



**RAILWAY
ADVENTURES**

2023

SCANDINAVIA

BY RAIL, ROAD, AND SEA

With Graeme Hind

17 July – 3 August 2023

• STOCKHOLM • LAPLAND • LOFOTEN ISLANDS • BODØ •
• TRONDHEIM • ÅLESUND • BERGEN • OSLO •

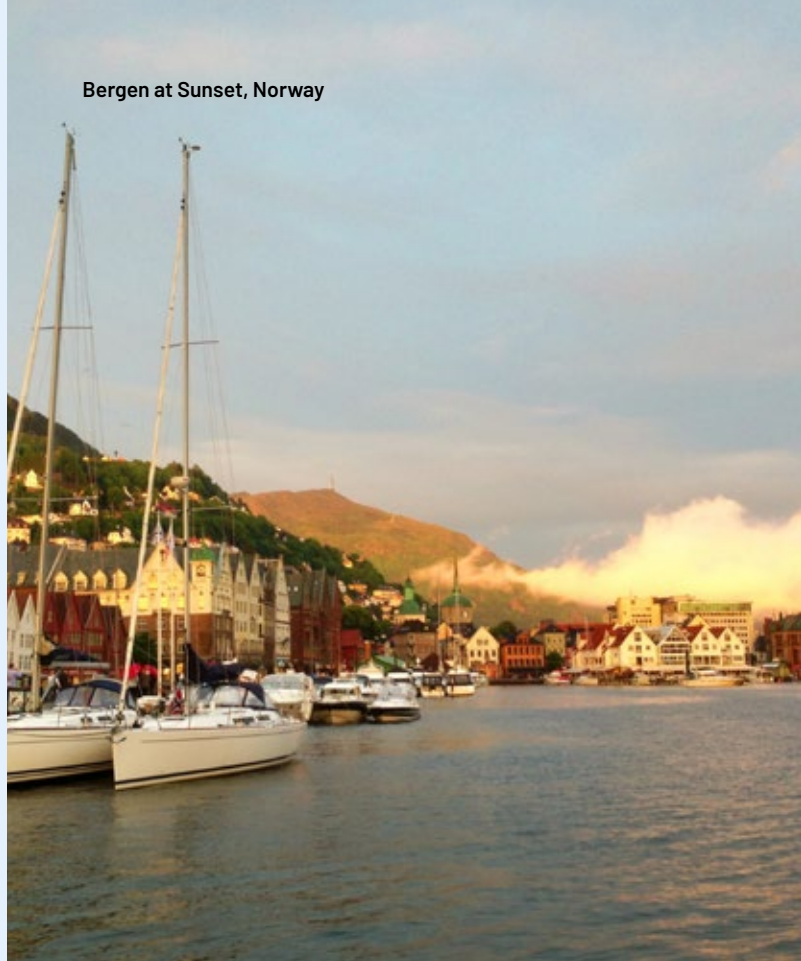
The Rauma railway train on the Kylling Bridge

INTRODUCTION

There's nothing like mid-summer in Scandinavia when the sun shines all night and the locals come out to play. It's an ideal time to visit and take a journey on a variety of trains, boats, and coaches through some of the most astounding landscapes on Earth.

Welcome to a 3,000 km odyssey on some of the world's most dramatically engineered roads and railways together with a host of mesmerising seaways. Starting in the historic capital of Stockholm, ride the unique Inlandsbanan train through the heart of Sweden to Lapland. Take The Ofoten Line further, to beyond the Arctic Circle, before descending down the northern coast of Norway, cruising the Lofoten Islands by liner. Join the dramatic Nordland Railway for a trip to the medieval city of Trondheim and travel the Rauma and Flam Railways on a breathtaking trip through some of the world's most spectacular scenery, en route to the storybook cities of Ålesund and Bergen. Finally, traverse the alpine tundra on Norway's highest railway and enjoy a fitting finale in its compact and charismatic capital, Oslo.

Scandinavia is quite simply "a once-in-a-lifetime destination".



