

The Gardens of Scandinavia

Scenic Sweden and Vistas of Norway

August 13 - 22, 2008

Presented by



Minnesota Landscape

ARBORETUM

Scandinavia has long been on our list of garden destinations, so this coming summer, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is offering a tour to Sweden and Norway, with many thrilling details designed to give you the best of Scandinavia!

Stockholm is one of the most stunning capitals in the world, situated on 14 islands and laced by water so clean that you can swim and fish in the heart of the city. Yet it is a city whose size is so comfortable that most hotels, restaurants, shopping and sights are within walking distance of one another.

This city is steeped in tradition and history, with narrow passageways, cobble stoned streets, museums and splendid palaces—and home to the magnificent Stockholm archipelago, consisting of 24,000 islands: nature at its very best.

One of the highlights of our visit to Sweden is a tour to Uppsala, home city of the famous botanist Carl Linnaeus. In his garden you can see the plants and flowers cultivated by the great natural scientist himself. A total of 1,300 species of plants are arranged and classified in Sweden's oldest botanical garden, established in 1655, and expanded in 1743 at the behest of Linnaeus.

While visiting Uppsala, we'll also visit Gamla Uppsala, one of Scandinavia's most unusual ancient monuments, with three majestic royal mounds from the 6th century form one of Scandinavia's largest burial places, in addition to the ruins of a 12th century cathedral. This area is home to myths and legends of powerful Svea kings, descended from the god Frey.

In Stockholm, we'll have a tour of the city by boat, a tour to the Vasa Museum, and a visit to Drottningholm Castle, with a garden that's a copy of the Versailles Palace garden. Here we'll see the results of a special process introduced in the past two years to rejuvenate the trees in the garden, using embryos from the original trees planted hundreds of years earlier.

From Stockholm to Oslo, we travel in comfort on the train, with magnificent views of Sweden and Norway. You'll marvel at the fantastic scenery just outside your picture windows of your first-class car.

And, on arrival in Oslo, it's a short walk from the station to our hotel, centrally located in downtown Oslo. Oslo, with its population of half a million inhabitants, is Norway's capital and also its largest city. Built on and around a fjord, the city is known for the beauty and majesty of its setting. We'll spend two nights in Oslo, visiting sights such as the Viking ship museum, the Maritime Museum of Kon-Tiki, the Holmenkollen Ski Jump overlooking the city, and Vigeland Park, with its fantastic sculptures.

Once again we enlist Norwegian Rail System, to ride the Bergen Railway, Northern Europe's highest railway, and recognized as one of the best railway experiences in the world. And to cap this great rail journey, we will take one of the most beautiful rail trips in the world – the Myrdal to Flåm Railway – an incredible train journey from the mountain station at Myrdal, down to Flåm station, nestled in the innermost corner of the Aurlandfjord. This 20 kilometer train ride is one of the steepest railway lines on normal gauge in the world, and is a train buff's delight! The twisting tunnels that spiral in and out of the mountains manifest the most daring and skilled engineering in Norwegian railway history. And, not to be outdone at the end of this journey, we'll cap our day with a boat trip from Flåm to Balestrand on the beautiful Sognefjord, where we'll overnight en route to Bergen.

Bergen, on the west coast of Norway, is our final stop, where we experience the scenic beauty of this fishing town, home of Norway's most famous composer, Edward Grieg.

This tour of Sweden and Norway provides you with a great overview of the two countries, along with some of the most spectacular scenery that you'll ever see. It is a journey not to be missed. Join us for a Scandinavian tour you won't soon forget!

MEMBER'S TOUR PRICE: \$3,195, land only

Airfare is extra: special group airfare available from \$995 per person, plus taxes

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement \$1,295 extra

**Note: Non-members of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum add \$100 to the tour cost*

TOUR ITINERARY

Wednesday, August 13 *Minneapolis/Stockholm*
Depart Minneapolis for overnight flight to Stockholm.

Thursday, August 14 *Stockholm*
Upon arrival in Stockholm, those purchasing our group air space are transferred to our city center hotel. The balance of the day and evening are free.

