

COLD WAR TOUR

Vilnius – Riga – Tallinn
8 Days / 7 Nights

Day 1: VILNIUS

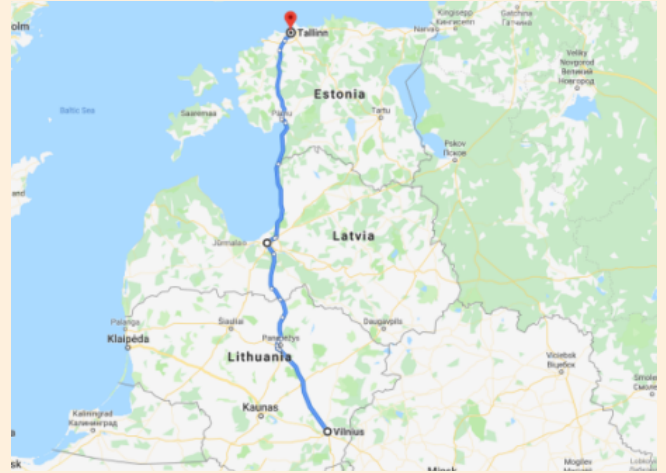
Arrival in Vilnius. Transfer to the hotel and check-in.

Day 2: VILNIUS – TRAKAI – 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 if Dawn etc.

(KGB) Museum of occupations and freedom fights. Housed in the former KGB headquarters with the prison intact, the museum tells the story of the Sovietisation of the region and the armed resistance against it, as well as the deportation and KGB operations. Visitors can view the authentic KGB prison and execution room, and there is a modern exhibition to introduce them to the complex history of the 20th century repressions and the freedom struggles.

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.



Day 3: VILNIUS – GRŪTAS PARK – PLUNGE

Grūtas Park, covering an area of more than 20 ha, serves as an exhibition of almost one hundred ideological monuments and sculptures from Lithuanian cities and towns of the Soviet period, which were dismantled upon restoration of independence. The museum exhibiting such an abundance of ideological monuments is particularly rare – perhaps a unique phenomenon in the world.

Day 4: PLUNGE – HILL OF CROSSES - RIGA

Set up in a former Soviet underground missile silo to present the history of the Cold War that lasted for five decades, this is the only exhibition of its kind in Europe. The exhibition presents the evolution of rocket technology and samples of armament. Visitors can even go down into the actual shaft to see the complex engineering structure where combat missiles were stored 30 metres underground for almost two decades. An object of extreme secrecy in the past, now houses a **Cold War Museum**.

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.



Day 5: RIGA

During city tour in **Riga** 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.

Day 6: RIGA – LIGATNE – TURAIDA – TALLINN

Līgatne Bunker, constructed 9 meters beneath the ground, was intended to serve as a shelter for Latvia's Communist elite in case of a hypothetical nuclear war. Displayed at the shelter are authentic exhibits which have survived there from Soviet times. The bunker was built during the Cold War when the Soviet Union maintained constant high alert for a Western attack.

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**.

Day 7: TALLINN

Tallinn is an ideal destination if one wants to combine the comforts of modern world with rich cultural scene and historic settings. Here you will experience wonderful sights – ancient churches, medieval streetscapes and noble merchants' houses. Throw in delightful food and vibrant modern culture and it's the unforgettable Tallinn.

There once was a hotel that came to be named the Viru. The year was 1972, and there were still two decades or so until the fall of Communism and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Any hotel that was appropriate for foreign visitors also had to be appropriate for the KGB... Now it is **KGB museum**.

Seaplane Harbour (Estonian Maritime Museum) - The most exciting maritime museum in Europe! About 200 authentic items are on display at the historical seaplane hangar: a submarine called Lembit, a century-old icebreaker Suur Tõll, a seaplane called Short 184, remains of the oldest ship found in Estonia, and much more.

Day 8: 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 3* Porto / 3* Porto, Plunge
- 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
- 7 x BB
- Wine tasting at Museum of Estonian Drinking Culture
- Guided tour in the Līgatne bunker with meals in the canteen of Soviet style included
- Entrances: museum KGB Vilnius, Trakai castle, Grutas park (museum Soviet sculptures), Cold War Museum, Līgatne bunker, Turaida Castle, KGB museum Tallinn, museum Seaplane Harbour Tallinn
- Bus for full tour
- City tax

NOT INCLUDED:

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