Bergen at Sunset, Norway

HIGHLIGHTS

- Three days in the grand city of Stockholm with guides and private vintage tram charter
- Three days through the heart of Central and Northern Sweden (Lapland)
- Two-day character-filled rail-cruise journey on the unique Inlandsbanan railway
- Day cruise around spectacular Arctic islands and fjords on the famous Hurtigruten
- Special guided excursion of the scenic Lofoten Islands and Viking Museum
- Guided tour of beautiful Trondheim, its grand cathedral, and historic square
- Grand old 'STORD1' Steam Ship experience to meet the vintage train at Bergen
- Full day 'Norway in a nutshell' tour with fjords cruise and Flam Railway excursions
- Iconic train journeys linking the towns and cities of Bodø, medieval Trondheim, art nouveau Ålesund, and avant-garde Oslo
- 11 train journeys (including two steam specials), six boat trips, and five scenic coach journeys
- Quality accommodation in centrally located, 3-5-star hotels
- Meals included most days with many local delicacies on offer

MEET YOUR **TOUR LEADER**



Graeme Hind

Graeme has travelled Australia and the world extensively his entire life, whether it be by train, motorcycling through the Outback, Europe, or North America, or through Africa in a 'worse for wear' Kombi van.

As a child growing up in Sydney, he witnessed the very last of the days of steam on the railways of NSW and thus began a fascination for trains and rail travel that continues today. He enthusiastically followed every boy's dream of becoming a steam engine driver, becoming involved in the railway preservation movement at an early age, and today he is a regular volunteer steam driver and trainer at several preserved railways in Victoria.

Graeme's professional life was in water resource engineering and operations, a field in which he is still involved, and this resulted in him residing in several rural locations in NSW and Tasmania. He has also lived in Canada and spent a few years in South Africa working for the railways there.

Some favourite places to travel? Graeme says, "The back blocks of Australia, the Isle of man (Motorbikes AND trains!), Scandinavia of course, and anywhere where you learn something you didn't know!"

TOUR MAP



WHY **TRAVEL WITH US**

The joy of travel is not confined to the destination. How you travel is a large and rich part of the experience. Railway Adventures offers a truly unique perspective on some of the world's most spectacular destinations, with the confidence that the journey will be just as magical and memorable as what is discovered at the end of the line.



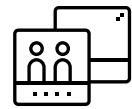
Unique
itineraries



Authentic local
experiences



Expert local
guides and operators



Fully
escorted



Small
group sizes



Customer
satisfaction

SOME WAYS **YOU'LL TRAVEL**

The best train trips possible, private luxury coach for off-train travel, guided walking where suitable, and other appropriate and appealing options to make exploration easy.



Inlandsbanan train, Sweden



Hurtigruten cruise ship



Flam Railway

Day 1 • Monday 17 July: ARRIVE STOCKHOLM

Welcome to Stockholm, Sweden's capital of about two million people. This beautiful city is built on a group of islands linked by bridges and surrounded on all sides by water. First up, you'll take the high-speed Alanda Express train from the airport to your hotel in the city centre.

Join your tour leader and fellow travellers in the evening for a celebratory welcome dinner.

Overnight: *Radisson Blu Waterfront hotel, Stockholm (D)*

Day 2 • Tuesday 18 July: STOCKHOLM

This morning enjoy a guided tour of Stockholm by bus and on foot with a private guide. The extraordinary architectural styles of the impressive City Hall, home of the Nobel Prize receptions, and the medieval and baroque-era old town areas are highlights. Later, we board a historic steam ship for a leisurely cruise around the islands to the Royal Palace of Drottningholm and visit the art collections and the gorgeous gardens of this charming imperial island.

Overnight: *Radisson Blu Waterfront Hotel, Stockholm (B, L)*

Day 3 • Wednesday 19 July: STOCKHOLM

Enjoy a free morning to relax, and then gather at noon to board a vintage restaurant tram for a lunchtime excursion around the city on the tramlines. The tram tour terminates adjacent to the world-renowned Vasa Museum, where you're free to spend the afternoon enjoying the extraordinary display, before our coach transfer back to the hotel. Your evening is at leisure.

