

Pietist Schoolman Travel presents its next European tour

Scandinavia: Past and Present

June 2024

\$2,300 plus airfare

Join us for a nine-day tour of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, as we explore a ruggedly beautiful part of Europe with a fascinating history. With three nights each in Oslo and Stockholm, two in Copenhagen, and one along the way in the glass country of southern Sweden, we'll learn about a region of contradictions: a land of fierce warriors and courageous peacemakers, ancient traditions and progressive attitudes, religious devotion and widespread secularization. In particular, we'll contrast the heritage held by millions of Americans descended from impoverished emigrants with the more recent history of a highly affluent part of Europe that has attracted its own waves of diverse immigrants.

Your Tour Leader

Chris Gehrz is professor of history at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he came in 2003 after completing his doctorate at Yale University. A past winner of Bethel's Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching, Chris' courses include *World War I*, *World War II*, *The Cold War*, *Modern Europe*, and *Christianity and Western Culture*. He is the author or editor of five books, including an acclaimed spiritual biography of the controversial Swedish American pilot [Charles A. Lindbergh](#).



pietistschoolman.com/travel

Likely Itinerary

(B: breakfast included; S: supper included)

Arrive by evening of Tuesday, June 11, 2024 ⇨ Oslo

How — and when — you get to Norway is [up to you](#), but this is the first of three nights' accommodations in Oslo that are included in the cost of the tour. We'll start our travels together tomorrow morning, meeting in the hotel lobby around 9am.

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 ⇨ Oslo

To help us get our bearings, a local guide will take us on a walking tour of the city's center, starting near the train station and cathedral. Then you're free to spend the afternoon visiting sites like the National Museum, Akershus Fortress and its WWII museum, the Nobel Peace Center, and Vigeland Park's sculpture garden. Tonight we'll compare first impressions of Norway's largest city at our first group supper together. *(B, S)*

Thursday, June 13, 2024 ⇨ Oslo

Wrap up the Norwegian stage of our tour by choosing your own adventure. You can join Chris on a morning cruise around the Oslofjord, then spend the afternoon at the city's open-air folk museum, near museums dedicated to Norwegian explorers like Roald Amundsen and Thor Heyerdahl. Or if you'd like to strike out on your own, you can arrange for day trips to other parts of the country. *(B)*

Friday, June 14, 2024 ⇨ Oslo to Stockholm

A transition day as we journey from the capital of Norway to the capital of Sweden via a comfortable motorcoach. We'll use Chris' family history to introduce the theme of emigration from Sweden to the United States and take breaks in towns near Sweden's largest lake, Vänern. *(B)*

Saturday, June 15, 2024 ⇨ Stockholm

We'll start by touring Stockholm's distinctive *city hall (home of the Nobel Prize banquet) and watching the daily military parade at the Royal Palace. Then you can use Stockholm's "hop on-hop off" boats to explore the islands that make up the "Venice of the North." Chris plans to spend his afternoon on Djurgården, home to the historic Skansen open-air folk museum and the Vasa Museum, featuring a preserved 17th century ship. *(B)*



One of Norway's 28 surviving "stave" churches was moved to Oslo's folk museum in 1884
(CC BY-SA 4.0 Peulle)



Stockholm's City Hall (Stadshuset) features a 106-meter tower, slightly (and intentionally) taller than its cousin in Copenhagen
CC BY 4.0 Julian Herzog

Sunday, June 16, 2024 ✧ Stockholm

As in Oslo, take your last full day in Stockholm to choose your own adventure. Chris will offer an optional morning walking tour of religious history, culminating in worship at the English-speaking Immanuel Church, then head west of town for an afternoon at Drottningholm Palace, home of the Swedish royal family. Others may want to take a day trip to the university town of Uppsala, or go on a three-hour cruise of the Stockholm Archipelago. (B)

Monday, June 17, 2024 ✧ Stockholm to Växjö

To get a taste of Scandinavia beyond the capital cities, we'll take a motorcoach tour of the southern province of Småland, home to the emigrants of Vilhelm Moberg's novels and 200,000 other Swedes who relocated to North America. As we head south, we'll see *Kalmar Castle, then visit the *glassworks of Kosta Boda before spending the night in Växjö. (B)

