

# VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

# Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea

July 31 to August 10, 2024

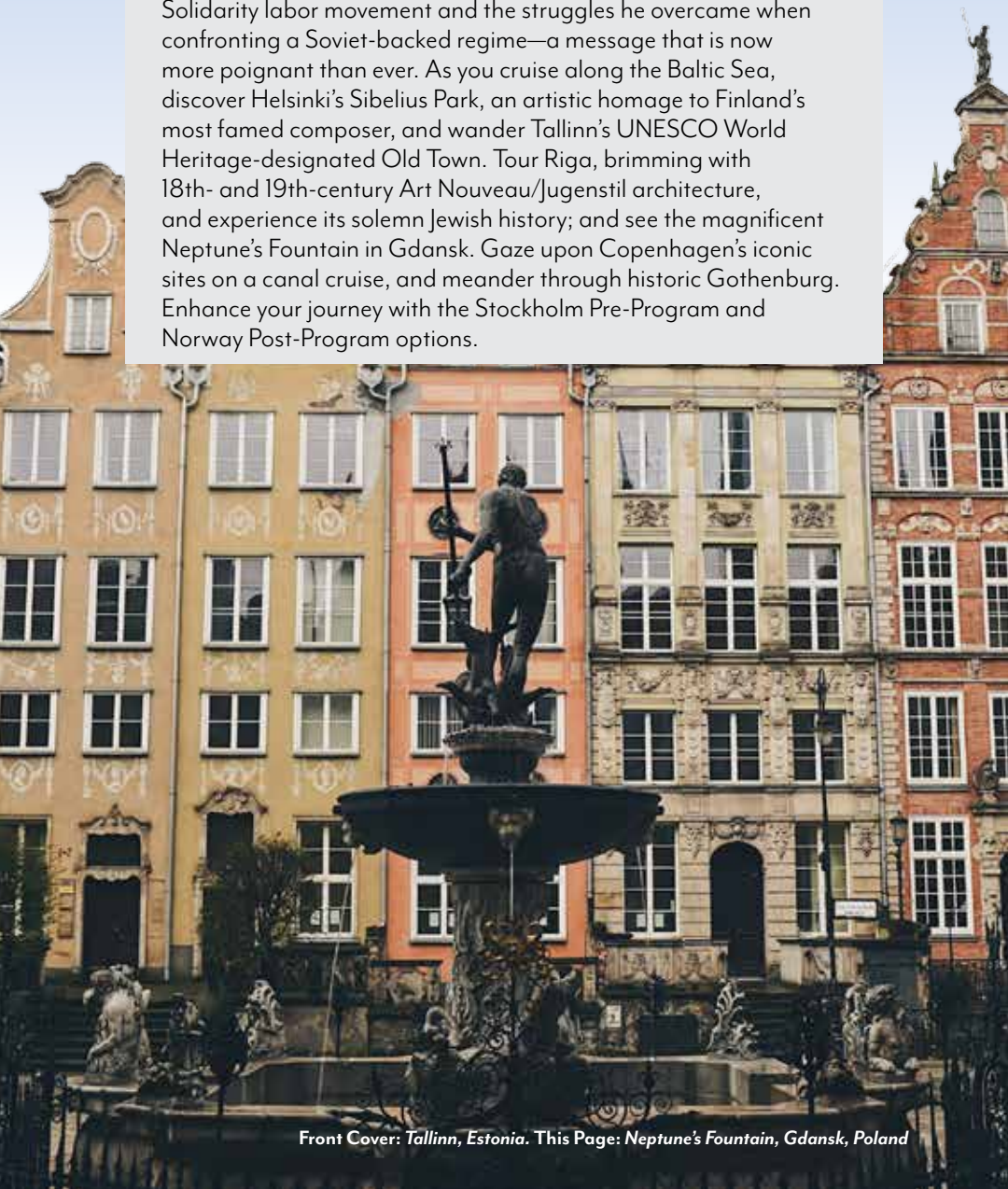


**EXCLUSIVE GUEST SPEAKER**

**LECH WALES**

# SCANDINAVIA AND THE BALTIC SEA

Discover the lands and legacies forged by centuries of Baltic history on a 9-night cruise to visit 6 countries on this extraordinary journey. Explore the cultural rebirth of Scandinavia and the Baltic states on this one-of-a-kind itinerary with excursions to Tallinn, Estonia; Helsinki, Finland; Riga, Latvia; Gdansk, Poland; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Gothenburg, Sweden. This program features special guest speaker Lech Wałęsa, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and former President of Poland, who will be speaking by exclusive arrangement about the establishment of the Polish Solidarity labor movement and the struggles he overcame when confronting a Soviet-backed regime—a message that is now more poignant than ever. As you cruise along the Baltic Sea, discover Helsinki's Sibelius Park, an artistic homage to Finland's most famed composer, and wander Tallinn's UNESCO World Heritage-designated Old Town. Tour Riga, brimming with 18th- and 19th-century Art Nouveau/Jugendstil architecture, and experience its solemn Jewish history; and see the magnificent Neptune's Fountain in Gdansk. Gaze upon Copenhagen's iconic sites on a canal cruise, and meander through historic Gothenburg. Enhance your journey with the Stockholm Pre-Program and Norway Post-Program options.



Front Cover: Tallinn, Estonia. This Page: Neptune's Fountain, Gdansk, Poland



*Canal in Riga, Latvia*

# VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Dear VMFA Members:

Join us for the rare opportunity to explore the extraordinary countries of Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea on a voyage scheduled during the best time of year. Experience six countries over 11 days and 9 nights on this exclusive travel program, as you cruise aboard the exclusively chartered, five-star WORLD NAVIGATOR, featuring only 95 ocean-view suites and staterooms.

By exclusive arrangement, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and former President of Poland Lech Wałęsa joins us on board to present his perspective on Solidarity, globalization, and progress in the region.

In the tradition of ancient Viking mariners and medieval merchants, set forth from Stockholm, Sweden to Tallinn, Estonia to tour its medieval Old Town, and then to Helsinki, Finland and admire neo-classical architecture. In Latvia's capital of Riga, see architectural wonders and understand the moving Jewish history. Immerse yourself in the legacy of the Solidarity movement in Gdansk, Poland and experience Denmark's sophisticated capital city of Copenhagen. In Gothenburg, Sweden, stroll the 17th-century Haga district before ending your journey in Oslo, Norway.

