



Viking Homelands- Stockholm to Oslo – NO Trip Report
May 22 – June 10, 2020

Another trip now down the tubes.

The world is in an upside-down state.

We are sad for ourselves but more so for many others who have been hit hard -- mentally, physically emotionally and financially.

We are sad for our country being an embarrassment shown around the world.

This trip has been rebooked for a similar time next year, but in reverse, i.e., Oslo 4-day extension to Bergen with a train ride followed by the cruise to Stockholm.

Itinerary

Fri May 22

? Depart home via car service

5:25pm Depart Newark EWR via UA#68

Sat May 23

7:35am Arrive Stockholm ARN

Hotel Sheraton – 2 nights
Address and phone needed
Conf#86415871 – **form needed**

www.VikingCruises.com - Viking Homelands on Ship Star | 15 Days | 11 Guided Tours | 8 Countries - Enjoy overnights in cosmopolitan Stockholm, majestic St. Petersburg and scenic Bergen, and explore charming historic city centers in Tallinn and Gdańsk. Visit Helsinki, Berlin and Copenhagen and witness breathtaking scenery from your ship as she glides through majestic Norwegian fjords in the legendary homelands of the Vikings.

Mon May 25 – Day 1 of tour

Start of Viking Homelands Cruise



Stockholm, Sweden

Stockholm boasts an incredibly preserved 13th century old town.

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

Destination Information: Home to one of the highest concentrations of museums in the world, Stockholm is an open book for those interested in Swedish culture and history. The most prominent is the maritime Vasa Museum, which houses the near-intact 17th-century ship Vasa, reassembled after it was salvaged from the ocean bed in Stockholm's harbor. Other reconstructions—of homesteads, not ships—are spread across the Skansen open air museum on the island of Djurgården, providing a glimpse of life before the Industrial Age. Art lovers may linger among the 16,000 paintings and 30,000 handicraft pieces at the National museum or admire works by Picasso and Dalí at the Moderna Museet. The Nobel Museum in Gamla Stan, the Old Town, chronicles the prize and its laureates.

5:30pm Royal Canal Cruise – 2 hours - booked for 2 at \$189 Per Person v View On Calendar – EASY - After Dark - Sightseeing - Snack included

Embark your boat and relax on board as you sip on a refreshing beverage and cruise along Stockholm's waterways. As you sail serenely along and enjoy hors d'oeuvres, your guide will show you the famous sights of the Scandinavian capital including Gamla Stan, or Old Town, the Vasa Museum, the Nordic Museum and the Royal Palace. The Royal Island of Djurgården has been in possession of the crown since the 15th century and is a tranquil oasis in the center of Stockholm. Once a royal hunting ground, today Djurgården is an eco-park and contains every tree species

growing in Sweden that can sustain itself in a city climate. Admire the lush green-covered park and gaze at the views over Stockholm's nearest archipelago islands, Fjäderholmarna, before returning to your ship.

No dinner reservations made.

Tue May 26 - Day 2 of tour

Stockholm, Sweden

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

8:30am Panoramic Stockholm – Included for 2 persons - EASY - Sightseeing -

Take in the highlights of Stockholm, one of the world's most beautiful cities, stunningly set on the Baltic Sea. Stockholm is a thriving city and is known as the "Venice of Scandinavia" with its 14 islands and 57 bridges that connect them to the mainland. Begin your tour by motor coach as you hear exciting stories from your guide about Swedish life and culture. Learn about the history of the city and see the famous sights including the City Hall, Parliament, the Royal Palace and the Royal Opera. You can choose to end your tour with a stroll through the cobblestone streets of Old Town on your own, and take a complimentary coach back to the ship. Or, if you prefer, you can resume your panoramic tour and take the coach directly to your ship.

2:30pm Depart Port

7:00pm Chef's Table for dinner – Asian Panorama

Wed May 27 - Day 3 of tour

Helsinki, Finland – arrival 9:00am – departure 5:00pm

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

Destination Information: For a European capital, Helsinki is small, but its history and Finnish spirit are larger than life. The elegant capital is known as the "White City of the North" for its neoclassical beauty and Art Nouveau grace. Arts, politics and education converge in Senate Square, a wide-open space surrounded by the University of Helsinki and the Government Palace. But the square's—and perhaps the city's—centerpiece is the magnificent Helsinki Cathedral. Its colonnaded entrances echo ancient Greece and its green domes recall grand old Russia. Nearby, locals and visitors gather at Market Square, buzzing with open air stalls, crafts, souvenirs and news of the day as the sweet scent of korvapuustis—Finnish cinnamon buns—fills the clean Baltic air.

