



Go local!

TOURS TO THE BALTIC STATES AND BEYOND



THE SOFT ADVENTURES TOUR, 8 DAYS

Total distance cycling 157 km, walking 9 km, boating 17 km This is activity-packed tour which mostly takes place at the Gauja National Park. Cycling starts at Strenči and passes two local breweries at Brengulji and Valmiermuiža with nice cafés and good beer. From Valmiera the route goes through beautiful forest to Cesis with its charming medieval Old Town. Canoeing takes place from Cesis to Ligatne, which is one of the nicest parts of the Gauja river with its sandstone banks, remote farmsteads and old fashioned water-powered ferry. Ligatne historic centre is connected with the development of its paper mill.

Here you can also visit local wine and handicraft producers

which located themselves in one of the artificial caves typical of the area. Walk through Ligatne Nature trails provides a chance to see local wild animals - bears, deer, lynxes, elks and others. Cycling the surprisingly hilly, winding roads of Sigulda, you'll see Turaida and Sigulda medieval castles, Gutmana Cave and other picturesque views.



Total distance: cycling 157 km, walking 9 km, boating 17 km



CYCLING THROUGH NATIONAL PARKS AND ESTONIAN ISLANDS, 17 DAYS

The route leads through the Gauja National Park which is located on both sides of the ancient Gauja river valley. Sandstone cliffs and caves, hilly landscapes and deep forests and castles are characteristic of the park. Further on at Igate Manor stop for a lunch at their mill tavern to taste traditional Latvian food. The route turns towards the coast which belongs to the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve and continues through old Estonian fishing villages before arriving at the seaside resort of Parnu with its elegant villas. Next is a guided wilderness day in Soomaa National Park trying old-fashioned bog-shoeing and canoeing. Further on the route you will pass Pootsi with a 19th century manor and the ancient village of Varbla.

Ethnographic fishermen's village of Koguva at Muhu island as well as laid-back Hiiumaa island represents true spirit of Estonia. Kuressaare on Saaremaa island has impressive Bishop's Castle as well as plenty of spa and relaxation facilities. Then public coach takes you to Tallinn, charming with its medieval Old Town. From there enjoy a day trip to the former military base of Naissaar island where special cycling routes showcase its military history, mine and nature reserve.



Total distance cycling 593 km, boating 7 km, walking 4 km



CYCLING ALONG THE KURZEME SHORE OF THE BALTIC SEA, 10 DAYS

The cycling starts from Liepaja, a city with white sandy beaches and a lively café culture. The route goes through suburbs of Liepaja to the former military town where you see the Orthodox Cathedral, old naval fortifications, former barracks and an imposing military prison which is now a tourism site. Paviosta is a small seaside town and a favourite with windsurfers. Next the route follows the picturesque coastline, including steep banks at Jurkalne and finishes at the well-maintained town of Ventspils. Then along to fishing villages that are home to the tiny Finno-Ugric ethnic group, the Livs. At Cape Kolka the Baltic Sea meets the Gulf of Riga. Here, sampling the local

smoked fish is a must.

Further on, the route crosses three different types of sea shore - the stony beach at Kaltene, a sandy one at Upesgriva and coastal meadows at Engure. Finish with the nature trails at Kemeru National Park and return to Riga from the popular resort town of Jurmala.



Total distance cycling 322 km



BALTIC COUNTRY LIFE, 17 DAYS

The tour gives a look beyond the usual tourism sites to get to know the three Baltic States more deeply. It starts in the Latvian capital, Riga, followed by the Gauja National Park with its castles, manors and walking trails. Meet an ancient jewellery master in the castle of the charming town of Cesis. Across the border in Estonia, walk streets with elegant villas at Parnu sea resort before catching a ferry to Saaremaa island. Ethnographic Koguva village, ancient churches and windmills are typical of the island, as is an embroidering tradition. Then it's off to Tallinn with its medieval Old Town and to the rocky landscapes of Lahemaa National Park with fishing villages and manors. Try Estonian

national dishes at the pub in Altja. Driving back, stop at the university town of Tartu. In Latvia again, visit goat farm and a traditional black bread bakery. Then the route heads towards the west coast with the cities of Liepaja and, across the border in Lithuania, Klaipeda. Next is the incredible Curonian Spit. Before Vilnius, take a detour to Grutas Park with its bizarre Soviet statuary. Finish the journey with picturesque Trakai Castle in Lithuania and Rundale Palace in Latvia.