Overnight: *Radisson Blu Waterfront Hotel, Stockholm (B, L)*

Day 4 • Thursday 20 July: STOCKHOLM - ÖSTERSUND

This morning we begin our journey into the Swedish countryside, taking our coach for a short ride north to the old royal city of Uppsala taking a detour on the way to ride a quaint little steam train in the forest. The grand cathedral at Uppsala is the burial place of Sweden's early Kings and Queens and the nearby Fort provides a great vantage point for the surrounding countryside. We continue by coach to the busy port city of Sundsvall, completely rebuilt in stone after a fire destroyed the city in the 1890's. Here our cross-country train takes us on a scenic journey to Östersund, nestled on the shores of beautiful Lake Storsjön, Sweden's fifth largest lake. Dinner tonight is hosted in the hotel's popular restaurant.

Overnight: *Hotel Clarion Grand, Östersund (B, D)*

Day 5 • Friday 21 July: ÖSTERSUND - ARVIDSJAUR

This morning, we meet the unique Inlandsbanan train, a retro diesel rail car, at Östersund's picturesque station. The journey takes us north, travelling through some of Sweden's most remote and wild landscapes, as we head towards Lapland. The train makes several stops at quaint villages and hamlets along the way to take refreshments and visit local museums and shops.

The train arrives in Arvidsjaur mid-afternoon. After checking in to our hotel, enjoy some free time to relax. An early supper is offered in the hotel's lakeside restaurant and an evening at leisure.

Overnight: *Hotel Laponia, Arvidsjaur (B, D)*

Day 6 • Saturday 22 July: ARVIDSJAUR - GÄLLIVARE

Today, enjoy some free time until mid-afternoon when our train departs. Relax at the hotel or explore the town of Arvidsjaur and its many charms. Nestled by Lake Boliden, the town boasts a neatly laid out Sami village, a pristine old timber church, and several museums. The Inlandsbanan will collect you at the station for the second stage of the journey through landscapes of crystal-clear lakes and towering forests, crossing the Arctic Circle into the 'Land of the Midnight Sun' and on to the town of Gällivare. This evening you have the option to take a late-night tour to Dundret Mountain to enjoy the great views of the surrounding landscape and have supper in the cafe while enjoying the glowing midnight twilight.

Overnight: *Grand Hotel Lapland, Gällivare (B)*

Day 7 • Sunday 23 July: GÄLLIVARE - NARVIK

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll stroll across the street to catch the morning express train to Norway. The train glides past vast iron ore mines in northern Sweden and then drops down to the Norwegian port city of Narvik via the extraordinary Ofoten Railway, which is literally carved into the side of a spectacular fjord. After checking in, we visit the Ofoten Museum in Narvik, located in the old NSB railway administration building that dates back to 1902. The building displays exhibitions from the battle of Norway, as well as the history and culture of this wild region.

Back at the hotel, enjoy a beverage at the sky bar overlooking the harbour and a buffet dinner in the hotel's atrium restaurant.

Overnight: *Scandic Hotel, Narvik (B, D)*

Day 8 • Monday 24 July: NARVIK - SVOLVAER

After breakfast, we'll take a scenic coach journey to the charming town of Sortland to board a Hurtigruten cruise, Norway's famous cruise ship specialists. During the six-hour journey, sailing down to Svolvær in the comfort of the fully appointed liner, you'll be gobsmacked by the stunning scenery, including the astounding Troll Fjord. You'll see why this is considered the most beautiful of all of Hurtigruten's cruises. After disembarking, we'll walk straight to our hotel, handily situated right between the waterfront and the town square. Dinner will be served at the hotel.

Overnight: *Hotel Thon Lofoten, (or similar), Svolvær (B, D)*

Day 9 • Tuesday 25 July: SVOLVAER - BODØ

Our local guide is on hand once again to greet us after breakfast and host an eye-opening half-day tour down to the Viking Museum at Lofotr. The story of the Viking era is brought vividly to life in the atmospheric museum, and we'll enjoy a light lunch with a twist in the Viking longhouse before continuing through the craggy mountains and past the wild and bountiful coast to Moskenes. A car ferry takes us across to the busy port city of Bodø.

Join your tour leader and the group for a feast at a local alehouse on the old wharf.