9:15am Glimpse of Helsinki – Included for 2 persons – 3 hours - EASY - Shopping and Free Time - Sightseeing -

Take in the best of Helsinki, the "White City of the North," boasting neoclassical beauty and Art Nouveau graces. View the neoclassical elegance of Senate Square in the heart of the Old City and

admire the immense Helsinki Cathedral, Parliament buildings and the medieval-inspired facade of the National Museum of Finland. Browse the stalls and interact with locals and vendors during free time at colorful Market Square. Pass the docked icebreaker fleet that keeps traffic flowing in Helsinki's harbor during the winter, and Olympic Stadium—built to host the 1952 Summer Olympics. Admire the Opera House, with its scenic setting on Töölö Bay, and visit Sibelius Park to view the magnificent sculpture commemorating Jean Sibelius, Finland's greatest composer. The sculpture is made of more than 600 steel pipes set in a wave design, a visual representation of Sibelius's music.

5:00pm Depart Port

7:30pm Dinner at Manfredi's Italian

Thu May 28 – Day 4 of tour

St. Petersburg, Russia – arrival 7:30am – overnight in port

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

Destination Information: Gilded St. Petersburg is a lavish and bold showcase of the might of its founder, Peter the Great. The tsar planned his great city on the Gulf of Finland to gain sea access for his growing navy; but he was also committed to building a splendid cultural capital, and so toured Europe for architectural inspiration. The results of his research are indisputable, even 300 years later. Grand boulevards, a lacework of canals, elegant baroque and classical buildings, resplendent palaces and dazzling onion-domed churches grace the cityscape. Priceless art and world-class ballet elevate Peter's city more than he could have dreamed.

9:30am Panoramic St. Petersburg – Included for 2 persons – for 3 hours – EASY - Sightseeing - UNESCO

Orient yourself in this magnificent city in just hours, enjoying photo stops along the way. Marvel at St. Isaac's Square and the gold dome of St. Isaac's Cathedral. Pass the sprawling Palace Square and marvel at its grand Winter Palace, now the Hermitage Museum—an opulent repository of priceless art. Crossing the Neva River, admire magnificent views of the Peter and Paul Fortress, the city's first defensive edifice. Within its walls, view the gold-hued Peter and Paul Cathedral and its soaring spire. Your next stop for photos is at the Church of Our Saviour on Spilled Blood. This onion-domed decorative memorial to the assassinated emperor Alexander II is the epitome of splendid Russian ecclesiastical architecture. You will also see Russia's famous shop-lined street, Nevsky Prospekt. Lastly, drive past Senate Square, also known as Decembrist Square, and its Bronze Horseman statue of Peter the Great.

2:30pm St. Petersburg by Metro & On Foot – booked at \$99 for Diana only – for 4 hours - DEMANDING - Active - Snack included

Take a ride along St. Petersburg's Metro and explore the historic city on foot during this fascinating walking tour. Board your motor coach for the short drive to Avtovo Metro Station. Designed by architect Yevgenii Levinson, it is considered to be one of the 12 most ornately beautiful stations in the world. Admire its ornamental glass and marble interior as you pass through to board your metro. With your knowledgeable guide, you will walk past some of St. Petersburg's most iconic sites. See the famous, shop-lined Nevsky Prospekt, St. Isaac's Cathedral, Palace Square, the Winter Palace and Alexander Gardens, Moscow's first public park. As you stroll the streets, your guide will regale you with stories of St. Petersburg's past and insight into its culture, lifestyle and people of modern Russia as we know it today.

7:00pm St. Petersburg Ballet - \$159 Per Person – booked for Diana only – for 4 ½ hours – EASY - After Dark -

Attend the ballet in St. Petersburg during an enriching evening amid the city's rich theater scene. Renowned for its synonymous style of ballet, St. Petersburg is home to Russia's first ballet school—founded in 1738—and the birthplace of famous ballerinas such as Anna Pavlova and Diana Vishneva. From your ship, join a local guide on a drive through the glittering canal-lined streets. Upon arrival at the venue, you will be escorted to the performance hall. Then, enjoy a breathtaking performance featuring selections from a world-famous ballet, such as Swan Lake, The Nutcracker or Giselle. Marvel at the grace and elegance of these refined dancers and the rhapsodic musical arrangements that have enraptured St. Petersburg theatergoers for generations. During intermission, enjoy a glass of sparkling wine served in an elegant theater bar. This tour includes your transfer to and from the theater. Note: Performance and venue vary by date.

