Explore eight countries united by the Baltic Sea, discover their intertwined histories, and encounter fascinating cultures. Delve deeper through dramatic water approaches, foray into character-filled villages and island stops for quiet walks. Wander along the medieval walled city of Visby, explore dazzling St. Petersburg over two days, dine on local specialties and enjoy private musical performances—or have a deck party in the tranquil Swedish Archipelago. Enjoy ample choices and avenues for exploration in each of the cities. And explore from a privileged vantage point—going by ship allows us to sail routes of the old Hanseatic League, in the paths of early traders and nobles, and it lets us enter the cities as they were meant to be—by sea.

DAY 1-2: Copenhagen, Denmark/Embark
Fly overnight and arrive in Denmark’s capital on Day 2. Board National Geographic Explorer. Cruise the charming canals of this old maritime city. (L,D)

DAY 3: Lübeck, Germany
Lübeck, medieval capital of the Hanseatic League and its intact ensemble of step-gabled merchants’ houses, red-bricked warehouses and narrow alleys are protected as a World Heritage Site. Our Zodiac or walking tour will take us to Buddenbrockhaus, home of Lübeck’s famous sons, authors Heinrich and Thomas Mann. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: Christiansø and Bornholm, Denmark
This morning will be an expedition morning on the small island of Christiansø, where you’ll have a chance to take a morning hike with our naturalists or National Geographic photographer. This afternoon on Bornholm you may hike up to the cliff-top ruins of Hammershus fortress, explore the island’s round churches and white sandy beaches, or opt for a smoked herring tasting and a leisurely stroll around the fishing harbor. (B,L,D)
DAY 5: Gdańsk, Poland
See Gdańsk’s art and architecture, including the Gothic-Renaissance Town Hall and National Museum. Visit the Westerplatte peninsula, where WWII began. See the European Solidarity Center. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: Klaipeda, Lithuania
Explore the wild barrier peninsula called the Curonian Spit, a UNESCO World Heritage site shared by Lithuania and Russia. Learn of folk tales at the Hill of Witches and see some of Europe’s tallest sand dunes; spend the morning at the Ventė Cape Ornithological Station to explore the lighthouse and dunes while learning about migratory bird populations. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: Riga, Latvia
Tour Riga’s wooden houses, art nouveau architecture, cafes, and the Central Market. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: Tallinn, Estonia
Cross the Gulf of Riga to Estonia arriving in Tallinn this morning. You may choose to stroll the medieval streets of Town Hall Square on a guided walking excursion through the walled, cobbled-stoned Old Town with its Kiek in de Kök, a 15th-century defensive tower. Take in the view from Dome Hill of Tallinn’s picturesque spires and gables. (B,L,D)

DAY 9-10: St. Petersburg, Russia
Discover this dazzling gem over two days, including the renowned art collection of the Hermitage, the Peter and Paul Fortress, St. Isaac’s Cathedral, and the opulent royal palace and parks of Catherine the Great at Pushkin. (B,L,D)

DAY 11: Exploring Coastal Finland
Discover Finland’s intricate coastline with numerous bays, inlets, and islands rich with natural history and ripe for exploration by kayak and Zodiac. (B,L,D)

DAY 12: Cruising Stockholm Archipelago, Sweden
Cruise the Stockholm archipelago on your way from coastal Finland to Sweden’s beautiful capital. Keep your camera handy through the scenic archipelago to arrive in Stockholm, a city built on 14 islands. (B,L,D)

DAY 13: Stockholm
See the royal Vasa warship and stroll the streets of the Old Town. We stay docked overnight so you can enjoy this magical Scandinavian city. (B,L,D)

DAY 14: Visby, Gotland, Sweden
Enjoy a walking tour of the Viking city of Visby, wandering through its cobbled-stoned streets to the edge of the city’s stone walls. End at the Gotland Museum, where you’ll learn of the island’s fascinating history. Alternatively, opt to bike across the Gotland countryside with a local guide. (B,L,D)

DAY 15: Exploring Southern Sweden
Spend the day exploring the Southern archipelago of Sweden. (B,L,D)

DAY 16: Copenhagen/Disembark
Disembark ship this morning and transfer to flight. (B)

2020 Departure Dates:
2 May

Important Flight Information
* Please confirm arrival and departure dates prior to booking. Day 1 of this itinerary is the day of embarkation.

Advance Payment:
$2,500

Sample Airfares:
Economy: from $800
Business: from $3,800
Airfares are subject to change

Cost Includes:
Accommodations; meals indicated; excursions; services of Lindblad Expeditions’ Leader, Naturalist staff and expert guides; use of kayaks, bicycles; entrance fees; all port charges and service taxes; bar tab and gratuities to ship’s crew.

Cost Not Included:
Immigration fees are not included. Air transportation; personal items such as emails, laundry, etc.
National Geographic Explorer

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(1) Travel Protection Plan
We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or lost of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. and Canadian residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date. Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased. Learn more about our Travel Protection “Plus” Plan: https://www.expeditions.com/TravelProtection/

(2) Cancellation Plan
Review our cancellation plan: https://www.expeditions.com/reservations/cancellation-policy/