March 17-27, 2021  
(Post-Trip Extension March 27 - 30)

Four Northern Cities  
Exploring Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki  
…and on to St. Petersburg

Leader: Joe Thomas   Trip #2103   Co-Leader: Dick Cable

This 11-day Scandinavian trip is bursting with history, culture and entertainment! From medieval fortresses to modern art and Viking ships to scenic railways, this all-encompassing tour takes you on a thrilling journey by land and sea through modern Scandinavian kingdoms and their lively capital cities, home to some of Europe’s oldest monarchies. Come with us and explore such world-famous attractions as Copenhagen’s Christiansborg Palace, Stockholm’s Royal Castle and City Hall and Tivoli Gardens, and Helsinki’s bustling Market Square.

Our trip then continues on to visit the glory of St Petersburg, Russia. One of the world’s most beautiful cities, St. Petersburg has all the ingredients for an unforgettable travel experience: high art, lavish architecture, wild nightlife, an extraordinary history and rich cultural traditions that have inspired and nurtured some of the modern world’s greatest literature, music, and visual art. From the fabulous Winter Garden and the world-famous Hermitage museum and ballet productions on magical winter evenings, St. Petersburg charms and entices in every season.

For those interested in adding to this already amazing trip, we are offering a 4-day post-trip extension to Moscow. Just a train ride away, we will spend a few days exploring the sites and wonders of this intriguing and distant city.
Day 1: March 17 (Wednesday) Depart USA

Day 2: March 18 (Thursday) Arrive Copenhagen (B)
Arrive Copenhagen. Meet with arrivals assistant and transfer to hotel in city centre (Admiral Hotel, or similar)

Day 3: March 19 (Friday) Copenhagen (B)
Half-day guided walking and canal tour of Copenhagen, taking in the City Hall Square, Amalienborg Palace, Hans Christian Andersen’s statue, Tivoli, and Nyhavn Harbour. Rest of day at leisure to explore Copenhagen independently, option to visit Rosenborg Castle and Christiansborg Palace independently.

Day 4: March 20 (Saturday) Copenhagen – Stockholm (B)
Morning train (approx. 8am) to Stockholm (5 hours). Meet with guide for transfer to hotel in city centre (Hotel Haymarket, or similar) to drop-off luggage. Afternoon walking tour (3 hours), visiting the Royal Palace, Parliament Buildings, Riddarholm Church and Gamla Stan.

Day 5: March 21 (Sunday) Stockholm (B)
Morning tour of Vasa Museum and the City Hall. Rest of day at leisure to explore Stockholm independently.

Day 6: March 22 (Monday) Stockholm; Silja Line
Overnight Cruise (B,D)
Morning at leisure. Afternoon transfer to pier to board the Silja Line boat for overnight cruise from Stockholm. Accommodations are in 2-berth cabins.
Day 7: March 23 (Tuesday) Helsinki (B)
Disembark in Helsinki and transfer by coach to hotel in the city centre (Sokos Hotel Vaakuna Helsinki, or similar). Afternoon 3 hour guided walking tour of Helsinki, visiting such famous sites as Senate Square, Parliament House, Finlandia Hall, and the Underground Temple (Temppeliaukio Kirkko). The rest of the afternoon is free.

Day 8: March 24 (Wednesday) Helsinki – St. Petersburg (B, D)
Walk to the train station and depart Helsinki on the “Allegro” train bound for St. Petersburg. Coach transfer from railway station to hotel combined with 1 hour guided boat cruise along the Neva River, stopping at St. Isaac’s Cathedral. Welcome dinner incl. vodka and wine at the Ambassador Baltic Club Hotel.

Day 9: March 25 (Thursday) St. Petersburg (B, L, D)
Full-day tour of the Hermitage Museum, one of the oldest and largest art museums in the world, spread across 6 historical buildings in St. Petersburg, including the Winter Palace, the Hermitage Theatre and the General Staff Building.

Day 10: March 26 (Friday) St. Petersburg (B, L, D)
Morning tour of Catherine’s Palace, including the famous Amber room. After lunch, embark on a 3 hour tour of the city by coach with local English-speaking guide, taking in the Square of Arts, Griboedov canal, Nevsky prospect, the Palace Square, and the Bronze Horseman, amongst other sites. This evening, watch a Russian folklore show at the Nikolaevsky Palace, followed by dinner at the Dostoevsky Restaurant.

