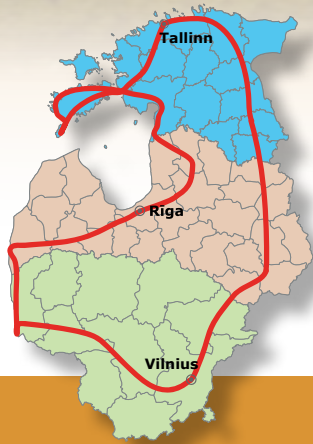


Grand Tour of the Three Baltic States



This tour gives a good insight into the three Baltic states, featuring their bustling capital cities, tranquil nature parks, white sandy beaches, pine forests, charming provincial towns, varied landscapes, local traditions and historic sites. **Highlights:** three Baltic capitals - Rīga, Tallinn, Vilnius with their enchanting Old Towns; three National Parks - Gauja in Latvia, Lahemaa in Estonia and Austaitija in Lithuania; Picturesque Trakai Lake Castle; Majestic sand dunes of the Curonian Spit; Saaremaa island with its intact Bishop's Castle, medieval churches and windmills; Historic university town of Tartu; Unspoiled Latgale lake district with traditional pottery workshops and gastronomy; Liepāja, a city with a great atmosphere and distinctive military heritage.



approx 2,600 km (12 days)



Turaida castle museum complex

General Route: Rīga – Cēsis – Valmiera – Saaremaa – Tallinn – Tartu – Daugavpils – Vilnius – Kaunas – Klaipėda – Rīga

Day 1

Arrival in Rīga. Pick up a car at the airport. Maps and detailed itinerary will be at your hotel's reception. Free time in Riga. Attractions include: Hanseatic Old Town, the Art Nouveau district, the wooden buildings of Pardaugava, Ethnographic open-air museum and an excellent opera house. Overnight at the hotel in Rīga.

Day 2

Rīga – Cēsis – Valmiera (170 km).

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: Sigulda - Latvia's most beautiful landscapes in the Gauja National park and the Turaida castle museum complex. Numerous well-marked walking trails along the Gauja river valley. Wild animals at Līgatne Nature Park. Cēsis – a charming medieval town with impressive medieval castle ruins. Free time in Valmiera. Attractions include: St. Simon's church, original Soviet cinema, castle ruins and the river Gauja. Overnight at the hotel in Valmiera.

Day 3

Valmiera – Pärnu – ferry to Saaremaa island (330 km)

Breakfast. Head to Estonia. Sites and attractions en route: Pärnu, historic Estonian seaside spa resort, the ethnographic Koguva village of Muhu island, Valjala church and hill fort, Kaali meteorite lake – perhaps the most impressive meteorite crater in Europe. Free time at Kuressaare. Attractions include: impressive medieval Bishop's Castle, art galleries, craft shops and cafes, beach and spas. Overnight at the hotel in Kuressaare.

Day 4

Saaremaa island ferry – Haapsalu island – Tallinn (280 km)

Sites and attractions en route: Panga cliff – the tallest cliff in Estonia, Haapsalu – charming seaside town with the castle, open-air ethnographic museum. Free time in Tallinn. Attractions include: Old Town, Kadriorg Park, KUMU art museum, Overnight at the hotel in Tallinn.

Day 5

Tallinn – Lahemaa – Tartu (280 km).

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: Jagala juga waterfall, Kolga Landgut – one of the leading examples of estate architecture in Northern Europe, Jaani-Tooma kivi – typical landscape of the Lahemaa National Park, Kāsmu fishing village, Rakvere castle ruins. Overnight at the hotel in Tartu

Day 6

Tartu – Alūksne – Rēzekne – Preiļi – Aglona (330km)

Free time in Tartu. Attractions include: the oldest Baltic university, the old observatory, Tartu Dome church and the Toomemägi hill. Return to Latvia. Sites and attractions en route: Alūksne town - Bible museum and the castle ruins on the island of Lake Alūksne, Latgale region, which is famous for its lakes and pottery. Visit to the workshop of the traditional "black ceramics" and see the pottery process. Aglona's Basilica is one of the most popular pilgrimage destinations in the Northern Europe, Overnight at the hotel in Aglona.

