



Fjord Cruise: Norway, Finland & the Arctic

May 11-28, 2020

Travel to Norway and Finland on this Scandinavian vacation as you traverse a pristine landscape of steep, rugged mountains, narrow ocean inlets, and vivid blue fjords. During this comprehensive journey, you'll explore Finland's Lapland region – a realm of astonishing beauty – where you will encounter the enduring culture of the indigenous Sami people. Then, cruise southward through the Norwegian fjords by coastal ship for five nights near the top of the world, stopping along the way to explore cities, towns, and villages that dot the shore.

Once you disembark your ship, you'll visit Bergen, a maritime city of charming restaurants, gift shops, and museums. Then, wind down your explorations with two nights in Oslo, Norway's capital, a nature-lover's dream of 40 islands and more than 300 lakes. As you travel down the country by ship, train, coach, and ferry, you'll experience Nordic cultures with enduring ties to nature's majesty.

REMINDER: Space for this special journey is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and is truly limited. To reserve your place today, call Curtis Whitaker at (269) 209-5889. Or reserve online at www.TravelwithScottandCurtis.com. If you haven't experienced a Scott & Curtis travel adventure before, feel free to ask questions or meet with our staff. *Welcome!*



Snapshot Itinerary: Fjord Cruise: Norway, Finland & the Arctic

Travel Dates: *May 11-28, 2020*

Day 1 – **Depart U.S.**

Day 2 – **Helsinki, Finland**

Day 3 – **Helsinki**

Day 4 – **Helsinki / Saariselka**

Day 5 – **Saariselka / Sami Family Visit / Siida Museum**

Day 6 – **Saariselka / Kirkenes, Norway / Embark ship**

Day 7 – **Hammerfest / Tromso / Coastal Cruising**

Day 8 – **Vesteralen / Stokmarknes / Svolvaer /
Stamsund / Coastal Cruising**

Day 9 – **Sandnessjoen / Bronnoysund / Rorvik /
Coastal Cruising**

Day 10 – **Trondheim / Molde / Coastal Cruising**

Day 11 – **Disembark Ship / Bergen**

Day 12 – **Bergen / Optional Music of the Fjords Tour**

Day 13 – **Bergen / Norway in a Nutshell Tour / Oslo**

Day 14 – **Oslo**

Day 15 – **Oslo / Return to U.S.**





Detailed Itinerary: Fjord Cruise: Norway, Finland & the Arctic 2020

Day 1 – Depart U.S.

Travel to Scandinavia today as you depart on your flight to Helsinki, Finland.

Day 2 – Helsinki, Finland.

Morning: Arrive in Helsinki, where a driver will meet you at the airport and assist you with the transfer to your hotel.

Helsinki's historic center dates from the early 19th century, when Russia ruled Finland and designated this city as the country's new capital. As a result, the city has both a Russian look and a more modern layout than other European capitals. Graced with many buildings by noted Finnish architects such as Alvar Aalto, Helsinki today is a masterpiece of urban design. Depending on when you arrive, you may also enjoy a guided orientation walk with your Program Director to give you the lay of the land in your Helsinki neighborhood.

Lunch/Afternoon: Yours to do as you please. Your Program Director will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities. Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Day 3 – Helsinki

Morning: After an orientation briefing, set off on an included Helsinki city tour. Among the highlights is Senate Square, where you'll discover many ornate Empire Neo-classical buildings, including the 19th-century Lutheran Cathedral, whose central tower dominates the city. Like Times Square in New York City, this is the place where residents gather for celebration of special occasions, such as New Year's Eve and Independence Day (December 6th). Admire the onion domes of Uspenski Cathedral, the most important Russian Orthodox church in Finland. As you wind your way through the city, you'll notice how the sea is an integral part of Helsinki; the city spreads out onto islands, peninsulas, and along coves among which boats of all descriptions navigate.

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Lunch/Afternoon: On your own – ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations. You might choose to browse the cuisine available at the local market. Dinner: Get acquainted with your Program Director and your fellow travelers – including those returning from their pre-trip extensions to St. Petersburg, Russia Stockholm, Sweden – over a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish – ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 4 – Helsinki / Saariselka

Morning: Depart for Saariselka in northern Finland – flying to Rovaniemi then completing the journey overland by bus (about a four-hour drive).

