



Scandinavia Farm Study Tour 2014

ITINERARY

August 30 departure

DATE	ACTIVITY	OVERNIGHT
Day 1 (meals on plane then dinner at hotel) Sat, August 30	<p>Main group departs various airports Australia on Friday August 29 for Saturday afternoon arrival in Berlin. Some group members have other pre-tour travel plans, including Arctic expeditions, but all be in Berlin on the 30th.</p> <p>Meeting us in Berlin will be Soenke Rabe who will be our farm guide, finder of amazing hotels, sights and activities – not to mention a great travelling companion – through to Stockholm. Also meeting us is Burkhard Sommer, who will be our expert bus driver all the way through to Oslo. We check-in to our downtown hotel for a well-earned rest and freshen up. Sights such as Friedrichstraße and Friedrichstadtpalast, the luxurious boulevard Unter den Linden, the Brandenburg Gate, the German Reichstag parliament building, the Museum of Natural Science and Museum Island (Berlin's famous museum district) are all within quick and easy reach. The Friedrichstraße train station provides access to all major tram and metro lines and is only a few minutes walk away from our hotel. Dinner tonight at the hotel.</p>	Berlin (Germany)
Day 2 - (B, L, D) Sun, August 31	<p>This morning we visit the amazing Museum of the Berlin Wall at Checkpoint Charlie. We will hear a first hand account from Mr Shubert – who spent many years in prison as a 'guest' of the notorious East German secret police, the stazi – of escape plans, imprisonment and political persecution during the Soviet years in East Germany. Then we view Berlin from another vantage point as we cruise the River Spree and enjoy lunch on board. We board our bus for a tour of the main city sights of Berlin then it's free time later this afternoon to rest up or visit some of Berlin's many attractions. Dinner this evening is at a traditional brewery/bar in downtown Berlin.</p>	Berlin
Day 3 - (B, L, D) Mon, Sep 1	<p>We board our charter coach this morning and travel 250 km north to the shores of the Baltic Sea and some of Germany's most productive farmland. Near the small village of Muuks (just outside Stralsund) we visit the Rieve farm – a highly sophisticated and high-yield grain producing operation – and meet the Rieve family. And just to add to the farming mix, the family also has agricultural interests in Ukraine. After our visit we continue onto Dalwitz for overnight, a small town 100 km to the southwest. An asado (BBQ) dinner at La Remise Restaurant which serves beef from an organic farm we will visit tomorrow morning. Overnight Dalwitz.</p>	Dalwitz
Day 4 - (B, L, D) Tue, Sep 2	<p>This morning we visit the Dalwitz organic grain/beef farming operation before continuing 30 km onto the town of Groß Lüsewitz and a visit to one of the research centres of the Julius-Kühn-Institute (the German Federal Research Institute for Cultivated Plants). At the Groß Lüsewitz JKI centre the focus is on the breeding of agricultural crops as well as resistance research and stress tolerances of various crops. After lunch we continue onto the town of Redentin and a highly productive grain farm. From here it is a short distance onto the Baltic island of Poel to visit NPZ-Lembke, a company breeding and developing a range of oilseeds, pulses and cereals. Onto our hotel and dinner at Gutshaus Redewisch.</p>	Gutshaus Redewisch
Day 5 - (B, L, D) Wed, Sep 3	<p>After breakfast, we board our luxury coach for Hamburg, and meet with AC Toepfer – one of Europe's largest grain and feedstuff traders – to discuss global grain markets, prices and prospects. Then we enjoy lunch during a boat cruise of one of Europe's busiest ports. There will be shopping and sightseeing opportunities in Hamburg before continuing northwest later this afternoon and onto Altenhof for dinner and nearby Alt Duvenstedt for overnight.</p>	Alt Duvenstedt
Day 6 - (B, L, D) Thu, Sep 4	<p>This morning we travel northwest towards the Danish border where we visit a Viking village at Haithabu to really get amongst some traditional farming methods. After lunch we inspect a wind turbine farm at Dollerup on the northwestern German coastline before continuing north across the border and into the highly productive and culturally rich Yutland Peninsula of Denmark. Overnight at the magnificent Kolding Fiord.</p>	Kolding (Denmark)

