

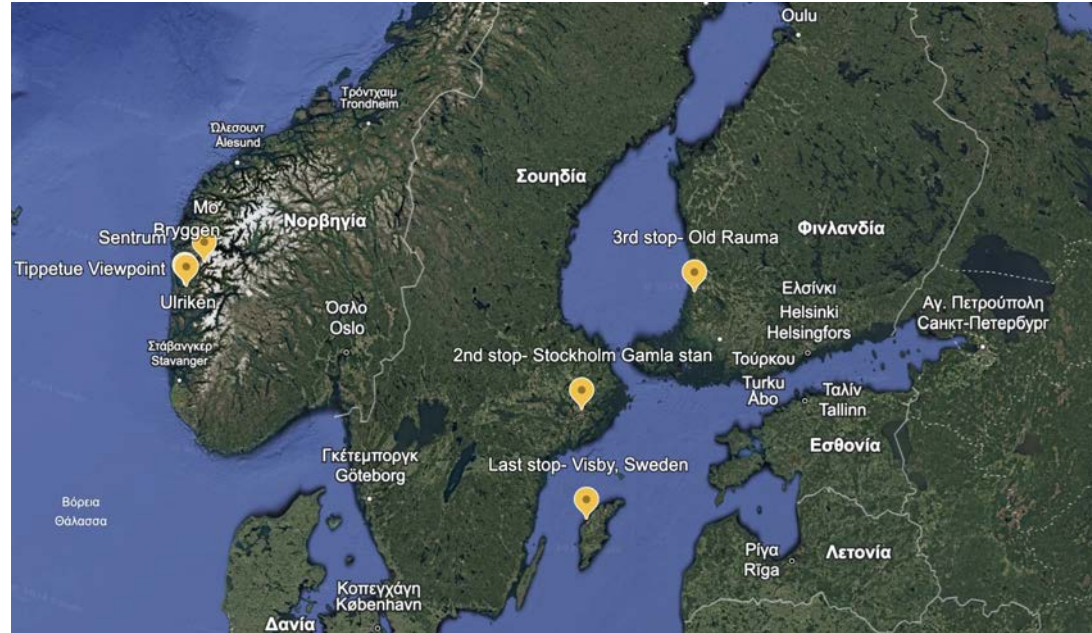
NORDIC ECHOES IN WORLD HERITAGE CITIES

October 2024
Martha Skyrianou

MY ITINERARY

My travel plan:

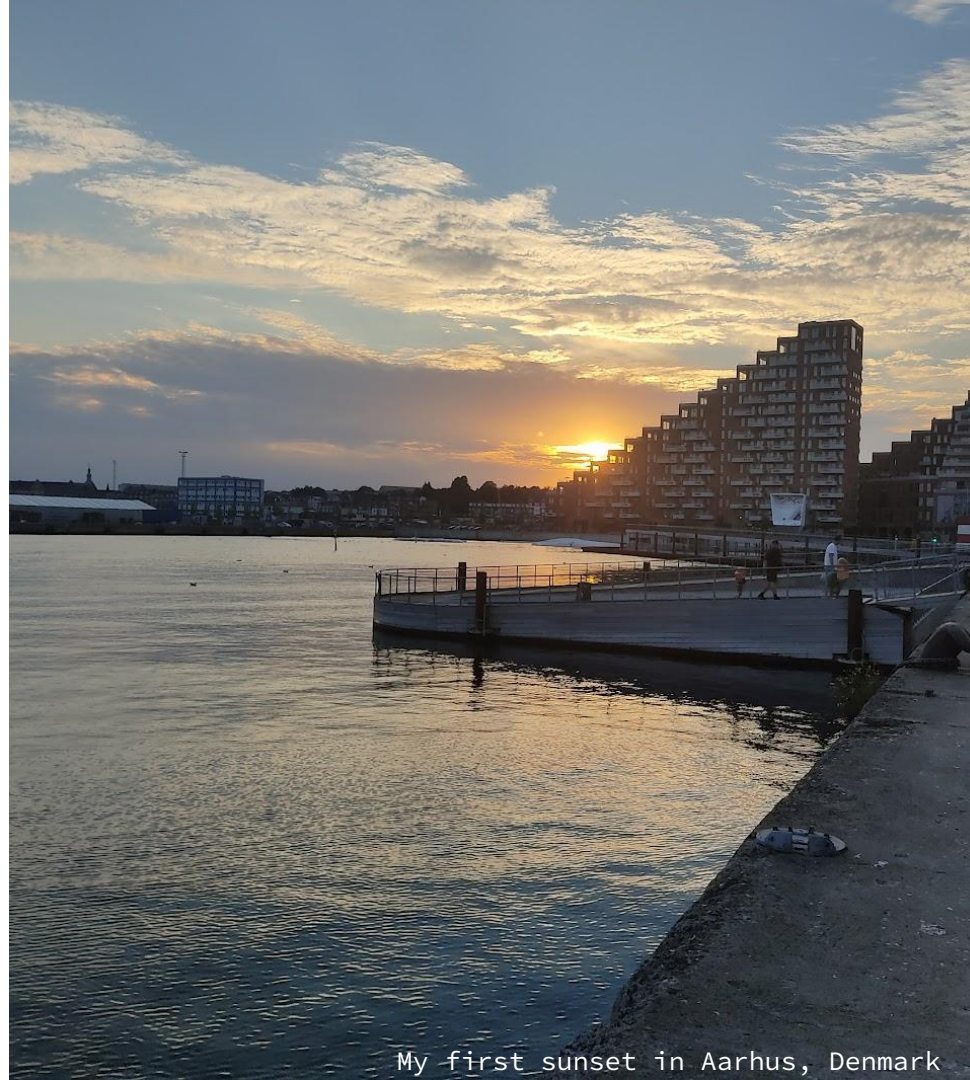
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WHY SCANDINAVIA?