No dinner reservations made.

Fri May 29 - Day 5 of tour

St. Petersburg, Russia – overnight – depart 6:00pm

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

8:30am Leisurely Hermitage - \$129 Per Person – booked for Tom only – for 4 ½ hours – MODERATE -

View the vast collection of paintings by European Masters at the Hermitage, one of the world's finest art museums. Housed within the opulent Winter Palace of tsars and tsarinas, it is an absolute must-see for art lovers and those simply interested in an overview of Russian history through the arts. As you begin this guided tour of the museum's general collections in the palace, you will discover the Jordan Staircase, a dazzling display of golden stuccowork and glimmering marble statues. You will have time to linger in the elegant Throne Room where tsars gave audience; the vast Pavilion Hall with its gilded columns and glittering chandeliers; and the Gallery of 1812. Enjoy a leisurely exploratory tour, as you see priceless paintings from the 13th through 18th centuries by some of the greatest Italian, Spanish, French and Dutch painters.

8:30am The Hermitage Behind Closed Doors – \$209 Per Person – booked for Diana only – 8 ½ hours - DEMANDING - Meal included

Get a private, insider's view of one of the world's greatest art collections at the magnificent Hermitage Museum. The museum boasts some 3 million works of art and historic artifacts precious to Russia's heritage. Only a fraction are on public display; the rest are locked away in a carefully monitored facility, which was closed to visitors—until now. Join a local guide for a tour of the museum's collection, including both masterpieces and the Hermitage's grand spaces such as the magnificent Jordan Staircase. Then head by motor coach to the city suburbs and step behind closed doors with your guide for privileged access to the restoration and exhibit center. See how the Hermitage stores their growing collection of exhibits and examine some of the priceless objects d'art gifted to Russian Royalty by countries from around the World, and collection of imperial carriages. Lunch will be served in the staff canteen.

6:00pm Depart Port

7:30pm Dinner at Chef's Table - Stéphane Modat / Québec

Sat May 30 - Day 6 of tour

Tallinn, Estonia – arrival 8:00am – departure 9:00pm

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

Destination Information: Tallinn ranks as one of Northern Europe's finest medieval Old Towns. It is easy to feel as though you have stepped back in time as you stroll its cobblestone streets and weave past splendid red-roofed buildings. In its regal walled Upper Town on Toompea, or Dome Hill, church and state constructed beautiful government edifices and colossal cathedrals. The Lower Town is a charming maze of squares, gabled houses and churches. Estonia's most pivotal moment unfolded at the nearby Song Festival Grounds where 300,000 citizens rose up and sang against Soviet rule. This Singing Revolution was waged—and won in 1988—without a drop of blood. There is more to sing about at the local confectioners' shops, offering all manner and shape of delicious marzipan.

9:15am Leisurely Tallinn Old Town Walking Tour – booked for 2 persons – Included – for 3 hours – EASY - Sightseeing - Special Interests - UNESCO

Get to know one of the finest medieval Old Towns of Northern Europe on a two-mile walking tour with a local guide. A scenic drive leads past the medieval town wall, the National Opera and Freedom Square. At Toompea, or Dome Hill, enjoy a gentle stroll along cobblestone lanes past the Estonian Parliament, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and St. Mary's Cathedral. Along the way, you will pause at lovely vantage points that overlook a magnificent canvas of red rooftops, slender steeples and the sea. Continue by coach to Lower Town, where you will explore a web of narrow, 13th-century streets. Walk to the Town Hall, a 15th-century gem, where you have some free time before returning to your ship.

9:00pm Depart Port

No dinner reservations made.

Sun May 31 - Day 7 of tour

Cruise the Baltic Sea – at sea

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

7:30pm Dinner at Chef's Table - Lotus

Mon Jun 1 - Day 8 of tour

Gdańsk, Poland – arrival 6:00am – departure 1:00pm

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

Destination Information: Gdańsk is widely known as the city of glowing amber and Gothic cathedrals. Its luster harkens back to medieval times when it was one of the most prosperous cities in the Hanseatic League, the mercantile powerhouse of the Baltic. The city's rich history is on display in the remarkably restored Old Town, a splendid mix of Gothic, Renaissance and baroque styles—from the royal residence of Green Gate to the 15th-century Artus Court, a merchant's palace. Perhaps its most fascinating structure is the Gdańsk treadwheel crane, a 14th-century human-powered device that loaded and unloaded cargo. Traditional Polish pierogies or a glass of Goldwasser, a liqueur created here in the 16th century, round out any visit.

