

BALTIC ARCHIPELAGOS: ISLANDS OF DENMARK, SWEDEN & FINLAND

8 Days | Expeditions in: |

Trace the northern shores of Baltic Sea from Copenhagen to the Gulf of Finland, encountering beautiful islands and historic cities. Cruise between age-old fishing hamlets of bright colored houses, meander through medieval trading towns, and explore the rugged islands of Christiansø and the Stockholm Archipelago. Immerse yourself in the traditions of Finland's Swedish-speaking corner, and travel back to the vestiges of Hanseatic traders, Vikings, and Nordic heroes



DAY 1: Copenhagen, Denmark/Embark

Embark the *National Geographic Orion* then settle into your cabin and prepare for an evening departure. (L,D)



DAY 2: Christiansø

Zodiacs take us to the almost uninhabited island of Christiansø, where Danish fortifications date from 1684. Explore the craggy shores and lighthouse—the first in Denmark Christiansø, and just one type of mammal, the hedgehog. Look for eider ducks, razorbills, and more nested on the small island of Græsholmen, a bird sanctuary. (B,L,D)



DAY 3: Visby, Gotland, Sweden

Spend the day exploring Visby, one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Scandinavia. Founded as a Viking settlement, the town became a center of the Hanseatic trade in the 12th to 14th centuries. Stroll the cobblestone streets of the enchanting old town and walk along its nearly two-mile-long, 13th-century wall. Ride a bike through town or along the many bike paths across the island of Gotland. This evening join us for a special night on Gotland with a Swedish dinner and a private concert by Swedish folk music group, Väsen. (B,L,D)

Extremely picturesque, Visby is perfect for a guided photo walk through medieval neighborhoods capped off with a visit to the Gotland Museum.



DAY 4: Stockholm Archipelago

Anchor near the small island of Utö and explore its quiet coves by kayak. Or, take a Zodiac to the island to walk through Utö's nature preserve. Keep your camera handy as we maneuver through the scenic Stockholm Archipelago to dock in the heart of Stockholm, the city built on 14 islands. (B,L,D)

You'll arrive in Stockholm like no one else: via Zodiac through the lush greenery of the Djurgården Canal.





DAY 5: Stockholm

The great Scandinavian maritime capital of Stockholm provides some favorite experiences: view the royal *Vasa* warship (which capsized in Stockholm harbor in 1628 and was salvaged and restored 350 years later.) Take a walking tour of Old Town Gamla Stan, or learn about Sweden's living history at the Skansen open-air museum. This afternoon enjoy time on your own or take a tasting tour of Swedish sweets in the Gamla Stan. We stay docked overnight so you can enjoy this magical Scandinavian city. (B,L,D)

Take a rooftop walk across the Old Town. Yes, opt to buckle up in your safety harness and step along the narrow rooftop path that only we will follow. You'll be stunned by the fantastic views and the fascinating stories that your guide will narrate.



DAY 6: Mariehamn, Åland, Finland

Sail to the Åland Islands, an autonomous, Swedish-speaking, Finnish territory. In Mariehamn, the capital, visit the four-masted merchant sailing ship *Pommern*, and visit the Åland Maritime Museum, or bicycle out into the countryside. Tonight we have a special tasting ashore while we hear traditional sea shanties from the Age of Sail. (B,L,D)



DAY 7: Turku

Visit Turku, the oldest city in Finland. Explore Turku Castle, the Luostarinmäki Handicrafts Museum, or the artwork and underground ruins at Aboa Vetus and Ars Nova museum. This afternoon cruise via Zodiac to a small island for nature hikes and a relaxing swim. (B,L,D)

Experience an authentic Finnish sauna in the good ol' outdoors. Take a sauna or a swim in the waters of one of the many islands in Turku's Archipelago.



DAY 8: Tallinn, Estonia/Disembark

Disembark today for flights home or remain for an added stay in our centrally-located hotel in Tallinn. (B)

Cost Includes:

All accommodations aboard ship, meals as indicated, alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages aboard ship, excursions, sightseeing and entrance fees, special access permits, transfers to and from group flights, use of kayaks and snorkeling equipment, services of Lindblad Expeditions' Leader, National Geographic photographer, naturalist staff and expert guides, services of a ship physician, all gratuities, and all port charges and service taxes.

Note: All departures include alcoholic beverages and tips to the ship's crew.

Cost Not Included:

Air transportation, extensions, passport, visa, immigration fees, travel protection plan, internet, and laundry.