Cruising the BALTIC SEA
Cities and Islands of Sweden, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, and Finland aboard the all-suite Hebridean Sky • August 9–19, 2022
Dear Princetonian,

The height of summer, when sunlight extends into the evening hours and temperatures are mild, is the ideal time to explore the nations bordering the Baltic Sea. On this journey, we’ll have the good fortune to visit five of these nations aboard the all-suite, 118-passenger *Hebridean Sky*.

The scope of the experience will be grand, from the *stylish capital cities Stockholm and Helsinki* to the *quaint islands of Gotland and the Åland archipelago*, with port calls to see marvelously *untouched medieval quarters in Latvia and Estonia* plus the *ornate grandeur of St. Petersburg*. Along the way, we will experience privately arranged concerts, meals, and events to celebrate this corner of the world’s unique heritage.

A robust educational program rounds out this fascinating journey. Professor and Chair of Princeton’s Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures *Ilya Vinitsky*, along with other expert study leaders, will offer a series of lectures and discussions along the way. Princeton Journeys will be sharing this experience with travelers from the Archaeological Institute of America and Stanford Travel/Study, so I encourage you to reserve your preferred cabin today by contacting our partner tour operator, Criterion Travel at *(888) 328-2089* or *res@criteriontravel.com*.

With kind regards,

Bridget St. Clair
Executive Manager, Princeton Journeys
Ilya Vinitsky is Professor of Russian literature in the Slavic Department at Princeton University. His main fields of expertise are Russian Romanticism and Realism, the history of emotions, and nineteenth-century intellectual and spiritual history. His books include Vasily Zhukovsky's Romanticism and the Emotional History of Russia (Northwestern University Press, 2015), Ghostly Paradoxes: Modern Spiritualism and Russian Culture in the Age of Realism (Toronto University Press, 2009; Choice Magazine’s list of Outstanding Academic Titles for 2010) and A Cultural History of Russian Literature, co-written with Andrew Baruch Wachtel (Polity Press, 2009). In 2019 Vinitsky received a Guggenheim Fellowship for his project of a comprehensive study of political and literary activities of Ivan Narodny (Jaan Siboul), a Russian-Estonian expat writer, art critic, and con-man, who lived in America from 1906 until his death in 1953 and was labeled by FBI as “the worst fraud that ever came out of Russia. His most recent book on translation as provocation has been published in Moscow in January 2022.

Vinitsky has taught a variety of classes on Russia and the West, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Russian thinkers, criminals and justice in literature, spiritualism and literature, and history of emotions. In 2020 he received a UPenn School of Arts and Sciences Ira Abrams Award for Distinguished Teaching (2010).

Highlights

♦ Experience five UNESCO World Heritage sites including the medieval Hanseatic town of Visby on the Island of Gotland, and Drottningholm Palace, the permanent residence of the Swedish Royal family.

♦ Customize your experience with excursion options geared to different interests and levels of mobility in multiple ports: Stockholm, Gotland Island, Riga, St. Petersburg, and the Åland Islands.

♦ Delight in private musical events, including a medieval music concert in Tallinn, Estonia, a children’s folkloric performance in Riga, Latvia, and impressive Red Army Choir and string quartet concerts in St Petersburg, Russia.

♦ Enjoy a specially arranged after-hours visit to the Hermitage and early entrances to the palace complexes of Peter the Great or Catherine the Great.

♦ Dock directly in Helsinki’s inner harbor with easy on/off access and time to explore the city center’s markets and restaurants at leisure.
Itinerary

Tuesday & Wednesday, August 9 & 10
Depart U.S. / Stockholm, Sweden
Depart home on an overnight flight to Stockholm, Sweden. Arrive on the 10th and gather for a welcome reception this evening.
HOTEL DIPLOMAT (R)

Thursday, August 11
Stockholm
This morning offers a choice of excursions in Stockholm before embarkation:

OPTION 1: Visit Stockholm’s City Hall, site of the annual Nobel Prize banquet; the Vasa Museum, which features a 17th-century warship that sank in Stockholm harbor on its maiden voyage and was salvaged and restored more than 300 years later; and the picturesque old town center, Gamla Stan.

OPTION 2: Travel just outside the city to the 17th-century Drottningholm Palace, the residence of the royal family and Sweden’s first UNESCO World Heritage site. See the main palace building, the impeccably preserved theater with its original stage machinery, sprawling formal gardens, and impressive Chinese Pavilion.

