

# BALTIC ADVENTURE

12 days  
11 nights

3  
countries

travel type  
Cultural



## DESCRIPTION

### ● Day 1. Tallinn (D)

Arrival to Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. Bus transfer to the hotel. Afternoon city tour by bus and a walking tour of medieval Tallinn (2 h.), to feel the aura of the 14th and 15th centuries that survived intact in a maze of medieval walls and towers, soaring church spires and winding streets. It includes the main historical and architectural monuments: Toompea Palace and Castle, Town Hall Square, the Russian Orthodox Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and a visit of Tallinn Dome Church. Welcome dinner and overnight in Tallinn.

### ● Day 2. Tallinn – Kadriorg Palace – Lahemaa National Park (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Visit to Kadriorg (5 km from Tallinn) famed for its baroque palace and park ensemble, built in 1718 as the summer palace for the family of Russian tsar Peter I. The palace is now home to the Kadriorg Art Museum. In addition to perusing the nation's collection of foreign art, visitors get to see the mind-bogglingly ornate Great Hall, and the room upstairs that served as president's office in the 1930s. Lunch at restaurant. Departure to Lahemaa (60 km from Tallinn) – the biggest Estonian National Park (72,500 ha). Lahemaa attracts tourists by the untouched sandy beaches, waterfalls cascade, mossy pine forests and over 200 species of birds and almost 900 different plants. Park offers variety of cultural sights, like Palmse manor, the showpiece of Lahemaa. This 18th century baroque house is open to the public and filled with the period furniture. A few kilometres north of Palmse, you will see the old Soviet Coast Guard barracks, which now house a maritime museum with excellent exhibits on the Soviet era and the history of the village. Enjoy a walk in the beautifully preserved 400-year-old fishing hamlet of Altja, in the north – western corner of the park. Transfer back to Tallinn. Overnight in Tallinn.

### ● Day 3. Tallinn – Saaremaa Island (B,L)

Breakfast. Departure to Kuressaare, Saaremaa Island (220 km from Tallinn + ferry to the island). Exploring of the Saaremaa Island. We will visit Koguva village (Muhu museum) which is best preserved ancient village in Estonia, Kaali Meteorite Crater, Angla Windmills, 13th century Karja Church and symbol of the island – Kuressaare Episcopal castle. Lunch en route. Arrival to Kuressaare, a small, officially declared town in 1563 by Duke Magnus, brother of the Danish king Frederik II. During our tour we will visit the main attraction of the town – the 14th -18th cent. bishopric castle-fortification. The mediaeval stone castle is the only one in the Baltic countries that has survived throughout the centuries in its entirety. Overnight in Kuressaare.

### ● Day 4. Saaremaa Island – Cesis (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Cesis (329 km. incl. ferry to the mainland). Stop in Pärnu. Exploring of the city, former Hanseatic and university town. During the city tour you will see the oldest building in Pärnu – the Red Tower, which is the only remains of the medieval fortification system in Pärnu survived till today. Also the bastions, baroque churches, newly renovated 17th-19th century dwelling houses, warehouses and schools. On the way to the beach you will see the the Ammende Villa – beautiful example of Art Nouveau architecture. Lunch in the old town. Evening arrival to Cesis. Overnight in Cesis.

### ● Day 5. Cesis – Turaida Castle – Riga (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Riga (90 km from Cesis), the capital of Latvia. Morning exploring of Cesis town, beautiful Latvian Hanseatic town. While in Cesis enjoy a stroll through narrow streets and feel the amiable small town atmosphere. You will see the 13th century Order of Knight's Castle and the soaring Gothic tower of the 13th century of Church of St. John. You will visit the local History Museum displayed in the New Palace and enjoy a walk in the Palace park. Short drive through the countryside will take you to the picturesque Gauja River banks at the highest sandstone cliffs in Latvia-Erglu Klints. Stop in the Gauja National Park, Sigulda city (20 km from Cesis). Lunch at restaurant. Gauja National park is often referred to as the Latvian Switzerland. It includes the valley of the Gauja River and together with its tributaries it forms a particularly original landscape. The territory comprises more than 500 monuments of archeology, architecture, history starting with 11th century. Enjoy beautiful vistas of the Gauja River Valley, visit the 13th century Turaida Castle, now housing a small History Museum, and relax walking in the adjoining Sculpture Park, featuring works of Latvian sculptors. Later stop by a natural sight Gutman Cave. Arrival to Riga. Overnight in Riga.

## ● Day 6. Riga – Jurmala (B, D)

Breakfast at hotel. Morning Riga City Tour by bus and walking tour. Riga has hundreds of ways for enticing visitors – its rich history, architecture, spacious gardens and parks, museums, art galleries and world-class opera...and daily treats like a walk in the enormous colorful central market or going to a cozy café, club or pub. The tour includes the most significant sights of Riga and begins along the central boulevards of Riga, enjoying the view of the City Canal parks, the Art Nouveau buildings of the beginning of the 20th century, the Opera House. In Old Riga you will see the Dome Cathedral, the Church of St. Peter, the old Guild Houses, the Swedish Gate, the architectural ensemble Three Brothers, St. Jacob's Church, the Parliament House, Old Riga Castle, and view the many wonderfully restored buildings, now housing cozy restaurants, cafes, bars and souvenir shops. Afternoon exploring of Jurmala (25 km from Riga) – the largest seaside and spa resort in the Baltic States. The town is known for its unique natural resources such as its curative mineral waters, medicinal mud, pine forests and sand dunes. The town's architecture is represented by many styles including unique wooden architecture (late 19th-early 20th cent.), classicism, Art Nouveau and national romanticism. Dinner at restaurant in Jurmala while watching the sun, setting down into the sea. Transfer back to Riga. Overnight in Riga.

