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## Which countries comprise scandinavia

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The Nordic countries make up the northernmost part of western Europe, extending into the Arctic. They include Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, the Faroe Islands, Åland and in most definitions Greenland, as there are long-standing political and linguistic ties. These neighbours share a common heritage dating back at least to the
Viking Age, with several unions in the past and close cooperation today. At almost 1.2 million km² (463,000 square miles), the Nordic countries form one of the largest regions in Europe, but are home to only around 24 million people, accounting for a mere 4% of its population. The Nordic countries contain some of Europe's greatest natural wonders,
and boast an excellent standard of living. Countries [edit] Map of the Nordic countries Denmark The smallest mainland Nordic country features hundred thousand islands and lakes to explore in this bridge to the east. The most sparsely populated EU
country, and the only Nordic country to use the euro, with a North Germanic tongue the first language only of a minority. Iceland Spectacular scenery of volcanoes, glaciers, geysers, and waterfalls on this North Atlantic island. Norway (including Svalbard) Famous for deep fjords, an endless coastline, steep mountains, glaciers, countless waterfalls,
wooden churches, the Northern Lights and millennial maritime traditions. Norway's topography and nature have distinctive regional diversity. Sweden The largest Nordic country by area and population is home to endless forests, clear blue lakes and the beautiful archipelagos along its coasts. Faroe Islands An autonomous territory of Denmark in
the Atlantic Ocean with a very distinct culture and sense of national identity. Especially known for its dramatic natural scenery and unique bird life. Åland An archipelago and autonomous territory of Finland in the Baltic Sea, where the Swedish-speaking population has its own distinctive culture and sense of quasi-national identity. Greenland is an
autonomous territory of Denmark; geographically part of North America. The indigenous people, the Inuit, are also culturally and linguistically close to native America, but there is a strong modern Nordic influence. While the Baltic states have much common history with the Nordic countries, and especially Estonians claim their country to be Nordic
they are not members of the Nordic Council and they are covered by a separate region on Wikivoyage. Cities[edit] Many of Scandinavia's old towns are close to the Baltic sea. The picture shows the Nyhavn canal in Copenhagen 56.1563888888910.2097222222221 Aarhus — a brilliant Open Air Museum containing historic buildings from towns and
inspiration of Danish design traditions. Lately it has become the gastronomical centre of the region, driving the principles of "New Nordic Cuisine" with many great restaurants and bars as a result. Also has picturesque canals, traversed by boat buses. 57.67170610270511.9809666940564 Gothenburg — a port and industrial city on the Swedish west
the world 59.32944444444418.0686111111118 Stockholm — spread out over a number of islands, one of the most beautiful cities of Scandinavia 60.4516666666722.279 Turku — the gateway to the Archipelago Sea; the huge Castle and Cathedral are the two poles of historic Turku, between which just about every important site in the city can be
found Other destinations[edit] 57.518.551 Gotland — the largest island in the Baltic Sea, with the UNESCO heritage main town of Visby and great partying in the summer 61.7105555555566.9241666666672 Jostedalsbreen — the largest glacier on the European mainland 67.3333317.583333 Laponia — one of Europe's largest wilderness areas, in
northernmost\ Sweden\ 65.6-174\ M\acute{y}vatn-a\ lake\ region\ near\ Akureyri\ in\ the\ northernmost\ point\ of\ continental\ Europe\ 60.3166666724.466666676\ Nuuksio\ National\ Park-a\ pint-sized\ marvel\ just\ 35\ km\ from\ Helsinki\ 68.41983333333337.412333333337\ Saariselk\"{a}-a\ winter\ point\ of\ continental\ Europe\ 60.3166666724.466666676\ Nuuksio\ National\ Park-a\ pint-sized\ marvel\ just\ 35\ km\ from\ Helsinki\ 68.419833333333337.4123333333337\ Saariselk\"{a}-a\ winter\ point\ p
longest running parliament in the world, it's also where the North American and European continental shelf plates are being torn apart Understand[edit] Scandinavia is a geographic term including only Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The term Nordic countries also includes Finland and Iceland, although the terms often are used interchangeably by
visitors. Greenland is geographically a part of North America, but is politically linked to the rest of the Nordic countries by being both an integral part of the Scandinavian Peninsula, as Denmark is separated from the two by the entry to
the Baltic Sea. "Fennoscandia" is a rarely used technical term for the Scandinavian mainland plus Finland, while the Jutland peninsula (the mainland portion of Denmark, but not its main centre of population) also includes part of German Schleswig Holstein. As a political and cultural term, "Nordic countries" includes islands in the Atlantic such as
Iceland, the Faroes and in most definitions Greenland, as there are long-standing political and linguistic ties. Estonia considers itself at least partially Nordic but is not always seen as such by others. The Nordic countries share many cultural traits, including similar flags, and most of their languages are related. They have a shared history and are
economically interconnected. The Nordic passport union was formed already in the 1950s, and there was a common labour market much before the European Union. There is considerable shopping, tourism and migration across the borders - one reason for the non-EU Iceland and Norway to join the Schengen agreement was not to spoil this.
Denmark, Finland and Sweden are EU members; Norway and Iceland have rejected EU members but belong to the EFTA (which has free trade with EU) and the Schengen area. Greenland left the European Union in 1985 mostly over disputes concerning fisheries. After the Second World War, the Nordic countries became high-income countries
Norway and Iceland in particular have profited from an abundance of natural resources. Sweden and Finland also have their share, but in the international marketplace they are mostly famous for strong brands like Ikea, Volvo, Saab, Ericsson and Nokia. Although Denmark has developed sophisticated businesses in a number of industries, it is above
all the leading agricultural country in the North, especially famous for pork products. High minimum wages and taxes translate into high prices for visitors. Elaborate welfare states are a common characteristic of the Nordic countries. Most things are highly organized, and visitors can expect everything to proceed according to plans, rules and
timetables. The Nordic countries are the least corrupt in the world, together with Canada, New Zealand and Singapore, and enjoy a relatively low crime rate. In addition, the Nordic countries are the world's most highly-rated in terms of gender equality, with the world's highest proportions of women in senior leadership positions, as well as generous
paternity and maternity leave and a strong culture of equal responsibility in child rearing. In part due to this strong tradition of gender equality, Nordic national teams often punch above their weight in female sports competitions, especially soccer and handball. Although the neoliberalist wave has also affected the politics here, the support for the
welfare state among people is strong. History[edit] See also: Vikings and the Old Norse, Nordic history Predominant land use in the Nordic Countries compared to neighbouring countries in Northern Europe. Yellow: predominantly farmland; dark green: forest; light green: grassland including treeless mountainous moorland; brown: tundra and high
mountains. Scandinavia and Finland were covered by an ice sheet around 10,000 BC. As the ice pushed the land down, it is still rising from the sea, at a rate near 1 cm a year. As the ice melted, the north Germanic peoples populated southern coastal areas and Finns and Sami migrated from the Ural Mountains. Thus, the Nordic countries were among
the last parts of Eurasia to be settled by humans. The 8th to the 11th centuries are known as the Viking Age. "Viking" is not the name of a tribe or nation, but the Old Norse word for "sailor". Most Norse people were farmers who remained in Scandinavia, and were by definition not Vikings, but some Norsemen (and in some cases women) sailed the
Atlantic and European rivers, venturing as far as Canada and Central Asia, sometimes settling at the destination, and taking part in the foundation of nations such as England, France, and Russia. The expeditions ranged from peaceful trade to pirate raids, the latter giving the Norse a bad reputation across Europe. Iceland was settled during the
Viking Age primarily by migrants from Western Norway. The first decades of colonization is known as the "land grab years" (iclandic: Landnámsöld). While a notable number of women or slaves originated from Scotland and Ireland, cultural and political ties were mostly to Scandinavia and the Old Norse language remained so linguistically stable in
Iceland, that some renditions of the Old Norse Sagas render them with modern Icelandic pronunciation which is close enough to the real thing. Iceland's ancient sagas includes important parts of Norway's medieval history and literature. As the Norse nations were unified and Christianized around AD 1000. the Viking raids declined. Finland was
christened and annexed by Sweden in the 13th century. The Nordic countries were joint in the Kalmar Union throughout the 14th and 15th century, they fought eleven wars against Denmark, during the following 300 years, until the idea of Scandinavian unity was revived in the 19th century. During
the years under Denmark, Norway was heavily influenced by Danish politics and language, and written Danish also became the language of Norway. After independence from Denmark in 1814, leading men in Norway swiftly compiled a democratic constitution that is still in effect as one of the oldest in the world. Norway had a high degree of
autonomy during the union with Sweden (1814-1905) and broke away peacefully. Norway, Finland and Iceland gained or regained independence during the early 20th century. Since the end of World War II, the five Nordic countries have prospered to democratic welfare states. Though they have taken different paths in the international community,
with Norway and Iceland rejecting the European Union, and Finland being the only Nordic country to adopt the euro, the brotherhood between the Nordic nations is only tainted by friendly rivalry. Geography[edit] Denmark borders on Germany, while Finland and northern Norway border on Russia, but otherwise the Nordic countries are separated
from their neighbours by the Baltic, the North Sea or the Atlantic itself. Denmark is usually regarded as part of continental Europe, while the rest of the North European Plain - the largely mountain-free lowland that also includes Belgium, the Netherlands, northern Germany and large parts of Poland.
