

GRAND BALTIC SEA ADVENTURE

15 days
14 nights

6
countries

31
objects

travel type
Cultural



DESCRIPTION

● Day 1. Vilnius (D)

Arrival to Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. Bus transfer to the hotel. 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. Welcome dinner and overnight in Vilnius.

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

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Riga (380 km from Vilnius), the capital of Latvia. Stop at the famous Hill of Crosses near Šiauliai (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. Lunch en route. After crossing the border of Latvia, you will visit the Rundale Palace (30 km from Hill of Crosses). The 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. 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 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. 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 – Turaida Castle – Tallinn (B, L)**

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Tallinn (355 km from Riga), the capital of Estonia. Stop at the Gauja National Park, Sigulda city (70 km from Riga) 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 Tallinn. Overnight in Tallinn.

● **Day 6. 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. 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 7. Tallinn – Helsinki (B, L)**

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Helsinki by ferry (1,5h) across the Baltic Sea. Helsinki is truly located at the crossroads of Western and Eastern culture and it is reflected everywhere in the green and lively Finnish capital. Lunch at restaurant. Afternoon visit at Suomenlinna Fortress, built in the second half of 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. Overnight in Helsinki.

● Day 8. Helsinki – Turku (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Morning Helsinki sightseeing tour takes us around the harbors, 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. Lunch at restaurant. In the afternoon departure to Turku (170km, approx. 2,5 h). Turku is an old medieval European city with it's cozy cobblestone streets, the medieval market square, the castle and the cathedral built in the 13th century, and fortified with stone in the 14th and 15th centuries. But also it is a modern vibrant city. In the summer Turku overflows with events and festivals like tango, middle age, music, theatre, art, design and much more Evening free and overnight in Turku.

● Day 9. Turku – Stockholm (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Morning city tour of Turku. Turku city tour provides overall picture of the city's history and sights (3 h). During the tour you will walk the cobblestone streets around the Old Town and visit the Cathedral of Turku, the medieval Castle – largest in Finland, the Market square and Hall, the magnificent Main Library. Lunch at restaurant. In the afternoon transfer to the cruise harbor and cruise to Stockholm by ferry (315km, approx. 11 h.). Overnight on board of ferry.

● Day 10. Stockholm (B, L)

Breakfast on board. Morning City tour by bus and a walking tour of Stockholm (3 h). Stockholm – the beauty on the water – protected from the sea by Skargarden, the Stockholm archipelago. During the excursion you will walk through the Old Town, where you will pass narrow streets and alleys of the medieval part of the city. The excursion continues through the central parts of the modern Stockholm – City Hall where annual banquet held after Nobel Prize award ceremony. Lunch at restaurant. Acquaintance of the Stockholm continues with visits to Vasa Museum and Skansen museum. Vasa museum is Scandinavia's most visited attraction. In the large ship hall stands the warship Vasa – the only remaining, intact 17th century ship in the world. The lower rig of it has been rebuilt, complete with masts, stays and shrouds. Skansen is the world's largest outdoor museum. It is a Swedish town looked like in the mid-19th century. Second part of museum includes visit of the Zoo with Nordic wild animals like the brown bear, elk and lynx. Overnight in Stockholm.

● Day 11. Stockholm – Uppsala – Sigtuna – Skokloster Castle – Stockholm (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Uppsala (71km, approx. 1 h). Morning sightseeing tour of Uppsala town starts in front of the grand Gothic Uppsala Cathedral, Scandinavia's largest and tallest cathedral from 1270. During the tour you will pass by the Uppsala University, Sweden's oldest university, which dates back to 1477, continue by the university library Carolina Rediviva with the famous Silver Bible, the Botanical Garden with the grand Linneanum and end at Uppsala Castle. Lunch en route. Further drive to Sigtuna, Sweden's oldest town, founded in the 10th century. Today it is a cozy town of narrow streets, colorful wooden houses, plenty of restaurants and hotels, classy souvenir shops and galleries. During the sightseeing tour of the Sigtuna you will see the gothic St. Mary's church, the ruins of the ancient churches, Old Town Hall, which is Europe's smallest city hall and runestones that are scattered through the town. Visit at nearby located Skokloster Castle, a one of the main attractions in the region, former residence of one of Gustav II Adolf's generals. The castle interior from the mid 17th century has been kept completely intact. Transfer back to Stockholm. Overnight in Stockholm.

● Day 12. Stockholm – Kalmar (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Kalmar (315km, approx. 5 h). Stop at Näs, the birthplace of Astrid Lindgren. Visit Astrid Lindgren's childhood home, the permanent exhibition that presents her life and works and walk in the gardens – “a fairy tale without end”. Lunch at restaurant. Further drive to Kalmar. Arrival at Kalmar, small but cozy and beautiful port town, one of the oldest Swedish cities. Visit at Kalmar's biggest attraction, the Kalmar Slott, the castle that withstood many over the course of a century. Today the Castle is a tourist center and museum. Overnight in Kalmar.

● Day 13. Kalmar – Malmö – Copenhagen (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Copenhagen (330km, approx. 5 h). Lunch at restaurant in Malmö. After lunch a canal tour in Malmö. Cruise on a boat through the canals and under the bridges and see the city how it looks from different side. The guide onboard will provide a good insight into Swedish history, important persons, and buildings. Free time to explore the old town of Malmö at your own. Do not miss Stora Torget and Lilla Torget, the city's main squares where you'll find lots of good shops and coffee-bars. Further drive to Copenhagen across The Øresund Bridge, an approximately 16 km long road and rail link between Sweden and Denmark. Overnight in Copenhagen.

● Day 14. Copenhagen (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. After breakfast morning Copenhagen city tour (approx. 3 hours) is an excellent way to see main highlights of the city including Christiansborg Palace, home to the Danish Parliament, the Old Stock Exchange, Royal Theatre, Tivoli Gardens, the colorful harbor district of Nyhavn and Amalienborg Palace – Winter residence of the Royal Family to see the changing of the Guard and followed by a stop by world-famous Little Mermaid, inspired by H. C. Andersen's fairytale. Lunch at restaurant. In the afternoon our tour continues through the magnificent Danish countryside and pass the coastline to Helsingør and Kronborg Castle. It is quite easy to understand why William Shakespeare chose Kronborg Castle as the setting for his famous play 'Hamlet'. Enjoy the beautiful surroundings and feel the atmosphere taken through the Chapel and the Knights' Hall (the longest room in Northern Europe) and the dark casemates. Transfer back to Copenhagen. Evening free and overnight in Copenhagen.

● Day 15. Copenhagen (B)

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to the airport. Departure.