Tuesday, June 18, 2024 ✧ Växjö to Copenhagen

Before leaving Växjö, we'll visit that town's distinctive cathedral — featuring modern glass sculptures — and *Småland Museum, with its House of Emigrants. Just before we leave Sweden and enter Denmark, we'll see the 900-year old cathedral of Lund. (B)



Copenhagen's modern opera house (opened 2005) stands across the harbor from the Amalienborg royal palace
CC BY 2.0 Tim Moffatt

Wednesday, June 19, 2024 ✧ Copenhagen

We'll conclude our group tour with a full day in Copenhagen that mirrors our first day in Oslo: a morning walking tour with a local guide to get oriented to the center of the city, an afternoon available for you to pick from sites like Tivoli Gardens, the National Museum, the Christiansborg and Amalienborg palaces, and Copenhagen's city hall, opera house, and cathedral (or venture farther to see the Expressionist architecture of Grundtvig's Church); finally, a farewell dinner together. (B, S)

Depart morning of Thursday, June 20, 2024

Chris will be flying back to the U.S. after breakfast. But if you're not ready to say *farvel* to Denmark, you should be able to arrange additional days with our hotel in Copenhagen. Or if you want to extend your travels to other parts of Europe... Amsterdam, Berlin, Helsinki, London, Paris, and Prague are all 1-2 hours away by plane. Or if you fly back to the States on IcelandAir, you can make your own arrangements to [stop over](#) for no additional cost in airfare and spend a day in Reykjavik. (B)

Terms and Conditions

Price: What Is (and Isn't) Included

This tour price (\$2,300) is based on an expectation of 24 paying participants, with exchange rates of 9 Norwegian kroner, 9 Swedish kronor, and 6.5 Danish kroner to the US dollar. Price subject to change in the event of lower numbers or significant currency fluctuation.

What's Included	What's Not Included
TRANSPORTATION	
Motorcoach travel between capital cities; harbor travel our first full day in Stockholm on a "hop on/off boat"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airfare; transit to/from airports; travel insurance; passport application or renewal; any required COVID vaccinations or tests • Public transit or taxi/Uber/Lyft within cities • Supplement for optional cruise tour of the Oslofjord (\$40-\$50 — will add to final payment when due)
ACCOMMODATIONS	
Double-occupancy accommodations for nine nights in at least three-star tourist hotels	Supplement for travelers who want a single room in hotels (\$500); portorage; any additional stays relative to COVID quarantine or isolation
FOOD & DRINK	
Breakfast every morning, plus two suppers together at local restaurants	Lunches, most suppers, and snacks; alcoholic beverages at group meals
TOURS, ADMISSION & EDUCATION	
Walking tours with local guides; admission to all museums and historic sites that we visit as a group — marked with an asterisk (*) in itinerary; pre-trip classes and optional walking tours during the trip	Additional tourism and travel beyond what we visit as a group

Deposit, Payments, Cancellations & Refunds

- To reserve a spot on the trip, each prospective participant must complete and sign the application at the end of this brochure (p. 13) and pay a deposit of \$300. (We're planning to take up to 24 people along, but will also maintain a wait list.) The deposit is refundable until February 2, 2024, when the balance of each payment is due.
- Make all payments [by check](#) made out to **Pietist Schoolman Travel LLC**. Send applications and all checks care of Chris Gehrz, 1284 Draper Ave., Roseville, MN 55113.
- Chris must receive all cancellation and refund requests [in writing](#). Cancellations received between February 2, 2024 and April 12, 2024 will result in a \$300 deduction from the refund. After April 12, 2024, we can't guarantee more than a 50% refund for any cancellation.

Terms and Conditions

By signing and returning the trip application and paying the trip deposit, each participant agrees to the terms and conditions stated below:

Documentation

U.S. citizens require [a valid passport](#). The traveler assumes complete and full responsibility for, and hereby releases Pietist Schoolman Travel LLC from, any duty of checking and verifying any and all passports, visa, or other entry requirements for each destination, and all safety and security conditions during the proposed travel. As passport policies can change, please check with the U.S. State Department for all overseas travel requirements, including expiration date requirements [for travel in Europe](#).

