

Wattletree Garden Tours

Scandinavia & Iceland

June - July 2025



This fully escorted tour starts in Helsinki and includes visits to Tallin, Stockholm, Oslo, Gothenburg before a 7 nights Fjords of Norway and Iceland cruise and finishing with 2 full days in Reykjavik



**Join Brian Sams,
Wattletree Garden Tours
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Tour highlights

- Globus standard hotels
- 7 night cruise
- Stunning scenery
- Full Tallin day
- Stunning gardens
- All organised
- Overnight Stockholm cruise
- Reykjavik
- Frogner Park
- Many interesting visits and cruises!
- Uppsala
- Norwegian Fjords

Brian Sams is a Toowoomba based horticulturist involved in running gardening workshops, consultation and leading garden based tours. Brian has been leading garden tours overseas and within Australia since 2006. Why? He loves it!

DAY 0 Fly Australia to optional stopover destination and then on to Helsinki.

Flight details to be advised once loaded with a likely stopover option in either Doha or Dubai.

Day 1: Sun 29 June: Arrival in Helsinki, Finland

On arrival at Helsinki we will be met by our Tour Director and transferred to our hotel for check-in. Tonight our welcome dinner will be in a local restaurant. (D)

Radisson Blu Aleksanteri or similar for 2 nights

Day 2: Mon 30 June: Helsinki

Begin the day with a tour of the historic centre of Helsinki, with sites including the City Hall, Presidential palace, Uspenski Cathedral, Senate Square, the great Lutheran Cathedral and finishing with some time to browse for local arts and crafts at the Open-Market. After lunch we will continue our exploration of this fascinating city with visits to the Kaisaniemi Botanical gardens and neighbouring Helsinki Central Railway Station, the Sibelius Monument, Olympic Stadium, and finishing with at the famous Rock Church. (B, L)

Day 3: Tue 01 July- Helsinki - Tallinn, Estonia

This morning we will take a ferry to the stunning Suomenlinna Sea Fortress where we will have a guided visit. This linked set of islands contains this historic 18th century defence structures as well as lush parkland crossed by many unique walking trails. In the afternoon we will return to Helsinki to catch a two-hour ferry across the Gulf of Finland to Tallinn, the charming capital of Estonia. Dinner tonight will be in our hotel. (B, D)

Radisson Blu Olumpia or similar for 1 night

Day 4: Wed 02 July: Tallin - Stockholm, Sweden

Today we will explore Tallinn with a local expert to see the medieval Old Town with its 15th century Luhike Jalg Gate, Town Hall, St. Nicholas's Church, and onion-dome Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. The city's rich heritage and importance as a major Hanseatic trading hub are still visible in its well-preserved architecture and towers rising above the city skyline. It has been a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site since 1997 and really is a stunning spot. This evening we will board the overnight ferry across the Baltic Sea to Stockholm, Sweden. (B)

Note: Depending on Ferry Schedule the itineraries of day 3 and day 4 may be swapped.

Overnight on ferry in proper cabins.

Day 5: Thu 03 July: Stockholm

The ferry trip into Stockholm is quite beautiful with many islands and lovely scenery. First stop on arrival is a visit to Stockholm's Bergius Botanical Gardens, situated next Lake Brunnsviken. The gardens have an enormous array of trees, shrubs, and herbs from around the world. The famed Victoria House in the gardens boasts the world's largest water lily. Next is the fabulous Millesgarden, located on the island of Lidingo, this art museum and sculpture garden has a great design and I loved the sculptures and statues that are the real star of the garden. We will then go to the hotel for check-in before some free time. In the evening meet back at the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Elite Eden Park or similar for 3 nights





