DAY 1: Arrive in Amsterdam

Welcome to the start of your tour! Your tour leader will be waiting for you at our accommodation during the afternoon. After everyone's checked in, we'll take a canal cruise of the city - one of the best ways to see this amazing city and its sights! We'll also enjoy dinner on-board as the city drifts by. Afterwards, your time is yours to spend as you like. Stroll around the canals (don’t forget to keep an eye out for the bicycles!) as you explore this fascinating and picturesque city!

Experiences

Amsterdam Canal Cruise: Sail along Amsterdam's stunning canals at twilight and enjoy a delicious pizza as you cruise. A perfect introduction to Amsterdam, you will cruise along the atmospheric canals.

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✗  Lunch: ✗  Dinner: ✓

DAY 2: Amsterdam - Hamburg - Northern Germany
We depart Amsterdam this morning and make our way to Germany, stopping along the way at a local Dutch farm to see how clogs (traditional Dutch footwear) and local cheeses are produced in the traditional way. After sampling some delicious cheese (this is the perfect place to pick up a souvenir of your time in the Netherlands), we'll make our way onward to a photo stop at a nearby windmill - a common sight in the Dutch countryside! We then travel through northern Germany, arriving in Hamburg for a quick comfort stop late afternoon. We'll then make our way to our accommodation in the north of Germany.

Experiences

Visit the Riekermolen Windmill: Travel through the Dutch countryside and enjoy a photo stop at an iconic Dutch windmill.

Cheese and clogs demonstration: Enjoy a visit to a local farm and see how these famous shoes are traditionally crafted by hand. You will also see how Dutch cheese is made and get to taste some fantastic cheeses! This is a great place to shop for some unique souvenirs!

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✓  Lunch: X  Dinner: X

Accommodation

Good morning + Bad Oldesloe

DAY 3: Northern Germany - Copenhagen

This morning after breakfast we'll cross the border and make our way to the Danish capital of Copenhagen. Welcome to Scandinavia! As we cross the border onto Danish soil, the drive towards Copenhagen offers fantastic views, and we will cross Europe's longest bridge. On arrival in the Danish capital, you'll enjoy a tour of the city, where your tour leader will introduce you to highlights of the...
city, including the parliament house, Tivoli, town hall, Rosenborg, and the little mermaid statue. The city's prosperity and confidence are hard to miss, and it'll soon be evident why this charming city has been voted one of the world's most liveable so many years in a row. It's clean, safe, and very easy to get around - and blessed with cosy cafés and world-famous restaurants!

**Experiences**

**Orientation tour:** Enjoy an orientation tour of the Danish capital, during which you will see sights including the town hall, Rosenborg and the little mermaid statue.

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<th>Included Meals</th>
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<tr>
<td>Breakfast: ✓</td>
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**DAY 4: Helsingør - Stockholm**

This morning we'll leave Copenhagen and take a short drive north to the port town of Helsingør. This town is home to Kronborg Castle, known to many as 'Elsinore' and the setting for Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'. We'll see the castle from the water as we take a short ferry ride to Sweden. It's then a long drive from the port of Helsingborg through the stunning rural Swedish scenery as we head toward the capital, Stockholm. Look out for lakes, forests and rolling fields as we drive! On arrival in Stockholm, we'll enjoy a stroll through Gamla Stan and see The Royal Palace, Nobel Museum, Riksdagshuset (Parliament) and more. The rest of the evening is yours to enjoy a dinner of your choice.

**Experiences**

**Orientation tour:** Enjoy an orientation tour of Gamla Stan - your tour leader will introduce you to the sights, which you can explore further during your free time tomorrow morning.

**Included Meals**

| Breakfast: ✓ | Lunch: ✗ | Dinner: ✓ |

**DAY 5: Stockholm free morning - Helsinki (Overnight Ferry)**
Spend time this morning exploring the city of Stockholm! Head back to Gamla Stan and revisit your favourite sights from the orientation tour the night before. The numerous islands that make up the town offer fascinating walks, especially through the Djurgården, where you have the option to visit the Vasa Museum. Otherwise, spot beautiful old ships in the harbour and visit some of the many world-class museums and art galleries. See if you can catch the changing of the guards at the Royal Palace! This afternoon we take an overnight ferry to Helsinki in Finland.