COVID

Likewise, the traveler assumes complete and full responsibility for abiding by all public health regulations related to COVID-19 and other diseases, both en route to and from Europe and within Norway, Sweden, and Denmark (e.g., meeting vaccination or testing requirements; wearing appropriate masks as required; undergoing quarantine procedures as needed). The traveler releases Pietist Schoolman Travel LLC from any responsibility for confirming their vaccination/testing status and entirely assumes the risk of needing to pay for any additional accommodations or travel related to any period of isolation or quarantine required by local public health authorities.

General Disclaimer

Pietist Schoolman Travel LLC, its Owners, Outfitters, Agents, and Employees give notice that they act only as the agent for the owners, contractors, and suppliers providing means of transportation and/or all other related travel services and assume no responsibility whatsoever for injury, loss or damage to person or property in connection with any service resulting directly from: acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays, expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, thefts, pilferage, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to

arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, terrorism, government restrictions or regulations, and discrepancies or changes in transit or hotel services. Changes in the itinerary may be made where deemed advisable by the tour leader. On payment of deposit to Pietist Schoolman Travel LLC, the participant therefore agrees to be bound by the above recited terms and conditions. Participants acknowledge there are risks in travel and the activities of this tour, and release Pietist Schoolman Travel LLC and the tour leaders from any liability.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why isn't airfare included in the trip price?

We've left airfare out of the price in order to allow all participants the flexibility to choose their airline and points of embarkation, to use frequent flyer miles, and to have the option of extending travel on either end of the tour. We'll let you know the details of Chris' flights to/from Minneapolis-St. Paul, in case you'd like to travel with him. But our only expectation is that you are in the lobby of our Oslo hotel by 9am on June 12, 2024, ready to get started with our first walking tour.

Please do not pay for any final flight reservations until receiving confirmation from us that the trip is adequately enrolled and officially approved — hopefully before December 15, 2023; no later than February 2, 2024. Pietist Schoolman Travel LLC is not responsible for flight payments made before that confirmation is provided.

Why isn't public transit included in the trip price? How much physical activity should we expect?

Scandinavian cities are very walkable, so we'll spend our initial time together in Oslo, Stockholm, and Copenhagen getting oriented with walking tours (approx. 2 hours each). To make it easier to get around by foot, we'll try to reserve rooms in centrally-located hotels.

But after those initial tours, what you see in each capital city is largely up to you. So how much you do or don't need to spend on bus, tram, subway, or ferry travel will vary. In addition to individual tickets, each of our three major cities sells an all-day pass to its transit systems (generally around \$15-\$20 for 24 hours). Oslo and Copenhagen also sell official "city cards" that include free transport and free admission to [most museums](#).

In addition to any walking, know that you are responsible for moving your own bags. We'd recommend one suitcase and one carry-on per person; like airfare itself, any additional baggage or portage fees are your responsibility. We will always try to pick modern hotels with elevators, but keep in mind that accessibility can sometimes be an issue in European travel.

How much free time will we have? Why aren't more museums included in the cost of the trip?

For each stage of the tour, we'll try to arrange a mix of time together (e.g., motorcoach travel, walking tours, group site visits and meals) and time apart for seeing sites, going shopping, eating out, visiting friends and family, etc. Chris will always let you know where he's headed during our free time, but you're certainly welcome to explore on your own.

Because we want to give you flexibility in deciding what to see in each city, the total cost of the tour includes all-group admission for only a few sites, plus the option to join a group fjord cruise on our last full day in Oslo. Otherwise, we'll point out and recommend many other sites for you to choose from. Some will have free admission, but others cost enough individually that you may want to purchase city passes that cover all major sites. (Also, at some museums it's cheaper for senior citizens or youth to enter as individuals than to pay even the reduced group rate.)

To help you plan your time, we've attached a list of [popular sites](#) with their 2023 fees and hours, which we'll update for you in 2024.

What kind of weather should we expect?

Depending on what you're used to, early summer in Scandinavia will feel comfortable or even a bit cool, with average high temperatures around 65°F and average lows around 50°F. Keep in mind that Oslo and Stockholm are roughly on the same latitude as southern Alaska and Hudson Bay — which also means that we'll have 17-18 hours of daylight each day of our trip!

