**Baltic**… Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania, an 8 day/7 night tour package – plus 1 day/night in Helsinki

*Includes* English speaking guide, first class hotels, features guided city tours in Vilnius, Riga & Tallinn, Hill of Crosses, Rundale Palace, Trakai Castle, Gauja NP, Toompea Castle and museums. Plus an optional Helsinki city tour and Porvoo medieval tour

**Russia**… a 7 day/6 night tour package

*Includes* English speaking guide, first class hotels, features the world famous Hermitage Museum, Peterhof Summer Palace, Katherine’s Palace, Church of Split Blood, Peter & Paul residence, St Isaac's Cathedral, The Kremlin, Czar Bell, St Basil’s Cathedral, Red Square and evening illumination tour and cruise

**Scandinavia**… discover the natural beauty and spectacular scenery of Norway, Sweden and Denmark

Join a Cosmos 12 Day/11 night tour and see amazing fjords, harbours and waterways, and visit Copenhagen, Odense, Oslo, Aalborg, Gothenburg, Telemark, Vemork, Bergen, Fagernes, Lillehammer and Stockholm

*Baltic tour date*… 9 – 16 June *$1990 pp* twin share

*Russia tour date*… 18 – 24 June *$2290 pp* twin share

*Scandinavia tour date*… 24 June – 5 July *$2990 pp* twin share

Airfares, ferries and train connections are an additional cost

*Travelabout*… professional and accurate travel advice based on first hand personal experience!
**DETAILED ITINERARY**

**DAY 1 SUN 9 JUN ARRIVE IN VILNIUS**
Arrive in Vilnius, private hotel transfer and welcome meeting. Dinner in hotel. O/n Hotel Radisson Blu Lietuva

**DAY 2 MON 10 JUN VILNIUS**
Vilnius is known for its more than 1,200 medieval buildings and 48 churches. The morning sightseeing tour includes a panoramic tour of the city and a walking tour of the Old Town with Vilnius Cathedral, Gediminas Tower, Peter and Paul Church, St. Anne’s Church, Old University and the Gates of Dawn. The afternoon offers an optional excursion to Trakai, the medieval capital of Lithuania, with the well preserved Trakai Castle, beautifully located on an island in Lake Galve. Dinner in hotel. Upgrade to an optional folklore dinner at Restaurant Belmontas.

**DAY 3 TUE 11 JUN VILNIUS – RIGA**
Heading for Riga, the first stop is the Hills of Crosses, one of the most holy sites of Catholic Lithuania. After crossing into Latvia we soon reach the magnificent Rundale Palace, the former summer residence of the Duke of Courland. Following a guided tour of the palace we travel through the rolling hills of Southern Latvia to reach Riga late afternoon. Dinner in hotel. Upgrade to an optional folklore dinner at Restaurant Belmontas.

**DAY 4 WED 12 JUN RIGA**
Before we get acquainted with Riga we have the possibility of discovering medieval Latvia. The optional tour for this morning takes us to the stunning scenery of the Gauja National Park and the town of Sigulda. We listen to the medieval Latvian legend of the Rose of Turaida and see the ruins of the Episcopal Castle and of the Castle of the Knights of the Sword before we return to Riga. The afternoon offers an optional visit to the Ethnographical Open Air Museum, a spacious exposition of 18th century country life. Dinner in hotel. The evening offers an optional organ concert at the Dome Cathedral.

**DAY 5 THU 13 JUN RIGA**
Founded in 1201 by the German bishop Albert, Riga is the largest of the three Baltic capitals and boasts a real kaleidoscope of architectural styles. The walking tour of the Old Town includes Riga Castle, the Dome Cathedral, St. Peter’s Church, the Swedish Gate, the Three Brothers, the Large and Small Guilds and the Freedom Monument. The afternoon is reserved for an optional visit to Jūrmala, the vibrant Latvian sea resort, famous for its wooden architecture and sandy beaches. Dinner in hotel. Upgrade to an optional Latvian dinner at the stylish Restaurant Forest.

