SELF-DRIVE / INDIVIDUAI

Nature Trails in Latvia and Estonia



Tour begins in the Latvian capital Riga, which is known for its Art Nouveau architecture, and it ends in the Medieval town of Tallinn. Along the way you will enjoy lovely land-scapes, walk 15 exciting nature trails (about 40 km on foot in total). The trails crosses marshlands, meadows and forests, goes along the shores of the Baltic Sea. Highlights: Riga Old Town and Art Nouvea district - Rare coastal meadows at Ainazi - Estonian islands – Saaremaa and Hiumaa with distinctive nature, medieval churches and wind-mills - Mighty Kuressaare Bishop's Castle - Charming medieval Old Town of Tallinn - Unspoiled nature and sandy beaches.

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General Route: Rīga – Pärnu – Saaremaa – Hiiumaa – Haapsalu - Tallinn

Day 1

Arrival in Rīga

Pick up the hired car at the airport. Free time in Rīga. Overnight in Rīga.

Day 2

Rīga – Salacgriva – Pärnu (190 km, 100% tarmak).

Breakfast / Pick up your info pack with the map and detailed itinerary from the hotel's reception. Sightseeing and walking trails (totally about 10 km walking) en route: Nature trail over the dunes and through the pine forest at Saulkrasti (1 hour); Forest walking trail of the Baron von Munchhausen at Dunte (2 hours); Walking trail through the very rare coastal meadows at Ainazi – birdwatching possibilities in spring and fall (0,3 hours); Luitemaa walking trail near Parnu goes along the sea and through marsh. There are several observation towers and birdwatching possibilities (2-3 hours); Overnight in the surroundings of Pärnu.

Day 3

Pärnu – Muhu – Kuressaare – Sorve -Kuressaare (275 km, 100% tarmac).

Breakfast. Sightseeing in Parnu, historic spa resort of Estonia. Ferry from Virtsu to Kuivastu at Muhu island (0,5 hours). Sightseeing and walking trails (totally up to 10 km hiking) en route: The ethnographic fishermen's' village Koguva at Muhu island (1,5 hours); Koigi walking trail through marsh and forest at the Saare-

Driving in total ~1270 km (7 days)

maa island (2-3 hours); The Sõrve horn in the western part of the Saaremaa island. Its former military basis for Soviet army (1,5 hours). Overnight in Kuressaare.

Day 4

Kuressaare – Kärdla (150 km, 70% tarmac, 30% gravel road).

Breakfast. Sightseeing at Kuressaare. Attractions include impressive medieval castle, town's centre with its art galleries, little shops, cafes and restaurants. Ferry from Triigi to Sõru (1,5 hours). Sightseeing and walking trails (totally about 7 km walking) en route: Viidumäe Nature restricted area with a forest trail and observation tower at the seaside (1 hour); Panga cliff is about 22 m high dolomite cliff at the coast (1 hour); Ojarku boardwalk trail on the Kasari island through overgrown coastal area with an observation tower near Käina bay (bird watching available) (1 hour); Sääre nature trail on the Kasari island which is a stripe of land covered with junipers. (bird watching available) (1,5 hour); Overnight in Kärdla or Käina.

Day 5

Kärdla – Haapsalu – Matsalu Nationalpark - Haapsalu (140 km, 90% tarmac, 10 % gravel road)

Breakfast. Ferry from Heltermaa to Rohuküla (~2 hours). Sightseeing and walking trails (totally about 5 km walking) en route: Walking trail at Matsalu National park boardwalk through the coastal reed fields (5 hours); Sightseeing in Haapsalu; Overnight in Haapsalu.



TRIP DETAILS

Package price from **EUR 285.00**

Rate per person in a shared double room

INCLUDES:

- 5 overnights at the hotels (double or twin rooms, en suite, breakfast): in Rīga (1x), Pärnu (1x), Kärdla or Käina (1x), Haapsalu (1x) and Tallinn (1x)
- 1 overnight in guest house (double or twin room with breakfast, WC and shower shared): in Kuressaare (1x)
- Maps and detailed description of the itinerary.

EXTRA COSTS:

- Single supplement
- Hired car
- Any additional transfers required
- Tickets and entrances to the attractions and sites
- Extra meals / lunch boxes

Day 6

Haapsalu – Paldiski - Tallinn (180 km, 98% tarmac, 2% gravel road).

Breakfast. Sightseeing and walking trails (totally about 8 km walking) en route: Walking trail at the Paldiski peninsula – the trail starts at the fortification which was build by the Peter 1st and leads along the steep Baltic sea banks, sightseeing of the former military basis of the Soviet military (2-3 hours); Keila Nature Park – walking trail through the forest to Keila waterfall (1-2 hours); In the evening free time in Tallinn; Overnight in Tallinn.

Day 7

Drive back to Rīga

Breakfast. Return the car at Tallinn Airport. Departure from Tallinn. Or return to Riga and leave the car at Rīga Airport.

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View of Tallinn Old Town

Keila waterfall in Estonia



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