How can we learn more about Scandinavia before we leave?

Our goal is that travel is not just entertaining but educational. So on top of what you'll be able to learn on the trip itself, Chris will provide resources to help you bone up on Scandinavian history, culture, and geography before the trip begins, including pre-trip classes by Zoom in spring 2024, and lists of suggested books and films.

Can we pay electronically?

We're a small company that runs no more than one tour per year, so it's much easier and less costly to conduct our relative handful of transactions by check. But if you don't have a checking account, [contact Chris](#) to arrange electronic payment.

Are single travelers welcome to join the trip?

Absolutely! Just let us know on the application if you'd prefer to share your hotel room with another participant or pay the supplement (\$500) to reserve a room to yourself. Just know that we can't guarantee solo travelers a shared room; that will depend on the other applications we accept.

Is the tour open to children and teenagers?

Younger children may not find our topic and tour design as interesting as older tourists do. But minors are welcome to travel along with parents, grandparents, or guardians. In fact, that may be particularly meaningful in this case, if a tour of Scandinavia gives you the chance to explore family history together. Just note when you fill out the application that you should contact Chris first if you'd like to travel with anyone younger than 18.

Do I have to be a Christian to go on the trip?

Chris is a Christian historian who teaches at a Christian university, and we'll certainly pay attention to the history of Christianity in Scandinavia. But the trip is open to travelers of any (or no) faith.



Grundtvig's Church in Copenhagen is named for N.F.S. Grundtvig, a key figure in 19th c. Danish nationalism

Any other questions? Just email Chris at chris@pietistschoolman.com.

Popular Museums and Other Sites

Other than those included in the tour... Information as of July 2023, with costs based on currency exchange rates listed on p. 5. Note that some sites offer senior and/or youth discounts. You can find links by clicking on the map on p. 12.

OSLO		
Site	Opening Hours on Day(s) We'll Be There	Approximate Ticket Price
Akershus Fortress	6am-9pm	Free
Cathedral (Domkirke)	10am-4pm	Free
City Hall (Rådhuset)	9am-4pm	Free
Fram (Polar Exploration) Museum	9:30am-6pm	\$16
Historical Museum	W 10am-5pm, Th 10am-6pm	\$12
Kon-Tiki Museum	9:30am-6pm	\$16
National Museum	W 10am-8pm, Th 10am-5pm	\$22
Nobel Peace Center	11am-5pm	\$17
Norway's Home Front Museum	10am-5pm	\$12
Norwegian Museum of Cultural History (folk museum)	10am-5pm	\$20
Vigeland Park	Always open	Free
Oslo Pass (free museum admission and public transport)		\$55 (1-day)

STOCKHOLM		
Site	Opening Hours on Day(s) We'll Be There	Approximate Ticket Price
Cathedral (Storkyrkan)	9am-6pm	\$9
Medieval Museum	10am-5pm	Free
Nobel Prize Museum	F 10am-9pm Sa/Su 10am-7pm	\$16
Nordic Museum	10am-5pm	\$15
Parliament House (Riksdag)	English tour Sa-Su 1:30pm	Free
Royal Palace (Kungliga slottet)	10am-5pm	\$27
Skansen (folk museum)	10am-6pm	\$28
Swedish History Museum	10am-5pm	\$17
Vasa Museum	8:30am-6pm	\$22