An abundance of land, water and wilderness is a common characteristic of the Nordic countries. While Denmark is mostly farmland or settlements with little wilderness, the land is still dominated by the sea and the most populous areas are on islands; you are always less than an hour from the sea. Also in Iceland and Norway most people live near the
sea. The Nordic countries are often countries are often countries of Europe, but this is largest municipality by area (Kautokeino) is almost four times
the size of Luxembourg but has only 3,000 inhabitants, and the largest country by area (Troms og Finnmark) is larger than Denmark to either the Nordkapp at
the northernmost point of mainland Norway or to Syracuse in southern Sicily. Even without Greenland, the Nordic countries are larger than the United Kingdom, France and Germany combined in the EU. A drive through the country Troms og
Finnmark is about 1,000 km, which is longer than London to Inverness. Only around and south of the Bergen-Oslo-Stockholm-Helsinki-line there is population comparable to continental Europe. Norway and Finland has some 730 km joint
border with some 15 crossing points by road. The part of Norway, Sweden and Finland north of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third of the Nordic countries. Cap of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third of the North is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes about one third is more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> and constitute
the North is about the size of Germany but less than 1 million people live in this northernmost region. The landscapes and nature varies much across the Nordic countries. Denmark is a flat lowland like the Netherlands and Northern Germany. Iceland is both volcanic and Arctic. Norway and Sweden share the Scandinavian peninsula, which is highest
on the Atlantic coast and gradually becomes lower until Sweden meets the Baltic sea. The Scandinavian mountains are steep and rugged on the Atlantic side with deep fjords cutting into the bedrock, gentle on the Eastern side. They run through most of Norway's length and parts of Sweden's and constitute Europe's longest mountain range. Finland is
relatively flat, and characterized by lakes scattered over the entire country. Deep pine tree forests stretch from eastern Norway's Jotunheimen national park, is at 2469 m (8,100 f) the tallest European mountain north of the Alps, while
Kebnekaise is Sweden's tallest mountain at 2104 m (6,902 f). Climate[edit] Satellite image of Scandinavia and Finland in March. Sea ice cover the Bothnian Bay, while what snow there may have been in Denmark and southern Sweden is gone.
weather depends on latitude as well as altitude, distance from oceans and landscape. In Norway in particular, weather can differ considerably within a short distance from week to week, as the weather systems of the
Westerlies and those of the Arctic chase high and low pressures. Finland in particular can have easterly winds bring mild and moist weather. The Nordic countries have a temperate to Arctic climate, while much milder than other locations at the same latitude. While a large section of
the Nordic countries lies north of the arctic circle (Norwegian: polarsirkelen), locals basically use the term "arctic" for areas with a real arctic climate such as Svalbard and the North Pole. The Scandinavian Mountains and wide areas in the very north of Fennoskandia is alpine tundra with a alpine-arctic climate. Most locals don't use the term "tundra"
and instead refer to this cool, treeless areas as "snaufjell", "vidde" or "fjäll" (English: fell). There are areas with permafrost in the high mountains of South Norway and some areas at lower altitudes in Northern Norway.