8:30am City of Gdańsk On Foot – Included – booked for 2 persons – 3 ½ hours - MODERATE - Sightseeing

Explore this remarkably restored Polish city and learn about its rich history on this enlightening excursion. One of the wealthiest cities in the Hanseatic League, Gdańsk was extensively damaged during World War II, but its restoration has been phoenix-like. You will visit Long Market, one of the city's most attractive streets, and pass beneath Green Gate, a former royal residence. View the 15th-century Artus Court, a merchant's palace, and the fascinating Gdańsk treadwheel crane, a 14th-century human-powered device that helped the medieval port load and unload cargo. En route back to your ship, pass Solidarity Square and see the famous Gate No. 2 of the Gdańsk Lenin Shipyard, where protesting shipyard workers were shot by the Communist regime in 1970. A monument here commemorates their sacrifice.

1:00 pm Depart Port

7:30pm Dinner at Manfredi's Italian

Tue Jun 2 - Day 9 of tour

Berlin (Warnemünde), Germany – arrival 7:30am – departure 9:00pm

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

Destination Information: After a decades-long postwar rift both between Berlin and the world and within the city itself, Germany's capital has been reunified and undergone a remarkable rebirth as a center of art, culture and great architecture. It is still riding the wave of its newfound energy, and exploring its streets feels akin to browsing a newly opened museum. Risen from the ashes of war, many of its buildings that once stood for division now embrace unity. Among them, the Reichstag parliament building embodies a new transparency with its glass dome, and the city's Museum Island celebrates self-expression and creativity.

9:00am Rostock Highlights – Included – booked for 2 people – for 3 hours - EASY - Shopping and Free Time - Sightseeing

Meet your local guide at the pier and board a motor coach for a scenic ride to the Hanseatic city of Rostock. Upon arrival you will begin your walking tour, passing the iconic sights of the city. See the 13th-century Town Hall, which was originally built in the Gothic style but transformed in the 18th century with the addition of a baroque facade and banquet hall. Witness the Gothic St. Mary's Church and its cross-shaped basilica and learn about its astronomical clock, built in 1472 by Hans Düringer. Visit University Square and see the handsome terra-cotta Hauptgebäude, the university's main building. Stop and admire its centerpiece, the Brunnen der Lebensfreude, also known as the Fountain

of Happiness. Enjoy free time to explore the pedestrian district of Kröpeliner Strasse, which runs east from the Neuer Markt to the 14th-century Kröpeliner Tor, a former town gate, before returning to your ship.

2:00pm Bad Doberan Minster & the Molli Railway - \$99 Per Person – booked for Diana only - 4 ½ hours - EASY - Snack included - Special Interests

Visit the magnificent church at Bad Doberan and ride a charming steam train along the beautiful Baltic coastline. Join your local guide for a drive to Bad Doberan and its Doberan Minster. Dating from 1368, it is one of Europe's finest examples of Brick Gothic architecture. Marvel at the stunning vaulted interior and 14th-century cross. For an uplifting experience of a different sort, board the Molli steam train for a scenic sojourn through rolling landscapes and along the magnificent shore. Ride these historic rails through forests and fields toward the coastal resort of Heiligendamm before continuing on to seaside Kühlungsborn, where you can enjoy free time on the beach, stroll the small wooden pier or perhaps relax in a strandkorb, or traditional wicker beach chair. Enjoy refreshments at one of the seafront hotels.

9:00pm Depart Port

No dinner reservations made.

Wed Jun 3 - Day 10 of tour

Copenhagen, Denmark – arrival 7:30am – departure 9:00pm

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

Destination Information: To understand the importance of Copenhagen's royalty and religion, you need only look to its skyline. Distinctly low to the ground, it lacks the vertical reach of those of other cities. But some architectural elements do soar above all else: Copenhagen's church spires and palace towers. For this reason, the Danish capital is often called the "City of Spires." Perhaps the most unique, the baroque Church of Our Savior invites visitors to climb the spiral stairway that hugs the outside of the steeple. Christian IV's former stock exchange building boasts a "dragon spire" resembling the entwined tails of four beasts. The avocado-green towers of the Renaissance Rosenborg Castle strike their own dramatic pose, as do the regal reaches of City Hall and Christiansborg Palace.

