



Planning
Institute
Australia

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Daily Itinerary

Scandinavia & Russia Study Tour

24 August – 7 September 2007

Friday 24 August 2007

All participants will fly, via Melbourne to Hong Kong on Qantas flight QF22 to Hong Kong. Once at Hong Kong, they will transfer on to Finnair flight AY 68 to Helsinki.

HELSINKI

Helsinki is a city where Eastern and Western cultures interact – a city whose urban cosmopolitan lifestyle exists in perfect harmony with nature. The city's contemporary architecture, design and high technology reinforce the international reputation of Finland's capital. Most sights and attractions are within walking distance of the city centre, and getting around town is easy.

Saturday 25 August (B & L in flight)

Everyone will arrive in Helsinki at 14.55 (2.55pm). After clearing Customs and Immigration formalities, we will be met and transferred to our hotel – the Hotel Simonkenta.

The rest of the afternoon and evening are at leisure to unpack and relax, or explore the environs of the hotel or wider Helsinki.

Sunday 26 August (B, D)

After breakfast in the hotel, we have a full day of tours arranged.

We will begin with an orientation tour of central Helsinki with a local guide. We will end back at the hotel in time for lunch at our own expense.

In the afternoon, we will be met by a local city planner who will be able to inform us about city heritage, the planning challenges being faced and to identify key points of interest. The areas we expect to visit are:

Vuosaari, a radically expanded 60's suburb, which entailed cooperation between municipality and private enterprise planning commenced in the mid-1980's with the last phases 2007-2012

Viikki Science Park and Ecosuburb. This shows extensive expansion of Helsinki's Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, incorporating some sustainable technology planning commenced at the end of 1980's and the last phases being 2007-2010

Arabia Design City, new city area developed around Helsinki University of Art and Design Planning was commenced in the early 1990's and the last phases are 2007-2012

Helsinki Eastern & Western Harbours. This is a development on the western harbour area which is 30% completed. We will drive through Sörnäinen rantatie via the city centre to Salmisaari/Ruoholahti canal area. Ruoholahti mid-1980's was completed at the turn of the century. Jätkäsaari planning commenced end of the last century.

Kalasatama (Fiskhamnen) planning commenced 2002

This evening there will be a dinner for the group and we will invite the city planner who has been our guide for the day, and colleagues to join us to talk informally with us about Helsinki and its plans for the future.

Monday 27 August (B)

After breakfast, we will check out of our rooms, leaving our suitcases with concierge.

The morning is at leisure to explore the city, but you need to be back at the hotel by 12.00 midday to be ready for your transfer to the airport. You may wish to visit Design Museum / Alva Alton buildings.

The Finnair flight to Copenhagen departs at 15.35 (3.35pm), arriving at 16.10 (4.10pm). We will be met and transferred to our hotel, the Copenhagen Island Hotel.

The rest of the evening is at leisure.

COPENHAGEN

Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark is Scandinavia's most fantastic city, and part of the most dynamic region in Northern Europe, the Øresund Region. The city is one of Europe's oldest and most wonderful capitals with a royal touch. In this world class metropolis that always has something to offer for all tastes you find world famous attractions as the "Little Mermaid", the amusement park Tivoli, the Royal Theatre, the newly built Opera House, The Royal Castle Amalienborg with the Royal Guard, the Carlsberg Brewery and much, much more.

Tuesday 28 August (B)

After breakfast, we will walk to the offices of Jan Gehl from Gehl Architects for a talk entitled “Introduction to Wonderful Copenhagen” with reference to the history and development of the public spaces in Copenhagen, and what that has meant to the city more widely.

After the presentation a local planner will take us on a guided tour around the city.

At the end of the talk, there will be time for lunch at a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, we will be collected by a coach from our hotel to view the city and explore old and new developments including: Holmen, South Harbour, Opera House, Redevelopments around the Metro Line and Christana with another planner.

The evening is at leisure.

Wednesday 29 August (B)

Today we will experience the Metro system as we travel to the linear development of Øresund. At Øresund, we will be met by a planner who is working on this development to obtain an insider’s view of the issues and ideas associated with it. We will walk and use the metro to move around Øresund, an example of Euro-Transport Urbanism (not to be confused with the American TOD).

The afternoon is free to look around Copenhagen and enjoy it at your own pace.

Thursday 30 August (B,L)

Today we travel to Stockholm over the Øresund link, the bridge that links Sweden to Denmark. This bridge is quite remarkable in that it has changed the structural dynamics of how Southern Sweden relates to the rest of Europe by significantly shortening the trip between the two.

Upon reaching Sweden, we will visit the city of Malmö.

This is a progressive regional city that has been working closely with Copenhagen on regional planning and economic development, as well as at the Baltic and EU levels. In Malmö, we will see the Harbourside redevelopment areas, including the B0-01 demonstration housing area and Sweden’s tallest tower, Santiago Calatrava’s “Turning Torso”. Within the B0-01 housing area, there are some key sustainability initiatives, as well as social housing approaches about which we will learn.

The bus will drop us off in the City Centre, where we will have a one course lunch ready for us. After lunch we continue on to the new town of Jakriborg.

Jakriborg is a new town designed in the traditional Hanseatic style. We will have a guide to show us around and describe the present and future of the new town.

Following the tour, and a chance to walk around by yourself, we will get back on the bus to be taken to Lund to catch the High Speed Train to Stockholm. Dinner will be available on the train.

