



# **Highlights of the Baltics**

# 12 days

From historic Poland to the medieval beauty of the Baltics, you'll experience it all on this immersive tour. Start your trip in Warsaw, the shining city that rose from the ashes of World War II. Journey on to Vilnius, a multicultural Lithuanian capitol with a timeless historic center. Head north to Riga, Latvia, where you'll find ancient castles alongside Art Nouveau architecture, then continue on to the well-preserved landmarks of Tallinn, Estonia.



#### Your tour package includes

10 nights in handpicked hotels 10 breakfasts 5 dinners with beer or wine 7 sightseeing tours Expert Tour Director & local guides Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

Palace of Culture and Science Masurian Lake District Old Town Vilnius Hill of Crosses Rundale Palace Riga's Art Nouveau architecture Tallinn's Town Hall

### Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 2.5 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with some hills and stairs.

#### Group size

15-38

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# Overnight Flight → 1 night

#### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Warsaw today.

# Warsaw → 2 nights

#### Day 2: Arrival in Warsaw

Included meals: welcome dinner
Welcome to Poland! Meet your Tour Director
and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

#### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Warsaw

Included meals: breakfast

On a guided tour, get to know Warsaw, a city all but destroyed during World War II and painstakingly rebuilt since 1944.

- Enter the Palace of Culture and Science,
   Poland's tallest building, and take in sweeping views of the surrounding city
- See the Chopin Monument at Łazienki Park
- Visit the Jewish Ghetto and the Jewish Memorial
- Walk through the Old Town
- Discover Starego Miasta Square's Renaissance facades and Baroque townhouses

Enjoy a free afternoon in Warsaw or add an excursion.

+ Chopin Recital & Dinner

# Masurian Lake District → 1 night

## Day 4: Mikołajki & Masurian Lake cruise

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Travel to the UNESCO-recognized biosphere of the Masurian Lake District. Stop in Mikołajki, a resort town on Lake Sniardwy, to enjoy free time for lunch. Then, embark on a scenic cruise through the city's channels and into the lake. Sit down for an included dinner with your group this evening.

# Vilnius → 2 nights

# Day 5: Vilnius via Wolf's Lair

Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Leave Poland behind as you travel to Vilnius,
Lithuania. En route, stop to enter the infamous
Wolf's Lair, which served as Hitler's Eastern Front
headquarters during World War II.
In Vilnius, sit down to an included dinner with
your group.

#### Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Vilnius

Included meals: breakfast
Embark on a guided tour of Vilnius, the
Lithuanian capital.

- Enter St. Peter and St. Paul's Church
- Discover the Baroque, UNESCO-listed Old Town
- See Gediminas Castle, Vilnius Cathedral, St. Anne's Church, and Vilnius University
- View the 16th-century Gate of Dawn Enjoy a free afternoon in Vilnius or add an excursion
- + Trakai Island Castle

## **Riga** $\rightarrow$ 3 nights

# Day 7: Riga via the Hill of Crosses & Rundale Palace

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Travel to Riga, Latvia, stopping en route to visit the Hill of Crosses, a Lithuanian pilgrimage site. You'll also stop for a guided tour of Rundale Palace and its gardens. The site is distinguished as the largest Baroque castle in the Baltics and is the former summer residence of the Duke of Courland.

In Riga, sit down to an included dinner with your group.

#### Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Riga

Included meals: breakfast

Get an insider's perspective of Riga, the center of Latvian politics and culture, with a local guide leading the way.

- Walk through Vecriga, Riga's Old Town
- Take in medieval sights like St. Peter's Church and Riga Castle
- Head to the New Town for a look at the Freedom Monument
- Explore the city's striking, UNESCOrecognized Art Nouveau district

Enjoy a free afternoon in Riga or add an excursion.

+ Cultural Traditions of the Latvian Countryside

#### Day 9: Free day in Riga

Included meals: breakfast
Spend the day exploring Riga on your own or add an excursion.

+ Old-World Latvia: Castles Valleys & Villages

## **Tallinn** $\rightarrow$ 2 nights

#### Day 10: Travel to Tallinn

Included meals: breakfast
Today, motor through the breathtaking
countryside on your way to Tallinn.

#### Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Tallinn

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner Uncover the charms of Tallinn on a guided sightseeing tour.

- Travel through the ancient stone gates of the Old Town
- View Toomkirik Cathedral, a Lutheran church founded in the 13th century
- See Town Hall Square and Toompea Castle, home of the Estonian Parliament
- · Visit Alexander Nevsky Cathedral

Then, join your group at a farewell dinner this evening.

# Flight Home

## Day 12: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: **goaheadtours.ca/STR | 1-800-754-5066** 

#### Day 3: Chopin Recital & Dinner

\$165CAD/\$175CAD\* (5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

This evening, enjoy a private recital featuring the music of Frédéric-François Chopin. Born in 1810, Chopin is widely considered the world's best composer for piano, an instrument that's featured prominently in his compositions. Tonight, experience Chopin's genius firsthand as a pianist plays some of his greatest masterpieces. Then, sample local specialties at one of Warsaw's finest restaurants during an included dinner.

#### Day 6: Trakai Island Castle

\$95CAD/\$105CAD\* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Discover Trakai Island Castle, located in the middle of Lake Galve, on this excursion. The red-brick castle has defended the western approaches to Vilnius since 1409. The castle fell into disrepair in the 17th century but has been lovingly restored, and today, it serves as both a cultural landmark and a scenic weekend escape for residents of Vilnius.

Please note: This excursion runs from April through October.

# Day 8: Cultural Traditions of the Latvian Countryside

\$89CAD/\$99CAD\* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Travel to the open-air Ethnographical Museum, located on scenic Lake Jugla. A tour guide leads you through the 100-acre museum, which is home to more than 100 reassembled, traditional Latvian buildings that showcase rural life in the 18th-century. From farmsteads and churches to windmills and fishing villages, the museum's exhibits bring Lativian history's everyday scenes to life with stunning accuracy. After spending some time exploring, make your way back to Riga.

## Day 9: Old-World Latvia: Castles Valleys & Villages

\$130CAD/\$140CAD\* (8 hours, departs in the morning)

Experience the rural beauty of the Latvian countryside on a journey to the town of Sigulda, called "the Switzerland of Latvia" for its rolling green scenery and famous caves. Upon arrival in Sigulda, embark on a sightseeing tour that includes a visit to the 13th-century ruins of Sigulda Castle, destroyed during the Great Northern War. Continue toward the picturesque Gauja Valley to see the Gutman Cave, which extends more than 62 feet into the rock and is the largest cave in Latvia. Lastly, travel up to Turaida for a visit to the majestic Turaida Castle, built in 1214 by Albert of Riga. Explore the grounds and exhibitions at your leisure, and eat lunch during free time before returning to Riga.