MY CONNECTION WITH SCANDINAVIA

After moving to Denmark in 2022 and experiencing life here, I am always curious to explore around and get to know more about nordic heritage.



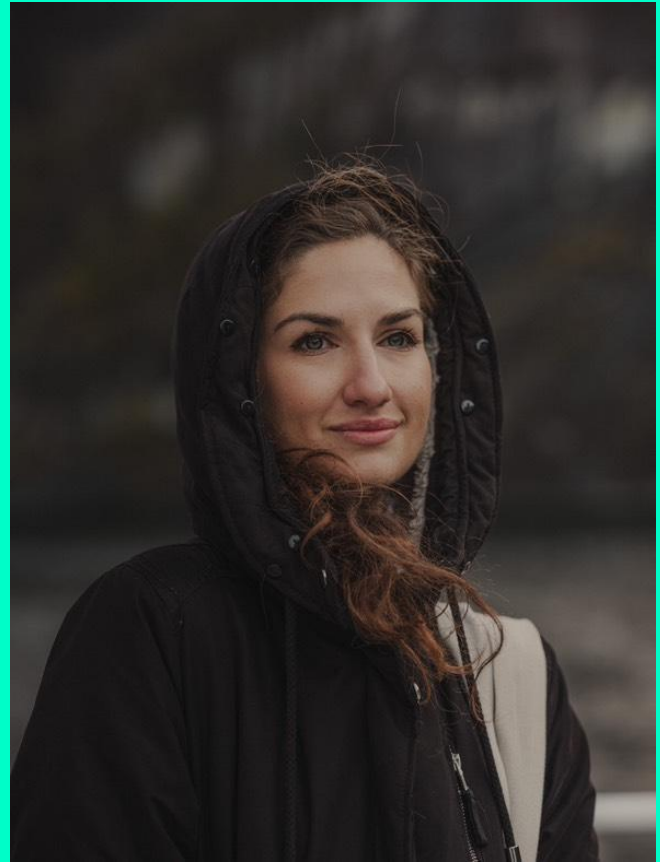
My first sunset in Aarhus, Denmark

MY OBJECTIVE

This Scandinavian tour allowed me to explore the historical and cultural connections between nordic heritage sites and understand how each has contributed to the city's heritage.

During my journey, I documented my experiences [here](#).

I tried to capture the essence of each site, the stories of local communities, and the significance of these heritage sites in contemporary society.



Me showing off my super cool
cruise in norwegian fjords

NORDIC COUNTRIES ARE PRIME PARTNERS OF UNESCO

- Shared vision and priorities, UNESCO and the 5 Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden)
- Partnership to transform the lives of millions of people by promoting human rights through quality education, diversity of cultural expressions, freedom of expression, and ocean science.
- Flexible funding provided by Nordic countries, in particular Norway and Sweden, allows UNESCO to respond to emerging priorities.



4 DESTINATIONS

1.

BERGEN, NORWAY





BRYGGEN

historic harbour district in Bergen, one of North Europe's oldest port cities on the west coast of Norway

The buildings are made of wood in keeping with vernacular building traditions. original compact medieval urban structure with long narrow rows of buildings facing the harbour, separated by narrow wooden passages.

Today, 62 buildings remain and formulate the townscape as a memorandum of colony of German merchants that lived and worked in the area

CULTURE AND NATURE

- Bergen's location at the gateway to some of Norway's most famous fjords, like Sognefjord and Hardangerfjord, makes the sea and the mountain a central part of the city's identity.
- Bergen's maritime history is mirrored in its present, with fishing, trade, and tourism still central to its economy.
- The connection between Bryggen's history and the fjords underscores the city's reliance on natural waterways.
- Bergen's seven mountains, particularly Mount Fløyen and Mount Ulriken, provide a dramatic natural backdrop to the city.
- A symbol of Bergen's resilience.



HIKING TRAILS

- Trails leading to Mount Fløyen pass through landscapes that were once crucial for communication and transport.
- The panoramic view from Fløyen showcases Bryggen, connecting the historic urban center with the surrounding fjords and forests.



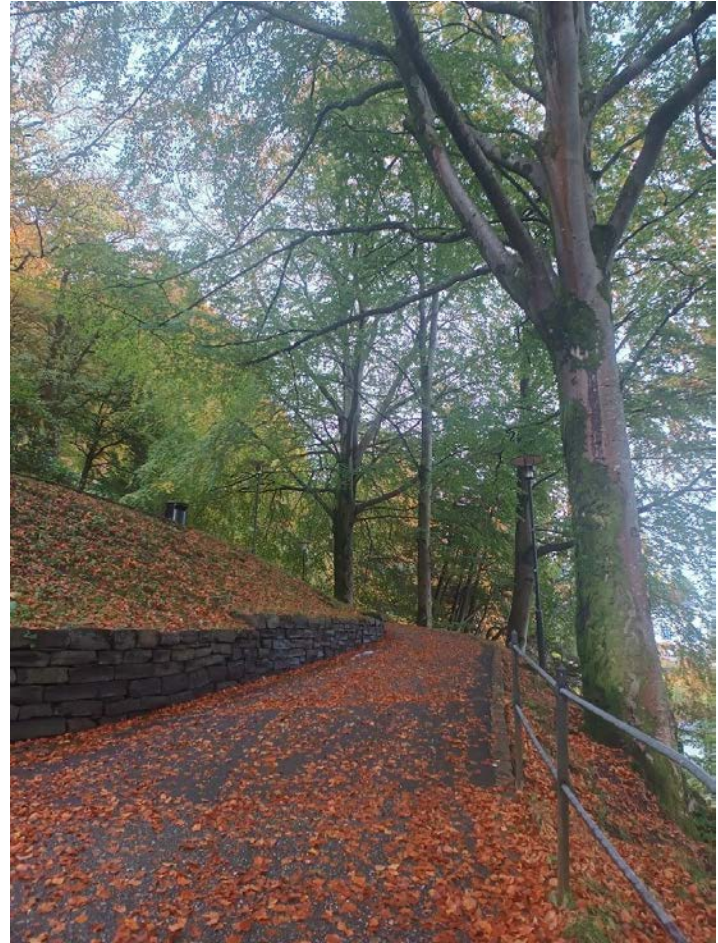
VERY MANY HIKING TRAILS...