**DAY 6 FRI 14 JUN RIGA – TALLINN**
The tour continues along the coastal highway to the Estonian summer resort of Parnu. We do a short tour of the resort before we continue through the North Estonian land of forests and arrive in Tallinn early afternoon, check-in at the hotel. Dinner in hotel. O/n Hotel Radisson Blu Olympia

**DAY 7 SAT 15 JUN TALLINN**
Tallinn is a charming blend of medieval tranquility and modern urban life. The medieval Old Town is a busy place in the summer with its many shops, galleries, souvenir markets, outdoor cafés and restaurants. The sightseeing tour takes us around the old medieval city walls and into the Old Town where we see Toompea Castle, Dome Church, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, medieval Old Town Hall and Great Guild Hall. In the afternoon an optional excursion is offered to Kadriorg Park and visit to KUMU, the award-winning new Estonian art museum, with its collections of classic and contemporary fine art. Upgrade to an optional medieval dinner at Restaurant Peppersack.

**DAY 8 SUN 16 JUN TALLINN**
Private airport transfer or to ferry port.

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**BALTIC TOUR DATES: 9 – 16 JUNE**

**Cost $1990pp (twin)**

**Sole use room $2490**

Arrival via international flight indirect from Australia

**OVERNIGHT STAY**

**Cost $245pp (twin)**

**Sole use room $365**

Arrival via short ferry crossing from Tallinn

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**INCLUDED SIGHTSEEING**

Sightseeing tour of Helsinki’s landmarks including Olympic Stadium, National Museum, Sibelius Monument, and Temppeliaukio Church. Also a canal sightseeing cruise from Helsinki Market Square, Cruise down Helsinki’s shoreline and include the Unesco listed Suomenlinna Maritime Fortress, Helsinki Zoo and the Degerö Canal.
Russia... Highlights of the Russian Capitals

RUSSIA TOUR DATES: 18–24 JUNE

Cost $2290 pp (twin)
Sole use room $2876

Arrival via Allegro express train from St. Petersburg. A pre-tour night in St. Petersburg is recommended.

DAY 1 TUE 18 JUN ARRIVAL ST. PETERSBURG
Arrival in St. Petersburg, private hotel transfer and welcome meeting. Dinner in hotel. O/n Hotel Sokos Vasilievsky.

DAY 2 WED 19 JUN ST. PETERSBURG
St. Petersburg is an amazing city. Its imperial palaces and museums enjoy worldwide fame, while the Neva River and the many canals have deservedly given the city the title ‘The Venice of the North’. During the morning sightseeing tour we get acquainted with all the splendours of the city: the Peter-Paul Fortress, the Winter Palace, St. Isaac’s Cathedral, the Church of the Bleeding Savior, the Nevsky Convent and much more. The afternoon is an excursion to Zarskoye Selo with the impressive Catherine’s Palace and the Amber Room, which vanished during World War II and was restored for St. Petersburg’s tri-centennial celebrations. In the evening an optional Russian folklore show and Russian ‘champagne’. Dinner in hotel.

DAY 3 THU 20 JUN ST. PETERSBURG
The morning is a wonderful visit to Peterhof, an uncontested masterpiece of the time of Peter the Great, with the impressive Grand Palace, Grand Cascade and Water Avenue and its wonderful parks. In the afternoon, is a visit to the world-famous Hermitage Art Museum is offered. Dinner in hotel. In the evening enjoy an optional Russian dinner upgrade to Restaurant Russian Kitsch.

DAY 4 FRI 21 JUN ST. PETERSBURG-MOSCOW
This morning is a St. Petersburg channel cruise. Around noon we go to the Moscow Railway Station and board the Sapsan high-speed train bound for Moscow. The train ride takes us through endless Russian landscapes along the River Volga. In the late afternoon we arrive to Moscow and check in at Hotel Park. Dinner in hotel. O/n Inn Sadu.

DAY 5 SAT 22 JUN MOSCOW
Moscow, The Mother of Russia, is a genuine Russian city with the Kremlin and its onion domed cathedrals. The dramatic changes over the last decade have made the city to one of the most dynamic metropolises in the world. The morning sightseeing tour includes the highlights of the vast city: the Red Square with St. Basil’s Cathedral, the Theatre Square with Bolshoi Theatre and Sparrow Hills with Moscow University and we visit the Kremlin grounds and one of the cathedrals. In the afternoon is a visit to the Moscow Metro including the historical stations on the Ring-Line and a guided stroll along the famous pedestrian Arbat Street. Dinner in hotel. This evening enjoy a Moscow by night tour including an unforgettable river cruise with the White Flotilla.

DAY 6 SUN 23 JUN MOSCOW
Today enjoy a full day excursion to the quaint town of Sergiev Posad, where we visit the Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius, the most important Russian monastery and the spiritual heart of the Russian Orthodox Church. The whole Lavra has been beautifully restored for the 700-years celebrations of the birth of St. Sergius of Radonezh. This evening is an optional visit to the Old Russian Circus. Dinner in hotel.