Iceland and Western Sweden experience only occasional frost and snow during winter. Summers in Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland are pleasantly more unstable. Finland has the most stable sunny weather in summer. In
general, the further inland, the larger the difference between summer and winter. While western Norway and the Atlantic Islands only see temperature occasionally drops below -50°C (-55°F) in the north - Norway's and Sweden's
northern interior has equally cold winters. Average temperature and precipitation by month, Helsinki Average temperature and precipitation by month, Copenhagen The Norwegian coast gets the most precipitation by month, Helsinki Average temperature and precipitation by month, Europe. While autumn tends to be the wet season, weather can change fast around the year. In coastal areas spring and early
summer are usually the driest seasons. The further north, the greater is the variation of daylight between summer and winter. North of the Arctic night experienced in midwinter. In the far north in winter, the hours with even some daylight are few and precious; try to be outdoors
before first sign of dawn. Oslo, Stockholm and Helsinki (around 60 degrees north) enjoy white nights in June, but only six hours of daylight in December. Talk[edit] North Germanic languages are spoken in all the Nordic countries. People who have regular Nordic contacts usually know how to adjust their Danish, Norwegian or Swedish into
"Scandinavian" so that it is more easily understood by the others. However, mutual intelligibility is limited between those who have had less contact across the borders (and thus less trained ears), and Finnish, Greenlandic and Sámi are not related at all (although the proximity and common history has resulted in lots of loanwords, and similar
meanings of words even when the words themselves differ). Danish, Norwegian and Swedish are closely related and more or less mutually intelligible in their standard forms, especially in writing. From the middle ages until the late 19th century (when writing standards for Norwegian were created), Danish was the written language of Norway. As
they are Germanic languages, there are many cognates of German and Dutch, and even English speakers will be able to recognise the odd word once they get their heads around the phonetic spelling: e.g. English school is Swedish skola and Danish/Norwegian skole, while first becomes först/først. Everyday words such as "open", "room", "bus" and
"taxi" are virtually identical to English. Many grocery items also, for instance "bread" is "brød/bröd", "milk" is "melk/mjölk". Norwegian and Swedish are often recognized by the use of pitch accent giving these languages a "singing" quality like Latvian and some South Slavic languages, but unlike most other European languages. While Swedish and
Norwegian may seem very similar, there are notable differences in vocabulary and several false friends that can cause confusion and fun. For instance Swedes say "glass" when they want ice cream, Norwegians say "iskrem" or simply "is" - which means just ice in Swedish. When Swedes say "rolig" they mean funny or amusing, whereas Norwegian
"rolig" means calm or easy. Norwegians in Sweden (or Swedes in Norway) often pick up some local words to make themselves understood by locals, virtually everyone speaks their country's standard national language, though in Norway there are only understood by locals, virtually everyone speaks their country's standard national language, though in Norway there are only understood by locals, virtually everyone speaks their country's standard national language, though in Norway there are only understood by locals, virtually everyone speaks their country's standard national language, though in Norway there are only understood by locals, virtually everyone speaks their country's standard national language, though in Norway there are only understood by locals, virtually everyone speaks their country's standard national language, though in Norway there are only understood by locals, virtually everyone speaks their country's standard national language, though in Norway there are only understood by locals, virtually everyone speaks their country's standard national language, though in Norway there are only understood by locals, virtually everyone speaks their country's standard national language, though in Norway there are only understood by locals, virtually everyone speaks their country is standard to the language of the language
dialects and no standard spoken Norwegian. Both writing standards (Nynorsk and Bokmål) are approximations of different "average dialects" rather than the native tongue of any individual Norwegian. Bokmål are approximations of different "average dialects" rather than the native tongue of any individual Norwegian. Bokmål are approximations of different "average dialects" rather than the native tongue of any individual Norwegian. Bokmål are approximations of different "average dialects" rather than the native tongue of any individual Norwegian. Bokmål are approximations of different "average dialects" rather than the native tongue of any individual Norwegian. Bokmål are approximations of different "average dialects" rather than the native tongue of any individual Norwegian. Bokmål are approximations of different "average dialects" rather than the native tongue of any individual Norwegian.
is the unofficial standard spoken Norwegian. Presenters on national TV and radio will use something close to standard East Norwegian or a likewise standard East Norwegian. While Icelandic and Faroese are also North Germanic languages, they have been in a linguistic freezer since the 13th century, and are largely unintelligible to other
Germanic speakers. They developed from Old Norwegian (also known as Old West Norse), as the islands were largely colonized by Norwegians. Norn, the Norse variant spoken in Shetland and Orkney until about 1500, is closely related to Faroese. Many cognates will still be recognisable particularly to visitors from West Norway. Icelanders and
Faroese learn Danish at school, and can in theory talk with their Scandinavian kinsmen in a Nordic tongue, though in practice, Danish proficiency tends to be limited among Icelanders. The real outliers are Finnish and Sámi, which belong to the Finno-Ugric family, and Greenlandic, which is Eskimo-Aleut. These are not Germanic or even Indo-
European languages at all, making them considerably harder for speakers of most other European languages to learn. On the other hand, Finlish speakers study Swedish at school and about 45 % are conversant in Swedish by adulthood.
However, most Finns have better mastery of English than Swedish, while urban Swedish speakers usually are fluent in both. Finnish is quite closely related to Estonian, while Hungarian is distant enough not to help in intelligibility. The Sami languages also belong to the Finno-Ugric family and Sami is an official language in some municipalities of
Lapland and Finnmark and also a recognized minority language in Sweden. The people of Åland speak Swedish (with widely varying proficiency in Finnish). In Greenland many are bilingual with Danish. The Nordic alphabets contain some special letters: å, ä/æ and ö/ø (the latter versions in Danish and Norwegian). In contrast to diacritic letters in
many other languages, these are letters in their own right, ordered at the end of the alphabet; see the phrasebooks for details. Icelandic also contains the letter "b", Icelandic and Faroese the letter "b", Icelandic also contains the many other languages, these are letters in their own right, ordered at the end of the alphabet; see the phrasebooks for details. Icelandic also contains the letter "b", Ic
accents, which change the pronunciation of the letter. The Sámi languages also have letters of their own. The Nordic countries where English is not an official or first language. Public information (such as in public transport or government offices) is often printed in English in
addition to the official language of the district. Tourist information is often printed in other languages as well, typically German or French. Virtually everybody born since 1945 speaks at least basic English, and younger people tend to be fluent. Most students also study a third major European language, such as German, French and increasingly