Overnight: *Scandic Havet, Bodø (B, L, D)*

Day 10 • Wednesday 26 July: BODØ - TRONDHEIM

Enjoy a morning visiting the sites of Bodø or take an optional tour of the Air Force Museum on the outskirts of town. Bodø is the northern terminus of the main railway network south, and we'll board the Nordland Express train at midday for the 720-kilometre scenic journey to Trondheim. The train has a well-catered cafe car and your Komfort class seats offer added services. This journey delivers almost continuous panoramic views of beautiful, untouched wilderness as we cross back over the Arctic Circle along the way. The train pulls in at 10.00pm. A short coach transfer will deliver us to our hotel, where we'll stay for the next two nights.

Overnight: *Britannia Hotel, Trondheim (B)*



Day 11 • Thursday 27 July: TRONDHEIM

The morning is devoted to exploring atmospheric Trondheim, one of the oldest cities in Norway. We take a bus tour of the city dropping us off at the cathedral to enjoy a tour of the 800-year-old precinct. This is followed by a short walking tour of the old town, arriving for lunch in the ancient, cobbled streets of the Bakklandet neighbourhood. The afternoon and evening are free, so you can explore the many museums, shops, and scenic spots around the city.

Overnight: *Brittania Hotel, Trondheim (B, L)*

Day 12 • Friday 28 July: TRONDHEIM - DOMBÅS - ÅLESUND

We depart in the morning by train on the wonderful Nordland Railway. It snakes around lakes and rivers and climbs the ranges to traverse the wild treeless alpine plateau. We change trains and have a lunch break at the junction town of Dombås in preparation for the descent down the breathtaking Rauma Railway and on to Åndalsnes. For the last leg, we relax on a scenic coach journey past the lakes, waterways, and mountains of this glorious coastal region and on to the wonderful art nouveau city of Ålesund. Settle into the hotel and take a late afternoon walking tour of this unique town, finishing off the day with a buffet dinner at a local favourite.

Overnight: *Scandic Parken Hotel, Ålesund (B, D)*

Day 13 • Saturday 29 July: ÅLESUND - BERGEN

This morning we step aboard our luxury coach for the journey overland to Bergen. It's an epic excursion but as one traveller put it, "the trip cuts through many fjords along the way, with picture postcard scenery all day. In hindsight, I can safely say it was the most scenic bus trip of my life!"

There are a couple of interesting car ferry crossings, and we stop often for breaks, refreshments, and to enjoy the many awe-inspiring lookouts and views. We arrive in Bergen in the evening and settle into our hotel right in the heart of the historic wharf district, where we'll stay for the next three nights.

Dinner this evening will be hosted at a popular local restaurant close to the hotel.

Overnight: *Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Bryggen Wharf, Bergen (B, D)*

Day 14 • Sunday 30 July: BERGEN

After breakfast, we wander across the wharf to board one of Bergen's most historic steamships, D/S Stord 1. Built by Laxvaag in 1913 for the Norwegian coastal run, the ship was originally 376 tons. She was retired in 1969 and completely rebuilt after a destructive fire in 1987. She now lives out her days in and around Bergen on charters, cruises, and featuring in steamboat festivals.

Sailing up the harbour and along the estuary, we disembark at the wharf at Garnes and stroll across to board the Gamle Vossbåen, a vintage steam train complete with a teak dining car that runs along the original isolated Bergen railway back toward the city. It's a lovely round trip back in time and returning to your hotel by the mid-afternoon, leaving plenty of time to explore the atmospheric surrounds of the World Heritage-listed "Wooden City".

Overnight: *Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Bryggen Wharf, Bergen (B)*

Day 15 • Monday 31 July: BERGEN - FLAM - BERGEN

After breakfast, we take a walk across town to the railway station to board a train for Voss. Here we'll meet our coach for a trip down the sweeping escarpment of Geiranger Fjord, to connect with the ferry that will navigate the dramatic waterways to Flam. Lunch is hosted at Flam's very own brewery, where you'll have a chance to enjoy not only fine local fare but also a tasting paddle from the taps. We then board the famous Flam Railway for the extraordinary journey up onto the high plateau on one of the steepest lines in the world, twisting and turning sharply and often as the railway line does its best to accommodate the extreme terrain. At the mountain station of Myrdal, 865 metres above sea level, the Flam Railway meets up with the Oslo-Bergen Line for a connecting train that will take us on the stunning rail trip back to Bergen.