Day 6: Fri 04 July: Stockholm

We will have a guided tour of the Gamla Stan, the famous historic centre of Stockholm, which fills the central islands of the city. Here you will find the contrast between the cute old streets such as Marten Trotzig's Alley to the impressive Royal Treasury and Palace hopefully timed to see the changing of the guards. In the afternoon visit the City Hall where the annual Nobel prize banquet is held. We will then take a gorgeous boat trip to Drottningholm Palace, once a private residence for the royal family, the palace and its extensive parkland is now open for the public to enjoy. We will have some time to explore this stunning domain before returning to the city for an evening at leisure. (B)

Day 7: Sat 05 July: Stockholm, Excursion to Uppsala

Today we travel from Stockholm to the nearby town of Uppsala to visit the Uppsala University Botanical Gardens and the Linnaean Garden, named for Carl Linnaeus, the father of taxonomy. To botanists and horticulturists this site is like Mecca! We will have lunch in Uppsala before heading back to Stockholm with a stop at the charming town of Sigtuna. The town boasts over 1,000 years of history and maintains quite a bit of its medieval architecture. (B,L)

Day 8: Sun 06 July: Stockholm - Oslo, Norway

Today we will depart on a scenic drive from Stockholm to Oslo, including a stop in Karlstad which will be our lunch stop (own expense). The drive to Oslo is interesting with a myriad of small lakes and little villages and lush green views that sit between these two Scandinavian capitals. Dinner in Oslo will be in our hotel. (B, D)

Thon Europa or similar for 2 nights

Day 9: Mon 07 July: Oslo

Start today with a tour of Frogner Park, which contains over 200 sculptures in granite, bronze, and wrought iron, along with fountains and bridges comprising the life's work of legendary sculptor Gustav Vigeland. It is amazing! For an example of the sculptures look at the picture of the angry baby above. Later visit the stately Oslo City Hall, with its red-brick architecture, soaring towers, and 49 bells. Here, the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony takes place each year. En route see the Royal Palace, National Theatre and the Norwegian Parliament. We will have lunch at a local restaurant in Oslo's beautiful city centre. In the afternoon enjoy a scenic drive to Oslo's historic Holmenkollen ski resort and enjoy breathtaking views of the city and its fjord before some Norwegian cuisine for dinner at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Tue 08 July: Oslo - Gothenburg, Sweden

This morning drive from Oslo to Gothenburg. Upon arrival we will have an orientation drive of the old town before visiting Gothenburg's indoor market hall, where you can find spices, coffee, cheese, fruit, and other delicacies from around the world. Next visit the Gothenburg Botanical Gardens with its stunning Rock Garden and calming Japanese dell. Dinner is included at our hotel. (B,D)

Radisson Blu Riverside or similar for 1 night

Day 11: Wed 09 July: Gothenburg – Elsinore, Denmark – Copenhagen

Today we journey on from Gothenburg to Copenhagen which includes taking the ferry crossing to the Danish town of Elsinore to visit Kronborg castle. This is an impressive Renaissance style castle that was first mentioned in the beginning of the 15th century and made immortal as Hamlet's Castle by Shakespeare. After restorations by the legendary Danish King Frederik II, it incorporates some of the best of Renaissance and Baroque architecture and craftsmanship. Later proceed to Fredensborg Palace for a photo stop. We will drive along the Danish Riviera before arriving in Copenhagen where we will have dinner in our hotel. (B, D)

Scandic Spectrum or similar for 3 nights

Day 12: Thu 10 July: Copenhagen

Today we will have a guided sightseeing tour of the royal reception rooms in Christiansburg Palace. The Palace dominates the scene on the islet of Slotsholmen with an 800 year-long history as Denmark's seat of power in central Copenhagen. You will also see the famed statue of the Little Mermaid that sits in the harbour. Enjoy a guided boat tour of the city's historic canals before lunch at Tivoli Gardens. Continue on in the afternoon to see Frederiks Church, Kongens Nytorv, the Royal Theatre, National Museum, and the Round tower. Finish the day with a stop at Amalienborg Palace with its lovely flower garden. (B,L)