Spanish. Foreign language television programmes, as well as segments of local programmes with foreigners), are usually shown in their original language with subtitles, with only children's programmes sometimes being dubbed into the local language, and even then DVDs and cinemas also offer the original
language with subtitles. Get in[edit] Archipelagos run along much of the Bothnia coast, Åland, and Gulf of Finland. They consist of thousands of rocky inlets, like this one seen from the Stockholm-Tallinn ferry. Most of the Nordic countries are part of the Schengen Area (exceptions include Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Svalbard), so residents of
and visitors to EU can usually get here with little bureaucracy. Access to Svalbard by air is usually only possible from mainland Norway. Note that Iceland, Norway and the non-Schengen territories are not part of EU, so there is still a customs border here, too. There are also special requirements for those travelling with pets (some diseases common
in central Europe are absent in the Nordic countries). Border crossing usually proceeds with no or minimal delay. By plane[edit] Due to the largest cities have international airports, and even towns like Haugesund and Ålesund
have some international flights. Almost all European airlines serve at least one Nordic airport. SAS Scandinavian Airlines (Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Copenhagen Airport (CPH IATA) is the main hub, with secondary hubs in Stockholm-Arlanda and Oslo-Gardermoen
Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul, Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka and Singapore. Iceland's flag carrier leverages on its strategic location midway between Europe and North America to maintain a strong presence on North America to 
Paul, Orlando, Boston, New York, Toronto, Halifax, and Philadelphia Int'l Airport Atlantic Airways (Faroe Islands) - Flies to many destinations in the North Atlantic network to include several destinations in Greenland. Norwegian
(Scandinavia) is a budget carrier, which despite the name, does not just fly from Norway. It flies from Oslo, Stockholm and Copenhagen although they ended their intercontinental operations in 2021. Besides these, many international airlines offer direct routes to the Nordic countries. Emirates, Gulf Air, Air Canada and Singapore Airlines fly to
Scandinavia and the sunny Mediterranean; hence you can also often find bargain flights from Spain, Italy, etc. should you wish to experience a real Nordic winter. By train[edit] Denmark is well-connected to the German rail network. The direct connection to Copenhagen is, however, by the Puttgarden-Rødby ferry (a fixed link by subsea tunnel is
expected to open in the late 2020s). Sweden is connected to Danish railways via the Øresund bridge between Copenhagen and Malmö, and to the German capital by a bi-daily sleeper train during the summer, bypassing Denmark via the Frelleborg-Rostock ferry - this is the last of a once formidable network between Central Europe and Scandinavia
as the German railways has gotten out of the business. The only rail connections from the east are to southern Finland from St Petersburg and Moscow in Russia. For Interrail pass holders most of the ferries crossing the Baltic and North seas offers discounts (25-50%), but only the Scandlines ferries are completely included in the pass (see By ferry
below). Copenhagen, (Denmark) Malmö, (Sweden Aarhus, (Denmark) Melsinki, (Finland) DB Deutsche Bahn, 5 hours (day) VR Finnish Railways, 14½ hours (night) VR Finnish Railways, 14½ hours (day) By ferry[edit] See also: Baltic Sea ferries
Norway is served by ferries from Denmark and Germany. To Sweden, there are ferries from Denmark and Germany. Oslo (Norway) Gothenburg (Sweden) Trelleborg (Sweden) Malmö
(Sweden) Helsinki (Finland) Gedser (Denmark) Trelleborg (Sweden) Helsinki (Finland) Trelleborg (Sweden) Helsinki (Finland) Stockholm (Sweden) Nynäshamn¹ (Sweden) Nynäshamn² (Sweden) Nynä
19½ hours Stena Line, 14 hours TT Line, 10 hours Finnlines, 27 hours Finnlines, 27 hours Stena Line, 18 hours Stena Line, 19 hours Stena Line, 19 hours Stena Line, 19 hours Stena Line, 19 hours Finnlines, 28 hours Stena Line, 19 hours Stena Line, 19 hours Stena Line, 19 hours Finnlines, 29 hours Finnlines, 29 hours Finnlines, 20 hours Finnlines, 21 hours Finnlines, 21 hours Finnlines, 22 hours Finnlines, 23 hours Finnlines, 26 hours Finnlines, 26 hours Finnlines, 27 hours Finnlines, 27 hours Finnlines, 28 hours Finnlines, 28 hours Finnlines, 29 hours Finnlines, 20 hours Finnlines
hours DFDS, 15 hours Polferries, 6½ hours Unity Line, 7 hours Scandlines, ¾ hours Line, 7 hours Scandlines, ¾ hours Unity Line, 7 hours Unity Line, 8 hours Unity Line, 8 hours Unity Line, 9 hours Unity Line
to Jylland (Jutland) by bridge. Zealand is in turn connected to the Scandinavian peninsula through most of them are remote. Also Norway has an overland border crossing with Russia, in the far north-east. Most ferries to the Nordic countries take
cars, including on the routes from Germany and Estonia. Denmark is connected to the continental road network. From Denmark it is possible to cross to Sweden over the Öresund bridge (which is a toll road, see official site for prices – around €50 as of 2017). There are many ferry connections from Denmark to Sweden, most of them take cars. The
only overland alternative to the Öresund bridge is to enter via Russia to Finland or Norway. Save a few short stretches of regular road, you can drive all the way to Stockholm or Oslo on highway from the German ones, but keep in mind that the tolls on the two Danish highway bridges you need to pass to get to Sweden are heavy, and you could save
money and kilometers on your car taking a more direct route with a ferry. Virtually all Nordic roads are toll free, but some of the larger cities (notably Stockholm, Gothenburg and Oslo) have introduced congestion charges when driving in the centre, and some of the larger cities (notably Stockholm, Gothenburg and Oslo) have introduced congestion charges when driving in the centre, and some of the larger cities (notably Stockholm, Gothenburg and Oslo) have introduced congestion charges when driving in the centre, and some of the larger cities (notably Stockholm, Gothenburg and Oslo) have introduced congestion charges when driving in the centre, and some of the larger cities (notably Stockholm, Gothenburg and Oslo) have introduced congestion charges when driving in the centre, and some of the larger cities (notably Stockholm, Gothenburg and Oslo) have introduced congestion charges when driving in the centre, and some of the larger cities (notably Stockholm, Gothenburg and Oslo) have introduced congestion charges when driving in the centre, and some of the larger cities (notably Stockholm, Gothenburg and Oslo) have introduced congestion charges when driving in the centre, and some of the larger cities (notably Stockholm, Gothenburg and Oslo) have introduced congestion charges when driving in the centre construction charges are constructed by the construction charges and the construction charges are constructed by the construction charges are constructed
also: Boating on the Baltic Sea Iceland, the Faroes and Greenland are out in the Atlantic, so getting there requires some serious off-shore experience, but Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland are quite easily reached from the rest of northern Europe, e.g. Dutch and British vessels are regularly seen even in Finnish marinas. Norway is behind the
North Sea for most visitors, but also reachable by the coast via Denmark or Sweden, while the Danish Straits, the Kiel Canal and the Göta Canal are the main options for visitors from the west to Finland or Sweden. The Baltic Sea is also reachable via inland waterways from most European countries. The Nordic countries have a huge number of yachts
compared to the population, so the infrastructure is good - and the Archipelagos and fjords offer an endless coastline to explore. Get around[edit] Thanks to the Schengen Area and the Nordic passport union, you seldom have to worry about border crossings. The main exception is travel to Greenland, the Faroe Islands or Svalbard, which are not part
of Schengen. Iceland, Norway and the non-Schengen territories are not part of EU, and Åland not part of the EU customs whether or not there is a customs station where you cross or any actual checks. An ID may also be needed
