

BEST SERVED SCANDINAVIA



SUMMER & AUTUMN 19





WELCOME

Welcome to Best Served Scandinavia's 2019 summer and autumn collection. This is *the* definitive roundup of all that Scandinavia and the Nordic and Baltic regions have to offer during those long, happy months.

Our latest showcase is packed full of the finest summertime adventures, all tried, tested and enjoyed by our specialists. From Norway's spectacular fjords to the glaciers and icebergs of Greenland, we've been busy revisiting the old and discovering the new to bring you the very best of our featured destinations.

With the arrival of summer, winter's snow recedes to fill sparkling rivers and mighty waterfalls, wilderness areas are blanketed with berries and wildflowers, and vast forests come alive after months of hibernation. It's this natural beauty that sets the scene for the majority of our featured holidays and the activities that make them so special. There's everything from hiking, cycling and white-water rafting in the far reaches of Swedish Lapland to bear watching in the forests of Finland and even a cross-border journey that pairs Tromsø's fjords and mountains with a summer stay at

the ICEHOTEL. You'll also find cruises in Svalbard, self-drives in Iceland and a whole new range of multi-country holidays, featuring city and countryside stays linked by rail, road and sea.

Then there's the return of our autumn holidays, devoted to that most colourful of seasons when the forests are ablaze with reds and golds. It's a time of year made all the more special when, from September onwards, the aurora dances across star-filled skies.

Remember, if you'd prefer to explore it all in the snow under Northern Lights, rather than the Midnight Sun, our winter brochure is available to order at best-served.co.uk.

KATHERINE GERSHON
MANAGING DIRECTOR







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ABOUT THIS BROCHURE



BEST FOR

Throughout this brochure, you'll spot the symbols below next to our tours and hotels. These should give you a helpful hint as to what each one is best for, helping you choose a holiday that suits you.



WILDLIFE



HONEYMOON



FAMILY



FOOD & WINE



PHOTOGRAPHY



WILDERNESS



SELF-DRIVE



ACTIVITIES



CITY



MIDNIGHT SUN

ACCOMMODATION IN THIS BROCHURE

As there is no universal system for grading hotels, we have applied our own grading system to featured hotels and itineraries. They are based on the opinion of our destination specialists, usually upon first-hand experience of staying there themselves.

Standard

Clean and comfortable accommodation with reasonable facilities (typically 3 stars).

Superior

A high standard of accommodation with a good range of quality facilities, usually in a good location (typically 4 stars).

Deluxe

Outstanding accommodation with excellent facilities and service, usually in a fantastic location (typically 5 stars).

MEAL INCLUSIONS

Any meals included in the price of our suggested itineraries, whether they're part of a tour, an excursion, or a hotel stay, are indicated at the end of each day's description using the following symbols:



Breakfast



Lunch



Dinner

WEATHER & CLIMATE

Scandinavian summers are generally mild and pleasant, but the weather can be changeable so pack layers and waterproofs. Svalbard and Greenland are still quite cold, especially at night. The summer months are the perfect time for exploring Fjord Norway, western Sweden and Finnish Lakeland, where the days are long, warm and bright. Iceland's south coast is warmer, wetter and windier than the north. In Arctic Norway, Swedish Lapland and Greenland, the Midnight Sun facilitates round-the-clock activities such as hiking, kayaking and boat trips among the icebergs at Ilulissat.

EXCURSIONS

We've included our favourite recommended excursions throughout this brochure, but don't hesitate to ask our travel specialists for advice on alternative options. Excursions are usually paid as an extra unless otherwise stated.

All prices, fares, hotels and tours described in this brochure are correct at the time of going to press (03/10/2018) and are subject to change and availability. All prices are per person based on two people travelling together sharing twin/double accommodation (unless otherwise stated). Many of the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. But, ATOL protection does not apply to all holiday and travel services listed. Please ask us to confirm what protection may apply to your booking. If you do not receive an ATOL Certificate then the booking will not be ATOL protected. If you do receive an ATOL Certificate but all the parts of your holiday are not listed on it, those parts will not be ATOL protected. For more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: atol.org.uk/atolcertificate.
The Best Served Scandinavia/Wexas ATOL number is 2873. Full Best Served Scandinavia booking conditions can be found at best-served.co.uk/terms-and-conditions.



SCANDINAVIAN SUMMER

Iceland, Finland and the three kingdoms of the Scandinavian Peninsula (Norway, Sweden and Denmark) may conjure images of winter snow and ice in the popular imagination. But, out of those frozen landscapes and near-perpetual darkness springs an awesome, vibrant summer scene, offering just as many exciting activities and adventurous opportunities.

This is the season of movement. Free of pack ice, the seas host migrating whales from the orcas and humpbacks that surface alongside Iceland's volcanic

shores to the playful pilot whales that frequent the waters off Greenland's rugged coast. Back on land, bears and bees are cut loose, while puffins, sea eagles and guillemots return to the cliffs of Norway's Lofoten Islands and gangs of giant polar bears stalk Svalbard's Arctic tundra. The region's epic landscapes are also transformed, as carpets of beautiful wildflowers and delicious berries stretch through forests and over high mountaintops. The rapid snowmelt creates a multitude of waterfalls, from Norway's fjordside Vinnufossen – Europe's tallest – to southern Iceland's mighty Gullfoss.

This vibrant world is perfect for white-water rafting, mountain biking and other high-energy sports, while hikers, birders and anglers are diverted by gentler but equally compelling distractions.

What's more, the Northern Lights can still be spotted, with the colourful months of autumn showcasing dazzling displays, accompanied by a mild climate. Not to be outdone, a holiday under the Midnight Sun is an equally magical experience as it casts its ever-present glow across the region's northernmost territories throughout June and July.



68.1542° N, 14.2029° E

NORWAY

Each summer, Norway comes alive. Lush valleys host ultra-scenic rail journeys, fjords open up to winding cruises and cities are set abuzz under the Midnight Sun. This is Scandinavia at play.

The pretty port of Bergen and the cultured capital of Oslo are the two most popular starting points. They're fantastic short-break destinations in their own right, with spectacular natural backdrops and a fascinating mercantile past that's contrasted by some of the world's finest contemporary architecture. But, there's also plenty of urban intrigue outside the country's two biggest cities, with medieval Trondheim, Art-Nouveau Ålesund and Stavanger's cobblestone charm among the highlights. Whichever you choose, you'll also want to turn out into the majestic fjordlands. Here, glassy waterways are framed by towering cliffs and verdant banks are home to pretty waterside villages. Over the next few pages, our destination specialists have combined off-the-beaten-track gems with such headline-grabbing

favourites as Hardangerfjord's precipitous Troll's Tongue. It's all knitted together with everything from scenic drives and cruises to hikes, kayak paddles and train trips, including the Flåm route – the steepest, and some say greatest, railway journey in the world. Then, if you look further north, beyond the Arctic Circle, there's all the fun under the Midnight Sun. Alongside Finnmark's wilderness spread of mountains and canyons, the Lofoten Islands are a real treat. They form an untamed archipelago of kilometre-high peaks that tumble down into glistening waters, fringed by undulating hills and dotted with traditional fishermen's huts. In fact, accommodation across Norway is a delight, with options including city boutiques, island glampsites and designer lodges. The only problem is choosing between it all.





01

HIGHLIGHTS OF NORWAY

5-DAY TAILOR-MADE TOUR

2 days Oslo » 1 day Norway in a Nutshell tour » 2 days Bergen



» PRICES FROM: £690 pp (Standard)

£960 (Superior) incl. flights, 2 nights Clarion Collection Hotel Folketeateret BB, Norway in a Nutshell day tour & 2 nights Clarion Collection Hotel Havnekontoret BB. Operates year-round.

Combine a visit to Norway's major cities with a cross-country rail and road trip taking in mountains, fjords and waterfalls. If you have more time, stop at your choice of picturesque fjordside villages and explore the landscape on foot or by bike.

Days 1–2 » UK/Oslo Fly to Oslo. Norway's easily navigable capital is home to a host of museums, shops and attractions. Stand face to face with Edvard

Munch's *The Scream* at the National Gallery, hang out among the statues at Vigeland Sculpture Park, dip into the past at the Viking Ship Museum, or give your tastebuds a treat at Aker Brygge's renowned restaurants. Stay at the Clarion Collection Hotel Folketeateret (Superior) or Thon Munch (Standard). B

Day 3 » Norway in a Nutshell tour – Oslo to Bergen Enjoy a breathtaking day trip along the Bergen and Flåm railways, passing ravines, waterfalls, dizzying mountain peaks and the picturesque Nærøyfjord and Aurlandsfjord.

Stalheimskleiva is a special highlight – an incredible stretch of hairpin bends running up a ridge between two cascading waterfalls. On arrival in Bergen, check in at the harbourfront Clarion Collection Havnekontoret (Superior) or the central Thon Bristol Bergen (Standard). B

Days 4–5 » Bergen/UK Explore the UNESCO-listed quayside and the historic fortress of Bergenshus, stop for seafood at

the fish market or take the funicular or climb the steps up to Mount Fløyen for glorious views of the town. On day five, head for the airport for your flight home. B



EXTEND YOUR STAY

Add more nights by breaking up your Norway in a Nutshell tour with stays in the villages of Flåm or Balestrand en route from Oslo to Bergen. You can also modify the tour element by choosing boat, road and rail excursions around Hardangerfjord or Sognefjord. Call our specialists for more information.



FLÅMSBRYGGA, FLÅM

SUPERIOR



Cosily furnished in log-cabin-chalet style, Flåmsbrygga is a great jumping-off point for hiking trails around the Flåmsdalen and Aurlandsdalen valleys. It's also perfectly placed for journeys on the spectacular Flåm Railway. Most of the hotel's 41 spacious rooms come with a private balcony, some with magnificent fjord views. It's also well worth spending a lazy afternoon at the next-door brewery, which pairs its very own range of beers with delicious, Viking-inspired food.

KVIKNES HOTEL, BALESTRAND

SUPERIOR



This charming, family-run Balestrand institution is located right on the fjord; cycling and hiking in this spectacular landscape is a magical experience. The rooms and suites of the historic Swiss-style building are a delight, with antique furnishings and balconies in most rooms, showcasing spectacular views across the fjord. The hotel restaurant offers imaginative buffet meals and four-course fine dining paired with excellent wines from a 300-strong cellar.



FRETHEIM, FLÅM

SUPERIOR



In the mid-19th century, the English aristocracy descended on Sognefjord in search of Europe's best salmon rivers, staying on local farmers' estates. And, the Fretheim homestead was one of the finest offerings, with one lord spending over 20 years here. So, this is your chance to follow in the footsteps of landed nobility, enjoying the very same orchard setting, fjord views, antique-furnished rooms and locally sourced dining. There's also a modern wing for the more budget conscious.

NEW

02

BERGEN: GATEWAY TO THE FJORDS



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Bergen



» **PRICES FROM:** £655 pp incl. flights, 3 nights Thon Hotel Orion BB, complimentary light evening meals & snacks & Norway in a Nutshell tour with all rail, fjord cruise & bus tickets. Operates year-round.

This ultra-scenic short break will see you explore Bergen – the gateway to Norway’s world-famous fjords. Staying right beside the historic waterfront, you’ll have free time to take in the city’s attractions at your own pace before a scenic train ride and fjord cruise bring you right among some of Norway’s finest landscapes.

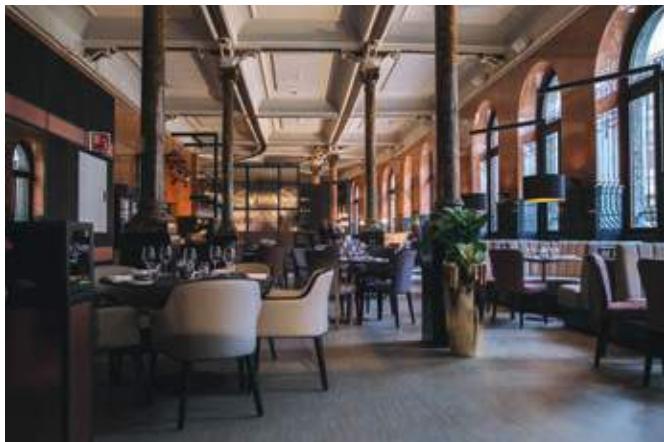
Day 1 » UK/Bergen Fly out to Norway’s second city, whose famous Bryggen wharf is home to colourful Hanseatic buildings and a museum where exhibits showcase

the city’s rich trading past and traditional stockfish industry. On arrival, check in at the contemporary Thon Orion, where you’ll stay throughout your holiday. It’s ideally situated just moments from the waterfront and Torgallmenningen town square. Rooms are typically stylish, with bold colour schemes and oversized Art Deco-inspired headboards. And, for summer stays, the rooftop terrace features panoramic views over the city and its mountain surrounds. In the evenings, enjoy complimentary light meals alongside free teas, coffees, fruit and sweets. **B**

Day 2 » Sognefjord & Flåm Today’s Norway in a Nutshell tour begins with a journey on the scenic Bergen railway, passing rolling hills and pristine fjords. Then, swap to the Flåm Railway – the steepest standard-gauge railway line in the world – to descend through verdant valleys and past cascading waterfalls to the shores of Aurlandsfjord, a branch of Sognefjord – the longest and deepest fjord in Norway. From here, a scenic cruise will see you along the narrow waterways of Nærøyfjord, drifting past snow-dusted

mountains and pretty villages that cling to near-vertical cliffs. Explore the tiny village of Gudvangen and Nærøydalens hilly backdrop before a bus journey around the winding hairpins of Stalheimsleiva – open from May to September – brings you back to Bergen. **B**

Days 3–4 » Bergen/UK Enjoy a day at leisure to explore Bergen’s myriad delights, from the delightful Festplassen Gardens to the city’s popular fish market. Stroll between colourful quayside warehouses and walk through the surrounding pine forests soaking up the views. And, no visit to Bergen would be complete without a ride on the Fløibanen funicular to take in the whole city and its surroundings from the summit of Mt. Fløyen. There’s also the chance to explore the fjords further with an optional day trip to Hardanger. For your last evening, perhaps try one of Bergen’s excellent restaurants; the superb 1877, with its menus based on seasonal and locally sourced produce, is among our favourites. After breakfast on day four, head back to the airport in time for your flight home. **B**



OPUS XVI

DELUXE



Run by descendants of Edvard Grieg – Bergen's favourite son – the city's newest offering is named after the great composer's famed piano concerto. And, alongside its lunchtime concerts, there's plenty more of the classical surrounding Opus XVI. Housed in what was once the city's largest bank, you'll enter to a 19th-century world of heavy granite walls and ionic columns carved from polished marble. There's also a superb restaurant and convivial lobby wine bar, while rooms and suites mix in an altogether more contemporary style.



THON ORION

STANDARD



With its bold colour schemes and sleek, contemporary design, this recently renovated hotel has a superb location on Bergen's harbourfront, with easy access to the historic Bryggen quay and a delightful next-door park. Once inside, stylish lounges provide space to relax while superior rooms and suites make the most of the hotel's privileged position with sweeping views of the city's harbour and mountain setting. The food is excellent, too, with a delicious buffet breakfast and complimentary light evening meal both included in the price.

CLARION COLLECTION HOTEL
HAVNEKONTORET

SUPERIOR



Found right in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bryggen quay, this elegant hotel is decorated in a neo-Baroque style and housed in a fascinating stone building dating from the 1920s. As such, its clock tower offers stunning views across the waterfront. Nearby attractions include Fisketorget fish market, the Fløibanen funicular and Bergen's famous aquarium. As with other Clarion Collection hotels, complimentary afternoon tea and waffles, along with a light buffet dinner, are all included in the room rate.



THON HOTEL ROSENKRANTZ

STANDARD



As far as locations go it's hard to beat this recently updated city-centre offering, just steps from the Fløyen funicular and the Bryggen wharf. Inside, elegant rooms come with Bose sound systems and, in Superior categories and above, Nespresso machines – belying the hotel's three-star price tag. And, as is the trend in this part of the world, a light evening meal is included in the rate. Breakfast is another highlight, with everything from healthy fruits and cereals to diet-busting pastries and a full complement of cooked options.

03

FJORD ESCAPE TO BERGEN & BALESTRAND



6-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

1 day Bergen » 3 days Balestrand
1 day Flåm » 1 day Bergen



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,095 pp incl. flights, 5 nights BB accommodation with light evening meals & Sognefjord in a Nutshell excursion incl. return express boat, Flåm Railway & Myrdal to Bergen train. Operates mid-Apr to Oct.

This tailor-made getaway has it all: rural beauty, village charm and second-city history. You'll knit it all together with a pair of fjord cruises and two ultra-scenic railway journeys, all of which showcase Norway's waterways and mountains at their verdant best. There's also plenty of time to take in Bergen's colourful heritage along with the village idyll of Flåm and Balestrand as you enjoy indulgent stays in beautiful, waterfront hotels.

Day 1 » UK/Bergen Flying out to Bergen, you'll be staying right among its Hanseatic heritage. Indeed, your landmark hotel – the Clarion Collection Havnekontoret – is perfectly poised to explore, set among the colourful timber houses of Bryggen wharf. Along with Bergen's mercantile past, be sure to also take in its mountain funicular and the atmospheric fish market.

Days 2–4 » Balestrand Setting out to explore western Norway's sensational waterways, you'll board an express boat to navigate Norway's longest fjord – Sognefjord. Its green-dappled splendour will see you on to Balestrand and your 19th-century hotel, Kviknes (see page 11). With three days here, you'll quickly settle into rural village life, taking in the countryside on optional hikes, boat rides or kayak trips. **B**

Days 5–6 » Flåm & Bergen/UK Your next cruise hop will see you on to Flåm, a beautiful village set between fjord waters and forested mountain. Here, you'll also

be treated to one of the world's most scenic rail journeys, winding past rushing waterfalls and green valleys. You'll arrive at Myrdal, where your connecting train will see you back, through mountain plateaus, to a final night in Bergen. The next day, make your way to the airport for your flight home. **B**



GAULARFJELLET

The viewpoint at Gularfjellet is one of the region's newest attractions and is easily accessible from Balestrand. Hire a car for the day, or take an escorted bus trip if the hairpin bends are too daunting. Call us for details.



6-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

1 day Bergen » 1 day Ulvik » 2 days Lofthus » 1 day Norheimsund
» 1 day Bergen



» PRICES FROM: £1,190 pp incl. flights, transfers, 2 nights Thon Hotel Rosenkrantz BB, 1 night Brakanes Hotel BB, 2 nights Hotel Ullensvang HB & all train, bus & ferry travel as per itinerary. Operates May to Sep.

The scenery around Hardangerfjord is among Norway's most awe-inspiring, and it's best explored on the superb network of buses, trains and ferries that connect the region's key destinations. There's also the flexibility to extend your travels in the fjords or to continue on to Oslo or beyond.

Day 1 » UK/Bergen Fly to Bergen and check in at the Thon Hotel Rosenkrantz

(see page 13). The fish market and UNESCO-listed Bryggen are both within easy walking distance.

Day 2 » Ulvik Catch the early morning train to Voss and continue your journey to Ulvik by bus. The village lies on an arm of Hardangerfjord and is surrounded by high mountains; several hiking trails are within easy reach of Brakanes Hotel, where you'll spend the night. 

Days 3–4 » Eidfjord & Lofthus A scenic 30-minute boat ride drops you at Eidfjord, where you'll have a few hours to explore the Måbødalen valley and the Vøringsfossen waterfall before continuing to Hotel Ullensvang in Lofthus. Lying on the eastern shore of Sørfjorden, another arm of the immense Hardangerfjord, Lofthus is especially beautiful in late spring and early summer, when pink and white fruit blossom adds an extra flourish to an already stunning landscape of green hills and snow-tipped mountains. It's all reflected in the fjord's tranquil waters. 



HOTEL ULLENVANG

From humble beginnings as a stagecoach inn, the Ullensvang is now firmly established as the best place from which to explore the natural wonders of Hardanger, including dozens of amazing hiking trails and the famous jutting rock of Trolltunga (Troll's tongue). Most of the hotel's 200 rooms have views of interest, but the Fjord View rooms are particularly appealing. The Hardanger Buffet Restaurant serves a first-rate pick-your-own dinner, while the excellent Zazoni has delectable fine-dining offerings from around the world.

Days 5–6 » Norheimsund & Bergen/UK

You'll have more free time in Lofthus before taking the afternoon boat to the pretty village of Norheimsund. Take a detour to nearby Steinsdalsfossen and follow the footpath up to – and behind – the waterfall, before returning to Bergen by bus. Overnight back at the Thon Hotel Rosenkrantz, then head to the airport for your return flight. 



HARDANGERFJORD SELF-DRIVE

This itinerary is also available as a self-drive tour, taking in the same sights and more. Call our specialists on 020 7838 5863.



05

BERGEN'S FJORDS:
AN ACTIVE ADVENTURE

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Bergen



» **PRICES FROM:** £860 pp incl. flights, 3 nights Thon Hotel Orion BB & full-day fjord active adventure with transfers, kayaking, downhill biking, RIB safari & rail journeys incl. Flåm Railway. Operates from May to Sep.

Along with a stay in historic Bergen, this short break is an ideal introduction to the Norwegian fjords, showcased on a range of activities. Indeed, after taking in the city's UNESCO-listed harbour and mountain funicular, you'll cycle down pretty valleys, kayak and ride boats along spectacular waterways and – with

the Flåm Railway – enjoy one of the world's greatest train journeys.

Days 1–2 » UK/Bergen Flying out to Norway's second city, you'll make your way to the Thon Orion. Just renovated, it's a slice of Scandi modernism among Bergen's rich heritage; the city's timber harbourfront and the pastel architecture of the town square are just a stone's throw away. They're views taken in from your hotel's rooftop terrace, where you might want to take your complimentary breakfast and light dinner buffets. Otherwise, explore the surrounding mountains on scenic hikes, made possible by funicular or cable-car rides. **B**

Day 3 » Fjord active adventure You'll begin your exploration of the surrounding mountains and fjords with a scenic rail trip, winding along a verdant valley

before arriving at the remote mountain station of Myrdal. Here, you'll change for the famous Flåm Railway, descending alongside rushing waters and dense forests to arrive at Berekvam, from where you'll cycle downhill to Flåm village as your guide points out the best viewpoints. You'll then have the chance to explore the dramatic fjord setting with a RIB boat safari, bringing you past sheer granite walls to arrive at Gudvangen and your sea-kayaking adventure. Slipping along shimmering fjord waters, you'll pause for a barbecue lunch before your bus transfer to Voss along the famed Stalheimskleiva Road. Its beautiful, hairpin views of the valley are then followed by your return train leg back to Bergen. **BL**

Day 4 » Depart for UK After a final breakfast, make your way to the airport for your flight home. **B**

06

STAVANGER &
THE PULPIT ROCK

NEW



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Stavanger



» PRICES FROM: £490 pp incl. flights, 3 nights Clarion Hotel Stavanger BB & full-day Pulpit Rock excursion incl. guided kayaking & hike. Operates Apr to Oct.

Often unfairly overlooked, Stavanger is a real undiscovered gem. Here, pretty clapboard houses, a high-gabled harbour and Norway's oldest cathedral look out over a spectacular fjord setting, which you'll explore with a full-day excursion. After kayaking a forest-ringed lake, you'll hike a secret route, avoiding the tourists to reach the iconic Pulpit Rock. It's a perfect active-weekend city break.

Days 1–2 » UK/Stavanger Flying out to Stavanger, you'll make the short journey to your central accommodation. With sweeping views over the city's pretty red roofs, it's perfectly poised to explore. Be sure to begin with a walk along the cobbled streets of Stavanger's old town, admiring the idyllic 18th-century weatherboard houses and Øvre Holmegate, a street resplendent in pastel-coloured cafés and boutiques. The next day, perhaps look further afield, with a fjord cruise or a trip out to Flor og Fjære. Known as the "tropical island", these remarkable gardens are an exotic, multicolour tumble flung out into the fjord waters. **B**

Day 3 » Kayaking & hike to Pulpit Rock Today you'll be treated to a true holiday highlight – a full-day expedition to Pulpit Rock. As a *Mission Impossible* star, it's

becoming increasingly popular. But, our trip will see you avoid the crowds by heading out on an off-the-map trail. After being picked up at your hotel, you'll be brought out of the city for a kayaking trip out across the beautiful Refsvatn Lake. Then, before descending to the plateau itself, you'll set off hiking to reach lesser-known viewpoints that showcase the fjord's giant granite walls and deep-blue waters at their dramatic best. It's surely the finest way to see this Norwegian icon. At the end of it all, you'll be transferred back to your hotel. **B**

Day 4 » Depart for UK After some further time to explore Stavanger, make your way to the airport for your flight home. **B**

07

SØGNEFJORD, NORDFJORD & GEIRANGERFJORD



6-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

1 day Bergen » 1 day Sogndal
1 day Loen » 1 day Geiranger
2 days Ålesund



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,290 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night Clarion Collection Havnekontoret BB, 1 night Quality Hotel Sogndal BB, 1 night Hotel Alexandra, Loen BB, 1 night Hotel Union Geiranger BB, 1 night Brosundet, Ålesund BB, fjord cruise from Bergen to Sogndal & entry to the Loen Skylift. Operates 25 Jun to 26 Aug.

On this comprehensive itinerary, you'll head through UNESCO-listed valleys, summit snow-capped mountains on mile-high cable cars and enjoy a pair of scenic fjord cruises. Along the way, you'll stay in charming accommodation and enjoy nights in two of Norway's city greats – Ålesund and Bergen.

Day 1 » UK/Bergen Flying to Bergen, you'll make your way to your hotel where complimentary extras range from sauna soaks to afternoon sweets and a light evening meal. Positioned right on the city's Hanseatic wharf, you'll also be perfectly poised to explore 14th-century Bryggen's meandering alleyways and colourful timber buildings, views of which can be enjoyed from the hotel's clock tower.

Day 2 » Sogndal After some more time to explore Norway's second city, you'll set off on your scenic cruise to Sogndal. Taking a leisurely few hours, you'll first weave through the islands that dot Norway's Atlantic coast before turning inland along the mighty Sognefjord. Then, enjoy an afternoon of optional hiking and kayaking from your fjord-side hotel. B

Day 3 » Loen Today's bus tour takes you past giant mountains, cascading waterfalls and idyllic townships. Then, after your arrival in Loen, a ride on its famous Skylift will see you to the summit of Mt. Hoven for dramatic views over glaciers and forested fjords. Come the evening, return to the spa comforts of your hotel. B

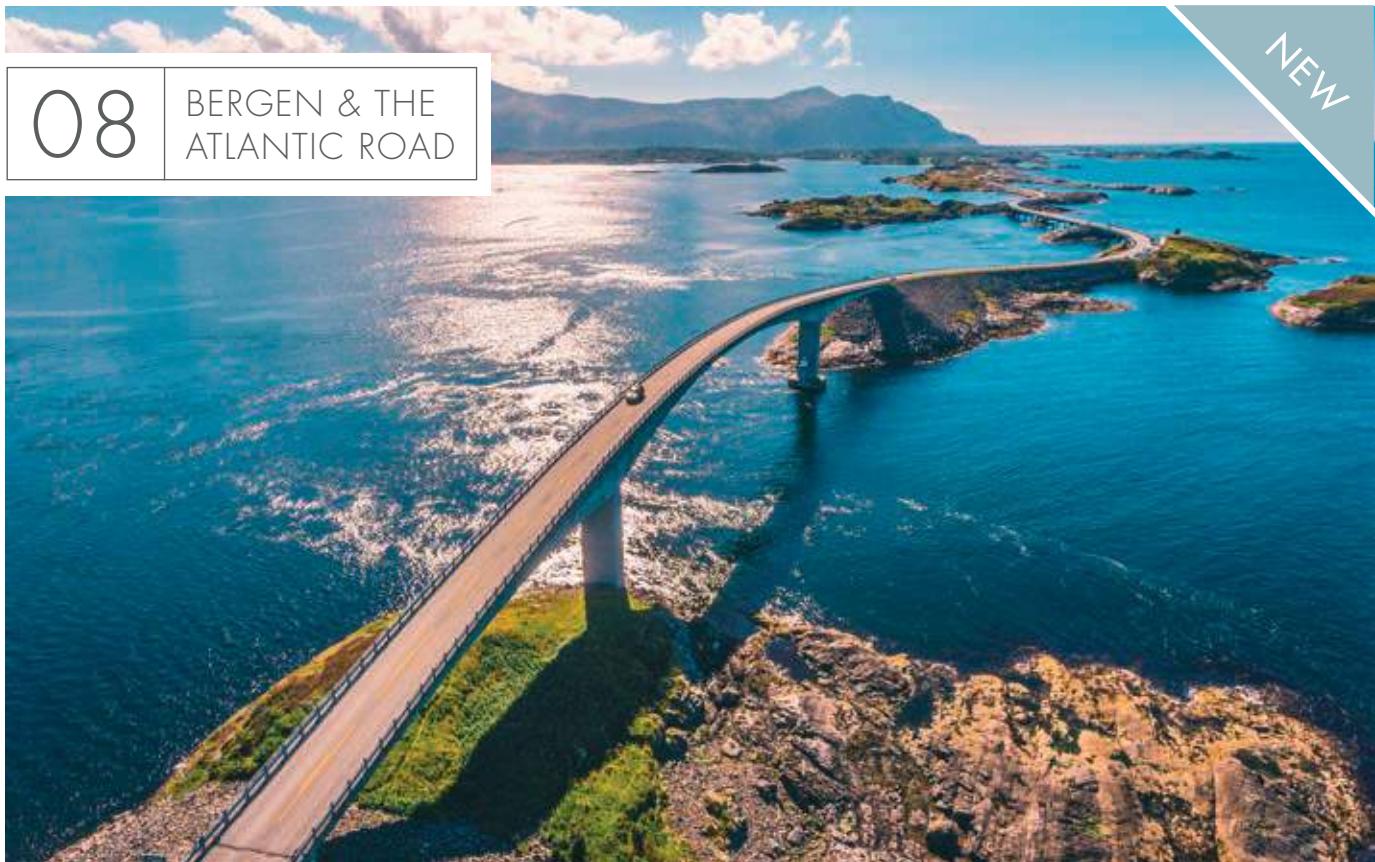
Day 4 » Geiranger Boarding the bus once more, you'll continue north past mountains steeped in Norse mythology to Geiranger, home to what is often considered the jewel in the crown of Norway's fjords. Perhaps head out on a hike or bike ride before a relaxing soak or massage back at your hotel's spa. B

Days 5–6 » Ålesund/UK Today, you'll head through Geirangerfjord, journeying back to the coast with Hurtigruten – Norway's famous fleet of postal ships. You'll then arrive in Ålesund. Entirely rebuilt following a turn-of-the-century fire, it's home to one of Europe's finest collections of Art Nouveau architecture. Don't miss out on trying the seafood before your flight home on day six; your hotel's restaurant is among the best in town. B

08

BERGEN & THE
ATLANTIC ROAD

NEW



6-DAY TAILOR MADE SELF-DRIVE

2 days Bergen >> 4 days Molde



>> PRICES FROM: £1,195 pp incl. flights, 2 nights Opus XVI, Bergen BB, 3 nights Molde Fjordstue BB & 4 days car hire. Operates May to Sep.