8:45am Copenhagen by Foot – Included – booked for Diana only – for 3 hours - DEMANDING - Sightseeing

Explore the landmarks of Copenhagen and learn about the city's history during a walking excursion. With a local guide, you will stop to see the Little Mermaid statue sitting serenely in the harbor at Langelinie and visit the courtyard at Amalienborg Palace. Continue to Copenhagen's largest monument, the Gefion Fountain, followed by Amalienborg Palace, the winter residence of the Queen of Denmark. Here, admire the royal rococo buildings and square, plus the stunning Marble Church, New Opera House and flourishing Amalievegen (Amalie Garden) with its centerpiece fountain. Pass the Royal Playhouse as you head to colorful Nyhavn, once the favorite haunt of sailors and home to

fairytale author Hans Christian Andersen. See Denmark's oldest Royal Gardens and the fairytale Rosenborg Castle. En route back to your ship, walk through the Citadel—one of Europe's best-preserved fortresses surrounded by eight moats, tall ramparts and cannon bastions.

9:45am Copenhagen Panorama - \$69 Per Person – booked for Tom only – 3 hours – EASY - Sightseeing -

Uncover 850 years of remarkable history during this tour of one of the Baltic's most prominent cities. With a local guide, you will pass City Hall Square, named for the impressive National Romantic-style building that dominates the plaza; Tivoli Gardens, one of the world's oldest amusement parks; and more en route to the island of Slotsholmen. See Christiansborg Palace, home to the Danish government, and Børsen, the former stock exchange. Continue through Christianshavn for spectacular views of the harbor from the Opera House. Pass the brightly colored houses of Nyhavn—the neighborhood that was once home to Hans Christian Andersen—on your way to view Amalienborg Palace, the royal winter residence, and Rosenborg Castle, home to the Danish Crown Jewels. After a stop to see the Little Mermaid statue in the harbor at Langelinie, you will have the option of returning to your ship or disembarking in the city and making your way back independently.

2:30pm Leisurely Stroll Around Copenhagen – Included – on wish list for 2 people – no description provided

2:00pm Copenhagen Canal Cruise - \$69 Per Person – **NOT** booked depending on above wish list - 1 hour - EASY - Sightseeing

Embark on a leisurely cruise across the extensive harbor and the Christianshavn and Frederiksholm Canals. After boarding your boat, you will settle in for a narrated overview of the city, an intriguing blend of pioneering modern architecture, historic landmarks and recreational quays. Cruise past the Christiansborg Palace, home of the Danish Parliament, and admire the distinctive spire of entwined dragon tails atop the old Stock Exchange. Pass the colorful Nyhavn Canal, lined with 500-year-old gabled houses; this neighborhood was once home to Hans Christian Andersen. You will also see Amalienborg Palace, the royal winter residence, and the 17th-century fortress of Kastellet. After pausing for photos at the famous Little Mermaid statue, continue to the old naval base of Holmen. You will also see the recently built Royal Library, nicknamed the "Black Diamond," the Copenhagen Opera House and the Royal Danish Playhouse.

9:00pm Depart Port

No dinner reservations made.

Thu Jun 4 - Day 11 of tour

Ålborg, Denmark – arrival 7:30am – departure 1:00pm

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

Destination Information: Founded by Vikings in the late 900s, historic Ålborg enjoys a gorgeous setting nearly 20 miles up the Limfjord at its narrowest point. The best-preserved Renaissance architecture in all of Denmark is here, most famously at the Jens Bang's House, built in 1624. Its clean symmetry and proportion helped lay the foundation for today's Scandinavian design. Ålborg, the nation's fourth-largest city, was founded as a trading post. The wealth that poured into merchants' accounts helped build many half-timbered mansions that still stand today. Ålborghus Castle, the seat

of the modern-day governors of Northern Jutland, is perhaps the finest example. Lovers of fine spirits idolize Ålborg as the city of aquavit, the strong aperitif infused with herbs or spices.

