



Scandinavia Adventure

04 – 21 June 2024



Itinerary

When one thinks of Scandinavia, images of vast open spaces, imposing mountains, and deep, majestic fjords come to mind. Come join us on an incredible adventure and experience the grandeur of nature and much more.

In addition to mountains and fjords, the region offers spectacular coastlines, sandy beaches, bridges, tunnels, ferries, and fantastic roads. Scandinavian cities are distinct with their historic architecture, waterfront neighbourhoods, clean streets, green spaces, efficient public transit systems, and modern touches.

To make it even more appealing, especially to a motorcyclist, Scandinavia has beautifully maintained roads that are seldom straight, and long Scandinavian summer days with daylight of 20 hours.

You might have heard of the Danish word “Hygge” which means cosy and much more. It can be a feeling of cosiness; it can also be a meeting between people that is hygge. On this tour, we will strive to create some real Scandinavian “Hygge”.

Experience the stunning Scandinavian landscapes, the people and their way of living, and come home with unforgettable memories.

Day 1: 04 June 2024 (Tuesday) Arrival Day

Arrival in Hamburg either by plane or by train via Frankfurt. Take a cab or pre-booked transport from the airport or the Main train station (Hauptbahnhof) to our hotel close to the harbour of Hamburg. The hotel once was a home for seafarers who visited Hamburg before it was converted to a cosy hotel with a view over the harbour. Enjoy a drink in the tower bar with its breath-taking views.

Settle in, catch up on sleep or have a walk around the area. There are eateries around the hotel, ask the hotel staff for information. We will all meet in the evening for a first catch-up.

Overnight Hotel Hafen Hamburg

Day 2: 05 June 2024 (Wednesday) Full day in Hamburg

After breakfast, we will take a tour through parts of beautiful Hamburg with its international deep seaport. Take in the atmosphere of this amazing trading town. We will see the old St Michaelis church and will go onto its tower to get an overview of the town. A visit to the harbour with its old storage buildings alongside the canals is a must. We will visit the equivalent of the Sydney Opera House, the recently opened and highly controversial new landmark of Hamburg, and the stunning music hall, Elbphilharmonie, in the middle of the old harbour.

Later in the afternoon, the motorcycle rental company will bring the inner bags to our hotel so that you can pack them at your leisure. You can leave your suitcases at the rental station, and retrieve them on our return.

In the evening we will have our welcome dinner at the hotel. Afterwards, you are free to explore the world-famous Reeperbahn in St Pauli.... the Soho of Hamburg. Worthwhile a look.... or just have a quiet drink in one of the many bars around.

Overnight at Hotel Hafen Hamburg (Breakfast – Dinner)



Day 3: 06 June 2024 (Thursday) Hamburg to Kiel approx. 100km

Today our adventure begins. After the rider briefing, we will be transferred to the motorcycle rental station where you will have time to get accustomed to your bikes. It will be around lunchtime when we take off, via smaller roads, towards the port town of Kiel on the Baltic Sea.

In the evening we take a mini cruise (with our bikes) overnight to the Swedish town of Gothenborg.

Overnight Stenaline Ferry (Dinner and breakfast on the ferry)

Day 4: 07 June 2024 (Friday) Gothenborg to Vanersborg - 200km

An early breakfast on the ferry and then enjoy the views as we cruise between islands and bays into Gothenborg town where we expect to arrive at 9.15 am.

Our first full riding day will take us North out of town. We ride along the Swedish Skargaard – Archipelago Coast with its beautiful islands and coastline. A typical Swedish impression awaits you. The tour is sprinkled with some small ferry hops.

The lunch stop will be in the little harbour town of Lysekil. After lunch, we head inland towards Trollhattan. It is famous for lying at the Gota Kanal (390km in length) that connects the Swedish West Coast – Gothenborg with Stockholm, the capital of Sweden. We will take a look at the locks and stay near Trollhattan overnight.

Overnight Hotel Hehrne Kök & Konferens (Breakfast and lunch)



Day 5: 08 June 2024 (Saturday): Trollhattan to Moss – 260km

After breakfast, we take a short ride into Trollhattan to visit the SAAB Car Museum. This year we will visit during the SAAB Festival. Expect plenty of activity in front of the museum and inside. We start a little later today and will ride the beautiful Swedish countryside with its picturesque and colourful red and yellow wooden houses sprinkled over it.

Lunch will be in Ed, a small Swedish town, where we stop at a moose farm to check out these large imposing animals. Before we end up at our final destination today, we will cross the border to Norway...almost unnoticed.