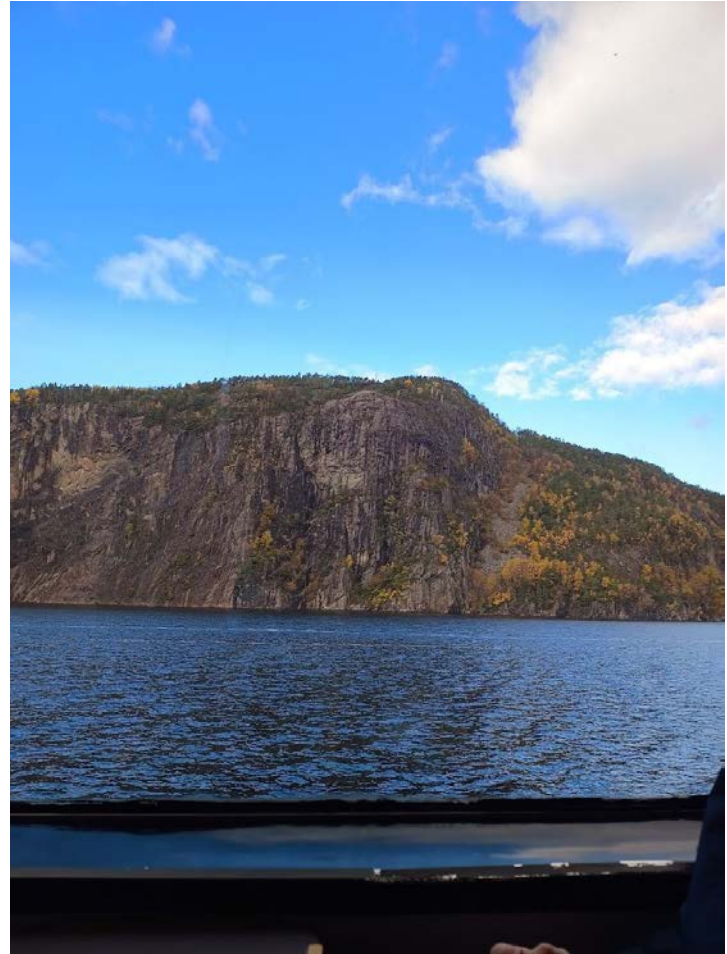
MOUNTAINS



BREATHTAKING FOREST



MARITIME HERITAGE & FJORDS



AND MORE...



2.

OLD RAUMA & TURKU,
FINLAND





ONLY STOCK PICTURES DUE TO TECHNICAL ISSUES... :(

THE UNESCO SITE

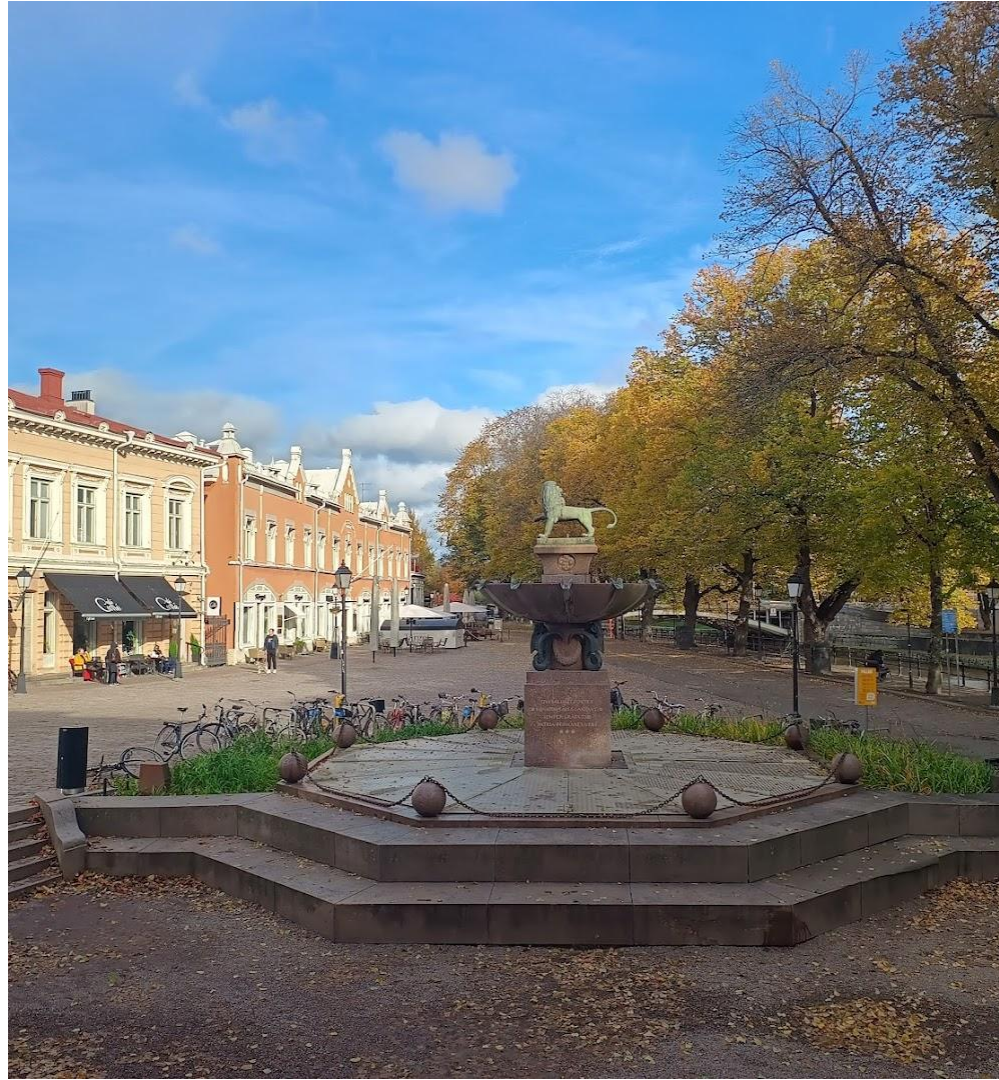
- 600 buildings constructed of wood, many of them private properties
- Also a residential area
- landmarks in the harmonious townscape of one-storey residential and commercial buildings