9:00am Ålborg Walking Tour – Included – booked for 2 people – for 2 ½ hours - EASY -
Sightseeing - Snack included

Enjoy a taste of beautiful Ålborg, strolling its Old Town, savoring local delicacies and seeing Ålborg Castle. Leaving your ship's berth in the city center, walk along the renovated waterfront district, home to the Utzon Center. Pass through Utzon Park and visit Ålborg's Vor Frue Kirke (Church of Our Lady), which to this day still houses one of the original church bells dating back to the 12th century. Visit the charming Old Town, see the Gothic 14th-century Budolfi Church and pass the lovely baroque-style City Hall. Take a stroll past one of Ålborg's real treasures, Jens Bang's stone house. Jens Bang was famously snubbed by the town's government, and his statuesque renaissance home was never approved by the local gentry. The highlight of the tour is the chance to experience our very own Viking market, where you can sample some of the local delicacies while exploring the beautiful grounds of Ålborg Castle.

1:00pm Depart Port

7:00pm Dinner at Manfredi's Italian

Fri Jun 5 - Day 12 of tour

Stavanger, Norway – arrival 10:00am – departure 6:00pm

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

Destination Information: A southern port of Norway, Stavanger is home to one of Europe's most interesting Old Towns. The cobblestone streets of Gamle Stavanger, as it is called, are lined with the continent's highest concentration of wooden buildings that date to the 17th and 18th centuries. Close to 250 are here, protected by a conservancy formed in the 1950s after developers threatened to destroy these cultural riches. Stavanger profited from an offshore oil drilling boom in recent decades; buoyed by its energy sector, the once-placid city gained a cosmopolitan flair and was honored in 2008 as European Capital of Culture. Seafood abounds in this coastal city, and its old harbor, Vågen, is one of Stavanger's greatest historic treasures.

2:00pm Stavanger Walking Tour & Oil Museum – Included- booked for 2 people – 2 hours –
MODERATE - Sightseeing

Get well acquainted with Stavanger and its beautifully preserved Old Town on this included tour. From our berth right in the heart of town, you can walk with ease to Gamle Stavanger, or Old Stavanger. In this attractive pedestrian district, you will stroll cobblestone streets among close to 250 buildings protected by a conservancy. They range in date from the 18th to the early 20th centuries and are considered the best kept wooden houses in Northern Europe. Destined for demolition in the 1950s, they were saved largely by the city's architect, Einar Hedén. You will also visit the Norwegian Petroleum Museum. Browse its fascinating exhibits about geology, technology and harnessing the

power of oil. You will learn about life on board oilrigs and the drama of everyday life at sea. After, you can linger in Stavanger at your leisure and return the short distance to your ship on your own.

6:00pm Depart Port

No dinner reservations made.

Sat Jun 6 - Day 13 of tour

Eidfjord, Norway – arrival 7:00am – departure 7:00pm

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

Destination Information: The quaint village of Eidfjord is nestled in the heart of one of Norway's most scenic regions. From the Norwegian Sea, the waters of the expansive Hardangerfjord lead to the smaller Eidfjorden and to this charming mountain hamlet. Eidfjord embodies the Norway of every traveler's dream, the gateway to Hardangervidda, Europe's largest mountain plateau of soaring beauty. Step into the natural domain of wild reindeer here, marveling at stunning, treeless moorlands dotted with pools, rivers, streams and the Vøringfossen Waterfall, a 550-foot cascade plummeting into the cavernous Måbødalen canyon.

9:15am Eidfjord From Above - \$449 Per Person – **NOT** booked – 1 hour – EASY - Sightseeing

Experience the stunning beauty of the Norwegian landscape from high above during this exciting airborne excursion. Meet your pilot and board your waiting seaplane, which will take off directly from the pier. Fly over the vast ice fields of the Folgefonna Glacier; comprised of a group of three glaciers, it covers 80 square miles. Pass the Hardanger Bridge—the longest suspension bridge in Norway—and into the scenic Hardangerfjord, a favorite destination point for tourists since the late 19th century because of its beautiful landscapes and grand waterfalls. Stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the mountainous interior of Norway, the area is also known as the “fruit orchard of Norway,” accounting for 40 percent of the country's annual fruit production. Soar over the famous Trolltunga, a towering cliff that stands 3,600 feet above sea level and offers sweeping views of the fjord below. Afterward, your seaplane will return you to the pier and your ship.