ALL: Gather on board for the Captain’s welcome evening.
HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Friday, August 12
Visby / At Sea
Arrive this morning at the Swedish island of Gotland for a choice of excursions:

OPTION 1: Journey to the countryside to explore several of Gotland’s unique medieval ruins.

OPTION 2: Enjoy a walking tour along the charming cobblestone lanes of Visby, Gotland’s only city and a UNESCO World Heritage site, including the Historical Museum and castle-like medieval city walls.

ALL: Gather on board for the Captain’s welcome evening.
HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Saturday, August 13
Riga, Latvia
Explore Riga, capital and largest city of Latvia. Enjoy a tour of the historical center, a UNESCO World Heritage site noted for its Art Nouveau/Jugendstil and 19th-century wooden architecture. Following a private folkloric performance, explore Riga independently or visit the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia, which documents the 51-year period in the 20th century when Latvia was occupied, successively, by the U.S.S.R., Nazi Germany, and the U.S.S.R. again.

ALL: Embark Hebridean Sky this afternoon
HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Sunday, August 14
Tallinn, Estonia
Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, was the site of mass demonstrations and protests known as the Singing Revolution, which resulted in Estonia’s declaration of independence from the Soviet Union in 1990. Tour the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site considered one of the most perfectly preserved medieval centers in northern Europe, including the Russian Orthodox Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and the 13th-century Toompea Castle, now the home of the Estonian Parliament. After lunch at a local restaurant featuring regional specialties, gather for a private concert of medieval music in a historic guild house and enjoy time at leisure.
HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Monday, August 15
St. Petersburg, Russia
St. Petersburg still reflects the artistic splendor lavished on it by its chief planner, Peter the Great. Explore by motorcoach and canal boat, stopping for a visit at the Peter and Paul Fortress, where the tsars are buried, and then at the Fabergé Museum, which is housed in the Shuvalov Palace and showcases nine of the rare Fabergé eggs originally made for the Russian Tsars.
Alexander III and Nicholas II. Enjoy a private performance by the Red Army Choir at lunch in the city, then visit the iconic Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood. Relax on board the ship mid-afternoon, then return in the evening for a specially-arranged after-hours guided tour of the Hermitage Museum. Established by Catherine the Great, the museum houses one of the largest art collections in the world.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Tuesday, August 16
St. Petersburg, Russia
Choose between two of St. Petersburg's magnificent palace-and-parks complexes, both with special early entries.

OPTION 1: Visit Peterhof, a grand palace perched on a ridge above the Gulf of Finland. Its vast gardens, brimming with statuary and famous fountains, were intended to rival the elegance of Versailles.

OPTION 2: Explore Catherine Palace, known for its elaborately decorated blue-and-white exterior and lavishly embellished interior. It is particularly renowned for its extraordinary Amber Room, once deemed the “eighth wonder of the world,” which boasts six tons of deftly carved solid amber framed in gold leaf. Plundered by the Nazis in 1941, the original room remains missing, but a magnificent reconstruction was undertaken in honor of St. Petersburg's 300th anniversary in 2003.

ALL: Enjoy a late-afternoon visit to the Hermitage's Impressionists collection, now housed in its own separate building, before casting off for Helsinki.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Wednesday, August 17
Helsinki, Finland
Dock near the city center and spend the morning exploring Finland's vibrant and culturally rich capital city. See the Rock Church, carved directly into a stone slab in the center of town, including a private concert of pieces by Sibelius.

Return to the Hebridean Sky for lunch on board or optionally stay in town for an independent lunch. This afternoon enjoy free time in Market Square, a bustling indoor/outdoor market in operation for hundreds of years, with stalls overflowing with everything from fresh produce, meats, and cheeses to local crafts and quirky Finnish souvenirs.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Thursday, August 18
Mariehamn /At Sea
Call this morning at Mariehamn, the capital of Åland, a 6,700-island archipelago situated about halfway between Finland and Sweden, for a choice of three excursion options:

OPTION 1: Tour Mariehamn village, packed with charming shops selling local arts and crafts, restaurants with summer terraces, tree-lined avenues, and unique "gingerbread" wooden buildings, all concentrated around the pedestrian-friendly city center.

OPTION 2: Venture into the Åland countryside with a stop at a distillery for local spirits tasting.

OPTION 3: Ride alongside rolling green fields and across scenic bridges during a guided bicycle tour.