Overnight Mitt Hotel (breakfast and lunch)

Day 6: 09 June 2024 (Sunday): Moss to Gol – 280km

In the morning we will take a 45min ferry ride across the Oslo Fjord to Horten. From there we start riding inland towards the more mountainous areas of South Norway. On route, we will see our first Stave Church. These churches were built between 1100 and 1350. They are synonymous with Norway and absolutely unique. Only 29 of almost 2000 that were built remain today. The Rollag Stave Church was built in the second half of the 12th century.

Our day ends in Gol, a ski town at the base of several ski areas.

Overnight Solstad Gastegard (lunch and breakfast)



Day 7: 10 June 2024 (Monday): Gol to Geiranger – 312km

Today we start early after breakfast as we have a longer day riding. The rewards are stunning roads and scenery in the mountains. We cross the Valdresflye, a mountain plateau. The ride provides endless vistas as it hovers free and light above the mountain plateau.

Lunch will be in Vagamo in a quaint café. Across the road, you can have another look at a beautiful Stave Church. We will end up in the famous small town of Geiranger. It lies at the end of the Geiranger Fjord that winds deep into the mountainous Norway. Tonight we stay at the Geiranger Hotel overlooking the Fjord. Cruise ships are regular visitors to Geiranger.

Overnight Geiranger Hotel (breakfast and lunch)

Day 8: 11 June 2024 (Tuesday): Geiranger to Laerdal soyri – 240km

After leaving Geiranger we wind back up to Mt Dalsnibba with its viewing platform – called the Geiranger Skywalk - 1500m high above the Fjord. From here you have unimpeded views down to the Fjord, the surrounding mountains and Blabreen Glacier.

From here we backtrack for about 1.45 hours to the small town of Lom. Two highlights await us here. We can see an old Stave Church from inside and for lunch, you can eat a moose burger!

After lunch, we turn south riding over mountains and through tunnels. We cross a pass from which we can see various glaciers. We end up in Laerdal soyri an historic small township. Take a stroll through this little township after dinner.

Overnight Lindstroem Hotel (breakfast and lunch)



Day 9: 12 June 2024 (Wednesday): Laerdalsoyri to Geilo – 160km

Today we ride the Aurlandfjellet (Aurlands mountains), one of 18 Norwegian Scenic Routes. It is dominated by mountaintops and large mountain planes. After riding the planes, we arrive at the Stegastein Lookout platform with breath-taking views down to the Aurlandsfjord. Time to wind down the pass heading to Marianne's Café and bakery in Aurlandsvangen for an early lunch.

Be prepared for a special ride after lunch. We wind up the next pass. This one is partly chiselled into the mountain! A very Norwegian thing is building tunnels – a necessity to connect people via roads. Today we experience our fair share of them. Be prepared for hairpins in tunnels!

The day ends in Geilo at the classic Dr Holms Hotel. Have a good rest and maybe there is time to use the pool and wellness area. Geilo is an epic ski town in winter and in summer an Eldorado for mountain bikers and hikers.

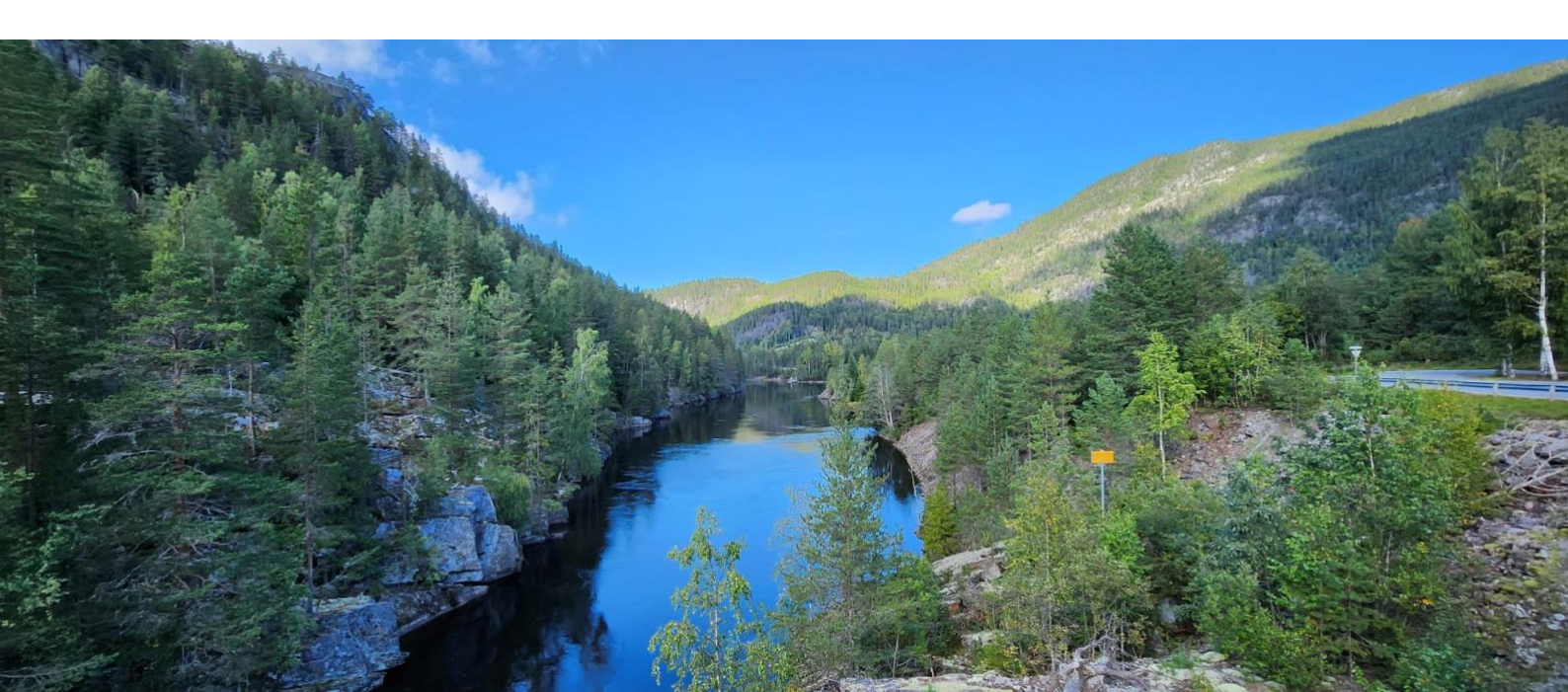
Overnight Dr Holms Hotel (breakfast and lunch)