Day 11: March 27 (Saturday) Departure (B)
Breakfast at hotel and then check out. Group transfer either to the airport or to the train station to continue on Optional Post-Trip Extension to Moscow.
Day 1 March 27 (Saturday)  
St. Petersburg – Moscow (B, L, D)

Breakfast at the hotel and check out. Group transfer from your hotel to the train station. Take the 09:00 - 13:10 Sassan train from St. Petersburg to Moscow, with a light lunch on board.

On arrival in Moscow, you will be met at the train station and transferred to the Moscow Marriott Tverskaya Hotel. Evening meal at your hotel.

Day 2 March 28 (Sunday) Moscow (B, L, D)

Embark on a full-day tour of Moscow, starting this morning with the Novodevichy Convent, a cluster of 16th-century Orthodox domes and one of the city's most beautiful monuments. The cloister is full of history and treasures, and you'll learn more about the Russian Orthodox Church as you explore the site in the company of a knowledgeable English-speaking guide. Adjacent to the convent is Novodevichy Cemetery, which houses a litany of great Russians.

After exploring Novodevichy, continue your exploration of Moscow with an informative walking tour, taking in Nikolskaya Street, one of the oldest streets in the city; the early 19th-century Bolshoi Theatre; and Red Square, overlooked by the Kremlin and the Lenin Mausoleum. You'll also explore St. Basil's Cathedral, with its gleaming domes and spires, and Alexander Garden near the Kremlin walls, housing the memorial to the Unknown Soldier.

The morning’s tour ends with a late lunch at a good Moscow restaurant.
Late afternoon, continue to the State Tretyakov Gallery. This famous collection of Russian Art is housed in one of Moscow’s oldest galleries. Allow 2 hours to explore before returning to your hotel, the Moscow Marriott Tverskaya, for group dinner and overnight.

**Day 3 March 29 (Monday)  Kremlin Grounds (B, L, D)**

This morning, enjoy a private tour of the Kremlin grounds, cathedrals and armoury chamber (4 hours). The Kremlin is Russia's main museum as well as being the residence of its President. You'll explore inside the 15th-century fortress, touring its vast territory, medieval churches and cathedrals, and varied historical collections. Your tour will focus initially on the three Royal Cathedrals - the Assumption, Archangel Mikhail and Annunciation - where in past centuries the Russian Tsars and Emperors were crowned. You'll stop to marvel at the Tsar Cannon and the Ivan the Great Bell Tower, before taking a stroll in the Secret Garden. The tour ends with a visit to the Armoury Museum, the treasure house of Russia's Tsarist rulers.

After the tour, enjoy a group lunch at a local restaurant before returning to your hotel. Afternoon at leisure.

This evening, meet in the hotel lobby and transfer to a Georgian restaurant for a group dinner to mark your final night in Moscow.

**Day 4 March 30 (Tuesday)  Departure (B)**

Breakfast at the hotel, check out and group transfer to Moscow airport for homeward flight.
TRIP COST:

Total Trip Cost $5495:
$2000 due with application;
$2000 due February 1, 2020
and $1495
due October 1, 2020.

TRIP INCLUDES:

10 nights lodging with most meals (all
breakfasts and most dinners);
English speaking guides; all activities
and tours; basic medical and
evacuation insurance (those interested
in trip cancellation insurance need to
purchase on their own).

POST-TRIP EXTENSION COST:

Total Post-Trip Extension Cost $2100:
$700 due with application;
$700 due September 1, 2019
and $700 due January 1, 2020

POST-TRIP EXTENSION
INCLUDES:

Additional 3 nights lodging, all meals,
high speed train to Moscow, city tours
and all entrance fees, airport transfer.

TRIP DOES NOT INCLUDE: Airfare
of approximately $1000.

Joe has an avid interest in health and fitness
which has paved his way to adventure travel.
He has participated in bike trips through the
Po Valley of Italy and the Camino de Santiago
in Spain. After becoming an AMC leader, he
has co-led trips to Machu Picchu/Easter
Island, Puglia, Italy, Patagonia, the Dolomites,
Tanzania, Vietnam/Cambodia, India/Bhutan,
Morocco, France and Portugal.