to board ferries and aeroplanes on international routes. The one land border where checks are common is the one between Denmark and Sweden, where "temporary checks" have been the rule rather than the exception since 2015. Keep your passport or ID ready. By ferry[edit] See also: Baltic Sea ferries Silja Serenade, a typical Helsinki-Stockholm
ferry Major coastal cities of the Baltic Sea are often connected with ferry lines, e.g. Turku-Stockholm and Helsinki-Tallinn, and ferries are a natural part of many journeys for Scandinavians. The larger long-distance ferries are a natural part of many journeys for Scandinavians. The larger long-distance ferries are a natural part of many journeys for Scandinavians. The larger long-distance ferries are in effect cruise ships, with behemoths like the Silja Europa featuring 13 decks stacked full of shops, restaurants, spas, saunas
etc. Longer routes are nearly always scheduled to sail during the night, so you arrive fresh to continue the often long journeys required here. If you travel by ferry to Norway or via Åland, there are Tax Free sales on board, since Norway is not part of the EU and Åland is subject to special regulations. For the same reason some of these lines, especially
the Stockholm-Helsinki ferries, are known as party boats - alcohol is heavily taxed on shore. In addition to major lines listed below, the Hurtigruten ferries, running all along Norways amazing jagged coast line, and through spectacular fjords, from Bergen in the south to Kirkenes in the Arctic north, docking in many small hamlets and villages on the
way, offer a unique and very Scandinavian experience. More than a hundred car ferries are an integral parts of Norway's roads, most crossings are short and frequent. Minor ferries connect many inhabited islands to the mainland in also the archipelagos, and tour boats cruise e.g. the archipelagos of Stockholm and Helsinki, and lakes such as
Päijänne and Saimaa. Particularly in the Finnish Lakeland there are cable ferries across lakes, often part of the public road system. In the Archipelago Sea ferries are the only way for getting around (for those without their own boat), and the same goes for minor islands of Denmark. From To Operator Copenhagen, (Denmark) Oslo (Norway) DFDS
Seaways, 16.5 hr Grenå, (Denmark) Varberg, (Sweden) Stena Line 4.5 hr Frederikshavn, (Denmark) Göteborg, (Sweden) Stena Line 2-4 hr Hirtshals, (Denmark) Bergen, (Norway) Fjordline, 4 hr Hirtshals, (Denmark) Kristiansand, (Norway) Colorline, 4 hr Hirtshals, (Denmark) Kristiansand, (Norway) Colorline, 4 hr Hirtshals, (Denmark) Earwik, (Norway) Colorline, 4 hr Hirtshals, (Denmark) Kristiansand, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Denmark) Kristiansand, (Norway) Colorline, 4 hr Hirtshals, (Denmark) Kristiansand, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Denmark) Kristiansand, (Norway) Colorline, 4 hr Hirtshals, (Denmark) Kristiansand, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Denmark) Kristiansand, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (via Stavanger - 11.5 hr) Hirtshals, (Norway) Fjordline, 19.5 hr (
(Denmark) Seyðisfjörður, (Iceland) Smyril line, 44 hr (winter) Strömstad, (Sweden) Helsinki, (Finland) Tallink Silja line & Viking line, 16.5 hr (via Åland islands) Stockholm, (Sweden) (Sweden) Sandefjord, (Norway) Colorline, 2.5 hr Stockholm, (Sweden) Helsinki, (Finland) Tallink Silja line & Viking line, 16.5 hr (via Åland islands) Stockholm, (Sweden) Sandefjord, (Norway) Colorline, 2.5 hr Stockholm, (Sweden) Helsinki, (Finland) Tallink Silja line & Viking line, 16.5 hr (via Åland islands) Stockholm, (Sweden) Sandefjord, (Norway) Colorline, 2.5 hr Stockholm, (Sweden) Helsinki, (Finland) Tallink Silja line & Viking line, 16.5 hr (via Åland islands) Stockholm, (Sweden) Sandefjord, (Norway) Colorline, 2.5 hr Stockholm, (Sweden) Sandefjord, 
Turku, (Finland) Tallink Silja line & Viking line, 11 hr (via Åland islands) Umeå, (Sweden) Vaasa, (Finland) Wasaline, 3.5 hr By train[edit] See also: Rail travel in Europe Trains are an adequate way of travelling around the Nordic countries, except the island nations and the far north. International connections between Denmark, southern Sweden and
southern Norway are good, but up north services are sparse, and Iceland and the Faroe Islands have no trains at all. Norway's rail network is limited and mostly centered on Oslo with lines to main cities in other parts of the country. Finnish railways use the Russian broad gauge, so while there are connecting rails, no regular passenger trains cross
the border. The previous night train connection between Copenhagen and Oslo has been retired, and this route now requires a change in Gothenburg, on the other hand day time connections have become much more frequent after the opening of the Øresund bridge (8.5 hr). Up to seven daily X2000 express trains run directly between Copenhagen
and Stockholm (5.5 hr), and the daily night train only requires an easy change in Malmö (7.5 hr). Further north there are two daily night trains (regular and express) between Stockholm and Umeå/Luleå (16-20 hr) in
the northernmost part of Sweden. The Norwegian port of Narvik is connected to the Swedish network via the impressive Iron Ore Railway through Kiruna, also served by passenger train. In Finland the daily night trains between Helsinki and Turku in the south and Rovaniemi (or Kolari) in the north also take cars. The ScanRail pass was retired in
2007, but visitors not resident in Europe can opt for the very similar Eurail Scandinavia Pass, which offers 4 to 10 days of travel in a 2-month period for £232-361. For residents of Europe, the all-Europe or single-country Interrail passes are also an option. Major railway companies in Scandinavian include DSB and Arriva in Denmark, NSB in Norway,
SJ, Transdev in Sweden and VR in Finland. By bus[edit] If you are not using a rail pass, long distance buses will often be a cheaper alternative, especially for longer journeys. Bus is also needed to get to many smaller towns or the countryside. Since highways are almost exclusively centred around the southern half of Scandinavia, journeys become
increasingly time consuming as you get further north. On the other hand, rail services also get increasingly sparse in northern Scandinavia. There is no dominant company like Greyhound is in North America or Flixbus is in Germany, but a host of local, regional and national bus companies. The major national intercity bus companies are Abildskou in
Denmark, Nor-Way and Nettbuss in Norway. Big companies also include GoByBus, Eurolines and Stockholm. In Finland there are many regional companies, but timetables and tickets to nearly all lines can be obtained through Matkahuolto. Onnibus, which
provides cheaper services on many intercity routes, does not participate in that cooperation. By car[edit] See also: Driving in Sweden, Driving in
particularly the rugged landscapes of Norway and Iceland. Driving is easy and traffic is mostly light, but distances are long and services limited in many less populated areas. For a self-drive in the northern section Norway to Finnmark is
through Sweden and Finland. Driving in the Nordic countries is costly, even by European standards. Rentals are often expensive, fuel price is among the world's highest, and distances are long. In Norway, in particular, distances that seem short on a map can be very long and tiring if you need to drive along twisty fjord roads. Collisions with wildlife
are aiming for zero fatalities. From November until end of March (and well into May in the northern regions), expect winter driving conditions and have proper equipment - particularly winter tyres, as roads are treacherously slippery. People will drive nearly as in summer, so with summer tyres you will either block the traffic or cause an accident.
Nordic type winter tyres (studded or unstudded) are the best, although other types with enough tread depth are permitted. Black ice in the morning and occasional snowfall are possible also quite early in the autumn, and then mess up traffic worse than in winter, as not everybody is prepared. Leave your car alone such days (many locals who had not
yet switched to winter tyres do), at least in the morning, until things have settled, especially if you were not prepared for winter driving. Studded tyres are allowed from November to some major roads, but not enough for bad conditions; you and your