## ● Day 7. Riga – Rundale Palace – Hill of Crosses – Klaipeda (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Klaipeda (355 km from Riga). Stop at the Rundale Palace (66 km from Riga), the most outstanding monument of Baroque and Rococo art in Latvia. The palace is an example of the early work of Italian-Russian architect Rastrelli who also designed the famous Winter Palace in St. Petersburg. Interiors are decorated with authentic 18th century furniture and paintings. To complete your impressions have an enjoyable walk in a beautiful French-style park. Lunch en route. After crossing the border of Lithuania you will visit the famous Hill of Crosses (30 km from the Rundale), a unique historic place in the world. On this hill more than 100 000 crosses have been discontinuously put up to plead for grace or to express gratitude since the ancient times. It is the only place of its kind in the world, included to the Guinness Book of Records for its uniqueness. Arrival to Klaipeda and check-in at the hotel. Overnight in Klaipeda.

## ● Day 8. Klaipeda – Curonian Spit (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Morning Klaipeda City Tour (1 h.) helps to explore a cosy Old Town with merchants' houses, the ruins of Klaipeda Castle, Theatre Square with the statue named after a girl, Ann from Tharau, the heroine of a famous German love song, created by the 17th century German poet Simon Dach, born in Klaipeda. Departure to the Curonian Spit. The Spit lies between the Curonian Lagoon and the Baltic Sea. It is a UNESCO World Heritage sight famous for its chains of North Europe's highest dunes and charming fisherman Curonian houses. Five fishermen villages are summer resorts boasting white sand beaches, clean sea water, sunlit pinewoods, as well as cultural landmarks. Lunch en route. Visit to the Hill of Witches boasting a collection of sculptures with characters from Lithuanian folklore and pagan traditions. Excursion in Nida village, the Lithuanian sea resort includes a climb up the Great Dune to see breathtaking view. Visit to the Amber Gallery – Museum to learn about the history of amber in this region and observe how amber jewellery is made. Transfer back to Klaipeda. Overnight in Klaipeda.

## ● Day 9. Klaipeda – Kaunas (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Kaunas (214 km from Klaipeda), the second largest city in Lithuania. Arrival to Kaunas. Lunch in the Old town. City Tour of Kaunas. Kaunas is the second major city in Lithuania, known for the beautiful Old Town. The Old Town of Kaunas is a concentration of the most important, ancient architectural monuments: the 13th century Castle,

the Old Town Hall, nicknamed the “White Swan”, the Archicathedral Basilica, the Church of St. Francis Xavier and the Jesuit monastery, Perkunas House and Vytautas Church. The green and flowering pedestrian street Laisves Aleja is the main business and leisure area of Kaunas. Overnight in Kaunas.

#### ● Day 10. Kaunas – Vilnius (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Vilnius (104 km from Kaunas). Stop at the Church and Monastery of Pazaislis (7 km from Kaunas) to see one of the most wonderful mature Baroque architectural masterpieces in north-eastern Europe. The monastery is located on the picturesque bank of the Kaunas Lagoon. Lunch en route. Arrival to Vilnius. Free afternoon and in Vilnius.

#### ● Day 11. Vilnius – Trakai (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Morning City Tour, the 3-hour acquaintance with Vilnius Old Town, where you can feel the atmosphere of the city’s history of the 16-19th centuries while walking along its narrow winding streets or visiting the most exiting architectural and historic monuments: Vilnius Cathedral erected on the historic site where pagan gods were worshiped and where Vilnius was founded as far back as the 13th c., a nearby Gediminas Castle on the hill rising above the city centre, a gem of the Lithuanian Gothic’s – the 16th c. St. Anne’s Church, the Vilnius University, a famous centre of science and enlightenment since its very foundation in 1579, Vilnius Town Hall, Jewish Quarter and the Dawn Gate with a miraculous icon of Virgin Mary. Lunch at restaurant in Old town. Departure to Trakai, former capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, 27 km to the west of Vilnius. Visit at Trakai Castle situated on an island in the midst of Lake Galve. The Castle now houses an interesting museum telling its history, famous in the times of the Grand Duke Vytautas when the country borders were stretching from the Baltics till the Black Sea. Enjoy a small town – Trakai, located on a 2-km-long peninsular with attractive old wooden houses, mostly built by Karaites, a Judaism sect brought by Duke Vytautas from the Crimea and still living here. Transfer back to Vilnius. Overnight in Vilnius.

#### ● Day 12. Vilnius (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport. Departure.