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Day 7 - (B, L, D) Fri, Sep 5	<p>This morning we loop in a south-easterly direction, through picturesque scenery and villages, and onto the island of Funen. Here we visit the 450 years old Egeskov Castle and Estate in its beautiful location in southern Funen. Egeskov is famous for being the best preserved moat castle in Europe. For the past 130 years the Estate has been a model of agricultural innovation including the building of its own power station and railway track to nearby Kværndrup to deliver its produce. Innovations such as these over many years has formed the economic basis for the large, modern farm that Egeskov is to this day.</p> <p>In 1967, the Veteran Car Museum was opened in the Castle grounds. Over the years, the museum has been extended to include several of the surrounding farm buildings and now showcases an amazing collection of vintage cars, motor bikes, aircraft and farm machinery. We return to Kolding this evening.</p>	Kolding
Day 8 - (B, L, D) Sat, Sep 6	<p>This morning we travel north visiting a farm in the heart of the fertile Yutland Peninsula on our way to Frederikshavn a port town on Skagarrat, the strait linking the North and Baltic Seas.</p>	Frederikshavn /
Day 9 - (B, L, D) Sun, Sep 7	<p>All aboard (including our bus) the ferry this morning for our crossing of the Skagarrat bound for Norway's capital, Oslo. This is a relaxing 8 hour journey with spectacular views as we cruise up the Oslofjord before docking in Oslo. On our way to our hotel we have a brief city tour to help get our bearings.</p> <p>This morning we travel a short distance to the magnificent Roskilde cathedral, where many of Denmark's kings and Queens are buried. We also visit the small town of Svenstrup to meet Christian von Wedell-Neergaard, who will show us his farm and – as a former MP – will give us an insight into Danish politics. After the farm and Roskilde, we continue onto Copenhagen for an afternoon city tour to get your bearings. The tour includes the Tivoli Gardens, Queen's Palace of Christiansborg, the Rosenborg Palace, the Amalienborg Palace and the famous Little Mermaid sculpture. Copenhagen is Scandinavia's biggest city yet large squares, wide open green spaces and pedestrian zones help to create a feeling of spaciousness and freedom. Free evening.</p>	Oslo (Norway)
Day 10 - (B) Mon, Sep 8	<p>This morning we enjoy a tour of Oslo visiting the magnificent Frogner Park where the world-famous Vigelandsparken is situated. The park contains amazing fountains and sculptures created by Gustav Vigeland who worked on the sculpture park from 1924 until his death in 1943. This is a 'must-see' for all visitors to Oslo. We also visit the world-famous Viking Ships, the Polar exploration ship Fram (the 'strongest ship in the world') and the Holmenkollen Ski Jump with a panoramic view over the city and fjord. Free afternoon and evening.</p>	Oslo
Day 11 - (B, L, D) Tues, Sep 9	<p>Today we board our charter coach and travel to Bergen on Norway's spectacular west coast. We will take the spectacular scenic road route – it's impossible not to in Norway. We break our journey with a farm visit enroute. We arrive in Bergen mid afternoon and check-in to our hotel. Bergen is Norway's second largest city. It occupies a sheltered position between a string of islands along the west coast and steep sided mountains inland. With its distinctive brightly painted wooden houses and old fishing harbour, it is one of Norway's most attractive cities.</p>	Bergen
Day 12 - (B, L) Wed, Sep 10	<p>An early morning opportunity to visit the world famous fish market before breakfast. Later this morning there will be a guided sightseeing tour of Bergen including the Bryggen, the Rosenkrantz Tower and Edvard Grieg's House. The afternoon is free for independent sightseeing and shopping. Bergen grew up around its colourful harbour – it was the hub of commerce, seafaring and craftsmanship. The wharf area, called the Bryggen, is as it was in the 11th century, and is on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Free evening.</p>	Bergen
Day 13 - (B, L) Thurs, Sep 11	<p>This morning we travel northeast out of Bergen and visit a farm producing the traditional Norwegian west coast delicacy called "smalahove" (salted, sometimes smoked sheep's head which is then boiled or steamed and served with mashed rutabaga or potatoes). We taste both the smalahove and ham produced at the farm. We then continue on to join one of the world's great train journeys – the Flam Railway. The line twists through tunnels spiralling in and out of the mountain. The 20 km train journey takes in some of Norway's wildest and most magnificent scenery – rivers that cut through deep ravines, waterfalls cascading down the side of steep, snow-capped mountains and mountain farms clinging dizzily to sheer slopes. We rejoin our bus and continue on to the village of Laerdal where we have dinner and overnight at the family-run Lindstroem Hotel.</p>	Laerdal
Day 14 - (B) Fri, Sep 12	<p>This morning we visit the Norwegian Wild Salmon Centre before continuing on to nearby Gudvangen and the shores of the spectacular Sognefjord. We board a ferry at Gudvangen to cross to Kaupanger. This fjord cruise is considered one of the world's most stunning. Sognefjord is Norway's longest and deepest fjord and extends more than 200 km inland. Towering snow-capped mountains and U-shaped valleys surround large delta farming areas which result from the accumulation of sediment supplied by the glacier rivers.</p> <p>After disembarking at Kaupanger we continue onto the spectacular farming village of Fjærland which is also home to the Norwegian Glacier Museum. Here we learn how flowing ice has sculpted the landscape, the fiords and the mountains. There is a fantastic multi-screen presentation on Jostedalbreen glacier. We take a simulated trip under the 'glacier' and experience the sounds, light, water and winds. Travel on to the beautiful village of Loen for overnight.</p>	Loen

