

BALTIC PROFOUND

Vilnius – Vente – Nida – Riga – Saaremaa – Tallinn – Helsinki *
10 days / 9 Nights

Day 1: VILNIUS

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

Day 2: VILNIUS

City tour of Vilnius and artist district Uzupis. 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. It continues to the artist district Uzupis. Here you even cross a state border, because you are entering the "Republic of Artists". It has its own anthem, president and even constitution. Free time in the afternoon.

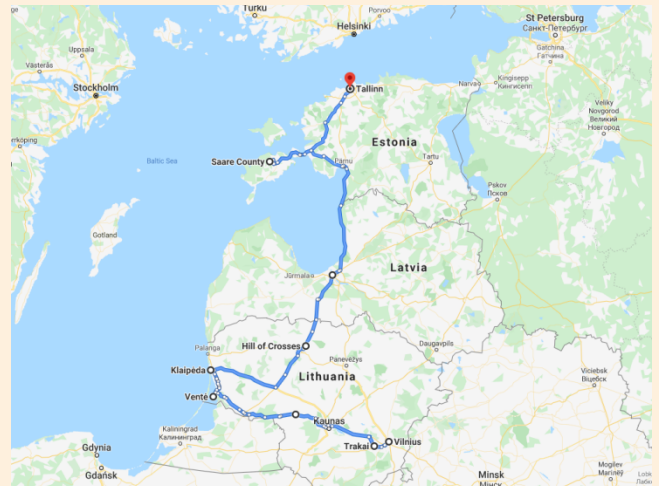
Day 3: VILNIUS – TRAKAI - VENTE

Trakai is the city situated between 3 lakes, and represents Lithuania for more than two million tourists every year. 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. Another interesting fact is the Karaites living there. A typical Karaite dish is kibinai. These dumplings were traditionally filled with lamb, today there is pretty much every filling. Try yourself at a cooking lesson and then taste your homemade kibinai! Drive along the river Memel (Raudone and Panemune castles) to Vente. Here you can visit the oldest bird observatory in Europe.



Day 4: VENTE – NIDA

In the morning Boat trip to **Curonian Spit**. During the trip you will admire the Curonian Spit and its rich wild animal and bird life on the Nemunas Delta. Designated a national park (UNESCO) in 1991, Curonian Spit trails across the Baltic Sea from Lithuania to Russian territory Kaliningrad. 70% of the area is rural, and you will have a chance to visit urban Nida town and Thomas Mann Summer House. Until the first decades of the 20th century, most of the spit was German territory.



Day 5: RNIDA – KLAIPEDA – HILL OF CROSSES – RUNDALĒ PALACE – RIGA

Today it goes to Riga. The first stop comes at Hill of Crosses. 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. Next stop is Rundale Palace. 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 6: RIGA – KEMERI NATIONAL PARK – RIGA

In the morning 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 many more. The city centre is very picturesque because it has preserved its wooden architecture. As well as, there is no other place in the world that has so much Art Nouveau in such a small area.

In the afternoon tour to **Nationalpark Kemeru**. The Kemeru National Park lies less than fifty kilometers from Riga. This park is a large nature preserve, best known for his giant marsh (bog) landscapes. In some places the swamp is as deep as of twelve storey building! Beautiful wooden pathways are laid out so you can visit the park safe and enjoy the immense beauty of the Latvian nature.

Day 7: RIGA – GAUJA NATIONAL PARK – TURAJDA CASTLE – ISLAND SAAREMAA

Gauja National Park is the largest park in Latvia, famous for its incredible nature as well as historical and cultural sights. The main highlights of Gauja National Park are the beautiful sandstone cliffs (350 million years old) and **Turaida Castle**. You are invited for the lunch on a traditional farm. The bread is baked on the fire on wooden sticks. Try the homemade honey and delicious roasted hazelnuts.

Day 8: ISLAND SAAREMAA – TALLINN

As the largest of Estonia's islands, **Saaremaa's** natural beauty and interesting history attract both local and international visitors. Because of its relative isolation, Saaremaa is seen as "authentic" Estonia, and emits a fisherman's village vibe combined with a national park, making it a perfect retreat for relaxation and nature explorations.

Day 9: TALLINN

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. 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-18; The City Hall stands as a symbol of Tallinn and is undoubtedly the best preserved town hall in Northern Europe. Afternoon free.



Day 10: TALLINN – OPTIONAL TOUR TO HELSINKI*

By the ferry you get in 2.5 to **Helsinki**. The city is a hotspot for design, clean and minimalist style architecture, busy Market square, and vibrant neighborhoods. Helsinki is home to the the largest concentration of Art Nouveau buildings in Northern Europe, which includes structures such as Helsinki Central Station, National Theatre, National Museum, Kallio Church etc. Don't miss the harbor, with gigantic cruise ships.

Day 11: TALLINN

Transfer to the airport. Departure.

ASK PRICE IN 3*, 4* AND 5* HOTELS

INCLUDED:

- 2 x overnight stay / BR 3* Green Hotel / 4* Holiday Inn, Vilnius
- 1 x overnight stay / BR 4* Ventaine / 4* Ventaine, Vente
- 1 x overnight stay / BR 3* Nerija / 4* Nidus, Nida
- 2 x overnight stay / BR 3* Ibis Styles / 4* AC Hotel by Marriott, Riga
- 1 x overnight stay / BR 3* Spa Hotel Rütli / 4* Georg Ots Spa, Kuresaare
- 3 x overnight stays / BR 3* Hestia Susi / 4* Hestia Europa, Tallinn
- 10 x BB
- Kibinai tasting in Trakai.
- Lunch with folk music at the farm in Latvia.
- Leading English speaking guide as per program.
- Entrances: bird observatory, Rundale palace, Turaida castle.
- Boat Vente – Nida
- Ferry Curonian Spit – Klaipeda
- Ferry to Saaremaa
- Bus for full tour
- Vilnius city tax

NOT INCLUDED:

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

OPTIONAL:

- day tour to Helsinki