Day 10: 13 June 2024 (Thursday): Geilo to Hovden – 285km

Today we head further south towards Lysebotn and Stavanger. The roads are windy, and the scenery is stunning. We start to understand why in Norway power is so cheap. The mountain lakes build a massive power reservoir.... Our lunch stop today is special. In the little town of Rjukan, we take a 100-year-old cable car – the Krossobanen- up the mountain and lunch in the café on top of the hill! It was built in 1928 as a gift from the local power company so that townspeople could get up high in winter to see the sun. It was the first cable car built in Northern Europe.

Stop overnight in Hovden at a warm and cosy country lodge.

Overnight Hovdestoylen Lodge (lunch and breakfast)



Day 11: 14 June 2023 (Friday): Hovden to Stavanger – 294km

After riding beautiful mountain areas and past lakes we arrive at one of the highlights for motorcyclists in Norway. The pass down to Lysebotn Fjord. For many years the town was only accessible via boat. Only in 1984, the 29km road was opened. It rises over 900m above sea level up a very steep cliff, going through 27 hairpin turns, including one turn inside an 1100m long tunnel. Enjoy the ride down...and later up again!

Later we will ride to Stavanger an historic coastal town. On the way, we pass a tourist shop with candle manufacturing (Byrkedalstunet). We stop for a coffee and you must go deep into this amazing shop! It is known also for its handmade candles. Stock up for presents...

If you have time in the evening, take a walk to Stavanger's historic part of the town, just 650m away. Remember daylight is for 19 to 20 hours...

Overnight Scandic Royal Stavanger (breakfast and lunch)

Day 12: 15 June 2024 (Saturday) Stavanger to Bergen - 200km

After a nice breakfast, we head north on a more major road, the E39, from Stavanger to Bergen. This road is the main connection between the two large coastal towns. We will do some island hopping via bridges, tunnels and ferries. It's an amazing engineering piece of work. And because the Norwegians love building tunnels, they are currently constructing a new tunnel north of Stavanger, 31km long and at the lowest point 495m under sea level! It will be finished in 2033.

Bergen, a major sea and port town with an historic town centre – the Bryggen - awaits us. We will stay in the Clarion Hotel Bergen in the middle of Bryggen. The old houses are built so close to each other that they almost touch at the top. A must-see on this trip.

Overnight Clarion Hotel Bergen (lunch and breakfast)



Day 13: 16 June 2024 (Sunday) Bergen to Hirtshals - 8km

Today we have time to explore Bergen in the morning. At noon we gather and drive to the ferry terminal where we take another cruise. With a Fjordline ship, we leave Bergen at approx. 13.30. The ship will cruise the whole afternoon through the coastal islands and fjords. Take it all in and relax.

After a short stop in Stavanger, the ferry sails through the night and drops us off in the morning in Hirtshals, a small Danish town almost at the top of Denmark. We will have a dinner buffet on board.

Overnight Ferry Scandlines (breakfast and dinner)

Day 14: 17 June (Monday): Hirtshals to Copenhagen - 350km

After our breakfast onboard the ferry we start early (arriving 7.15 am) and ride to Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark. You will immediately see how different Denmark is from Norway. The land is now very flat with lots of green farming land. The houses are different too.