Day 13: Fri 11 July: Copenhagen, Excursion to Roskilde

This morning we will journey to the nearby city of Roskilde to see the Roskilde Cathedral considered by many to be the most important church in Denmark, and the burial site of many Danish monarchs. Then experience the Viking Ship Museum, known for its amazing collection of historic ships. Return to Copenhagen to see the famed Rosenberg Slot and the beautiful surrounding King's gardens and get the chance to explore the neighboring Botanical Gardens, with the rest of the day at leisure. (B)

Day 14: Sat 12 July – Copenhagen - Rotterdam, The Netherlands

This morning we will transfer to the airport for our flight to Amsterdam (flights is included in land price). Upon arrival we will be transferred to the cruise terminal in Rotterdam to board our Holland America Lines Fjords of Norway and Iceland cruise. Be out on deck as we sail away from one of Europe's most famous ports. (B and all meals on board)

Fjords of Norway and Iceland cruise with Holland America Lines



DAY 15: SUN 13 JULY: Cruise towards Norway

Today is a day for relaxing and watching the world go by with a full day at sea. Be on board as we cruise some of the magnificent Norwegian coastline and fjords. (B, L, D)

Day 16: Mon 14 July: Cruise Arriving in Aalesund, Norway

Today we visit Aalesund, a quaint fishing town of approximately 45,000 people in western Norway. Some people call it Norway's most beautiful city after a fire in 1904 destroyed the city resulting in the town being rebuilt in the Art Nouveau style. A year after the fire, Norway gained its independence from Sweden, which led to a campaign to build a 'Norwegian town' to mark the creation of the new nation. The colourful buildings feature castle like turrets and spires with intricate facades of ornamental flowers, gargoyles and Viking-inspired decorations. Bordering the Norwegian Sea, this area is also famous for its mountain ranges and fjords. Nearby is the Geirangerfjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its beautiful waterfalls. This is also home to Atlanterhavsparken, or the Atlantic Sea Park, one of the largest aquariums in Europe. There will be optional tours offered to go ashore today. (B, L, D)



Day 17: Tue 15 July: Cruise to Iceland

Today we head across the Norwegian sea to Iceland.

A relaxing day! (B, L, D)

Day 18: Wed 16 July: Cruise to Akureyri And then Eyyafhirdur

Akureyri is often described as the capital of north Iceland, the country's second-largest city is both vibrant and pretty. Located at the head of a Norway's longest fjords and surrounded by snow-streaked mountains, Akureyri was originally settled in the 9th century and was first officially mentioned as a city in the 16th century. Today it boasts a population of around 17,000, a scenic harbor with a busy café and restaurant scene. Its main sights include the Akureyri Church, a wonderful botanical garden (founded in 1912) and the fascinating Akureyri Museum. The Eyyafhirdur is spectacular and we should have great views as we cruise in and out to reach Akureyri. Lined by peaks that descend to the water's edge, the fjord runs some 64 kilometers long and is located roughly in the middle of the country's northern coast. Hydrothermal vents surround the fjord and the small island of Hrísey sits in the middle of it. Inhabited since the 9th century, Hrísey was long the home of a herring processing facility, though today it is better known as a bird sanctuary. Beyond the fjord itself, Súlur and Kerling are two of the area's tallest mountains and some of Iceland's most fertile farmland can be found in the region. (B,L,D)



Day 19: Thu 17 July: Cruise to Isafjordur

Today we cruise up to the coast to the small town of Isafjordur which only has a population of 2600 and serves as the exploration hub for the surrounding Westfjords peninsula. Settled since the 16th century, and traditionally dependent on fishing as its main source of income, its streets are today lined with old wooden houses interspersed with occasional shops, restaurants and cafés. Despite its low-key atmosphere, Isafjordur offers plenty to do, from visiting local museums golf, hiking, biking and kayaking around the town and harbor. The town is connected to the mainland by a narrow nine-meter-wide isthmus. Local lore has it that the isthmus, and the town itself, were formed by a group of trolls who wanted to live apart from humans. Along Iceland's spectacular coastline, glacier-carved green mountains stand in contrast against the deep blue sea. (B,L,D)

