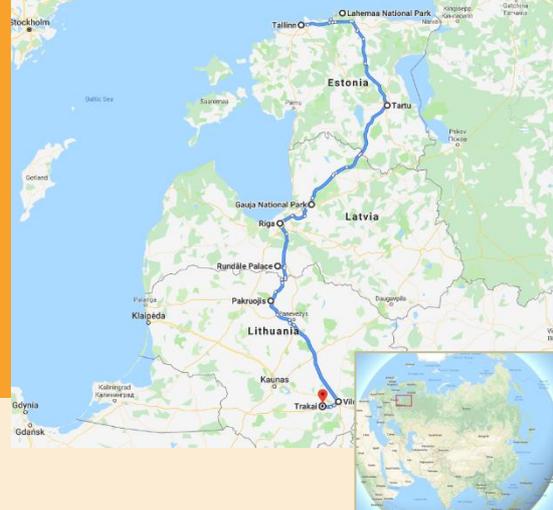


JAANIPÄEV FESTIVAL IN THE BALTIC STATES

2020

TALLINN – RIGA – VILNIUS

8 days 7 nights



Long before the arrival of Christianity, the festival of midsummer or Jaanipäev was an important celebration in the Baltic. Also known as Rasos in Lithuania or Liigo in Latvia, this is a tradition still in practise by most European countries, where is better known as St. John's day. In the Baltic, there is a number of communities that vowed to observe and preserve the original pagan rituals, and what better to do so than the longest night available in the year.

Day 1

Arrival in Tallinn.

Transfer to the hotel and check-in.

Lunch: - | **Dinner:** + | **Entrances:** - | **Overnight:** Tallinn

Day 2

Tallinn

Close to the city of Tallinn there is the complex by the sea known as Rocca al Mare. This is the home of Estonia's Open Air Museum, a large area containing some 70 structures collected from different regions of Estonia and illustrating 150 years of farming history. Here, you will experience the bonfire in celebration of Jaanipäev, a pagan tradition eventually adopted by the Christian faith, and now a national celebration of all the good things nature has to offer!

Lunch: + | **Dinner:** - | **Entrances:** Open air museum Rocca al Mare | **Overnight:** Tallinn

Day 3

Tallinn – Lahemaa National Park – Tartu

Lahemaa with its craggy coves, quiet forests, moors and charming fishing villages is a dream of many hikers. During a tour through the narrow small paths of the park you come across a beautifully restored old farmhouses. The magnificent Palmse manor is like a pearl of the National Park.

After entertaining Lahemaa tour, there is a degustation of 5 different sorts of vodka and you hear stories about traditions how to drink vodka. Taste also freshly baked black rye bread, pickles and salted pork – all the snacks that suit perfectly to vodka.

Lunch: - | **Dinner:** + | **Entrances:** Palmse Manor | **Overnight:** Tartu

Day 4

Tartu – Gauja National Park – Riga

Tartu old town houses the St. John's Church, the oldest brick church in Estonia; the neoclassical City Hall from the 17th Century; the Cathedral Hill ("Toomemägi") which impresses with picturesque ruins of the dome church. As well as the ramparts and towers, were built by Swedish and Russian and many more.

Gauja National Park visit with entrance to Turaida castle - following the classic Livonian red-brick style of construction.

Lunch: - | **Dinner:** + | **Entrances:** Turaida Castle | **Overnight:** Riga



Day 5

Riga – Jurmala – Riga

City Tour in Riga.

During city tour you will see the Cathedral, St. Peter's Church, the Powder Tower, the Small and the Great Guild, the House of Blackheads, the "Three Brothers" and etc. You will have a chance to visit Grand Central Market - today this is one of the Europe's largest markets.

Later - Riga's Black Balsam tasting, which is a dark liqueur flavoured with a number of herbs, including linden flower, pepper, ginger, valerian among others.

At the end of the day – short visit to Jurmala, a resort town located 25 km from the capital Riga.

Lunch: - | Dinner: + | Entrances: Dom Cathedral | Overnight: Riga



Day 6

Riga – Rundale – Pakruojis – Vilnius

Today awaits a visit to Rūndale Palace. It is to Latvia what Versailles is to France or L'Hermitage is to Russia.

Later heading for beer tasting at Pakruojis Manor House. Pakruojis manor "Žaldokas" is perhaps the only one who is brewing beer at the authentic wooden vats and barrels in Lithuania. Here guests can learn and get acquainted with regulations of the Baron and history of the highly appreciated beer and brewery.

Lunch: - | Dinner: + | Entrances: Rundale Palace | Overnight: Vilnius



Day 7

Vilnius – Trakai – Vilnius

City Tour in Vilnius.

During city tour you will see Cathedral of St. Stanislav and St. Vladislav, St. Peter and Paul Church, Gate of Dawn Chapel and St. Teresa's church, Town Hall, Pilies street and etc.

After City tour a short excursion to Trakai awaits. Here, Trakai castle is the only Gothic water castle in Europe that survived from the 14th century.

OPTIONAL: Hot air ballooning.

Lunch: - | Dinner: + | Entrances: Trakai Castle | Overnight: Vilnius



Day 8

Departure from Tallinn.

Lunch: - | Dinner: - | Entrances: - | Overnight: -

*We make the product, you make the sale,
and we do the rest while you rest in complete harmony!*