has Europe's highest concentration of wooden buildings from the 17th and 18th centuries. Or consider a cruise along the Lysefjord to see the famous Preikestolen, or Pulpit Rock, jutting out nearly 2,000 feet above—it is one of Norway's most famous natural attractions. Offshore oil drilling is an important industry for the local economy, and the award-winning Norwegian Petroleum Museum tells the story of the dangers faced in extracting this precious fuel. While ashore, don't forget to indulge in waffles with cream and sweet jams with a steaming cup of hot tea.

Day 13 — Eidfjord, Norway

Cruise through breathtaking fjords into the village of Eidfjord, nestled in the heart of one of Norway's most scenic regions. Ascend Europe's largest mountain plateau, Hardangervidda, for sweeping views of epic Nordic landscapes. Here, in Norway's largest national park, visit the informative Nature Center and perhaps view the Hardangerjøkulen glacier in the distance. You can also marvel at the stupendous 550-foot drop of the Vøringsfossen waterfall into the cavernous Måbødalen canyon. Alternately, you can opt to visit the expansive fruit orchards of Lofthus or tour Europe's largest hydroelectric power plant at Simadal.

Day 14 — Bergen, Norway

When you arrive in Bergen, encircled by majestic mountains, fjords and glaciers, you'll quickly understand how its setting inspired the Viking sagas. With your ship berthed next to Bryggen wharf, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, you can easily stroll along its waterfront once you've settled in to your veranda stateroom. This evening mingle with the locals and dine ashore, as we will be spending the night in port.

Day 15 — Bergen, Norway

Take in more of Bergen's Norwegian charms today. In the city's Old Town, explore narrow cobblestone lanes and peer into shop windows. You'll find this Hanseatic haven to be a walker's delight. You might also spend time on the ship today, perhaps indulging in a treatment at The Spa or settling in with a good book by the Infinity Pool. However you spend the day, you'll be thankful to have gotten to know Bergen.

Day 16 — Bergen, Norway

Awake in Bergen, where you'll have a free day to relax on board a while and set out into this historic city for more exploration. You might spend the afternoon strolling along Bryggen wharf, past the multihued wooden warehouses. Or, venture out to Lysøen Island to explore the landscaped beauty created by 19th-century Norwegian violinist Ole Bull. You may also choose to join an excursion to one of the nearby summits for magnificent views and invigorating mountain air. If you didn't take yesterday's included guided tour, you can do so today. Or opt for one of the many optional tours.

Day 17 — Geiranger, Norway

Cruise into the tiny village of Geiranger via the Geirangerfjord, one of Norway's most spectacular fjords. If you would like magnificent bird's-eye views of this magical setting, join an included tour to Eagle's Bend, perched 2,000 feet above the village. It is a thrilling drive marked by 11 hairpin turns and incredible panoramas. Immerse yourself in the great outdoors on an optional tour to witness spectacular waterfalls or journey through the fjords by kayak.

Day 18 — Molde, Norway

Take time to explore Molde today, a city that charms with its natural beauty. Known as the "City of Roses" for its well-tended flower gardens, Molde is surrounded by over 200 partially snowcapped mountains. You may choose to visit the fascinating open air Romsdal Museum, which offers 40 examples of old Norwegian architecture, from log houses to a small chapel.

Day 19 — Scenic Cruising: The Inside Passage

Today you cruise the magnificent Inside Passage; its waters are glass smooth and there is spectacular scenery all around. Your ship's small size allows navigation of this pristine region of coastal Norway. You can also take advantage of onboard amenities: an enrichment lecture and Nordic-inspired treatments at The Spa. Tonight, cruise under the tranquil light of the midnight sun.

Day 20 — Tromsø, Norway

Enjoy the lovely setting of Tromsø's historic center, spread over a scenic island. On an included tour, admire its blend of wooden structures and neoclassical buildings. You'll visit the stunning Arctic Cathedral with its striking triangular shape, the city's most recognizable symbol. You might also learn about arctic exploration and dogsledding. Meet the owners and residents of the Tromsø Wilderness Center and hear about their exciting expeditions.