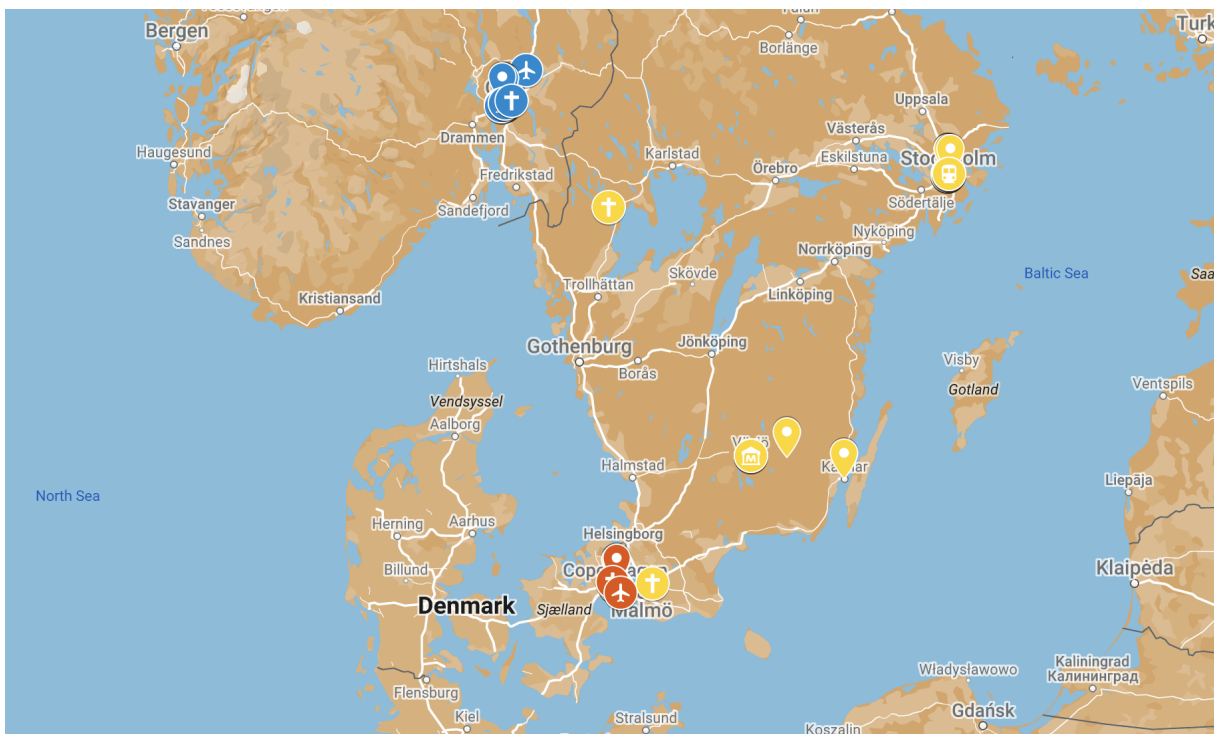
*Note: Stockholm has discontinued its official city pass, though you can find private versions of that card online for prices similar to what the public version costs in Oslo and Copenhagen.



One of the docents at Skansen folk museum - CC BY 2.0 (Shadowgate)

COPENHAGEN		
Site	Opening Hours on Day(s) We'll Be There	Approximate Ticket Price
Amalienborg Palace	10am-3pm	\$19
Cathedral (Church of Our Lady)	8:30am-5pm	Free
Christiansborg Palace	10am-5pm	\$27
City hall (Rådhus)	9am-4pm	Free
Danish War Museum	10am-5pm	\$15
Museum of Danish Resistance	10am-5pm	\$17
National Museum of Denmark	10am-6pm	\$19
Tivoli Gardens	11am-10pm	\$24 (rides extra)
Copenhagen City Card (free museum admission and public transport)		\$73 (1-day)

Click the map below to preview scheduled and optional destinations. [Click here](#) to learn more about our travel philosophy.



Trip Application

To apply for **Scandinavia: Past and Present (June 2024)**, print and complete this application and return it with your deposit (\$300 per person) to Chris Gehrz, 1284 Draper Ave., Roseville, MN 55113. (Check made out to **Pietist Schoolman Travel LLC.**)

Traveler #1

First Name: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Room preference: ____ Shared room ____ Single (\$500 supplement)

Dietary requirements? (vegetarian, vegan, allergies, etc.): _____

Traveler #2 (if sharing a room with Traveler #1)

First Name: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Shared room preference: ____ 1 bed ____ 2 beds

Dietary requirements? (vegetarian, vegan, allergies, etc.): _____

If you would like to take your children or grandchildren along on the trip, please contact Chris (chris@pietistschoolman.com) before completing this form.

Signature(s)

I have read and understood the trip itinerary, price, terms, and conditions, including the liability release, and agree to all. I am enclosing an initial deposit with this application.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____