DAY 7 MON 24 JUN MOSCOW DEPARTURE
Included private airport transfer.
Scandinavia

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1  MON 24 JUN
ARRIVE IN COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
Check into your hotel. The rest of the day is free to explore the Danish capital. Tonight, meet your Tour Director and fellow travellers. (D)

DAY 2  TUE 25 JUN
COPENHAGEN
Enjoy a day at leisure in the capital of the oldest kingdom in the world. Besides many interesting landmarks and architectural masterpieces, see some of the more famous sites on your orientation drive, including the legendary Little Mermaid statue. An optional tour of Zealand's castles is also available. (B)

DAY 3  WED 26 JUN
COPENHAGEN – ODENSE – FREDERIKSHAVN
After breakfast, start the journey northwards, enjoying the drive across the Great Belt Bridge, which will connect you to the fairytale island of Funen. Stop in Odense, Hans Christian Andersen's home town, and via the Little Belt waterway, head for Frederikshavn on the rural Jutland Peninsula. (B/D)

DAY 4  THU 27 JUN
FREDERIKSHAVN – GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN – OSLO, NORWAY
Take a pleasant Ferry ride from Frederikshavn across the strategic Kattegat to Gothenburg, Sweden’s thriving second-largest city and one of Europe’s major seaports. After an orientation drive, follow the inland route and cross into Norway. Evening arrival in Oslo. (B)

DAY 5  FRI 28 JUN
OSLO – TELEMARK AREA
Gustav Vigeland’s sculptures are among the highlights of the included Oslo sightseeing tour; also see the soaring City Hall, National Theatre, Broadcasting House, Parliament, and Akershus Castle. In the afternoon, drive through the Telemark region, where you spend the night. (B/D)

DAY 6  SAT 29 JUN
TELEMARK AREA – VEMORK – BERGEN
Take the scenic route for a visit to Vemork, where the heavy water plant was blown up by a commando unit of British and Norwegians known as the Heroes of Telemark. Visit the Vemork Museum, and then proceed through the Telemark region with its lakes, winding valleys, and rugged gorges backed by towering mountains. Ferry across the Hardangerfjord from Utne to Kvanndal. Continue to Bergen, Norway’s picture-perfect Hanseatic seaport. En route, a picture stop at Steindalsfossen Waterfall. (B)

DAY 7  SUN 30 JUN
BERGEN
Built on seven hills with the fjords on one side and 305 metre (1,000-foot) Mount Floyen on the other, Bergen was the home of composer Grieg. Spend the day exploring at leisure, or join the optional sightseeing excursion, which takes in the main sites, including the Hanseatic Museum, one of the landmarks of Bergen’s bayside area, and also a panoramic view of the city from one of the surrounding hills. (B)

DAY 8  MON 1 JUL
BERGEN – Sognefjord CRUISE – FAGERNES AREA
More spectacular scenery as you drive towards the Sognefjord, where you embark for a breathtaking cruise on one of Norway’s mightiest fjords. On to the Fagernes area. (B/D)

DAY 9  TUE 2 JUL
FAGERNES AREA – LILLEHAMMER – KARLSTAD, SWEDEN
First to Lillehammer, the mountain resort that hosted the 1994 Winter Olympics, then, a scenic drive along beautiful Lake Mjosa. Continue towards Sweden, through Varmland’s unspoiled wilderness of forest and lakes to Karlstad, located by Sweden’s largest lake, Lake Vanern. (B)

DAY 10  WED 3 JUL
KARLSTAD – MARIEFRED – STOCKHOLM
Leave Karlstad and head east towards Stockholm via Alfred Nobel’s Bofors to idyllic Mariefred. Here, view majestic Gripsholm Castle, built in an enchanting rural setting. On to the Swedish capital. Its beauty is due to its unique setting on 14 islands between Lake Malaren and the Baltic Sea. (B)

DAY 11  THU 4 JUL
STOCKHOLM
This is perhaps the most beautiful of the Scandinavian capitals, because the crystalline waters that flow through its intersecting canals give a luminous appearance to palaces, castles, and parks. Your included city sightseeing takes in all the highlights. (B/D)

DAY 12  FRI 5 JUL
STOCKHOLM
Your holiday ends with breakfast this morning. (B)

Call Sam or Marlene
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