Our culturally immersive itinerary includes expert guided excursions in each port to ensure you make the most of your visit. VMFA is proud to be sharing this departure with travelers from Columbia University and Georgetown University and other fine organizations. Reserve your spot now while early booking savings and space are still available.

Sincerely,

Adele "Hutch" Livingston  
VMFA Coordinator of Member Travel

**To secure your spot, call Gohagan and Company at 800-922-3088  
or visit [gohagantravel.com/reserve](http://gohagantravel.com/reserve)**



## GUEST SPEAKER

### LECH WAŁESA

Lech Wałęsa—former President of Poland (1990 to 1995), Polish hero, and international icon in the pursuit of freedom and democracy—joins us on our tour to discuss his unique role in the history of this region. From his position as a marine electrician in Gdansk Shipyard, Wałęsa emerged as a world-renowned figure in the struggle against communism during the 1980 shipyard workers’ strike and the establishment of the Polish Solidarity labor movement. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983, a watershed moment widely considered to have been the first crack in the Soviet Union’s Iron Curtain, which crumbled with the Berlin Wall in 1989. That same year, Wałęsa became the first foreign non-head of government to address a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress.



# THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED



*Gdansk, Poland*

In his oft-quoted poem, "The Road Not Taken," Robert Frost awakened the idea and determination in many to choose the road less traveled; to overcome fear and avoid regrets. It sparked the quest for adventure in those wishing to experience more from life. Intrepid world travelers manifest this idea by seeking out destinations less traveled, such as Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea, which is surrounded by nine countries in Northern Europe. Here, travelers have the rare opportunity to visit a number of countries and experience a kaleidoscope of cultures in a short period of time when cruising by ship from port to port. Ancient architecture, centuries-old history, storied landmarks, fascinating cities, and breathtaking, romantic scenery provide the perfect backdrop and opportunity to take the road less traveled, which will surely make all the difference.

*Old Town, Tallinn, Estonia*



## INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS



GOHAGAN & COMPANY



## 11-DAY/9-NIGHT ITINERARY

### Depart Home City

#### Day 1

Depart your home city.

