

Baltic Cruise Adventure

July 10 – 22, 2020

Balcony Cabin \$6,175 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago;
Single Supplement - \$2,290



Day by Day Itinerary

Friday, July 10 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)

This evening we depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport by scheduled service of Scandinavian Airlines on the overnight transatlantic flight to Copenhagen, Denmark.

Saturday, July 11 – COPENHAGEN (I,D)

Early this afternoon we arrive in Copenhagen, where we'll meet our local Tour Guide who will introduce us to the Danish capital. As we'll soon find out, Copenhagen is a gracious and beautiful city whose main attractions include three royal palaces - Rosenborg, Amalienborg and Christiansborg, as well as numerous museums, churches and monuments all found within its medieval streets, charming canals, and spacious squares and gardens.

Sunday, July 12 – COPENHAGEN (B)

A morning sightseeing tour of Copenhagen will begin at the Radhuspladsen, the city's main square that is home to Copenhagen's red brick City Hall and from where the famous pedestrian street Stroget begins. We'll pass by Tivoli Gardens, part amusement park, part cultural venue and part wonderland, before taking in the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, a world-class museum that boasts a wealth of Danish paintings and sculptures from the Golden Age. Next, we'll see the National Museum, Christiansborg Palace, which houses the Danish Parliament, and the Borsen, Copenhagen's Old Stock Exchange. Along the way, we'll also see the beautiful cobblestoned Kongens Nytorv surrounded by fabulous buildings including the Royal Danish Theatre, and neighboring Nyhavn, home to colorful houses, stylish yachts and cozy restaurants. Then we'll stop to view the Little Mermaid statue, Denmark's best known monument, inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's fairytale, and the impressive Gefion Fountain before ending with a view of Amalienborg Palace, the official residence of the Danish Royal Family. The afternoon is free to explore Copenhagen.

Monday, July 13 – COPENHAGEN / CRUISING (North Zealand) (B,D)

Today we explore North Zealand, a region filled with rural villages, forested estates and stately castles. In the town of Hillerod we'll stop to visit Frederiksborg Castle, surrounded by the beautiful Frederiksborg Palace Garden. We'll also see nearby Fredensborg Palace at Lake Esrum which enjoys a special status among Danish palaces as it is the royal couple's most used residence. Then we're headed to Helsingor to visit Kronborg Castle, known all over the world from Shakespeare's Hamlet. The cannon-surrounded fortress on the Danish coast merges with the luxurious Renaissance castle without equal in northern Europe. On our return to Copenhagen, we'll set sail aboard Norwegian Cruise Lines *Norwegian Escape*. Excitement awaits at each of our ports of call as we get set to explore the fascinating sights in the company of our traveling family on the included, private NIU Alumni Association tours.

Tuesday, July 14 – CRUISING (Rostock, Germany) (B,L,D)

Our first port of call is the Hanseatic city of Rostock. This enchanting seaport in Mecklenburg-Lower Pomerania offers stunning beaches, Hanseatic gable houses and historic gates and churches. We'll begin with a guided journey along the Baltic coast as we make our way to Rostock's Neuer Markt, from where the most important monuments can easily be

reached on foot. We'll see the Baroque façade of the Rathaus, the Steintor, the best known of the city gates in the old town wall, and visit the Marienkirche, home to the famous astronomical clock built in 1472. Afterward, we'll travel to Bad Doberan to visit the medieval Gothic abbey of Doberan – an opportunity to marvel at the artistic mastership of the monks. Following our visit, we'll board the nostalgic Molli train for a scenic rail journey to Kuehlungsborn, where free time will be set aside to stroll the Baltic Sea promenade.

Wednesday, July 15 – CRUISING (At Sea) (B,L,D)

Just as each destination on our cruise is a voyage of discovery, so too is our beautiful ship *The Escape* is one of the newest and most highly-rated ships from Norwegian Cruise Line. Many of the amenities onboard the *Escape* are about creating a relaxing experience, but the ship also offers phenomenal entertainment, live music, comedy, and award-winning Broadway shows.

Thursday, July 16 – CRUISING (Tallinn, Estonia) (B,L,D)

Today's port of call is Tallinn, considered the best preserved medieval city in Northern Europe, boasting Gothic spires, winding cobblestone streets and enchanting architecture. Unlike many other capital cities in Europe, Tallinn has managed to wholly preserve its structure of medieval and Hanseatic origin. Our introductory walking tour begins in the picturesque Lower Town where we'll visit the historic Town Hall Square, hear stories about how the weather-vane got its name, and which famous recipe was invented in the Town Hall Pharmacy, the oldest continuously functioning pharmacy in Europe. Then we'll learn about the city walls as we make our way to the Upper Town, known as Toompea. Here, we'll see the elaborately decorated Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the Estonian Parliament, Dome Church, and take in a magnificent panoramic view from the Toompea Hill viewing platform. Afterward, free time will be set aside to explore Tallinn at your leisure.