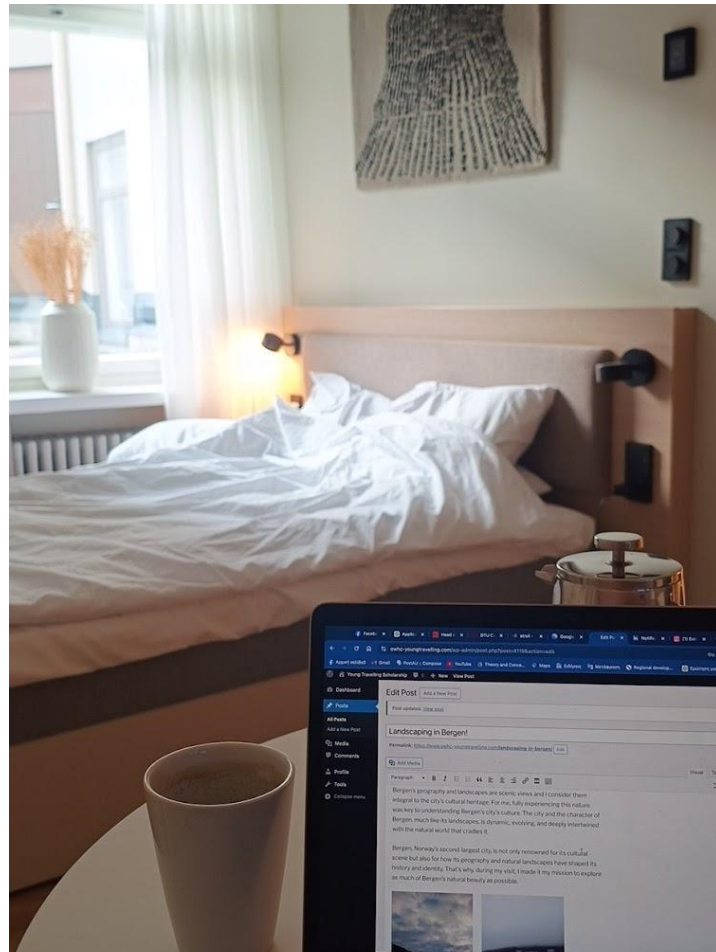
- Vibrant market Square and the surrounding shopping streets.
- Along these streets you will find a couple of hundred shops, charming restaurants, cafés etc.
- home to three cultural and historical museums and the Rauma Art Museum

Linnankatu
Slottsgatan

TURKU...
COMPENSATING WITH PHOTOS FROM TURKU



PARIS OF FINLAND



BREATHTAKING FALL COLOURS



IMPRESSED...



THE SKIES...



VIBRANT CITY
CULTURAL VIBE ALL AROUND THE CITY



“Walking through Turku is a stroll through diverse architectural styles offering a glimpse into different eras of the city’s development”.

3.

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN



Stockholm: the cultural heart of Scandinavia,
a city where history and modernity
14 stunning islands

Museums, galleries, historic sites, and strong
modern side shaping its unique identity

The cityscape is a stunning mix of historic
architecture and contemporary design, with
impressive facades, elegant spires, and sleek,
modern buildings all reflecting off the water.





A CITY TO EXPLORE AND EXPERIENCE



GAMLA STAN





MILLION FIKA PLACES



AND MORE FIKA...





THE FAÇADES OF STOCKHOLM, WITH THEIR PASTEL HUES AND INTRICATE DETAILS, STAND AS A PICTURESQUE TESTAMENT TO THE CITY'S BLEND OF NORDIC CHARM AND TIMELESS ELEGANCE, REFLECTING CENTURIES OF ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE.