Overnight: *Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Bryggen Wharf, Bergen (B, L)*

Day 16 • Tuesday 1 August: BERGEN - OSLO

For today's rail journey, the last one of the tour, we make our way to the station to join the scenic railway from Bergen to Oslo. This 500 km route rises to the highest point of any railway in Norway, where the tundra landscape of lakes and glaciated plateaus is dusted with snow. We then drop down into rich agricultural land, past prosperous towns and cities, and snaking rivers all the way to the capital in mid-afternoon.

Our coach will meet us in Oslo and take us to our historic hotel, where we'll stay for the next two nights. Your evening is free to take advantage of the excellent location right in the heart of town.

Overnight: *Grand Hotel, Oslo (B)*

Day 17 • Wednesday 2 August: OSLO

Oslo has a vibrant cultural life, and we begin our city tour with a local guide at the stunning new Opera House. We then continue to Akershus Castle and Fortress, home to several fascinating museums, including the Museum of the Resistance. Enjoy lunch on your own around the trendy Radhusgata and then return to the hotel, just a short walk away, when you're ready.

This evening join your fellow travellers for a sumptuous farewell dinner on the Stortingsgata.

Overnight: *Grand Hotel, Oslo (B, D)*

Day 18 • Thursday 3 August: OSLO - DEPART (B)

Our tour concludes after breakfast at the hotel. The airport bus or fast airport train both leave from close to the hotel or if you just can't resist another train journey, the main station is just down the road.



WHAT'S **INCLUDED**

- 17 nights' accommodation in comfortable, centrally located 3-5 star hotels
- Meals as per itinerary: Daily Breakfast, 5 lunches, 9 dinners
- Drinks included with welcome and farewell dinners
- Luxury chartered coach travel throughout the tour
- Comprehensive sightseeing with expert local guides
- All excursions and entrance fees to attractions, as listed in the itinerary

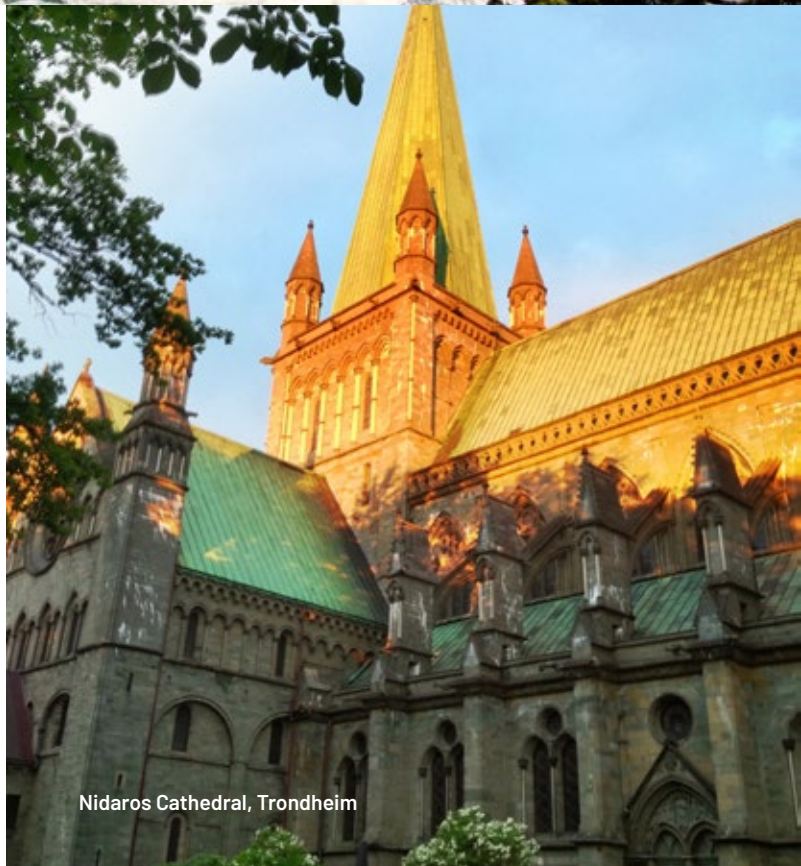
WHAT WE **DON'T INCLUDE**

- International flights
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure
- Meals and services not mentioned in the itinerary
- All other personal expenses, such as drinks, phone calls, laundry services, and camera fees where applicable
- Excursions listed as optional and extra in the itinerary

