SCANDINAVIA BY RAIL

with ICELAND - Oct 2017

Autumn Shades & Northern Lights Spotting

Travel 1st Class on the Great Trains of Scandinavia

• Quality 4 star hotels • Fully escorted by Australian historian

www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au
SCANDINAVIA BY RAIL
AUTUMN SHADES & NORTHERN LIGHTS SPOTTING

By popular demand we repeat this tour, which filled very quickly in 2016

Day 1: COPENHAGEN  Arrive today in Copenhagen and rest from your flight. Meet your fellow travellers tonight at the Welcome Dinner. [D]

Day 2: COPENHAGEN  Discover “beautiful, beautiful” Copenhagen on this morning’s city sightseeing tour. This afternoon why not take a canal cruise and discover Copenhagen from this unique perspective, and visit the Little Mermaid. [B]

Day 3: COPENHAGEN  A free day to visit more of Copenhagen’s museums and palaces. [B]

Day 4: STOCKHOLM  Our luggage is taken on ahead as we join our Swedish high speed X2 tilt train, commencing our love affair with the great trains of Europe, departing Denmark across “The Bridge” – made famous in the eponymous Nordic noir thriller TV series. We break the journey for a visit to the historic University and cathedral town of Lund, then continue to Stockholm [B,D]

Day 5: STOCKHOLM  On this morning’s sightseeing tour we discover Sweden’s capital where “modernity meets tranquillity”, the home of IKEA, Volvo and ABBA. Founded in the Stone Age, Stockholm is spread across 14 islands. A highlight will be the City Hall, where the Nobel Prize banquet ceremonies take place. [B]

Day 6: STOCKHOLM  A visit this morning to the Vasa Ship Museum, then free time to visit the many nearby museums. [B]

Day 7: OSLO  On an Intercity train today, we cross the border to Norway and her capital Oslo, where our luggage awaits our arrival. [B,D]

Day 8: OSLO  Our morning city sightseeing includes the Akershus Fortress, and the Opera House. In the afternoon why not visit the National Gallery and see Edward Munch’s famous painting “The Scream”. [B]

Day 9: OSLO  A free day for sightseeing – Vigelandspaken Sculpture Park, the Viking Museum, the Kon Tiki Museum and the Holmenkollen Ski Jump (for magnificent views of the city). [B]

Day 10: FLAM  Today’s train journey across Europe’s highest mountain plateau, and down the steep descent into the village of Flam is repeatedly voted “the world’s best train ride”. Tiny Flam, nestled on the water’s edge is our home for 3 nights. [B,D]

Day 11: FLAM  This morning’s exploration around Flam includes an ascent to the Stegastein Lookup for breathtaking views down to the water 2,000 feet below. After lunch take one of the many local walking trails for sweeping fjord views. [B]

Day 12: BERGEN  Down the fjord today, enjoying more spectacular scenery to join the Bergen railway into Norway’s second city. There will be time this afternoon to get to to know this city, before dinner in Bergen’s oldest restaurant in the historic waterfront area. [B,D]

Day 13: BERGEN  We commence our sightseeing tour of Bergen with a funicular ride to the top of Floyen, one of the seven mountains surrounding Bergen. The views across the city and harbour are stunning. Back at the bottom we walk among the old wooden houses along Bryggen – the historic wharf area now included on UNESCO’s world heritage list. [B]

Day 14: BERGEN  Bergen was the home of Norway’s greatest composer Edward Grieg, and this morning’s sightseeing focuses on his life and work. A free afternoon. [B]

Day 15: BERGEN – COASTAL FERRY  A free morning to enjoy the waterfront or climb some more of Bergen’s 7 mountains, before our afternoon transfer to board our coastal ferry for the 2 day journey along the coast and through the fjords of Norway’s West Coast. [B,D]

Day 16: COASTAL FERRY  Enjoy the views of the fjords from your cabin or from the deck of our ferry. This is not just a tourist ferry, but the regular supply ship serving the coastal communities all the way up Norway’s West Coast. [B,D]

Day 17: TRONDHEIM  Arrive today in Trondheim and settle into our overnight hotel. Our sightseeing of this historic city – a former capital of Norway – includes the cathedral, the waterfront, and the Old Town. [B,D]

Day 18: BODO  Our final and most Northerly train journey today – the Nordland, beyond the Arctic Circle – with sweeping coastal views to Bodo. In the Tour Director’s humble opinion, this is one of the great rail journeys of the world. Given the local terrain, we travel today with our luggage.

Day 19: BODO  Our final day in Norway: explore this coastal town with a tragic World War II history, do your last minute souvenir hunting and take one last sundowner on the waterfront before our Farewell Dinner. [B] [D]

Day 20: FAREWELL  Fly today to Copenhagen, where our tour ends on arrival. Or you may choose to join us for a fascinating 7 day Add-on tour of Iceland.