Friday, July 17 – CRUISING (St. Petersburg, Russia) (B,L,D)

Our port of call for the next two days is St. Petersburg. Built by Peter the Great at the beginning of the 18th century, St. Petersburg was once the capital city of the Great Russian Empire. Often referred to as the "Window to the West," St. Petersburg is considered the most graceful of all Russian cities. Our day will begin with a visit to the Hermitage, incorporating the breathtaking state rooms of the Winter Palace, undoubtedly the most famous building of imperial St. Petersburg, not only as the residence of the tsars and the backdrop for the 1905 and 1917 Revolutions, but also the home of the world's largest museum of art with a collection of West-European paintings comprising works by Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, El Greco, Rembrandt, and many others. Following lunch, we'll enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city where we'll see such distinctive landmarks as Smolny Convent, Pushkin Theater, Kazan Cathedral, and travel along Nevsky Prospect, the city's most famous avenue. In addition, we'll visit the Peter and Paul Fortress, located on Zayachi Island. The fort was named after the apostles Peter and Paul, and its magnificent cathedral is the burial place for the Russian Emperors and their families. We'll also visit St. Isaac's Cathedral, the third-highest domed building in the world, richly decorated with mosaics, gold and minerals from all over the world.

Saturday, July 18 – CRUISING

(St. Petersburg, Russia)

(B,L,D)

Today we travel to the south shore of the Gulf of Finland to visit the royal residence of Petrodvorets, the grand summer palace of Peter the Great that sits atop a hill along the shores of the Gulf. Also known as Peterhof, and inspired by the Palace of Versailles, Petrodvorets is renowned for its beautifully landscaped parks that are filled with bronze statues, fountains and cascades. We'll have an opportunity to indulge in the palace's charming French gardens, dotted with decorative ponds and a number of pavilions. In the middle of the grounds is the spectacular Grand Palace, built in Baroque and Russian styles, featuring hundreds of rooms.

Sunday, July 19 – CRUISING (Helsinki, Finland) (B,L,D)

Today's port of call is Helsinki. As we'll soon find out, the sea is ever present in continental Europe's most northerly capital, aptly named the "Daughter of the Baltic." Our day will begin with an introduction to Helsinki's most cherished attractions. We'll drive by the University and see the massive red granite Parliament House and opposing Finlandia Hall, designed by the famous Finnish architect Alvar Aalto, as well as the spectacular Opera House. We'll visit the magnificent Temppeliaukio Church. Carved from solid granite bedrock, this circular "Church in the Rock" was designed in 1960 by the Soumalainen brothers and rapidly became one of the city's main attractions renowned for its ingenious engineering and architectural solutions. Nestled among the trees of Sibelius Park, we'll also take in the contemporary Sibelius Monument, commemorating the life of acclaimed Finnish Jean Sibelius. We'll also set aside time to explore the colorful Market Square and neoclassical Senate Square, where we'll find the familiar silhouette of the gleaming Helsinki Cathedral.

Monday, July 20 – CRUISING (Stockholm, Sweden) (B,L,D)

Our final port of call is Stockholm, often referred to as the "Venice of the North." Our tour will start at Sergels Torg, the modern city center, and travel the streets around the Kungsträdgården that has long been the city's most popular meeting place. Around the park, we'll see the Royal Opera House and other stately



buildings including Sweden's most exclusive department store Nordiska Kompaniet. Next, we'll drive along Fjällgatan Street for a panoramic view of the city and harbor before visiting the Vasa Museum. Here we'll view the Vasa standing majestically in her custom built home for all to admire. Then we're headed to the Old Town, more commonly known as the Gamla Stan, where we'll see Stockholm's Parliament, the Royal Palace, and the 700-year-old Storkyrkan, Stockholm's Cathedral. Following our walking tour through the Old Town, free time will be set aside to explore.

Tuesday, July 21 – CRUISING (At Sea) (B,L,D)

Today is spent at sea, where a whole host of activities and facilities await. And don't forget the nightlife: multiple restaurant choices, a quiet evening in the library or movie theater, and late night entertainment in the Broadway style theater. As the evening hour approaches, stand on deck and watch as a summer evening's last measure of daylight lavishes the sky with a lustrous porcelain glow known as the "White Light."

Wednesday, July 22 – COPENHAGEN / CHICAGO (B,I)

Early this morning we return to the port of Copenhagen and transfer to Copenhagen's Kastrup Airport in preparation for the return journey home. No better time to celebrate the beginning of new friendships and reflect on memories of our Baltic Cruise Adventure to last a lifetime!

***** Welcome Home *****

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled airline service of Scandinavian Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Guides on pre and post cruise days.
- Accommodations in a first-class hotel.
- Accommodations based on mid-ship balcony cabin aboard Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Escape*.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary based on private Alumni Association shore excursions.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Internet package.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotel and pier.
- Expedited Russian Visa.
- Taxes for included ground services, airline taxes, fuel surcharge, and cruise line port taxes and fees of \$940 per person.

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; luggage handling at airports; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s), Tour Guides, and shipboard personnel; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.

TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover). Tour prices do increase every year and it is possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated, and additional charges will be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your trip investment from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and 2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Elite Option). If you wish to take advantage of the special above provisions, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial trip deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387.

RESPONSIBILITY

THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION and/or any travel agency and/or supplier of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories. Further, the right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour.

For more information contact the NIU Alumni Association at 815-753-1512 or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation.

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

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