



The Baltics: Walking Tours, Art, and Architecture

DURATION | 10 Days

TRIP LEVEL | Moderate

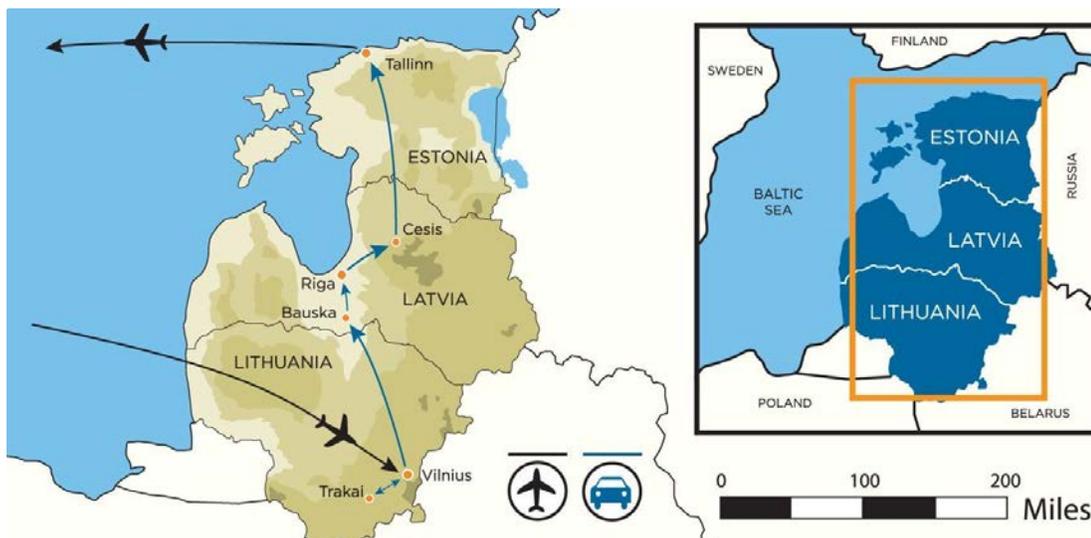
Trip Overview

Embark on a journey through Vilnius, Riga, and Tallinn to explore the richness of the Baltic region. In Vilnius, Lithuania's capital, you'll be captivated by Gothic, baroque, and neoclassical architecture, showcasing resilience against historical challenges. Marvel at the Vilnius Cathedral, St. Anne's Church, and Vilnius University. Riga, Latvia's capital, enchants with its well-preserved medieval architecture and vibrant Art Nouveau district. Visit the University of Latvia, Dome Cathedral, and St. Peter's Church. Tallinn, Estonia's jewel, charms you with its medieval allure, embodied by its well-preserved Old Town and towering spires. Explore the limestone hill of Toompea, the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the Dome Church, Seaplane Harbor, and Telliskivi Creative Hub. Each city invites you to immerse yourself in its unique character and historical significance. This journey blends history, architecture, and culture, promising you a rewarding and unforgettable adventure.

Trip Highlights

- Explore Vilnius with its museums, galleries, theaters, and creative atmosphere.
- Visit Riga's Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with its medieval and Art Nouveau architecture.
- Discover Tallinn's Old Town, famous for its medieval architecture and cobblestone streets, and enjoy the traditional and modern culinary innovations of the Baltics.

Map View



Arrival: Arrive in Vilnius, Lithuania (VNO) on Day 1 after 12:00 PM.

Departure: Depart from Tallinn, Estonia (TLL) on Day 10 at any time.



Trip Itinerary



Day 1

Arrive in Vilnius, Lithuania

Arrive in Vilnius, Lithuania (VNO). A group transfer from the airport to the hotel will be provided upon the arrival of most guests (exact time to be determined), with private transfers available for purchase at other times. Enjoy a lively welcome dinner of traditional favorites at a local restaurant as you get to know your fellow travelers.

Meals: dinner | Overnight: Artagonist Hotel



Artagonist Hotel

Artagonist, set in a 500-year-old building in Vilnius' Old Town, is adorned with handmade Lithuanian artworks. The lobby, bar, and restaurant feature contemporary murals and sculptures. The hotel is centrally located near Vilnius University, Cathedral Square, and other key attractions.