Important Travel Notes:

- For your comfort and safety, we recommend this tour for individuals in good physical condition. If you have difficulty walking, this may be a difficult trip for you.
- We reserve the right to cancel this tour due to insufficient registration. Full refund will be given if tour is canceled due to insufficient registration.
- If traveling alone, we will match you up with a roommate (this tour is double occupancy only).
- Please read the “What to Expect” box on the next page carefully. If you have further questions, call Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**.

Saariselka is your base of exploration for Lapland, the home of the Sami, the indigenous people who have lived in northern Scandinavia since prehistoric times. Lapland, also called Samiland, spans northern parts of Finland, Norway, and Sweden. Although the Sami are a minority of today’s population in northern Finland, their cultural traditions endure.

Lunch/Afternoon: Yours to do as you please. Your Program Director will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish – ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 5 – Saariselka / Sami Family Visit / Siida Museum

Morning: Begin a day full of insight into rural life in Finland, starting with a visit to the Siida Museum, which focuses on Sami and northern Lapland culture and nature.

Next, enjoy an intimate look into this unique culture during a visit with a Sami family, where you'll learn about the importance of reindeer and their role in the life of the Sami.

Lunch: Join your hosts for an included Sami-style lunch on the farm.

Afternoon: Visit a husky farm in the countryside, where you'll chat with the workers and learn about the part that their friendly dogs play in this pastoral way of life.

Dinner/Evening: Enjoy another enriching cultural encounter during a Home-Hosted Dinner with a local Finnish family. This exclusive Discovery Series event offers yet another unique insight into daily life in Finland, as you converse with your hosts and sample their specialties.

Day 6 – Saariselka / Kirkenes, Norway / Embark Ship

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Travel to Norway through rural Lapland and cross the border to Kirkenes, a Norwegian port near the Russian border. Strategically significant for its iron ore resources and its location near the Russian port of Murmansk, Kirkenes was occupied by 100,000 Nazi troops during World War II.

Lunch/Afternoon: Board your Hurtigruten Norwegian Coastal Voyages ship early this afternoon in time for lunch onboard. Shortly after you embark, the ship sets sail to begin one of the world's most scenic coastal cruises, with the islands and mountains of Norway as your constant companions. As a working vessel, your ship visits many ports, and if its strict cargo delivery schedule allows, you'll have time at some of them to go ashore for sightseeing.

Dinner: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

Day 7 – Hammerfest / Tromsø / Coastal Cruising

Morning: As you cruise along the coast of the Norwegian county of Finnmark today, you sail through a region filled with "northernmosts." First, the ship docks at Hammerfest, Europe's northernmost city, where the midnight sun shines from mid-May to late July. Hammerfest is a

What to Expect:

Fjord Cruise: Norway, Finland & the Arctic 2020

■ **Physical Requirements:** Walk 2-3 miles unassisted and participate in 2 hours of physical activities daily, including stairs. Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters. Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them. We reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience.

■ **Terrain & Transportation:** Uneven walking surfaces, including unpaved paths, hills, stairs, and cobblestones. Travel by 45-seat coach and train. Climate.

■ **Climate:** Daytime temperatures range from 35-80°F during cruising season. June-August are the warmest months. May and September weather can be unpredictable and change quickly.

Passport & Visa Information

Passport: Your passport should meet these requirements for this itinerary. It should be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S. It should have the recommended number of blank pages (refer to the handbook for details). The blank pages must be labeled "Visas" at the top. Pages labeled "Amendments and Endorsements" are not acceptable. **Visas:** U.S. citizens will need a visa (or visas) for this trip. In addition, there may be other entry requirements that also need to be met. Travelers who are booked on this vacation will be sent a complete Visa Packet— with instructions, applications, and a list of visa fees—approximately 100 days prior to their departure. (Because many countries limit the validity of their visa from the date it is issued, or have a specific time window for when you can apply, we do not recommend applying too early.) If you are not a U.S. citizen, do not travel with a U.S. passport, or will be traveling independently before/after this trip, then your entry requirements may be different.

Vaccinations Information

For a detailed and up-to-date list of vaccinations that are recommended for this trip, please visit the CDC's "Traveler's Health" website at: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel> 60 days in advance.



thoroughly modern and delightfully bustling city, a lively urban oasis at the top of the world that makes a memorable port of call as you begin your journey southward down the coast.

Lunch: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: Continue your cruise towards Tromsø.

Dinner: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

Day 8 – Vesteralen / Stokmarknes / Svolvær / Stamsund / Coastal Cruising

Morning: Cruise south today, reaching the Lofoten Islands, where towering mountain peaks rise sharply from the sea to form dramatic vistas in the arctic light. This is one of Scandinavia's scenic highlights, which has inspired generations of artists.

