

Suggested Forestry Tour in the Nordic Countries

We are happy to present a tour showing the important forest production and industry in the Nordic countries Norway, Sweden and Finland. We have made a tour taking you through 3 capitals and a highly productive forestry area. You will meet people working in the forest as well as with the processing part and hear about research in one of the key industries in our countries. Choose all or the parts of interest – if you want to hear more about a worldwide production of Christmas trees – you should go to Denmark as well! Of course this is just a suggestion, we are happy to make a program according to the wishes of your clients.

Norwegian part

Day 1 Oslo – Elverum

Elverum is situated in the heart of the Norwegian forests, and naturally it became the centre of the timber trade at the end of the 1800s.

Beside technical visits, visit to the Norwegian Forest Museum that has national responsibility for presenting the history of hunting, trapping, fishing, forestry and forest industry. Night in Elverum

Day 2 Elverum – Dombås

Through Østerdalen. The vast forests are typical for the southern part of the Østerdal region. Pine barrens typically develop on the large stretches of sandy, nutrient poor soils in the valleys, whereas spruce dominates in higher elevations. Technical visits en route. Night in Dombås.

Day 3 Dombås – Ålesund

From the inland to the coastal forestry in the west. Here they are experts at operating in steep areas. Technical visits en route. Night in Ålesund

Day 4 Ålesund – Lom

From the beautiful jugendstil city of Ålesund via the famous Geirangerfjord to Lom. En route pine and spruce forests, mountain pine and mountain birch areas and various hardwoods. Technical visits en route. Night in Ålesund.

Day 5 Lom - Lillehammer – Sweden

In Lillehammer we'll visit Maihaugen, one of the largest and oldest open air museums in Europe.



Swedish part

Day 1 **Lillehammer, Norway – Sunne, Sweden**

From Norway you cross the border to Sweden and the region Värmland. The region is one of the leading processing regions in the world, we will have a first meeting with the forest owner organisation “Mellanskog” to get an introduction of Swedish forestry.

Dinner and overnight in Sunne or nearby town.

Day 2 **Sunne – Mora**

Breakfast and check out.

We will visit a large Nordic company making building materials and systems for the construction industry.

We continue to the next region, Dalarna, apart from its forest and mining industry also known for the largest Nordic ski run in the world, Vasaloppet. This is where the Dalahorse comes from. We will make a visit to a forest to see ongoing work and a sawmill.

Overnight in Mora or nearby.

Day 3 **Mora and surroundings**

Breakfast.

Full day of visits to learn more about the Swedish forestry. We will also visit production of the Dalahorse and other local traditional wooden products.

The day will show us a beautiful area surrounding lake Siljan.

Overnight in Mora.

Day 4 **Mora – Stockholm**

Breakfast and check out.

Travel towards Stockholm. En route we will visit a forest company.

Uppsala is a base for forestry research and also for the agricultural university, SLU. We will hear about the latest news about forestry in Scandinavia.

At the end of the day we arrive to the capital of Sweden and check in to our hotel.

Day 5 **Stockholm –Helsinki**

Breakfast and check out.

Sightseeing in Stockholm and some free time.

In the afternoon, check in to the cruise ship taking you through the beautiful archipelago to the capital of Finland, Helsinki.



Finnish part

Day 1 Helsinki – Forssa

Breakfast on board of a ferry while approaching the capital of Finland, Helsinki. Meet your Finnish guide in the harbor. Drive to visit The Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners. Presentation and discussion. After meeting short visit to Kamppi Chapel of Silence which is a sample of innovative wood architecture. Lunch in Helsinki city centre. Visit in the Finnish Forest Research Institute, a specialist research organization which develops solutions to the challenges and questions posed by the care, utilization, products, services and intangible value of forests. Transfer to Forssa, check in to centrally located hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 2 Forssa – with surroundings

Buffet breakfast. Drive to visit in Häme Nature Centre where you will get a very good impression of the nature and animals of the southern Finland. Continue on the Old Ox Road of Häme. This road was the most important road in the early Finnish history. This road cut through the wilderness of Häme and river landscapes of Southwestern Finland. Guided walking tour in Torro swamp which is a spectacular piece of traditional Finnish landscape. In Torro swamp you'll experience wilderness and spacious atmosphere similar to Lapland. Free time before transfer to enjoy a typical Finnish evening, including sauna, swimming and dinner.