AMENITIES: flat-screen TV with satellite channels, tea/coffee maker, mini-bar, in-room safe, slippers, hairdryer, complimentary toiletries, free WiFi, air-conditioning

Trip Itinerary



Day 2

Explore Vilnius, Lithuania

Founded in 1323, Vilnius has withstood attacks by Crusaders, Crimean Tatars, Russians, Napoleon's armies, Poles, and Germans. Despite this, structures in Gothic, baroque, Renaissance, and neo-classical styles still stand today. The neo-classical Vilnius Cathedral hides a long history, with ancient crypts, foundations of earlier churches, and hidden church jewels discovered in the 1960s. St. Anne's Church, built around 1500, represents the pinnacle of Gothic architecture in Lithuania with its 33 different kinds of brick and an elegant exterior. Established in 1579, Vilnius University evolved into a significant scientific and cultural center, enduring closure by Moscow from 1832 to 1917, and now enrolling over 14,000 students. Enjoy a meal of traditional favorites at a local restaurant. After lunch, explore independently, and dinner will be on your own tonight.

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: Artagonist Hotel



Trip Itinerary



Day 3

Explore Trakai, Lithuania

Drive to the 14th-century town of Trakai, one of Lithuania's early capitals, featuring two lakeside castles. The peninsula castle, destroyed in the 17th century, remains in ruins, while the restored island castle on Lake Galve showcases Brick Gothic style and historical charm. Visit the Karaite Museum, established in 1938, to learn about Lithuania's Crimean Karaites, brought by Vytautas the Great 600 years ago, who practice a unique form of Judaism. The museum preserves their heritage through artifacts, photos, books, costumes, textiles, and household items. Participate in a hands-on Karaite cooking class to make kosher kybyn, a Turkish-influenced pastry, and enjoy your creations afterward. Visit the KGB Museum (Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights) in the former District Court Building's basement on Lukiskiu Square, where many Lithuanians were interrogated before deportation to Siberia. Return to your hotel and explore the diverse dining choices in the area for an independent dinner tonight.

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: Artagonist Hotel



Trip Itinerary



Day 4

Head to Riga, Latvia via Bauska

After breakfast, start your journey to Riga with a lunch stop at a restaurant offering traditional specialties. Visit Mazā Muiža, or Little Manor, a charming brick building showcasing historically accurate costumes from the 18th and 19th centuries, where you can explore the “Magic Wardrobe” for fun photo opportunities. Next, tour the baroque Rundale Palace, designed by Rastrelli in the early 18th century, featuring around 40 rococo rooms. Originally the Duke of Courland’s residence, it has had various owners and purposes before its 1972 restoration. Continue to Riga, complete your hotel check-in, and enjoy some time exploring the area. Discover diverse dining options and enjoy dinner at your leisure.

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: Neiburgs Hotel



Neiburgs Hotel

Situated in an authentic Art Nouveau building, the Neiburgs Hotel offers refurbished rooms equipped with contemporary amenities within a magnificent Old World European setting. Each room provides a view of Riga's Old Town and is conveniently located near many of the city's primary attractions. The hotel's on-site restaurant serves a blend of modern Latvian and international cuisine. Additionally, there is a spa facility within the hotel for guests to enjoy.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, minibar, flatscreen TV, Wi-Fi, air-conditioning



Trip Itinerary



Day 5

Explore Riga, Latvia: Riga's Historic Town Center

Riga's Historic Town Center, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1997, has rebounded remarkably from the damages of both world wars and Soviet neglect. Today, it stands as Latvia's vibrant hub for arts, architecture, and nightlife. Your tour highlights the University of Latvia, Dome Cathedral, the Gothic spire of St. Peter's Church, the Great Guild Hall, the Three Brothers (the oldest stone residential building), and Riga Castle (partially closed to tourism and on the World Monuments Watch List). Enjoy a group lunch at a traditional restaurant before exploring the Riga National Opera House, affectionately known as the "White House." Completed in 1863 by German architect Ludwig Bonstedt, this neo-classical theater, with its rich history including Richard Wagner's conductorship from 1837 to 1839, will be showcased in a private tour. Return to your hotel and enjoy dinner at your leisure tonight.