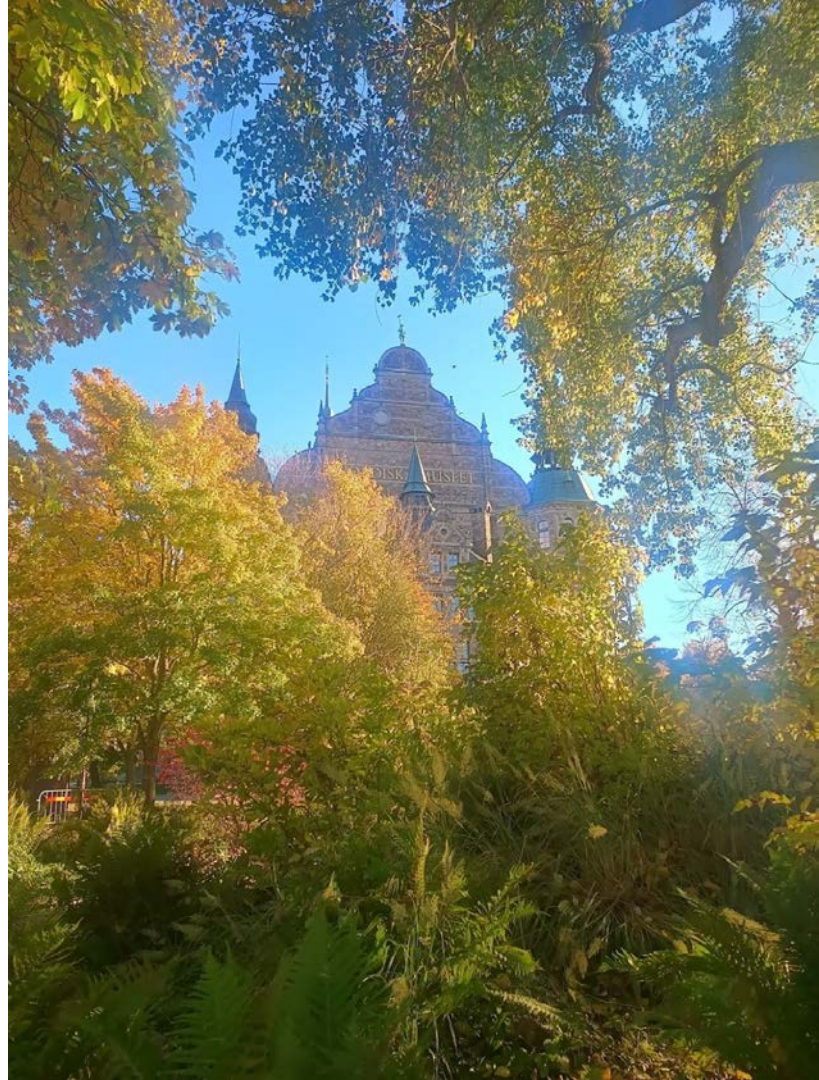


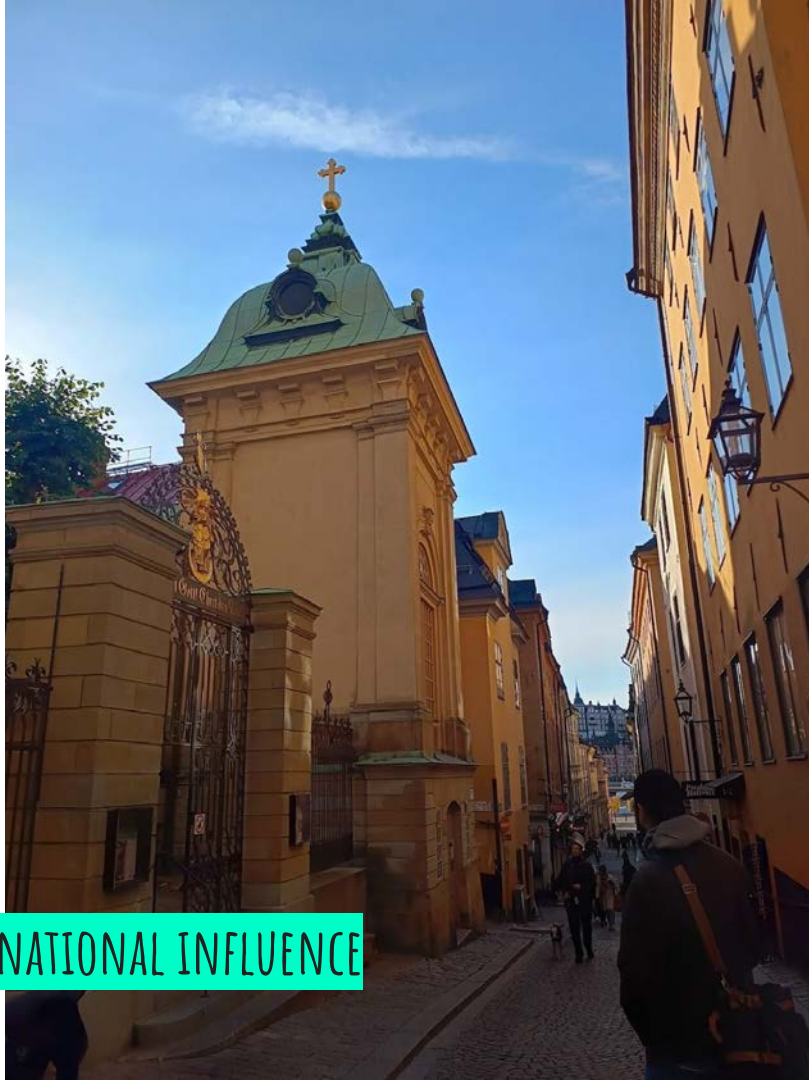
SEA IS EVERYWHERE



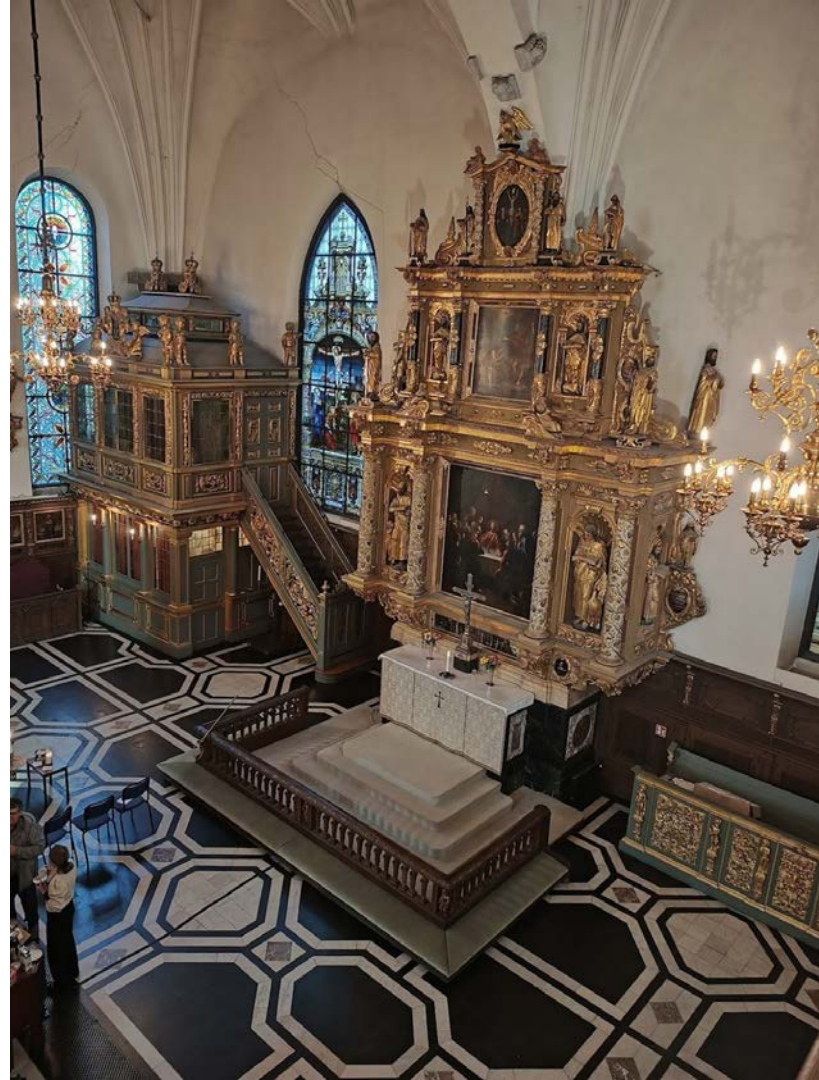


THE CITYSCAPE

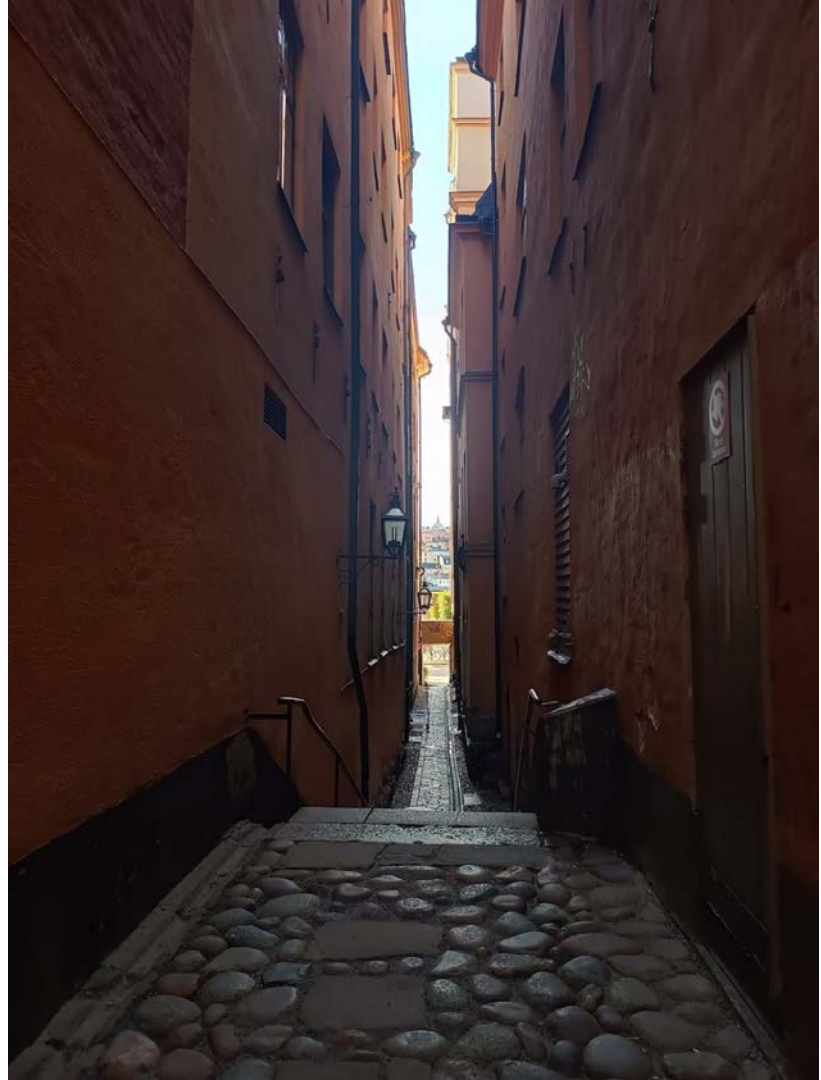




INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE



- Gamla Stan, the historic heart of Stockholm, is a treasure trove of medieval charm and cultural richness. Its winding cobblestone streets, vibrant façades, and hidden courtyards invite exploration and discovery.
- The narrowest alley in the Swedish capital is barely 90 cm wide at its narrowest. So you can easily touch both walls at the same time. Over the years, the alley had different names or nicknames.



GAMLA STAN

Amid the souvenir shops and crowded streets, it can be challenging to connect with the authentic spirit of this historic district, leaving one to wonder how much of its soul has been traded for its popularity.



4.

VISBY, SWEDEN



REFLECTIONS ON THE VALUE OF VISBY – HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

- A Masterpiece: medieval walled town, reflecting centuries of trade, conflict, and cultural evolution. Walking along limestone streets
- The Town Wall's Timeless Legacy: The 3.4 km wall is more than an architectural marvel—it's a storyteller of Visby's resilience throughout the time... Standing by the towers, I marveled at how this structure has framed the town's identity.
- Architectural elements from various eras: e.g. Exploring the churches
- A Living Town: Despite its historical roots, Visby is alive: local businesses, seasonal tourism, and cultural events reveals. I appreciated this dynamic contrast during my visit.