You'll step off the ship at Harstad for an included tour of Vesteralen's mountainous landscapes – featuring a stop at a local farm – as well as Stokmarknes, a small town located on the island of Hadsel, and home to the Hurtigruten Museum. Its exhibits feature photographs, model ships, films, and paintings displaying the history of

Norwegian coastal steamer traditions.

Lunch: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: The ship will then sail to Svolvær on the island of Austvågøy, beneath the two-horned mountain called the Svolvær Goat (Svolværgita). Explore the town on a discovery walk with your Program Director, during which you'll see an abundance of fish-drying racks, evidence of the importance of the historically rich fishing grounds in this area. You'll then cruise to Stamsund, a small village known for its colorful rorbuer, traditional Norwegian fishermen's shacks.

Dinner: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

Day 9 – Sandnessjøen / Bronnoysund / Rorvik / Coastal Cruising

Morning: From the Lofotens, your cruise takes you across the broad Vestfjord, then south across the Arctic Circle.

Sail past Sandnessjøen, located on the island of Alsten, with soaring views of the De Syv Sostre ("The Seven Sisters") Mountains. Then, cruise to Bronnoysund, a town that has seen a rise in economic growth in recent years



– including serving as home to the largest limestone mine in Northern Europe, as well as prosperous industries like wood processing. You'll explore the town on an included discovery walk.

Lunch: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: You'll continue south to Rorvik. The fjords in this area, like many along the cruise route, are a bird-watcher's paradise.

Dinner: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

Day 10 – Trondheim / Molde / Coastal Cruising

Morning: Today, you'll visit ports displaying amazing contrasts between old and new. First, enjoy an included Trondheim city tour. Founded in AD 997, this was once the capital of Norway, as well as an important pilgrimage site for followers of St. Olav, a Norwegian king and Catholic martyr. The city's old *veitene* (narrow alleys) wind among its markets, Archbishop's Palace, Old Town Bridge, and historic 17th-century warehouses. You'll tour the city and get a look at the outside of the city cathedral before returning to the ship.

Lunch: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: Resume your cruise by sailing out through the beautiful Trondheimsfjord.

Dinner: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

Day 11 – Disembark Ship / Bergen

Morning: Enjoy passing a beautiful archipelago of islands as you cruise towards Bergen.

Lunch: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: Disembark the ship and set out on a tour of Bergen. The Bryggen (Wharf) area contains the fascinating historical buildings that inspired UNESCO to declare the city a World Heritage Site. Built after the Great Fire of 1702, these old wooden counting houses and warehouses with their stately gables stretch along the harbor and narrow alleyway and once served as the headquarters for the Hanseatic League.

After you check in at your hotel, enjoy a short vicinity walk to orient yourself with the neighborhood with your Program Director.

Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Day 12 – Bergen / Optional Music of the Fjords Tour

Morning: Enjoy a day to experience more of Bergen at leisure. You could explore the 13th-century Bergen Cathedral, the charming Old Town, and the Aquarium, known for its rare penguins.

Or, join us for an optional tour to discover the Music of the Fjords. Begin your exploration of Norway’s musical legacy at the home of Edvard Grieg, one of the most important composers of the Romantic era of the 19th century. Grieg’s works helped to launch Norway into prominence on the international scene, and to define the Romantic genre as a whole. Learn more about his legacy during a tour of his home (now a museum) and then be treated to a piano concert performed by a professional pianist.

Lunch: If you’ve elected to join our optional tour, you’ll enjoy an included lunch at a local restaurant. Otherwise, lunch is on your own – ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: Today’s musical optional tour continues at your next stop, where, after lunch, you’ll attend a demon-

stration of the Hardanger fiddle, a unique stringed instrument reminiscent of the violin, which is centrally featured in the performance of Norwegian classical music. An expert fiddle player will introduce you to its unique sound during a short performance.

Return to Bergen this afternoon, where the rest of the day is free for your own discoveries – ask your Program Director for recommendations. Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Music of the Fjords - \$140/person

Delve into the musical history of Norway on this half-day optional tour. Begin at the former home of Edvard Grieg, a legendary Norwegian composer of the Romantic era. Grieg’s works helped to put Norway on the musical map, and to define this era of classical music. Tour his home (which is now a museum) and then attend a concert performance by an expertly-trained pianist. Then, after lunch (included in the cost of this optional tour), learn about the Hardanger fiddle, a uniquely Norwegian string instrument with an important place in Norwegian folk and classical music during a discussion and demonstration with a fiddle player.



