



**AMC ADVENTURE TRAVEL**  
Volunteer-Led Excursions Worldwide

Trip 2341

May 24 – June 2, 2023

## FOUR NORTHERN CITIES EXPLORING COPENHAGEN, STOCKHOLM, HELSINKI, AND HAMBURG

### 1. TRIP OVERVIEW

This 10-day northern European 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 concludes with a visit to Hamburg. Hamburg

is Germany's second-largest city and its most important port (even though it's about 60 miles from the sea). The city's fishy maritime atmosphere gives Hamburg an almost Scandinavian feel. It's popular with German tourists who come here to eat fish, watch soccer games, marvel at its mighty port, and experience the fabled nightlife of the Reeperbahn, the German answer to the Vegas Strip. This trip is a great opportunity to see several northern European cities and to enjoy the wonder and the beauty of them all.



**(You may have to depart the US on May 23 to arrive in Copenhagen on May 24)**

### **Day 1: May 24 (Wednesday)**

Arrive Copenhagen. Meet with arrivals assistant and transfer to hotel in city center (Copenhagen Admiral Hotel)

### **Day 2: May 25 (Thursday) Copenhagen (B)**

You will be met by your guide after breakfast and embark on a half-day guided walking tour, visiting local landmarks including the City Hall Square, Amalienborg Palace, Hans Christian Andersen's statue, and Nyhavn Harbour. Later, visit the Tivoli Gardens, an amusement park located in the heart of Copenhagen. Your tour ends with a guided canal boat trip on Copenhagen's waterways. The rest of day is at leisure to explore Copenhagen at your own pace. We recommend a visit to Rosenborg Castle and Christiansborg Palace, both located within proximity to city center.



### **Day 3: May 26 (Friday) Copenhagen (B)**

Today's tour will take you outside of Copenhagen to explore the North Zealand region. The highlight of the tour will be Kronborg Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is perhaps most famous for having been the inspiration for Elsinore Castle in Shakespeare's Hamlet. During a guided tour, you'll explore the castle's impressive bastions and fortified towers, its grand courtyard, and its expansive ballroom, which together tell the story of its transformation from a military fortress in the 15th century to a Renaissance-era palace.

### **Day 4: May 27 (Saturday) Copenhagen – Stockholm (B)**

Depart Copenhagen at approx. 8am this morning on the SJ train bound for Stockholm (approx. 5 hours). On arrival, meet with your guide and transfer to your hotel in the city centre, the Hotel Haymarket. After dropping off your luggage at the hotel, enjoy an afternoon walking tour, covering sights such as the Royal Palace, the Stockholm Parliament buildings, Riddarholm Church and Stockholm's old town (Gamla Stan).



### **Day 5: May 28 (Sunday) Stockholm (B)**

Meet with your guide after breakfast for a half-day tour of Stockholm. Your first stop will be at the Vasa Museum, which houses a beautifully preserved 17th century warship. Embellished with hundreds of wooden sculptures and bronze features, the Vasa is the striking centerpiece of this museum.

Afterwards, visit Stockholm City Hall. Dating to the early 20th Century, Stockholm's city hall is one of the city's most striking buildings, famous for its spire featuring three golden crowns, the city's emblem.

Rest of day at leisure to explore Stockholm independently.

### **Day 6: May 29 (Monday) Stockholm; Silja Line Overnight Cruise (B, D)**

The morning is at leisure to explore Stockholm independently. We advise returning to your hotel at 2pm latest.

At 2:30pm, you will be met at the hotel and transferred to Stockholm Pier to board the Silja

Line boat for overnight cruise from Stockholm to Helsinki.

### **Day 7: May 30 (Tuesday) Helsinki (B)**

You'll disembark in Helsinki at approx. 10:30 this morning after breakfast onboard the Silja Line. On arrival, meet with your transfer driver and private coach for the short transfer to your hotel in the city centre, the Sokos Hotel Vaakuna Helsinki.



This afternoon, enjoy a 3-hour guided walking tour of Helsinki, visiting such famous sites as Senate Square, Parliament House, and Finlandia Hall. The final stop of the tour will be at Temppeliaukio Kirkko, or 'Rock Church'. Though it looks like an amphitheatre from the outside, this striking building is in fact a church, which has been carved directly from solid rock in the heart of Helsinki.

### **Day 8: May 31 (Wednesday) Helsinki – Hamburg (B, D)**

Early this morning, you will be transferred to Helsinki Airport to catch a Finnair flight to Hamburg (11:10-12:10).

You will be met on arrival in Hamburg for your group transfer into the city centre, where you check-in at the Mercure Hotel Hamburg Mitte for two nights. This comfortable 4-star hotel is located close to the Congress Center Hamburg. Evening meal at the hotel.

### **Day 9: June 1 (Thursday) Hamburg (B, D)**

You will be met by your Hamburg guide after breakfast and embark on a tour of the city.

You'll start your tour at Hamburg's seaport, the economic and historic heart of the city, where you can learn more about its development as a trading city. Later, your tour will take you to the Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg's modern concert hall overlooking the River Elbe., St. Michael's Church, the Speicherstadt or warehouse city and Hamburg's Town Hall and Stock Exchange (oldest in Germany). You will also have a chance to tour some of Hamburg's trendier neighborhoods and the green spaces around Alster Lake.



### **Day 10: June 2 (Friday) (B)**



Your tour ends this morning in Hamburg. A group transfer to Hamburg Airport is included (if your flight time corresponds with the time of the group transfer).

## **TRIP COST:**

Total Trip Cost \$5795 (\$5895 non-AMC members)

\$2000 due with application.

\$2000 due November 1, 2022

and \$1795 due February 1, 2023.

Non-members may [join](#) and enjoy the member discount. A single membership is \$50 or \$25 for seniors (70+).

## **TRIP INCLUDES:**

9 nights lodging as outlined in itinerary.

Meals and bank debit card for \$300

All activities and tours as outlined in itinerary.

All transfers as outlined in itinerary.

Overnight ferry (Stockholm to Helsinki)

Local English-speaking guides.

Entrance fees during guided tours.

Helsinki to Hamburg flight (one-way).

Basic medical and evacuation insurance.

## **TRIP DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

International flights (long-haul);

Visa fees.

Single Room Supplement at \$938.

Meals not included in itinerary.

Drinks.

Personal travel insurance (trip cancelation),

Tips and personal expenses.



## Your Leaders:

**Joe Thomas** 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, Portugal, and Oman.



### **Jay Sitkin** from

Philadelphia, is a Delaware Valley hiking, biking, and backpacking leader, and AMC Adventure Travel Associate Leader. He has travelled throughout North & South America, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East, and Western & Eastern Europe. He has hiked, cycled, or backpacked in Patagonia, Croatia, in the Alps. Over the years he has organized trips as varied as hiking the Tour Du Mont Blanc, touring Alaska, and to Machu Picchu. He has participated in long distance cycling activities such as the Tour of Colorado, OOSA, and has backpacked and hiked Yellowstone and the Tetons, and the "W" in Patagonia.

### DISCLOSURE

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.

### AMC MISSION

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.

## OUR GOALS

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.

## Safety

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.

## Leaders' expectations and rights

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 Northern European countries 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.



## Cancellation Policy

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."

See AMC Terms and Conditions Here: [Terms and Conditions page](#)

For additional information, contact Joe at [thomasj73@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thomasj73@sbcglobal.net)  
or Jay at [sitkinj@gmail.com](mailto:sitkinj@gmail.com)