

BALTIC STATES AND FINLAND

8 days
7 nights

4
countries

travel type
Cultural

This 8-day trip brings you to one of the least travelled European regions – the Baltic States – and ends in Helsinki, the green Finish capital. All Baltic capitals are beautiful in their own way and all of them are included into the UNESCO World Heritage list. Although many people confuse the three Baltic States, there are significant differences between their capitals that you will discover:

- Vilnius Old Town with outstanding examples of the last vivid flash of Baroque in Europe.
- Fascinating art nouveau architecture in Riga.
- Cozy, fairytale-like Tallinn – one of the best-preserved medieval towns in the world.
- – Venture outside the capitals to see some extraordinary sites: the town on water, Trakai, the Hill of Crosses with more than 100,000 wooden crosses.
- Relax in Jurmala – Latvian seaside resort and relax in possibly the best white, sandy beach in Northern Europe.
- Cross the Baltic Sea to visit Helsinki, the Finish capital built on the crossroads of Western and Eastern culture.

DESCRIPTION

● Day 1. Vilnius

Arrival to Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. Free evening 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. Overnight: Vilnius

● Day 2, 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 3, Vilnius – Hill of Crosses – Rundale Palace – Riga

Highlights: Hill of Crosses, Rundale Palace This morning you will travel towards the Latvian capital and make two stops to see remarkable sights on the way. The first stop at the famous 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. After crossing the border of Latvia, you will visit 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. Meals: B + L Overnight: Riga

● Day 4, 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 5, Riga – Gauja National Park – Tallinn

Highlights: ruins of Turaida castle This morning we will travel to the Estonian capital and make one stop at the Gauja National Park on the way. 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. Free evening in Tallinn. Meals: B+L Overnight: Tallinn

● Day 6, Tallinn

Highlights: Tallinn city tour, Kadriorg palace Join the 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. Excursion will continue in 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. Meals: B+L Overnight: Tallinn

● Day 7, Tallinn – Helsinki

Highlights: Helsinki city tour, Suomenlinna Fortress Today you will travel across the Baltic Sea by ferry to Helsinki. Helsinki is truly located at the crossroads of Western and Eastern culture and it is reflected everywhere in the green and lively Finnish capital. Helsinki sightseeing tour takes us around the harbours, up central Mannerheim Street and by the Parliament Building, the Finlandia Hall, market square, and the Sibelius Monument and for a visit at the famous Church-in the-Rock. Afternoon visit at Suomenlinna Fortress, built in the 18th century by Sweden on a group of islands located at the entrance of Helsinki’s harbour. This fortress is an especially interesting example of European military architecture of the time. Meals: B+L Overnight: Helsinki

● Day 8. Helsinki

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to the airport. Departure.