NORTHERN LIGHTS SPOTTING:
Sightings of the Northern Lights cannot be guaranteed. While October is very early Northern Lights spotting season, our 2016 tours we had sightings in September and October.
ICELAND
ADD-ON TOUR
POST-TOUR ADD-ON TO THE
SCANDINAVIA BY RAIL TOUR:
Enjoy Iceland’s magical scenery – waterfalls, lagoons, geysers, volcanoes, glaciers – on this late autumn visit, with enhanced likelihood of a Northern Lights viewing. Flights from Norway on Day 20 of the Scandinavia by Rail Tour, and on to London at the end of the Iceland Add-On are included.

Day 1: Arrival in Reykjavik
Day 2: Day tour to Golden Circle
Day 3: Day tour to South Coast
Day 4: Day tour to Reykjanes and Blue Lagoon
Day 5: Day tour to Snafellsnes
Day 6: Free Day in Reykjavik
Day 7: Departure from Reykjavik

COST: $4,900 pp twin share.
$800 single supplement.

HIGHLIGHTS
DISCOVER SCANDINAVIA’S 3 MODERN CAPITALS:
• Copenhagen
• Stockholm
• Oslo
ENJOY SCANDINAVIA’S GREAT RAIL JOURNEYS
• High Speed Swedish X2
• Flam Railway
• Bergen Railway
• Norland Railway
EXPLORE SCANDINAVIA’S SENSATIONAL SCENERY
• Inland fjord cruise
• 2 night coastal fjord cruise

INCLUDED FEATURES:
• First Class rail travel in reserved seats
• 4 star city centre boutique hotels
• 9 dinners
• Full luggage handling
• Full time Historian / Tour Leader who is the Tour Company Principal

FACT BOX:
DURATION: 20 DAYS
DEPARTURES: OCTOBER 6th, 2017
COST: Land Only Content
(Starts in Copenhagen, ends in Copenhagen)
$AU 12,950 per person twin share
Enquire about competitive airfares
Single room supplement $2,000

NOTE: Given the special nature of the Scandinavian landscape and transport timetables, on this tour we are forced to break with our standard practice of having 3 nights minimum at every stop.

For detailed Booking Conditions please visit www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au
BOOKING CONDITIONS

Tour Operator: Great Trains of Europe Tours (ABN 75 325 010 987) are members of IATA (Licence # 96836610) and the Concorde Independent Agents’ Network.

Costs: All costs in this brochure are expressed in Australian dollars and are based on airfares, and land transport and accommodation costs, and Australian dollar exchange rates effective as at October 20th, 2016. Exchange rate fluctuations in the price of any service provided, beyond the control of Great Trains of Europe Tours, may be passed on to travellers, right up to the date of departure. Please note that some city taxes or bed taxes cannot be pre-paid by agents, and must be paid by the tour member at check-out.

A deposit of $2,500 per person will guarantee a place on your chosen tour (unless already filled, in which case you will be advised of your place on the waiting list. With a maximum tour size of 25 travellers, tours often fill early).

Full final payment is due 90 days before commencement of the tour. Please make payment by cheque to “Great Trains of Europe Tours” or by bank transfer as follows: Heritage Bank, Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia. BSB 638-060 Account Number 111 097 34. Great Trains of Europe Tours currently does not accept payment by credit card.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellation at any time after the deposit is paid will result in the forfeit of the deposit. Any booking cancelled between 90 days and 45 days before departure will incur a 50% cancellation charge on land content and up to 100% on airfares, depending on the airfare used. Bookings cancelled within 45 days of departure will incur a 100% cancellation charge. Travel insurance will cover cancellation because of illness, death in the family etc. Travel insurance is therefore considered mandatory.

Travel Insurance: A condition of joining a Great Trains of Europe tour is either the purchase of travel insurance through Great Trains of Europe Tours, or documentary evidence of a sufficient level of travel insurance purchased elsewhere.

European Rail Travel: The standard of rail travel in Europe ranges from small and basic local trains to luxury High Speed International trains. On rare occasions European rail companies may change timetables, classes of travel available or rolling stock within the period of validity of a travel brochure. Descriptions of trains & routes provided in this brochure are accurate at the time of printing and provided in good faith. It is not possible to request rail seating either facing or with back to the direction of travel. Many European trains change direction during a journey.

Baggage allowance: Portage of one suitcase per person is included in tour cost.

Coaches: When itineraries take us away from rail routes and coaches must be used, a seating rotation system applies.