While Visby's beauty attracts many, the commercial focus at times is overpowering. I reflected on the balance between preserving authenticity and embracing tourism—a challenge faced by many UNESCO sites.

Natural and Architectural Harmony: The steep cliffs and moats surrounding Visby offer breathtaking views that complement its built heritage. Walking along these edges, I felt the town's strategic brilliance and natural beauty converge.

A Place to Reflect: My visit to Visby was the perfect way to finish my "Nordic Echoes" project. It made me reflect on how we can better protect and cherish such treasures in our modern world.

THE IMPACT OF TOURISM



THE URBAN FABRIC AND OVERALL TOWNSCAPE OF VISBY



STUNNING HISTORY



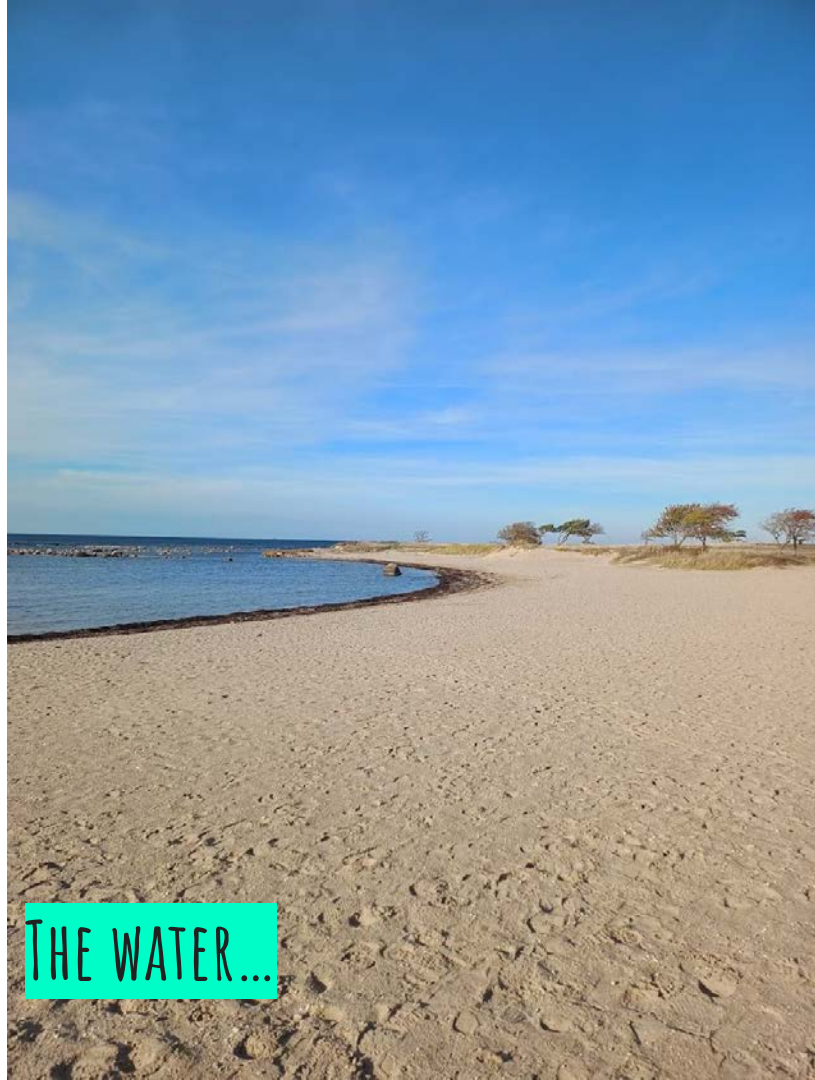


ALL AROUND THE CITY
EVEN IN THE SMALL DETAILS...

