

Scandinavia & The Baltic

Copenhagen

Modern Copenhagen is an attractive, well-kept city and the largest city in Scandinavia. It has a provincial, small-town atmosphere, gabled houses, narrow streets and a skyline that is dominated by delicate spires. Copenhagen is also the greenest capital in Europe with much of the city centre reserved for pedestrians, strict anti-pollution laws, and bikes often outnumbering cars on the streets. There are many green spaces (including the world-famous Tivoli) and in the summer, cafés and restaurants occupy the pavements.

Stockholm

Stockholm, the capital city of Sweden is spread across 24,000 islets and is one of the most stunning locales of any capital city in the world. Over 30% of the city area is made up of waterways and another 30% is made up of parks and green spaces, giving Stockholm perhaps the freshest air of any European capital. This natural oasis is complemented by the stunning Old Town, which has been very well preserved over the centuries. This Old Town (or Gamla Stan) is the epicentre of the city, with countless hotels, bars, restaurants and shops.

Tallin

Tallin, Estonia's capital city, is located at the north-eastern extremity of Europe on the shores of the Baltic Sea. It has been hailed as the 'New Prague', though it is more compact and easier to get around. Tallin's old core is incredibly pretty, all cobblestones, castles and church spires with an eye-catching smorgasbord of medieval and baroque architecture.

St Petersburg

Situated in the west, on the Baltic Sea, St Petersburg is a city of magnificent palaces and elaborate churches in grandiose Baroque and neo-classical designs. Highlights include Trezzini's gold-spired landmark of St Peter and St Paul, the bright colour domes and gold of the Church on Spilled Blood and the carved and gilded extravaganza of St Isaac's Cathedral. On Nevsky prospekt, St Petersburg's main thoroughfare, the styles of three centuries, from classical to Baroque to Style Moderne, have created one of the most beautiful streets in the world. Adding to the beauty of the buildings are the canals and rivers, which cross Nevsky prospect and have been compared to Venice. The winding waterways lead to the broad River Neva, at the heart of St Petersburg.

It is also the centre for classical culture - from opera to ballet to music - with historic venues, such as the Mariinsky Theatre.

Oslo

Oslo is the capital city of Norway. It is situated on a fjord and is surrounded by forests. It has developed into a thriving city with many restaurants, nightclubs, cafes, shopping complexes and tourist attractions

Bergen

Bergen is located on the south-western coast of Norway, in the county of Hordaland, in between a group of mountains known as De syv fjell ("the Seven Mountains"). It is recognised as the unofficial capital of the region known as West Norway, and also recognised and marketed as the gateway city to the world famous fjords of Norway.

Geirangerfjord

The Geirangerfjord is located in the western part of Norway in the region called Sunnmøre in the municipality of Stranda. It is one of the region's smallest fjords, but also one of its most breathtaking. A convoluted branch of the Storfjord, it cuts well inland with a tiny village at either end of the fjord. In 2005, the Geirangerfjord was listed as a Unesco World Heritage Site.

Hardangerfjord

The Hardangerfjord in the county of Hordaland in Norway is the third largest fjord in the world and the second largest in Norway. The surrounding district is called Hardanger. The Hardangerfjord starts at the Atlantic Ocean just south of Bergen (SW Norway). Here the fjord penetrates in a north easterly direction until it meets the grand mountain plateau of Hardangervidda.

Sognefjord

The Sognefjord is the world's longest passable fjord. It lies in the heart of the Norwegian fjord country and extends more than 200 km inland. At the head of the fjord you'll find the small, idyllic village of Skjolden. The Lusterfjord is the innermost arm of the Sognefjord, and this region, where the deep fjord meets the glaciers and Norway's highest mountains, is considered one of the world's most beautiful travel destinations.