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Day 15 - (B, L, D) Sat, Sep 13	This morning we drive along the shore of Europe's deepest lake, Hornindalsvatn, and onto Hellesylt where we have another spectacular ferry journey. Geirangerfjord is a jewel among the world's fjords – wild and dramatic – it cuts inland between snow-clad peaks, precipitous rock walls and cascading waterfalls – one of the great scenic wonders of the world. After disembarking we drive over the wild mountain to Grotli and into the Valley of Gudbrandsdalen. This was part of the Old King's road to Trondheim. The valley is encircled by mountains up to 1800 metres high and contains many small mountain farms with sheep and other livestock. We continue on to Otta for overnight.	Otta
Day 16 - (B, L, D) Sun, Sep 14	Today we continue south to the village of Sel where we visit a mixed farming operation where grain, pasture, beef, milk and forestry production is underway. Then it's onto Lillehammer – the site of the 1994 winter Olympics – it's also a region where a sod-roof is commonplace on the farmhouses. You have the opportunity to go to the top of the Olympic ski jump to see for yourself what could be so difficult about hurtling through thin, cold air for 140 metres or so. After dusting ourselves off from a few practice jumps, we board our coach and continue southeast and into Sweden. This region is called Värmland and is Sweden's rural heartland. We travel onto the city of Karlstad located beside Europe's largest freshwater lake, Lake Vänern.	Karlstad (Sweden)
Day 17 - (B, L) Mon, Sep 15	We continue east this morning with a farm visit on the way to Sweden's capital, Stockholm. We check in to our hotel before an afternoon guided sightseeing tour including the old town, the Royal Palace etc. Stockholm is often called 'the Venice of the North' because of its many canals and waterways. Free evening.	Stockholm
Day 18 - (B) Tues, Sep 16	Free day to relax a little in Stockholm and enjoy the sights at your own pace. Maybe drop into the Nobel Prize Hall or take a leisurely canal cruise. The mixture of old and new, greenery and water make this city a memorable place to slow down for a day.	Stockholm
Day 19 - (B, L, D) Wed, Sep 17	Today we travel south through a spectacular forested landscape dotted by lakes and onto the town of Vaderstad. Farms in this region grow grain, sugarbeet and potatoes and rear pigs and cattle. The town lends its name to the Vaderstad farm machinery plant. Vaderstad exports planters and other machinery around the world, including Australia. We inspect the plant and meet with company representatives. After lunch we visit a nearby family farm with a typical mix of grain and livestock enterprises, before continuing south to the town of Vaxjo. This is the Smaland region – the home of traditional glassmaking and blowing. Three villages are home to the most famous names in Swedish glass production – Kosta, Boda and Orrefors. In this 'Kingdom of Crystal' (known as Glasriket) we enjoy a tour of a glassworks as well as a hyttstill, a traditional dinner of local specialties prepared in the furnaces used in the glass making process.	Vaxjo
Day 20 - (B, L, D) Thurs, Sep 18	At Staffanstorp we inspect cereal trials with Bayer officials and a short presentation and discussion on the challenges of agriculture in the Nordics. In the afternoon, we head into Denmark via the famous Oresund Bridge – the longest combined road and rail bridge in Europe	Copenhagen (Denmark)
Day 21 - (B, D) Fri, Sep 19	Free day in Copenhagen. There are numerous options. This is a vibrant, modern city whose fascinating past co-exists with the very latest trends in architecture, design and fashion. This is one of the world's great capitals, reflected in its dynamic new buildings and stunning shops. We enjoy a farewell dinner this evening.	Copenhagen
Day 22 - (B) Sat, Sep 20	Depending on your individual flight times, there maybe free time this morning for some last minute sightseeing or shopping before transfer to the airport to begin your journey home.	On plane