The Atlantic Road, which links the islands between Molde and Kristiansund on Norway's fjord-riven west coast, is among the world's most spectacular driving routes. At five miles long, it zigzags across eight low-lying bridges that jut out over the sea. You'll explore it all on this six-day self-drive, which also includes a stay Bergen.

Days 1–2 >> UK/Bergen Fly to Bergen and check into your hotel, a delightful brick-fronted accommodation run by the descendants of renowned composer Edvard Grieg. Once you've settled in, you'll have two days to explore the city. Take in the history of the Hanseatic Bryggen wharf, wander between pretty parks and winding cobblestone streets, and ride the funicular to the summit of Mt. Fløyen for views across the city and its mountainous surrounds. 

Day 3 >> Molde Fly to Molde on the pretty shores of Romsdalsfjorden, where you'll collect your hire car before checking in to the Hotel Molde Fjordstuer, perched on the edge of the quay, right in the centre of town. The outside pub-restaurant makes

an idyllic spot for waterside dining as the boats come and go. Tables at the hotel's à la carte seafood restaurant are highly sought after in summer. 

Days 4–5 >> The Atlantic Road Spend two days driving the Atlantic Road. Besides fishing, picnicking and watching out for seals and whales, other highlights include the unusual Åndalsnes Train Chapel – a train carriage converted to a small church at the end of the Rauma railway line. There's also the Troll Wall, the tallest vertical rock face in Europe. The peaceful and picturesque fishing villages of Bud and Ona also make for scenic stops and, if you feel like heading further, the hairpin bends of the Trollstigen Mountain Road will bring you to the spectacular shores of World Heritage-listed Geirangerfjord. 

Day 6 >> Depart for UK Return your hire car to Molde airport and board your flight home via Oslo. 

09

BEST OF
THE WEST**6-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE**

1 day Ålesund >> 3 days Geirangerfjord
 >> 2 days Ålesund



>> PRICES FROM: £1,095 pp incl. flights,
 4 days car hire, 2 nights Hotel Brosundet
 BB & 3 nights Hotel Union HB. Operates
 1 May to 30 Sep.

An easy but adventure-packed self-drive tour through the fjords of western Norway. Combine the Art Nouveau delights of Ålesund with exciting driving, hiking and cruising opportunities across some of Norway's most spectacular landscapes and waters.

Day 1 >> UK/Ålesund Fly to the picturesque coastal town of Ålesund and check in at the Hotel Brosundet. In the afternoon, head out for a look around the town, which was rebuilt in characteristic Art Nouveau style after much of the centre was destroyed by fire in 1904; you can learn more about

the disaster and the rebuilding efforts at the Art Nouveau Centre. Otherwise, scale the 418 steps (or take a bus) to the summit of Mt. Aksla to take in views of the town, the surrounding archipelago and the dramatic Sunnmøre Alps. On the way down, pause at the statues of Kaiser Wilhelm II and the Viking warrior Rollo and unravel their historic roles in bringing fame and wealth to Ålesund.

Days 2–4 >> Geirangerfjord Collect your hire car and drive 100 kilometres from Ålesund to the heart of Geirangerfjord, recognised by UNESCO as one of the world's most beautiful fjord regions. Expect near-vertical cliff walls and powerful waterfalls. The scenic route via the high mountain road of Trollstigen makes for a simply stunning drive, before you check in at the Hotel Union and plot your next two days of sightseeing. Take a spin along the famous Eagle's Road, enjoy a cruise on the fjord or perhaps visit Dalsnibba, the highest peak in the area. It offers stunning views over the fjord. There are also plenty of well-marked hiking trails to explore, beginning with the short trek to Westerås

Farm and the many incredible viewpoints beyond. **B,D**

Days 5–6 >> Ålesund Drive back to Ålesund for a final night at the Hotel Brosundet and head into town for a well-deserved hearty meal. After breakfast on day six, drop your hire car at the airport and catch your flight home. **B**

**BEST OF THE WEST:
COACH & CRUISE**

It's also possible to travel this same route using a combination of coach travel and a Hurtigruten cruise. Call our specialists on **020 7838 5863** for more information.



HOTEL BROSNDET, ÅLESUND

SUPERIOR



This delightful hotel is housed in a listed wharf building on Brosundet canal, the main artery of Ålesund. The interior, all wooden beams and exposed brickwork, is full of character and period detail. The 47 rooms – including the unique Molja Lighthouse, located five minutes' walk from the main building – are individually styled by internationally renowned architects Snøhetta. The elegant Restaurant Maki offers à la carte dining, set dinners, and a superb eight-course tasting menu based around the catch of the day.

HOTEL UNION GEIRANGER

SUPERIOR



Surrounded by unspoiled nature, the Hotel Union is a stylish establishment of long tradition and a must-stay inclusion on any Fjord Norway itinerary. It's perched halfway up a mountain overlooking Geirangerfjord – a view that can also be admired from the outdoor pool. Fjord View rooms are highly recommended, as is the excellent evening buffet dinner and the ever-so-relaxing spa, perfect after long days in the mountains. Lastly, Vognfabrikken is a unique basement bar showcasing the owners' extensive collection of vintage cars.



STORFJORD HOTEL

DELUXE

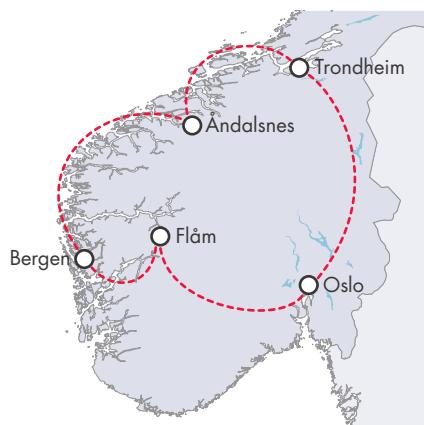


A luxury cabin-style lodge with stunning views over Storfjord, this is a fabulous place to unwind, just 30 minutes by car from Ålesund or 90 minutes from Geiranger. The tempting four-course gourmet dinner at the hotel's restaurant is savoured with an amazing vista over the fjord and mountains. We recommend a Superior Deluxe Double room, which comes with a spacious lounge area, private balcony or terrace, and a fjord or forest view.

10

NORWAY'S FJORDS
& CITIES BY RAIL

NEW



10-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

2 days Oslo » 1 day Flåm » 2 days Bergen » 2 days Trondheim » 1 day Åndalsnes » 2 days Oslo



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,515 pp incl. flights, 9 nights BB accommodation, 1 dinner, journeys on the Flåm, Rauma & Bergen railways, fjord cruise & bus transfer from Gudvangen to Voss. Operates year-round.

Contrast Norway's rural delights with the rich variety of its current and former capitals. You'll begin with Oslo's impressive array of galleries and restaurants before heading out on included train and boat trips that bring you right into the country's famous fjords. Then, after stays in Bergen and Trondheim, you'll take the Rauma Railway to Åndalsnes, where scenic walks and fjord dips showcase the beauty of the Romsdalen valley.

Days 1–2 » UK/Oslo Fly out to Oslo and take the airport express train or shuttle bus to the city centre. It's then just a short stroll to your hotel, ideally placed for exploring Norway's culture-filled capital.

Day 3 » Flåm Take the train to Myrdal and transfer onto the Flåm Railway. This marvel of engineering will see you wend between verdant cliffs and plunging waterfalls on a 20-kilometre ride to the pretty shores of Aurlandsfjord. Tonight, after an included three-course dinner at your fjord-side hotel, head to the next-door brew pub to sample its array of award-winning craft beers. 

Days 4–5 » Bergen Cruise along UNESCO-listed Nærøyfjord, passing between snow-dusted mountains en route to Gudvangen. A connecting bus journey will see you around the hairpins and switchbacks of the Stalheimskleiva road to Voss, where you'll rejoin the rails for the journey to Bergen. Between its Hanseatic wharf and cobblestone streets, this is urban Norway at its picturesque best. 

Days 6–7 » Trondheim Fly to Trondheim where you'll take in the Gothic severity of its Nidaros Cathedral and spend lazy hours hopping between restaurants and cafés hidden among the historic warehouses that line the Nidelva River. 

Day 8 » Åndalsnes Board the Rauma Railway to the Romsdalen valley, plunging between soaring cliffs and glacial valleys en route to Åndalsnes, Norway's mountaineering capital. 

Days 9–10 » Oslo/UK Return to the capital for a final night before your flight home. 

11

THE POLAR EXPRESS, GOLDEN ROAD & LOFOTEN ISLANDS



9-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

1 day Trondheim » 1 day Inderøy
 » 1 day Golden Road » 1 day Mosjøen
 » 1 day Bodø » 1 day Lofoten Islands
 » 2 days Hurtigruten cruise » 1 day Trondheim



» PRICES FROM: £1,175 pp incl. flights, transfers, 5 nights BB, 2 nights HB, 2 nights Hurtigruten cruise HB, Polar Express train from Trondheim to Bodø & 2 days car hire. Operates year-round.

This superb itinerary combines a train journey through dramatic Arctic countryside, a drive on the spectacular Golden Road and a stay on one of Europe's most beautiful archipelagos. Round things off with a Hurtigruten cruise for the ultimate summertime trip.

Day 1 » UK/Trondheim Fly direct to Trondheim and spend the rest of the day exploring the Gothic splendour of this thousand-year-old city.

Day 2 » Inderøy Board the train north to Steinkjer, hugging the picturesque shores of Trondheimsfjorden. Then, on arrival, collect your hire car for the short drive to Inderøy and your farmhouse hotel. 

Day 3 » The Golden Road After an authentic farmers' breakfast, you'll head out to explore the Golden Road, a stunning route that links everything from award-winning dairy farms to craft breweries. 

Day 4 » Mosjøen Returning your hire car, you'll continue by train, tracing the route of

the Vefsna River to Mosjøen, a town that impresses with art galleries, artisan coffee shops and 19th-century buildings. 

Day 5 » Bodø Hop across the Arctic Circle to Bodø, the northern terminus for Norway's rail network. It's also the jumping-off point for a whole host of summertime activities, including scenic hikes and cruises out to remote island communities. 

Day 6 » Lofoten Islands Catch your Hurtigruten ship to the Lofoten Islands for the chance to enjoy coastal walks, fishing trips and whale-watching cruises complemented by just-caught seafood served up in fishing-village restaurants. 

Days 7–8 » Hurtigruten cruise After a full day in Lofoten, set sail past the jagged mountains and pretty islets of the Norwegian coast as you steam south towards Trondheim. 

Day 9 » Trondheim/UK Arrive into Trondheim in time for your flight home. 



8-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

1 day Bodø >> 2 days Nusfjord
 >> 2 days Henningsvær >> 3 days Svolvær



>> **PRICES FROM:** £1,715 pp incl. flights, 5 days car hire, 1 night Clarion Collection Grand Bodø BB, 2 nights Nusfjord Rorbuer HB, 2 nights Henningsvær Bryggehotel HB and 2 nights Svinøya Rorbuer BB. Operates 15 May to 15 Sep.

The Lofoten Islands are a dramatic archipelago where kilometre-high mountains look down on idyllic villages and swooping sea eagles. You'll explore it all with scenic drives bringing you between sheltered bays, included gourmet dinners and stays in cosy cabins.

Day 1 >> UK/Bodø Fly via Oslo to Bodø and check in at the Clarion Collection Grand. Head out of town to witness the world's strongest tidal current at the narrow strait of Saltstraumen, where on a lucky visit you can see whirlpools of up to 10 metres wide – the kind that inspired Edgar Allan Poe's *A Descent into the Maelström*. Other attractions include the National Norwegian Aviation Museum and the fascinating Stone Age Museum.

Days 2–3 >> Nusfjord Fly to Leknes in the Lofoten Islands, collect your hire car and take a 30-minute drive to Nusfjord. Your base for two nights is Nusfjord Rorbuer, a collection of red-painted fishermen's cabins at the edge of the fjord. Delicious dinners are included in the price, as is

the use of a rowing boat, so you can take to the water under your own power, or charter a private fishing boat and crew. Alternatively, there are excellent hiking, climbing and biking routes in the surrounding mountains. 

Day 4–5 >> Henningsvær Drive 90km to Henningsvær, stopping en route at the Lofotr Viking Museum. Built on the site of an Iron Age village, the museum includes a reconstruction of the largest Viking building ever known, thought to date from around 500 AD. Check in for two nights at the Henningsvær Bryggehotell, perched on a pier with views across the fjord. Request room 223 if you can; it looks directly out towards the point where the sun dips lowest on the horizon. 

Days 6–8 >> Svolvær/UK After a short drive to the islands' tiny capital your time is free to explore the surrounding mountains and beaches. Don't miss the opportunity to take a boat trip from the harbour in search of sea eagles. Drop your hire car and fly home after breakfast on day eight. 



SVINØYA RORBUER, SVOLVÆR

SUPERIOR



If you're looking for a traditional Lofoten-style stay coupled with an enviable location right on the waterfront, the Svinøya Rorbuer ticks all the boxes. Choose from an authentic *rorbu* fisherman's cabin built on stilts over the sea, or suites, apartments and houses scattered around the village. The 30 original *rorbuer* and the larger Rorbusuites are kitted out with a well-equipped kitchen and modern bathroom, while they're all catered for by the Børseren Spiseri – a converted quayside warehouse serving up fresh local delicacies. What's more, it's all just a short stroll from central Svolvær.



ELIASSEN RORBUER, HAMNØY

SUPERIOR



These traditional cabins were once used by fishermen from across Norway as accommodation during the world's biggest cod fishing event. Now they welcome visitors looking for an authentic Lofoten experience. Across the collection of room options, each comes with an outdoor seating areas and kitchenette, although the Waterfront Cottages offer the best sea views. If you don't feel like cooking, however – and you probably don't – the excellent Krambua Restaurant serves everything from freshly caught fish to succulent Lofoten lamb.

HENNINGSVÆR
BRYGGEHOTELL, VESTFJORD

SUPERIOR



This boutique hotel is located right on the pier of the pretty fishing village of Henningsvær. The 30 rooms are spacious, with an understated elegance. You have full access to the hotel sauna and relaxation room, and Den Blå Fisk ('The Blue Fish') restaurant cooks up a storm with the catch of the day and locally produced meats among the highlights. You won't tire of walking around the village, but must-try local tours include rafting on the open sea and fishing for cod and halibut onboard a traditional Lofoten smack.



SCANDIC HAVET HOTEL, BODØ

SUPERIOR



As the tallest building in northern Norway, the Scandic Havet hosts spectacular panoramas from its seafront setting, taking in mountains, oceans and city all in one sweep. They're views showcased across everything from plush rooms to a sky-bar and a superb pair of restaurants that aim at, and possibly make, "Norway's best hotel breakfast". Dinners are equally impressive, with local seafood and meats prepared over a coal grill. And, you can even join the local fishermen, casting off your line from cruises that depart from the next-door port.



NEW

13

LOFOTEN ISLANDS BEACH GLAMPING

5-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

2 days Svolvær » 2 days glamping
» 1 day Svolvær



» PRICES FROM: £1,295 pp incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights Svinøya Rorbuer BB, 1 night beach glamping FB, Trollfjord cruise & kayaking excursion. Operates May to Sep.

The Lofoten Islands are the jewel in northern Norway's crown, where Arctic fjords edge rugged peaks and unexpected white-sand beaches. Between hearty meals, you'll explore is all with a range of included excursions and stays in a traditional fisherman's hut and plush tepee tent. You'll be able to spot everything from whales and seals to puffins and eagles as you kayak, cruise and hike some of Norway's most spectacular fjords, all while the Midnight Sun shines on.

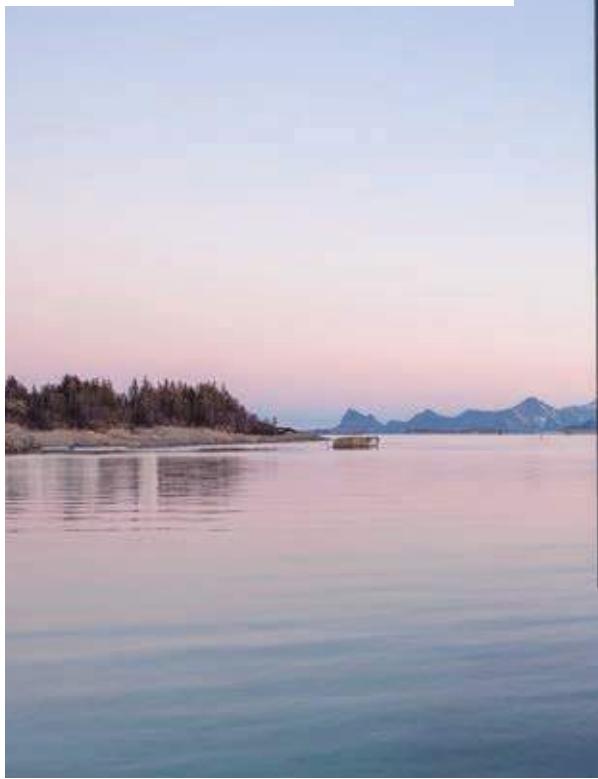
Days 1–2 » UK/Svolvær Flying out to the Lofoten Islands, you'll be met at the airport and brought to your delightful accommodation – an ochre-red fisherman's cabin, all cosy rusticity and whitewashed interiors. And, perched on stilts over the harbour's water, you'll be perfectly positioned to explore. With two days at your leisure, choose between the likes of fishing trips, archipelago sea kayaking and hikes that bring you among the islands' snaggletooth crags and winding streams. B

Days 3–4 » Beach glamping Your glamping adventure begins with a scenic cruise, bringing you among sea eagles, porpoises and even whales to marvel at the famous Trollfjord – a winding passage bordered by sheer mountain peaks. In among it all, you'll be treated to full-board dining of local specialities, before hunkering down in a cosy *lavvu* tepee to spend the night on a white-sand beach. It's all made that bit prettier by the Midnight Sun. The next day, you'll kayak out among

scenery that's more evocative of the Caribbean than remote Norway, gliding between forested atolls, hidden inlets and azure waters. Between keeping your eyes out for puffins, otters and moose, there's even time for a beach picnic before you return to Svolvær for your final night. LD

Day 5 » Depart for UK After a final breakfast, you'll be brought back to the airport for your flight home. B

14

MANSHAUSEN
SEACABIN BREAK

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

1 day Bodø » 2 days Manshausen Island
» 1 day Bodø



» PRICES FROM: £1,165 pp incl. flights, return fast boat transfers from Bodø to Nordskot and Nordskot to Manshausen, 1 night Bodø BB & 2 nights Manshausen Seacabins BB. Operates May to Sep.

With its idyllic mountainscape and crystalline waters, the seldom-visited island of Manshausen offers endless summertime adventure coupled with designer accommodation.

Day 1 » UK/Bodø Following your flight to Bodø via Oslo, you'll check into the Scandic Havet hotel for the night. The rest of the day is free to explore. With its backdrop of rugged peaks, Nordland's largest town is far more than just a

gateway to the Lofoten Islands. Founded as a trade centre in the early 19th century, it grew to become a bustling fishing port before being almost completely flattened by bombing raids during WWII. Following its regeneration, the architecture here is now largely uninspiring, but, with such natural beauty in its surroundings, together with the world's densest population of sea eagles, you'll find plenty to fill your time before heading to Manshausen.

Days 2–3 » Manshausen Spend the morning in Bodø before catching the ferry to Nordskot and an onward transfer to Manshausen. On arrival, check into your Seacabin for a two-night stay. All Scandinavian timber and floor-to-ceiling glass, three of these architect-designed huts are spread out along an old stone jetty overhanging the water, with a fourth perched on a natural ledge. Each one enjoys spectacular views of the sea and mountains. Once you've settled in, the days are free to explore with optional guided and self-led excursions that range

from sea kayaking and sailing to hiking, fishing and caving. End your days with a soak in the communal hot tub and perhaps a delicious meal at Manshausen's superb restaurant. 

Day 4 » Depart for UK Return to Bodø for your flight home, again via Oslo. 



LOFOTEN ISLANDS ADD-ON

With the Lofoten Islands so close by, combining a visit there with a stay on Manshausen couldn't be simpler. To find out more, call our specialists on 020 7838 5863.

15

SUMMER IN
FINNMARK

NEW



6-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

2 days Trasti & Trine husky lodge

» 4 days Alta



» **PRICES FROM:** £3,245 pp incl. flights, transfers, 2 nights Trasti & Trine HB, 3 nights Thon Hotel Alta BB & all guided excursions incl. husky hike, riverboat ride, waterfall hike, private Alta tour, fjord safari, private North Cape trip, canoe tour & Sami experience. Operates May to Sep.

Finnmark, mainland Norway's northernmost extreme, is a wildlife-dotted wilderness of high mountains and sweeping valleys. You'll take it all in with a full range of included excursions, from a private city tour and trip to Europe's northernmost point to Midnight Sun hikes

and meetings with the indigenous Sami. That's alongside canoeing, longboat trips and wildlife cruises.

Day 1 » UK/Alta husky lodge You'll be met off your flight by an included transfer, bringing you to your cosy lodge. You'll also meet the husky farm's four-legged residents for a hike and wilderness dinner under the Midnight Sun. D

Day 2 » Longboat cruise & Midnight Sun hike Today, you'll explore Alta Canyon in a narrow timber longboat, with your guide bringing you past towering cliffs to arrive at the idyllic Gabofossen waterfall. Then, after hot drinks and Norwegian waffles, you'll hike out, passing rushing rivers and fairytale valleys to enjoy dinner by a remote waterfall. B,D

Day 3 » Alta tour & fjord cruise After breakfast, you'll take in Finnmark's Arctic capital on a private tour, from its ultra-

modern cathedral to its 19th-century church and 7,000-year-old rock carvings. Then, a fjord safari will see you spot sea eagles and whales while casting out a fishing line before you end the day in a central, Scandi-chic hotel. B

Day 4 » The North Cape Today, a private driver-guide will bring you through forested valleys and across high plateaus to continental Europe's northernmost point, where you'll enjoy an included lunch and glass of fizz. B,L

Day 5 » Canoeing & Sami experience Hitting the waters again, you'll paddle the Alta River's Arctic wilderness, keeping an eye out for moose. A trip to a reindeer-herding camp then showcases the indigenous Sami culture. B

Day 6 » Depart for UK An included transfer will see you to the airport for your flight home. B

16

FJORDS TO ARCTIC: BERGEN,
TROMSØ & SVALBARD

NEW



8-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

2 days Bergen » 2 days Tromsø » 4 days Svalbard



» PRICES FROM: £1,890 pp incl. flights, 2 nights Thon Hotel Rosenkrantz BB, 2 nights Clarion Collection Hotel With BB, 3 nights Funken Lodge BB & excursions as per itinerary. Operates May to Sep.

This country-spanning trip encapsulates the very best of Norway's summer landscapes. You'll begin with the classic Norway in a Nutshell tour before swapping mountain railways and fjord cruises for RIB boat safaris and seafood in Tromsø. Then, from your stylish base in Longyearbyen, you'll cruise out into the wilds of Svalbard, taking in the archipelago's vast glaciers and deserted ghost towns.

Days 1–2 » UK/Bergen Fly to Bergen and make your way to your hotel, ideally located right next to the Bryggen Wharf. The next day, head out on an included Norway in a Nutshell tour, linking dramatic fjords and snow-dusted peaks with super-scenic cruises and trips on mountain railways. 

Days 3–4 » Tromsø Fly north to Tromsø where, depending on your arrival time, you'll have the opportunity to enjoy an optional afternoon excursion, choosing

between the likes of kayaking on the fjord and summer husky strolls. You'll then enjoy a RIB boat excursion to a remote beach, where you'll try different types of seafood served around a roaring fire. 

Days 5–7 » Svalbard Your Arctic adventure continues with a flight north to Longyearbyen and a two-night stay at Funken Lodge (see page 35). Its stylish interiors are a stark contrast to the wilderness outside, which you'll explore the following day on a guided boat tour to the Nordenskiöld Glacier and the abandoned Russian mining settlement of Pyramiden. Keeping an eagle eye out for bearded seals, Arctic foxes and even polar bears along the way. Your final day in Svalbard is left free for optional excursions, the best of which are detailed on page 36. 

Day 8 » Depart for UK After breakfast, head to the airport for your flight home. 

17

LUXURY HIKING
IN
THE LYNGEN ALPS

NEW



5-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

1 day Tromsø » 4 days Lyngen Alps



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,695 pp incl. flights, all transfers, 1 night Scandic Ishavshotel BB & 3 nights in Lyngen Lodge FB incl. Reise River National Park hike & lowland trekking tour. Operates June to Sep.

After the Midnight Sun melts the winter snow, it leaves behind some truly magnificent scenery. Indeed, glittering fjords and bright-green meadows are the perfect backdrop to this luxurious log-cabin getaway. And, in between Jacuzzi dips and gourmet dining, you'll explore on a series of included excursions, with guided hikes and national-park cruises showcasing this remote region at its wild best. You'll also take in Tromsø's Arctic-capital delights with a luxury stay.

Day 1 » UK/Tromsø Flying out to Norway's Arctic north, you'll spend the night in Tromsø's finest hotel – a contemporary masterpiece. And, with the Midnight Sun casting its ethereal glow, you'll have plenty of daylight to explore its pretty fjord setting. Choose between the likes of cable-car rides, museum visits and an excellent bar scene.

Days 2-4 » Lyngen Alps You'll be collected from your hotel today and brought out into the surrounding mountains to a luxurious log cabin – home for the next three nights. It's delightfully intimate, featuring just eight weatherboard rooms, tucked away on the shores of a remote fjord. Alongside the sauna, outdoor Jacuzzi and the lounge's roaring fire, you'll also be treated to full-board menus inspired by Norwegian coastal culture. Then, the next day, you'll begin in earnest with the first of your included excursions. Specially designed riverboats will bring you 35km upstream, passing rushing cascades to arrive at the Reisa River

National Park – the spectacular setting for your short hike to northern Norway's highest waterfall. Here, you'll enjoy a picnic lunch cooked on an open fire. The outdoors fun continues the next morning, with your local guide offering a choice of guided hikes, ranging from high mountain summits to gentle forest trails and beach strolls. When the afternoon rolls around, there's also the option of glacier trekking, horse riding or sea kayaking. **BLD**

Day 5 » Depart for UK Following a last indulgent breakfast, you'll be brought back to Tromsø for your flight home. **B**

18

HURTIGRUTEN: CLASSIC VOYAGE NORTH



7-DAY HURTIGRUTEN CRUISE

1 day Bergen » 1 day Ålesund » 1 day Trondheim » 1 day Lofoten Islands
» 1 day Tromsø » 1 day Honningsvåg
» 1 day Kirkenes



» PRICES FROM: £1,105 pp incl. 6-night Hurtigruten cruise in an inside cabin with full-board dining & English-speaking guides. Flights not included. Selected departures 1 Jun to 31 Aug. Winter sailings are also available.

This iconic sailing brings you out from historic cities and remote villages to adventure deep in the Norwegian Arctic. Indeed, after Art-Nouveau Ålesund, Gothic Trondheim and the timber wharves of Bergen, you'll pause everywhere from dramatic fjords and mountainous islands to frontier towns and Europe's northernmost point, enjoying the Midnight Sun and full-board dining along the way.