**Optional Excursions**

Vasa Museum: € 20

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

**DAY 6: Helsinki**

Arriving in the late morning, you'll have the whole afternoon to explore the Finnish capital at your own pace. An effortlessly cool city, Helsinki prides itself on being slightly off-the-wall, playing with decor and design traditions to humorous effect. Elegant cafés, magnificent museums and impressive Art Nouveau architecture all combine to create a city that is certain to leave an impression!
Orientation tour of Helsinki: Visit the Havis Amanda, the famous art nouveau fountain features a lady in the nude. It is said to symbolise the birth of the city of Helsinki. Also explore the famous Senate Square and its buildings, a beautiful example of neoclassical architecture. In the city's historic centre, visit Helsinki Cathedral - Finland's most photographed building and yet another neoclassical marvel. Set foot in Uspenski Cathedral, the largest orthodox church in Western Europe. Finish with a walk through Kauppatori Market, the ideal place to pick up some keepsakes and well-priced Finnish crafts.

DAY 7: Helsinki - St Petersburg

This morning, we'll depart Helsinki and make our way to the Russian border; get your passport at the ready for a new stamp that will be a real talking point! We then continue on to the Russian city of St Petersburg! On arrival, we'll enjoy a comprehensive city tour with our local guide, spotting some of the more notable buildings and sights, including views of the iconic Church of the Saviour on Blood. Built by Italian architects and sporting neoclassical and baroque architecture that overlooks its many canals, this city stands in stark contrast to the red brick and onion domes of Moscow.

Experiences

Driving tour: Enjoy a driving tour of St Petersburg with an expert local guide, giving you a comprehensive view of the city. Take note of all the sights that you can then visit during your two full free days. Your Russian tour guide will arrange for a complimentary vodka tasting.

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✔️  Lunch: ❌  Dinner: ✔️

Accommodation

Radisson Blu Hotelli Espoo

DAY 8: St Petersburg: Free Day

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✔️  Lunch: ❌  Dinner: ✔️

Accommodation

Matisov Domik Hotel
Today is all yours to explore St Petersburg! Why not visit some of the great sights you saw on last night's tour? Alternatively, join our day trip excursion to the Russian capital, Moscow. An expert local guide will take you on a tour of the Kremlin grounds, the orthodox churches of the Tsar, and Moscow city and all its sights. Finish off the day on the high-speed train back to St. Petersburg! This is a full day trip, with approximately 6-7 hours to enjoy Moscow accompanied by an English-speaking guide.

Please note: this excursion must be pre-booked; contact us for more information.

### Included Meals

| Breakfast: ✓ | Lunch: ✗ | Dinner: ✗ |

### Accommodation

Matisov Domik Hotel

### Optional Excursions

Moscow Day Trip: €245

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

**DAY 9: St Petersburg: Free Day**

Another free day in St Petersburg! Use your time to explore this fascinating city. Perhaps join us on our optional tour of the world-famous Hermitage & Peterhof with a local guide. See the Hermitage Museum, founded by Catherine the Great and now one of the largest and oldest museums in the world, the Winter Palace and enjoy a lunch at the Peterhof palace! This evening, an optional
traditional Russian folk show is not be missed! Your tour leader will organise everything for you, including vodka and canapés.

Optional Excursions

Hermitage & Peterhof: € 90
Russian Folkshow: € 50

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 10: St Petersburg - Tallinn

We travel once again to the Russian border, and then on to the capital of Estonia. Tallinn is one of Europe's most enchanting cities, with a strong medieval influence contrasting with its more modern buildings. A local guide will take us on a walking tour, as we explore the winding cobbled lanes overlooked by medieval church spires. Listed as one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites, Tallinn offers intriguing history while also managing to be a shopper's paradise. Ancient practices such as glass-blowing and pottery share attention with Estonia's hippest young fashion designers. After the included dinner this evening, be sure to check out the alternative nightlife that Tallinn has to offer - from medieval taverns to hip bars and clubs.

Experiences

Helsinki to Tallinn ferry crossing: Hop aboard the ferry from Finland to Estonia across the Gulf of Finland. The crossing takes between 2 and 3 hours, with lovely views and plenty of time to take in the scenery.

