

MINSK. BALTICS. ST.PETERSBURG

Minsk – Vilnius – Riga – Tallinn – St.Petersburg
13 days / 12 Nights

Day 1: MINSK

Arrival in Minsk. Transfer to the hotel and check-in.

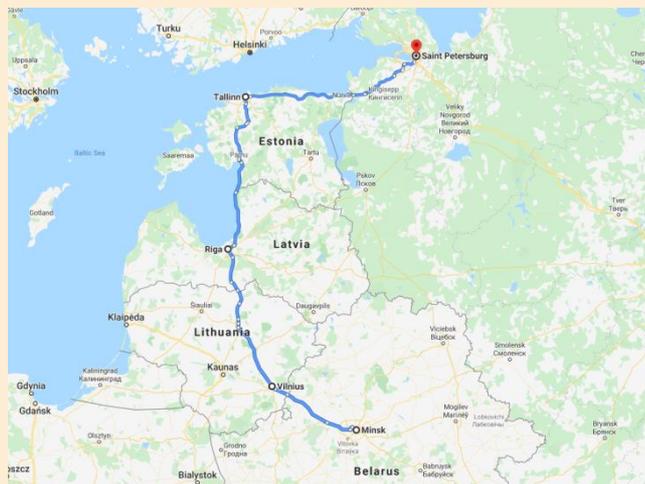
Day 2: MINSK

City tour of Minsk - Today you will walk through the historic heart of Minsk and admire the architecture of the city's churches. Sightseeing tour of Minsk includes the main avenues (Independence avenue, Victory avenue) and the architectural monuments of the XVIIth - XXth centuries (the Upper Town with the City Hall, Holy Spirit Cathedral and the Cathedral of Saint Virgin Mary, old streets of the Trinity Suburb). The Victory Monument and the National Library (included into the list of the most outstanding buildings of the world) are waiting to be explored. Visit to Museum of the Great Patriotic War.

Day 3: MINSK – MIR CASTLE – NESVIZH PALACE – MINSK

Transfer to **Mir**, which is a small town 90 km to the south-west from Minsk. It is most famous for the fairy-tale Mir Castle, still known today as the “medieval flower”. Castle is an impressive architectural monument, included into the list of World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. It was erected at the end of the XVth century and today it is a combination of Gothic, Baroque and Renaissance architecture that makes Mir Castle so unique. This red brick castle is also a historical monument, which used to belong to several aristocratic families, who have left their mark in the history of the town and of the country in general.

Excursion continues in **Nesvizh** – a delightful historic town, one of the oldest in the country. You will visit the magnificent Nesvizh Palace – former residence of the aristocratic Radzivil family, which also includes beautiful park and Farny Roman-Catholic Church of the XVIth century. The complex once numbered around 170 rooms, with a series of underground passages connecting it to the town's monasteries. Today the exposition of the Palace includes more than 30 exhibition halls, including Prince's apartments, Golden and Star halls, Hunter's hall and others.



Day 4: MINSK – VILNIUS

Transfer to Vilnius. Overnight in Vilnius

Day 5: VILNIUS– TRAKAI – VILNIUS

City tour in **Vilnius**. Vilnius is the Capital of Lithuania located in the center of Europe which is both contemporary and ancient, rich in architecture, historical monuments, culture heritage, thematic festivals and entertainments. There are many picturesque places to see in Vilnius: Cathedral square, Gediminas castle, Pilies street, many churches, Gate of Dawn etc. Afternoon transfer to Trakai. Trakai is the city situated between 3 lakes. It is well known for its natural beauty of landscapes, wildlife reserves, forests and the island castle on lake Galvė which is the only one of its kind in Europe.

Day 6: VILNIUS– HILL OF CROSSES – RUNDALE – RIGA

Lithuania's legendary **Hill of Crosses** is a symbol of defiance and part of a pilgrimage site. More than 200,000 crosses have been planted on this low hill. The tradition began during the 1831 Uprising and reached its height in the 1960s, in defiance of anti-religious Soviet rule. This place was granted a visit of John Paul II in 1993.

Often dubbed the “Little Versailles”, **Rundale Palace Complex** (18th century) is certainly one of the most famous and beautiful historical sites in Latvia. With Baroque and Rococo-style architecture, extensive gardens and sculptures, it's a worthwhile site to visit.

Day 7: RIGA

City tour in **Riga**. This includes enjoying Old town with its Riga Castle, the Dome Cathedral, St. Peter's Church and many more.

Riga - Elegance of Art Nouveau. Riga was once one of the most important trading centres in the Baltic region. Today, it is the economic, political and cultural centre of the country. The city was founded in 1201, when the Bishop Albert with monks arrived to the city and built a castle. Today you will be amazed by the oldest church built in the 13th century: the Cathedral, St. Peter's Church, the Powder Tower, the Small and the Great Guild, the House of Blackheads, the "Three Brothers". The city centre also has preserved its wooden architecture. Riga is one of the centres of Art Nouveau architecture. There is no other place in the world that has so much Art Nouveau in such a small area.