Day 3 Forssa with surroundings

Buffet breakfast. Departure to visit two –three different forest farms, which use Ponsse forest machines. Ponsse is one of the world's leading manufacturers of forest machines for the cut-to-length method. During the farm visits we will also visit a logging area and see a Ponsse forest machinery in action. Trucks transporting logs to the saw mills and other downstream operations are quite often Finnish made Sisu-trucks. Overnight in Forssa.

Day 4 Forssa – Helsinki

Buffet breakfast and check out. Visit to one of the largest farms in Finland with more than 1000 ha of forest. This farm co-operates with Metsä Group. After presentation visit the farm museum with 100 old tractors from year 1920 to 1960. In addition to tractors there are also more than 15 000 pieces of various agriculture and forest tools and other equipment in the area of 3000 square meters. Lunch after visit. Drive to Vantaa where professional visit on Metsähallitus which is a state-owned enterprise that runs forest business as well as official administrative tasks. They administer more than 12 million hectares of state-owned land and water areas. Later in the afternoon drive to city of Helsinki. Check in a centrally located hotel. Dinner in town.

Day 5 Helsinki

Buffet breakfast. Guided Helsinki city tour where you will see the main sights of Helsinki. Stops are made at the Sibelius Monument when possible, the Temppeliaukio Rock Church. The tour will end to the famous market place "Kauppatori". After tour time to explore the city on your own. Farewell dinner and overnight in Helsinki.

Day 6

Buffet breakfast and check out. Transfer to the airport.



Short about forestry in Norway, Sweden and Finland

Forestry in Norway

Norway has long traditions in forestry and forest management, and for using wood in construction and as a source of energy. Sawn wood and round wood have been important exports for more than 500 years. During the 20th century, pulp and paper have become the most important forest products for export.

Stretched along the western side of the Scandinavian Peninsula, approximately one fourth of the surface area of Norway lies north of the Arctic Circle. The long coastline has an Atlantic, humid climate, while the inland climate is continental.

Forest and wooded land cover 12 million hectares and constitute 38 per cent of the land area in Norway. The most important species are Norway spruce (47 per cent), Scots pine (33 per cent) and birch (18 percent). Approximately 90 per cent of harvesting is fully mechanized.

Approximately 88 per cent - that is 120 000 properties of the forest area is privately owned. The majority of the forest holdings are farm and family forests. Due to the ownership structure and specific terrain conditions, Norwegian forestry is diversified and characterized by small-scale activity. The average size of clear-cuttings is estimated to be 1.4 hectares. During the last 80 years the annual harvest has been considerably lower than the annual increment, resulting in both growing stock and annual increment exceeding twice the level documented by the first National Forest Inventory in the 1930's. The annual increment in Norway is now 25 million m³.

Under sustainable forest management, there is a potential to increase the annual harvest level significantly.

Forestry in Sweden

Forest covers more than 50% of the country, 23 million hectares which make us one of the largest forestry countries per capita. More than half of the forest is owned by private owners, the rest by private or state owned limited companies. There is about 325.000 private forest owners in Sweden. The most common wood is spruce (42%), pine (38%) and birch (12%) with a total growing stock of 3 billion cubic meters.

A state owned organisation, Skogsstyrelsen, has the covering responsibility for all questions about the forest. Many actors in different sectors are responsible to make sure the work being done is in compliance with the political forest strategy.

The long tradition of forestry has developed many processing industries, large and small, local and international. Sweden is the 3rd largest export company of total forestry products after Canada and USA, paper and sawn products having the largest quantity.

Forestry in Finland

Forests are a renewable natural resource - a source of both economic and spiritual welfare. Forest is one of the dominating elements of the Finnish nature and its diversity. Over 70 % of Finland is covered by forest. 2.9 million hectares of the Finnish forests are protected or under restricted use, which represents 13 % of the forest area. This is the highest percentage in Europe. By a wise combination of utilisation and protection, healthy and diverse forests will be preserved for future generations as well.