Day 1 » Bergen In Norway's second city, a scenic mountain funicular and famed Hanseatic wharf vie for your attention before you board your expedition ship. 

Day 2 » Ålesund & Geirangerfjord After exploring the Art-Nouveau idyll of Ålesund's church spires and highly ornate buildings, you'll sail the UNESCO-listed Geirangerfjord, watching waterfalls cascade down its towering cliffs. 

Day 3 » Trondheim Explore Trondheim, a medieval gem capped by Norway's largest Gothic cathedral. Then, continuing

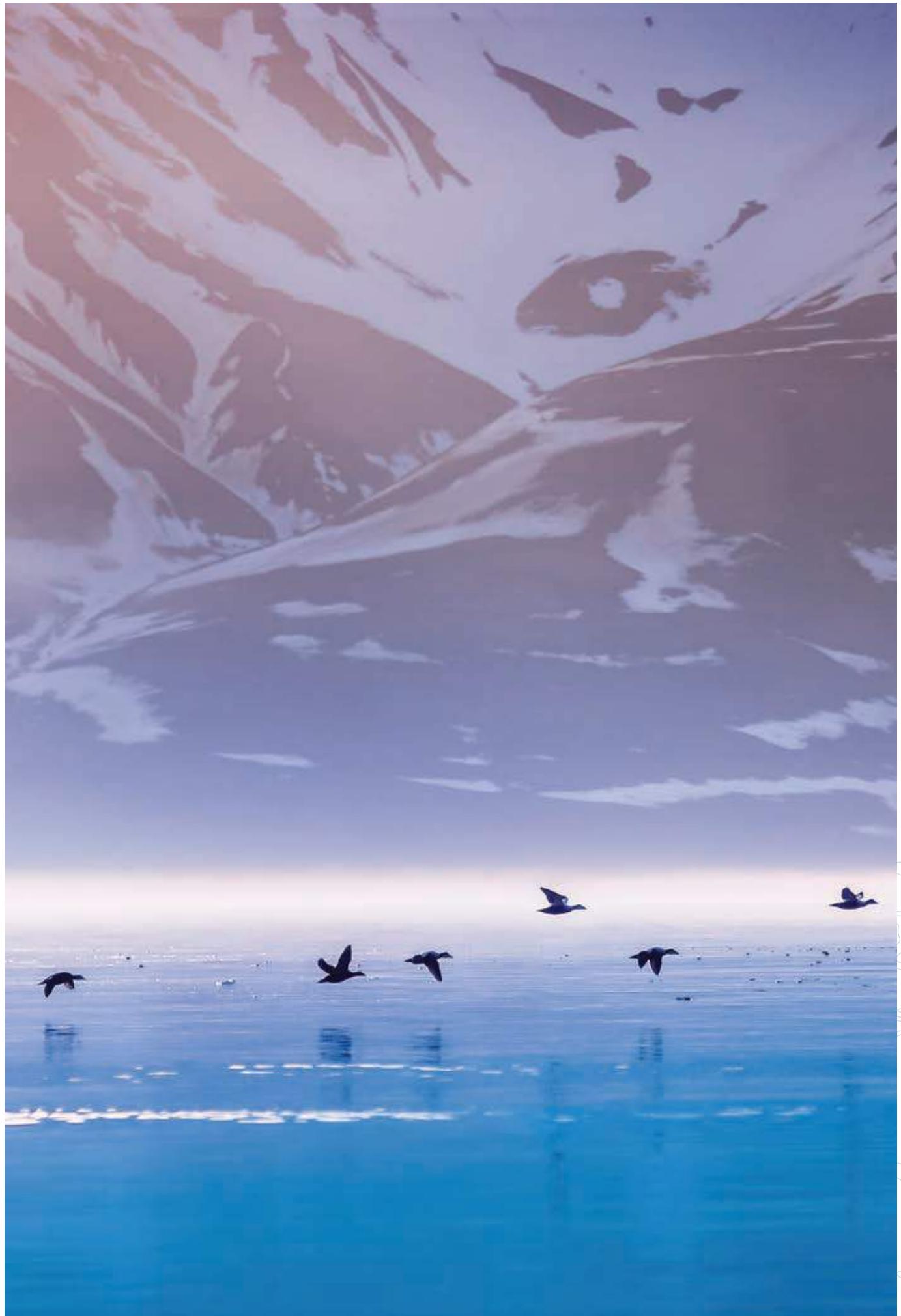
past islets and rocky outcrops, you'll stop off at the pretty village of Rørvik. 

Day 4 » The Lofoten Islands Crossing into the Arctic, you'll be welcomed by Norway's second-largest glacier, Bodø's sea eagles and the kilometre-high cliffs of the Lofoten Islands. Each night, these spectacular landscapes are set aglow by the Midnight Sun. 

Day 5 » Tromsø As Norway's 'Arctic Capital', Tromsø offers scenic hikes, fjord kayaking and the world's northernmost distillery. 

Day 6 » Honningsvåg After the option of standing at continental Europe's northernmost point, perhaps visit the indigenous Sami peoples or the puffins of Gjesværstappen. 

Day 7 » Kirkenes The Arctic scenery becomes increasingly dramatic as you approach Kirkenes – a frontier town just a short hop from the Russian border. 



78.2253° N, 15.4175° E

SVALBARD

A remote outpost flung far out into the Arctic Ocean, Svalbard is just 650 miles from the North Pole. Between ice floes, unique wildlife and creaking glaciers, it represents the ultimate polar destination, its sparse settlements – both Soviet and Norwegian – the only permanent human habitations amid the chilling sea.

Although tentatively settled by whalers, miners and fishermen as early as the 17th century, the islands have never been fully tamed. To this day, mankind is easily outnumbered by polar bears, making Svalbard the best place to view these endangered creatures as they prowl across scrubby fells, rugged shorelines and sweeping glaciers.

You'll make your introductions with its largest island, Spitsbergen, which has captured the imagination ever since the Dutch first spotted pointed, craggy peaks piercing the sheet ice and clouds. Here, the town of Longyearbyen serves as a comfortable base. It's a handful of cosy hotels and surprisingly vibrant pubs sitting among colourfully painted cabins, lining

the shores of Adventfjorden. Sheltered by the surrounding glaciers and mountains, it's the perfect headquarters from which to explore.

Indeed, on everything from fjord boat trips and kayak expeditions to hikes and bike rides, there's the chance to walk on glaciers, spot mighty walruses and take in remote, Soviet-era settlements. It's all made that bit prettier by summer's Midnight Sun.

Over the following pages, we'll show you the best ways to explore this wild region. Perhaps get away to a remote basecamp, or take it all in with an expedition cruise, circumnavigating Svalbard's spectacular shoreline.





NEW

19

SVALBARD SUMMER ADVENTURE

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Longyearbyen



>> PRICES FROM: £755 pp (Standard)
£845 (Superior) incl. flights & 3 nights
accommodation BB. Operates
1 May to 30 Sep.

Come summer, the great wilderness archipelago of Svalbard opens up for all sorts of high-Arctic adventure. Truly unique flora adds extra colour to the tundra, while fjord sailings bring adventurers between mighty glaciers, Soviet outposts and evocative sightings of polar bears and walruses. Then, back on land, there's everything from hikes to dogsledding on wheels.

Day 1 >> UK/Longyearbyen Flying up to Svalbard, you'll arrive at the world's northernmost commercial airport; it's just 650 miles from the North Pole. You'll then make your way to your hand-picked accommodation. While the open fires and modern cut of the Radisson Blu (Standard) offer exceptional value, we highly recommend an upgrade to Funken Lodge (Superior). It's the place to stay in Longyearbyen, featuring Svalbard's finest restaurant, a champagne cellar and sweeping views over the town and onto the Lars Glacier. There's also some time today to wander through the streets to soak up the frontier-town atmosphere.

Days 2–3 >> Optional excursions As things change rapidly in the high Arctic, we've given you two days free, so we can tailor your trip to your tastes. If you're travelling over May – considered as light winter by

the locals – you can still snowmobile, go dogsledding and walk inside a glacier. Otherwise, those travelling over summer can expect a full range of fair-weather excursions. Perhaps get active, exploring the Arctic wilderness with a fossil hunt, fjord kayak expedition, electric fatbike trip or glacier hike (pictured). Otherwise, cruises reward with spectacular views of the archipelago's craggy coast, along with everything from walruses and icy fjords to Russian towns and mighty glaciers. There's even the chance for some summertime dogsledding, swapping snow for wheels. For further details on any of these options, see our full list of excursions overleaf. **B**

Day 4 >> Depart for UK After a final breakfast, make your way back to the airport for your flight home. **B**



FUNKEN LODGE

SUPERIOR



Funken Lodge, formerly the Spitsbergen Hotel, has come a long way from its humble origins as coal miners' accommodation. In fact, having just undergone a full renovation, it's one of Svalbard's most luxurious options, complete with stylish rooms, a celebrated champagne cellar and arguably Longyearbyen's finest restaurant. Here, you'll be treated to French-inspired tasting menus informed by seasonal Arctic ingredients. Otherwise, head to the cosy lounge for freshly baked waffles by the fire. Whichever you choose, it's all set to fabulous views over the town and onto the Lars Glacier and surrounding Hjortfjellet Mountains.

RADISSON BLU POLAR

STANDARD



This is one of the finest hotels in Longyearbyen, offering a combination of recently refurbished hotel rooms and contemporary serviced apartments, so you can be completely flexible with your living arrangements. Luxury modern amenities line up alongside more timeless comforts such as an open fire in the lobby, a traditional sauna room and outdoor hot tubs. Restaurant Nansen serves up a range of delicious treats sourced in the Arctic, alongside international fare. Your meal will always unfold with a spectacular panoramic view. Nestled close to the coast, this is also an excellent base for sea adventures, from tranquil cruises to kayaking around the bay.



BASECAMP HOTEL

STANDARD



The perfect retreat for switching off, relaxing and reconnecting with nature, Basecamp Hotel is located in the heart of Longyearbyen, close to an array of restaurants, shops and bars. Inside is an atmospheric homage to the Arctic days of yore, with the walls showcasing the exploits of the region's trappers and explorers across the centuries. Rooms burst with character and provide a cosy and intimate base, all with extraordinary views across the Longyeardalen valley. Two of the 16 rooms are suites with generous living space and separate bedrooms. In keeping with the rustic cabin feel there are no TVs in the rooms, but the Cognac Loft has a large screen for communal viewing.

SVALBARD'S TOP 10 EXCURSIONS



3 EXPLORE SVALBARD'S UNIQUE GEOLOGY ON A GLACIER HIKE

Svalbard's wild landscapes are not just for looking at. Indeed, on this expert-led excursion, you'll get right among its unique geography, heading out to the Longyear Valley's spectacular landscape of glaciers, mountain ridges and distinctive rock formations. It all ends with a well-deserved lunch, taken from a sweeping, 849m-high viewpoint.

» PRICES FROM: £80 pp

4 KAYAK THE WATERS OF ADVENTFJORD

Slipping along the glassy Arctic waters in your very own kayak is quintessential adventure, bringing you among Svalbard's wild fjord network. Along with the chance to spot seals and hundreds of different migratory birds, you'll also be treated to a lunch stop at Hiorthhamn – a remote ghost town whose unique history is brought to life by your local guide.

» PRICES FROM: £135 pp



5 EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF DOGSLEDDING ON WHEELS

This is your opportunity to experience all the adrenaline and thrill of dogsledding, just without winter's chill. After meeting your happy team and their impossibly adorable puppies, you'll head out into the dramatic

1 SAIL OUT TO BARENTSBURG & THE ESMARK GLACIER

This exciting option not only showcases Barentsburg's mining-settlement heritage and fascinating Soviet past, but it also offers a full day's cruising. You'll journey past rugged inlets and cliffs teeming with birdlife before getting up close to the mighty Esmark Glacier, taking an included lunch in its looming shadow.

» PRICES FROM: £185 pp

2 DISCOVER LOCAL WILDLIFE ON A WALRUS SAFARI

Spotting a walrus in its natural environment is a truly special experience. In fact, the colonies on Svalbard are enjoying something of a resurgence, thanks to diminished hunting. You'll be treated to one of the region's most impressive populations, alongside lunch and a weather-dependent glacier sailing.

» PRICES FROM: £225 pp

landscapes of the Advent Valley under the steerage of your expert guide. Along the way, you'll have the chance to spot everything from reindeer to Arctic foxes as you pause to soak up mountain views and visit long-lost mining relics.

» PRICES FROM: £105 pp



7 NAVIGATE THE WILDS OF ISFJORD ON A BOAT SAFARI

The fjords of Svalbard are Arctic Norway at its wildest. Heading out in an expedition boat, you'll navigate iceberg floes to get up close to colossal glaciers and cliffs buzzing with birdlife. While you should keep an eye out for seals and other Arctic wildlife, there's human intrigue as well, with stops at the heritage homestead of famous hunter Hilmar Nøis and the historic hunting area of Bjonahamma – where you'll take lunch.

» PRICES FROM: £165 pp

10 ENJOY AN EVENING IN THE ARCTIC WILDERNESS

This is your chance to get out into the Arctic tundra for a cosy night by the fire. You'll be met at your accommodation and brought to Camp Barentz, tucked away in the Advent Valley about 10km outside of Longyearbyen. Here, you'll be welcomed into a quaint log-cabin hut by your delightful Nordic hosts, who'll treat you to bonfire coffee, cake and a hot meal of tasty reindeer. Then, once you've had your fill, it's time to sit back and enjoy their tales of polar bears and Svalbard adventurers.

» PRICES FROM: £105 pp

8 GO FOSSIL HUNTING IN DELTANESET

The far Arctic has long been a pilgrimage destination for explorers and scientists alike. And now, you too can follow in their bow wake, boarding an expedition boat for the journey out to wild Deltaneset. This is where a team from Oslo's Natural History Museum uncovered three specimens of prehistoric reptiles. Like them, any fossil you do find, you can bring home as a souvenir!

» PRICES FROM: £145 pp

6 EXPLORE THE ADVENT VALLEY BY ELECTRIC FATBIKE

Leaving Longyearbyen's urbanity behind, this is your chance to explore rural Svalbard on two wheels. And, with the use of a bizarre-looking fatbike, your oversized tires and electric motor make easy work of the 25 kilometres of trails. Following the historic Burmaroad, you'll head out into the ultra-scenic Advent Valley, where your local guide will bring the region's coal-mining past to life over a series of photo stops. To keep warm, you'll also be served complimentary hot drinks and a light lunch, while return accommodation transfers keep things seamless.

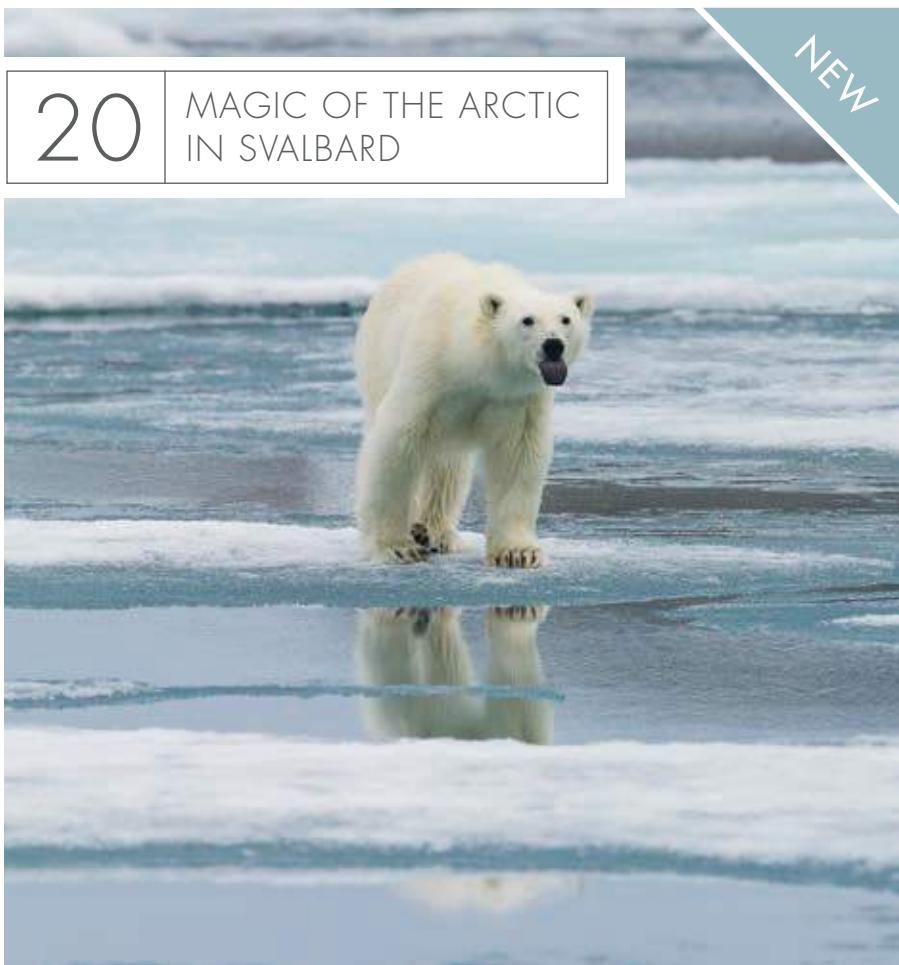
» PRICES FROM: £75 pp

9 DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF LONGYEARBYEN IN A NUTSHELL

This excursion is the perfect introduction to both the Svalbard capital and its immediate surrounds. Indeed, after showcasing the town's rich frontier heritage, your driver-guide will bring you out into the Longyear Valley, where you can spot reindeer, birdlife and historic mines. You'll end with the Global Seed Vault – an ultra-modern reserve, buried safely into a mountainside.

» PRICES FROM: £35 pp

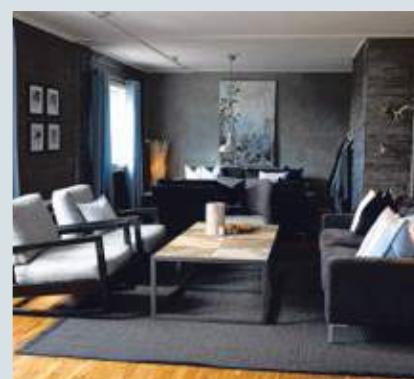




20

MAGIC OF THE ARCTIC
IN SVALBARD

NEW



ISFJORD RADIO

As you approach this 1930s telecommunications outpost, you'd be forgiven for thinking your hotel must be housed somewhere else. Cross the threshold, however, and luxury awaits – a cosy retreat from the wild environment. Inside, the décor is testament to the station's colourful past, with fascinating artifacts dotted throughout. Activities range from wildlife safaris to fjord cruises, while equally adventurous menus might include reindeer, halibut or smoked seal.

5-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

1 day Longyearbyen » 2 days Isfjord Radio » 1 day Barentsburg » 1 day Longyearbyen



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,795 pp incl. flights, 2 nights Basecamp Hotel BB, 2 nights Isfjord Radio FB, RIB transfers & all guided touring at Isfjord Radio. Selected departures May to Sep.

This adventure-packed summer break takes in the very best of Svalbard's wild remotes. Combine stays in traditional log cabins and converted telecommunication posts with RIB boat safaris to towering bird cliffs and remote shores home to walruses and polar bears. You'll explore the islands' human intrigue, too, with a brewery lunch at the Russian mining town of Barentsburg. It's all paired with included gourmet dining and the services of expert naturalist guides.

Day 1 » UK/Longyearbyen Fly out to Svalbard and transfer to the historic Basecamp Hotel in the heart of Longyearbyen.

Day 2 » Isfjord Radio After a hearty breakfast, spend the day exploring Longyearbyen. Perhaps trace the islands' unique history at the Svalbard Museum. Or, book onto one of our many optional excursions; there's everything from ice caving to champagne tasting and summertime dog sledding. Then, in the evening, you'll be met by your guide for a spectacular boat transfer to Kapp Linné, a barren coastal spit home to Arctic foxes, reindeer and vast numbers of seabirds. It's also the setting for your luxury lodge, converted from a 1930s telecommunications post. **BD**

Days 3 » Fjord Safari Your Arctic adventure continues today as you head out on a boat safari to the west side of Isfjorden. Tracing the eastern coastline, you'll arrive at remote Kapp Starostin and

the towering cliffs of Alkehornet, home to thousands of nesting seabirds. Head ashore for a picnic lunch on the beach at Trygghamna before heading on to the mighty Esmark Glacier where you might observe whales, seals and polar bears. Return to the lodge for a relaxing hot-tub soak and a delicious barbecue dinner, served along the shore. **BLD**

Day 4 » Barentsburg Checking out of Isfjord Radio, you'll sail along Grønfjorden to the Russian mining settlement of Barentsburg. Despite being home to just 350 hardy locals, its facilities are impressive, with a hospital, school, cultural centre and research station dotted among the town's colourful apartments and Soviet-era architecture. Stop for a light lunch at the Red Bear Brewery before setting a course south to Longyearbyen, where you'll check in at the Basecamp Hotel for a final night. **BL**

Day 5 » Depart for UK Head to the airport this morning for your flight home. **B**



7-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

1 day Longyearbyen » 4 days Nordenskiöld Lodge » 2 days Longyearbyen



» PRICES FROM: £2,695 pp incl. flights, 2 nights Basecamp Hotel BB, Longyearbyen, 4 nights Nordenskiöld Lodge FB & all activities at Nordenskiöld Lodge. Operates 30 Jun to 30 Sep.

Perched on the moraine shore of a faraway ice fjord, Nordenskiöld Lodge is as remote as it gets. In fact, it's the farthest north you can travel to on the island of Spitsbergen by motorised vehicle. Following stays in Norway's capital and Svalbard's largest town, Longyearbyen, you'll begin four action-packed days of arctic adventure at Nordenskiöld, each one packed with exhilarating guided tours and excursions.

Day 1 » UK/Longyearbyen Fly to Spitsbergen and settle into the characterful Basecamp Hotel. Head to town this evening to explore Longyearbyen's burgeoning culinary scene and perhaps enjoy a champagne tasting at the historic Nordpolet liquor store, raising a glass to the days of Arctic adventure ahead. 

Days 2–5 » Nordenskiöld Lodge Following an early morning briefing, you'll begin your journey north to Billefjorden and Adolfbukta, keeping an eye out for wildlife that might include walruses, belugas and polar bears. Checking into Nordenskiöld Lodge, you'll begin four action-packed days of glacier hiking, kayaking, sea safaris and guided nature tours that explore the unique flora, fauna and landscapes of the lodge's stunning setting. Each evening, return to relaxing hot tub soaks and delicious dinners, including a shore-side barbecue on day three.  

Days 6–7 » Longyearbyen/UK After a final hike and sea safari, return to

Longyearbyen for the night, flying home via Oslo on day seven. There's also the option to extend your stay, with a host of possible excursions making the most of Svalbard's extraordinary summer landscapes. The best of these are detailed on pages 36–37. 



NORDENSKIÖLD LODGE

Utterly remote, this lodge is located on the moraine shore of Billefjorden in Spitsbergen's frozen north. Indeed, it's the northernmost commercial cabin in the world, with just five simple rooms, a restaurant and a wood-fired sauna looking out to endless views of Svalbard's glacial expanse.



NEW

22

AURORA EXPEDITIONS:
SVALBARD ODYSSEY



13-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

1 day Longyearbyen » 11 days Greg Mortimer » 1 day Longyearbyen



» **PRICES FROM:** £5,790 pp incl. flights, select transfers, 2 nights BB accommodation & 10-night full-board cruise aboard *Greg Mortimer* FB incl. all excursions, lecture series & beer/wine with dinner. Departs 21 Jun 2020.

Showcase Svalbard at its wild best on an expedition cruise that brings you among creaking glaciers, snow-flecked fjords and thick pack ice home to everything from polar bears and reindeer to puffins and seals. You'll also enjoy two nights in the archipelago's most stylish hotel.

Day 1 » UK/Longyearbyen Flying out to Svalbard, you'll spend the night at the chic Funken Lodge where, alongside the town's best restaurant, you'll enjoy sweeping views across the Lars Glacier.

Day 2 » Longyearbyen On day two, after an included tour of Longyearbyen's mining-town heritage and glacial surrounds, you'll board your luxurious expedition ship, detailed opposite. **B,D**

Days 3-4 » Magdalenefjorden As you sail along Spitsbergen's wild west coast, you'll pause for summer meadow walks, centuries-old Dutch whaling settlements and Zodiac cruises to giant glaciers. Remember to keep your eye out for nesting puffins and bearded seals. **B,L,D**

Days 5-7 » Maffen Island & Woodfjorden

Sailing among the Arctic pack ice, you'll have the chance to spot everything from beluga whales to polar bears and walruses, before stops at trapper huts and scenic walks bring you among reindeer herds, wild berries and Arctic foxes. **B,L,D**

Days 8-9 » Hinlopen Strait, Barentsøya & Edgeøya islands

After a narrow strait crossing alongside a fossil-rich polar desert, Zodiac cruises and shore excursions will see you stop among bird-dotted cliffs before you cross right through the polar bear migration route. **B,L,D**

Days 10-11 » Hornsund & Bellsund fjords Over two days of true expedition cruising, your captain will adapt your route based on the current conditions, sailing through deep fjords home to stunning glaciers and abundant wildlife. **B,L,D**

Days 12-13 » Depart for UK Fly back to the UK, following a final night in Svalbard's diminutive capital for some optional hiking or champagne tasting. **B**



AURORA EXPEDITIONS' GREG MORTIMER

Named after Aurora Expeditions' co-founder and pioneering adventurer, this brand-new ship is custom-built for sailings to the polar regions. That's not to say, however, that you'll be without the highest levels of on-board comfort, with the privileged 120 guests served by 85 staff.

Facilities

Designed to make the most of its polar routes, the *Greg Mortimer* is equipped with four sea-level loading docks, allowing seamless embarkation for the ship's 15 Zodiacs. And, at the stern, there's a custom-built activity platform, meaning easy ocean access for kayaking, diving and snorkelling. Back inside, you'll find everything from panoramic lounges and hydraulic viewing platforms to a fully equipped gym and a lecture theatre.

Eco commitment

The *Greg Mortimer* is the first ship to feature the patented, environmentally friendly Ulstein

X-Bow® technology, allowing for faster and smoother sailings while reducing emissions and increasing fuel efficiency. The ship's impressive green credentials are further enhanced through minimal light pollution and a lowering of on-board plastic use.

Accommodation

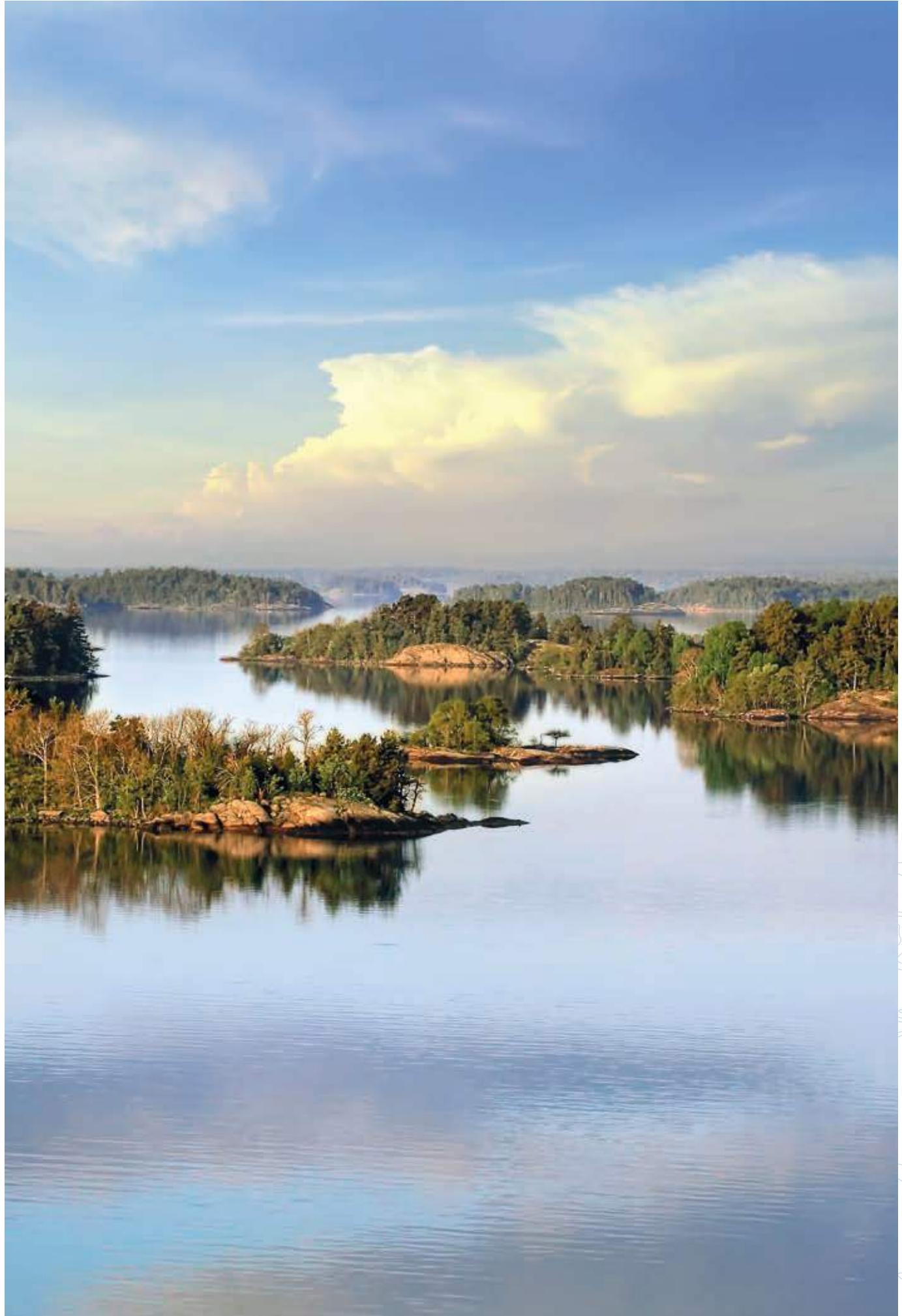
With 80% of the staterooms featuring private balconies and floor-to-ceiling windows, you'll always be close to the action. Each flawlessly contemporary option also features the likes of flat-screen TVs and personal climate control, while sleeping configurations can easily be changed from king to twin.