Day 21 — Honningsvåg, Norway

Pay a rare visit to the remote port of Honningsvåg. From this tiny outpost town on the island of Magerøya, journey to the top of North Cape, or Nordkapp, on an included tour. This dramatic rocky plateau looks over the Barents Sea from a height of 1,000 feet. Alternately, set out on a wildlife expedition to the Gjesvaerstappan Nature Reserve, or spend time with the local Sami people and enjoy a warm welcome.

Day 22 — Lofoten, Norway

Experience the distinctive beauty of the Lofoten Islands today, where the sculpting power of nature comes into sharp focus. Soaring, jagged peaks overlook sheltered bays in this remarkable archipelago of six main islands. Traditional *rorbust*, charming fishing cottages, seem to hover over the waters on stilts, and the streets of its capital, Svolvær, are stunning and scenic, a delight to explore.

Day 23 — Cruise the Norwegian Sea

As you cruise to our next port, spend the day savoring the amenities of your elegant ship. Indulge in Nordic-inspired treatments at The Spa or find your inner calm with some yoga on the Sports Deck. Tonight, dine on thoughtfully prepared cuisine that connects you to the flavors of Scandinavia and watch a movie beneath the stars at the Main Pool.

Day 24 — Lerwick, Scotland

Admire the rugged beauty of one of Scotland's remote island outposts today. Set out to explore the island and meet its famous residents—Shetland ponies. Perhaps visit the remarkable archaeological site of Jarlshof—evidence of a thriving Viking presence. Or, sail the seas on board a replica Viking longship and try your hand at rowing for a true Viking travel experience.

Day 25 — Kirkwall, Scotland

Today, immerse yourself in the rich history of the Orkney Islands, ruled by the Vikings from the 9th to 13th century. See the Standing Stones of Stenness, a 5,000-year-old circle of stones, and explore this ancient monument. Visit the well-preserved Stone Age settlement of Skara Brae, or for a true taste of Scotland, take a trip to the world's most northerly whisky distillery.

Day 26 — Edinburgh, Scotland

Today, you'll take in the medieval and neoclassical beauty of Scotland's capital, gracefully set among rocky hills and gracious green ribbons of park. On an included tour, browse the Royal Mile—the famed avenue connecting the hilltop Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse. You might elect to explore Edinburgh Castle more closely, including a visit to the Crown Jewels. Or, venture to medieval St. Andrews, birthplace of golf.

Day 27 — Cruise the North Sea

Enjoy another day on board as you cruise the North Sea. Attend an illuminating enrichment lecture on board. Take in the sea views from the Explorers' Lounge. Tonight, dine at your choice of venues, perhaps pairing sommelier-selected wines with a carefully prepared tasting menu at The Chef's Table.

Day 28 — London (Greenwich), England

Discover the celebrated Royal Borough of Greenwich—part of which, Maritime Greenwich, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. London is just a short drive away, so you can take in the regal city and all its splendor. See the Tower of London, Parliament and Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and St. Paul's Cathedral. Or venture into the countryside to visit Windsor Castle, one of the royal residences. Alternately, step off the ship to tour Greenwich, its excellent National Maritime Museum and the Royal Observatory from where the world's clocks are set.

Day 29 — London (Greenwich), England

Disembark your ship this morning as your journey comes to a close, or extend your stay in London. Alternatively, you may continue your journey with an extension opportunity in Scotland.

** One shore excursion included per port as indicated (included); all others available at an extra charge. Depending on your stateroom category, shore excursions may be reserved beginning 90 days before your cruise sails. Not all excursions will be available for all sailings. Full details of the excursions available on your specific departure date can be viewed at My Viking Journey once your cruise booking has been made.*