10:15am Scenic Norwegian Nature Center (Hardangervidda and Vøringsfossen Tour) – included – booked for 2 persons – 2 hours – EASY - Sightseeing

Enjoy a sweeping view of one of Norway's most beautiful regions and explore nature. Meet your guide and drive up the valley to Øvre Eidfjord and the Norwegian Nature Center. Here, you can learn about the nature and wildlife on Hardangervidda, Europe's largest mountain plateau. In this lively center of exhibitions, aquariums and an inspiring “Super Videography,” you will gain insight into the staggering beauty of this pristine slice of Norway. You will enjoy more than an hour to explore the exhibits independently. Don't miss the center's highlight: a five-screen panoramic movie where you can immerse yourself on a journey past fjords, mountains and waterfalls, with drops over steep gorges and gentle sequences over mountain lakes and glaciers. After your visit, your bus will drive you back to Eidfjord.

7:00pm Depart Port

No dinner reservations made.

Sun Jun 7 - Day 14 of tour

Bergen, Norway – arrival 7:00am – overnight

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

Destination Information: Timbered Hanseatic warehouses and gabled wood buildings colored rust-red and ochre line the quaint quay of Bryggen wharf, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Overlooking picturesque Vågen Harbor, this is perhaps the most charming district of Bergen, evocative of the old-world trading center that once bustled in the shadows of towering cargo ships offloading stock-fish and cereals from around the Baltic. The colorful cluster of structures gave the medieval-era town its nickname, “the Wooden City.” Today, it is a stroller’s delight: a tight-knit community of workshops where artisans sell their wares and cafés where freshly prepared smørrebrød, or open sandwiches, are on the menu.

9:00am Panoramic Bergen – Included – booked for 2 persons – 2 hours - EASY - Sightseeing - UNESCO –

Enjoy a relaxing tour by deluxe motor coach as you tour the main sites in Bergen. Founded in 1070 AD, Bergen features many historic sites including the medieval King Haakon’s Hall, the Rosenkrantz Tower, the picturesque wooden buildings at Bryggen, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the bustling fish market and the Nordnes Peninsula, with its 19th-century white painted wooden houses. Take a photo stop at Nordnes and admire the views over Bergen Harbor. Once the capital city of Norway, Norwegian kings resided here, and many historic events took place in the port. Bergen owed its wealth and prominence to the fish export trade, which has been at the heart of the town since the Middle Ages. Hear interesting stories from your guide about Bergen’s colorful past as you tour through the streets of Norway’s second-largest city.

12:45pm Grieg’s House & Recital & Fantoft Stave Church - \$129 Per Person – booked for Diana only – 3 1/2 hours - MODERATE -Recommended - Special Interests

Travel south of Bergen to view a remarkable wooden church and visit the home of Norway’s famed composer. Join your local guide on a drive through suburban Bergen to Fana, where the Fantoft Stave Church stands tall, proud and elegant. Built entirely of wood in 1150 in the tradition of Norwegian stave churches, it was moved to its present site in 1883 to save it from demolition and preserve it as part of the nation’s heritage. From spiritual faith to musical brilliance, you will also visit Troidhaugen, where famed Norwegian composer and pianist Edvard Grieg and his wife lived for 22 years. Norway’s most celebrated son, he was inspired by Norwegian folk music and sought to raise its profile in his composing and performances. He is best known for his Piano Concerto in A minor and Peer Gynt. Enjoy an exclusive recital of his music before returning to your ship.

No dinner reservations made.

Mon Jun 8 - Day 15 of tour

Bergen, Norway – overnight – disembark for extension to Oslo

Awake in Bergen, where you will be departing your ship. If you wish, you may explore more with Viking: Stay on in this fascinating old mercantile city, visit Norway’s cosmopolitan capital of Oslo or journey to Iceland.

Needed

Post Add on / Scenic Train Extension from Bergen to Oslo

Info needed or copy from file

Hotel Thon Hotel Opera – 2 nights – per brochure
 Address and phone needed
 In Oslo

There are 2 tours – which one do we want?

EXTEND YOUR CRUISE WITH 2 NIGHTS IN BERGEN & OSLO

View the world's best-preserved Viking ship at the Viking Ship Museum and see the Akershus Fortress and Royal Palace in Oslo. Board the Bergen Railway for a stunning journey over the Hardangervidda, Europe's highest mountain plateau.