Day 8: RIGA – GAUJA NATIONAL PARK – PARNU - TALLINN

During your visit to the **Gauja National Park** you will see the museum of gardener's house in which the exhibition of life of ancient inhabitants of Latvia is presented. The centre of the National Park is the Episcopal Castle Museum Turaida (inside about 1h). The Museum hosts exhibitions of 700 years of German cultural history. In addition you will walk along in the songs Park, pass the wooden church from 18 Century and will have a short stop at Gutmana cave.

Pärnu is famous for its beach culture, already popular since imperial times as one of the most beautiful resorts in 1890. Long white sandy beaches, shallow waters and "the best Sun in Estonia" attracted locals and foreign guests alike. The beautiful beach promenade is ideal for walking. It is said that in Pärnu, anyone and everyone can become an artist. Versatile architecture, beautiful parks and court yards, numerous galleries and art centres – all combined with colourful crowd and easy-going flow of life.

Day 9: TALLINN

City tour in **Tallinn**. Tallinn – The nest of medieval Gothic. The authenticity of the old town makes Tallinn unique. Today the Tallinn's old town is surrounded by the thick stonewalls and towers of the medieval fortification. Large parts of its houses are so close together as if they were built to support each other. The Powder Tower Kiek-in-de-Kok was built in the 15th and was famous in the Baltics during the century; Tompea, the imposing castle, was built on a limestone rock about 50 meters above sea level. Nowadays it houses the Hall of the President; the cathedral is famous for its beauty and the Baroque altar, tombs and stone carvings from the 14th-18th centuries; The City Hall stands as a symbol of Tallinn and is undoubtedly the best preserved town hall in Northern Europe.

Day 10: TALLINN – NARVA – ST.PETERSBURG

Drive to St. Petersburg. On the way, short stop in Narva. **Narva** is the third largest city in Estonia. It is located at the eastern extreme point of Estonia, by the Russian border, on the Narva River which drains Lake Peipus. The frontier location of Narva is the most characteristic feature of both the past and the present of the town. The historic border has been running there since the Middle Ages, along the banks of rapid river swiftly flowing its waters out the Lake Peipus into the Baltic Sea and dividing the two civilisations – the Catholic European North and Orthodox Slavonic East. However, the border between Estonia and Russia is not a mere line that separates, but also a place where two cultural worlds meet, mutually influence and interpenetrate each other.

Day 11: ST.PETERSBURG

City tour of **St.Petersburg**. (5h)
One of the world's most beautiful cities, St. Petersburg has all the ingredients for an unforgettable travel experience: high art, lavish architecture, wild nightlife, an extraordinary history and rich cultural traditions that have inspired and nurtured some of the modern world's greatest literature, music, and visual art. From the mysterious twilight of the White Nights to world-beating opera and ballet productions on magical winter evenings, St. Petersburg charms and entices in every season.



Today you will explore the Winter Palace, Winter Palace Square with Alexander monumental columns, visit Peter and Paul Fortress, Church of Spilled Blood and Kazan Cathedral, a walking tour on Nevsky Prospect and many more.

Day 12: ST.PETERSBURG

Peterhof. Park and Palace. (5h)
Peterhof, also called the "Russian Versailles" was the main summer residence of the Tsars. Located on the southern coast of the Gulf of Finland, about 25 km from the city of St. Petersburg, is one of the main attractions in the old imperial capital. It is a vast complex including the Grand Palace and the park, several smaller palaces and pavilions scattered in the beautiful gardens. You can find 150 fountains and three waterfalls, the colorful "water games" and golden statues of incomparable beauty.

Day 13: ST.PETERSBURG

Transfer to the airport. Departure.

PRICE in 3* HOTELS	PRICE in 4* HOTELS
High season: 1200 EUR/pax	High season: 1575 EUR/pax
Low season: 880 EUR/pax	Low season: 1050 EUR/pax

*Prices are calculated for a group of 35 pax.

PRICE INCLUDED:

- 3 x overnight stay / BR 3* Belarus Hotel / 4* Minsk, Minsk
- 2 x overnight stay / BR 3* Green Hotel / 4* Holiday Inn, Vilnius
- 2 x overnight stay / BR 3* Ibis Styles / 4* AC Hotel by Marriott, Riga
- 2 x overnight stays / BR 3* Hestia Susi / 4* Hestia Europa, Tallinn
- 3 x overnight stays / BR 3* Asteria / 4* Sokos Vasilievskiy, St.Petersburg
- 12 x BB
- Leading English speaking guide as per program.
- Entrances: WWII Museum, Mir and Nesvizh Castles, Trakai castle, Turaida Castle, Rundale Palace, Rocca al Mare Open air museum, Peterhof (Palace and Park).
- Comfort bus according to the itinerary
- All taxes

NOT INCLUDED:

- Porterage
- Water
- Tips for driver and guides (recommended 2 EUR pp for each)