

BALTIC CULTURAL JEWELS

10 days
9 nights

4
countries

travel type
Cultural



Holy Spirit Church clock

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: 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 in 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 (355 km from Tallinn). 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 at restaurant in Sigulda. Evening arrival to Riga. Overnight in Riga.

● **Day 4. Riga – Jurmala (B, L)**

Breakfast at hotel. 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 colourful 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. Lunch at restaurant in Old town. Afternoon exploring of Jurmala (25 km, 3 h.) – the largest seaside and spa resort in the Baltic States. The town is known for its curative mineral waters, pine forests and sand dunes. The town's architecture is represented by many styles including unique wooden architecture of classicism, Art Nouveau and national romanticism. Overnight in Riga.

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

Breakfast at hotel. 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. After crossing the border of Lithuania you will visit 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 – 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 7. Vilnius – Kaunas (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Kaunas (104 km from Vilnius). City tour in Kaunas, the second major city in Lithuania. 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. Lunch at restaurant in Old town. Afternoon continues with a visit of the Church and Monastery of Pazaislis, an outstanding example of mature Baroque architectural masterpiece in Eastern Europe. Overnight in Kaunas.

● Day 8. Kaunas – Warsaw (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Warsaw (404 km from Kaunas), the capital of Poland. Lunch en route. Arrival to Warsaw. Overnight in Warsaw.

● Day 9. Warsaw (B, D)

Breakfast at hotel. Morning City tour, including Castle Square, the southern gateway to Warsaw's Old Town, where there is a monument to Sigismund III Vasa, the King who moved the capital from Krakow to Warsaw, the interior of the splendid baroque Royal Castle, St John's Cathedral, Warsaw's oldest church, the picturesque Old Town Square that combines elements of Renaissance, baroque, Gothic and neoclassical design as well as the imposing Barbican and city walls. In the afternoon tour to Wilanow Palace & Park, often called "small Versailles", the summer residence of King John Sobieski, the one who defeated Turks at the gate of Vienna in the 17th century. Magnificent interiors include furniture and china from the period, and a gallery of Polish portraits. Palace is surrounded by beautiful park with a variety of landscapes: English park, Italian Baroque garden and rose garden. Farewell dinner and overnight in Warsaw.

● Day 10. Warsaw (B)

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