ALL THIS IS INCLUDED:

2 nights accommodations: 1 night in Bergen—Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Bergen (or similar); 1 night in Oslo—Hotel Bristol (or similar)
3 meals: 2 breakfasts & 1 lunch
2 guided tours: Bergen Tour & Oslo Tour
Services of a Viking host
Scenic train journey from Bergen to Oslo on the Bergen Railway
All transfers

Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Bergen is located beside the charming wooden buildings lining the historic Bryggen wharf, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This recently renovated hotel offers two dining options, a fitness center and guest rooms with complimentary Wi-Fi.

Hotel Bristol is located in the heart of downtown Oslo. Open since 1920, this elegant hotel provides three dining options, a fitness center, complimentary Wi-Fi and comfortable guest rooms with a private bathroom.

Day 1 of extension - Bergen

Disembark your ship and begin exploring this beautiful coastal city, contrasting Bergen of old with the elegant modern-day city on an enlightening tour, highlighted by insights from your local guide. In the 19th century, Bergen was Europe's largest completely wooden city. Fire often swept through its alleyways, leading to continual reconstruction. Along narrow cobblestone streets, you will explore its surviving buildings whose styles span the centuries. Step behind the walls of the medieval Bergen Fortress and visit the incredibly preserved 13th-century Håkons Hall, used by the kings of Norway as a banquet hall. Pass the Bryggen wharf, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where merchants once loaded ships headed to Baltic cities. In the more modern section of the city, view two beloved musical theaters: the National Stage and Grieg Hall, named for the famed Norwegian composer. After the tour, proceed to the First-Class Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Bergen (or similar) and check in for your overnight stay. A Viking host is available to help you plan your time in Bergen so you can make the most of your visit.

Day 2 of extension - Oslo

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and board the Bergen Railway for your journey to Oslo, which has often been described as the most beautiful train ride in the world. You will ascend to over 4,000 feet above sea level as you cross the Hardangervidda plateau, featuring breathtaking views.

Arrive in Oslo in the afternoon and enjoy a guided tour of the city's highlights. You will see the Akershus Fortress, which has guarded the harbor for centuries; the Royal Palace, home to the beloved Norwegian Royal Family; the Parliament and the National Theater. You will also visit the Viking Ship Museum, featuring the best-preserved Viking ships in the world, along with many artifacts that were in use more than 1,200 years ago. This evening, check in to your First-Class Hotel Bristol (or similar). A Viking host is available to help you plan your time in Oslo so you can make the most of your visit. (B, L)

Destination Information: Set on a splendid bay amid stunning fjords and hills, Oslo is one of Scandinavia's most vibrant cities. It was founded by a Norseman, King Harald III, and has grown over the centuries around the cherished Akershus Fortress, a medieval and Renaissance gem central to Norway's identity. The city not only has a rich Viking past, with its close ties to the sea, but also boasts an impressive artistic heritage. Perhaps its most famous painter is Edvard Munch, whose work *The Scream* is known the world over. But Gustav Vigeland's 200 or so sculptures are the most prominent works in the city, on full display in Vigeland Park. Oslo is also the host of the annual Nobel Peace Prize Award Ceremony. Perhaps the city's most magnificent site is the Viking Ship Museum. This rich repository is the home of three remarkably intact 9th-century Viking vessels discovered at the turn of the 20th century in the Oslofjord. Weapons, tools, jewelry and the bodies of Viking chieftains were exhumed with the ships, allowing scholars to piece together a fuller understanding of Norway's seafaring past.

Day 3 - Oslo

After breakfast, depending upon your flight schedule, enjoy a morning stroll and a leisurely cup of coffee at a café on the Akershus Pier—considered one of the world's first and most successful wharf conversions. Check out of your hotel and transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

Note –

We signed up for Train from Bergen to Oslo then 2 nights in Oslo.
Above is one night in Bergen, Train, then one night in Oslo.

Wed Jun 10

?	Depart hotel
6:05am	Depart Oslo NO OSL via Lufthansa #LH 865
8:10am	Arrive Frankfurt FRA for plane change
11:20am	Depart Frankfurt FRA via UA #961
1:50pm	Arrive Newark EWR

Uber home

Links

Five Places to Visit in Bergen, Norway: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/19/travel/five-places-to-visit-in-bergen-norway-t-michaell.html>

Aalborg - A Danish City Makes You Feel Like a Member of the Club
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/28/travel/places-to-go-aalborg-denmark.html>

Norse Mythology video by Viking:
<https://www.vikingcruises.com/oceans/email/vikingheritage.html#video/norwegian-heritage>

Sweden Stands Apart - Covid
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/28/world/europe/sweden-coronavirus.html>

