



Scandinavia Study Tour 2011

DRAFT ITINERARY

August 26 departure

DATE	ACTIVITY	OVERNIGHT
Day 1 (meals on plane) Sat, August 27	Depart Australia Friday August 26* for Saturday evening arrival in Berlin. Met by our good friend Soenke Rabe. Soenke is our farm guide, finder of amazing hotels, sights and activities – not to mention a great travelling companion – through to Stockholm. Check-in to our downtown hotel for a well-earned rest ... or the stayers head out for dinner.	Berlin (Germany) *Those opting for the Arctic Circle/Spitsbergen pre-tour option, depart Australia on or before Aug 15 or 16 for Oslo
Day 2 - (B, L, D) Sun, August 28	A tour this morning of the main city sights including a visit to the amazing Museum of the Berlin Wall at Checkpoint Charlie and be enthralled by a first hand account 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. Free time this afternoon to rest up or visit some of Berlin's many attractions or just enjoy the shopping, cafes and bars of this European gem. Dinner at a traditional brewery/bar in downtown Berlin.	Berlin
Day 3 - (B, L, D) Mon, August 29	This morning we board our charter coach 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 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, a small town 100 km to the southwest.	Dalwitz
Day 4 - (B, L, D) Tue, August 30	This morning we visit an organic grain farming operation before continuing onto Vorbeck for lunch. After lunch we travel through magnificent farming country and spectacular scenery to the historic, medieval town of Celle. Free time this afternoon to enjoy this beautiful town before heading off to our traditional wild boar dinner at Backhaus Bennebostel.	Celle
Day 5 - (B, L, D) Wed, August 31	This morning a short drive north to meet with Jost von Freier, an arable farmer with the challenge of managing sandy soils for high grain yields. Grain harvest will be underway. A short drive onto Hamburg and lunch as we enjoy a boat cruise of one of Europe's busiest ports. After lunch a meeting with AC Toepfer – one of Europe's largest grain and feedstuff traders – to discuss global grain markets, prices and prospects. There will be shopping and sightseeing opportunities in Hamburg before continuing north and onto Gut Glasau, the centre of Germany's most productive grain producing region. We meet with Siegbot von Hoff and inspect his 400 ha arable farm. Siegbot also has a 60 ha commercial plantation of Christmas trees as one of the main farm enterprises. Tonight we enjoy an unforgettable dinner – and hospitality – at the Seigbot's farm.	Gut Glasau Turmschanke
Day 6 - (B, L, D) Thu, Sep 1	This morning we have a 100 km trip west towards the North Sea and the town of Heide where we visit the Witt farm – an integrated grain, pig and vegetable cooperative. Lunch at the farm and afterwards we visit a Viking village to really get amongst some traditional farming methods. We continue north across the border and into the highly productive and culturally rich Yutland Peninsula of Denmark. Overnight at the magnificent Kolding Fiord.	Kolding (Denmark)
Day 7 - (B, L, D) Fri, Sep 2	This morning we continue our northerly journey through the heart of the Yutland Peninsula and onto the northwestern coastal town of Lemvig. Here we visit Cheminova, a leading producer, researcher and marketer of plant protection products including glyphosate. We will be shown the companies facilities and trials and discuss products in the pipeline relevant to Australia. Cheminova's subsidiary in Australia is Ospray. A very special farm visit (with a furry difference) this afternoon. How does mustering 30,000 minks sound to you? Dinner with our local hosts.	Lemvig
Day 8 - (B, L, D) Sat, Sep 3	This morning we loop in a southerly direction, through picturesque scenery and villages, and onto the island of Fyn. Here we visit the Brahe Trolleborg farming estate and its spectacular 14th century manor. After a tour of the estate and lunch we continue northeast to Odense for a 'Hans Christian Andersen tour' of the famous childrens' story teller's city of birth. Continue onto Copenhagen for overnight.	Copenhagen