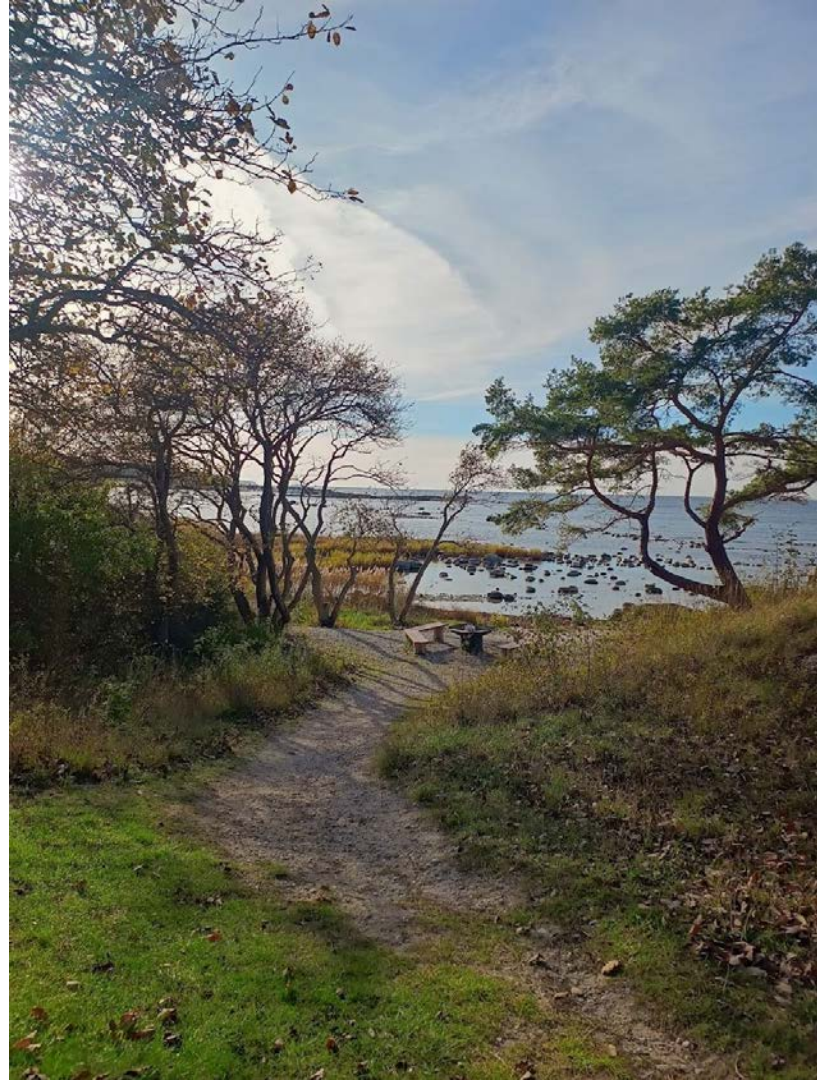


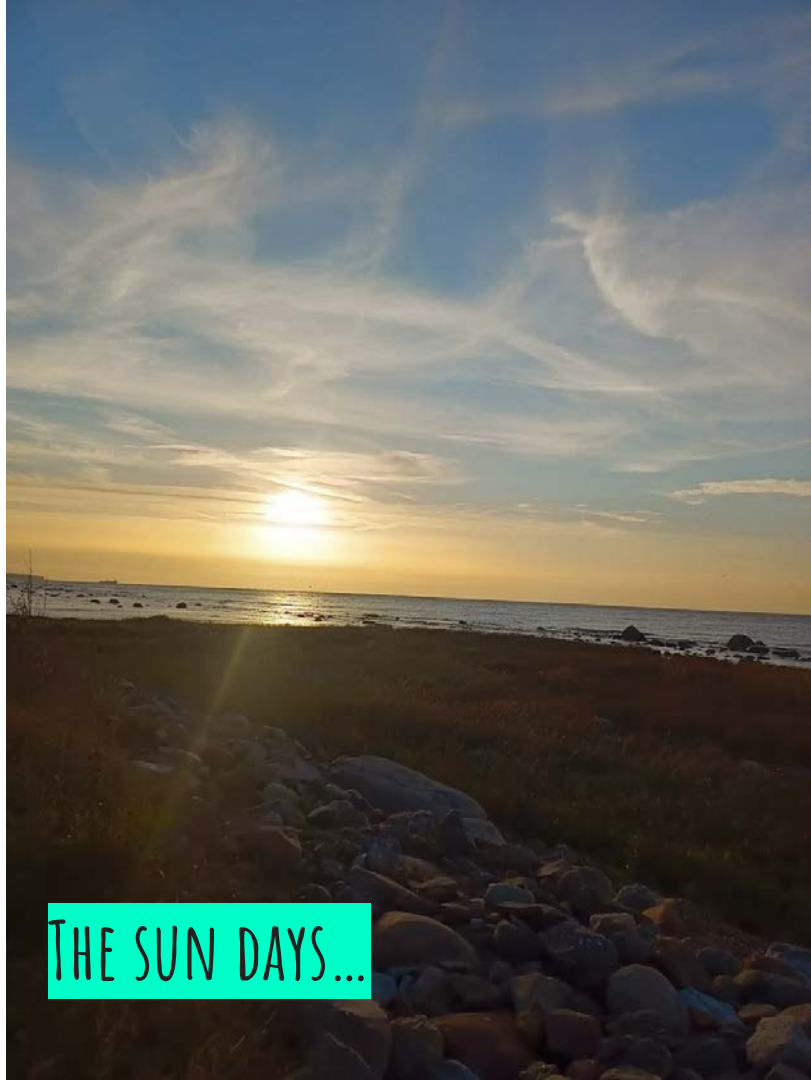


TAKE A MOMENT TO ADMIRE THE LANDSCAPE HERE...



THE WATER...







OMG THE LANDSCAPE...

THE GREAT CASTLE



CONSTRUCTIVE TALKS WITH LOUISE

Exchanging perspectives and ideas with Louise made me consider new aspects of the work that is required to maintain Visby's historical integrity while embracing the possibilities of the future.

Her work reflects the delicate balance between preserving the past and innovating for the future, making Visby a fascinating example of living heritage.



A PICTURE REPRESENTING THIS TRIP :P



WHAT I LEARNT...

Each destination offered a unique perspective on history, culture, and the interplay between preservation and modernity.

In **Bergen**, I experienced how the city integrates its maritime heritage with vibrant contemporary life.

The fjords, with their breathtaking landscapes, reinforced the idea of nature as an essential part of cultural identity.

In **Finland**, I realised how a city redefines itself while honoring its roots. Getting to know Rauma, but also Turku “Paris of Finland,” I felt the blends of the medieval past with a modern cultural scene, proving that historic charm can coexist with contemporary innovation.

Stockholm, as the cultural capital of Scandinavia, taught me about the balance between urban vibrancy and historical preservation.



It made me think deeply about how historic centers can maintain their soul while accommodating modern demands.

Stockholm also showed me how inclusivity and diversity enrich cultural heritage, as I encountered art, architecture, and ideas from various influences.

In Visby, walking along the medieval walls, I was struck by the layers of history and how the town has evolved from a trading hub to a living cultural treasure.

The challenges of managing heritage in the face of tourism and privatization became clear, yet Visby's resilience as a "living town" left a lasting impression on me.

It's a reminder that heritage is not static but a dynamic part of life.

THIS TRIP HAS DEEPENED MY PASSION FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND
SUSTAINABILITY, AND I'M EXCITED TO BRING THESE INSIGHTS INTO
MY WORK AND FUTURE PROJECTS.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO...



ORGANIZATION OF
WORLD HERITAGE CITIES