Guided tour of Tallinn: The proud European capital of Tallinn is a photographer's dream. Think medieval churches, cobbled walkways and a vibrant, contemporary culture that draws you in from the moment you set foot in the city. Our walking tour of Tallinn takes in some of its best-loved highlights. This will include St Olav's church, the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Tall Hermann Tower, Town Hall Square & more.

DAY 11: Tallinn - Riga

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✔️ Lunch: ✗ Dinner: ✗  

Accommodation

Matisov Domik Hotel

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✔️ Lunch: ✗ Dinner: ✔️  

Accommodation

Hestia Hotel Seaport  

Hotel Metropol
Leaving Estonia, we enter Latvia and make for Riga, possibly the most vibrant of the Baltic cities and blessed with a culture that you'll find irresistible. In contrast to its smaller neighbours, Riga goes all out with a buzzing atmosphere and impressive Art-Nouveau architecture. On arrival, your tour leader will take you on a walking tour of this impressive city and you can explore some of its famous landmarks and sights, including the famous central markets and many beautiful churches. Don't forget to visit the skyline bar this evening for incredible panoramic views of Riga.

**Experiences**

- **See Saulkrasti.** The seaside town of Saulkrasti is a great place to drink in the beauty of the Latvian shoreline without huge crowds. This is where the locals head when they go to the beach.

- **Latvian War Cemetery.** Also called the Brothers' Cemetery or Cemetery of the Brethren, the Latvian War Cemetery is a national monument that commemorates the sacrifice of 2,000+ Latvian soldiers who gave their lives for their country during 1915 - 1920, fighting in World War I and the Latvian War of Independence.

- **Orientation tour of Riga.** Riga is the largest of the three Baltic capitals and has a cosmopolitan atmosphere that makes for wonderful exploration. Take a walking tour that introduces you to some of its most popular attractions. This includes Riga Dom Cathedral, the Three Brothers, Parliament House and the Old City Wall.

**Included Meals**

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**Accommodation**

- Hestia Hotel Jugend

**DAY 12: Hill of Crosses - Vilnius**
Making our way into Lithuania, we stop first at the Hill of Crosses. This pilgrimage site is loaded with around 100,000 crosses. They were first placed here back in 1831 by the relatives of those who fell during the local rebellion. Once we arrive in Vilnius, we enjoy an orientation tour of the city before enjoying some free time. Lithuania's capital exudes Old Town charm - so much so that it's been added to UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites. In contrast to the medieval history, there are also reminders of Vilnius' more recent and darker past, including remnants of the ghettos where the Jewish community lived during Nazi occupation, and the influence of the Soviet Union.

Experiences

**Hill of Crosses tour.** The Kryziu Kalnas Hill of Crosses in Lithuania has been one of the world's most singular expressions of human faith and sacrifice for over 100 years. Religious pilgrims have flocked here for centuries, but the tradition of leaving crosses only started in 1831. This is when the Russian tsar was put down and relatives of rebels who lost their lives in the fighting left crosses on the hill to honour the fallen. Today there are 200,000+ crosses carvings and shrines all over this hill of hope.

**Orientation tour of Vilnius.** The city of Vilnius is a place of true authenticity. It proudly displays its battle scars and honours its turbulent history with museums and monuments dedicated to the losses its people suffered during the Holocaust and KGB regime. Yet, it's also beautiful - 40% of the city is given over to green spaces and its wonderful old buildings now house contemporary cafes, boutiques and galleries. Our sightseeing tour will include attractions such as the Vilnius Town Hall, the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, Adam Mickiewicz statue and Vilnius Cathedral.

**Included Meals**

| Breakfast: ✓ | Lunch: ✓ | Dinner: ✓ |

**Accommodation**

Green Park Hotel Vilnius

DAY 13: Trakai - Warsaw
Our final destination in Lithuania is a comfort stop at Europe’s only historic national park, the town of Trakai. The main attraction is undoubtedly a view of the iconic brick-built castle at its centre, which lies on an island surrounded by crystal clear water. Then, we head towards the Polish border. The cultural hub of Poland, Warsaw is a city of energy and action, racing to replace what was lost after being utterly destroyed in World War II. On arrival, a local guide will take you on a city tour, focusing on the faithfully reconstructed Old Town, before going for a traditional Polish dinner.

