

FROM POLAND TO LATVIA BY THE BALTIC COAST

10 days
9 nights

4
countries

travel type
Cultural

This is an atypical travel itinerary that brings travelers to the lesser known but still interesting part of Europe – from Lithuania and Latvia, to Kaliningrad in Russia, and later to Gdansk in Poland. Most of the trip goes around the Baltic Sea and allows travelers to appreciate its beautiful coast:

- Enjoy an excellent beach in Jurmala (the best seaside resort in the Baltic States), as well as Sopot and Gdynia in Poland.
- Admire the high dunes and pine forest of the Curonian Spit – a UNESCO Heritage site located in the territory of two countries – Lithuania and Russia.
- Find your own piece of amber in the Yantarny Amber Mine in the Kaliningrad region where 90% of the world's amber comes from.
- Discover 2 Baltic Capitals – Art Nouveau Riga and Baroque Vilnius, both UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- Visit colorful Gdansk, the oldest city in Poland with a fascinating history.

DESCRIPTION

● Day 1, Riga

Highlights: Riga Old Town Upon arrival to Riga airport you will be transferred to your hotel and then have free time to enjoy Riga old town on your own. The city's inimitable visage is formed by the largely intact medieval architecture of Riga's Old Town and the richness of Art Nouveau architecture. Start your acquaintance with this UNESCO World Heritage site by having a relaxed stroll along narrow streets, past colourful buildings and majestic Gothic cathedrals. Try some local dishes and beer in one of the cosy restaurants, which you might discover on your own or choose one of our recommendations. Overnight: Riga

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

Highlights: Rundale Palace, Hill of Crosses This morning you will travel towards the Lithuanian capital 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 visit 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. Free evening in Vilnius. Meals: B+L Overnight: Riga

● Day 4, 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 5, Vilnius – Pazaislis Monastery – Kaunas - Klaipeda

Highlights: Pazaislis Monastery, Kaunas city tour This morning you depart towards Lithuanian seaside and make two stops to see some remarkable sights on the ways: Pazaislis Monastery – a masterpiece of mature Baroque architectural located on the picturesque bank of the Kaunas Lagoon. Kaunas – the second biggest city in Lithuania. The walking city tour will show you 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. 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 6, Klaipeda – Curonian Spit – Kaliningrad

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. In the evening you will cross the border between EU and Russia and spend an evening in the most Western part of Russia – Kaliningrad. Meals: B+L Overnight: Kaliningrad

● Day 7, Kaliningrad

Highlights: Kaliningrad city tour, Svetlogorsk, Yantarny amber factory Your day will start with Kaliningrad city tour to hear about 600 years of the city history and how people of different nationalities shaped the look of the city. You will see main historical highlights including the Konigsberg Cathedral, Amber museum and Immanuel Kant museum, the city's most famous former resident. Afternoon visit of Svetlogorsk – Russian seaside on the Baltic coast. This area was very popular with German vacationers in the 19th century who would come to this spa town to take in the sea air and therapeutic waters. During our visit we can see the Art Nouveau bath house, 19th century water tower or just stroll along the beautiful tree lined avenues and the

promenade. Next we drive to Yantarny to learn more about the history of this amber mining region. Did you know that 90% of the world's amber comes from the only amber factory in the world located in Yantarny town? Here you'll have the chance to find your own piece to take home as a souvenir and we'll stop at an amber mine canteen where you'll have the opportunity to taste an authentic Russian lunch. Meals: B+L Overnight: Kaliningrad

● Day 8, Kaliningrad – Malbork Castle - Gdansk

Highlights: Malbork Castle This morning we travel to Gdansk, Poland. En route we will visit the impressive Malbork Castle. Built by the Teutonic Knights it's an outstanding example of the castles that were created all over medieval Europe to help protect the frontiers. It is the largest castle in the world by surface area, the largest brick building in Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Free evening in Gdansk. In this distinctive maritime city you will not feel like in the rest of Poland. Its architecture has been influenced by the wealthy merchants that have passed through the city's port, as well as the Prussian Teutonic Knights and Slavic Poland. Meals: B+L Overnight: Gdansk

● Day 9, Gdansk - Sopot - Gdynia

Highlights: Gdansk city tour, Sopot pier, Gdynia harbour, Westerplatte Monument Today you will explore Gdansk and its picturesque surroundings. Gdansk city tour will introduce you to almost 1000 years of the city history and show the main sights of destroyed and later restored Old Town during the WW2. If you have not bought a nice piece of amber jewellery, yet, you can definitely pick something at Mariacka Street, famous for its terraces full of amber jewellery. In the afternoon you will visit neighbouring seaside resorts – Sopot and Gdynia. Walking along the pier and admire Art Nouveau architecture in Sopot and continue to the leading Polish port – Gdynia with a beautiful frigate "Gift of Pomerania". On the way back you will stop at the place where World War II started. Here you will see the Westerplatte Monument commemorating the heroic defence of Poles against Nazis. Meals: B+L Overnight: Gdansk

● Day 10. Gdansk

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to the airport. Departure.