Artist's impression - actual cabins may vary

Dining

After a day of exploration, enjoy a delicious meal from the three-course dinner menu, served in the communal dining room and washed down with included house wines, beers and spirits. What's more, complimentary tea, coffee and snacks are available 24 hours a day.



59.3261° N, 17.8416° E

SWEDEN

Simply, Sweden is one of the world's happiest nations – something perhaps best felt over summer. Although rooftop bars and innovative galleries pop up over its vibrant cities, it's Sweden's natural beauty that often lingers longest in the memory, with virgin forests, Lapland's green remotes and literally thousands of islands vying for your attention.

Indeed, each summer, the Swedes undergo something of a pilgrimage to the great outdoors. Log cabins make for idyllic Lapland getaways, canal cruises plunge through rural heartlands and the cragged west coast delights with cobbled fishing villages. However, an archipelago retreat remains the quintessential Swedish escape. Whether basking in the Arctic Circle's Midnight Sun or simply hopping out from Stockholm, you'll quickly find an island all of your own. Expect to enjoy everything from kayak paddles to some beach relaxation and just-caught delicacies. You should also consider the Viking ruins and medieval charm of Gotland – the Baltic's largest island.

But, it's impossible to avoid the allure of Sweden's chic urbanity. Of course, as a

world design leader, Stockholm grabs the headlines, with innovative studios, boutique fashion labels and fine-dining experiences among the highlights. It's all set to a historic backdrop, informed by the likes of royal palaces and frescoed opera houses that line cobblestone streets. Then there are the quieter charms of Gothenburg, where 17th-century canals are dotted with achingly hip cafés.

Not to let its cities have all the fun, Sweden's dedication to the cutting edge extends right to its unique accommodation. Alongside art-installation treehouses, the world-famous ICEHOTEL is now open year-round, powered, ironically, by the Midnight Sun. That's on top of seaside lodges, island cabins and converted countryside manors.



23

STOCKHOLM
CITY BREAK



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Stockholm



» PRICES FROM: £460 pp incl. flights, 3 nights Clarion Sign BB & entry to the ABBA Museum. Operates year-round.

Picturesque Stockholm enjoys an enviable location, spread across a series of islands at the western edge of the Baltic Sea. Get a flavour of this vibrant and colourful capital with our curated city-break staying at the delightful Clarion Sign – an ultra-stylish hotel in the best traditions of Scandinavian design and architecture. Your stay also includes entrance to the ABBA museum and provides ample opportunity to discover Stockholm's cultural and culinary highlights at your own pace.

Day 1 » UK/Stockholm Fly out to Stockholm and make your way to the city centre, where you'll check into the Clarion

Sign. The hotel's architect-designed glass-and-granite façade hides a host of facilities, including a gourmet restaurant, whose menus take their inspiration from the city's urban gardens. There's also a spa and an outdoor pool, perfect for a relaxing few days away. For a hassle-free transfer, we recommend using the Arlanda Express; a high-speed rail service, it takes just 20 minutes from the airport to the city centre station, itself just a five-minute stroll from your hotel.

Days 2–3 » Stockholm With two free days, you'll want to get out and explore. And, there's much to discover, from the cobblestone streets, boutiques and 18th-century palace buildings of Gamla Stan to the restaurants and cosy cafés that line the harbour. It's the perfect spot to enjoy that most indulgent of Swedish traditions, *fika* – a freshly brewed coffee and delicious cinnamon bun. Feeling refreshed, continue on to take in some of Stockholm's acclaimed museums. The excellent Vasa Museum is a great place to start, home to the preserved wreck of a 17th-century royal warship.

Or, for something more contemporary, Fotografiska showcases some of the world's finest 20th- and 21st-century photographers. We've even included entry to the ABBA museum – a shrine to the life and work of those celebrated Swedish pop sensations. But the capital is far more than its urban charms. Right on its doorstep, the winding channels and pretty islands of the Stockholm Archipelago are a veritable outdoor playground, ideal for sun-filled days spent kayaking, sailing and swimming. B

Day 4 » Depart for UK After a final delicious breakfast at your hotel, spend the morning at the spa or explore the city further before heading to the airport for your flight home. B



ETT HEM

DELUXE



Freestanding marble baths and stylish four-poster beds are among the charms of this homely 12-room hotel in Stockholm's well-heeled Lärkstaden neighbourhood. Built as a family residence in 1910, Ett Hem's laidback hospitality means guests can help themselves to a glass of wine from the communal kitchen or enjoy a meal with others in the courtyard's glasshouse. The garden here is spectacular. Laid out by one of Sweden's most acclaimed landscape architects, it's a superb spot for al fresco meals and a glass or two of red.



KING'S GARDEN HOTEL

SUPERIOR



High ceilinged and chanderlied, the rooms at this superb Stockholm offering are all different from each other but all quite special. Gustavian architecture, with carefully preserved 18th-century detailing, lends a luxurious touch, the rooms all muted colours and cosseting beds. A flourish of sweeping staircases connect the chic bedrooms to the magnificent champagne bar, private wine cellar, gym, sauna and gourmet restaurant. Located next to the central Kungsträdgården, you'll also be well placed for exploring the city.



AT SIX

DELUXE



Having started life as a humble bank, this ultra-modern jewel has undergone a complete transformation. Its cocktail bar serves up gin and tonics in teacups, the restaurant dishes up contemporary fineries predicated on seasonal ingredients, and lavish rooms feature everything from pillow menus and lounge seating to on-demand TV and cocktail-stocked minibars. On top of the usual gym, the next-door rooftop bar even features yoga classes alongside its street-food festivals. Otherwise, get your music dose at the hotel's Hosoi lounge, where DJs spin tracks and give talks on auditory innovation.

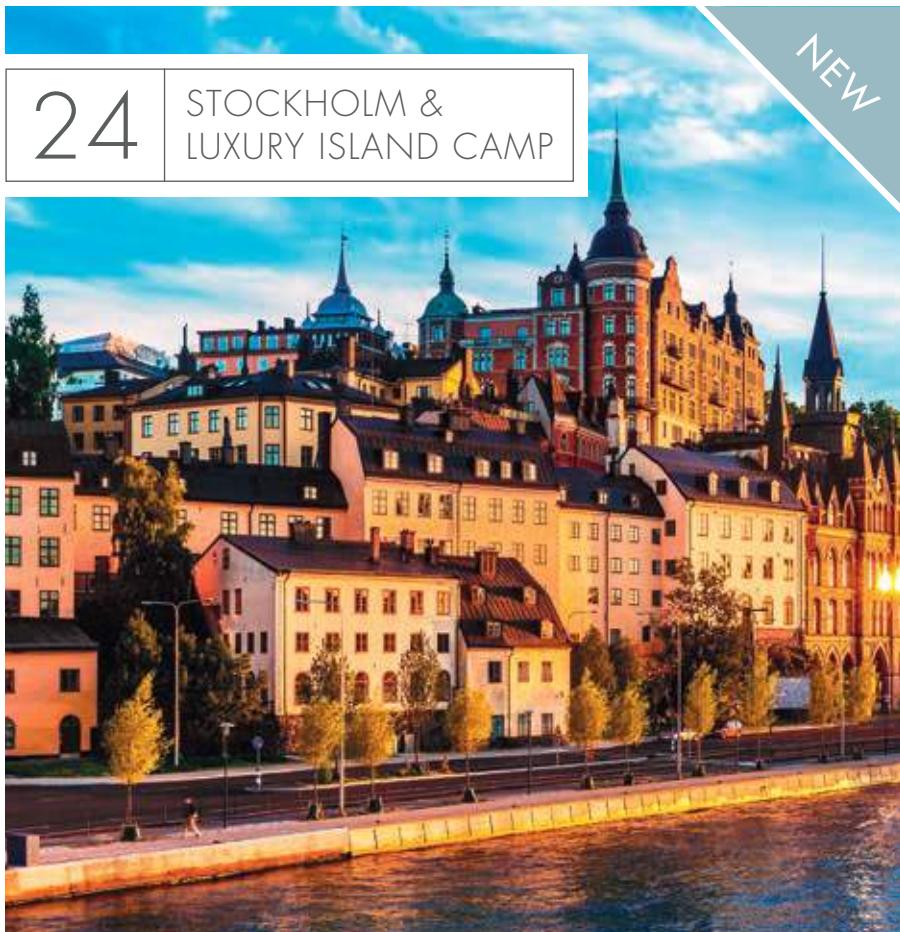


CLARIION HOTEL SIGN

SUPERIOR



This Gert Wingårdh-designed hotel – all glass and granite, sharp lines and simple Scandinavian décor – is located right in the centre of Stockholm, close to many of the capital's best bars and restaurants, museums and boutiques. Facilities include spa treatment rooms, a well-equipped gym, a running track, an American-style brasserie and a delightful rooftop swimming pool, complete with a popular poolside bar. The hotel is also pet-friendly, so don't be surprised to meet the occasional pampered pooch in the Living Room meeting area.



24

STOCKHOLM & LUXURY ISLAND CAMP

NEW



ISLAND LODGE

Each of the seven luxury tents on this remote islet is beautifully appointed with everything from timber floors and reindeers skins to fine linens and panoramic bay windows that overlook the archipelago. Each one comes with its own bathroom, and there's a wood-burning stove to keep things cosy on cooler nights. What's more, they're all delightfully secluded, dotted around the island to offer the best views. Meals are served in a dining tent overlooking the sea and, when dinner's over, an outdoor fire place and a choice of saunas provide further relaxation.

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

2 days Stockholm >> 2 days Island Lodge



>> PRICES FROM: £1,295 incl. flights, water taxi transfers, 2 nights King's Garden Hotel BB & 1 night Island Lodge FB incl. tour, sauna, beer/wine with dinner & use of water-sports equipment. Operates May to Sep.

This curated getaway will see you explore both the Swedish capital and the natural beauty of its archipelago surrounds. It all begins with a luxury stay among Stockholm's medieval heritage and contemporary innovation, before a water taxi brings you out to a remote island. Here, you'll spend a memorable night, enjoying everything from sauna soaks and drinks-paired gourmet dining to stand-up paddleboarding, island tours and beach relaxation.

Days 1-2 >> UK/Stockholm Flying out to the Swedish capital, you'll make your way to your luxurious hotel. All chandeliers and Gustavian architecture, it's an 18th-century jewel, complete with pancake breakfasts, plush rooms and even a champagne bar. And, just simply walking down the street will bring you past the beautifully frescoed Opera House, over the Lilla Värtan Strait and into the island-bound old town of Gamla Stan. Here, grand palaces and intriguing museums line flagstone streets. Then, swap heritage for contemporary cutting edge with the city's innovative restaurants and design scene. **B**

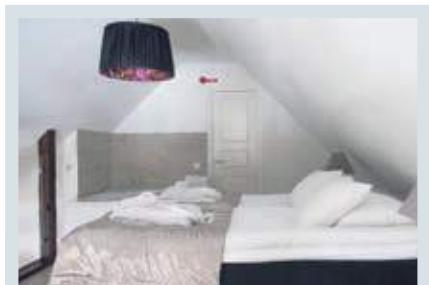
Day 3 >> Archipelago glamping Leaving Stockholm in a water taxi, you'll weave between archipelago islets to arrive at your very own uninhabited island. Here, among an old-growth pine forest, you'll settle into one of just seven luxury tents. You'll get your bearings with an island tour, taking in rock-framed swimming spots, its pair of sandy beaches and an old military workshop hidden in a rock

shelter. You'll then have full use of the water-sports equipment, exploring further with kayaks and stand-up paddleboards or setting up shop with fishing rods. At the end of it all, you'll relax with the floating wood-fired sauna and accompanying hot tub, enjoying gourmet meals paired with complimentary wines and beers. Additionally, snacks are included throughout, while the evening barbecue is a highlight for its superb crayfish. **BLD**

Day 4 >> Depart for UK Following a final breakfast, the water taxi will bring you back to the mainland, where you'll make your way to the airport in time for your flight home. **B**



25

GOTLAND &
STOCKHOLM FLY-DRIVE

HOTELL SLOTTSBACKE

Located in the historic centre of Visby, just a stone's throw from the harbour, the botanical gardens and many of the town's best restaurants and shops, this contemporary four-star hotel, which was opened in 2012, has quickly established itself as one of Gotland's finest. Stylish rooms combine muted tones with comfortable furnishings, and the hotel's sun terrace is a deservedly popular 6 o'clock spot. There's no onsite restaurant, but ask the staff and you'll find they're happy to point you towards the best local dining options.



6-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

3 days Visby » 3 days Stockholm



» PRICES FROM: £1,100 pp incl. flights, 3 days car hire, 3 nights Hotell Slottsbacken BB & 2 nights King's Garden Hotel BB. Operates May to Sep.

Discover one of the most picturesque destinations in Sweden, as you tour the largest island in the Baltic Sea – Gotland. With a hire car at your disposal, take

in majestic seascapes, pretty beaches and secluded swimming spots as you venture out to explore its outlying islands, including the idyllic fishing villages of Fårö. There's also plenty of historical intrigue, from Viking ruins to prehistoric sites and medieval churches, before it all concludes with a dose of the cosmopolitan in the bars and restaurants of Stockholm.

Days 1–3 » UK/Gotland Flying out to the Hanseatic city of Visby, you'll pick up your hire car at the airport to make the short drive to your quaint accommodation. Located right in the centre of the old quarter, you'll have all of Visby's historic delights on your doorstep, with its city walls, cathedral and medieval architecture particular highlights. You'll also want to make use of your hire car to explore further afield, taking in the island's heritage hamlets and grassy meadows before hopping onto the free ferry to next-door Fårö. Here, you'll be able to marvel at towering sea stacks, somewhat reminiscent of the famous stone *moai* of faraway Easter Island. 

Days 4–5 » Stockholm After dropping off your hire car at Visby's airport, board your flight to the Swedish capital. You'll be staying in one of its finest hotels, an 18th-century masterpiece of chandeliers, high ceilings and superb buffet breakfasts. Of course, you'll also want to head out and explore, wandering the narrow cobbled streets of the city's Gamla Stan old town. Here, buildings are resplendent in various hues of gold, housing everything from royal palaces to art museums. For something of the contemporary instead, make for Stockholm's fantastic restaurant and design scene. 

Day 6 » Depart for UK Make your way back to the airport and board your return flight to the UK. 

26

GÖTA CANAL CRUISE



6-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

1 day Gothenburg » 3 days Göta Canal
» 2 days Stockholm



» PRICES FROM: £1,690 pp incl. flights, 1 night Clarion Hotel Post BB, 3 nights Göta Canal Steamer FB & 1 night King's Garden Hotel BB. Operates May to Sep.

A spectacular four-day steamer cruise along the 380-mile long Göta Canal links Sweden's two largest cities – the elegant port city of Gothenburg and cool capital Stockholm. Along the way, you'll see ancient towns, UNESCO World Heritage Sites and beautiful rolling countryside from the comfort of your cabin. Plus there's time to explore both cities.

Day 1 » UK/Gothenburg Fly to Gothenburg and check in at the Clarion Hotel Post, a contemporary hotel with spa and rooftop pool right in the heart of the city. Spend the rest of the day strolling around the impressive waterfront and exploring the historic centre, or perhaps visit the Gothenburg Museum

of Art, home to one of the world's finest collections of 19th-century Nordic paintings, as well as important works by the likes of Monet and Picasso.

Days 2–4 » Göta Canal Board a Göta Canal Steamer and depart the Gothenburg docks for Stockholm, Sweden's fashionable capital. Over the next few days you'll cruise through two of the country's largest and prettiest lakes – Vänern and Vättern – and glide past the obelisk of the Berg Canal along with innumerable magnificent castles and historic settlements. As you go, you'll be treated to excellent dining and plentiful onboard comforts. There'll also be an opportunity to see Birka and Hovgården,



one of Sweden's first Viking settlements, now a fascinating archaeological complex and UNESCO World Heritage Site. 

Days 5–6 » Stockholm/UK Check in at the King's Garden Hotel on arrival in Stockholm and spend the evening exploring the cobbled streets, bars and restaurants of the 13th-century old town – Gamla Stan. Alternatively, hop on board a harbour cruise and see the capital lit up at night. The next day, head to the airport for your return flight. 

27

GOTHENBURG
& THE WEST

8-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

2 days Gothenburg » 1 day Villa Sjötorp » 2 days Fjällbacka
» 2 days Bjertorp Slott » 1 day Gothenburg



» PRICES FROM: £1,265 pp incl. return flights, 2 nights Clarion Hotel Post BB, 1 night Villa Sjötorp HB, 2 nights Stora Hotellet Bryggan BB, 2 nights Bjertorp Slott HB & 6 days car hire. Operates May to Sep.

Sweden's rugged west coast is scattered with pretty fishing villages, elegant estates and isolated hideaways. Starting from Gothenburg, a highlight in any Swedish summer holiday, you'll drive north to stay in country manors and visit picturesque waterfronts host some of the region's best seafood restaurants.

Days 1–2 » UK/Gothenburg Arriving in Gothenburg, transfer to the Clarion Hotel Post, located within walking distance of the city's opera house, as well as some of its best shops and restaurants. Enjoy a boat trip along the canals, explore the city's excellent museums and parks, and browse the many arts-and-crafts stores. 

Day 3 » Villa Sjötorp Pick up your hire car and drive north along the scenic west coast to Villa Sjötorp – a charming country hotel with just 10 rooms. In the evening, dine out on the terrace of the hotel's award-winning restaurant, overlooking the bay. 

Days 4–5 » Fjällbacka Continue north to Fjällbacka, a small coastal settlement which was once a favourite haunt of actress Ingrid Bergman. Explore the village's narrow cobbled lanes, boutique shops and busy cafés and spend the night at the quaint and comfortable Stora Hotellet Bryggan, which sits prettily on the edge of the village pier. 



Days 6–7 » Bjertorp Slott Today you'll continue to Bjertorp Slott, an elegant Art Nouveau manor which specialises in gourmet dining and hosts one of the region's best golf courses. Nearby attractions include the Saab Museum in Trollhättan and the Göta Älv River Valley. 

Day 8 » Gothenburg/UK After breakfast at the manor, take a leisurely cross-country drive 100 km south to Gothenburg's international airport to connect with your return flight. 

NEW

28

SUMMER ADVENTURE
IN SWEDISH LAPLAND



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Luleå Archipelago



» PRICES FROM: £1,395 (adult)
£760 (child) incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights
Brändön Lodge FB, guided kayaking &
wilderness skills excursion. Operates May
to Sep.

This wilderness getaway will see you follow the holidaying Swedes to your very own private timber cabin on the shores of a remote archipelago. From here, you'll explore with included kayaking and wilderness skills sessions, returning each day to fantastic full-board dining informed by local ingredients. Just remember to find some time to relax on the beach under the Midnight Sun.

Day 1 » UK/Luleå Flying out to Luleå, you'll be dropped right into the heart of Swedish Lapland. You'll also be met on arrival and brought, along the coast, to your log-cabin accommodation, beautifully poised on the shores of a cragged archipelago. Here, glassy waters reflect pine forests and thousands of tiny islets host cosy fishermen's huts. You'll also be treated to the first of your full-board meals. Taken by the fire in the main lodge, you can expect everything from champagne caviar to home-smoked reindeer. D

Days 2–3 » Kayaking and wilderness skills workshop While you'll want to relax in the pristine wilderness setting, we've included a pair of curated excursions to help you settle in. The first will see you kayak out among the archipelago's islands, spotting the likes of seals, eagles and even moose as your guide points

you towards stops at secret bays. Your second excursion will then see you turn inland for a wilderness skills session. Heading into the forest, your expert host will teach you to make a fire Arctic style before demonstrating how to make tea and coffee over the open flames. Then, it's time for a lunch, cooked from foraged ingredients, of course. In all, it's the perfect introduction to Lapland adventure. What's more, in between your trips and indulgent meals, there's the option for everything from boat tours to forest hikes. BLD

Day 4 » Depart for UK After a final breakfast, an included transfer will see you back to the airport for your flight home. B

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JOPIKGÅRDEN: SUMMER
IN SWEDISH LAPLAND

NEW



5-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

5 days Luleå Archipelago



» PRICES FROM: £2,180 pp incl. flights, transfers, 4 nights full-board accommodation, return boat trip, guided nature walk & guided cycle ride. Operates May to Sep.

This is the Swedish summer at its most idyllic – a stay in a boutique farmhouse on a remote island archipelago. Throughout your time here, you'll experience the best of that famous Lapland hospitality, with multi-course, full-board dining paired with a range of included excursions, from boat cruises to guided nature walks and bike rides.

Day 1 » UK/Jopikgården Flying out to Luleå, you'll be dropped right in the heart of Swedish Lapland, surrounded by verdant evergreen forests. An included transfer will greet you, bringing you on to the idyllic coast for your boat ride over to Hindersön Island – a delightfully scenic trip that passes cragged inlets and islets dotted with bright-red fishermen's cabins. On disembarking, you'll settle into your beautifully traditional accommodation, a timber farmhouse that features just four rooms. You'll also enjoy the first of your included meals, with expert chefs showcasing the finest in local ingredients over three courses. Think wild game, beekeepers' honey and foraged mushrooms. 

Days 2–4 » Jopikgården Over the next three days, you'll have plenty of time to relax among the rural-island idyll, making

the most of the long evenings under the Midnight Sun. To get your bearings, we've also included two excursions – a guided nature walk and a guided bike ride. Both will see you explore the island in detail, navigating pretty trails to discover hidden beaches and enchanting groves. Along the way, your expert guide will be on hand to point out the local wildlife, while keeping you educated on the region's past life as a mining settlement. There's also the opportunity to explore further with fishing trips and kayaking expeditions. 

Day 5 » Depart for UK After a final breakfast – perhaps of berries and freshly prepared waffles – you'll enjoy a return boat transfer to Luleå, winding through its pretty archipelago. You'll then be met back on land and brought to the airport for your flight home. 

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UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN:
TREEHOTEL & ICEHOTEL



5-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

2 days Brändön Lodge » 1 day Treehotel
» 2 days ICEHOTEL



» PRICES FROM: £1,580 pp incl.

flights, 5 days car hire, 2 nights Brändön Lodge BB, 1 night Treehotel HB, 1 night ICEHOTEL BB, kayak excursion & meals as indicated. Operates May to Sep.

At the height of summer, the Midnight Sun hovers above Swedish Lapland, adding extra magic to this captivating destination. Among the enchanted forests and pretty archipelagos lie three of Sweden's finest hotels – Brändön Lodge, Treehotel & ICEHOTEL. And, on this tour, you'll get to stay at all of them.

Days 1–2 » UK/Brändön Lodge Fly to Luleå via Stockholm, collect your hire car and drive to Brändön Lodge where you'll check into a sea-view room. With a wonderful position overlooking the Bay of Bothnia and the Luleå Archipelago, this cabin-style hotel has just 15 lodgings, each with two bedrooms and a front-facing porch, allowing guests to make the most of the spectacular coastal scenery. The next day, you'll set out onto the calm waters of the bay on an included kayak tour, an experienced guide pointing out some of the islands' interesting features before leading you on a short hike through the forest and shrubland. **BL**

Day 3 » Treehotel Check out this morning for the drive north to the Harads forest and the Treehotel. Every room of this award-winning hotel is distinct, each one designed by one of Scandinavia's leading

architects; there's everything from UFOs to mirrored cubes suspended in the canopy (see overleaf for further details). And, your included dinner here is just as special, typically Swedish and totally fresh and tantalising. **BD**

Days 4–5 » ICEHOTEL/UK After breakfast under the branches, continue north to the equally stunning ICEHOTEL. Here, you'll swap treetop living for the delights of your very own Art Suite – a unique room entirely carved from ice. It's all made possible by the power of the Midnight Sun, with the entire hotel kept refrigerated by its solar panels. You'll also have the chance to have a drink in the entirely frozen ICEBAR – the perfect end to a day spent exploring with everything from scenic bike rides to white-water rafting adventures. On day five, return your hire car to the airport and fly home. **B**

ICEHOTEL & TREEHOTEL EXCURSIONS

Swedish Lapland, so synonymous with ice and snow, is just as magical during summer, when the Midnight Sun illuminates free-flowing waterways and throws streams of sunlight through lush, green forests. The following excursions, two at ICEHOTEL and two at Treehotel, are true celebrations of the season, showcasing the very best of this wonderful summertime playground.



CHEF'S TABLE ON THE VERANDA - ICEHOTEL

This unique experience begins like any Swedish dinner party, with guests taking off their shoes and mingling over a drink. Then, a pair of chefs will prepare an eight-course degustation meal right in front of you, explaining as they go. Expect everything from reindeer tartare to just-caught scallops and that Arctic favourite – king crab.

» PRICES FROM: £235 pp incl. eight-course tasting menu & non-alcoholic drinks package. Duration 4 hrs. Operates May to Nov.



VISIT A SAMI FAMILY AT GORGIM - TREEHOTEL

Lars Eriksson is your expert guide as you visit a Sami family at Flakaberg in the Råne River valley. He'll introduce you to the community's reindeer herd and tell you about Sami life through the millennia. You'll enjoy a traditional campfire lunch, served in a tepee at Gorgim Lake, and a hike through the countryside.

» PRICES FROM: £280 pp incl. transfers, lunch & hot drink. Duration 6 hrs. Operates year-round.

TORNE RIVER RAFTING - ICEHOTEL

Don a wetsuit, helmet and lifejacket to take on the rough rapids and calm stretches of the scenic Torne River, under the expert tutelage of your guide. Before your transfer home, you'll also pause at Puonajokk Island for an included lunch and that most Swedish of traditions – *fika* coffee and cake.

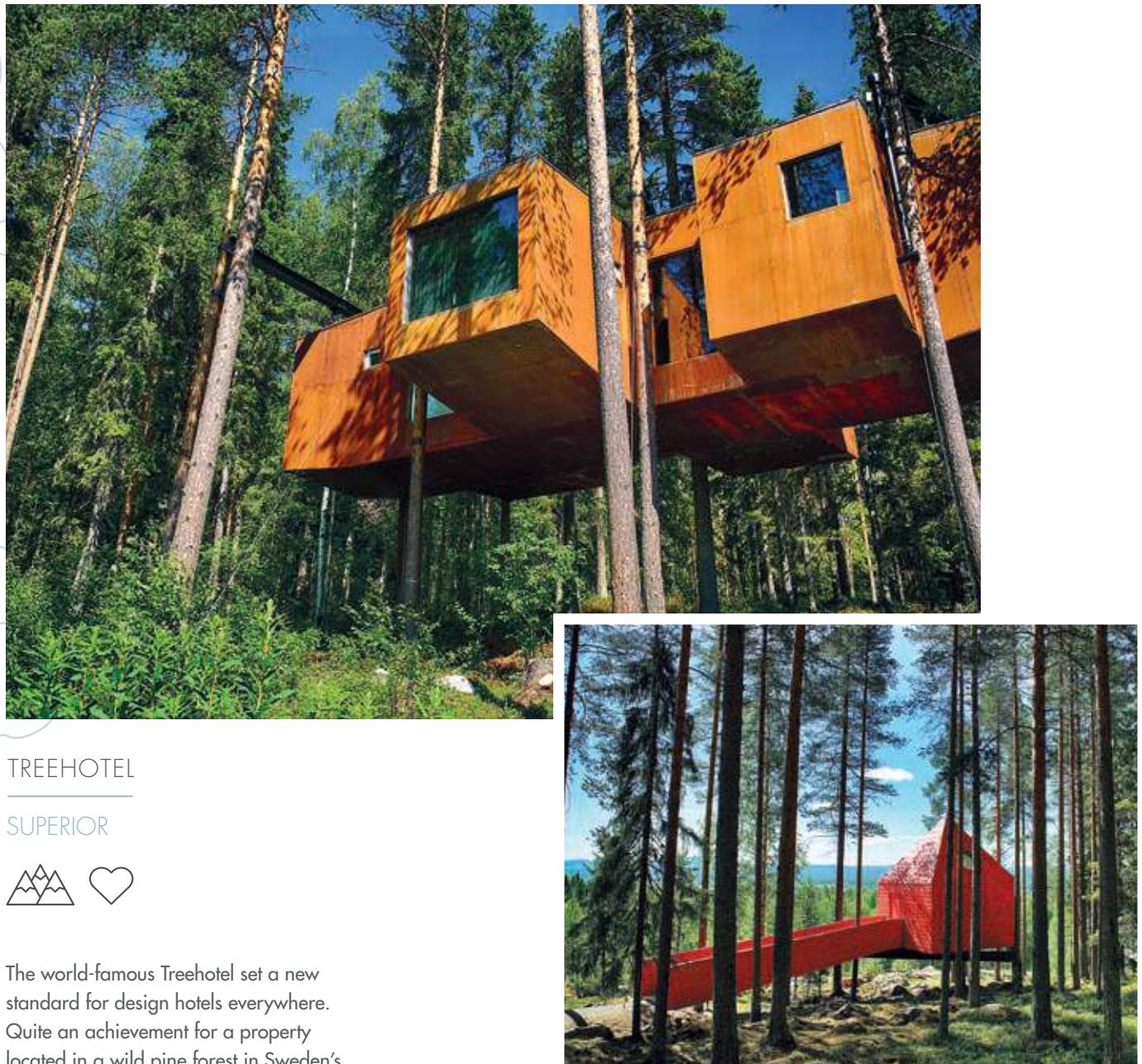
» PRICES FROM: £170 pp incl. transfers, safety equipment, lunch, guide & *fika*. Duration 7 hrs. Operates Jun 16 to Sep 30.



