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The northern
lights shimmer
in Norway ▶

TRUE NORTH

25 Ways to Nordic Bliss



SWEDEN At the Treehotel, the Mirrorcube room provides reflection.

DENMARK

Get Your Kicks With Bricks

Everything is awesome at the first Legoland amusement park, built in 1968 next to the original Lego factory in the small Jutland town of Billund. The highlight: Miniland, where 20 million colorful bricks interlock to create scale models of Copenhagen's Nyhavn harbor and other global landmarks. legoland.dk

Until Noma Reopens...

Noma 2.0 is set to debut in December in Copenhagen, but in the meantime splurge

on high-concept new Nordic cuisine at Geranium (geranium.dk), with its eighth-floor view of city gardens. Chef Rasmus Kofoed has won bronze, silver, and gold medals at the Bocuse d'Or cooking competition. In the Faroe Islands, try the multicourse tasting menu at Koks (koks.fo), which earned the self-governing archipelago its first Michelin star for its fresh seafood and local cooking style involving fermentation known as *raest*.

Viking Raids

Rich in Viking history, Denmark is

home to the annual Viking Games in Frederikssund (vikingespil.dk) and the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde (vikingeskibsmuseet.dk).

Water of Life

Akvavit is a typically Scandinavian tippie found across Denmark that's flavored with berries, dill, coriander, or other notes. Pair it with *smørrebrød*, open-faced sandwiches with an equally dizzying variety of toppings.

Adventure 360

You can find outdoor activity in every direction in Jutland. Deep-sea fish in the north; bike in the south; voyage into Mols Bjerge National Park in the east; and fly a kite in the west.

FINLAND

Sauna Like a King

This is land of the sauna. In Helsinki try it the traditional way at Kotiharjun (kotihaarjunsuuna.fi) or Hermannin (saunahermannin.fi). Or steam in midair at SkySauna (skysauna.fi) or with a Whopper at Burger King Sauna (to reserve, email mannerheimintie12.burgerking@restel.fi).

That New Park Smell

For Finland's centennial this year, the country inaugurated its 40th national park. Near the Russian border, Hossa National Park's remote location is perfect for fresh-air adventures like canoeing, hiking, mountain biking, and bird-watching. nationalparks.fi/hossa

Maximum Moomin

Opened in June, the Moomin Museum, in Tampere, celebrates the beloved hippo-like cartoon characters the Moomins, dreamed up by illustrator Tove Jansson during WWII. muumimuseo.fi

Blini Bonanza

January means blini time in Helsinki, as locals go on restaurant crawls, sampling as many dinner-plate-size specialty blinis as they can. There's the usual smoked

fish and roe topping, but other inventive fillings that speak to Finland's unique Russian-influenced Nordic cuisine include slow-cooked Finnish lamb's neck, cured reindeer, and condensed milk and honey.

Naughty or Nice

In Rovaniemi, in Finnish Lapland, visit year-round Santa Claus Village (santaclausvillage.info), an amusement park located on the Arctic Circle, where letters get postmarked with a special Santa Claus stamp. If you come in summer, head over to Rovaniemi Local History Museum to learn about rural life in the late 19th century. visitrovaniemi.fi

ICELAND

Party Central

Iceland programs a wealth of festivals focusing on subjects from film to elves. The annual AirWaves festival has become an internationally renowned gathering showcasing new music, both Icelandic and global. icelandairwaves.is

Go Volcano

Turn up the heat at Laugarvatn Fontana Geothermal Baths (fontana.is), along Iceland's Golden Circle route, where you can soak in hot springs and then sample (and learn how to make) volcano bread, cooked underground in a pot. Then cap off a hike up dormant volcano Thrihnukagigur by venturing inside its crater in an open-cable elevator. insidethevolcano.com

Swim Between Continents

At Silfra, snorkel between two tectonic plates—North American and Eurasian—in startlingly clear water, no certification needed. dive.is

Late-Night Hike

Let the sun be your guide on a midnight hike up Snæfell mountain during the months of June and July, when the country

is awash in 24 hours of daylight. Tours typically begin at 9 p.m. and last 12 hours, ending with a dip in the outdoor thermal pools of Laugarfelli. guidetoiceland.is

Turf's Up

Take a detour off the Ring Road to visit Íslenski Bærinn, a turf house turned museum celebrating these wonders of traditional Arctic architecture. islenskibaerinn.is

NORWAY

Play Guitar? Try Ice Guitar.

All the concerts at the Ice Music Festival in the mountain town of Geilo are performed with instruments made from the naturally harvested frozen stuff. icemusicfestival.no

Cabin Craze

Those brightly painted fishermen's

cabins so evocative of far-north Norway—known as *rorbuer*—are available for overnight stays in the seaside village of Reine, in the Lofoten Islands. classicnorway.com/hotels/reine-rorbuer

Gorgeous Fjords

Climb aboard five trains and three ferries to experience Norway's natural assets from Oslo to Bergen with Nat Geo Expeditions' 10-day "Norway's Trains and Fjords" trip. natgeoexpeditions.com/explore

Sky-Watchers

Held the last week of January, the annual Northern Lights Festival in Tromsø is nine days of world-class jazz, classical, dance, and electronic performances, with some events taking place outside under the aurora borealis. nordlysfestivalen.no

Munch and Munch

After viewing one of the world's largest collections of Edvard Munch paintings at KODE Art Museums of Bergen, dine on crayfish and oysters from western Norway at the museum's Lysverket restaurant. kodebergen.no

SWEDEN

Tree House of Your Dreams

The latest addition to the Treehotel's collection of high-design rooms in the forest of Harads is appropriately named the 7th Room. Opened in 2016, the light-filled accommodation sleeps up to five. treehotel.se

Run the Bohuslän Coast

The annual Icebug Xperience is a three-day, 50-mile race that you can run or walk along the photogenic western Swedish

coast. Race tickets include three lunches. icebug.com

Dogsled to the Icehotel

Nat Geo Expeditions lets you drive your own team of Alaskan huskies through the Lapland wilderness for a night at the Icehotel. natgeoexpeditions.com/explore

Sami Shopping

Cheer on a reindeer race and buy a wool blanket at the Jokkmokk Winter Market, a 412-year-old gathering of Sami people. jokkmokksmarknad.se

Wish You Were Here

Stockholm's Bar Hommage creates seasonal "cocktails by location," drinks inspired by street names in Stockholm, Uppsala, and other global cities. The menu is printed on a souvenir postcard. bar-hommage.com

