

BALTIC STATES AND KALININGRAD

10 days
9 nights

4
countries

travel type
Cultural



DESCRIPTION

● Day 1. Riga (D)

Arrival to Riga, the capital of Latvia. Bus transfer to the hotel. Welcome dinner and overnight in Riga.

● Day 2. 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 colorful 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 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 3. Riga – Rundale Palace – Hill of Crosses – Vilnius (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Vilnius (380 km from Riga). Stop at the Rundale Palace (66 km from Riga), 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. Interiors are decorated with authentic 18th century furniture and paintings. To complete your impressions have an enjoyable walk in a beautiful French-style park. Lunch en route. Stop at the famous Hill of Crosses, a unique historic place in the world. 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 and check-in at the hotel. Overnight in Vilnius.

● Day 4. 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 5. Vilnius – Pazaislis – Kaunas - Klaipeda (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Klaipeda (330 km from Vilnius). Stop at the Church and Monastery of Pazaislis (7 km from Kaunas) to see one of the most wonderful mature Baroque architectural masterpieces in north-eastern Europe. The monastery is located on the picturesque bank of the Kaunas Lagoon. Drive to Kaunas, the second largest city in Lithuania. Lunch at restaurant. City Tour of Kaunas. Kaunas is the second major city in Lithuania, known for the beautiful Old Town. 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. Further drive to Klaipeda. Overnight in Klaipeda.

● Day 6. Klaipeda – Nida – Kaliningrad (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Morning Klaipeda City Tour (1 h.) helps to explore a cosy Old Town with merchants' houses, the ruins of Klaipeda Castle, Theatre Square with the statue named after a girl, Ann from Tharau, the heroine of a famous German love song, created by the 17th century German poet Simon Dach, born in Klaipeda. Departure to the Curonian Spit. The Spit lies between the Curonian Lagoon and the Baltic Sea. It is a UNESCO World Heritage sight famous for its chains of North Europe's highest dunes and charming fisherman Curonian houses. Five

fishermen villages are summer resorts boasting white sand beaches, clean sea water, sunlit pinewoods, as well as cultural landmarks. Visit to the Hill of Witches boasting a collection of sculptures with characters from Lithuanian folklore and pagan traditions. Lunch en route. Excursion in Nida village, the Lithuanian sea resort includes a climb up the Great Dune to see breathtaking view. Visit to the Amber Gallery – Museum to learn about the history of amber in this region and observe how amber jewellery is made. Departure to Kaliningrad (95 km from Nida). Overnight in Kaliningrad.

● Day 7. Kaliningrad (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Morning Kaliningrad City tour. You will see main historical highlights including the Cathedral, symbol of Kaliningrad and Immanuel Kant museum, Amber museum, the city's most famous former resident. Lunch at restaurant. Afternoon visit to the most beautiful resort of Zamland peninsula Svetlogorsk on the Baltic coast. There you can enjoy the town's tree-lined streets, pine woods and beaches as well as visiting a former Catholic Church where organ concerts are held daily in the summer, the Brakhert sculpture park, 19th century Water Tower and Art Nouveau bathhouse, you can take a walk along the promenade. During the excursion to Yantarnij will learn more from the history of Amber mining, buy nice souvenirs and enjoy good Yantarny beaches. Transfer back. Overnight in Kaliningrad.

● Day 8. Kaliningrad – Gdansk (B, D)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Gdansk (200 km from Kaliningrad). On the way stop to visit the Malbork Castle of the Teutonic Order a unique, perfectly planned architectural creation, with no equivalent in Gothic architecture. It is also the largest castle in the world by surface area, the largest brick building in Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Further drive to Gdansk. Dinner and overnight in Gdansk.

● Day 9. Gdansk (B, D)

Breakfast at hotel. Day tour of the so called Tri-city, Gdansk, Sopot and Gdynia. You will start the acquaintance of this area in the historical part of Gdansk, the beautiful Hanseatic City, where you will see Green Gate, Long Market, 15th century meeting hall of the merchants – Artus Court, symbol of Gdansk – Neptun's Fountain, Town hall, St. Mary's Church – the biggest brick church in the world, Mariacka Street, famous for its terraces full of amber jewellery, waterfront canal with The Crane – the biggest crane of medieval Europe. We will stop at the monument to the Shipyard Workers in Solidarnosc Square – starting point of the battle for democracy in Europe. Short stop for the organ music concert in Oliwa Cathedral. Tour continues to the Baltic seaside resort of Sopot. Walking along the pier. Free time. Afternoon sightseeing tour of Gdynia, the leading Polish port with its sailing ship "Dar Pomorza" and battleship "Blyskawica". On the way back to Gdansk you will stop by the Vistula River estuary to see the Westerplatte Monument, erected in the place where World War II started. Westerplatte is a symbolical place commemorating the heroic defence of Poles against Nazis. Dinner and overnight in Gdansk.

● Day 10. Gdansk (B)

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to the airport. Departure.