



# SWEDEN, NORWAY & DENMARK



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# SWEDEN, NORWAY & DENMARK

*Sweden, Norway and Denmark are highlighted by charming, pristine cities, spectacular fjords, and a smörgåsbord of cultural traditions. From Viking lore to pop culture icons and unmatched hospitality, these Nordic lands are sure to enthrall and delight. And with surroundings as serene as this, you'll come to understand how they became host to the world's most revered peace prize.*

## HISTORY

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As merchant seamen, well known for their far-reaching trade, the Nordic Vikings dominated Europe in the eighth and ninth centuries. Many historians credit the Vikings with the first European discovery of the Americas, with the exploits of Leif Ericsson around 1000.

In 1397, Queen Margaret of Denmark united Sweden (which included Finland), Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Greenland and other territories into the Kalmar Union. Tension within the countries gradually led to open conflict, and the union split in the early sixteenth century. A long-lived rivalry ensued, with Norway and Denmark on one side and Sweden and Finland on the other. During the seventeenth century, Sweden-Finland emerged as a great power. Its contributions during the Thirty Years' War under Gustavus Adolphus determined the political, as well as religious, balance of power in Europe. At its zenith in 1658, Sweden ruled several provinces of Denmark, as well as parts of present-day Germany, Russia, Estonia and Latvia.

In 1813, Sweden joined the allies against Napoleon, which resulted in the acquisition of Norway from Denmark (an ally of Napoleon). The merger lasted until 1905, when Norway peaceably gained its independence. Sweden has not participated in any war in almost two centuries. An "armed neutrality" was maintained by the country throughout both World Wars. Denmark and Norway attempted the same but were inevitably drawn into the conflict by the end of the second World War after being occupied by Nazi Germany. While Denmark became an early member of the EU in 1973, indecision over Sweden's role in the political and economic integration of Europe delayed its entry into the EU until 1995. For now, Norway has decided not to join the EU community.

## LOCAL TOURISM

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### WEB SITES

*Copenhagen*..... [www.visitcopenhagen.dk](http://www.visitcopenhagen.dk)  
*Denmark*..... [www.visitdenmark.com](http://www.visitdenmark.com)  
*Norway* .....[www.visitnorway.com/us](http://www.visitnorway.com/us)  
*Stockholm* .....[www.stockholmtown.com](http://www.stockholmtown.com)  
*Sweden* ..... [www.visitsweden.com](http://www.visitsweden.com)

# SWEDEN, NORWAY & DENMARK CONTINUED

## SWEDEN

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### FAST FACTS

<i>Capital</i>	<i>Oslo</i>
<i>Population</i>	<i>4.6 million</i>
<i>Language</i>	<i>Norwegian, English</i>
<i>Currency</i>	<i>Norwegian krone (NOK)</i>
<i>Time Zone</i>	<i>EST plus 6 hours</i>
<i>Electricity</i>	<i>230V, 50Hz</i> ☺ ☹

## NORWAY

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### FAST FACTS

<i>Capital</i>	<i>Stockholm</i>
<i>Population</i>	<i>9 million</i>
<i>Language</i>	<i>Swedish, English</i>
<i>Currency</i>	<i>Swedish krona (SEK)</i>
<i>Time Zone</i>	<i>EST plus 6 hours</i>
<i>Electricity</i>	<i>230V, 50Hz</i> ☺ ☹

## DENMARK

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### FAST FACTS

<i>Capital</i>	<i>Copenhagen</i>
<i>Population</i>	<i>5.5 million</i>
<i>Language</i>	<i>Danish</i>
<i>Currency</i>	<i>Danish krone (DKK)</i>
<i>Time Zone</i>	<i>EST plus 6 hours</i>
<i>Electricity</i>	<i>230V, 50Hz</i> ☺ ☹

## BOOKS

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- *The Best Intentions*, by Ingmar Bergman
- *Hamlet*, by William Shakespeare
- *Pippi Longstocking*, by Astrid Lindgren
- *Swedish Folktales and Legends*, by Lone Thygesen Blecher

## VIDEOS

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- *Smiles of a Summer Night* (1955)
- *Pelle the Conqueror* (1987)
- *Under the Sun* (1998)
- *Italian for Beginners* (2000)