ALL: Return to the ship in the afternoon for the Captain's farewell evening on board en route to Stockholm.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

Friday, August 19
Stockholm, Sweden / Return to U.S.
After breakfast, disembark the Hebridean Sky and transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)
The all-suite *Hebridean Sky* is a spacious, yet intimate, expedition vessel. After a major refurbishment in 2016, she now boasts beautifully designed public spaces that include a single-seating dining room, large lounge, elegant club and bar with piano, library and two outdoor seating areas. All suites have an ocean view and feature a sitting room, en suite bathroom, TV, spacious wardrobes and dressing table.

### Program Rates (per person)

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### General Information

**Program Rates Include**
- All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including one hotel night and eight nights aboard *Hebridean Sky*.
- Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations.
- Transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates.
- Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, wait staff, guides, and drivers for all group activities.
- Entrance fees and port charges.
- Welcome and farewell wine receptions.
- House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners.
- Bottled water on motorcoaches.
- Complete packet of pre-departure information.
- Professional tour manager throughout the program.

**Air Arrangements**
- U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

**What to Expect**
- Cruising on the Baltic Sea, a large body of water that is relatively isolated from the ocean, should be a pleasant and smooth experience most of the time. Tides are minimal and the surface is fairly smooth except during a storm. The climate in the region visited is generally mild, with average temperatures in the 60s and infrequent rain. The pace of this trip is moderately active, with up to two miles of walking each day, often on cobbled streets and uneven terrain. Elevators and handrails on stairs may not be available. Participants must be in good health, physically fit, and able to keep up with the group without assistance from tour staff. Limited medical facilities are available aboard the *Hebridean Sky*.
- SARS-COV-2 (COVID 19) vaccinations are required for all participants as well as tour staff and shipboard crew. Up-to-date COVID-related protocols and procedures will be communicated in pre-trip documents.

**Group Size**
- This program is limited to 84 participants, including travelers from Princeton Journeys, the Archaeological Institute of America, and Stanford Travel/Study.

**Travel Insurance**
- Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure.
- Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.
CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Tour costs are based upon current fuel prices, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE
- U.S. domestic and international airfare - Passport/visa expenses - Medical expenses and immunizations - Travel and trip cancellation insurance - Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days - Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour - Airline baggage charges - Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted - Laundry or dry cleaning - Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges - Room service - Other items of a personal nature

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed “Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause” is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

To reserve space, please call (888) 328-2089 or return the completed reservation form with your $1,000 per person deposit to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd, Beaverton, OR 97005. You may also fax your credit card information to (650) 560-6400 or email res@criteriontravel.com. Balance of payment is due April 11, 2022. After April 11, 2022, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of a deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by Princeton Journeys. Deposits are refundable until final payment deadline (April 11, 2022). For cancellations after refund dates: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate.

NOTE: Neither the Office of Alumni Affairs of Princeton University nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Princeton Journeys and Criterion Travel, the tour operator. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Princeton Journeys and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

DISCLAIMER

Princeton University is pleased to facilitate travel opportunities for its Alumni and Friends through Princeton Journeys. Princeton Journeys works with tour operators to make available interesting and enriching travel opportunities for the Princeton family. Please note that neither the University nor Princeton Journeys conducts tours, nor does either act as an agent for guests interested in tours. Princeton Journeys acts as a facilitator with tour operators, and tour participants contract directly with tour operators to make arrangements for completing travel. Princeton Journeys encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with the tour operator’s cancellation and refund policies, and also to investigate available services such as trip cancellation insurance. The University is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses or additional expenses resulting from travel.

Cruising the Baltic Sea aboard Hebridean Sky

For more information or to book by phone, call Criterion Travel at (888) 328-2089. Please make your deposit check payable to Criterion Travel and mail to: 4250 SW Hall Blvd, Beaverton, OR 97005. You may also fax your credit card information to (650) 560-6400 or email res@criteriontravel.com.

PAYMENT

☐ Please charge the deposit to my credit card (circle one):

☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DISCOVER

NAME #1 (as it appears on passport) PRINCETON AFFILIATION

NAME #2 (as it appears on passport) PRINCETON AFFILIATION

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP / POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

E-MAIL(s)

PAYMENT

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations (limited availability) or ☐ I plan to share accommodations with:

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference: 1st Choice ___________ 2nd Choice ___________

Bed Preference (not guaranteed): ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

I have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein:

SIGNATURE DATE

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alumni.princeton.edu/journeys