

BALTIC ADVENTURE

12 days
11 nights

3
countries

travel type
Cultural

This holiday offers a great mix of culture and nature and brings you to the main cultural sites and natural reserves of the Baltic States:

- Discover beauty of the three Baltic Capitals – Baroque Vilnius, Art Nouveau Riga and medieval fairytale-like Tallinn, which are all UNESCO World Heritage sites;
- See other remarkable places: town on water Trakai, the Hill of Crosses with more than 100 000 wooden crosses, Baroque and Rococo architecture in the Rundale Palace and the Pazaislis monastery.
- Go to the Curonian spit – a UNESCO World Heritage site and prime destination for nature lovers. It is a land of high golden dunes, blue flag beaches and wooded, man-made landscapes with small fisherman villages.
- Visit the remote Estonian island Saaremaa to immerse yourself in the serene nature and observe the daily life of the local people, which is similar to life centuries ago.

DESCRIPTION

● Day 1, Tallinn

Highlights: Tallinn City tour Arrival to Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. In the afternoon join a guided tour to discover the Tallinn Old Town, which is one of the best-preserved and authentic medieval capitals in Europe, filled with churches and merchant houses. The walk through the hilly cobblestone streets will become a memorable ending to your travels. End the day with a traditional Estonian dinner in the Old Town. Meals: D Overnight: Tallinn

● Day 2, Tallinn – Kadriorg Palace – Lahemaa National Park

Highlights: Kadriorg Palace, Lahemaa National Park, Palmse manor, Altja village, maritime museum Morning visit of a beautiful flower park of the Kadriorg Palace, which was founded by the Russian tsar Peter. Visit the National Art Museum and stroll through the beautiful park. Continue to another stunning sight – Lahemaa National Park, Estonia's best national park. It is a home for untouched sandy beaches, cascading waterfalls and mossy pine forests. Here you will also visit an elegant Palmse manor, the beautifully preserved 400-year-old fishing hamlet and a maritime museum located in old Soviet Coast Guard barracks. Meals: B + L Overnight: Tallinn

● Day 3, Tallinn – Saaremaa Island

Highlights: Kuressaare castle, Meteor Lake, windmills Morning departure to the Saaremaa Island that is a superb recreation site with unique nature and various sights. Saaremaa has retained its uniqueness with its location and an aura of remoteness. Villages still have stone fences and houses have thatched roofs. Here you can often see locals still wearing beautiful national costumes. During the sightseeing tour you will see picturesque windmills standing

together on a small patch of land, an ancient church, meteor crater and a small town of Kuressaare with the only medieval castle in the Baltics that has survived throughout the centuries in its entirety. Meals: B + L Overnights: Kuressaare

● Day 4, Saaremaa Island – Cesis

Highlights: Parnu city tour This morning you will leave the island and head to Latvia. Stop en route to see Estonian summer capital – Parnu. You will have a city tour to get to know its charming old town and stroll on a long beach promenade. Enjoy an evening in a cosy Latvian city – Cesis, stroll through narrow streets, feel the amiable small town atmosphere and taste excellent Cesis beer, which has been a symbol of the town for almost half of millennia. Meals: B + L Overnight: Cesis

● Day 5. Cesis – Gauja National Park – Riga

Highlights: Cesis city tour, Cesis History Museum, ruins of Turaida Castle This morning you will have a guided tour to see the best of what Cesis has to offer: majestic ruins of the 13th century Order of Knight's Castle, 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. Continue to Gauja National park to see beautiful vistas of the Gauja River Valley, visit the ruins of 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. Free evening in Riga. Meals: B + L Overnight: Riga

● Day 6. Riga – Jurmala

Highlights: Riga city tour, Jurmala beach In the morning experience a guided tour of Riga Old Town, the liveliest capital among the Baltic States, where you will see old Gothic churches and stunning Art Nouveau buildings living side by side. Afternoon will be spent in Jurmala, the "trademark" resort in the Baltic States. Enjoy a walk amongst pine forests and along sand beaches of Jurmala with healing air and fresh sea breezes and have a look at many fairy-tale like wooden Jugendstil houses here. Meals: B+L Overnight: Riga

● Day 7, Riga – Rundale Palace – Hill of Crosses – Klaipeda

Highlights: Hill of Crosses, Rundale Palace This morning you will travel towards Klaipeda, the Lithuanian sea port and make two stops to see remarkable sights on the way. The first stop at the Rundale Palace – an outstanding monument of Baroque and Rococo art with authentic 18th century furniture, paintings and china and a beautiful French-style park. After crossing the border of Lithuania, you will stop at the Hill of Crosses, a mystical and unique pilgrimage site with more than 100 000 crosses from all around the world on it. It is the only place of its kind in the world, included to the Guinness Book of Records. This day ends in Klaipeda, old Hanseatic city, where atmosphere of sea winds and trades is felt all around on its streets, stones, buildings and sights. Meals: B+L Overnight: Klaipeda

● Day 8. Klaipeda – Curonian Spit

Highlights: Klaipeda city tour, the Hill of Witches, the Amber Gallery, Nida village Morning Klaipeda city tour will show you a cosy small Old Town with merchants' houses, the ruins of Klaipeda Castle and Theatre Square. Later you will depart to the Curonian Spit – a national park shared by Lithuania and Russia and located between the Curonian Lagoon and the Baltic Sea. The Curonian Spit is a UNESCO World Heritage sight famous for its chains of North Europe's highest dunes and charming fisherman Curonian houses. Some exciting visits are planned for this day, including the Hill of Witches boasting a collection of sculptures from Lithuanian pagan traditions and the Amber Gallery, where you can learn about the history of amber in this region

and observe how amber jewellery is made. Moreover you will have an excursion of the main resort – Nida and climb up the Great Dune to see breathtaking view. Meals: B +L Overnight: Klaipeda

● Day 9, Klaipeda – Kaunas

Highlights: Kaunas city tour This morning you will leave Lithuanian seaside and travel to Kaunas, the second major city in Lithuania. Afternoon tour will introduce you to the compact and vivid Old Town, Kaunas has a proper menagerie of historical, artistic and educational spots. Gothic architecture, defensive fortresses, footprints, left by various ethnical groups that used to live there. Meals: B + L Overnight: Kaunas

● Day 10, Kaunas – Vilnius

Highlights: Pazaislis Monastery Continue your journey to the capital of Lithuania and make a short stop to see the Pazaislis Monastery – a masterpiece of mature Baroque architectural located on the picturesque bank of the Kaunas Lagoon. Free time to explore the the biggest Old Town complex in Eastern Europe with outstanding examples of “Lithuanian” Baroque, also called the last vivid flash of Baroque in Europe. Meals: B + D Overnight: Vilnius

● Day 11, Vilnius – Trakai

Highlights: Vilnius Old Town, Trakai Castle Start the day with a walking tour of 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, including Vilnius University, the Dawn Gate with a miraculous icon of Virgin Mary. Spend you afternoon in Trakai, the former capital of Grand Duchy of Lithuania with it’s beautiful insular castle of the 14th century, situated on an island in the middle of a lake. Trakai’s unique location on the peninsula surrounded by five lakes has it dubbed itself the “town on the water”. Meals: B + L Overnight: Vilnius

● Day 12, Vilnius

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