

# Walking Scandinavia

## Adventure Memo

Greetings from the WAI Travel Team!

Since 1991, we've been sharing the many wonders of Scandinavia with our walking friends. From a standpoint of breathtaking scenery, nothing compares to Norway, the focus of part 1 of this Adventure. Pristine mountains, crystal-blue glaciers, pounding waterfalls, mirror-smooth lakes, and the endless vistas of unforgettable fjords make Norway a walking explorer's delight! Factor in the fascinating story of the Vikings and you have a classic WAI blend of unforgettable history, culture, and scenery!

Part Two of this Adventure takes us through the clean, green panoramas of Denmark, Sweden, and Finland, some of the most welcoming destinations on our Adventure list. Hardy Finns, war-like Swedish Vikings, and marauding Danes, rulers of England during the Middle Ages, were ultimately influenced by Christianity, transforming their solid Norse social codes into some of Europe's most successful democracies. We look forward to a return to "wonderful" Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki, and a host of engaging and educational, off-the-beaten path stops along the way.

### How do I lock in my place on this Adventure?

To save yourself a spot on this Adventure, contact us to register with a \$500 payment as soon as possible! Based upon the level of Early Birds received, Scandinavia appears to be one our most popular destinations for 2012. Reservations are accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis!

### How should I arrange air transportation?

If you join us for *Scenic Wonders of Norway*, the start and finish will be the Oslo International Airport. If you decide to join us for *Denmark, Sweden, & Finland*, the start point is Copenhagen International Airport and the finish point is Helsinki International Airport. If you opt for the full Scandinavia Adventure, you will start in Oslo and finish in Helsinki. Airfare to and from the start/finish points is not included in the package price. After you receive the Adventure Advice flyer, we recommend that you contact the travel agent we work with to help book your flight arrangements. More details about flight arrangements and travel agent contact information will be provided in the *Adventure Advice* flyer which will be mailed to you after you register for the Adventure. **Please do not book your airfare prior to receiving the Adventure Advice!**

### Group Travel Credit

If you are part of a Group, remember that your full deposit of \$500 is still required to hold your spot on this Adventure. Your group leader is responsible to submit your name

in writing to us before you register, qualifying you for the Group Travel Credit, but a full deposit is needed to officially reserve your place.

### Travel Insurance

Walking Adventures has negotiated with an insurance carrier to provide travel insurance in the form of a Preferred Benefits™ policy. We are pleased to make this package available and believe that it will provide travelers with an important element of security at a reasonable price. (See the back of the General Tour Conditions sheet for more detailed information.)

**IMPORTANT:** The insurance policy includes time-sensitive coverage provisions for some benefits, including pre-existing conditions and trip cancellation coverage for any reason (with additional fee), **provided you purchase the insurance within 14 days of your registration.** *Should you choose to add the cost of your airline tickets to your insurance policy, contact our office within 14 days after you purchase your airfare. Airfare is NOT automatically covered by the insurance you purchase for the tour!!*

### What Happens Next?

Upon registering for this Adventure, you will receive a welcome letter, initial invoice, and Adventure Advice flyer with important information about steps to take in the months before your trip. **Please do not buy your airline tickets until you receive the Adventure Advice flyer.** The final payment for the program is due 90 days before departure, and you will receive a final billing about 2 weeks prior to that point, along with a factsheet of additional information about the Adventure to help you get prepared! Then, about 3 weeks before departure, you will receive a final packet with all the details of the program, including hotel names and contact information, a list of fellow travelers, and a more detailed daily schedule.

We invite you to relax and enjoy reading through the enclosed Adventure brochure. Picture yourself exploring these pristine, scenic, and historic Scandinavian sights, and join us for an Adventure of a lifetime next June!

### Insurance – What if I need to place a claim?

Jumping through hoops to get results from large, bureaucratic organizations can be enough to try the patience of Job! Travel insurance companies, unfortunately, are not immune to bureaucracy. Ambiguity and forms-overload often seems to outweigh reason and simplicity. Ultimately, however, travelers are paid and the *Preferred Benefits* policy we recommend works! Though it is easy to view insurance as a necessary evil, we have seen the benefits of travel insurance time and again. We believe it is worth the cost...and hoop-jumping required!