Day 13 – Bergen / Norway in a Nutshell Tour / Oslo

Morning: Embark on an included Norway in a Nutshell tour, making discoveries by both train and motorcoach. Travel by train from Bergen to Myrdal early this morning. At Myrdal, you'll hop aboard the vintage Flam Railway for a spectacular ride across the steep and narrow Flam Valley. You'll admire waterfalls and glacier-carved ravines as you ride towards Flam, where you'll board a motorcoach that will take you to Oslo.

Lunch: Enjoy an included light lunch as you travel to Oslo.

Afternoon: Arrive in Oslo late this afternoon and check into your hotel.

Dinner/Evening: Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

Day 14 – Oslo

Morning: Explore Oslo on an included tour during which you'll visit the whimsical Vigeland Sculpture Park, featuring a collection of more than 200 granite, bronze, and wrought iron statues examining the cycle of life and the human form, including world famous works like The Monolith (a 46-foot high obelisk composed of 121 intertwined bodies). You'll also stop at the Viking Ship Museum to see some of the best-preserved Viking ships in the world.

Lunch: On your own – ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: Free for your own discoveries – ask your Program Director for recommendations. You might choose to visit the National Gallery, featuring works of art by Norwegian masters, including native son Edvard Munch. You might also consider visiting Akershus Castle, a medieval fortress that houses the Norwegian Resistance Museum, which documents efforts to overthrow the Nazis, who occupied Norway during World War II. Or view the Royal Palace, constructed between 1825 and 1848 and the official residence of Norway's royal family, and Oslo City Hall, where the Nobel Peace Prize is presented every tenth of December.

Dinner: Join your fellow travelers at your hotel for a Farewell Dinner to recount your favorite memories from your Norwegian vacation.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish – ask your Program Director for recommendations.

What's Included in the Package

- International round-trip airfare from Detroit Metro Airport to and from Scandinavia, plus all flights within Scandinavia.
- Accommodations for 8 nights in comfortable rooms with private baths, and 5 nights aboard a Hurtigruten Norwegian Coastal Voyage Ship.
- 30 meals: 13 breakfasts, 8 lunches, and 9 dinners (including 1 home-hosted dinner).
- 15 included features: 13 guided tours and 2 exclusive Discovery Series events: Sami family visit / Home-Hosted Dinner.
- Exclusive services of a local Grand Circle Program Director
- Personal headset for all included and optional tours on your main trip (except tours offered through the Hurtigruten Coastal Voyage Ship)
- Private motorcoach travel on your main trip
- Baggage handling for 1 bag per person
- Gratuities on your main trip for local guides and motorcoach drivers

Day 15 – Oslo / Return to U.S.

Transfer to the Oslo airport for your flight home. Or begin your post-trip extension in Oslo, Norway, or Copenhagen, Denmark.





Pricing Summary & Trip Dates

Trip Name: Fjord Cruise: Norway, Finland & the Arctic

Trip Dates: May 11-28, 2020

Trip Prices (depending on cabin aboard ship):

Main Trip, Category I: \$6,495 per person

Main Trip, Category O: \$7,295 per person

Main Trip, Category B: \$7,895 per person

Airfare from Detroit (DTW): \$1,400 per person

Travel Protection: \$899-\$999 per person depending on cabin category; not required but is highly recommended. For details, please call Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**.

Reservation Deposit: The deposit to reserve your space on this trip is \$500 per person fully refundable until 65 days prior to departure. Remaining balance due 90 days before departure.

Need Help? For personal assistance or more information about this trip in the meantime, please call Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**.

TOUR RESERVATION POLICY:

Reservations can be made by calling Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**. A \$500 deposit is required to guarantee your place (check, cash or credit card accepted), fully refundable until 65 days prior to departure. Remaining balance due 90 days before departure.

Note: The information, dates and prices provided in this document are estimates only based on currently available information. Pricing and itinerary are subject to change.

Pricing Disclaimer: *Every effort will be made to provide accurate pricing information. Operator reserves the right to correct promotional or pricing errors at any time, or to increase the trip price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, cruise fares, currency fluctuations, venue fee increases, taxes, or fuel surcharges, or other reasons, unless you pre-paid according to the terms of the Good Buy Plan prior to the cost increase going into effect. For more information, please call Curtis Whitaker at **(269) 209-5889**.*