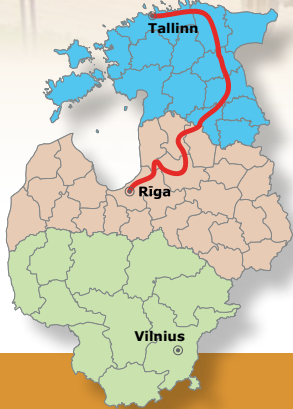


Visiting castles and baronial estates



This tour introduces with the cultural the cultural and historical heritage left behind in the Baltic States by rulers over the course of several centuries – six outstanding castles in Latvia and seven in Estonia, along with ancient castle ruins. The route weaves through two national parks – the Gauja National Park in Latvia and the Lahemaa National Park in Estonia. You will spend time in enchanting small Baltic towns and visit important centres of culture and history, including Tartu and the two capital cities – Riga and Tallinn. Accommodations is organized at baronial estates and castles wherever its possible.



Length of the route: ~1100 km (7 days)



The ruins of the castle of the Livonian Order, Cēsis



Ungurmuiza manor



Igate Manor

General Route: Rīga – Limbaži – Cēsis – Rūjiena – Valga – Otepää – Tartu – Rakvere – Lahemaa Nationalpark – Tallinn

Day 1

Arrival in Rīga

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

Day 2

Rīga – Sigulda – Turaida- Biriņi (77 km, 100% Asphalt).

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: Sigulda medieval castle ruins and baronial estate; Turaida museum reserve with the ruins of a Livonia Order castle. There is an observation tower and a sculpture garden on the banks of the Gauja river; Biriņi Manor (built 1857-1860) located near a lake and surrounded by wonderful park, good for leisurly walk.

Day 3

Biriņi- Igate – Limbaži – Straupe – Ungurmuiza – Cēsis – Dikļi (136 km, 100% Asphalt).

Breakfast. The route leads through the Gauja National Park which is situated on the both sides of the ancient river-valley of the river Gauja. Sandstone cliffs and outcrops and dense forests are typical for the park. Sites and attractions en route: Igate Manor (1880) – built in the style of neorenaissance, near the castle there is a romantic park and an old water mill, where there is a pub serving traditional Latvian dishes; Lielstraupe castle (13th century) – the castle is unique because

its building is united with a church; Ungurmuiza manor – the oldest wooden baroque manor in Latvia; Sightseeing in the town Cēsis – the old town, the ruins of the castle of the Livonian Order and the new castle. In the garden of the castle there is a workshop of a traditional jeweller, which can be visited; Dikļi Manor (1896) – built in the style of neobaroque. There are collection of valuable antique furniture, fireplaces and interior articles inside the manor. Sightseeing in the town Valmiera

Day 4

Dikļi – Valmiera – Naukšēni – Taagepera – Sangaste – Otepää – Tartu (230 km, 90% Asphalt, 10% gravel road).

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: Naukšēni manor (1843) with a nice park and several household buildings; Taagepera manor (1912) in Estonia – built in the style of art nouveau; Sangaste castle; The castle mount in Otepää; In the evening sightseeing on the town Tartu, a visit to the first Baltic university and the old observatory on the top of the Toomemägi hill is recommendable. Overnight in Tartu

Day 5

Tartu – Alatsikvi – Rakvere – Lahemaa Nationalpark (~210 km, 100% Asphalt)

Breakfast. Sites and attractions en route: Alatsikivi castle (18-19th century) with a beautiful park; The castle ruins in Rakvere; Vihula manor (19th century) with a nice park and an interesting pond system in the surroundings. Overnight in Vihula manor.

TRIP DETAILS

Package price from
EUR 390.00

per person in a shared double room

INCLUDES:

- 3 overnights in hotels (double or twin rooms, en suite, breakfast): in Rīga (1x), Tartu (1x) and Tallinn (1x)
- 3 overnights in castles or manors (double or twin rooms, en suite, breakfast): in Biriņi (1x), Dikļi (1x) and Vihula (1x)
- Maps and detailed description of the itinerary.

EXTRA COSTS:

- Hired car 7 days
- Single supplement
- Any transfers required
- Tickets and entrances to the attractions and sites
- Extra meals

Day 6

Lahemaa National Park – Tallinn (~110 km, 100% Asphalt).

Breakfast. The route leads along the northern Baltic sea coast of Estonia through the oldest Baltic national park – Lahemaa. For the park huge stones at the seaside and small fishermen's villages are typical. Sites and attractions en route: Sagadi manor (1749–1750), there is a forest museum in the manor; Palmse manor (18th century) – one of the most beautiful in Estonia with a large park; Kolga Manor (17-18th century). In the evening free time in Tallinn. Overnight in Tallinn.

Day 7

Drive back to Riga (330 km)

Breakfast. Hand over the hired car at the Riga International Airport / Departure from Riga. Or hand over the hired car in the Airport of Tallinn / Departure from Tallinn.

Biriņi manor



Palmse manor



Sagadi manor

