Lecture by Rick Steves

Introduction – Travel There in General

- Info sources: guidebook, website, DVDs, local sources
- Well-organized, information, infrastructure
- Innovative socialistic society, creative solutions
- Thriving Pedestrian malls
- Bike-friendly (Stockholm and Copenhagen)
- Tourist Info (but for profit)
- Spice from immigrant communities (and affordability)
- Long history hiding in land
- Best open-air folk museums in Europe (in or near each capital)
- National Galleries
- Lack-luster sights come alive with included tours
- Modern royalty (Rick Steves radio show archive)
- City Halls as tourist attractions
- Look up friends and relatives
- Expensive: budget tricks for eating and sleeping
- Hostels, camping huts
- Buffets, trendy zones, picnic, 7-Elevens
- Convenience stores vs supermarkets
- Rick Steves’ Scandinavia tours
- Rick Steves Northern Europe Cruise Ports (Rick’s guidebook)

DENMARK

Copenhagen

- Nyhavn, old sailors’ quarter
- Strøget, first pedestrian boulevard
- King Christian IV
- Rosenborg Castle, crown jewels
- Little Mermaid, Hans Christian Andersen
- Biking – best city in Scandinavia on two wheels
- Christianshavn
- Christiania commune/squatter community
- Tivoli
- Jazz festival (10 days in early July)

Day Trips from Copenhagen

- Frederiksborg Castle: located in the town of Hillerød, 30 minutes by train from downtown Copenhagen. Royal residence of King Christian IV. Coronation cathedral.
- Roskilde – 30 minutes by train from Copenhagen, or a great stop on the way to the island of Aero
- Viking Ship Museum – Great 20 minute film introduction, workshops outside
- Roskilde Cathedral – Royal burial cathedral
- Odense – birthplace of Hans C. Andersen, museum
- Arhus – second city, fine open-air folk museum, prehistory museum with bog man, Legoland

NORWAY

Oslo

- Aker Brygge Harborfront development
- City Hall
- Karl Johans Gate, palace
- Harborfront, fortress, shrimp
- New Opera House
- National Gallery
- Ekeberg Modern Sculpture Park
- Frogner Park, Gustav Vigeland statues
- Vigeland Museum
- Bygdøy, shuttle ferry
- Viking Ships
- Fram – Arctic and Antarctic explorations
- Kon Tiki, Thor Heyerdahl
- Norwegian Open-Air Folk Museum, 150 buildings from all over Norway
- Holmenkollen Ski Jump/museum, built for ’52 Olympics
- Oslo fjord

Mountains and Fjords

- “Norway in a Nutshell” Oslo to Bergen train with a side trip to Flam, on the Sognefjord
- By car through Jotunheimen – “Giant’s Home” – best of...
Norway’s mountains
If you drive, good stave church in Lom
Sognefjord – biggest and best fjord to tour
Naeroyfjord, Aurland, Flam, Gudvangen
Balestrand, Kviknes Hotel
Svolvorn, Urnes stave church
Otternes Farm
Nigardsbreen, Jostedal Glacier, family hike
Stave churches: Hopperstad, Borgund
Lillehammer: Folk museum in Oslo is good. Maihaugen in
Lillehammer, 90 minutes away, is better.
Alesund – art nouveau town rebuilt after fire

Bergen

Norway’s second largest city (pop. 220,000)
Start of scenic Hurtigruten coastal cruise to North Cape
Fish Market – touristy
Medieval capital, Hakon’s Hall, tower
Old Hanseatic town
Bryggen tour – a must. Tour through old Hanseatic quarters. In
cod we trust.
Trolldhaugen, Edvard Grieg
Ulriken gondola to mountain top
Mt. Fløyen – best quick view of Bergen

SWEDEN

Stockholm

“Beauty on Water” The city is built over 14 islands connecting
the Baltic Sea to Lake Mälaren
City Hall – Nobel Prize banquet held here each year. Fine tours,
climb the tower for the great view.
Gamla Stan – Stockholm’s Old Town
Royal Palace – Former royal residence, fine crown jewels and
armor museum
Changing of the Guard – each day at noon
Drottninggatan – Modern pedestrian street
Skansen – Europe’s finest open-air folk museum. Folk dancing,
music, demonstrations.
Absolut Ice Bar (touristy, if doing one—it’s the best)
Carl Milles sculpture garden
Vasa warship museum – 300-year old warship that sunk on its
maiden voyage
Nordic Museum – a look at Swedish lifestyles over the last 500 years
Drottningholm Castle: “Swedish Versailles.” Current royal
residence. Reachable by boat from Stockholm.
Archipelago, ferries service to 100 islands over 80 miles
Skargarden, Surtso, Vaxholm

Swedish Countryside

Dalarna boring, colorful horses
Kalmar, great castle, fun mid-sized town with charming and
historic old center
Växjö, immigrants’ museum, glass works
Uppsala, Gamla Uppsala (ancient Sweden), Carl Linnaeus great
botanist

FINLAND

Helsinki

Silja vs. Viking lines for daily and nightly ferry Helsinki–
Stockholm connection
Harbor-side market
Neo-Classical city, Russian heritage
Modern architecture
Lutheran Cathedral
Russian Orthodox cathedral
“Church in the Rock”
Sibelius Monument
Suomenlinna fortress, the Gibraltar of the Baltic Sea
Sauna

ESTONIA

Tallinn

Easy fast ferry/jet boat connection from Helsinki
New freedom/prosperity
Festival Song Grounds, Singing Revolution vs USSR
Russian settlers planted, today’s problems
Kadriorg palace and park
Kumu Art Museum

LEARN MORE

Read: Rick Steves Scandinavia
Watch: Rick Steves’ Scandinavia Blu-ray/DVD
Rick Steves Tour: Best of Scandinavia in 14 Days (see route below)