

European Capitals Cruise

May 17-31, 2024



England – Belgium – Netherlands – Norway – Sweden
Denmark – Germany – France

ChmieBell TOURS

Friday, May 17 – ONWARD FLIGHT

We will meet at the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport to begin our journey on the Best of Scandinavia Cruise! If you're joining us from another state, we will meet up with you along the way.

Saturday, May 18 – ARRIVE - SOUTHAMPTON (LONDON), ENGLAND

Upon arrival we will take a shuttle as a group to our Hotel to rest, relax, explore, and have dinner on our own to prepare before our cruising adventure begins.



Sunday, May 19 – SOUTHAMPTON (LONDON), ENGLAND

(Depart 4:00pm)

The south of England boasts a dramatic coastline that encloses some of the most beautiful countryside in Britain. The landscape of hills and heaths, downs and forests, valleys, and dales, is without rival. Southampton serves as your gateway to the countryside - and to a wide variety of historic sites, national landmarks and charming.

We will have a shuttle waiting to take us to the port to set sail and begin our 12-Day European Capitals Cruise! You'll have plenty of time to relax, indulge in the hospitality onboard and anticipate the adventure ahead.

Monday, May 20 – BRUSSELS/BRUGES (ZEEBRUGGE), BELGIUM

(Arrive 8:00am / Depart 6:00pm)

Zeebrugge is your gateway to Brussels. The capital of Belgium, Brussels is really two cities in one. Old Brussels is a city of superb Baroque architecture with ornate guildhalls, cobbled lanes and one of the finest squares in Europe. New Brussels is the modern city, the capital of the European Union, the home of NATO and the seat of the European Atomic Energy Community. It is a city of fascinating contrasts.

Tuesday, May 21 – ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

(Arrive 8:00am / Depart 10:00pm)



The largest port in Europe, Rotterdam is an intriguing mix of the old and the new. The city's lineage is ancient - Count Willem III granted city rights to the sleepy fishing village on the Rotte in 1328, yet much of the city dates from the six decades following the end of World War II. An important industrial center and a major European port, Rotterdam was among the first targets of the Nazi blitzkrieg against the West. On May 14, 1940, the German Luftwaffe firebombed the city, Rotterdam was gutted. The post-war years saw a slow rebuilding but by the early 1960s the maze of port facilities extended all the way to the North Sea. Today, this city of over half a million is the economic powerhouse, not just of the Netherlands but of Northern Europe.



The Nazi bombardment of 1940 gutted most of the old city. As a result, Rotterdam's architecture is an intriguing mix of old and new: modern glass skyscrapers often stand adjacent to 19th- and 18th-century buildings.

Wednesday, May 22 – AT SEA

There's always something happening on board — from heading to the Princess Theater for a lavish original musical production to enjoying a blockbuster movie poolside under the stars or simply relaxing in a lounge sipping a cocktail where a live band is playing your song. Each day, a world of exciting activities awaits, from cooking demonstrations to dance classes, trivia contests and a range of enrichment programs, including the Encounters with Discovery at SEA™ speaker series from experts who offer insights into the places you'll visit. Or perhaps enjoy a day to relax and indulge in a manicure, pedicure or a makeover in the salon, or a soothing massage in the Lotus Spa!

Thursday, May 23 – OSLO, NORWAY

(Arrive 9:00am / Depart 6:00pm)

Forest-clad slopes plummet to an island-studded fjord. Welcome to Oslo, Scandinavia's oldest capital city. The commercial center of Norway, Oslo has been a major trading port for over a millennium. Its harbor is crowded with shipping that ranges from cruise ships to workaday shrimp boats. Though a relatively modest city in size - some 550,000 Norwegians call it home - Oslo is one of the largest capital cities in the world in terms of area. The city itself boasts a sophisticated, yet cozy charm, with a blend of 19th- and 20th-century buildings, many decorated with woodcarvings and bright frescoes, and wide avenues dotted with public squares and parks.



Friday, May 24 – GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN

(Arrive 9:00am / Depart 6:00pm)



Sweden's second largest city - and the largest port in Scandinavia - was founded by King Gustavus Adolphus in 1621 at the mouth of the Göta River. Gustavus Adolphus hired Dutch architects and builders to lay out Gothenburg, so it should come as no surprise that the city is laced with a network of gracious canals lined with elegant buildings. Like all great seaports, Gothenburg is a cosmopolitan city with a wealth of cultural attractions, from its ancient University to its beloved pleasure garden at Liseberg Amusement Park. The city is also the gateway to the archipelagoes and picturesque fishing villages of Sweden's West Coast - the country's favorite vacation playground.