travel mates can get seriously injured if you drive ill prepared or too fast. Study the regulations carefully; you can get fined for not having with studded tyres might either cost you a fee or be limited to certain periods: In Denmark studded tyres are allowed from 1 November
to 15 April. In Finland studded tyres are allowed from 1 November to one week after Easter, and otherwise with good reason (i.e. icy or snowy roads expected here or at the destination). Winter tyres are mandatory from 1 December through the end of February if conditions require (i.e. on many small roads and everywhere every now and then). In
Iceland studded tyres are allowed from November to April. In Norway studded in cities: 30 kr per day. Winter tyres are mandatory November-April. In Sweden winter tyres are mandatory in winter conditions from 1 December to 31 March (for cars registered in Sweden; foreign cars
with summer tyres are not allowed to drive in bad conditions). Driving with studded tyres is forbidden in certain streets. Speed limits are uniform; 50 km/h (31 mph) in cities and 80 km/h (62 mph) or 110 in Norway (only when signposted,
otherwise 80), 110 in Sweden, 120 in Finland to 130 in Denmark, again unless other speed limits are signposted. Keep in mind that while many Scandinavians routinely exceed speed limits are signposted. Keep in mind that while many Scandinavians routinely exceed speed limits are signposted. Speeding in city zones is considered a severe offence, and there are
many unmarked automatic speed traps installed in such zones. Within Norway there are many car ferries across fjords and straits. These are mostly frequent (2-3 per hour) and most crossings are short (10-25 minutes). Some main routes are the E75
(Highway 4, "Nelostie") through Finland, the E4 through Sweden and Norway, E18 Stockholm-Oslo-Kristiansand, and the E45 through Denmark and Sweden. By boat[edit] See also: Boating on the Baltic Sea Boats moored in Copenhagen
There is a boat for every seventh person in each of Finland, Norway and Sweden, so facilities for yachts as well as availability of boats, through a local friend or by rent or charter, are good. These countries also have large archipelagos and many lakes, with ample opportunities for boat trips. Norway's coastline is around 100,000 km when fjords and
islands are included, and there are more than 100,000 islands, offering endless opportunity for sailing in sheltered waters. Figures are similar in the other two of these countries. In some regions it is
quite easy to get a ride - once there comes a vehicle - in others only a small fraction of cars take hitchhikers. If trying to hitchhike in autumn or winter, remember it can get quite (or very) cold, and hours with daylight are limited. There are large sparsely inhabited areas; avoid having a ride end in the middle of nowhere in the evening, unless you are
prepared to stay the night there. In addition to the normal places, it is possible to approach drivers on ferries and ask for a ride. By bike[edit] Bicycle infrastructure varies from August), reflectors and lock are mandatory or strongly advised. The
best developed bicycle infrastructure is in Denmark (see Cycling in Denmark), where bike lanes are usually some kind of bike lane network in the countryside, with a good network of routes. In the other countries there are usually some kind of bike lane network in the cities, but the routes may not be obvious or complete, and they are not always
maintained in winter. The main roads outside of towns do not always have bike lanes or usable shoulders, and municipal short-time rental systems have been introduced in some cities. It is usually possible to take the bike on coaches and trains for moderate
fees, which is recommended for most to do on some stretches because of the long distances. In Sweden only folding bikes can be taken on trains. Short-haul ferries are often free or nearly free for cyclists, Baltic ferries take a small surcharge. In general the price for a cyclist will be the same as for a "pedestrian" or slightly higher, and much lower than
for hauling around a ton of metal box. In Finland and Sweden there are often minor roads that make good routes for long-distance cycling, provided you have a map allowing you to navigate them. Most cities have decent bike lane networks. Scenic but steep road between Voss and Hardanger, Norway. Most traffic is diverted through a tunnel at many
such places, leaving the "old road" to bicycles. In Iceland there are few bike lanes outside Reykjavik, but cycling is quite safe because of low traffic (except on the roads out of Reykjavik). The weather and the distances between towns can be challenging. In Norway cycling is popular and a fine way to see the varied landscape. The mountainous
landscape, often quite narrow roads and sometimes less respectful drivers makes cycling a challenge. Some main roads and mountain passes have 7-10% slopes and there are countless tunnels, some of them very long. In many areas there is only one road and no alternative local road. Also here there are some old roads usable as (or transformed to)
cycling routes. Following major roads, check whether bikes are allowed in the tunnels. Even if cycling is allowed in a tunnel, it is often uncomfortable. Norway has many subsea tunnels and these are often steep. Bike lanes are not too common, even in towns, but speeds are usually quite low. Bicycle visitors should plan carefully and consider using
train, bus or express passenger boat on some difficult stretches. There are a couple of EuroVelo cycling routes through the countries (mostly developed but not yet signed): 1) The Atlantic Coast Route from Mordkapp southwards along the coast 3) The Pilgrim Route from Trondheim towards Santiago de Compostela 7) The Sun Route from midnight
sun of Nordkapp through Sweden towards Malta 10) Baltic Sea Cycle Route (Hansa circuit) around the coasts of the Baltic Sea 11) East Europe Route from Nordkapp through Finland towards Athens 12) North Sea Cycle Route from the Barents Sea and
Kirkenes along the Russian border in Finland and via St. Petersburg towards the Black Sea See[edit] There is a constant and long-standing rivalry between Copenhagen and Stockholm over which city can claim the title as Scandinavia's unofficial capital. Depending on how you count, both cities are the largest, most visited, and the target of most was a constant and long-standing rivalry between Copenhagen and Stockholm over which city can claim the title as Scandinavia's unofficial capital.
investment. However, after the completion of the Øresund bridge, and subsequent integration of Copenhagen and Malmö - Sweden's third largest city - this region is fast emerging as the main urban centre in Scandinavia, while Stockholm arguably grabs the title as the most beautiful. Visit the unusual free city of Christiania in Copenhagen Visit the
famous Tivoli Gardens theme park in Copenhagen See the amazing Vasa Museum in Stockholm, displaying an entire flagship that sunk in the harbour nearly 400 years ago Sceneries[edit] While the fjords of Norway might be the most spectacular Nordic sceneries, the other countries have their fair share of beautiful nature as well, e.g. the
archipelago and the Archipelago Sea in the Baltic Sea, the thousand lakes of Finland (and quite some in Sweden), quiet forests and wide open landscapes of Iceland and of the north. The Nordic countries also give opportunities to see Eurasian wildlife. Northern Lights[edit] Aurora over Tromsø, Norway The Northern Lights (Latin: Aurora Borealis;
Scandinavian: Nordlys/-ljus; Swedish: Norrsken; Finnish: Revontulet) can be seen in Iceland and in the northern parts of Finland, Norway and Sweden, and at rare occasions as far south as in Denmark. With a bit of bad luck they are obscured by clouds, so take local weather into account if planning to watch for them - and they do not appear every
night. In cities they are usually masked by light pollution, so unless you aim for the outdoors, villages or minor towns, you should make some effort to see them. Viking Age was either authored by the
Viking's enemies, or written down centuries later. Since most of their buildings have perished, the Viking Age is shrouded in mystery. Still, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden all have archaeological sites and Viking-themed museums. While traces from the Viking Age are of modest size, they are numerous, especially runestones and burial
