

# BALTIC CLASSICS

8 days  
7 nights

3  
countries

travel type  
Cultural



## DESCRIPTION

### ● Day 1. Tallinn (D)

Arrival to Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. Bus transfer to the hotel. Free time in Tallinn. Unlike most European cities, which have ancient buildings mixed in between modern ones, Tallinn's Old City is complete. You leave bustling modern life behind when of cobblestones and dim alleys, sputtering torches and secret stairways. The Old City holds new surprises around every corner, even for its inhabitants. Welcome dinner and overnight in Tallinn.

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

Breakfast at hotel. Morning 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 as Toompea Palace and Castle, Town Hall Square, the Russian Orthodox Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and a visit of Tallinn Dome Church. Lunch at restaurant in Old town. Excursion will continue with the visit of a beautiful flower park of the Kadriorg Palace (5 km, 2 h.), which was founded by the Russian tsar Peter. Visit the National Art Museum and stroll through the beautiful park. Overnight in Tallinn.

### ● Day 3. Tallinn – Turaida Castle – Riga (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Riga, the capital of Latvia. Stop at the Gauja National Park, Sigulda city (250 km from Tallinn) often referred to as the Latvian Switzerland. Gauja National park 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. Lunch en route. Evening arrival to Riga. 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 colourful central market or going to a cozy café, club or pub. Overnight in Riga.

#### ● Day 4. Riga – Jurmala (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Riga City Tour by bus and walking tour. 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. Lunch at restaurant. 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. Transfer back. Overnight in Riga.

#### ● Day 5. Riga – Rundale Palace – Hill of Crosses – Vilnius (B, L)

Breakfast. Departure to Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. Stop in the Rundale Palace (66 km from Riga), this Palace (18th cent.) is 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. You will be impressed by the authentic beauty the Golden Hall, the White Hall, private quarters of the Duke of Courland Johan Ernst Biron. Interiors are decorated with authentic 18th century furniture, paintings and china. To complete your impressions have an enjoyable walk in a beautiful French-style park. Lunch en route. Stop at the famous Hill of Crosses near Siauliai (30 km from the Rundale Palace). The Hill of Crosses, a unique historic place in the world. It is probably the best place to get acquainted with cross-making, a branch of Lithuanian folk art, which was inscribed on the UNESCO Non-material and Verbal Heritage Masterpiece List. 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 Vilnius. Overnight in Vilnius.

#### ● Day 6. Vilnius (B, L)

Breakfast at the 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. Free afternoon in Vilnius. Many tourists after visiting Vilnius and its region tend to fall in love with Vilnius, pegging it as their favorite Baltic city of

them all. Vilnius Old Town is one of the biggest in Eastern Europe, there more than 1500 buildings which remained from various centuries: city boasts the most wonderful architectural styles of Southern and Western Europe, Gothic and Renaissance, as well as the original “Lithuanian” Baroque, also called the last vivid flash of Baroque in Europe. Overnight in Vilnius.

### ● Day 7. Vilnius – Trakai (B, L)

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning 4-hour-tour to Trakai former capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, 27 km to the west of Vilnius, is a favourite place for an outing. The Trakai Castle situated on an island in the midst of Lake Galve is the most famous and most photographed 15th cent. castle. Standing on an island in 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. Lunch at local restaurant in Trakai. Transfer back to Vilnius. Overnight in Vilnius.

### ● Day 8. Vilnius (B)

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