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: Neiburgs Hotel



Trip Itinerary



Day 6

Art Nouveau Culture in Riga

Start your day with a walking tour of Riga's stunning Art Nouveau architecture, recognized by UNESCO as the finest in Europe. Explore buildings designed by Mikhail Eisenstein, adorned with intricate sculptures and nature-inspired motifs. Then, visit Riga's Central Market, Europe's largest, housed in 1920s Zeppelin hangars. Experience over 3,000 vendors, diverse cuisines, and a vibrant atmosphere. In the afternoon, visit Studio Natural, where textile artist Laima Kaugure creates luxurious linen using traditional techniques. End the day with a group dinner, enjoying local flavors and reflecting on the day's highlights.

Meals: breakfast, dinner | Overnight: Neiburgs Hotel



Trip Itinerary



Day 7

Journey to Tallinn, Estonia, via Cēsis

After breakfast, embark on a scenic drive from Latvia to Estonia with a delightful stop in the charming town of Cēsis. Celebrating its 800th anniversary in 2006, Cēsis is one of Latvia's oldest towns, known for its medieval castle founded by the Knights of the Sword. Explore this remarkably preserved fortress, built in 1214, and wander through its workshops and gardens. Stroll the winding, cobblestone lanes of Cēsis Old Town, where vibrant buildings like City Hall, the Merchant House, and the Princess House stand as enduring testaments to its medieval charm. Enjoy a group lunch at a local restaurant before heading to the Song Festival Grounds in Tallinn. This historic site, pivotal in Estonia's cultural identity and resistance against the Soviet Union, hosts a grand international festival every five years. Arrive in Tallinn, check into your hotel, and enjoy dinner on your own tonight.

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: My City Hotel



My City Hotel

Located in the heart of Tallinn and the medieval Old Town, My City offers a pleasant restaurant serving international cuisine, as well as a sauna and Jacuzzi.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, hairdryer, minibar, safe, cable TV, Wi-Fi, air-conditioning



Trip Itinerary



Day 8

Discover the Charm of Tallinn, Estonia

After breakfast, set out on a walking tour of Tallinn, renowned for having the best-preserved medieval Old Town in Eastern Europe. This UNESCO World Heritage site boasts winding cobble streets, red roofs, and a remaining turreted fortress wall, all embodying its historical allure. At the heart of the city, Toompea Hill rises nearly 90 feet above the rest of Tallinn, crowned by Toompea Castle, which Catherine the Great rebuilt over the 13th-century Knights of the Sword fortress. Explore the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, an ornate Russian Revival masterpiece completed in 1900, and appreciate the decision to restore it rather than demolish it post-independence. Visit Estonia's oldest church, the Lutheran Cathedral of St. Mary the Virgin (Dome Church), built in 1223 and later rebuilt in the 17th century. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, then spend the afternoon exploring independently. Dinner is on your own tonight.

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: My City Hotel



Trip Itinerary



Day 9

Discover Tallinn, Estonia

Begin your day with a visit to the largest maritime museum in the Baltics, located in a 1916 seaplane hangar where Charles Lindbergh once stopped. Explore fascinating exhibits, including a British-built 1930s submarine and a full-size replica of the WWI Short 184 seaplane. Next, embark on a food tour of Kalamaja, Tallinn's oldest district, guided by a local expert in Estonian cuisine. Sample offerings at the open-air market and enjoy local fruit liquors at the Telliskivi Creative Hub, a dynamic space for workshops, exhibitions, and dining. Located in a former Soviet railway factory, Telliskivi Creative City buzzes with over 200 artist studios, trendy shops, and a variety of restaurants, cafés, and craft beer bars. Spend the afternoon exploring independently, and wrap up your day with a memorable farewell dinner with your group.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: My City Hotel



Trip Itinerary



Day 10

Depart Tallinn, Estonia

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Tallinn airport (TLL). The transfer to the airport will be provided when most guests depart (exact time to be determined). Private transfers at other times are available for purchase.

What's Included

What's Included

- Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- All meals as listed in the itinerary
- All ground transportation
- One group transfer on arrival and departure
- Guided sightseeing and activities as indicated in the itinerary
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking guide(s) throughout the trip
- Bottled water
- One non alcoholic or one alcoholic drink (local beer/wine) or at the welcome and farewell dinners
- Gratuities for local guides and porters

Not Included

- International airfare to Lithuania and from Estonia
- Optional activities
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
- Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
- Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- Items of a personal nature
- Gratuities for the main guide and drivers

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