### Stockholm, Sweden/ Embark

#### Day 2

Arrive in Stockholm and transfer to embark the **WORLD NAVIGATOR**. Enjoy dinner on board this evening. (D)

### Tallinn, Estonia

#### Day 3

Tallinn's UNESCO World Heritage-designated Old Town has remained virtually unchanged for 600 years. Tour around the ancient city walls, then begin a walking tour. See the landmark Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the 13th-century St. Nicholas Church, and Toompea Castle, the seat of Estonia's Parliament. Visit the chambers of the medieval Tallinn Town Hall, dominating the Town Hall Square and its ring of pastel buildings. Attend the Captain's Welcome

Reception and Dinner this evening. (B,L,R,D)

### Helsinki, Finland

#### Day 4

Tour Finland's capital city to see neo-classical architecture of the 1840s. Pass the Market Square by the sea, the Presidential Palace and Parliament Building, the Opera House, and Helsinki Cathedral. See the modernist Sibelius Monument, an artistic homage to Finland's most famed composer. Visit the subterranean Tempeliaukio Church, impressively hewn into solid natural bedrock. This afternoon, choose between two options: a half day tour of the village of Porvoo, the second oldest city in Finland, famed for its Old Town; or, indulge in an traditional Finnish Sauna experience (max of 60 participants). (B,L,D)

### Day at Sea

#### Day 5

Savor a day of cruising. (B,L,D)

### Riga, Latvia

#### Day 6

Latvia's capital is brimming with 18th and 19th-century Art Nouveau/Jugendstil architecture. Drive by coach along Elizabeth Street to the Daugava embankment. Begin a walking tour near the Freedom Monument. In Dome Square, visit St. John's Church and enjoy a brief concert. Continue to see the Great Guild, then view the Swedish Gate, the Three Brothers houses, and Blackhead's House, an integral part of Riga's architectural landscape. This afternoon, learn about the moving Jewish history lived in Riga. See the site of the former Great Choral Synagogue, destroyed by Nazis on July 4, 1941, killing hundreds of worshipers inside. Visit the memorial park that was once The Old Jewish Cemetery. See the tombstone marker of Rumbula massacre that claimed 25,000 Jewish lives.



*Tjolöholm Castle, Sweden*



*Helsinki, Finland*

Visit the New Ghetto Museum and the Old Town's Art Nouveau synagogue. (B,L,D)

**Day at Sea**  
**Day 7**

Take advantage of the ship's amenities today. (B,L,D)

**Gdansk, Poland**  
**Day 8**

Tour the former Hanseatic League port, strolling along the Royal Route and the Long Wharf, to see the Neptune's Fountain and the 14th-century Artus Court, inspired by Britain's King Arthur. Stop at the entrance to the historic Gdansk Shipyard, where the Solidarity Movement began in 1980, and see its Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers of 1970. Meet former Polish President and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lech Wałęsa, on board the ship this evening, where he will discuss his unique role in the history of the region. (B,L,D)

**Copenhagen, Denmark**  
**Day 9**

In the world-class capital of Denmark, travel to Gammel Strand for a sightseeing cruise through the old canals and the port of Copenhagen. Pass the Old Stock Exchange and Christiansborg Palace before entering the harbor to see the ancient Battery Sixtus, the Three Crowns fortress, and the famous bronze statue, the Little Mermaid. Enter the Christianshavn Canal with its eclectic mix of ancient warehouses, houseboats, and modern architecture. Continue to the famous pedestrian street, Strøget. Make a stop at Amalienborg Palace and pass by The King's Garden. (B,L,D)

**Gothenburg, Sweden**  
**Day 10**

In this city founded by King Gustav II in 1621, admire the stunning view

from the hilltop Masthugg Church, and stroll through the 17th-century Haga district and the public squares on a walking tour. See the iconic Carl Milles' Poseidon statue, the Beaux Arts style city hall, and more. Then, visit the Gothenburg Opera, called "The Lipstick" by locals. This afternoon, drive through the scenic Swedish countryside, passing glacial formations along Lake Lygnern. Visit Tjölöholm Castle, an Arts and Crafts manor house designed in the Tudor style by architect Lars Israel Wahlman, and roam the estate and gardens. Enjoy the Captain's Reception and Dinner this evening. (B,L,R,D)

**Oslo, Norway/  
Return to Home City**  
**Day 11**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight home or continue on to the Norway Post-Program. (B)



*Masthugg Church, Gothenburg, Sweden*



*Porvoo, Finland*



**WORLD NAVIGATOR** This newly constructed small ship, an intimate yacht appointed in retro-chic elegance, is able to dock in smaller ports inaccessible to larger ships. Each of the 95 suites and staterooms (up to 465 square feet) features a stunning ocean view, and most include a private balcony. All accommodations in your private haven at sea offer a queen-sized bed that can be separated into 2 twin beds, a private bathroom with spa shower, and luxury hotel-style amenities—including both products from L'Occitane. Complimentary alcoholic/nonalcoholic beverages and Wi-Fi access are available throughout the cruise. All meals aboard ship are included, featuring culinary adventures that rival your discoveries ashore.