mounds, everywhere in Scandinavia. Some good places to see Viking age artifacts are the Swedish History Museum ("Historiska museet") in Reykjavík 071±2 of the Reykjavík ("Historiska museet") in Reykjavík, the Viking Ship Museum ("Vikingeskibsmuseet") in Roskilde, Viking
Ship Museum in Oslo, and Old Uppsala in Uppsala in Uppsala. Royal Scandinavia[edit] See also: Sweden, and Norway are all monarchy Denmark, Sweden, and Norway are all monarchies, although the royal families only have a ceremonial role. They remain public figures often portrayed in the media
and taking part in all sorts of events. Wherever they will show up, something interesting is likely going on. But more importantly, royal palaces and mansions are dotted throughout the region and make for some quality sightseeing, and knowing they are actual homes of some of the longest continuously running royal families in the world just makes it
better. The royal families are related in different ways and when Norway became a separate monarchy in 1905 a Danish prince was elected king. Nordic design and architecture, which are often characterised by a minimal and functional approach. Copenhagen
and Helsinki are the best places to experience it with some excellent, interactive museums and some live samples throughout the streets. Actually, the design and architecture are some of the strongest, most important assets of these cities, but there are interesting opportunities elsewhere as well. Functionalism in architecture (Norwegian and
Swedish: funkis) had a stronghold in the Nordic countries from around 1930. Bergen, Oslo, Copenhagen and Aarhus have notable funkis buildings. Since year 2000 Oslo there has been a boom in daring architecture in Oslo. Sami culture[edit] The northern parts of Norway, Sweden and Finland are home to the Sami, an indigenous people. Fiction
tourism[edit] Astrid Lindgren tourism: Astrid Lindgren tourism: Astrid Lindgren is one of the world's most read children's authors. Most of her books, and their motion picture adaptations, are set in Sweden. Hans Christian Andersen, a Danish writer famous for his fairy tales such as The Ugly Duckling and the Little Mermaid. Nordic Crime fiction is acclaimed for
its melancholic spirit, with titles such as Millennium, The Bridge, Pusher, and Wallander. Tove Jansson museum in Tampere. Her summer cottage is in the outer archipelago of Porvoo (open for small groups one week yearly). Itineraries[edit] View on Iceland's ring road in the south of the
country Archipelago Trail, a route around the Archipelago Sea, using the inter-island ferries Finland in ten days by car, suggested itineraries for stays of different length Hurtigruten, steamer along the Norwegian coast King's Road (Finland), a historic road
through cultural landscapes with long traditions along Finland's southern coast Kungsleden, popular hiking trail in Sweden Route 1-Ring Road, around Iceland Do[edit] See
also: Winter in the Nordic countries – also for events in Advent etc. "It is better to go skiing and think of God, than to go to church and think of sport." —attributed to Norwegian explorer and humanitarian Fridtjof Nansen The great outdoors life
Saunas[edit] Family friendly amusement parks[edit] Relive your childhood in Legoland, Denmark. Music acts [edit] See also: Nordic music The Nordic countries have a tradition of music acts such as ABBA, Björk
and Swedish House Mafia, as well as a dominance of the heavy-metal scene. The countries, in particular Denmark, are known for its many music festivals during the summer months. The largest in each country are: Roskilde Festival (Denmark, early July). One of the world's most famous rock festivals, with 70,000 tickets for sale and 30,000
volunteers. Skanderborg Festival (Denmark, mid August). Second biggest festival in Denmark. A beautiful setting in a forest area hosting many Danish as well as international names. Roughly 50,000 tickets for sale. Ruisrock (Finland, July). Finland's largest music festival, held on an island in Turku, with around 70,000 spectators. Sweden Rock
Festival (Sweden, June). Sweden's main heavy rock festival, takes place in southern Sweden and has an attendance of ~33,000. Øya (Norway, August). Norway's main rock festival although deliberately intimate; located centrally in an Oslo park and using the whole city as a stage in the night. Hove (Norway, June-July). Hove Festival mixes large
international acts with Norwegian bands in the unique setting of an island outside Arendal city. 50,000 tickets sold. G! Festival (Faroe Islands, July). The Faroes' main (and arguably only) event, with around 10,000 participants and 6,000 tickets sold every year. Mainly local and Scandinavian bands. Iceland Airwaves (Iceland, October). A progressive,
trendsetting, music festival that attracts around 2000 visitors every year, besides the many locals showing up. Buy[edit] As of the 2010s, the Nordic countries are known for being relatively expensive for foreigners, particularly when it comes to services, renting a car, eating out, taxis, alcohol and tobacco, sometimes on par with world cities like
Tokyo, Hong Kong, New York City and London. Prices also vary between countries, with Norway and Iceland in particular being more expensive than the other Nordic countries. That said, there's plenty of nature and wildlife that's free. Many public museums and galleries have moderately priced tickets or are free of charge. Public transport is often
moderately priced at least if various discounts are often entitled to 50% discounts are often for free. The Nordic countries have a fine selection of architecture (entrance to public buildings is often free of charge) and outdoor sculptures.
Luxury items may even be cheaper in the Nordic countries than elsewhere. Tipping is not expected, as menus and bills include taxes and service. Finland is the only Nordic country which uses the euro. Denmark's currency, all known as
krona or krone (plural krónur/kronor/kroner), often shortened kr. The centessimal subdivision is øre, although only Denmark has coins smaller than 1 kr; bills are rounded when paid in cash (so "kr 1,95" means 2 kr in practice). The national currencies are distinguished by the initials DKK, ISK, NOK and SEK. Outside currencies are generally not
accepted, except in border towns. euro may be taken in some shops in the cities. ATMs are common in cities. Most establishments only accept payment cards and not cash. Some suggested shopping items are traditional
handicraft, and modern Nordic design. Neither is cheap, though. As the Nordic countries were relatively unharmed by modern wars, antique furniture are easy to find. Craft furniture from the early 20th century are too ubiquitous to be recognized as antique, and can usually be bought cheaper than modern pieces. Eat[edit] Smørrebrød, the famous
Danish open-faced sandwich See also: Nordic cuisines of all Scandinavian countries are quite similar, although beef, pork and chicken are more common in everyday dishes. Potatoes are the main staple, most often simply boiled, but
also made into mashed potatoes, potato salad and more. Spices are used sparingly, but fresh herbs are used to accentuate the ingredients. Famous pan-Scandinavian dishes include: Herring, especially smoked or salt-cured (gravlax) Smörgåsbord, a popular lunch
option with bread, herring, smoked fish, cold cuts and more Bread comes in dozens of varieties, with dark, heavy rye bread a speciality, and Scandinavian pastries are so well known that the word "danish" has even been imported into English. Although derived from German sausages, the hot dog has been adapted for local tastes, with Norway,
Denmark, Sweden and Iceland each having their own unique national styles. Danish røde pølser in particular are seen as an important part of national culture and cuisine. Since the early 21st century, there has been a focus on revitalizing the Nordic kitchen by focusing on local produce and generally raising the quality of gastronomy in the region, in
an approach often called New Nordic or Modern Scandinavian cuisine. This has influenced both everyday cooking and fine dining. As a result, excellent high end restaurants have developed in the region's cities, especially Copenhagen and Stockholm. Copenhagen and Stockholm.