Total distance driving 2515 km



CASTLES AND MANOR HOUSES FROM RIGA TO ST. PETERSBURG, 12 DAYS

The tour gives excellent overview of the region's history, architectural styles and people's tastes through the centuries. As much as possible the accommodation is organized in the former manors. The tour starts in Riga with its Old Town and Art Nouvea area, then continues to three castles located on the high banks of the river Gauja - Turaida, Sigulda, Krimulda. Further on the route goes to medieval Cesis Castle surrounded by charming town. There are several 18th,19th centuries' manor houses on the way. In Estonia the route goes 7th century's hill-fort, through historic university town Tartu, then pass Rakvere castle ruins. Lahemaa Park contains several German manors at Kolga, Sagadi, Vihula. 19th century Palmse Manor is

one of the most attractive baroque manors in Estonia. After a day in Tallinn with its compact, picturesque Old Town take a ferry to Helsinki. There is time to explore the city centre before catching train or an overnight ferry to St. Petersburg. The former Russian capital's main attractions are its historic centre and Winter Palace, the Hermitage and St. Isaac's Cathedral, amongst others. We also recommend an excursion outside the city to grand Petrodvorets as well as Pushkin and Pavlosk Palaces.



Total distance driving 747 km



FROM GDANSK TO HELSINKI THROUGH THE BALTIC STATES, 19 DAYS

The tour starts at former Hanseatic port town Gdansk with its pretty Old Town, then continues to Malbork, an impressive fortified medieval castle. The route crosses the Mazurian lake district where hundreds of lakes are connected to rivers and canals. It continues to Wigry National Park with walking trails and interesting archaeological and cultural remains. Further into Lithuania, Dzukija National Park has several well-preserved traditional farmsteads and villages which are well worth a visit. Then the route goes via Kaunas to the Curonian Spit formed by shifting sand dunes between its lagoon and the sea. Next the route goes to the sea resort Palanga with a great Amber Museum and on to Latvia. Stop at Pape Nature Park, a diverse mosaic of nature's ecosystems, where wild horses and oxen breed. Slitere National Park shows the historical development of the Baltic Sea. The Kemeru National Park includes different types of wetlands and vast bogs. It is famous for its sulphur springs. Further on Gauja National Park is formed around the ancient valley of the Gauja river with picturesque sandstone cliffs from the Devonian period. Here are many historic mo-

numents - medieval castles, churches and ancient settlements which you can see crossing the valley on a cable car. In Estonia, Saaremaa's landscape is characterised by large juniper growths, dolomite cliffs, windmills, medieval churches and the famous Kaali meteorite lake. It also retains a very Estonian soul. At Sooma National Park try bog-shoe walking. Lahemaa National Park has a rugged coastal landscape with big boulders, traditional fishing villages, forest trails and romantic manor houses. From Tallin take a ferry to Helsinki, from where it is an easy trip to Nuukio National Park, home to an endangered flying squirrel. The landscape here is dominated by valleys and gorges, rocky hills covered by lichen and sparse pine forest that is very different to the previous parks. Well-equipped walking trails have several scenic views.



Total distance driving 2635 km



LAUKU CEĻOTĀJS

ABOUT US:

Lauku ceļotājs - we are a professional rural tourism association established in 1993 and currently we have more than 300 members - owners of rural accommodations all over Latvia. We are members of Eurogites, the European Federation for Rural Tourism. All our staff are passionate outdoor and nature enthusiasts. All our routes and offers are

tried and tested by our people. We know personally all our suppliers and have established great relationships with them during many years of cooperation. Find more detailed information on our website. Various guidebooks and maps are also available. www.celotajs.lv or contact us: lauku@celotajs.lv



Active tours



Self-drive tours



Canoeing



Cycling



Walking



By the sea



Castles and manors



Local lifestyle