MOOSE SAFARI - TREEHOTEL

Head out in the company of an expert guide to go in search of these kings of the forest. Driving along remote woodland trails, you'll have the chance to spot bulls, cows and their calves as well as the forest's other summer inhabitants, including foxes and reindeer. Drinks and snacks are included.

» PRICES FROM: £175 pp incl. experienced guide, drinks & snacks. Duration 2.5 hrs. Operates May to Sep.



TREEHOTEL
SUPERIOR



The world-famous Treehotel set a new standard for design hotels everywhere. Quite an achievement for a property located in a wild pine forest in Sweden's remote north.

Situated 40 miles south of the Arctic Circle, outside the small village of Harads, the Treehotel features six entirely individual rooms designed by different architects. Mixing modernist, minimalist design and back-to-nature values, the rooms are dotted among the pines and hung around the canopy, allowing guests to play out their childhood treehouse fantasies in true style. Each quirkyly themed room is equipped with underfloor heating, along with en suites that feature a sink, toilet and shower. In turn, meals are taken at the hotel's main house, while the Tree Sauna is a wonderful addition and makes for a welcome retreat after a day's exploring. During the summer

months, hotel activities include full-day hikes in the Korgen Nature Reserve, mountain biking, white-water rafting and visits to local Sami communities. Back at base, Britta's Restaurant offers a delicious array of Swedish home cooking based on fresh, wild local produce including Arctic char, caviar of kalix (also known as 'red gold'), salmon, moose and reindeer.

Your toughest choice is which room to pick. The Cabin sits on a platform high on the hillside, overlooking the Lule River valley with commanding views. The Mirrorcube is a 4x4x4-metre hideout with walls of reflective glass. Then there's

the Bird's Nest, the ultimate hideaway, camouflaged by a complex network of branches.

The Blue Cone sits close to the ground, supported by sturdy foundations, while the UFO is a classic flying saucer cast in durable composite material with a silver sheen. Then, the Dragonfly is a room built for four with an exterior of sheet metal rusting to brown to blend further into the forest. Finally, the aptly named 7th Room is camouflaged from below by a life-size photo of the pine trees that it's replaced. Its north-facing windows make the most of spectacular valley views.



ICEHOTEL

SUPERIOR



The ICEHOTEL has been a wild success story since it was first created in 1989. But, while in years gone by this most famous of Scandinavian accommodations has been a winter-only affair, in 2016 the hotel's clever creators struck upon an idea – to bring the ICEHOTEL experience to a year-round audience.

And, the result is truly impressive, with high ceilings and grand hallways setting the scene for even more extravagant sculptures. It's all showcased in a stunning collection of themed Art Suites and Deluxe Suites, each complete with raised ice beds covered in thermal sleeping bags and reindeer skins. The deluxe offerings even come complete with heated en-suite bathrooms and saunas. There's also an ice gallery, and even a huge ice bar on site, serving fine champagne and crafted cocktails presented in frozen glasses for added indulgence.

At the main restaurant, Michelin-star-winning head chef Alexander Meier and his team serve up inventive takes on such local delicacies as reindeer, moose, Arctic char, Lapland flatbread and berries. Elsewhere, the delightfully cosy Jukkasjärvi Homestead features roaring fires and chargrilled steaks. Or, for something really special, the Chef's Table on the Veranda offers eight-course gourmet dining, all inspired by the flavours of Sweden and perfectly paired with fine wines from around the world.

While the core of the ICEHOTEL experience remains the same no matter the season, when it comes to excursions the



differences between summer and winter are as stark as the Midnight Sun and Northern Lights. As the spring sun melts the snow, mighty rivers set the scene for thrilling white-water adventures, and the forests and fells, sparkling and verdant, offer countless opportunities for hikes and bike rides. There's the Midnight Sun Trail for spectacular views across to nearby Kiruna, and challenging treks up to the Tarfala Glacier to look out on Sweden's highest peak. Other options range from Bear Grylls-style wilderness survival courses to ice carving classes, where you'll create your very own sculpture from the same blocks used in the winter hotel's annual creation.



65°8'14.7"N, 16.4021°W

ICELAND

From glacier hikes to spectacular road trips, summer really opens Iceland up. Waterfalls are charged with snowmelt, geysers seem to erupt with renewed vigour and dramatic coastlines are blessed with the seasonal arrival of cutesy puffins and giant whales.

It all begins in Reykjavik. Alongside its colourful old town, the Icelandic capital is enjoying something of a renaissance, best tasted in its innovative restaurants, heard in its buzzy bars and characterised by its ultra-modern waterfront. The city is also an ideal gateway to some of Iceland's most arresting scenery, with the Golden Circle the obvious highlight. It's a route that takes in everything from explosive geysers to monumental double waterfalls and a rift-valley national park that's home to the Viking ruins of the world's first parliament. That's without mentioning the world-famous Blue Lagoon and unique excursions such as tectonic-plate snorkelling and trips deep into ancient glaciers. There's even that great celestial spectacle – the Midnight Sun.

Summer is also ideal for getting off the beaten track, with gorgeous, undulating roads opening up. Heading clockwise, you'll begin with the puffin peninsula and scenic fjords of western Iceland, before following the coast around to the country's north. Here, cragged volcanic peaks look down on secret hot springs and bubbling mud pools alike. In the other direction, the volcanic mountains of the Icelandic south spill down to black-sand beaches and verdant-green fields – the foreground to immense waterfalls. Can't choose? It's possible to circumnavigate the entire country, whether on a self-drive or escorted tour. You'll be brought out to the country's far east, where untouched fjords are watched over by remote villages.



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REYKJAVIK SUMMER
ADVENTURE



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Reykjavik



>> PRICES FROM: £740 pp incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights Hotel Reykjavik Centrum BB & Blue Lagoon entrance. Operates May to Sep.

This short break is the ideal introduction to the Icelandic summer, offering the chance to experience its historic capital under the brilliance of the Midnight Sun. You'll take it all in with transfers, a trip to the Blue Lagoon and a stay at a chic, central hotel all included. We've also given you two free days to explore, plenty of time for whale watching, ice caving or the famous Golden Circle.

Day 1 >> UK/Reykjavík Flying out to Keflavík Airport, an included transfer will whisk you to your accommodation in nearby central Reykjavík. With its sophisticated Scandi-chic rooms and trio of 18th-century buildings, it's the perfect representation of the city's combination of old and new. You'll also be ideally poised for exploration further afield.

Days 2–3 >> Optional excursions While you'll definitely want to spend some time in Reykjavík, be sure to also head out of the city limits to discover the rural wonders of southern Iceland. We highly recommend the Golden Circle – a classic route that takes in geyser eruptions, the giant Gullfoss waterfall and Thingvellir. This national park is home to the ruins of the world's first parliament. You can even combine your visit with everything from food tastings and horseback rides to a trip

in a Superjeep and a snowmobile glacier ride. For your second day, you might want to mix in an ice-caving adventure or perhaps some wildlife, with cruises offering the chance to spot whales, dolphins and puffins. For full information on the excursions available, see overleaf. However, whatever you choose, it's all made that bit prettier by the nightly appearance of the Midnight Sun. 

Day 4 >> Blue Lagoon On your final day, an included transfer will take you to the geothermally heated waters of the world-famous Blue Lagoon. It makes for a delightful end to your holiday, complete with a complimentary drink and silica mud mask. Then, once fully relaxed, a final included transfer will see you to the airport for your flight home. 



HOTEL REYKJAVIK CENTRUM

STANDARD



Situated on one of Reykjavik's oldest streets in one of the city's liveliest districts, the charming Reykjavik Centrum is perfectly placed for fun. Choose from a wide range of rooms and suites, or a sleek Studio Apartment featuring a fully equipped kitchenette and living room. Fjalakötturinn, an inventive restaurant right next door, is popular with local foodies and has an à la carte menu brimming with regionally inspired dishes; there's an emphasis on fresh seafood and traditional delicacies with a modern twist.



HOTEL BORG

SUPERIOR



The best hotel in town, Hotel Borg is a Reykjavik landmark in its own right. With an arresting Art Deco style throughout, its rooms are spacious, featuring leather furnishings and large, marble bathrooms. There's a spa, too, with a hot tub, steam bath, sauna and a range of treatments providing idyllic relaxation after days spent exploring the city's wild surrounds. The staff are renowned for their friendly attentiveness and will gladly point you in the direction of the best local restaurants.

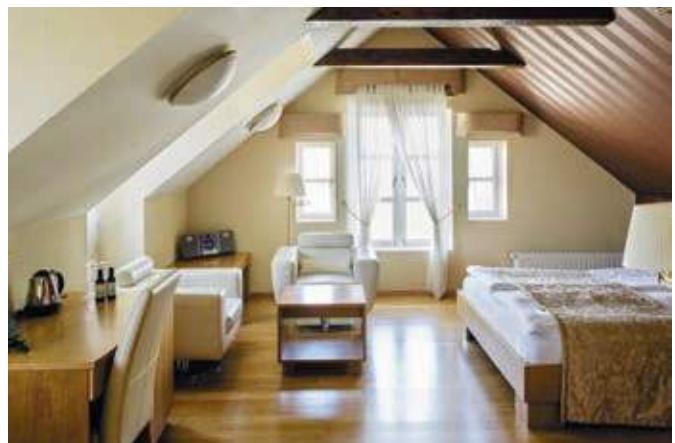


ALDA HOTEL

SUPERIOR



This smart four-star hotel on Laugavegur, Reykjavik's main shopping street, offers comfortable and modern rooms in a relaxed and friendly environment. And, excellent location aside, it features a fitness centre with sauna and a full range of exercise equipment. There's also a buzzing bar serving local draught beers and champagne cocktails, a chocolate shop. Lastly, a 24-hour snack station and even an in-room massage service. The rooftop terrace offers superb sea and mountain views.



CENTERHOTEL PLAZA

STANDARD



Unsurprisingly located right in the centre of town, this modern hotel is just a short walk from the Reykjavik Art Museum, National Theatre and Culture House. Earthy tones and classic oak furnishings contrast with black leather sofas and whitewashed walls, offering style as well as superb value for money. There are numerous restaurants, pubs and cafés on the doorstep, while the hotel's own bar is a lively spot for a six o'clock cocktail or nightcap after an evening on the town.

REYKJAVIK'S TOP 10 EXCURSIONS



3 VENTURE INTO THE LANGJÖKULL GLACIER

Enjoy a unique opportunity to step inside one of Iceland's most impressive geographic features. After pausing at lava-field waterfalls and Europe's most powerful hot spring, you'll change to an all-terrain vehicle for the journey on to the monolithic Langjökull Glacier. Donning crampons, you'll then venture into an ice-cave world of mighty crevasses and stratified layers.

» PRICES FROM: £215 pp

4 GO SNORKELLING BETWEEN TWO CONTINENTS

This is your chance to get right between the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates. You'll be diving in glacial water filtered for decades by porous lava rock, affording underwater visibility of a whopping 120 metres. Checking out cathedral-like rock formations, you'll feel as if you're flying over the colourful boulders below. You'll be kept warm by a superb dry suit, hot chocolates and included transfers.

» PRICES FROM: £150 pp



5 FLY IN A HELICOPTER OVER ICELAND'S LAVA FIELDS

It's often said that the best way to understand Iceland's geological drama is from the air. And, this curated route will see you fly off the beaten track to one of the country's most active volcanic areas, taking

1 RELAX IN THE BLUE LAGOON'S GEOTHERMAL WATERS

As a unique, geothermal spa, the Blue Lagoon's milky-blue waters are stunningly contrasted by harsh volcanic rock and summer's Midnight Sun. It's all situated in a dramatic lava field, so alongside your optional Reykjavik transfers, you'll also be treated to natural saunas and steam rooms, a welcome drink and silica mud mask.

» PRICES FROM: £65 pp

2 HEAD OFF ROAD ON A SUPERJEEP TOUR

The Golden Circle comprises everything from waterfalls and geysers to the rift-valley home of the world's first parliament. And, travelling by 4WD, you'll also head off road to take in the giant Langjökull Glacier where, for a supplement, you'll have the option to try snowmobiling, even in summer!

» PRICES FROM: £255 pp

in hot springs, endless lava fields and basalt mountains. You'll even swap tourists for rambling sheep with a remote landing among bubbling mud pools and steaming fumaroles, before you fly back with a scenic pass over Reykjavik.

» PRICES FROM: £365 pp



7 DISCOVER THE GOLDEN CIRCLE CLASSICS BY COACH

This superb-value excursion showcases the best of the Golden Circle's famous sights, from the mighty Gullfoss waterfall to the clockwork-like eruptions of Strokkur geyser and Thingvellir National Park – the meeting point of tectonic plates. Its Viking past will be brought to life by your guide. You'll also visit a pair of lesser-known gems with Faxi waterfall's "fish ladder" and Skálholt cathedral's archaeological museum.

>> PRICES FROM: £65 pp

10 TAKE A TOUR OF THE WESTMAN ISLANDS

Cruise out to an archipelago of islands whose dramatic cliffs, craggy craters and rolling hinterlands have been shaped by thousands of years of volcanic activity, including that infamous 1973 eruption. Explore with museum visits and harbour walks, or let a bus and boat tour take the strain, bringing you to seasonal puffin colonies, which – with up to 10 million birds – are the world's largest. It's all bookended by included ferry hops and transfers to and from your hotel.

>> PRICES FROM: £90 pp

8 COME FACE TO FACE WITH WHALES & PUFFINS

Watching a giant humpback breach or a dolphin play in your ship's wake has to be one of the great holiday experiences. And, on this proudly responsible sailing, you'll be guided by an expert crew who, if you fail to make a sighting, will provide you with a new ticket completely free of charge. What's more, if you travel between May and mid-August, you can add on a trip to see the puffins of Akurey Island.

>> PRICES FROM: £75 pp

6 TAKE IN THE WONDERS OF ICELAND'S SOUTH COAST

Heading out of Reykjavik, you'll cut between high mountains and the crashing waves of the mighty Atlantic Ocean to take in everything from black-sand beaches to national-park valleys and monolithic glaciers. The iconic Skógarfoss waterfall is a special highlight, as is Seljalandsfoss where you can walk right behind its cascading falls. However, this day on the coast all centres on the Jökulsárlón Lagoon, a meeting point of rivers and glaciers that's dotted with endless icebergs. You can even explore further with an added boat tour.

>> PRICES FROM: £140 pp

9 HIKE ON A GLACIER, THEN WALK BEHIND A WATERFALL

Strapping on crampons to hike out over the lunar landscape of a glacier is Iceland at its adventurous best. And as if that wasn't enough, your certified guide will also bring you among the south coast's smoking volcanoes and lush farmlands to showcase two of the country's most iconic waterfalls – rainbow-blessed Skógarfoss and Seljalandsfoss, where you can walk behind its mighty torrents.

>> PRICES FROM: £140 pp



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HOTEL RANGÁ &
THE BLUE LAGOON



HOTEL RANGÁ

Rooms at this country lodge are appointed in typically Scandinavian style, but with extra eclectic touches inspired by the seven continents.

Far from any light pollution, in summer it's a wonderful place for stargazing, with the heated outdoor hot tubs providing an indulgent overview. There's even the hotel's own observatory on hand for those wanting a closer look. The surrounding nature is equally impressive, with everything from volcanic lava fields and black-sand beaches to a next-door river teeming with salmon.

5-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

1 day Blue Lagoon » 2 days Hotel Rangá
» 1 day Golden Circle » 1 day Reykjavik



» PRICES FROM: £1,990 pp incl. flights, 4 days car hire, 1 night Silica Hotel BB, 2 nights Hotel Rangá BB, 1 night Hotel Borg BB, Blue Lagoon Premium entry, 30-minute massage, Superjeep tour & horseback riding. Operates year-round.

This curated itinerary perfectly contrasts considered relaxation with Iceland's wild landscapes. After enjoying private access to the Blue Lagoon with a design-hotel stay, you'll head out to remote Hotel Rangá to explore southern Iceland by Superjeep and horseback, before taking in the Golden Circle's unique geology on your very own self-drive. Expect crashing waterfalls and explosive geysers.

Day 1 » UK/The Blue Lagoon Flying into Keflavík Airport, you'll pick up your hire car and make the short drive across the peninsula to the famed Blue Lagoon. Here, you'll be treated to Premium access, enjoying mud masks and an included drink between indulgent soaks in the mist-shrouded waters. You'll even stay in a design hotel that features its very own private access. It's delightfully exclusive, featuring a superb spa and just 35 rooms, each with private-verandah views across the surrounding volcanic scenery. There's even a restaurant built into a lava cliff where, if you opt for dinner, you'll enjoy a complimentary glass of sparkling wine.

Days 2–3 » Hotel Rangá Start the day with an included 30-minute massage. Then, make the scenic drive along the coast to Hotel Rangá. It's a wonderfully secluded base for your Superjeep excursion on day three. Leave the car behind as your expert guides bring you across glacial rivers and along dirt tracks to the highland region of Thórsmörk. B

Day 4 » The Golden Circle You'll begin today with the short drive to a nearby farm, where you'll meet the Icelandic horses – a unique breed that's both hardy and adorably little. Then, after a gentle ride through the rolling grasslands, you'll set out to self-drive the Golden Circle, taking in everything from the cascading Gullfoss waterfall to the explosive outbursts of the Strokkur geyser. There's also the fascinating heritage of Thingvellir. Among this national park, you'll discover the thousand-year-old stone ruins of the world's first parliament. You'll then end the day in Reykjavík. B

Day 5 » Reykjavík/UK You'll have time to explore Iceland's capital this morning. Although its traditional houses and cathedral spire evidence a rich heritage, there's plenty of cutting edge to discover, best showcased in its art galleries, thriving restaurant scene and modernist architecture. After taking it all in, you'll then return your hire car to board your flight home. B

NEW

33

ICELAND FAMILY
ADVENTURE**5-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE**

5 days southern Iceland



» PRICES FROM: £1,130 pp incl. flights, 4WD car hire & 4 nights Hotel Grimsborgir BB. Operates May to Sep. Price based on 2 adults & 2 children sharing a 2 bedroom apartment.

From glaciers and waterfalls to geysers and geothermal pools, Iceland is a geological playground for children young and old. And, from your stay in a luxury apartment, Reykjavik's heritage, the Golden Circle's famous sights and the south coast's hidden gems are all just a short drive away in your 4WD. There are also the options of having a driver or exploring with a range of optional activities.

Day 1 » UK/South Iceland Following your flight, pick your 4WD car up at the airport, perhaps taking the kids for a soak in the Blue Lagoon on your way to your luxury apartment's barbecue terrace and private hot tub.

Day 2 » Golden Circle tour After your first included breakfast, we recommend getting acquainted with the Golden Circle's geological wonders – your hotel is right in the centre of the loop. There are the geyser eruptions of Strokkur, the mighty waterfall torrents of Gullfoss and the rift-valley beauty of Thingvellir. We'll also be able to point you towards some of the region's lesser-known gems, including a pair of secret Blue-Lagoon alternatives. 

Day 3 » Reykjavik After a short drive, you'll have today to explore the Icelandic capital – an old-town delight of multicoloured houses and modernist architecture,

exemplified by the Hallgrímskirkja church. You might also want to treat your little ones to some Icelandic ice cream – the perfect preamble to an optional whale and puffin cruise. Back on dry land, there's also an excellent choice of museums, with exhibitions on Viking saga, local wildlife and, perhaps surprisingly, punks. 

Day 4 » South coast Head off the beaten track with Iceland's south coast. Seljalandsfoss is a family favourite for the chance to walk behind a giant waterfall. There's also everything from turf farmhouses and summertime puffins to lava stacks and black-sand beaches home to historic wrecks. For the more adventurous, consider summer snowmobiling, glacier walks or a horse ride. 

Day 5 » Depart for UK Drop your hire car off at the airport and board your flight home. 

34

HIDDEN DELIGHTS OF
WESTERN ICELAND

NEW



5-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

2 days Reykjavík » 3 days Húsafell



» PRICES FROM: £1,120 pp incl. flights, 4 days car hire, 1 night Alda Hotel BB, 3 nights Hotel Húsafell BB & Into the Glacier excursion. Operates May to Sep.

Head off western Iceland's beaten track to discover its true geographic splendour. After a night in fun-loving Reykjavík, drive out to stay in your very own National Geographic lodge, complete with geothermal pools. Here, alongside an included expedition into the ice caves of a giant glacier, you'll be perfectly positioned to explore everything from lava fields and hot springs to waterfalls and ice-capped peaks.

Day 1 » UK/Reykjavík Flying into Reykjavík's Keflavík Airport, you'll pick up your hire car for the short drive to your four-star hotel, itself a lesson in Scandi-chic sensibilities. And, its rooftop terrace showcases its central location. You'll have all of the Icelandic capital's bars, restaurants and ultra-modern architecture on your doorstep.

Day 2 » Húsafell You'll have the morning in Reykjavík, perhaps enjoying a whale-watching cruise or Superjeep tour. Then, driving out along western Iceland's rugged coast and through its remote interior, you'll arrive at Húsafell Hotel. Here, you'll settle into multi-course dining, natural hot-spring baths and spectacular views from your elegant room. B

Day 3 » Into the Glacier excursion You'll be treated to a true trip highlight today. A 4WD transfer will see you through the deserted moonscape to arrive at the base of Langjökull Glacier, where you'll wrap up warm for the drive in an all-terrain



HOTEL HÚSAFELL

Located amid the wild landscapes of western Iceland, Hotel Husafell is a delightfully luxurious base for exploring Iceland's greatest natural marvels. Spend action-packed days among the region's glaciers, lava caves and waterfalls on hikes and horseback rides, returning to Nordic-inspired gourmet dining and cosseting rooms. Here, works by local artist Páll Guðmundsson are paired with stunning views across the valley surrounds. The hotel even comes with its own geothermal swimming pool and the world's only GEO-certified golf course.

vehicle over the ice cap. You'll then descend into the glacier itself, your expert guided pointing out its shimmering layers that chart the region's volcanic activity before you retrace your steps back to Húsafell. B

Day 4 » Húsafell You'll have today to explore at leisure. There's everything from Europe's most powerful hot springs to some of the world's largest lava caves just moments away. At Hraunfossar, there's even a subterranean spring that seeps through lava and runs as tiny waterfalls into its river. Otherwise, there are the glaciers and rock formations of Snæfellsnes, while available activities include, hiking, horseback rides and summertime snowmobiling.

Day 5 » Depart for UK After breakfast and an optional visit to the Blue Lagoon, drop your car back at the airport before boarding your flight home. B

35

BEST OF SOUTH ICELAND



7-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

2 days Reykjavik » 1 day Hella » 2 days
Vík » 2 days Blue Lagoon



» PRICES FROM: £1,400 pp incl.
flights, 4 days car hire, 6 nights BB
accommodation & Comfort entry into the
Blue Lagoon incl. towel, algae mask and
first drink of your choice. Operates May
to Sep.

On this summertime self-drive, you'll discover the delights of Reykjavik before heading out on open roads to explore the geological wonderland of southern Iceland. Highlights range from the mighty waterfalls and geysers of the Golden Circle to the creaking glaciers, iceberg-studded lagoons and black-sand beaches of the volcanic south coast.

Days 1–2 » UK/Reykjavik After your flight, make your way to the Hotel Centrum before heading out to absorb the laidback yet lively atmosphere of the Icelandic capital. Spend the next day wandering the streets and shores of the city, browsing bookshops, sipping happy-hour drinks and admiring the vibrant arts scene. Or, take a Superjeep tour of the Golden Circle, a region that comprises some of Iceland's most impressive natural wonders. 

Days 3 » Hella Collect your hire car and set off on a two-hour drive to Hella on Iceland's spectacular southern coast. From your base at Hotel Rangá, you'll have a

full range of summer excursions to choose from; perhaps take in the wild beauty of Thingvellir National Park, hike to a 3,000-year-old sunken volcano or head to Silfra for the chance to snorkel between two tectonic plates. 

Days 4–5 » Vík Drive on to Vík and the floor-to-ceiling views of your contemporary hotel. Once you've checked in, you'll have ample time to explore Iceland's southernmost village, perhaps taking a stroll through town or along its black-sand beach. Other highlights include the lava stacks at Reynisdrangar, the Seljalandsfoss and Skógarfoss waterfalls, and full-day trips to the Jökulsárlón Lagoon or Vatnajökull Glacier. 

Days 6–7 » Blue Lagoon/UK Leave Vík for the Blue Lagoon and spend your final day relaxing in the mineral-rich waters of Iceland's best-known spa. Then, after a night at a nearby hotel, drop off your hire car at the airport and catch your flight home. 

36

SNAEFELLSNES & THE
GOLDEN CIRCLE IN STYLE



6-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

2 days Golden Circle » 2 days
Snæfellsnes » 2 days Reykjavik



» **PRICES FROM:** £1,740 pp incl. flights, arrival transfer, 5 days 4WD car hire, 2 nights ION Adventure Hotel BB, 2 nights Hotel Budir BB & 1 night ION City Hotel BB. Operates May to Sep.

Knit together Iceland's city energy and spectacular natural world with some of the country's finest hotels. You'll stay in a design boutique while sampling the delights of Reykjavik, pair the majestic glaciers of Snæfellsnes with one of Iceland's finest restaurants, and spend two nights in a stilted spa masterpiece while exploring the Golden Circle.

Days 1–2 » UK/Golden Circle Fly out to Keflavík, collect your 4WD and head to the ION Adventure Hotel – a jewel of modernist design whose floor-to-ceiling windows and indulgent spa showcase its rugged, lava-field setting. Located right at the heart of Iceland's most famous driving route, it's the ideal base for exploring the region's iconic sights, from spectacular geysers and cascading waterfalls to volcanic crater lakes. Thingvellir National Park is a particular highlight. Home to the world's first democratic parliament, its Viking heritage plays out over thousand-year-old ruins, backdropped by a dramatic natural world. B

Days 3–4 » Snæfellsnes Make the drive north, hopping fjord bridges and tracing Iceland's craggy eastern coast to arrive at Snæfellsnes. Spend two days here, hiking up giant glaciers and volcanoes, or strolling



ION HOTEL

This designer hotel – less than an hour's drive from the bustle of Reykjavík – effortlessly treads the fine line between luxury and adventure. With its Thingvellir National Park location, there are activities aplenty, from challenging glacier treks to days spent fishing in one of the nearby rivers. At the restaurant, guests are treated to a journey through Iceland's gastronomic landscape with fresh, regional ingredients heading up a menu that changes with the seasons. Elsewhere, the ION Spa promises the ultimate in relaxation with a full list of treatments and massages. Along with a sauna, there's a heated, 10-metre pool for soaks under the resplendent Midnight Sun.

on black pebble beaches and through pretty fishing villages home to vast colonies of nesting seabirds. In the evenings, treat yourself to dinner at your luxury hotel's restaurant – one the country's finest. B

Day 5 » Reykjavík Return south to Iceland's capital and your boutique design hotel. Here, the minibars are complimentary and the bay views are invited in by picture windows. And, given that it's all found right in the city centre, you'll want to head out and explore. Taste your way through Nordic restaurants, step into galleries of local award winners and take in the lively nightlife, all right on your doorstep. B

Day 6 » Depart for UK Drive to the airport in time for your flight home. B

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SNAEFELLSNES &
WESTFJORDS SELF-DRIVE**7-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE**

1 day Hveragerði » 1 day Snæfellsnes
 » 1 day Westfjords » 1 day Ísafjörður
 » 1 day Laugar Sælingsdalur » 2 days Reykjavík



» PRICES FROM: £1,525 incl. flights, 6 nights BB accommodation, 6 days car hire, GPS & ferry transfer from Snæfellsnes to Westfjords. Operates May to Sep.

Discover Iceland's spectacular west coast as you pair Reykjavík's city highlights with the stunning scenery of Snæfellsnes and the remote Westfjords. Exploring roads virtually free of traffic, and staying at remote guesthouses, you'll have the chance to hike through verdant valleys and look out over cliffs host to millions of seabirds.

