

LIBERATING A CONTINENT – BALTIC WAY

Vilnius – Bauska – Riga – Tallinn
7 Days / 6 Nights

Day 1: VILNIUS

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

Day 2: VILNIUS – TRAKAI – VILNIUS

City Tour in Vilnius. **Vilnius** - a unique baroque city. The green of the gardens, the red of the roof tiles and the yellow of the house walls - Vilnius reflects three colours of the Lithuanian flag.

In Vilnius Cathedral square, after announcement on radio at 19:00 people started to stand in a line, linked their hands and this way created a living chain of people. It began at the foot of Gediminas tower and ended near Toompea castle in Tallinn. In Vilnius you can find a few signs commemorating this event, such as: The Freedom Road of Vilnius sculpture and a footmark on a brick symbolizing participant of the Baltic Way.

Short trip to Trakai. Trakai being a centre of the National park is also a popular and casual destination of visitors from Vilnius. Trakai castle is the only Gothic water castle in Europe that survived from the 14th century.

Day 3: VILNIUS – PANEVĖŽYS – HILL OF CROSSES – BAUSKA - RIGA

The Baltic Way continued through a smaller town (compared to Vilnius) – **Panevėžys**.

In 2014 commemorative signs/information stands were unveiled at five rest stops along the Vilnius–Panevėžys highway to mark the 25th anniversary of the Baltic Way: at kilometres 32.1 and 80.1 on the left side, and kilometres 38.5, 55.6 and 99.9 on the right side.

The next stop is at the **Hill of Crosses**. The Catholic faith expressed in the unique Hill of Crosses in Siauliai, Lithuania will surprise every visitor. The hill is covered with thousands of crosses of different materials. Each cross holds a strong and desperate prayer of the Lithuanian people. In Soviet times, there were several attempts to remove the crosses, but again, the new crosses were set up.

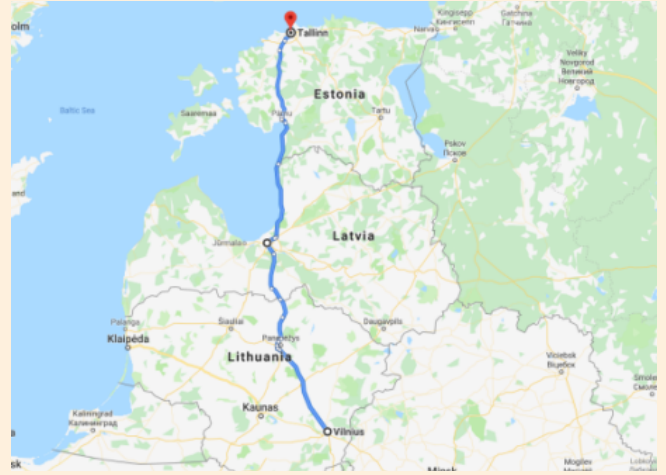
Day 4: RIGA

City Tour in Riga. **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.

Riga was a middle point of this liberation movement. A small red granite 'footprint' at the crossroads of Kalķu and Valķu (near McDonald's) serves as a reminder of that amazing event.

Day 5: RIGA – CĒSIS – PARNU - TALLINN

On this day trip to Tallinn awaits. On the way – short stop in **Parnu**. It is unclear when and by whom the idea of a human chain was advanced but it appears that the idea was proposed during a trilateral meeting in Parnu on 15 July 1989. However, the final joint decisions were taken a month later, on August 12, near **Cēsis**.



Day 6: 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.

The demonstrators of Baltic Way peacefully linked hands for 15 minutes at 19:00 local time. The first two Baltic Way memorials were erected in Estonia already on the day of the Baltic Way.

Day 7: 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
- 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
- 6 x BB
- Leading English speaking guide as per program.
- Entrances: Trakai castle.
- Bus for full tour
- Vilnius city tax

NOT INCLUDED:

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