Hotels: European hotel rooms – even in 4 or 5 star hotels – are often smaller than in Australian hotels. Single rooms, particularly, can be very small. Should a traveller who has requested a single room wish to have a quote for the cost of single occupancy of a double room, please ask. Tea and coffee making facilities are rare in European hotels, as are in-room security safes. In some European countries, government environmental agencies restrict the use of air-conditioning in hotels to the summer months. Travellers sharing a room on a twin share basis will be asked their preferences re a double bed or twin beds, but no guarantee can be given that your request will be met. Hotel star ratings, where provided, are those of the country in which the hotel is situated, and vary from country to country.

Other Important Advice: All tours will proceed if a minimum of 12 travellers have paid deposits by 90 days before scheduled departure. In the highly unlikely (unprecedented) event that there are insufficient travellers for a tour, you will be offered either (i) a full refund of all monies paid, (ii) a modified cost structure for a smaller group, or (iii) a place on an alternative Great Trains of Europe Tour. Each tour is sold as a package and there can be no refund for any element of the tour (eg. a meal or an excursion) not utilised by the traveller by her / his own choice. Tour costs have built into them the costs associated with researching tours, communicating with overseas suppliers, brochure preparation and marketing. Great Trains of Europe Tours does not claim or imply that some of the inclusions in our tours may or may not be available at a lower price direct from the overseas supplier. Travellers are reminded, however, that purchases made direct with overseas suppliers are generally not covered by Australian Travel Agents licensing protections or the Australian Travel Compensation Fund. Most photographs used in this brochure were taken by the Tour Leader on past tours, but some have been provided by hotels, rail companies or Tourism Boards. Photographs are indicative only and we cannot guarantee that a traveller on a Great Trains of Europe tour will personally see all of the places depicted in them.

Great Trains of Europe Tours reserves the right to decline any reservation or booking request, and may at the Tour Directors discretion terminate any person’s involvement in the tour due to disruptive or anti-social behaviour.

Great Trains of Europe Tours does not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or other events which are beyond our direct control such as, but not limited to war, terrorism, civil disturbance, industrial action, acts of government or of God, or mechanical failure such as aircraft, trains or coaches.

Great Trains of Europe Tours cannot be held responsible for changes to provision of services by local European suppliers, but we will do all in our power to provide an alternative service of equal standard to that advertised, or make a cash refund of the difference on the spot.

Contract: The contract between the traveller and Great Trains of Europe Tours, entered into by your signing the Booking form, shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Queensland.

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One form per person, please.

Tour Name: __________________________________________________________ Departure Date: ______________________

PASSPORT DETAILS
Full name (as in passport): __________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________________
Passport No: ______________________ Date of Issue: ______________________ Expiry Date: ______________________
Nationality: ______________________ Date of Birth: ______________________
Ph. Home: ( ) ______________________ Ph. Work ( ) ______________________
Mobile: ______________________ Email: ______________________

MEDICAL / DIET
Do you have any medical conditions or dietary requirements that we should be alerted to?
□ YES  □ NO  If you answered YES, please outline briefly: ________________________________________________________________

Are you able to walk 500 metres and climb 25 stairs without assistance?  □ YES  □ NO

NEXT OF KIN (to be contacted in event of an emergency)
Name: __________________________________________________________________________
Ph. Home: ( ) ______________________ Ph. Work ( ) ______________________ Mobile: ______________________

TRAVEL INSURANCE
□ Please provide me with travel insurance.  □ I have a pre-existing medical condition.
   (NOTE: Passengers over 75 years of age at end of a tour will need a medical clearance)
□ I decline your offer of travel insurance and attach documentary evidence that I have sufficient travel insurance cover.
   Insurance Company ___________________________________________________________ Policy Number ______________________

ACCOMMODATION
□ Double  □ Twin, sharing with ______________________
□ Twin, please find someone to share with me. If no suitable room-mate can be found, the single supplement is payable.
□ Single Room  □ Single occupancy of double sized room (surcharge)  □ Non-smoking  □ Smoking

EXTRA ACCOMMODATION
□ Pre-Tour in ______________________ {city}  Date IN ___/___/___  Date OUT ___/___/___
□ Post-Tour in ______________________ {city}  Date IN ___/___/___  Date OUT ___/___/___

FLIGHTS
□ I seek your assistance with an airfare. Please contact me.  or  □ I will make my own flight arrangements.

PAYMENT METHOD
□ I enclose a cheque, payable to “Great Trains of Europe Tours” for $ ___________________________ or
□ I have deposited $ ___________________________ in the “Great Trains of Europe Tours” account at Heritage Bank, 400 Ruthven St, Toowoomba, Qld., 4350, Australia as follows. BSB 638 — 060  Account Number 11109734  Swiftcode HBSLAU4T, and I attach a pay-in slip as evidence.

By signing this form I declare that I have read the Tour Terms and Conditions, understand them, and agree to abide by them.

Signature ______________________ Date ______________________

Great Trains of Europe Tours BOOKING FORM
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