FITNESS **RATING**

Two 'Locos'

The most common grading for our tours. Two loco itineraries offer many activities that require a little extra fitness – walking on uneven ground, climbing hills to enter towns or historic sites, walks of 1-3 kilometres as well as getting on and off transport. You need to have good mobility and aerobic fitness and be able to manage your own luggage.



Nidaros Cathedral, Trondheim



Stockholm

SOME PLACES **YOU'LL STAY**

Hand-picked hotels and resorts based on location, customer feedback, value and atmosphere.

Please Note: Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

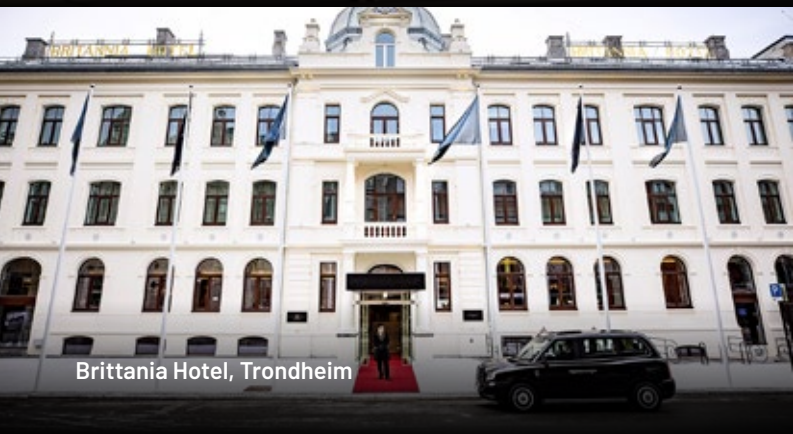
PRICE

Per person twin share **\$11,450**
Single supplement **\$1,985**
Deposit (per person) **\$1000 at time of booking**
Final payment due by **18 May 2023**

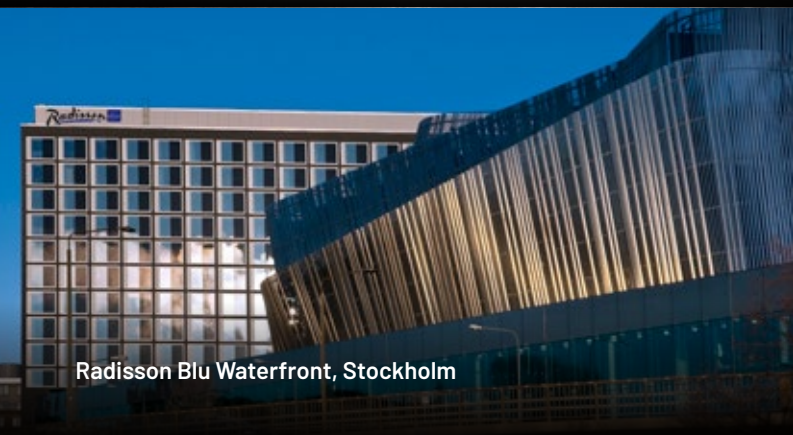
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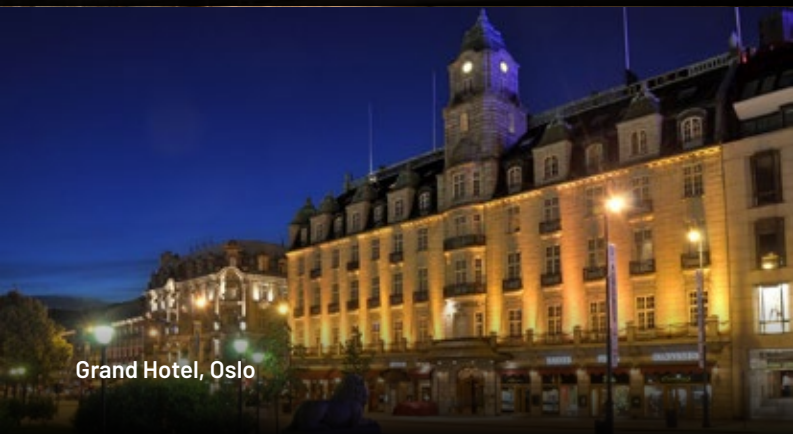
Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Bergen