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Day 9 - (B, L) Sun, Sep 4	This morning we travel a short distance out of Copenhagen 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 return to 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 time this evening.	Copenhagen
Day 10 - (B) Mon, Sep 5	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 design capitals, reflected in its dynamic new buildings and stunning shops.	Copenhagen
Day 11 - (B, L, D) Tues, Sep 6	This morning we head into Sweden via the famous Oresund Bridge – the longest combined road and rail bridge in Europe – and onto Staffanstorp. Here we inspect cereal trials with Bayer officials and a short presentation and discussion on the challenges of agriculture in the Nordics. After lunch with Bayer we then travel northeast into the forested wilderness of the Smaland region of Sweden – the home of traditional glassmaking and blowing. Three tiny villages are home to the most famous names in Swedish glass production – Kosta, Boda and Orrefors. In this 'Kingdom of Crystal' (also known as Glasriket) we enjoy a tour of a glassworks as well as a hyttsill, a traditional dinner of local specialties prepared in the furnaces used in the glass making process. Overnight Kosta.	Kosta, Sweden
Day 12 - (B, L, D) Wed, Sep 7	Today we travel north through a spectacular forested landscape dotted by lakes and onto the town of Vaderstad. This is one of Sweden's most agricultural areas and farms on 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. After our visit we continue northeast to the bustling river port of Norrkoping where one of Sweden's largest grain elevators is located. Overnight Norrkoping.	Norrkoping
Day 13 - (B, L) Thurs, Sep 8	This morning we will visit the plant of Lantmannen Agroetanol, Sweden's largest producer and supplier of cereal-based fuel ethanol. The company also produces protein feedstuff. After our visit we continue northeast to Stockholm. Check in to our hotel and enjoy lunch 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 14 - (B) Fri, Sep 9	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 15 - (B, L, D) Sat, Sep 10	A short flight this morning to Oslo airport in Norway. We meet up again with our charter coach and have a short drive north to Fokhol Farm – a biodynamic enterprise, Demeter certified, on the sunny-side of the lake Mjøsa. With over 110 hectares of arable land, Fokhol is one of the largest organic farms in Norway. Since 1990 a diverse production and crop rotation has been developed – cattle for milk and meat, horses for working purposes as a supplement to the tractor-based equipment, graingrowing, vegetables, potatoes, hayfields and pastures. Lunch today is Fokhol farm-grown produce. After lunch we continue north to Lillehammer, the site of the 1994 winter Olympics. It's also where a sod-roof is commonplace on the farmhouses. You have the opportunity this morning 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.	Lillehammer (Norway)
Day 16 - (B, L, D) Sun, Sep 11	This morning we continue through 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. The road continues over the wild mountain at Grotli then downhill to the famous Geirangerfjord. 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. From Geirangerfjord we continue onto Hellesylt, past Europe's deepest lake – Hornindalsvatn – and onto beautiful Olden, the gateway to the glaciers and Jostedalsbreen National Park. Jostedalsbreen is the largest glacier on mainland Europe. Late this afternoon we travel 20 km due south of Olden to the face of the Briksdal glacier – the drive itself is considered a "symphony of stunning scenery" let alone getting up close and personal with a magnificent glacier. Return to Olden for overnight.	Olden

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Day 17 - (B, L, D) Mon, Sep 12	This morning we continue our stunning journey south. This is a spectacular region where glacier arms stretch down into green fertile valleys. We arrive at 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 Jostedalsglacier. We take a simulated trip under the 'glacier' and experience the sounds, light, water and winds. Fjærland is the district surrounding Fjærlandsfjord, a branch of the Sognefjord, Norway's longest and deepest fjord which extends more than 200 km inland. Towering mountains and U-shaped valleys surround large delta farming areas which result from the accumulation of sediment supplied by the glacier rivers. We travel south to the shores of the spectacular Sognefjord. We board a ferry at Kaupanger to cross to Laerdal, on the southern side of Sognefjord. Time permitting this afternoon, we will visit the Norwegian Wild Salmon Centre. Overnight Laerdal.	Laerdal
Day 18 - (B, L) Tues, Sep 13	This morning we travel via the world's longest road tunnel to Flam where we board our train for one of the world's great train journeys on – you guessed it – one of the world's steepest railway lines. 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. The Flam railway terminates at the village of Myrdal. Here we change to another train and travel to Voss where our bus meets up with us again and we journey onto Bergen. 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. Free evening	Bergen
Day 19 - (B) Wed, Sep 14	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, called Bryggen, is as it was in the 11th century, and is on UNESCO's World Heritage List.	Bergen
Day 20 - (B, L) Thurs, Sep 15	Today we depart Bergen at 8.00 am for Oslo and embark on another of the most exciting and beautiful train journeys in the world. No other train ride between two cities in Europe is at a higher altitude – the highest point is at Finse where we reach 1222 metres above sea level. The scenery along the way is nothing short of spectacular. We arrive in Oslo at 2.30 pm. We are transferred to our hotel for a short rest before 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. Free evening.	Oslo
Day 21 - (B, L, D) Fri, Sep 16	This morning we enjoy a short tour of Oslo including 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 time this afternoon before a farewell dinner this evening.	Oslo
Day 22 - (B) Sat, Sep 17	<p>Free time today for some last minute sightseeing or shopping before we are transferred to the airport to begin our journey home.</p> <p>Tour add-ons: You have the opportunity to fly onto the UK or other worldwide destinations.</p> <p>There is also a great optional PRE-STUDY TOUR trip to Svalbard (Spitsbergen), the world's most accessible piece of the polar north. It is also one of the few places where you will have a good chance of seeing a polar bear plus seals, walrus, whales and Arctic fox. The best way to see the land and wildlife is several days of coastal cruising, with experienced Arctic mariners and guides, with shore excursions and overnight accommodation on-board ship. You will join a 10 day sea/land cruise on-board a purpose built Arctic vessel. The sea conditions are generally very calm at this time of year.</p> <p>There is also significant agricultural relevance as the Australian government, and the GRDC, has contributed nearly \$20 million to the establishment of a global crop seed collection vault on the outskirts of Longyearbyen – a 'holocaust' secure storage facility.</p> <p>Approx cost is \$9000 per person and includes the extra flights and accommodation required to join the cruise before the farm study tour commences in Berlin on Aug 27.</p> <p>AUGUST 16 through AUGUST 26, last 2011 sailing of MV Antarctic Dream, an 83 metre purpose built polar exploration vessel, carrying no more than 84 passengers.</p> <p>Please contact Greenmount Travel for full details and itinerary for this fantastic Arctic Circle cruise option. The availability of berths on this cruise are extremely limited so if you are interested, please don't delay in contacting Greenmount Travel.</p>	On plane