Experiences

**Trakai:** Make a stop at Trakai, Europe’s only historic national park.

**Local-guided tour of Warsaw:** Explore the city in the slipstream of a seasoned Warsaw travel guide. From the Royal Castle with its incredible museum, to the verdant Lazienki Park, the Palace of Culture and Science and the UNESCO-accredited Old Town that was rebuilt after the war based on 18th century paintings by Italian artist Canaletto, there are plenty of attractions to keep you mesmerised for an entire afternoon (and more!).

**Included Meals**

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**Accommodation**

Radisson Blu Sobieski

**DAY 14: Warsaw: Free Day**
Today is yours to spend as you wish! Visit some of the highly regarded museums, such as the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, the Chopin Museum, or the extensive collections of the National Museum. Being Sunday, you can enjoy free entry to the Royal Palace and the occasional free music concert in Łazienki Park. Alternatively, you can further explore the Old Town, or join us on an exhilarating optional Communist tour of Warsaw. You will be driven around in Communist-era Nysa vans, with eccentric drivers and an expert local guide!

### Optional Excursions

Communist Nysa tour: €25

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

### DAY 15: Poznan - Berlin

Heading west through Poland, today’s morning stop is in Poznan, famous for its historic old town and as a coronation city of the early Polish kings. Enjoy your free time to have lunch and admire the colourful buildings and beautiful architecture of the Old Market Square. We then cross into Germany and continue to the city of Berlin! The German capital prospered under the rule of the Nazis leading up to the Second World War, but then endured division during the Cold War, symbolised in the infamous Berlin Wall. Reminders of the past are everywhere, but Berlin has a vibrant culture to enjoy. On arrival, we’ll take a driving tour through the city and see some of the city’s more famous landmarks, including Brandenburg Gate and Checkpoint Charlie.

### Experiences

**Lunch stop in Poznan:** Enjoy free time to sample some delicious Polish cuisine and explore the Old Market Square in Poznan. Faithfully reconstructed following the Second World War, this beautiful square is home to many of the city’s most famous landmarks and monuments, including the Town Hall, colourful townhouses and the Pranger, a 16th century punishment device.

**Orientation and driving tour of Berlin:** Your tour leader will explain the amazing history of this vibrant city and show you all the must-see sights, including Alexanderplatz, Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie, the Berlin Wall and Reichstag. Take note of those you want to explore further on your free day tomorrow!

### Included Meals

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### Accommodation

- **Radisson Blu Sobieski**

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### Accommodation

- **Aga’s Hotel**

Good Morning + City East
DAY 16: Berlin: Free Day

Today is a free day in Berlin, so take time to investigate some of the sights you would have seen yesterday on the driving tour, or strike out on your own to discover more of the city for yourself - the choice is yours! For an incredible bird's eye view of the city, head up the Berlin TV tower - located close to Alexanderplatz, it has become an icon of the capital. Fancy some museum action? Then head over to the museum island, a collection of five world-famous museums on an island in the heart of Berlin's city centre. After a day of exploring you may wish to relax or party; Berlin has you covered, with an incredibly vibrant nightlife offering plenty of bars, clubs and shows - from theatre to cabaret.

Optional Excursions

- Hop on hop off bus tour: € 28
- Berlin + tour: € 50

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 17: Berlin - Amsterdam
After breakfast, we say goodbye to Berlin as we cross into the Netherlands. Arriving back at our Amsterdam hotel tonight - say farewell to your tour leader, driver and fellow passengers and celebrate your last night on tour together.

Optional Excursions

Farewell dinner: € 30

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 18: Amsterdam

Today, our tour concludes after breakfast. Be sure to share your contact details with your fellow travellers. We hope you’ve enjoyed your Northern Explorer Tour as much as we have! Ideally located close to the airport, there is a free shuttle service from the hotel for those who are flying home today. Alternatively, you can extend your stay in Amsterdam and explore more of this incredible city.

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✓  Lunch: ✗  Dinner: ✗