Day 1 » UK/Hveragerði Arriving into Keflavík, you'll collect your hire car for the drive to Hveragerði, a charming village known for its volcanic landscapes and hot spring-heated greenhouses.

Day 2 » Snæfellsnes Drive north along Iceland's west coast to Snæfellsnes, where you'll head out to discover the rich birdlife at Arnarstapi sea cliffs or take a stroll along the beach at Djúpalónssandur. Throughout the day, you'll be treated to glimpses of Snæfellsjökull, a 700,000-year-old stratovolcano. 

Day 3 » Westfjords Sailing across Breiðafjörður Bay, you'll reach the remote Westfjords to explore the Látrabjarg cliffs, the westernmost point in Europe. A birder's paradise, these 441-metre-high sea cliffs are home to puffins, gannets, guillemots and razorbills. 

Day 4 » Ísafjörður Travel across the Westfjords to Ísafjörður, passing thermal bathing springs hidden amid the heathlands. Then, at Dynjandi waterfall, watch the thunderous power of the main cascade as it drops some 100 metres from the mountains above. 

Day 5 » Laugar Sælingsdalur Tracing the contours of Ísafjarðardjúp Fjord, you'll arrive into Hólmavík village, gateway to the geothermal pools of the Strandir coast. End your day in Laugar Sælingsdalur, a region rich in ancient Saga folklore. 

Days 6–7 » Reykjavík/UK Call into the Viking home of Erik the Red before a drive to Hraunfossar and Barnafoss waterfalls sees you, via hot springs and whale-dotted fjords, to Reykjavík. The next day, you'll drop your car off at the airport and board your flight home. 

38

NORTH ICELAND
ODYSSEY

7-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

1 day Grindavík » 2 days Siglufjörður
 » 2 days Akureyri » 2 days Reykjavík



>> PRICES FROM: £1,310 pp incl. flights, 6 days car hire, 6 nights BB accommodation & Comfort entry to the Blue Lagoon. Operates May to Sep.

Iceland's northern reaches are home to a treasure trove of treats. This itinerary takes you to a world of quiet fishing villages, secluded fjords, bubbling hot springs, giant whales and cute puffins, with the urban pleasures of Reykjavík and Akureyri never too far away.

Day 1 » UK/Grindavík After your flight to Keflavík, pick up your hire car and head to your hotel, just 20 minutes from the airport and five from the Blue Lagoon. Stop at this famous spot on the way, or return later, to enjoy included Comfort entry, which features a silica mud mask and a first drink of your choice. Then, head to the Northern Light Inn; all grand fireplaces and cosy sitting areas, it's host to an honesty bar that's open 24 hours a day.

Days 2–3 » Siglufjörður Set off on the road to Iceland's northernmost town, watching the volcanic landscape unfold. You'll check in to the fjordside Hótel Sigló and dine at one of its three excellent restaurants. Spend the next day exploring the town and its historic fishing industry, illustrated at the herring museum. B

Days 4–5 » Akureyri Your tour of the north continues with a visit to the regional capital, Iceland's second city. Resplendent in colourful summer blooms, it boasts the world's northernmost botanical gardens, while further afield there's the chance to enjoy everything from ice cave tours and hot spring visits to white-water rafting and even a beer spa, where treatments are paired with the best in Icelandic craft



brews. See opposite for further options. Also on the doorstep are the spectacular waterfalls of Goðafoss and Dettifoss, while just a short trip around the coast is Húsavík, one of the best spots in Iceland for whale watching. Perhaps take a day cruise for the chance to sight humpback or minke giants, and view the vast colony of puffins nesting in the Bay of Skjálftandi. B

Days 6–7 » Reykjavík/UK Perhaps stop at Thingvellir National Park on your way to a final night in buzzy Reykjavík, taking your pick of the city's fine restaurants in the evening. The next day, drop your car at the airport and board your flight home. B

NORTH ICELAND EXCURSIONS

Delightfully remote, northern Iceland rewards those who visit with a collection of steaming volcanoes, quaint fishing villages and wildlife-filled fjords. In short, it's a perfect alternative to the country's busier south. We've handpicked a few of our favourite activities below, but there's plenty more available. Get in contact with our specialists for the full range of options.



ASKJA CALDERA

This is your chance to get right inside one of the largest volcanoes in Iceland. You'll also pause everywhere from lava fields and black-sand deserts to barren canyons and oasis springs, once home to outlaws exiled in the middle ages. It all culminates with a hike among the crater ridges of Askja's caldera lake.

>> PRICES FROM: £280 pp incl. all transfers & guided service.
Duration 11–13 hours. Operates 15 Jun to 31 Oct.



CLASSIC AKUREYRI WHALE WATCHING

Watching a whale breach has to be among the world's greatest wildlife experiences. And, sailing Iceland's deepest fjord in the country's only high-speed whale-watching ship, you'll maximise your chance of spotting these majestic creatures. Expect towering mountains, tiny fishing villages and, yes, giant humpbacks.

>> PRICES FROM: £100 pp incl. expert guided service. Duration 3 hours. Operates 15 May to 15 Sep.



DIAMOND CIRCLE CLASSIC

This alternative to the popular Golden Circle route showcases the rich geological diversity of northern Iceland. A scenic drive will bring you between mighty fjords, Europe's most powerful waterfall and Lake Mývatn's green-framed beauty. You'll then turn to the fishing villages and wildlife of the dramatic Arctic coast.

>> PRICES FROM: £200 pp incl. all transfers & guided service.
Duration 11–13 hours. Operates 16 Jun to 15 Oct.



SIGHTSEEING FLIGHT TO GRÍMSEY ISLAND

It's perhaps only possible to get a true appreciation of Iceland's sheer geological scale from the air. Flying out beyond the Arctic Circle and over whales and fishing boats, you'll arrive at a remote island where you'll meet its isolated community, taste the local delicacies and even spot seasonal puffins.

>> PRICES FROM: £500 pp incl. flight & food tasting. Duration 3–3.5 hours. Operates 16 Apr to 31 Oct.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF
ICELAND SELF-DRIVE



10-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

3 days Reykjavík » 7 days self-drive around Iceland



» **PRICES FROM:** £2,055 pp incl. flights, arrival transfer, 2 nights CenterHotel Plaza BB, 7 nights regional hotels BB, 8 days car hire & route guide. Operates May to Sep.

Iceland's rugged and remote interior is best travelled in a rough circle, following Highway 1 along the coast around the

island. This self-drive itinerary allows you to travel at your own pace, taking in everything from glaciers and gorges to waterfalls and wildlife along a truly unforgettable route.

Day 1 » UK/Reykjavík Touch down in Iceland's capital, boarding your included transfer to your hotel. Take advantage of the central location to browse the city's excellent cafés and galleries.

Day 2 » Snæfellsnes Pick up your hire car and follow the coast of Faxaflói north until you reach Snæfellsnes, a peninsula home to Jules Verne's legendary entrance to the centre of earth. B

Day 3 » Akureyri Drive on past the impressive coastal stack of Hvítserkur and the attractive turf houses that pepper the shoreline. You'll spend the night in Akureyri, the largest town in the north. B

Day 4 » Mývatn Pause at Goðafoss waterfall en route to Mývatn, whose volcanic lake teems with birdlife. There's

also the option to take a detour to coastal Húsavík for some whale watching. B

Day 5 » Egilsstaðir Travel eastwards, exploring the rugged canyons of Hljóðaklettar. Spend the night at a pretty lakeside town. B

Day 6 » Höfn Take the stunning coastal road to Höfn, passing charming fishing villages on the way. B

Day 7 » Kirkjubæjarklaustur Hug the coast to admire Vatnajökull glacier, perhaps cruising out on a iceberg-dotted lagoon. B

Day 8 » Golden Circle Continue past the many glaciers of the south coast before heading inland to begin the Golden Circle at Geysir and Gullfoss waterfall. B

Days 9–10 » Reykjavík/UK Complete the Golden Circle with a trip to Thingvellir National Park before returning to Reykjavík for the night. After breakfast the next day, drop your car off at the airport and board your flight home. B

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ICELAND FULL-CIRCLE
ESCORTED TOUR

8-DAY ESCORTED TOUR

1 day Reykjavík **»** 6 days escorted tour
» 1 day Reykjavík



» PRICES FROM: £2,290 pp incl. flights, transfers, 2 nights Hotel Klettur BB, 5 nights regional hotels HB, 6-day escorted tour, entry to Jarðböðin thermal baths & a whale-watching cruise. Selected departures 15 May to 11 Sep.

If you've a week to spare, this whistle-stop escorted tour encompasses much of

Iceland's natural wonders, allowing you to pack in as much as possible without spending too long on the road – though journeys in Iceland are never dull.

Day 1 » UK/Reykjavík After your flight and included transfer, explore Reykjavík from your central hotel.

Day 2 » Akureyri You'll be met today by your guide for the scenic drive north to Skagafjörður – the valley of horses. Here, you'll enjoy entrance into Glaumbær, a folk museum housed in a turf-roofed farm building, before continuing through the Öxnadalsheiði highlands to Akureyri. **B,D**

Day 3 » Lake Mývatn Strike out east to Mývatn, a great lake set among dramatic volcanic surrounds. We've included a visit to Jarðböðin, known as the 'Blue Lagoon of the North', and a whale-watching cruise from Akureyri, offering the chance to spot humpbacks and dolphins. **B,D**

Day 4 » The Eastfjords Continue east to Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall.

Then, enjoy a scenic drive over a highland plateau, skirting the dramatic Eastfjords to arrive in Breiðdalsvík – your home for the night. **B,D**

Days 5–6 » Southern Iceland Day five begins with a tour of Vatnajökull Glacier before you sweep south to the ice floes of Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon, its icebergs best seen on an optional cruise. Then, after a visit to Skaftafell National Park, you'll continue past black lava beaches to the waterfalls of Skógarfoss and Seljalandsfoss, perhaps ending day six with an optional Icelandic horse ride. **B,D**

Day 7 » Golden Circle Today is given over to exploring the Golden Circle. You'll begin with Gullfoss, perhaps Iceland's most beautiful waterfall, before taking in erupting geysers and the thousand-year history of Thingvellir National Park. **B**

Day 8 » Reykjavík/UK After breakfast, an included transfer will see you to the airport for your flight home. Perhaps pause on the way to enjoy a soak in the Blue Lagoon. **B**



55.6712° N, 12.4537° E

DENMARK

Long, sandy beaches unravel under watercolour skies, Viking forts gaze out over beech forests and Renaissance castles perch on still waters. Add colourfully cosmopolitan Copenhagen into the mix and it's hard to see why Denmark's quiet charms are so often unfairly overlooked.

Indeed, a trip to Denmark invariably begins with a visit to its cultured capital. Like so many other great European cities, its wealth was founded on trade – a rich history that lives on in royal palaces, neoclassic mansions and a myriad of canals. And today, many of its colourful merchants' houses are given over to the contemporary arts, from design studios to cutting-edge restaurants. Simply, summer in Copenhagen is the epitome of Scandinavian chic.

It's also the perfect gateway to the Danish countryside. Here, rural drives and stays in boutique cottages will see you between quaint medieval towns,

their cobbled streets lined with Gothic cathedrals, Hanseatic wharves and ornate castles. Hamlet's UNESCO-listed Kronborg is a special highlight. Then, if you look to the long coastlines of Denmark's northern tip, tufted dunes front gentle hillocks that are peppered with fishing villages and Iron Age hill forts. It's the chance to head off the beaten track to where the Danes go on holiday.

Lastly, if you look across that infamous bridge of Nordic-noir notoriety, Copenhagen is just a short hop from southern Sweden's historic cities and seaside idyll. See pages 94–95 for how best to combine them.





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COPENHAGEN ADVENTURE

4-DAY TAILOR-MADE CITY BREAK

4 days Copenhagen



» PRICES FROM: £495 pp incl. flights,
3 nights Copenhagen Strand BB & guided
tour. Operates year-round.

The Danish capital truly comes alive in summer. Rooftop bars pop up, cafés spill out onto the pavements and canal-side walks soak up the buzzy atmosphere. And, with a central stay right on Copenhagen's historic harbourfront, you'll be perfectly poised to enjoy it all, with an included guided tour showcasing the city's hidden gems and famous highlights.

Day 1 » UK/Copenhagen Flying into the Danish capital, you'll make your way to your central accommodation. As a historic waterfront warehouse that's only just undergone a full restoration, it's the perfect introduction to the city's contrasting historic and contemporary charms. They're best exemplified by next-door Nyhavn's canal-side charm and the city's cutting-edge design scene.

Day 2 » Hygge tour You'll get your bearings today with an included guided tour, taking in everything from royal parks and secret library gardens to government buildings housed in castles and 17th-century districts given over to welcoming cafés. It's here that you'll get a true taste of hygge, enjoying the convivial cosiness of a coffee and Danish pastry before moving on to a chocolate boutique. B

Day 3 » Copenhagen You'll have today to explore Copenhagen in further detail. As with each morning, you'll begin with an indulgent breakfast spread at your hotel, featuring the likes of ginger shots, Chinese salads and fresh fish. Then, suitably fuelled, you'll be able to make use of the one-to-one recommendations from yesterday's tour. Perhaps you'd like to shop on Strøget street, take in the 18th-century royal residence of Amalienborg Palace or wander Tivoli Gardens, home to the world's second-oldest amusement park. Be sure to also take some time to sample some of the city's famous restaurants. B

Day 4 » Depart for UK With a range of flight options, either spend some more time exploring the city, or head to the airport after breakfast for your flight home. B



NIMB HOTEL

DELUXE



Set within a Moorish-style palace with an impressive Venetian marble exterior, the Nimb brings a worldly exoticism to its Tivoli Gardens setting. Its rooms and suites feature open fires and beautifully designed bathrooms, and the dining options are superb for a small hotel. Simple European classics are to be found at the Nimb Brasserie, while Nimb Terrasse, Tivoli's oldest restaurant, serves locally caught seafood and meat dishes paired with classic wines. Guests also have access to the Nimb Club – a wellness retreat in the heart of the city.



ABSALON HOTEL

SUPERIOR



The neoclassical façade of this central Copenhagen hotel hides a chic interior, where bold colours and vibrant floral prints are offset by elegant furnishings. Lower-floor rooms look out to the city streets or a peaceful interior courtyard, while those on the upper floors gaze out across the city skyline. It's ideally located for daytime exploration – Tivoli Gardens and City Hall Square are just two highlights that are minutes away. And, at night, the hotel's lively bar draws guests and locals alike to its signature cocktails, fine wines and craft beers.



71 NYHAVN

SUPERIOR



Dating back some 200 years, 71 Nyhavn isn't just well located for the city's attractions – it's one of them. This stylish warehouse conversion is set right in the heart of historic Copenhagen, combining contemporary style with exposed timber. It also hosts an excellent Southeast Asian restaurant by Kin Kiin and an extensive art collection. Expect striking oil paintings presented alongside more avant-garde works, infusing the hotel with an unmistakably European elan. Our top tip? Book a Superior Room or higher for the wonderful views of the harbour.



STRAND HOTEL

SUPERIOR



Housed in one of the original warehouses that line the city's harbourfront, this superb-value option combines a fantastic location with an enviable sense of style. In fact, the historic building has just undergone a full restoration, adding plenty of Scandi chic to the naturally rustic charm. Think exposed brick and blonde-wood flooring. And, while the hotel doesn't serve lunches or dinners, we consistently receive rave reviews of its breakfasts. The buffet spread ranges from the likes of Chinese salads, fish and fresh fruit to vegan options and, yes, Danish pastries.



8-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

2 days Copenhagen >> 2 days Middelfart
 >> 2 day Gråsten >> 2 days Esbjerg



>> **PRICES FROM:** £925 pp incl. flights, 7 nights BB accommodation & 6 days car hire. Operates year-round.

Discover Denmark's rich history as you drive through its rural heartland from Copenhagen to Billund, visiting picturesque villages and historic castles as you go. On the way, you'll cover the country's two main islands and its mainland peninsula, Jylland, before ending on the beautiful Vadehavet coastline at Esbjerg. This comprehensive itinerary also includes stays at some of the country's finest hotels.

Days 1–2 >> UK/Copenhagen Fly to Copenhagen and check in for two nights at the Absalon Boutique Hotel. Use the central location to spend time exploring the capital's bars, museums and shops. **B**

Days 3–4 >> Middelfart Collect your hire car and head west towards Middelfart on the island of Fyn. We suggest you break the journey at Roskilde, whose attractions include the Viking Ship Museum and a Gothic cathedral that contains the remains of a 10th-century king. At Middelfart, check in for two nights at Hindsgavl Slot, a beautifully renovated 13th-century castle

set among landscaped gardens. The Hans Christian Andersen Museum is also in the area, along with the 450-year-old Egeskov Castle. **B**

Days 5–6 >> Gråsten Travel onto the European mainland and south to the Benniksgaard Hotel, positioned at the highest point of the Flensborg Fjord. Many of its buildings date back to the 18th century and delicious meats are grilled on an open fireplace each evening. Gråsten Palace is nearby, where you can visit the gardens and church of the Danish royal family's summer residence. **B**

Days 7–8 >> Esbjerg/UK The final stop is Esbjerg on Denmark's west coast, where you'll spend a night at Hjerting Badehotel. Facing west and set on the beach, you can gaze out as the sun sets over the North Sea. Enjoy a walk along the Vadehavet shoreline, followed by a sundowner at the hotel's Ship Inn. After breakfast on day eight, return your hire car at Billund and catch your flight home. **B**

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THE TOP OF DENMARK:
AALBORG & SKAGEN

5-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

2 days Aalborg >> 3 days Skagen



>> PRICES FROM: £825 pp incl. flights, 5 days car hire, 2 nights Comwell Hvidhus BB, 2 nights Color Hotel Skagen BB, parking at both hotels, guided tour in Aalborg & entry to the Skagen Museum. Operates year-round.

Head off the beaten track to take in the rural charm of northern Denmark, where shifting sands and pretty fishing villages have been inspiring artists for centuries. You'll start with Aalborg's Viking heritage and cutting-edge creative scene before you sweep up the coast to Skagen. This idyllic seaside town is a true step back in time, its historic galleries set in a red-roofed village that's cloaked in fields of green. It's all complemented by a private city tour, scenic country drives and stays in leading hotels.

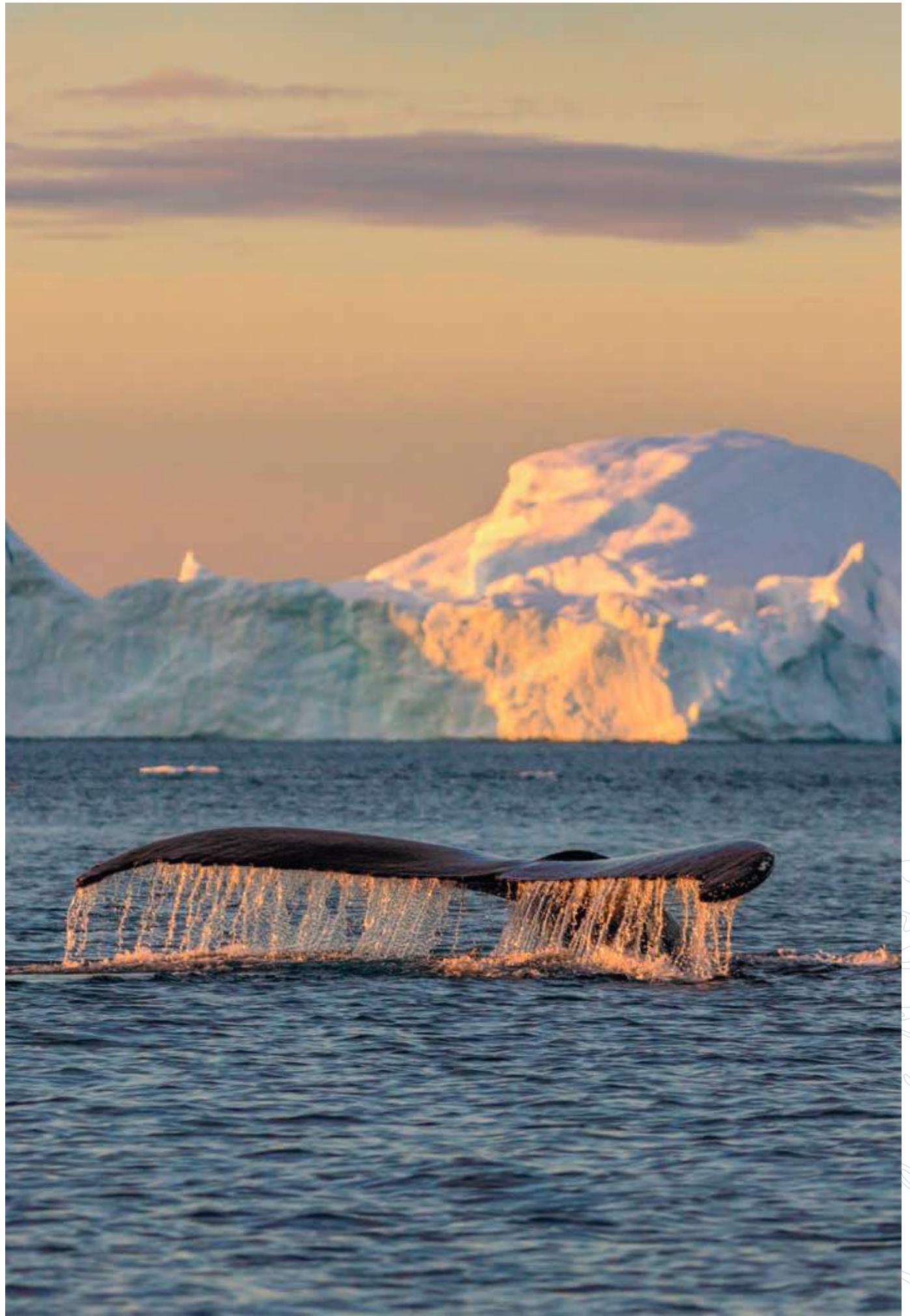
Days 1 >> UK/Aalborg Flying to Aalborg, you'll pick up your hire car to drive the short distance to your hotel. Then, to get your bearings, we've included a private tour, exploring the city's traditional pastry shops, 12th-century cathedral and the vibrancy of its modern waterfront. You'll take in giant murals painted by international street artists along with a thriving creative scene that plays out across art galleries, gourmet restaurants and live music venues.

Day 2 >> Aalborg Today, you'll have some free time to explore Aalborg. Perhaps you'd like to visit Kunsten; an award-winning work of art in its own right, this contemporary exhibition was designed by world-famous Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. Otherwise, you might embark on the Aalborg Beerwalk to taste your way through the local brewing culture. Then, if you cast your net a little further, you can step back to the time of the Vikings at nearby Lindholm Høje. Just 15 minutes' drive away, this burial site features

hundreds of cremation mounds marked by stones. Its intriguing history is brought to life by a superb museum. 

Day 3 >> Skagen Head north towards Skagen, taking the scenic route past the great dunes of Rubjerg Knude that swirl around its turn-of-the-century lighthouse. Then, it's on to Lønstrup, a seaside retreat that's become a favourite among artists and craftsmen alike. 

Days 4–5 >> Skagen/UK Staying in Skagen's only four-star accommodation, you'll be treated to the likes of Finnish saunas, a wine cellar and a pool terrace. However, you'll want to explore what is Denmark's northernmost town, whose sand-dune landscapes have inspired generations of painters, their work immortalised in the Skagen Museum (entry included). There's also the town's 18th-century sand-covered church to visit and an abundance of freshly caught seafood to indulge in, all before your flight home on day five. You'll drop your hire car off at the airport. 



69°22'79°N, 51.1569°W

GREENLAND

The world's largest island is also the country with the lowest density of human population. With a vast ice sheet at its centre, it's a pristine environment of rugged mountains packed with glaciers, fjords and creatures great and small. Yet, humans have made a home in this inhospitable wilderness for 5,000 years, something evidenced by intriguing archaeological sites left behind by the Vikings and Inuit. However, although they braved the country's harsh winters, you won't have to. Summer is one of the rare times when parts of Greenland actually live up to its verdant name, its forbidding landscape opening up to spectacular coastal adventures on sea and land.

Indeed, as winter's ice thaws, the fringes of Greenland are released from their hoary covering by the Midnight Sun. It exposes an expansive heathland and colourful matchbox villages that stand alone along craggy clifftops. And, from stays in these frontier settlements and remote basecamps, hiking trails beat a path through bold rock formations fringed by burgeoning wildflowers. However, along with scenic flights, it's a cruise that best captures the country's wild beauty. In summer, an intricate network of fjords and sounds become navigable again, offering the chance to spot mighty whales

while linking otherwise-inaccessible communities to Viking ruins and a spread of natural delights. The iceberg floes are a special highlight. There is nothing quite like the crisp colour of glacial blue, and no sculptor can replicate the spires and steeples that plunge down into the icefjords. If you're lucky, you'll even be treated to an iceberg monolith calving off from a glacier with an almighty crack.

Lastly, Greenland pairs perfectly with a trip to Iceland. It's not just about flight logistics, with the two countries enjoying a shared love of geological drama.



44

THE ICEBERG TOWN OF ILULISSAT



7-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

1 day Copenhagen » 2 days Ilulissat
» 1 day Eqi Glacier » 1 day Ilulissat
» 2 days Copenhagen



» **PRICES FROM:** £2,565 pp incl. flights, transfers, 2 nights Hilton Copenhagen Airport BB, 3 nights Hotel Arctic BB, 1 night Glacier Lodge BB & activities per itinerary. Operates 18 Jun to 7 Sep.

A colourful collection of bungalows dispersed over a promontory, Ilulissat resembles many other pretty Arctic towns. But just to the south, the Northern Hemisphere's most productive glacier pushes billions of tonnes of ice into the Ilulissat Icefjord. This tour takes it all in on a range of excursions, from guided walks to cruises under the Midnight Sun.

Day 1 » UK/Copenhagen Greenland is easily reached via Denmark, so fly to Copenhagen and check into the Hilton airport hotel. Just fifteen minutes from the city centre, you'll be able to spend your first day enjoying the sights and sounds of the Danish capital.

Day 2 » Ilulissat Take an early morning flight across the North Atlantic to Greenland, touching down in Ilulissat. The remainder of the day is free for you to explore the town, with Restaurant Ulo highly recommended for its exquisite Arctic cuisine and views over Disko Bay. B

Day 3 » Ilulissat Start your morning with a walk around the historic centre, discovering the town's genesis as a Danish trading port in the 18th century. In a gully just to the south is Sermermiut, a tiny settlement showcasing four millennia of Inuit history. B

Day 4 » Eqi Glacier Today consists of a stunning cruise up the western coast of



HOTEL ARCTIC

Located on a hill to the north of Ilulissat town centre, Hotel Arctic is a welcoming proposition that offers a range of comfortable rooms, suites and igloo pods, all with harbour views. And, the new summer-season 'outdoor rooms' come complete with a private terrace and stunning fell views. Meanwhile, the hotel's restaurant – named by one reviewer as 'the world's wildest kitchen' – is among Greenland's best. A regular shuttle bus also runs to the tourist office in the centre of town, from where many of the excursions start.

Greenland, its rocky peaks and headlands infiltrated by sparkling ice-saturated fjords. About fifty miles to the north, Eqi Glacier is perhaps the most beautiful sight of all, and your lodge for the night is perfectly positioned for watching the giant blocks of ice breaking free into the sea. B

Day 5 » Ilulissat Return to Ilulissat, where you'll take a night cruise on the Icefjord, illuminated by the Midnight Sun. B

Day 6–7 » Copenhagen/UK Spend another day, night and morning in the Danish capital before boarding your flight home. B

Greenland/Iceland extension

With a convenient flight route between Keflavík and Ilulissat, you can also book this tour as an add-on from Iceland. Call one of our specialists on 020 7838 5863 for more details.



GLACIER LODGE, EQI GLACIER

SUPERIOR



Facing the foremost edge of Eqi Glacier (known locally as Eqip Sermia), the huts at Eqi Lodge give you a front-row seat to witness the ice breaking from the wall and avalanching into the fjord below. Fortunately your raised verandah is well out of the way of the ensuing waves, and the comfortable huts' solar-powered heating means you can be cosy and eco-friendly at the same time. Aside from the sea excursions, you'll have the opportunity to explore the lagoon, moraine and glacier on one of the lodge's thrilling escorted hikes. Further into the interior, a guided trek on the inland ice gives a thrilling sense of the power of the slowly shifting mass of frozen and melting water. Here, it meets the bedrock, forming deep wells and spectacular lakes.

ILIMANAQ LODGE

STANDARD



Located just 15 kilometres from Ilulissat, Ilimanaq is one of Greenland's oldest settlements, a colourful cluster of houses set around a small harbour on the shores of iceberg-studded Disko Bay. It's here that you'll find Ilimanaq Lodge, a collection of 15 wood cabins staggered along the sea shore. With green credentials at its core, this comfortable hotel – part listed building, part new development – truly makes the most of its spectacular surroundings. Indeed, as the sweeping views of Greenland's west coast are lit in summer by the glow of the Midnight Sun, that very same energy is harnessed by rooftop solar panels, producing everything from electricity to central heating and hot running water. There's a restaurant on site, and guests can explore both land and sea on optional cross-country hikes, iceberg cruises and whale-watching tours.