Day 20: Fri 18 July: Cruise to Grundarfjordur

Iceland seems to specialize in quaint fishing villages but I am told that Grundarfjordur is special. It's on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula, a piece of land that juts out to the sea in Western Iceland. Black-lava beaches, crystalline waterfalls and massive glaciers are found on this long stretch and Grundarfjordur is a good place to join a tour to these natural wonders. Kirkjufell, a mountain, is the town's landmark and is said to be the most photographed mountain in the country (see right). If you are familiar with the Game of Thrones you will have seen it! There are a number of museums in the area as well as the usual shops and tourist traps. (B,L,D)



Day 21: Sat 19 July: Arrive Reykjavik, Iceland

On arrival at the Reykjavik cruise terminal, we will be met by our Globus guide and coach and taken on a morning orientation tour of the city centre, ending with a stop at a local café (own expense) for lunch. Later visit the famous Hallgrímskirkja, a Lutheran church with a commanding position in the centre of Reykjavik. Take the lift up to the top of the church's tower for a stunning view of the city. (pictured right). Later check in to our hotel and a free afternoon. (B) *Hilton Reykjavik Nordica or similar for 2 nights*

Day 22: Sun 20 July: Reykjavik

Today we will explore more of the natural beauty of Iceland. First will be a visit to the geothermal greenhouse at Fridheimar which uses natural energy to heat greenhouses to produce food in this reasonably harsh terrain and very harsh climate. We will then continue to the geyser hot springs and taste local specialties with a glass of Geysir Schnapps. Next is Gullfoss to take a picture at the stunning Gullfoss waterfalls. We will then walk through the rift valley at Thingvellir, the only place where the separation between the North American and European tectonic plates are above sea level. Here you can stand on two continents at the same time. Our farewell dinner is in our hotel. (B, D)



Day 23: Mon 21 July: Depart Reykjavik

After breakfast, check out of our hotel and transfer to Reykjavik Airport for our flights home or to other ports. Flight options/suggestions to be advised well before the tour. (B)

Main tour	
Land tour price including fully guided tour, all transport, meals as indicated, accommodation, cruise in Oceanview room and entry to all sites indicated per person twin share	\$15995
Tour deposit—deductible from final tour price	\$ 1000
Air fare - prices not yet available. Will book best price and stopover options at time of booking.	
Single supplement - land and cruise in Oceanview	\$ 4450

Fjords cruise upgrade (twin share per person).

Please note that Oceanview suites are included in the main tour price.

Veranda suite pp	+\$340
Single use Veranda (assuming single supplement for whole tour)	+\$680

Quality matters!

- ⇒ Comfortable modern hotels
- ⇒ Experienced local tour guides and operators
- ⇒ We always seem to have a wonderful, friendly & fun group to travel with!



Important dates

1. Deposit – Payable asap to secure a place as seats are limited, please complete booking form.
2. Final payment 70 days before departure

The tour prices includes:

- Globus tour guide and coach
- Beautiful hotel accommodation
- Private tour—only our group!
- Oceanview cabins on Holland America Lines Cruise
- All cruises and internal flight Copenhagen to Amsterdam
- All tipping for national guides, drivers and portorage
- Entry to all sightseeing, national parks and gardens as detailed in itinerary
- Quality meals listed in the itinerary (B=Breakfast x 22 L=Lunch x 11 D=Dinner x 16)
- Accompanied all the way with Australian garden guide – Brian Sams
- Taxes where appropriate (but subject to change based on prevailing rates)
- Airport transfers (for whole group only—other arrangements to be made as required)

The tour price excludes:

- International airfares
- All items not stated as included
- Travel insurance—recommended for all travelers. Please discuss if you need help to organize.

Full terms and conditions are on the booking form.



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