Saturday, May 25 – COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

(Arrive 7:00am / Depart: 10:00pm)

Copenhagen was founded during the 12th century. The city owes much of its charm to the buildings erected by Denmark's monarchs, and boasts a treasure trove of late-Renaissance and Rococo architecture. Copenhagen deserves its accolade as the Venice of the North. Founded on a series of islands and islets, the city today is laced with graceful canals and boasts some of the most delightful architecture in Northern Europe. See the fabled statue of Hans Christian Andersen's Little Mermaid, a symbol of the city. Stroll along the old harbor of Nyhavn, lined with cafés, restaurants and 500-year-old gabled houses. Browse the superb shops on the world-famous Stroget or view the Rococo palaces lining Amalienborg Square. Best of all, savor the taste of local delicacies while wandering the paths of Tivoli Gardens, one of Europe's most celebrated pleasure gardens.



Sunday, May 26 – AARHUS, DENMARK

(Arrive 8:00am / Depart 5:00pm)



It's easy to assume that Aarhus stands in Copenhagen's shadow - Aarhus after all is the second largest city in Denmark but despite this fact, it only has close to 260.000 inhabitants, compared to the 600.000 of Copenhagen. Aarhus boasts a traditional and relaxed feeling at the same time, as the city has kept in many of its areas the unique Danish buildings, combined with some of the most modern and fine new Danish designs. Early Archeological findings date Aarhus's founding in 770. Famous internationally for its extensive cultural scene; you can find some of the best Museums in Denmark.

Monday, May 27 – AT SEA

Another day at sea with onboard activities galore!

Tuesday, May 28 – HAMBURG, GERMANY (FOR BERLIN)

(Arrive 7:00am / Depart 10:00pm)

Germany's leading seaport, Hamburg is the gateway to Berlin - and a fascinating place to visit. Situated on the banks of the Elbe, the city is built over the water and boasts more than 2,100 bridges, more bridges than in Venice and Amsterdam combined. Established by Charlemagne in the 9th century, Hamburg has managed to preserve its Gothic old quarter. The city's other attractions range from St. Pauli, the ribald red-light district, to the fashionable shops of Jungfernstieg and the St. Michael's Church, a masterpiece of Baroque architecture.



Wednesday, May 29 – AT SEA

Our last day at sea to catch any activities that you may have missed.



Thursday, May 30 – **PARIS/NORMANDY (LE HAVRE), FRANCE**
(Arrive 7:00am / Depart 8:00pm)

Perhaps no other place in France holds more associations for English-speaking visitors than Normandy. The historic Allied landings on D-Day – June 6, 1944 - live on in the memories of British and Americans alike. Nor has Le Havre forgotten the dark days of the war. The port was almost completely destroyed during the Normandy campaign. Today, Le Havre is France's second largest port and the gateway to Paris, "City of Light," the Norman countryside, and the historic landing beaches.

Travelers usually head for the historic landing sites or to Paris. Yet Le Havre was designated a World Heritage Site in 2005. The Musee des Beaux Arts Andre Malraux boasts one of the finest collections of Impressionist painting in the world.

Friday, May 31 – **SOUTHAMPTON (LONDON), ENGLAND - ONWARD FLIGHT HOME**
(Arrive 7:00am)

Our fabulous cruise comes to an end, and we will have a designated time to disembark and catch our shuttle to the airport. On your flight home, you'll have time to reminisce about the most incredible memories on our tour to share with family and friends.

Price Includes:

- Round-trip Airfare Mpls/St.Paul Int'l Airport (All other states pre-arranged by ChmieBell Tours)
- Pre-cruise Overnight
- 12-Day Cruise
- Insurance
- Port Taxes and Fees
- Ship Gratuities
- Shuttle to/from Airport and Port

DON'T WAIT! - REGISTER EARLY!

Deposit of \$600 Per Person due by November 1st, 2023 to reserve your spot!

3% Service Charge added for Credit Card payments.
Cash or Check preferred



Personally Hosted by Us!

Patty Chmielewski & Michael Bell

Price per Person:

TBD



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- Guest Capacity: 3,140 lower berths
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- Tonnage: 112,894



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