45

VOLCANOES & ICE:
ICELAND & GREENLAND

NEW



7-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

2 days Reykjavik > 3 days Ilulissat
2 days Reykjavik



>> PRICES FROM: £2,995 pp incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights Centerhotel Plaza Reykjavik BB, 3 nights Hotel Arctic BB, Golden Circle coach tour, guided tour of Ilulissat & welcome & farewell dinners in Ilulissat. Operates May to Aug.

Visiting both Greenland and Iceland, you'll contrast the city sights of Reykjavik and the extraordinary landscapes of its Golden Circle neighbour before flying north to explore Greenland's west coast. Based in the town of Ilulissat, you'll embark on epic trips to its vast Icefjord, get up close to majestic icebergs and visit remote Inuit communities on a range of optional summertime excursions.

Days 1–2 > UK/Reykjavik Fly out to Iceland's capital and transfer to the CenterHotel Plaza; ideally located by the city's main square, it's host to stylish bedrooms and a lively lobby bar, while some of the city's best restaurants are right on the doorstep. The next day sees you witness some of Iceland's most impressive natural phenomena as you head out on an included tour of the Golden Circle, taking in everything from volcanic lava fields to the plunging torrents of its greatest waterfall. Your route also brings you through to Thingvellir National Park, the site of Iceland's first parliament. **B**

Days 3–5 > Ilulissat After breakfast, make your way to Reykjavik's domestic airport for your flight to Ilulissat on Greenland's west coast. On arrival, you'll be met by your local guide for an included transfer to Hotel Arctic. Perched on the edge of the Ilulissat Icefjord, it commands impressive views of the town and its iceberg-dotted bay. Once you've settled in, head out on a short guided tour to familiarise yourself with your surroundings. Then, over two memorable days, you'll explore the region in detail, enjoying a range of optional excursions that bring you right in among Greenland's mountains and glaciers. There's everything from helicopter flights and iceberg cruises to scenic hikes and settlement visits, all of which provide a fascinating glimpse of life in the Arctic. Welcome and farewell dinners are included in your stay. **B**

Days 6–7 > Reykjavik/UK Returning to Reykjavik, you'll have a final chance to soak up the city sight or bathe in the mineral-rich waters of the Blue Lagoon before your flight home on day seven. **B**

ILULISSAT EXCURSIONS

Many of the images we see of Greenland are of its vast ice shelf collapsing into the ocean. And, you can witness the dramatic sights and sounds yourself with our range of optional excursions. There's everything from scenic flights to settlement hikes and whale-watching cruises. However, if there's something else that takes your interest, don't hesitate to get in touch.



SAILING TO THE ICEBERGS

Board a small boat at Ilulissat's tiny harbour and set out into stunning Disko Bay. Here, you'll get a closer look at the huge towers of millennia-old ice that have calved from Ilulissat Icefjord. Gazing around you'll see colourful villages and appreciate the wonder experienced by the early Arctic explorers.

>> PRICES FROM: £100 pp incl. hot drinks. Duration 2.5 hrs.
Operates year-round.



WHALE SAFARI

The frigid waters off Greenland's west coast are home to some 15 species of whale, including, in summer, humpback, minke and fin varieties. Exploring the Ilulissat Icefjord in a boat built for speed, you'll be able to cover vast distances as you hop between towering icebergs in search of these giants of the sea.

>> PRICES FROM: Prices from £175 pp incl. transfers, boat trip & hot drinks. Duration: 3.5 hrs. Operates Jun to Sep.

GUIDED WALK TO SERMERMIUT

An Inuit settlement dating back over two millennia, Sermermiut lies just over a kilometre south of Ilulissat at the edge of the Ilulissat Icefjord. During this walking tour, your guide will introduce you to the region's flora and fauna as well as its Inuit history and culture, with the great walls of ice providing the dramatic backdrop.

>> PRICES FROM: £45 pp incl. guide & hot drinks.
Duration 2 hrs. Operates year-round.



AIR SAFARI

Soar high above the Greenland coast for a bird's eye view of the vast Sermeq Kujalliq/Jacobshavn Glacier. You'll then swoop across the glacier front, returning to Ilulissat via the icy waters of Kanga Fjord. Carrying just five passengers, your twin-engine aircraft guarantees a window seat for the very best views.

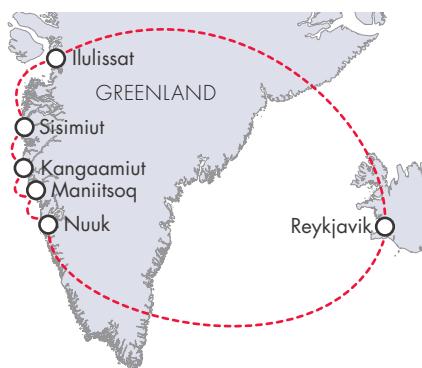
>> PRICES FROM: £435 pp incl. transfers & 45 mins flight.
Duration: 2 hrs. Operates March to Sep.



NEW

46

GREENLAND ICEBERG EXPEDITION CRUISE



9-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

1 day Reykjavik » 3 days Ilulissat
» 2 days west Greenland cruise » 1 day Nuuk » 2 days Reykjavik



» PRICES FROM: £3,725 pp incl. flights, selected transfers, 2 nights Hotel Centrum BB, 3 nights Hotel Arctic BB, 2 night cruise BB, 1 night Hotel Hans Egede BB & guided tours. Operates 6 June to 22 Aug.

See the real Greenland as you take a ferry right among the icebergs and fjords that characterise its dramatic west coast. Without roads, this is the way to explore. You'll also enjoy presentations and shore tours that showcase the region's frontier intrigue, with three nights in Ilulissat offering the chance to explore glaciers and forgotten trappers' hideouts.

Day 1 » UK/Reykjavik Fly out to Reykjavik, where an included transfer will see you to your hotel, housed in 18th-century buildings. Perhaps head out to the Golden Circle or stick with the city's old town and innovative design scene.

Days 2–4 » Ilulissat Flying out from Reykjavik's central airport, you'll be met in Greenland and brought to your hotel. Here, you'll enjoy spectacular views of the icy fjord below, not least from the superb restaurant where you'll be treated to two delicious dinners. As well as an included tour of the town, there's also plenty of optional excursions to choose from,

showcasing whales, calving glaciers and hunters' settlements. B

Days 5–6 » Greenland's west coast After a pier transfer, you'll board the ferry that connects Greenland's coastal communities, settling into your cosy en-suite cabin as you set off among the whales and icebergs. Weaving through narrow fjord straits, you'll pause at remote settlements for guided tours of their hardy local culture and beautifully colourful houses. B

Day 7 » Nuuk Arriving in Greenland's capital, you'll tour its majestic fjords, modernist architecture and clapboard heritage. Then, perhaps enjoy a drink in your hotel's bar or check out a museum exhibition on 15th-century mummies. B

Days 8–9 » Reykjavik/UK An included transfer will see you to your flight back to Reykjavik's central airport. Perhaps end in style with the city's superb fine-dining scene before an included transfer to the airport the next day for your flight home. B

47

SOUTH GREENLAND
ADVENTURE

NEW



South Greenland is a wilderness of Viking ruins and dramatic geography. You'll take it all in with stays in frontier villages, where you'll enjoy hearty dinners, guided tours and a pair of unique trips. While transfers are included throughout, your fjord iceberg cruise and helicopter flight are real highlights. Then, optional hikes and glacier excursions offer the chance to explore further. It's all bookended by two nights in Iceland's buzzy capital.

Days 3–4 » Narsaq You'll set off today for a cruise along the mighty Eriksfjord, its beautiful rolling scenery seeing you on to Narsaq where you'll be treated to a village tour, taking in its lush kitchen gardens and Norse longhouse – thought to be Greenland's first settlement. Over the next two days, you'll have the chance to explore in more detail, with optional excursions bringing you out to green river valleys, high mountains and glacier-bound fjords. 

7-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

- 1 day Reykjavik » 1 day Narsarsuaq
- » 2 days Narsaq » 1 day Narsarsuaq
- » 2 days Reykjavik



» PRICES FROM: £2,970 pp incl. flights, transfers, 6 nights accommodation, helicopter flight, fjord cruise, select guided tours & meals as per itinerary. Operates from 17 Jun to early Sep.

Day 1 » UK/Reykjavik Flying out to Reykjavik, an included transfer will bring you to your central accommodation, where 18th-century buildings and flawlessly modern rooms reflect the Icelandic capital's unique contrasts.

Day 2 » Narsarsuaq Flying on to Greenland's Narsarsuaq, you'll be met by your guide for a tour of this pretty frontier settlement. Wrapped in a spectacular valley and fjord, you might want to explore further with nearby Viking ruins, optional hikes or iceberg cruises. 

Day 5 » Narsaq to Narsarsuaq It's time for a true trip highlight today – a helicopter flight back to Narsarsuaq, revealing the sheer scale of the region's peaks and fjords. Although this is weather dependent, the alternative cruise back through the ice-filled fjord system is just as impressive. End with an included farewell dinner. 

Day 6–7 » Reykjavik/UK Flying back to Iceland, you'll have one more night to enjoy Reykjavik before your flight home the next day, reached by a final included transfer. 

FINLAND

What first attracted Santa to Lapland wasn't the ready availability of helpful elves, but the reinvigorating summer sun and Finland's vast wilderness to explore after his winter exertions. There's the spectacular Lakeland, stunning archipelagos that stretch into the Baltic Sea and sprawling forests home to roaming elks and bears. It all centres around Helsinki, where a fascinating past meets a lively present informed by a buzzing nightlife and an ultra-modern design scene.

Finland is surrounded on every side by blocs to which it does not belong. However, influences that once tugged the country in all directions now serve as a major benefit – something best exemplified by its famous capital. Here, Nordic cool, Russian grandeur and Baltic novelty all sit happily side by side. And, for further inspection of Finland's influences, scenic cruises will bring you everywhere from St. Petersburg and next-door Estonia to Stockholm and Finland's Åland Islands. It's a spectacular archipelago flung into

the Baltic Sea, where cute fishing villages look out over white-sand beaches and thousands of rocky skerries. There's also plenty that's distinctly Finland's own. And, there's perhaps nothing more Finnish than a summer lake getaway, spending time exploring forested islands on hikes and kayak paddles before returning to a waterside lodge or country manor, complete with sauna, of course. Finland also has something that no other European country can boast of – some of the world's finest bear-watching hides.



48

BEAR WATCHING IN FINNISH LAPLAND

NEW



4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

4 days Kuusamo



» PRICES FROM: £1,225 pp incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights FB accommodation, smoke-sauna experience, use of rowing boat & canoes, a guided hike & guided evening at the bear hide. Operates 28 June to 6 Sep.

Staying in a rustic timber lodge in Finnish Lapland, this is one of the world's premier wildlife-watching experiences, with a 99% bear-spotting success rate over summer when the Midnight Sun never sets. It's all perfectly family friendly, with the hides nearby and no need to stay overnight. You'll also be treated to everything from hearty full-board dining and included transfers to a sauna soak, guided hike and lake canoeing.

Day 1 » UK/Kuusamo After your flight from the UK, an included transfer will whisk you on to your wilderness accommodation. All timber panelling and lake views, it's idyllically positioned in Finland's remote northeast. You'll also be treated to the first of your included meals; think just-caught fish, baked cheese from a local dairy and wild berries from the surrounding forest. **D**

Days 2 » Bear watching and leisure time With free use of the rowing boat, canoes and walking sticks, you'll have today to explore the lake and the nearby forest trails. Then, come evening, your expert guide will bring you out to the nearby hides. Newly built, they're ideal for photography and – thanks to the long summer light – offer one of the world's best chances to spot the bears. **BLD**

Day 3 » Guided hike and sauna After breakfast, you'll be met by your friendly guide for a hike up nearby Kuntivaara Hill. As you go, they'll point out the intricacies

of the age-old fauna, stopping to admire the giant trees. And the reward? Lunch in a Lappish hut and sweeping panoramas over the surrounding countryside all the way over into Russia. On return, it's time for another great Finnish tradition – the smoke sauna. Be sure to round it off with the obligatory dip in the cool lake waters.

BLD

Day 4 » Depart for UK After a final breakfast, you'll be brought back to the airport for your flight home. **B**

49

BEST OF FINNISH
LAKELAND

9-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

1 day Helsinki » 2 days Rantasalmi
 » 2 days Savonlinna » 2 days Anttola
 » 2 days Helsinki



» PRICES FROM: £1,315 pp incl. flights, 7 days car hire, 2 nights Hotel Haven BB, 2 nights Järvisydän BB, 2 nights Lomamökkilä BB, 2 nights Anttolanhovi BB, guided tours & meals per itinerary. Operates May to Sep.

The largest lake in Finland, Saimaa is a huge basin riddled with thousands of tiny islets, forested strips and narrow channels. And, surrounding these bounteous waters, there's a plethora of charming rural villages and dense forests. This self-drive tour takes you through its best features, staying at historic lakeside cottages and imposing manor houses.

Day 1 » UK/Helsinki Fly to Helsinki and check in at the waterfront Hotel Haven before exploring the heritage buildings and design delights of the Finnish capital.

Day 2 » Porosalmi Collect your hire car today before embarking on the scenic four-hour journey to the Järvisydän Hotel & Spa near the village of Porosalmi. Settle in for the night in a traditional cottage on the shores of Ahvenlahti, a branch of Lake Saimaa. B

Day 3 » Porosalmi Explore the lakeside activities available around Järvisydän, including golf, fishing and even forest foraging. BL

Day 4 » Savonlinna Drive through the lakelands to Savonlinna, a town spread over three islands in Saimaa. Resembling a little Venice, it's blessed with Olavinlinna, a 15th-century castle that hosts a major opera festival each summer, where you'll take a guided tour. BL

Day 5 » Savonlinna Enjoy a scenic cruise on the lake and, if you've booked ahead, return to Olavinlinna for one of the nightly concerts (2019 dates 4 Jul to 3 Aug – visit operafestival.fi/en for more information). B

Day 6 » Anttola Make for the Art & Design villas at Anttolanhovi, another luxurious lakeside property constructed from local materials. Enjoy the use of your own private sauna and opt to either make use of your villa's kitchen or have your meals cooked for you. B

Day 7 » Anttola Continue to enjoy the tranquillity of your forest setting. The woods yield a variety of edible berries, and you won't be able to resist a visit to Ollinmäki Wine Farm for a tasting tour of their pioneering berry wines. B

Days 8–9 » Helsinki/UK Return to the capital for more cosmopolitan fun and an overnight stay at Hotel Haven. Fly home on day nine. B

HOTEL AND SPA RESORT JÄRVISYDÄN

SUPERIOR



The family that owns and runs this lakeside resort have been welcoming travellers to the Porosalmi region since 1658, when it was a simple staging post on the new road connecting Russia and Sweden. Now, a collection of villas, traditional cottages and newly built hotel rooms – some with private balconies and Jacuzzis – blend seamlessly into their Lakeland surroundings. Complementing the accommodation is the Lake Spa and Finnish Sauna World, where guests can choose from three types of sauna – wood smoke, traditional stove and steam – or relax in a hot tub under forest-framed skies. And, after adventure-filled days, the hotel's restaurants and wine cellar serve summertime menus inspired by the hotel's 17th-century origins.



LOMAMÖKKILÄ FARM

SUPERIOR



Set in beautiful countryside on the shores of Lake Saimaa, Lomamökkilä is a working farm that's been welcoming guests for four generations. Hotel rooms, guesthouses and garden houses provide intimate, country-style accommodation, but it's the timber-built lakeside cottages that are the real highlight here. With a living room, kitchen, private sauna, barbecue area and direct access to the beach, they're the perfect base for summer activities, which include everything from cycling and forest hikes to volleyball, tennis and badminton. Breakfasts are suitably hearty, as are the meals served in the traditional Finnish restaurant. There's also a farm shop for barbecue and picnic provisions.



6-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

2 days Stockholm » 2 days Åland
» 2 days Stockholm



» PRICES FROM: £970 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night Kings Garden Hotel BB, 2 nights Havsvidden Resort HB, 1 night Hotel Haven BB & ferry crossings from Stockholm to Åland & Åland to Helsinki. Operates May to Sep.

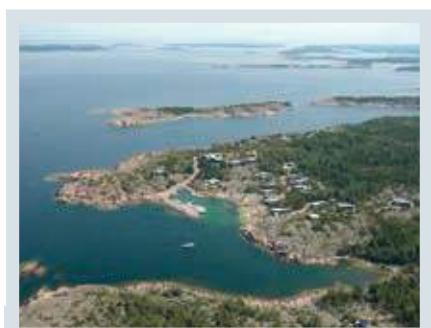
Sailing across the Baltic, you'll weave between cragged islets and wild coastlines to arrive at the Åland Islands. Here, you'll stay right on its clifftop jags, returning from lake walks and trips to sleepy fishing villages to an included spread of afternoon teas, sauna soaks and degustation dining, held at one of Finland's finest restaurants. Either side, you'll compare the rich heritage and cutting-edge modernity of Stockholm and Helsinki – two of Europe's city greats.

Days 1–2 » UK/Stockholm Fly from the UK to Stockholm, Sweden's pretty capital, where you'll settle in to the 18th-century grandeur of your luxury hotel. Then, before

admiring its chandeliers and perhaps imbibing with a drink at the champagne bar or private wine cellar, be sure to take a look at your historic surrounds. The cobbled streets and frescoed townhouses of Gamla Stan – Stockholm's old town – are just a stroll away. The next day is left free for you to explore the Swedish capital further before sailing out through the winding passageways of the Stockholm Archipelago and onto the Baltic Sea. Then, after a few hours of lazy cruising, you'll arrive in Åland, disembarking at around midnight to be met by a private driver who'll bring you to the island's northern coast and your delightful, ultra-contemporary hotel. 

Days 3–4 » Åland A region rich in history, Åland's past is evidenced across medieval castles, 19th-century fortresses and a superb maritime museum. But, it's the great outdoors that impresses the most. Perhaps map the archipelago's wild coastline with boat rides and kayak paddles, or plunge into its verdant interior with hikes and bike rides. Back at your hotel, you'll be treated to an included afternoon tea washed down with a Jacuzzi dip and complimentary sparkling wine – and nightly three-course dinners in the gourmet restaurant. Board the overnight ferry to Helsinki on day four.  

Days 5–6 » Helsinki/UK With a morning arrival into Helsinki, you'll have a full day to take in its charms. While its UNESCO-listed island fortress, Art Nouveau old town and 19th-century cathedral remember the city's rich heritage, there's a certain cutting edge to the Finnish capital. Its world-famous design scene can be felt everywhere from hip boutiques and unique galleries to silent timber chapels and glass churches hewn out of rock. Finally, on day six, head to the airport for your flight home. 



HAVSVIDDEN

Sprawled out across Åland's idyllic northern shore, this contemporary resort combines the sort of sleek sophistication for which Finland is renowned, with the stark beauty and wild nature of the Baltic. Rooms here are delightfully relaxing, as are the public areas, dotted with open fireplaces and framed by huge windows that let in sweeping coastal views. The food is excellent, all locally sourced and delicious, while the cleansing sauna and heated indoor pool add extra luxury.

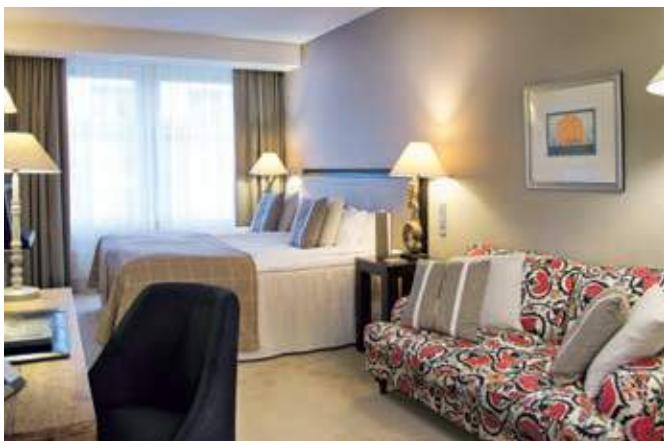


HOTEL ST GEORGE, HELSINKI

DELUXE



In a nod to its central location, this grand dame of a hotel perfectly melds the artistic innovation and centuries-old history that have become Helsinki's hallmarks. Expect creative spa treatments, gourmet restaurants – including one by world-acclaimed chef Mehmet Gürs – and craft-cocktail bars all wrapped up in an early-19th-century façade that once housed the Finnish Literature Society. The hotel's classic-contemporary rooms are equally impressive, host to everything from Spanish-marble bathrooms to sleep monitors and complimentary SodaStreams.



HOTEL HAVEN

SUPERIOR

Finland's first member of the prestigious Small Luxury Hotels of the World, the elegant Hotel Haven is perfectly located right on Helsinki's bustling waterfront. It's within seconds of the city's central park. Guests can eat gourmet Finnish cuisine next door at Havis, lounge in the trendy bar and work off any excesses in the well-equipped gym. Small but perfectly formed, its 137 rooms and suites are tastefully decorated with comfy furnishings, including king size beds and spa-style bathrooms, alongside the usual mod cons.



HOTEL LILLA ROBERTS

SUPERIOR



Located in the heart of Helsinki's Design District, the building that houses this boutique hotel was built in 1909 under the exacting gaze of leading Finnish architect, Selim A. Lindqvist. Once the headquarters of Helsinki's Energy Works, it's played host to, among other things, a power plant that provided the city's electricity for much of the 20th century. Now, as one of Helsinki's leading hotels, it brings the very best in modern luxury living and elegant dining to one of the capital's most vibrant neighbourhoods. It's all delightfully impressive.



KLAUS K HOTEL

SUPERIOR



With a chic design inspired by contemporary Finnish artist, Akseli Gallen-Kallela, the interiors of this city-centre hotel are everything you'd expect from a stay in one of Europe's most design-conscious capitals. Original Rooms come with Unikulma mattresses and amenities from Malin + Goetz, as do the Sky Lofts, which also feature rooftop-terrace access and wonderful views across the Helsinki skyline. Tuck into a delicious brunch, light snack or evening cocktail at the Klaus K Dine, or embrace the flavours of Tuscany at the hotel's signature Toscanini Restaurant.

MULTI-COUNTRY HOLIDAYS

From super-scenic coastal drives to fjord cruises and winding rail journeys, Scandinavia seems custom-made for exploration without borders. What's more, alongside routes that knit together the region's great cities and Baltic ports, you can even follow in the bow wake of its legendary adventurers to the depths of the Arctic.

Whisper it, but those great rivals – Denmark and Sweden – make perhaps Scandinavia's most natural pairing. Linked by the famous Øresund Bridge, itself a titular star of Nordic noir, you'll be able to combine the city charm of Malmö and Copenhagen with the countryside idyll of southern Sweden. Its capital, Stockholm, is also an ideal launching pad for sailings across the Baltic Sea, introducing you to its archipelago scenery and storied spread of historic capitals.

Otherwise, look further north for some Arctic adventure. Here, a unique train ride

will see you combine a stay in Swedish Lapland's iconic ICEHOTEL with some summer adventure in Norway's Arctic capital – Tromsø. Think mountain hikes and fjord sailings. Then, if you're after something more in-depth, expedition sailings between Iceland, Greenland and eastern Canada will bring you among everything from whales and polar bears to mighty glaciers and Inuit settlements. The itinerary opposite is equally epic; it's a full exploration of Scandinavia's capitals by rail and sea. Whichever you choose, our specialists are always on hand to tailor your perfect itinerary to your exact tastes.



NEW

51

SCANDINAVIAN CITY
ODYSSEY BY RAIL & SEA

13-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

2 days Trondheim » 1 day Hurtigruten cruise » 2 days Bergen » 2 days Oslo
 » 2 days Stockholm » 1 day Turku
 » 3 days Helsinki



» PRICES FROM: £1,995 pp incl. flights, 12 nights BB accommodation, meals as per itinerary, Norway in a Nutshell tour with portage, Turku ferry & all train travel. Operates May to Sep.

This is a full appreciation of Scandinavia's city greats. Alongside Oslo's contemporary swagger, Helsinki's contrasting charms and Stockholm's island-bound heritage, you'll take in the national capitals of old, from medieval Turku to Gothic Trondheim and mercantile Bergen. It's all knitted together by such ultra-scenic train journeys as the Flåm Railway, and cruises that include fjord sailings and a coastal overnighter.

Days 1–2 » UK/Trondheim Fly out to Norway's third city to uncover its medieval heritage, from its thousand-year-old cathedral to its Archbishop's Palace – Scandinavia's oldest secular building. 

Day 3 » Hurtigruten cruise Sailing between cragged skerries and islands, you'll enjoy views of Norway's dramatic Atlantic coast as you settle in to full-board meals and your cosy cabin.  

Days 4–5 » Bergen Second-city Bergen is much more than its UNESCO-listed Hanseatic wharf, with its funiculars and cable cars bringing you up to pretty hikes and ranging fjord views. 

Days 6–7 » Norway in a Nutshell tour/Oslo Between river cruises, train rides and a trip on the famous Flåm Railway – one of the world's most scenic – you'll be introduced to fjord Norway's rural spectacle. Along with your porterage luggage, you'll also arrive into Oslo to explore its royal heritage and contemporary edge. 

Days 8–9 » Stockholm Board a train through the Scandinavian flat to Stockholm, where you'll enjoy a luxury stay among its famous design scene and cobbled old-town islands. 

Day 10 » Turku A full day's sailing among the scenic delights of the Åland Archipelago will bring you to Finland's former capital Turku, host to 13th-century castles and cathedrals. 

Days 11–13 » Helsinki/UK Arriving into Helsinki after a final train ride through the Finnish countryside, you'll explore between its fortress islands, Art-Nouveau charm and world-leading design district. On the final day, board your flight home. 

52

COPENHAGEN TO SOUTHERN SWEDEN SELF-DRIVE

NEW



8-DAY TAILOR-MADE SELF-DRIVE

1 day Malmö » 2 days Ystad » 2 days Bornholm Island » 3 days Copenhagen



» PRICES FROM: £1,325 pp incl. flights, car hire, 1 night Clarion Collection Hotel Temperance HB, 2 nights Ystad Saltsjöbad HB, 2 nights Hotel GSH BB & 2 nights 71 Nyhavn BB. Operates May to Sep.

This is the perfect introduction to the countryside, cities and island charm of southern Sweden and Denmark. Indeed, between stays among the heritage and modernity of Copenhagen and Malmö, scenic coastal drives will bring you on to quaint fishing villages, Ystad's cobblestone idyll and the lesser-visited island of Bornholm.

Day 1 » UK/Malmö Flying out to Copenhagen, a 20-minute train ride over the bridge will see you to Malmö and your handpicked accommodation – a century-old belle, where you'll enjoy a light dinner. Don't miss the 15th-century castle, redbrick old town or Scandinavia's tallest building – the impossibly twisting Torsö Tower. **D**

Days 2–3 » Ystad Collecting your hire car, take the coastal route to Ystad, stopping at pretty seaside towns and Trelleborg's 9th-century Viking fortress. Once arrived, you'll settle in to your spa hotel to pair sea views with indulgent breakfasts and dinners. Then, as the fictional home for detective

Kurt Wallander, you'll explore this medieval market town's cobbled streets, quaint cafés and colourful weatherboard houses. **B D**

Days 4–5 » Bornholm Island Ystad's car ferry will bring you on to Bornholm – an artists' retreat flung out into the Baltic. It's a lesser-known gem of fishing villages, ancient castles and craggy coastlines, where you'll find your designer accommodation – all glass façades and private balconies. From here, you'll take in everything from white beaches and clifftop walks to smokehouse delicacies and historic round churches. **B**

Days 6–8 » Copenhagen/UK Retracing your route, a combination of ferry, road and rail will see you back to Copenhagen, where you'll stay in a converted Napoleonic-era hotel. Although positioned right on the Nyhavn waterfront, you'll also want to explore the city's design galleries, fine dining and royal-palace history. On your last day, head to the airport for your flight home. **B**

NEW

53

SCANDINAVIA'S NORDIC
NOIR CITIES BY RAIL

7-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

2 nights Copenhagen » 2 nights Malmö
» 2 nights Stockholm



» PRICES FROM: £1,020 pp incl.
flights, 6 nights BB accommodation, rail
journeys between Copenhagen, Malmö &
Stockholm. Operates May to Sep.

Discover *hygge* among harbourside cobbles, unearth history in ancient castles and indulge in *fika* in charming old towns on this trip to three of Scandinavia's finest cities – Copenhagen, Malmö and Stockholm. It's all linked together with scenic train journeys and luxury hotel stays just moments from scenes made famous by the likes of *The Bridge* and *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*.

Days 1–2 » UK/Copenhagen Flying out to Copenhagen, you'll head to your converted warehouse hotel in the heart of the Nyhavn district. With two days free, you'll want to get out and explore. Visit the Amalienborg Palace, complete with bearskin-hatted soldiers on parade, then take in Tivoli Gardens' historic architecture and the 11th-century Christiansborg Palace – one of the locations for Danish noir series *The Killing*. 