Day 7

Aglona - Daugavpils – Vilnius (270km).

Sites and attractions en route: Daugavpils - the second largest city in Latvia and birthplace of the world famous artist Mark Rothko. Daugavpils fortress is one of the mightiest in Europe. Cross the border to Lithuania. Auk-



Curonian Spit national park with sand dunes



The Beach on Nida Island





TRIP DETAILS

Package price from
EUR 425.00

per person in a shared double room

INCLUDES:

- 11 overnight stays at hotels or guest houses (double or twin rooms, en suite, breakfast)
- Maps and detailed itinerary

EXTRA COSTS:

- Single supplement
- Extra meals
- Tickets and entrance fees for attractions and sites
- Any transfers required
- Car hire for 12 days
- Road tax in Lithuania

staitija National Park - Palusee church and ethnographic villages. The Centre of Europe - the spot that claims to be the geographical centre of the continent. European Park. Overnight at the hotel in Vilnius

Day 8

Vilnius - Kaunas (120km).

Breakfast. Free time in Vilnius. Sites and attractions en route: Vilnius Old Town with its numerous churches, university buildings and Gediminas Hill, Trakai - picturesque castle built on an island, Rumsiske - open-air museum of country life in Lithuania. Overnight at the hotel in Kaunas.

Day 9

Kaunas - Jurbarka - Silute - Rusne - Vente - Klaipeda (~350km).

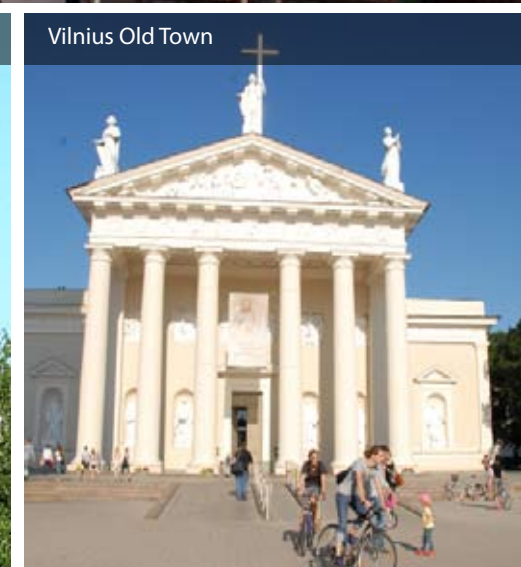
Breakfast. Free time in Kaunas - the former Lithuanian capital with a charming Old Town. Sites and attractions en route: Valley of the river Nemunas with beautiful vistas from various castle mounds, Cape Vente - a popular bird observation point, lighthouse, the island Rusne with a small ethnographic open-air museum. Free time in the port city of Klaipeda.



Tallinn Old Town



Medieval Bishop's Castle in Kuressaare



Vilnius Old Town

Overnight in Klaipeda.

Day 10

Klaipeda - Nida - Klaipeda (110 km).

Breakfast. Ferry to the Curonian Spit. Drive through the Curonian Spit national park with sand dunes up to 60 m tall. Sites and attractions en route: Juodkrante - hill of witches. Dolphinarium. Ferry back to Klaipeda. Overnight at the hotel in Klaipeda.

Day 11

Klaipeda - Palanga - Liepaja - Saldus - Riga (330 km).

Breakfast. Drive along the Baltic sea coast through the Pajurio Regional Park to Palanga.

Cross the border to Latvia. Sites and attractions en route: Nature trails of Lake Pape with several bird observation towers and wild horses. Sightseeing in Liepaja with many nice cafe's, white sand beach and military heritage. Overnight in the hotel in Riga.

Day 12

Riga

Return the car at Riga International Airport. Departure.