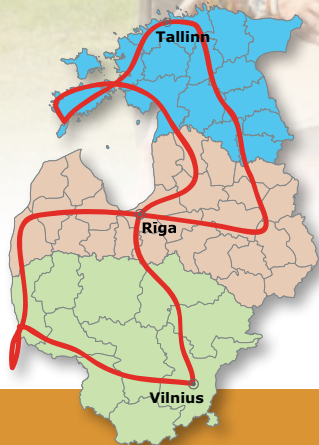


Baltic Country Life Tour



This tour is organized around excellent quality accommodation at villas or manor houses. Many of the accommodation places have their own interesting history. The route often turns away from the main tourist roads and gives a chance to explore local life and traditions. On the way there are several crafts workshops where to observe traditional handicrafts and there are farms where to try local products. The route passes some late-back village where life has not changed much, beautiful landscapes and natural richness in the Gauja, Lahemaa and Dzukija National parks and tranquil Saaremaa island. There are included cultural heritage from different centuries as well as capitals of three Baltic states – Rīga, Tallinn and Vilnius.



approx 2,515 km (17 days)



The Turaida Castle Museum Reserve



Farmstead Jurgučī in Cesvaine



Fish tasting at the coastal village in Kurzeme

General Route: Rīga – Cēsis – Valmiera – Pärnu – Saaremaa – Tallinn – Tartu – Madona – Liepāja – Šilute – Kaunas – Vilnius – Trakai – Bauska – Rīga

Day 1

Arrival at Rīga. Places of particular interest: Old Town, Art Nouveau district, Central Market. Overnight at Europe Royal Rīga. Historically it is known as Benjamins House.

Day 2

Rīga–Sigulda–Cēsis (~89 km).

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: Ethnographic open-air museum at the outskirts of Rīga. Sigulda - Latvia's most beautiful landscapes in the Gauja National Park and the Turaida castle museum complex. Līgatne with nature trails where local wild animals can be watched, sandstone caves where local wine-makers and craftsmen offer their production and tastings. Āraiši Lake Fortress is an authentic reconstruction of the 9th century's lake settlement. Cēsis with impressive medieval castle ruins and ancient jewellery workshop. Overnight at the country hotel Kārļa Muiža. The hotel surrounded by beautiful hilly landscape, old forests and walks along the river Amata.

Day 3

Cēsis–Valmiera–Pärnu (~164 km).

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: Ungurmuiža Manor, only remaining sample in the Baltics of wooden baroque architecture, with old wall paintings. Stop for lunch at Dikļi Manor. Applied Arts Studio in Staicele. Border crossing. Pärnu - historic Estonian seaside resort town with elegant villas. Overnight at Ammende Villa.

Day 4

Pärnu–Virtsu–ferry to Muhu island–Kuressaare at Saaremaa (~158 km).

Breakfast. The ethnographic Koguva village at Muhu island. Valjala church and hill fort.

Kaali Meteorit Lake – the most prominent meteorite crater in Europe. Kuressaare with medieval Bishop's Castle, art galleries, artisan shops and cafes, beach and spas. Overnight at Grand Rose Hotel.

Day 5

Saaremaa–Haapsalu–Tallinn (256 km).

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: Panga rock, Haapsalu – a nice seaside town with the castle, Open-air Ethnographic Museum. Overnight at the Merchants House in Tallinn.

Day 6

Day in Tallinn. Breakfast. Attractions include Old Town, Kadriorg Park, KUMU art museum. Overnight at the Merchants House in Tallinn.

Day 7

Tallinn–Lahemaa–Tartu (227 km).

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: Jägala juga waterfall. Kolga Landgut – prominent example of estate architecture. Typical boulders of the Lahemaa National park. Käsnu fishing village - the former Estonian naval center. Rakvere castle ruins. Tartu attractions include oldest Baltic university, the old observatory, the Tartu Dome church and the hill Toomemägi. Overnight at the Antonius Hotel.

Day 8

Tartu–Ape–Alūksne–Madona (237 km).

Breakfast. Border crossing. Visit farmstead Jurgučī which specialises in goat breeding, makes high quality cheese and goat meat products at Cesvaine. Overnight at the Mārciena Manor.

Day 9

Madona–Koknese–Jelgava–Skrunda (306 km).

Breakfast. Traditional bakery Liepkalni. Visitors can observe the baking process, an purchase the bread. Spectacular Koknese castle ruins with park. Jelgava Palace. Overnight at Berghof Manor.

TRIP DETAILS

Package price from
EUR 995.00

per person in a shared double room

INCLUDES:

- 16 overnights with breakfast in manors, villas and small luxury hotels
- Maps and detailed description of the itinerary

EXTRA COSTS:

- Single supplement
- Extra days
- Car rental
- Tickets and entrances to the attractions and sites
- Transfer to / from Rīga International Airport
- Other meals than breakfast

Day 10

Skrunde–Liepāja–Palanga–Klaipėda–Šilute (227 km).

Breakfast. Liepāja old town, promenade and impressive military heritage. Border crossing. Palanga is a busy beach resort with an excellent Amber Museum. Overnight at Zveju užeiga.

Day 11

Nida, Curonian Spit (by boat)

Breakfast. Take a boat to Nida, Curonian Spit for a relaxing day trip without the car. Overnight at Zveju užeiga.

Day 12

Šilute–Kaunas–Drunskininkai (322 km).

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: The valley of the river Nemunas with beautiful vistas from various castle mounts. Possibility to visit bird ringing station and climb up to the Ventės lighthouse. The delta of the river Nemunas and the island Rusne with a small ethnographic open-air museum. Overnight at the hotel Violeta.

Day 13

Drunskininkai–Marcinkonys–Vilnius (137 km). Breakfast. Drunskininkai is a Lithuanian his-

Guesthouse near ethnographic Koguva village at Muhu island



Traditional jewellery



Local organic food



toric health resort town with fascinating Gruto Park where exhibition was based on the Soviet time monuments. Džukija National Park is a good place to experience Lithuanian crafts and traditions. Overnight at Mabre Residence in Vilnius.

Day 14

Vilnius. Breakfast. Atmospheric old town with Baroque churches, hilly relief which provides scenic views. Overnight at Mabre Residence in Vilnius.

Day 15

Vilnius–Trakai–Kernavė–Panevėžys–Bauska (302 km). Breakfast. Picturesque Trakai Castle built on

an island in the lake and museum of Karaites - ethnic group of Tatar origin. Chance to taste their meals at several cafés. Kernavė with impressive ancient mounds and archeological museum. Border crossing. Overnight at Mežotne Manor

Day 16

Bauska–Pilsrundāle–Rīga (90 km)

Breakfast. Medieval Bauska Castle park with tower providing scenic views. Rundāle Palace – the grandest palace in the Baltics. Return to Rīga. Overnight at the Europe Royale Rīga.

Day 17

Rīga. Breakfast. Departure