Days 3–4 » Malmö After breakfast, head to the train station for the short journey to Sweden across the historic Øresund

Bridge. Check into the Clarion Collection Hotel Temperance before exploring Malmö's fusion of old and new. There's the coffee shops and cobblestones of Gamla Staden, the futuristic Torsö Tower and the Gothic splendour of St Peter's Church. Meanwhile, Ystad's medieval old town, countryside meadows and white-sand beaches are less than an hour away. 

Days 5–7 » Stockholm/UK Your next train journey brings you through verdant forests to Stockholm and the Gustavian architecture of your hotel. On its doorstep, the narrow streets of Gamla Stan host everything from boutique galleries to grand palaces, while the picture-perfect islands of the Stockholm archipelago are easily reached by ferry. The next day, perhaps after a cycle ride through the island of Djurgården, refuel with a Swedish *fika* – coffee and a cinnamon bun – before taking in some of the scenes from Stieg Larsson's *The Girl With A Dragon Tattoo*. On day seven, make your way to the airport for your flight home. 

54

BELLES OF
THE BALTIC



5-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

2 days Stockholm » 1 day Helsinki
» 1 day Tallinn » 1 day Helsinki



» **PRICES FROM:** £595 pp incl. flights,
1 night Stockholm BB, overnight cruise in
an inside cabin, 2 nights Helsinki BB &
a day trip to Tallinn. Operates May to Sep.

This tour takes you to three fantastic capitals in just five action-packed days as you travel from Stockholm, to Finland's Helsinki and on to Tallinn, Estonia's former European Capital of Culture. It's the perfect introduction to the Baltic, hopping between vibrant cities aboard a Tallink Silja ship and staying at modern Scandic hotels throughout.

Days 1–2 » UK/Stockholm Arrive in Sweden's capital and enjoy your first evening exploring the cobblestone streets of the old town – Gamla Stan. The following day, perhaps visit the Vasa Museum's 17th-century warship relic, or take in the ABBA Museum's all-singing, all-dancing tribute to Sweden's favourite popsters. Then, in the evening, board your Tallink Silja ship for an overnight cruise to Helsinki, sailing through the stunning Stockholm Archipelago. B

Day 3 » Helsinki There are few better ways to arrive in a new city than by sea, and the final approach to Helsinki is no exception. After you've enjoyed breakfast on board,

disembarked and checked into your city-centre hotel, you can start exploring the Finnish capital on foot. Here, the Finn's love of art and design is played out in a seemingly endless array of museums and galleries. It's also worth taking time to visit Tuomiokirkko, a Lutheran cathedral set atop steep granite steps, which provide wonderful views across the city and beyond. B

Day 4 » Tallinn After breakfast, you'll depart for Tallinn, an included two-hour voyage bringing you to the World Heritage-listed delights of its medieval old town. It's one of Europe's most enchanting walled cities, where cobblestone laneways and café-lined squares make for long, happy lunches and hours spent idly people watching. In the late afternoon, you'll head back to Helsinki to spend the night. B

Day 5 » Helsinki/UK Enjoy a morning to explore Helsinki further, before transferring to the airport for your flight home. B

55

CHASING THE MIDNIGHT SUN: TROMSØ & ICEHOTEL

NEW



5-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

2 days Tromsø » 1 day Narvik
» 2 days ICEHOTEL



» PRICES FROM: £775 pp incl. flights, 4 nights BB accommodation, waffles & light evening meal in Tromsø, train journey from Narvik to Kiruna, transfers at ICEHOTEL. Operates May to Sep.

This summer itinerary pairs two Scandinavian icons. First, choose between husky hikes, bike rides and kayak paddles as you explore Norway's Arctic capital, Tromsø. Then, via a scenic bus ride and Arctic Circle train trip, you'll check in for a memorable summertime stay at Sweden's world-famous ICEHOTEL.

Days 1–2 » UK/Tromsø Flying out to Tromsø, you'll make your way to the city centre and check in to your hotel before two action-packed days of optional excursions. Head out into mountains on a guided hike or bike ride, take to the waters of the fjord on a kayaking adventure or see huskies in training, even taking them for a walk in the wilderness. If you feel like venturing further afield, the idyllic island of Sommarøy offers sandy beaches, wildlife and wonderful mountain views. 

Day 3 » Narvik Grab a seat by the window as you enjoy a scenic bus trip through the Troms countryside to Narvik (payable locally). After checking into your

hotel, perhaps take the cable car to the summit of Narvikfjellet before treating yourself to dinner at the excellent Linken Restaurant. It's a firm favourite among locals and visitors alike, with French-inspired menus created from fresh, local ingredients. 

Day 4 » Arctic Circle Train & ICEHOTEL

Today begins in spectacular style with a journey on the Arctic Circle Train to Kiruna in Swedish Lapland. From here, a transfer will bring you to the ICEHOTEL where you'll check into your immaculately sculpted Art Suite. Then, having collected your thermal clothing, you'll head out to explore. Optional excursions range from white-water rafting and Midnight Sun hikes to husky farm visits and sauna sessions. This evening, perhaps indulge with an eight-course Arctic dining experience before settling in for your night on ice. 

Day 5 » Depart for UK After a warm glass of lingonberry juice, a sauna and breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. 

56

ICELAND TO CANADA CRUISE:
THE INUIT ARCTIC



23-DAY EXPEDITION CRUISE

3 days Iceland » 2 days at sea
 » 4 days Greenland » 2 days at sea
 » 3 days Canada » 1 day at sea
 » 8 days Canada



» PRICES FROM: £10,890 pp incl. flights, selected transfers, 2 nights accommodation & a 20-night FB cruise aboard *The Greg Mortimer* incl. all excursions, lecture series & beer/wine with dinner. Departs 23 Sep 2020.

This Aurora Expeditions cruise brings you among icebergs, volcanoes and fjords to showcase a unique natural and human history, from the Inuits to the Vikings. Expect to spot the likes of polar bears and the Northern Lights, with such included excursions as hiking and Zodiac cruises, as well as additional paid activities including kayaking.

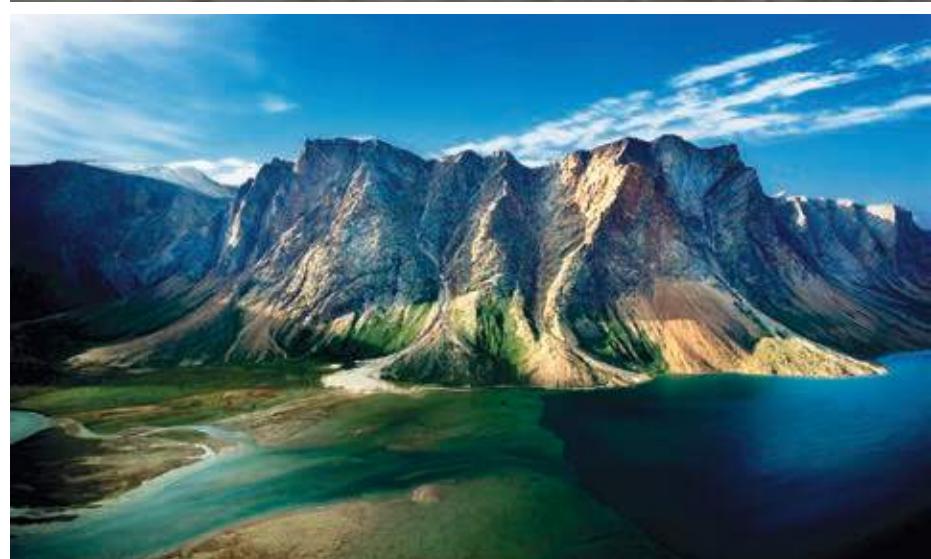
Day 1 » UK/Reykjavik Following your flight, you'll enjoy a night in a central hotel, with all of Reykjavik's colourful heritage and contemporary art scene on your doorstep.

Day 2 » Golden Circle tour Before boarding, begin your series of inclusive tours with Iceland's monumental Gullfoss



waterfall and the rift-valley remains of the world's first parliament. 

Days 3–5 » The Westman Islands/At sea On Iceland's Westman Islands, choose



from Norse ruins and Inuit graves to historic farms and a hot-spring soak on a fjord island. 

heritage, evidenced by century-old churches and artisan centres. It's then on to Hopedale, where colonial and indigenous history live side by side with some of Canada's oldest wooden buildings. 

between a guided volcano hike or a trip to Viking ruins, before enjoying two days at sea. You'll settle into full-board dining, optional spa treatments and the ship's lecture series. See page 41 for more information. 

Days 6–8 » Prince Christian Sound/Nanortalik /Narsarsuaq/Uunartoq You'll arrive into Greenland to kilometre-high mountains, getting closer to their glaciers and icebergs with the ship's kayaks and Zodiac boats. Then, between valley hikes and kayak trips, you'll sail one of Greenland's most beautiful fjords to arrive at Nanortalik's craggy cliffs, grasslands and pretty wooden churches. Continuing on to Uunartoq, you'll pause for everything

Days 9–12 » Hvalsey/Qaqortoq/At sea/George River Hvalsey Church is Greenland's best-preserved Norse ruin, while the small-town charm of Qaqortoq offers lake walks and food tastings before two days at sea. You'll then be welcomed to Canada by a visit to the local Inuit community and perhaps a black bear or wolf, spottable on your short hike. 

Days 13–17 » Torngat Mountains/At sea/Nain/Hopedale Explore Torngat's deep fjords and polar-bear-dotted glaciers on Zodiac cruises, hikes and visits to archaeological sites. Just remember to watch out for the Northern Lights. Then, following a day at sea, you'll pause to explore Nain's Moravian missionary

Day 18–20 » Battle Harbour/L'Anse aux Meadows/Twillingate After exploring Battle Harbours' 19th-century fishing village on a guided walk, you'll pause at the perfectly preserved, UNESCO-listed remains of a 1,000-year-old Viking settlement. Next up is Twillingate – the "Iceberg Capital of the World". It also offers lighthouse hikes, dramatic coastlines and winery visits. 

Days 21–23 » St. John's/UK End your journey in North America's oldest European-settled city. You'll have two days to explore its art galleries and maze of Victorian streets before your overnight flight home. 

AUTUMN AURORAS

The Northern Lights are one of nature's true wonders. And, with the glorious kaleidoscope of season's change coupled with milder weather, chasing the aurora in autumn is a truly enticing proposition.

With the Earth's orientation maximising the probability of solar flares, it's a fact that the Northern Lights are at their most active in those colourful months before winter. So, while you might miss out on long – often-chilly – Arctic nights, you can expect spectacular displays, from the wilds of Swedish Lapland to the rugged mountains of Norway's Lofoten Islands.

Excursions, too, take on a different flavour, with wilderness hikes, bike rides and foraging expeditions making the most of the Scandinavia's great outdoors. And, the autumnal ingredients you'll find – all fresh, all delicious – are showcased

in restaurants across the region. Think gamey meat or succulent Lofoten lamb served alongside the likes of wild cloudberry and mushrooms picked from the forest that very day.

You'll also see the Northern Lights themselves in different ways, as you put aside the husky-sled rides of winter to spend balmy nights on pretty lakeshores, enjoying evening strolls in wildlife-filled forests. Then there's the accommodation. There's everything from log cabins and glass-domed igloos to designer treehouses and the ICEHOTEL, all adding a touch of the unique to your adventure.



57

FINLAND'S AUTUMN
AURORAS**4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK**

4 days Harriniva



>> PRICES FROM: £1,095 pp incl. flights, transfers, 2 nights Harriniva Holiday Centre FB, 1 night Aurora Dome FB, hotel sauna, Northern Lights campfire tour, Aurora Explorer tour & guided hike. Operates 24 Aug to 24 Sep.

This itinerary will see you explore the beauty of autumn in Finnish Lapland, with curated excursions included throughout, taking in the aurora on mountain bike rides, small-group tours and nights spent around a campfire. You'll also enjoy hearty full-board dining, along with stays in timber-clad accommodation and an Aurora Dome – a luxury igloo tent.

Day 1 >> UK/Harriniva Flying to the wilds of Finnish Lapland, you'll be met at the airport and brought through old-growth forests to your cosy riverside accommodation, all blonde wood and Scandi chic. You'll also enjoy the first of your included dinners, with fresh, local ingredients showcased across menus of regional delicacies, served by a roaring fire, of course. Then, as night falls, it's time to begin your programme of aurora activities. Settling in by the campfire, your expert guide will teach you a little of the Lights' phenomena as you gaze skywards for their ethereal appearance while tucking into fire-cooked pancakes. **D**

Day 2 >> Hiking & Aurora Explorer Today, your autumn adventure gets underway with a guided hike amid the dazzling foliage and the chance to meet a local reindeer herd. After a picnic lunch in the wilderness, you'll have some time to explore, perhaps taking in more of those spectacular autumn colours on a forest walk or fishing

expedition. You can even visit the resident huskies at a nearby farm. After dinner, it's time to join a minibus tour in search of the Northern Lights. **BLD**

Day 3 >> Aurora Dome With your last full day, be sure to take some time to relax. And, there's no better way than making use of your hotel's sauna; you'll enjoy complimentary access throughout your stay. But, if you want something more active, look into canoeing or rafting along Harriniva's river. You'll also end your trip in style, checking into your Aurora Dome – a luxury igloo tent complete with open fire and panoramic views, hopefully of the Northern Lights. Then, after dinner, you'll head out to chase them with a small group, your guide driving you out to remote locations, carefully chosen based on the night's weather. **BLD**

Day 4 >> Depart for UK After a last breakfast, an included transfer will see you to the airport for your flight home. **B**



58

LEVI GLASS IGLOO
AUTUMN BREAK

4-DAY TAILOR MADE BREAK

2 days Levi Panorama » 2 days Levin Iglut



» **PRICES FROM:** £885 pp incl. flights, transfers 2 nights Levi Panorama BB, 1 night Levin Iglut BB & Northern Lights cruise. Operates 27 August to 30 November.

On this short autumn break, you'll get away to one of the best places to spot the Northern Lights – Finnish Lapland. In between taking in the auroras on an evocative lake cruise and a night in a luxury glass igloo, you'll enjoy gourmet local dining and enjoy autumn's beauty on optional forest walks, canoe trips and horse rides.

Day 1 » UK/Levi Flying out to Kittilä and the depths of Finnish Lapland, you'll be met by a private driver who'll bring you through lush pine forests to your stylish accommodation. Positioned atop a fell, the hearty meals of its homely restaurant and the Scandi-chic of its blonde-wood rooms are a delightful contrast to your wild surrounds. It's scenery showcased on everything from high-rope courses and canoe paddles to horse treks, bike rides and reindeer-accompanied hikes. Whatever you choose, you'll be quickly immersed among a technicolour display of autumn foliage.

Day 2 » Northern Lights cruise Today, after a hearty breakfast, you'll have some more time to explore. Perhaps channel your inner Ray Mears with a typically Scandinavian autumn activity – foraging. Then, come the evening, it's time to head out in search

of the Northern Lights. After an included transfer, you'll board a pontoon ferry to journey out onto a nearby lake, gently drifting along as eyes turn skywards in search of the aurora. As you go, you can warm up in the ferry's cosy sauna or by the deck's campfire, sipping hot beverages while cooking your own sausages and tucking into crepes. **B**

Days 3–4 » Glass Igloo/UK Whether it's a photography course, a trip to a husky farm or simply a walk in the woods, you'll have some more free time to take in autumn's charm this morning. Then, after dinner, you'll head to your unique accommodation – a glass igloo resplendent in ultra-modern design. Lying back, you'll be perfectly positioned to take in unobstructed views of the Northern Lights, your motorised bed tilting to take in their magical display. After a good night's sleep and a final breakfast



AUTUMN IN LEVI

Tucked away in the heart of Finnish Lapland, Levi conjures images of a winter wonderland where snow-drenched landscapes are animated by dogsleds and snowmobiles. However, for something of the unique, look to autumn. Levi's fells kaleidoscope into burnished oranges and deep reds, antlered wildlife makes the most of temperate weather and ranging hiking trails open up, criss-crossing old-growth forests and ancient valley floors.

This is a season to stay active. There's everything from canoe paddles and horse rides to disc golf, high-ropes courses and reindeer walks. It's all complemented by what is the "purest air in the world" – according to the World Health Organization no less. Yet, for the quintessential Finnish experience, let a local guide bring you out onto the trails to forage for wild food. You'll search for and identify edible herbs, mushrooms and berries before learning how



to cook up a just-picked feast. Don't forget the obligatory sauna to end the day.

And, that's not to say that you'll miss out on the Northern Lights – far from it. The Earth's seasonal orientation maximises the probability of the all-important solar flares, meaning that the aurora is, in fact, at its most active around the autumn equinox – late September. What's more, positioned deep within the Arctic Circle, Levi is one of the world's best places to catch a glimpse of those dancing greens and ethereal reds.

There's also a truly exhaustive list of ways to spot them, many of which simply wouldn't be possible in winter. Saddle up an

Icelandic horse, trek out deep into the forest or simply hunker down by a fire for dinner and a lights show. You can even cruise out on glassy lakes to watch the aurora's glow refract into a million colours. However, perhaps the most evocative way to see them is with a night spent in a glass igloo. Lying back on your bed, you'll have a front-row seat for nature's greatest visual display. Of course, there are plenty of log cabins for the traditionalists as well.

To book your autumn Levi adventure, call our Finland specialists on 020 7838 5863.

59

AUTUMN IN NORTHERN NORWAY



5-DAY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY

2 days Lofoten Islands >> 1 day Hurtigruten cruise >> 2 days Tromsø



>> **PRICES FROM:** £1,295 pp incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights BB accommodation, 1 night Hurtigruten cruise HB, Northern Lights guided tour & husky hike. Operates 01 Sep to 30 Nov.

On this autumn itinerary, you'll cruise the Norwegian coast with Hurtigruten, stay in a timber cabin in the Lofoten Islands and explore the fjord-side spectacle of one of Europe's northernmost cities. We've even included two Northern Lights excursions – a guided tour and a thrilling husky hike.

Days 1–2 >> UK/Lofoten Islands Flying out to the Lofoten Islands, an included transfer will see you to your traditional fisherman's cabin on Svolvær's quayside. You'll then have three days to explore, with everything from fishing expeditions to hikes and kayak trips showcasing the dramatic

beauty of the archipelago mountains. We've also included a Northern Lights hunt. Based on the evening's forecast, a local expert will bring your small group out to the best possible site to catch a glimpse of the aurora. 

Day 3 >> Hurtigruten cruise Today you'll have some further time to take in the Lofoten Islands' myriad delights. Perhaps dip into the local art galleries or head out in search of sea eagles on a boat cruise. Then, come the evening, you'll board your expedition cruise ship, enjoying a dinner of local delicacies as you trace the craggy coast on your journey north. 

SEA KAYAKING IN LOFOTEN

Join your expert local guide for a memorable sea-kayaking adventure, one of the best ways to explore the Lofoten Islands during those dazzling autumn months. With a mild climate, you'll paddle the islands' dramatic fjords and hidden bays, looking out for such passing wildlife as harbour porpoises and white-tailed eagles.

>> **PRICES FROM:** £155 pp incl. transfers, all kayaking equipment & services of a guide. Duration: 4 hours. Operates year-round.

Days 4–5 >> Tromsø/UK Arrive in Tromsø, settling into your attractive fjord-side accommodation. As Norway's Arctic capital, this lively mountain-framed town offers plenty of adventure, including fjord cruises, cable-car rides and museums on the region's explorer past. Come the evening, we've included a Northern lights husky hike. You'll be brought out into the surrounding islands to meet the dogs themselves before taking a few out for a hill walk among the season's kaleidoscope colours. Then, settle down for a fireside dinner, served in a traditional Sami tent and, with luck, under the spectral Northern Lights. Fly home on day five. 



OVERNIGHT AURORA CAMP EXTENSION

Extend your stay in the Troms region with a night at a camp on the island of Kvaloya. After your husky walk and traditional dinner, as detailed above, you'll bed down for a memorable night in the wilderness.

>> **PRICES FROM:** £95 pp incl. transfers, overnight at aurora camp BB. Operates 1 Sep to 31 Aug.

60

AUTUMN AT
THE ICEHOTEL**4-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK**

4 days ICEHOTEL



» PRICES FROM: £865 pp incl. flights, transfers, 1 night in an ICEHOTEL Art Suite BB, 2 nights warm accommodation BB, Northern Lights safari, guided hotel tour, use of the sauna & thermal clothing.
Operates 1 Sep to 31 Oct.

Autumn in Swedish Lapland is a magical time of ripening berries, landscapes painted in vibrant shades and crisp nights under the new season's Northern Lights. Experience a stay at the iconic ICEHOTEL alongside days spent ice sculpting, fishing, white-water rafting and foraging in forests, where you'll have the pick of nature's pantry. There's even time to relax with a traditional sauna before heading outside to hunt for the aurora in the clear autumn skies.

Day 1 » UK/Kiruna Fly to Kiruna, via Stockholm, and board your included transfer to Jukkasjärvi where you'll check into your exquisite Art Suite at the ICEHOTEL's year-round iteration. After collecting your thermal clothing, available for the duration of your stay, perhaps enjoy a forest stroll before heading to dinner. You'll then settle in for a truly memorable night on a frozen bed covered in reindeer hides, keeping toasty in your Arctic sleeping bag.

Day 2 » Northern Lights safari With the day left free, perhaps head out on a rafting trip along the Torne River, pausing at the island of Puonajokk for lunch cooked on an open fire. Or, hike through the surrounding birch forests, the moss-lined trails alive with the colours of autumn. Then, having checked into one of ICEHOTEL's warm rooms, you'll head out on your included Northern Lights safari. Hunt the elusive aurora and learn of its origins and folklore before enjoying hot coffee around an open fire. 

Day 3 » Optional excursions Today is free for more optional excursions. Perhaps join an ice sculpting class, or test your wilderness skills with a guided trip into the forest. Alternatively, let someone else do the cooking on a wilderness dinner excursion, featuring a three-course menu inspired by autumn's larder. You'll head out to a remote camp by boat, where, with luck, you might just spot the Northern Lights. Be sure to round off the day with a cocktail or two at the hotel's famous ICEBAR. 

Day 4 » Depart for UK Enjoy your final morning at the ICEHOTEL with a stroll through the forest before taking the shuttle service back to the airport in time for your return flight home. 

61

AUTUMN ADVENTURE: BRÄNDÖN LODGE & TREEHOTEL



5-DAY TAILOR-MADE BREAK

3 days Brändön Lodge » 2 days Treehotel



» PRICES FROM: £1,690 pp incl. flights, transfers, 3 nights Brändön Lodge FB, 1 night Treehotel FB, wilderness skills excursion & Northern Lights tour. Operates 01 Sep to 30 Nov.

Pairing the delightfully traditional with the daringly inventive, this Swedish Lapland itinerary will see you stay in both an art-installation treehouse and a log cabin by the sea. You'll also enjoy the best in regional dining with full board included throughout, along with a pair of curated excursions – a wilderness skills session and a Northern Lights walk.

Day 1 » UK/Brändön Lodge Flying out to Luleå, you'll be met at the airport and brought the short distance up the coast to your idyllic log-cabin accommodation. Set right on the shore, it overlooks an archipelago of 1,300 islands, inhabited by just 100 residents. It's a delightful sense of seclusion showcased across pretty hikes

and bike rides. You'll also be treated to the first of your included full-board dining with a two-course dinner. Throughout your stay you can expect the very best of local specialities informed by fresh, seasonal ingredients. 

Day 2 » Wilderness skills Today, you'll make your introductions to the remote beauty of Swedish Lapland with an included wilderness skills session. A local guide will bring you out into the forest, teaching you how to survive in the Arctic, with lessons on fire-making, cooking and the local wildlife followed by lunch around the campfire. But, with three days here, there's plenty of time to explore on your own, perhaps with kayak trips or cruises



out among the islands in search of the native seals. 

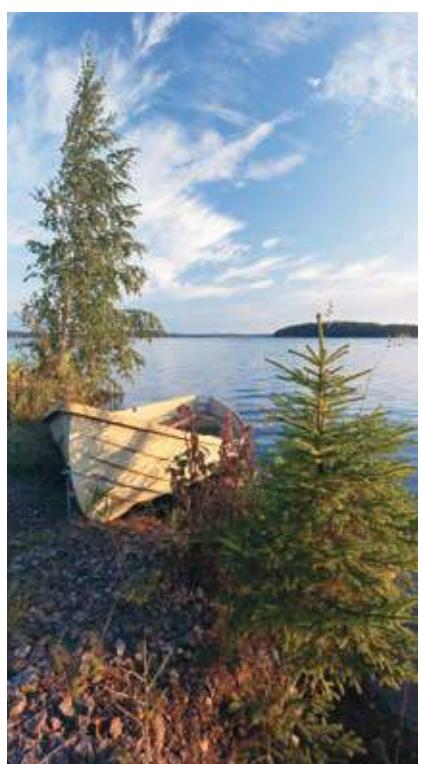
Day 3 » Northern Lights walk In between your hearty meals, you'll have some further time for optional activities. Alternatively, simply relax with a spa treatment or indulge with that favourite Finnish tradition – the sauna. Your lodge's offering is particularly enticing, found overlooking the Gulf of Bothnia's shimmering waters. Tonight is then given over to a search for the Northern Lights. An expert guide will bring you far away from any light pollution to a clearing where, if all goes to plan, your wilderness dinner will be illuminated by those famous dancing greens. 

Day 4 » Treehotel Leaving the coast behind, an included transfer will see you head deep into Swedish Lapland's great forested interior. Then, after an included lunch at Brittas – a homely guesthouse packed full of early-20th-century charm – you'll settle in to your truly unique, treetop accommodation. There's everything from a mirrored cube and floating UFO to a bird's nest and an entire cabin strung up at canopy level. There's also a full range of activities available, including zip lines, river kayaking, forest hikes and moose safaris. End the day with an included dinner, again at the excellent Brittas restaurant; expect the likes of wild game complemented by berries foraged from the surrounding woods. 

Day 5 » Treehotel/UK After a final delicious breakfast, an included transfer will see you to the airport in time for your flight home. 

DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF SUMMER WITH BEST SERVED SCANDINAVIA

Best Served Scandinavia is an independent tour operator specialising in tailor-made holidays to Scandinavia and the Nordic and Baltic regions. Since our first trip to Tromsø in 2005, we've dedicated ourselves to all things Scandi, bringing our clients the region's latest and greatest travel innovations, from ice hotels and expedition cruises to romantic log cabins and lodges hidden in the treetops. Our specialists continue to travel extensively throughout our featured regions, so you can be sure of the most up-to-date advice when planning your next summer holiday.



YOUR TAILOR MADE SPECIALISTS

All of our specialists have travelled extensively in Scandinavia and the Nordic and Baltic regions. Their recommendations are always up-to-date, and their honest, informed approach to planning holidays, together with insightful suggestions based on first-hand knowledge, will ensure your Scandinavian stay is a special one.



REBECCA THERIAULT

It's hard to top a summer trip to Greenland, a country that's provided some of my most memorable travel experiences. Get off the grid with a night at Eqi Lodge, waking up to views of its neighbouring glacier.



STEFF SARGEANT

For genuine Arctic adventure, head to Svalbard for ice caving, glacier hikes and close-up encounters with polar bears. Pair it all with a stay at Funken Lodge for a little slice of luxury.



NORIRE ARAKELYAN

For me, summer is *the* best time to visit Iceland's north coast. Visit the mighty Godafoss waterfall, spot whales in Húsavík and take a dip in the Mývatn Nature Baths under the Midnight Sun.



SAIJA KOKKONEN

After a recent summer trip, I fell in love with the spectacular fjords of western Norway. Head out on a RIB cruise for stunning views and the chance to glimpse one of the resident harbour porpoises.



LISA AYLING

A stay at Treehotel combines the very best in Swedish design with delicious food and a raft of exciting adventures. It's all run by the brilliant Britta and Kent, who pour their heart and soul into everything they do.



ANGELA PERRO

Oslo in summer is truly special. Take in its museums and galleries, and discover the cutting edge of its world-leading design scene before heading to the surrounding islands for sunbathing and swimming.



PIPPA McCARTHY

With its sandy beaches and stunning fjords, Tromsø is just as magical in summer as it is in winter. Head out on hiking trips and cycle rides, returning to delicious seafood and the best pubs in Norway.



SOPHIE SADLER

Head to Finnish Lapland in summer for unique nature-led culture, fresh, seasonal food and relaxing sauna sessions. You'll soon see why the Finns are so proud of their beautiful country.



MAISIE BAMFORD

Summer provides the perfect backdrop for self-drives among Iceland's glaciers, geysers and waterfalls. And, if you're looking for adventure, a Superjeep tour of the Golden Circle is a must!



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Alternatively, winter is a truly magical time to visit Scandinavia and the Nordic regions, with dancing displays of the Northern Lights providing an ethereal backdrop. It's a season of adrenaline-fuelled action and exhilarating adventure, when snowmobiling and husky safaris take centre stage between nights spent in ice hotels, remote polar camps, glass igloos and cosy log cabins.

WINTER & SPRING 2018/19

- » Northern Lights
- » Husky safaris
- » Ice & snow hotels
- » Snowmobiling
- » Glass igloos
- » Wildlife tours
- » Santa visits
- » Spring holidays

Our 2018/19 winter & spring showcase is filled with inspiration for the colder months. Call **020 7868 5863** to order your copy.





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