At the train station, we will be met and transferred to our hotel, the First Hotel Reisen.

STOCKHOLM

Welcome to Stockholm, one of the world's most beautiful and vibrant capitals. Built on 14 islands around one of Europe's largest and best-preserved mediaeval city centres, the Swedish capital is superbly positioned, with stunning and extremely varied scenery in every direction. Stockholm offers a wealth of museums, theatres, sights, attractions and events.

Friday 31 August (B,L)

We will head out early this morning as we will be taking a boat tour of Stockholm's harbour, showing us a view of the city from the waterfront. This will be followed by a bus tour of the city centre, giving us a full city orientation.

We have lunch boxes which will on board the coach, so that we can have our lunch whenever we feel hungry.

The coach will then take us onward to Hammarby Sjostad where we will be met by a city planner who will accompany us through the development.

Located on a former industrial-use Brownfield site and initially intended as a location for the 2004 Summer Olympics, Hammarby Sjostad is being developed as one of Stockholm's largest urban development projects. Located on Lake Hammarby Sjo, the waterside environment shaped the project's infrastructure, planning and design creating a modern mixed-use urban environment. When completed, Hammarby Sjöstad will include 9,000 apartments for approximately 20,000 residents.

After Hammarby Sjostad, we continue to an out-of-town development at Jar sjo with a brief walking tour of the area with one of the designers.

Following the tour, dinner will be at a venue suggested by the local planners (at your own expense), before we return to our hotel.

Saturday 1 September (B, D)

This morning there will be presentations from the city planning office. These short presentations will cover several key topics. We will walk to their offices. Please note that due to security here, there is no smoking during this presentation (nor the facility to go outside for a cigarette) and no option to leave early

This will be followed by a free afternoon. We suggest that you may like to visit Skansen Park, the oldest open air museum in the world, or the Varsa Museum.

There will be a dinner tonight in a local Swedish restaurant

Sunday 2 September (B)

After breakfast, we will be heading out to the airport for our flight to Russia. This departs at 11.20, arriving in St Petersburg at 14.45 (2.45pm).

Once through the Customs and Immigrations process, we will be met and transferred to our hotel, the Novotel. The rest of the afternoon and evening is at leisure to enjoy this fabulous city.

ST PETERSBURG

St. Petersburg is a city of haunting magnificence, an imperial capital that seems to have been built as a monument. Less than three centuries have passed since Peter the Great began building his grand city on the Gulf of Finland, but it is difficult to visit its vast, crystalline squares and palaces without feeling the enormity of the gulf that separates that time from our own. All of which, of course, makes St. Petersburg more evocative of Russia's past than any place except perhaps the Moscow Kremlin.

Monday 3 September (B)

There is an optional tour to Catherine's Palace and the Amber Room today. If you have booked to go on this trip, a coach will take you on the one hour journey and there will be a guide to give you all the latest information.

In the 1770's there was a Finnish farm at the location of the current palace, but then it became a possession of the Tsar and was the residence of the Empress Catherine. From 1741 Tsarskoye Selo became the residence of the Empress Elizabeth and during her reign the architect Rastrelli created a magnificent Imperial Palace, a brilliant masterpiece of Russian baroque.

The Amber Room is probably the most famous room in Catherine's Palace, and it was used as a study. King Frederick William of Prussia gave Peter the Great the original inlaid amber panels after Peter admired them in a room in Frederick's palace. The 16-foot jigsaw-looking panels were constructed from over 100,000 perfectly fitted pieces of amber. The Nazis dismantled the amber panels and shipped them to Germany during World War II, and they have never been found. Much mystery surrounds the fate of the amber room panels, and many Russians believe that they still exist somewhere in Germany. Russian artists began recreating the amber panels using the old techniques in the early 1980's, and the room was opened to the public in 2003.

In the evening, there is an option to see Swan Lake at the Hermitage Theatre.

Tuesday 4 September (B)

Today there is a half day tour to Peterhof.

Peterhof is perhaps St. Petersburg's most famous and spectacular Imperial estate. Nestled on the shore of the Gulf of Finland (part of the Baltic Sea), the palace was built by Peter the Great initially as a resting place en route to the Imperial naval base at Kronshtadt. But the Tzar was quick to recognize the

attractiveness of the area and masterminded a vast estate intended to rival the famous gardens of Versailles.

We will be traveling to and from Peterhof by hydrofoil.

The afternoon is at leisure.

Wednesday 5 September (B, D)

Today may be the highlight of your Russian visit as we will be visiting the world famous Hermitage with its fabulous collection of paintings, jewellery, religious artifacts and objet d'arts. It is said that if a visitor were to spend 30 seconds on each item in the museum, it would take 11 years to finish the complete tour – but we won't leave you there for 11 years!! Our guide for the tour will pick out some of the highlights to show us and will explain the history of the item and its acquisition by the Hermitage (not always in a totally honest manner!)

The afternoon is at leisure before we all join together to celebrate the final night of the PIA Study Tour. We will be eating at a Russian restaurant where Russian traditions will be a part of our experience.

Thursday 6 September (B)

The flight back to Helsinki departs at 12.30 and so we will be leaving our hotel by 9.45am to drive to the airport. Those people traveling onward to Moscow will not be catching their train until the late afternoon (time to be confirmed) but they will still need to vacate their hotel room by mid-morning. The concierge will hold their luggage until such time as they head out to the station.