Dick has been an AMC-Adventure Travel
leader for 11 years. He has led over 25
international hiking, biking, walking and
cultural trips to Asia, Europe, Africa, South
America. He is retired from education and
consulting. He is a personal trainer and
fitness instructor and continues to teach when
in CT. He lives part of the year in Spain. He
is a bike and hike leader for AMC-CT chapter
and Berkshire chapter. His passions:
gardening, biking, fitness, interior design, art,
theater and TRAVEL.

The leaders build a trip based on an approximate 10% higher rate of exchange of the current rate.
Foreign currencies such as the euro can fluctuate and we want to advise you that if the exchange
rate moves higher than expected, we may have to come to you with a modest price increase. We try
to avoid this by budgeting wisely; however, there is always the possibility of rate changes. Anyone
who does not want to accept the price increase may withdraw from the trip with a full refund.
As leaders, our goals for the group are to have fun, utilize your skills, and savor a foreign culture at reasonable cost and in the company of other adventurers with similar interests. We encourage your individual contributions, cooperation and good humor to enrich the group’s experience. We anticipate each participant’s engagement as part of a group, and expect each to abide by the leaders’ decisions and work towards the group having a good time. Be prepared to help your fellow riders/hikers and spend time with other participants on the trip. In doing so, you will help ensure each participant’s maximum experience and enjoyment of the trip.

**Our Goals**

The AMC Adventure Travel cancellation policy is based on the fact that your cancellation may not raise the cost to the other participants or to the leaders. If actual costs (expenses already incurred on your behalf and any unavoidable future expenses that will be incurred as a result of your registration and cancellation) are higher, they will be assessed unless they can be applied toward another acceptable participant. Should the leaders be able to replace you, you may be charged a reduced or zero penalty. This will generally not be determined until after the trip. Please refer to insurance information in the section titled “What Trip Price Includes.”

**Cancellation Policy**

AMC Adventure Travel trips are run on a nonprofit basis. Leaders are not compensated except for their travel and administrative costs associated with the trip. A program fee is assessed toward AMC Adventure Travel Excursion program and administrative expenses.

**Disclosures**

AMC Travel Trips are run in a manner supportive of and consistent with the conservation, recreation and educational principles and mission of the Club. Trip leaders encourage participant conduct consistent with Leave No Trace environmental and conservation principles and local regulations.

**AMC Mission**

As participant safety is a high priority for all AMC-sponsored events, procedures and policies have been developed to attempt to limit participant risk. Participants are expected to work with volunteer leaders to reduce risks and make the experience successful for all. Participants should be aware that there are risks associated with outdoor adventure activities, including but not limited to adverse weather and environmental conditions, remote locations of our trips and camps, and transportation in vehicles, on foot, by boat, or on a bike. When you apply for acceptance onto a trip, please carefully read and sign the Adventure Travel Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risks and Release and Indemnity Agreement and call if you have any questions.
When you participate in this activity, you should be in proper condition for the challenges outlined in this prospectus. You should always be aware of the risks involved and conduct yourself accordingly. You are ultimately responsible for your own safety. Prior to your acceptance as a participant in this trip, you may be asked to discuss your capabilities and experience with us. We may also request references to confirm your fitness level and suitability for participating in trip activities.

This trip is designed so that everyone may experience our adventure in several Scandinavian countries and Russia through shared participation in activities and tasks in an organized group environment. AMC travelers are known for their cooperative efforts, and expectations are that all participants will be considerate of others sharing this AMC Adventure Travel experience.

It may happen on any trip that a trip member is or becomes unable to participate in one or more of the planned activities. Leaders in their sole judgment have the right and obligation to refuse participation in any activity to any group member for reasons of safety, whether it be of the group or of the individual. Illness, injury or lack of proper gear or fitness for a particular activity are examples of some conditions that might result in a participant’s being unable to perform one or more activity. Leaders may try to find a substitute activity for the trip member, but this may not always be possible.

For additional information, contact Joe at 203-755-5141 / thomasj73@sbcglobal.net or Dick at r.cable@sbcglobal.net