Friday, August 15 *Stockholm*
Tour to Drottningholm Palace and Garden. This garden is a copy of the garden at Versailles Palace. The trees here have been rejuvenated over the past two years using embryos from the original trees planted two hundred years earlier. Lunch (on own) available at the restaurant on the grounds. Return to Stockholm, and tour the harbor by canal boat. We finish touring with a guided tour of the Vasa Museum, displaying the only nearly fully intact 17th-century ship that has ever been salvaged, the *Vasa*, that sank on her maiden voyage in 1628. Dinner is at *Fem Små Hus*, an exclusive, old-world restaurant with a very Swedish traditional atmosphere. **B D**

Saturday, August 16 *Stockholm*
Half day visit to the Bergius Botanical Garden, a research institution of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and part of Stockholm University. Return to Stockholm. Balance of the day is at leisure. **B**

Sunday, August 17 *Uppsala*
We travel to Uppsala and visit Gamla Uppsala, one of Scandinavia's most unusual ancient monuments, with majestic royal mounds from the 6th century, and one of Scandinavia's largest burial places. We continue to Carl Linnaeus' house and garden, to see the plants and flowers cultivated by Linnaeus himself. Next we visit the national shrine of the Church of Sweden, the largest and tallest church in Scandinavia, from 1435, where the most famous Swedes are buried, including King Gustav I and Carl Linnaeus. We visit the botanical garden at Uppsala University – Sweden's oldest botanical garden – and return to Stockholm in the late afternoon. Lunch is included today. **B L**

Monday, August 18 *Train to Oslo*
Today we take the train from Stockholm to Oslo, a scenic and relaxing ride across Sweden into Norway. Upon arrival in Oslo, our hotel is a short walk from the train station. The balance of the day is at leisure. **B**

Tuesday, August 19 *Oslo Sightseeing*
Full day tour of Oslo, touring the harbour of Oslo, Akershus Fortress, and the Resistance Museum, dedicated to the fight against the Nazi occupation of WWII. Tour the Stave Church on the island of Bygdøy—a unique Norwegian wooden church from the early Middle Ages. After lunch, visit the Viking Ship Museum and the Kon Tiki Museum, celebrating the journeys of the Norwegian explorer, Thor Heyderdahl. Visit Holmenkollen ski jump overlooking Oslo, then visit the beautifully designed and decorated urban park of Vigeland, with the sculptures of Gustav Vigeland. Return to our hotel for overnight. **B L**

Wednesday, August 20 *Myrdal to Flåm*
Morning departure from Oslo by train on the Bergen Railway. The Eurail Guide has called this 300-mile journey the "most scenic rail trip in Europe." At Myrdal, transfer to the Flåm Railway. A marvel of Norwegian engineering, it is one of the world's steepest railway lines on a normal gauge railway. The

trip begins at 2,841 feet elevation and spirals down through the mountain. Along the way, you'll see spectacular mountains, steep ravines, and the Kjos Waterfall. Lunch in Flåm on your own. Later in the afternoon embark on a Songnefjord high speed ferry ride to the picturesque village of Balestrand. There you'll dine and spend the night at the venerable Kvikne's, Norway's famous wooden hotel. **B D**

Thursday, August 21 *Bergen*
After breakfast, leave Balestrand by ferry. For the next four hours you'll enjoy the gorgeous scenery of the Songnefjord before arriving in the historic city of Bergen. Upon arrival we have a city tour of Bergen including the Arboretum and Botanical Garden nearby. Farewell dinner at hotel tonight. **B D**

Friday, August 22 *Flights Home*
Transfer to airport for the return flights home for those purchasing our group air fare. **B**

Note: B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner

This outstanding value includes the following:

- 8 nights' first-class hotel accommodation on tour
- Breakfast buffet daily
- Two lunches and three dinners
- Sightseeing as indicated in the itinerary
- Taxes and service charges
- A tax-deductible contribution to the Arboretum
- Led by experienced Arboretum tour leader

Not included in the tour

- Airfare
- Gratuities to drivers and guides
- Items of a personal nature-- laundry, phone calls, etc.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Deposit due with booking: \$500 per person
Final payment due: May 1, 2008

Cancellation Notice - All cancellations must be in writing and are effective upon receipt in our office.

Cancellation fees are as follows:

95+ days prior to departure	\$250.00 per person
94 – 60 days prior	\$500.00 per person
59 – 30 days prior	\$1,000.00 per person
Within 30 days of departure	NO REFUND

Trip cancellation insurance is recommended. Contact Macy's Group Travel for details.

Member's Tour Cost:

\$3,195 per person, double occupancy
\$1,295 per person, single supplement
Note: Non-members of the Arboretum add \$100

In order to qualify for the member's price, each traveler must be a member of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Special group airfare available from \$995 per person from Minneapolis (plus air taxes estimated at \$245). Airfare includes round trip transfers to and from the airport. Call for details.

To register for this tour, please contact:
Macy's Group Travel
700 On the Mall, MS-750
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 375-2881 or (800) 533-0324
email: jglad@macysthtravel.com