Britannia Hotel, Trondheim



Radisson Blu Waterfront, Stockholm



Grand Hotel, Oslo

SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

We have suggested flights for this itinerary depending on your departure point from Australia, any preferred stopovers en-route and/or your planned pre- and post-tour activities. We can also investigate your preferred airline and offer you a solution based on connection times and prices. Contact 1300 800 977 to discuss your options.

HOW TO BOOK

Download a booking form from our website and follow the easy steps to getting on board. Alternatively, contact us on 1300 800 977 or info@railwayadventures.com if you'd prefer a form be sent to you. Complete the form and submit it, along with your \$1000 pp deposit to secure your place on the tour.

DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

We endeavour to have all the details of our tours correct at the time of printing. However, sometimes factors beyond our control may affect the final inclusions and prices. These factors may include, but not be limited to; significant fluctuations in currency exchange rates, individual hotel/restaurant decisions that may affect bookings; weather events forcing a change of itinerary; unexpected trackwork on rail lines, unexpected closure of site attractions and so forth. Therefore, items mentioned in the brochure such as quoted prices, hotels and inclusions are subject to change. If a change is imposed on us, we will endeavour to ensure the substitute is of the same quality that you've paid for.

TOUR PACE / LEVEL OF FITNESS:

Our itineraries are designed to make the most of each destination, so a reasonable amount of activity is built into most days, which is why we call them adventures. Our philosophy is to offer you the best experience possible, while leaving you, our guest, the flexibility to pace yourself and choose how much or how little you want to do. Each Railway Adventures tour incorporates periods of free time for your own exploration and relaxation.

While you don't need to be a 'gym junky', a reasonable level of fitness is required for most of our tours. The ability to manage your own luggage, get on and off all manner of trains and coaches, walk for extended periods, stand comfortably, and climb steps and stairs will ensure you get the maximum enjoyment from your adventure.

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to assisting with flight suggestions and bookings, we can also give you some ideas of what you could do before and after your Railway Adventure.

We can also organise your all-important Travel Insurance for you. Call our office on 1300 800 977 if you would like to discuss options.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

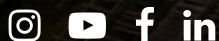
For more information on factors such as travel insurance requirements, fitness levels, fees and charges, tour cancellations, payment schedules and so on, please refer to our Terms and Conditions, which accompany the booking form. They can also be found on our website.



**RAILWAY
ADVENTURES**

1300 800 977

railwayadventures.com



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THE RAILWAY ADVENTURES **STORY**

Railway Adventures was launched in 2012 by well-known Australian TV personality and self-confessed rail fan, Scott McGregor. A lifelong passion for travel has taken Scott to scores of countries and his preference for rail has seen him exploring many of the world's great train journeys, confirming his belief that the most relaxing, romantic and engaging way to see a country is by rail. He even has his own life-sized, fully-restored opulent train accommodation atop the Great Dividing Range near Mudgee, offering guests a rare and special bush retreat experience. You can obtain more information about this unique guest house at WWW.STAYINATRIN.COM

Since 2012 Railway Adventures has thrilled and delighted more than 1500 travellers on over 120 tours from Sweden to Sri Lanka, Tasmania to Transylvania, Britain to Burma, Venice to Vietnam and all manner of shorter adventures in our own wonderful country. Scott's numerous rail-themed TV documentaries, his ongoing involvement in rail heritage and his extensive connections with private train owners around the world, guarantee that every Railway Adventures tour is exclusive, entertaining and authentic. 01 November 2022.

Your travel agent