Today we take the motorway on purpose. Top speed is 130km. So take the opportunity to ride faster than you are allowed in NZ or Aussie...

After about 2.5 hours we arrive in Aarhus a coastal university town on the Baltic Sea. From here we take a short ferry ride (1.20hrs) to the island of Sjælland. From there it takes us about 1.5 hours to Copenhagen where we spend the evening and the next day.

In the evening we visit the famous Tivoli Garden, a permanent fun fair in the centre of town. It opened in 1843 and is the third-oldest, operating amusement park in the world.

Overnight Guldsmiden 66 (breakfast on ship, own lunch on ferry Aarhus to Sjælands Odde)



Day 15: 18 June 2024 (Tuesday): Copenhagen – Bornholm (100km)

Today we will spend the day in Copenhagen. A town with more bicycles than cars! A real buzzing and hip town! Yes, the Danes have their own queen. Margarete II, who is a very much loved people's queen.

In the afternoon we ride over the longest bridge in Scandinavia, the Oeresundbridge...19km long in total. On top is a 6-lane motorway, below trains go over the bridge. It connects Denmark with Sweden.

After crossing we ride leisurely to Ystad where we take ... yes another ferry. Only 1.20hrs and then we are on Bornholm, the beautiful Baltic Island where our lead rider Michael Becker and his partner Pernille live.

Overnight TBA (breakfast, lunch)

Day 16: 19 June 2024 (Wednesday): Bornholm

A leisurely day on the island awaits you. This historical island has lots to offer, culture, art and good local products. We cruise over the island and see and taste some of the highlights. One of them is the remains of an old castle from the 11th century.

There is an option to have a delicious group dinner at a restaurant in Allinge.

Overnight TBA (breakfast, lunch)



Day 17: 20 June 2024 (Thursday) Bornholm to Hamburg – 270km

At 8 am we take our final ferry for the trip from Ronne to Sassnitz in Germany. On the way have a lookout for some fairly large windfarms in the ocean.

After arrival, we enjoy our last thrill. We take the German Autobahn to Hamburg. Why? Because on some longer stretches there is no speed limit. So, we can go a bit faster if desired. This is something that is not possible in most countries ... but please don't go too crazy – remember safety first!

In the afternoon we arrive back in Hamburg, drop off the bikes and check in to our hotel. Tonight we will have a farewell dinner—time to recall shared memories from the trip.

Overnight: Hotel Hafen Hamburg (Breakfast, lunch, and dinner)

Day 18: 21 June 2024 (Friday) Departure Day

The day we all part after this epic adventure.

If you liked it, tell everyone to join us in 2025! We wish you safe travels home or wherever are headed.. We hope to see you on one of our other tours!



Motorcycles and Luggage

We have partnered with a motorcycle rental company in Hamburg that offers a variety of BMW and KTM bikes. The motorcycles are all late models and come with pannier bags, a top box and inner bags. We will carry our luggage on this tour, so please pack accordingly (there will be room in the support van for any non-riding participants' luggage and a little extra room for any overflow). Your suitcases can be stored at the rental depot.

Motorcycles will be distributed on a first come basis and we suggest you have a second and third choice.

Motorcycles Available

BMW R1250GS

KTM 890 Adventure (some factory lowered)

KTM 1290 Adventure

Incl: Panniers, top box, inner bags, navigation unit

Support Vehicle

We will have a small van going on the tour which will be able to take a couple of non-riders. It can take small amounts of luggage but not the luggage for all tour participants.

What is Included

18 night's accommodation based on sharing Twin/Double in 3 and 4-star hotels

Breakfast every day, most lunches, welcome and farewell dinner, two dinners on ferries

Motorcycle hire or seat in the support vehicle.

Accompanying tour support vehicle

Two overnight ferry crossings: Kiel - Gothenborg and Bergen - Hirtshals

Two ferry crossings: Aarhus - Sjaeland Odde and Ystad - Ronne

Ferry crossing Ronne - Sassnitz

Most smaller ferry crossing fees

Personal guided by Michael Becker and Angela Bruce

Excluded Services:

International flights Domestic flights

Airport Transfers

Excluded meals as per the itinerary

Personal expenses, medical etc

TOUR PRICES - per person

Please note that tour prices are based on Twin share* -

RIDER NZD15,500

PILLION ON MOTORBIKE NZD12,500

PASSENGER IN TOUR VEHICLE NZD12,500

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT/OWN ROOM +NZD3000

*(if you are travelling solo OR do not wish to share you will be required to pay the Single Supplement)

DEPOSIT NZ2000 PER PERSON

Deposit details for New Zealand residents

Kiwibank Account: By The Backroads Ltd Number: 38 9023 0063240 01

Customers outside New Zealand please email us adventure@bythebackroads.com for details