**2024 DEPARTURE DATE: July 31 to August 10** (Embarkation: August 1 at 3:00 pm)

Category	LAND/CRUISE RATES <i>per person, based on double occupancy, excluding taxes</i>	Early Booking Rate through Feb. 8, 2024	Rates after Feb. 8, 2024
8	Stateroom with panoramic ocean view picture window. Deck 3	<b>\$6,745</b>	\$7,495
7	Stateroom with <b>private balcony</b> and sitting area with sofa. Deck 5, forward.	<b>\$7,195</b>	\$7,995
6	Stateroom with <b>private balcony</b> and sitting area with sofa. Deck 5, midship.	<b>\$7,735</b>	\$8,595
5	Stateroom with <b>private balcony</b> and sitting area with sofa. Deck 6, midship.	<b>\$8,095</b>	\$8,995
4	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling <b>Juliet-style balcony</b> and sitting area with sofa. Deck 5, aft.	<b>\$8,635</b>	\$9,595
3	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling <b>Juliet-style balcony</b> and sitting area with sofa. Deck 6, aft.	<b>\$8,995</b>	\$9,995
2	Stateroom with balcony. Deck 6.	<b>\$9,535</b>	\$10,595
1	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling <b>Juliet-style balcony</b> and interior sitting area. Deck 6.	<b>\$10,345</b>	\$11,495
Journey Suite 2	Suite with <b>large private balcony</b> and sitting area with sofa. Deck 5.	<b>\$11,695</b>	\$12,995
Journey Suite 1	Suite with <b>large private balcony</b> and sitting area with sofa. Deck 6.	<b>\$12,865</b>	\$14,295
Discovery Suite	Suite with <b>larger private balcony</b> and separate living room with sofa. Deck 5.	<b>\$13,135</b>	\$14,595
Navigator 2 Suite	Extra-large, one-bedroom Suite and separate living room with sofa and floor-to-ceiling ocean view, <b>large private balcony</b> , bathroom has a tub and two sinks. Deck 5.	<b>\$14,395</b>	\$15,995
Navigator 1 Suite	Extra-large, one-bedroom Suite and separate living room with sofa and floor-to-ceiling ocean view, <b>large private balcony</b> , bathroom has a tub and two sinks. Deck 6.	<b>\$14,935</b>	\$16,595

Single supplements apply to categories 6, 7, & 8 at 160% of the per person double price and subject to availability. All other categories are at 200%.

**BONUS SAVINGS!** Pay in full at time of booking for additional savings. Bookings made inside 121 days prior to departure are not eligible for this discount. Please call for details.

Port taxes are an additional \$500 per person. Customers will be notified of any fuel surcharge fee prior to final payment. This fee will then be charged and collected by the vessel operating company while on board. Deck plans available upon request. To secure your spot, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088 or visit [gohagantravel.com/reserve](http://gohagantravel.com/reserve)

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## PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

### Stockholm

**July 29 to August 1, 2024 (Tour Begins: July 30)**

Stockholm boasts a harmonious blend of medieval, Renaissance and modern architecture. Visit the magnificent City Hall, site of the annual Nobel Prize banquet. Walk through the historic Gamla Stan, or Old Town, and visit the Vasa Museum, housing the world's only preserved 17th-century warship. Embark on a Stockholm archipelago cruise aboard a classic ship, passing historical and cultural sites and beautiful, iconic scenery as a knowledgeable guide shares interesting anecdotes and stories. Accommodations are for two nights at the SHERATON STOCKHOLM HOTEL.

*Price per person, based on double occupancy:*      **\$995**

*Price per person, based on single occupancy:*      **\$1,295**



## POST-PROGRAM OPTION

### Norway

**August 10 to 14, 2024 (Tour Ends: August 14)**

In Oslo, enjoy a city tour with visits to Vigeland Sculpture Park and the Opera House. Travel through pristine fjordlands on the famed Flåm Railway, one of the world's most scenic train rides. Relish a cruise into UNESCO World Heritage-designated Nærøfjord, and transfer to Stalheim for a one night at the historic STALHEIM HOTEL. In historic Bergen, visit the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Bryggen, the old wharf; and Troidhaugen, the historic home of composer Edvard Grieg. Accommodations are for four nights at ideally located hotels.

*Price per person, based on double occupancy:*      **\$1,995**

*Price per person, based on single occupancy:*      **\$2,495**

*Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.*

**SPECIAL SAVINGS** – Early Booking up to \$3,320 per couple.  
Bonus savings if you pay in full at time of booking! Call for details.

*Copenhagen, Denmark*

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