magazine in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2014 and stood in the magazine's 2nd place as of 2019. As in most of Europe, internationalized fast food and ethnic cuisines are popular in major Nordic cities. Denmark and Sweden have a particularly large number of Middle Eastern. Chinese and other Asian diners. Norway has a large number of Asian cafés and
restaurants. Awareness about dietary restrictions is high, at least in big cities. Most restaurants have vegetarian options, although often not very special. Good vegetarian restaurants are found in mainstream establishments. Drink[edit] Vikings were famously heavy drinkers, and despite continuing
government efforts to stamp out the demon drink through heavy taxation, today's Scandinavians continue the tradition. Bring in your full tax-free allowance if you plan to indulge, since in Norway you can expect to pay up to 60 NOK (7€) for a pint of beer in a pub, and Sweden and Finland are not far behind. Alcohol in Denmark is significantly cheaper,
although still more expensive than elsewhere in Europe. To reduce the pain, it is common to start drinking at home before heading out to party. The drinking age is generally 18 (20 in Iceland), but many bars and clubs have their own higher age limits. Denmark is the only Nordic country where stronger alcoholic beverages can be bought in
supermarkets. The other countries restrict most retailing to government-operated stores. Vinmonopolet in Norway, Vinbudin on Iceland, Systembolaget in Sweden and Alko in Finland. Age limits and closing hours are strict. The main tipples are beer and vodka-like distilled spirits called brännvin, including herb-flavored akvavit. Spirits are typically
drunk as snaps or ice-cold from shot glasses. Sleep[edit] As expected, hotels are cheaper in the weekends etc.), but it may be worthwhile to check other options. In the countryside, hotels are sparse except at resorts, but there are usually guesthouses or similar instead, often
very nice. Another option (at resorts and in the countryside) is a cottage, some of them very reasonably priced for a group, at least off season - but check what to expect, the facilities vary wildly. With so much incredible nature outside the doorstep, it should be no surprise that the Scandinavian countries have a well developed hostel network, named
Vandrerhjem/Vandrarhem in the Scandinavian languages - literally translating into "wanderers' home" or "hikers' home". While the rules are often quite strict, it is much cheaper than hotels, and with almost 800 hostels available, you can often find one. The respective national organisations are called Danhostel in Denmark, STF or SVIF in Sweden,
Norske Vandrerhjem in Norway, SRM in Finland and finally Farfuglar in Iceland. Throughout Scandinavia, with exception of densely populated Denmark, Allemansrätten, or "Every Man's Right" in English, is an important underpinning of society, and guarantees everyone the right to stay or camp on any uncultivated land for one or two nights, as long
as you respect certain norms, stay out of sight of any residents, and leave no traces of your visit when you leave. If you enjoy the great outdoors, this can help make the otherwise expensive Scandinavian countries become quite affordable. In national parks and similar, and in the Norwegian mountains, there are also wilderness huts, with price of
lodging varying from free (open wilderness huts in Finland) to cheap or reasonable (Iceland, Norway and Sweden, reservation huts in Finland) Car camping (or just camping) can be an economic option; there are camping sites also near many cities. In cottages and hostels you are often supposed to bring your own linen, with linen provided for a fee
otherwise, or in some cases, like some wilderness huts, not provided at all. If using primitive facilities, a sleeping bag for summer use are often enough also when camping in season (and not much too warm indoors), but night temperatures close to freezing are possible most of the year; early and late in
the season, and in the north and the mountains, a three-season sleeping bag can be a good choice. Work[edit] The Nordic countries are in EEA and thus fully participate in the free movement of labour, so EU citizens can take jobs on basically the same conditions as locals. While English is good enough for some types of jobs, most careers require
fluency in the national language. Language is less of a barrier for intra-Nordic migrants, as Swedish, Norwegian and Danish are mutually intelligible, and many Icelanders and Finns speak one of those languages. The Nordic migrants, as Swedish, Norwegian or Swedish and
Nordic or EEA citizenship is required. Salaries tend to be high; but so are consumption taxes and costs of living (income taxes are on par with other countries in western Europe). Of course the taxes pay for a lot of social and health care programs, and mostly free education; working while raising small children is made easier by generous pro-family
policies and childcare institutions. The Nordic countries provide generous paternity leave, and fathers are generally expected to share an equal responsibility with mothers in raising children. Stay safe[edit] See also: Winter in the Nordic countries Crime rate is generally low, but use common sense to avoid drunk brawls,
vandalism, and pickpocketing, especially in large cities. The Nordic countries are usually ranked as the world's least corrupt countries are usually ranked as the world's least corrupt countries. Cold weather is a major risk factor during the winter; and year round in highland and Arctic areas. Hypothermia can occur well above freezing if there is a major risk factor during the winter; and year round in highland and Arctic areas.
get indoors, such as when hiking. There may be a similar problem in particularly cold weather in cities at night, if you get lost or cannot find a taxi, but you seldom have to endure such a situation for several hours. For daytime activities in cities and towns, the cold is hardly dangerous, as you can get indoors if need be, but adequate clothing allows
you to enjoy the winter weather - and in severe cold you'd easily find yourself confined to indoor activities if your clothing is deficient. Stay healthy[edit] In Denmark, Finland, Iceland (despite the volcanic smell), Norway and Sweden the tap water is mostly of very good quality, often better than bottled water. Where the tap water is not safe (such as
on trains), you can expect there to be a warning. Also, good-looking water from streams is good in many areas. In important ground water areas there may be restrictions on swimming, et al. Respect[edit] "Att komma i tid är att komma i tid är
such as the World Values Survey, the Nordic countries stand out as secular and emancipative. Nordic people are generally cosmopolitan and secular. They have some virtues in common: Equality: treat people are generally cosmopolitan and secular. They have some virtues in common: Equality: show up on the minute for
appointments and business meetings. Showing up five to ten minutes before set time is good manners. Privacy: Nordic people have a justified reputation of needing much personal space, and avoiding small talk with strangers in public spaces. Shop assistants and other service workers can be perceived as unattentive. Tobacco smoking is prohibited at
indoor venues in all countries. Rather few Nordic people smoke; instead smokeless tobacco such as snus is widely used. While sober at work and behind the steering wheel, binge-drinking alcohol during weekends is not uncommon, with a risk of drunk brawls. Despite the liberal image of the Nordic countries, narcotics including cannabis are taboo
among most, young and old, and treated with zero tolerance by the police. Possession of even personal use amounts is criminalized in all five countries. Denmark, long more liberal than the rest, is taking a harder line to fight the drug dealing in Christiania, and Danish law is being administered in the district. The area is still known as the part of
Copenhagen where drugs are easily accessible. The political reputation of a society where everybody is taken care of seems at times hard to reconcile with the way in which Nordic people tend to be distant and reserved towards strangers. Keep your distance and others won't bother you, either. Loud voices are frowned on. While reserved, if asked for
help people in the Nordic area tend to be sincere and helpful, even more so in the countryside and in the wilderness. The idea that the government should provide for the needy makes people more reluctant to offer help themselves where help is not needed on the spot. Nordic people might be reluctant to give favours and gifts to strangers or new
acquaintances. Receiving a gift of more than token value could feel like a burden for Nordic people, who value independence. At a restaurant, the norm is that everybody pays their own food and drinks (although when inviting somebody to a restaurant, the norm is that everybody pays their own food and drinks (although when inviting somebody to a restaurant this rule is not clear, and a man inviting a woman for a romantic dinner could upset her either way,
depending on her and on the circumstances). The Nordic reputation to have relaxed view of nudity and sexuality is only partly true. Nordic people accept homosexual and cross-gender expressions. When it comes to public breastfeeding; if adults are allowed to eat somewhere, babies are as well. However, skinny-dipping (toddlers aside) is only
accepted in private communities, at designated nudist beaches or in the remote wilderness. Public nudity is not forbidden, but "indecent" behaviour is, that is, if you are likely to offend (and the judgement call is difficult for a foreigner). In Sweden, Norway and Iceland, hiring a prostitute is criminalized (and also in Finland, if they are victim of
trafficking), and while pornography is legal (including strip clubs), it is taboo. Hunting and wildlife management are sensitive topics, where countryside-dwellers tend to have strong opinions, especially for or against the bear and wolf population. Norway and Iceland are among the few countries which allow the controversial practice of whaling.
Nordic people prefer to greet new acquaintances with a handshake; they might be hugging close friends. While political relations between the Nordic people are patriotic — not least the Norwegians and Finns, who have fought hard for their
independence in modern times. Visitors should recognise the unique character of the country between the co
football (soccer), or between Finland and Sweden in ice hockey, and violence between the fans of opposing teams is not unheard of. In each country, Lutheranism is either the state religion, or has privileged status. Church buildings are often prominent, particularly in villages, and key Christian holidays are also public holidays. Nevertheless, in
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practice they are rather secular in daily life, and people who go to church regularly are the exception rather than the rule. In general, Nordic people are tolerant towards people are tolerant towar



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