

## PHOTO TOUR

Vilnius – Trakai – Kaunas – Klaipeda – Riga – Lahemaa –  
Tallinn - Saremaa - Tallinn  
13 Days / 12 Nights

### Day 1: VILNIUS

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

**Vilnius** is a city with a unique offer: All the advantages of a capital city with the serenity and pace of life of the country side. Legend has it Gediminas founded the city after a dream. The oracle interpreted this dream as a sign that a city should be build in that very spot. Gediminas, following the interpretation to the letter, oversaw the building of the city beginning on the hill. Today you can see the ruins of the original castle right up there.

### Day 2: VILNIUS

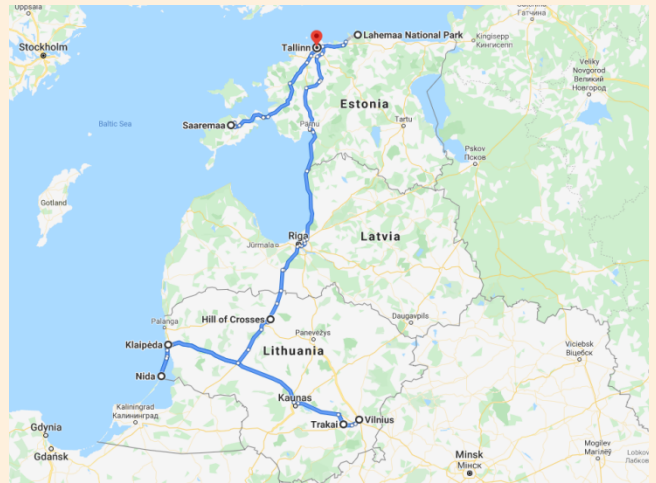
**Vilnius** - a unique baroque city. Even the first walk through the old town of Vilnius will impress you unforgettably: the Cathedral Square, a fortified tower, the bell-tower of the Cathedral, Gediminas Castle as well as symbol of the city's oldest Vilnius - Pilies street and much more. Vilnius awaits you with open arms!

The self-proclaimed "Republic" of **Užupis** is Vilnius' Bohemian and artistic district. It has its own anthem, constitution, president, bishop, two churches, the Bernadine Cemetery – one of the oldest in the city -, seven bridges, and its own guardian called The Bronze Angel of Užupis, who was put in the centre of the district in 2002. In Lithuanian, Užupis means 'behind the river' and this is proclaimed in a number of languages on its entrance sign. The Vilnelė is the district's river, and is home to Lithuania's only mermaid – she's not real, don't worry! But she lives on the embankment, and those who give in to her charms will remain in Užupis forever.

### Day 3: VILNIUS – TRAKAI – RUMSISKES – KAUNAS

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.

**Rumsiskes**, one of the largest open-air ethnographic museums in Europe, exhibits the buildings of all Lithuanian regions and reconstructs the domestic life, work and traditions of Lithuanian peasants and city dwellers. It resembles a miniature version of Lithuania of the 18th–20th centuries where you can see hundred years old homesteads, mills, various workshops, agricultural implements and feel the spirit of the past in authentic interiors.



### Day 4: KAUNAS – PAŽAISLIS MONASTERY – KLAIPEDA

**Kaunas**, the second largest Lithuania's city, which keeps the authentic spirit of the country's national character alive surrounded by it's two rivers. Don't miss notable places such as Kaunas Town Hall, the Kaunas Castle, House of Perkūnas, and many churches.

**Pažaislis Monastery** is quite possibly the most romantic place in Lithuania. A genuine baroque diamond from the 17th century. The sound of music beneath the arches of the church reveals its beauty as many concerts and music festivals take place here. The silence of the monastery is managed by the order of the Sisters of St. Casimir. In the southern part of the monastery you will find the Sacral Heritage Museum of the Pažaislis Monastery.

### Day 5: KLAIPEDA. CURONIAN SPIT & BOAT TRIP

The main seaport of Lithuania **Klaipeda** is situated at the mouth of the Curonian lagoon in the Baltic Sea and is known as the "Lithuanian gateway to the world." With it's unique German-influenced old town Klaipeda has to offer other sightseeing's such as the Theatre Square, the sculpture of Ann from Tharau, sailing vessel Meridianas etc.

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 6: KLAIPEDA – HILL OF CROSSES – RUNDALE PALACE – 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**

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 8: RIGA - GAUJA NATIONAL PARK – LAHEMAA NATIONAL PARK**

The territory of **Gauja National Park** is established to protect the ancient valley of the Gauja River. More than 500 cultural and historical monuments are located in the National Park – hill forts, stone castles, churches, watermills and windmills, as well as other archaeological, architectural and artistic monuments.

**Lahemaa** is one of Europe's most important forest conservation areas. 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.

**Day 9: LAHEMAA NATIONAL PARK – FISHING VILLAGES ON THE ESTONIAN COAST – TALLINN**

Just like 4000 years ago, you can find historical villages on the limestone cliff that runs through Lahemaa. From here fishermen went to the islands of Finland to catch fish and seals; the sea was used for friendly trade as well as for the smuggling of salt and spirits. The most famous fishing villages here are the captains' village of Käsmu, the fishermen's village of Altja and the village of spirit smugglers, Viinistu – now the location of an art museum.

**Day 10: 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.



**Day 11: TALLINN – SAREEMAA ISLAND**

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 12: SAREEMAA ISLAND - TALLINN**

On this day the group would take the coach and return to **Tallinn** for a day of free time and exploration around the city.

**Day 13: TALLINN**

Transfer to the airport. Departure.

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

**Program for small group**

**INCLUDED:**

- 2 x overnight stay / BR 3\* Green Hotel / 4\* Holiday Inn, Vilnius
- 1 x overnight stay / BR 3\* Magnus / 4\* Park Inn by Radisson, Kaunas
- 1 x overnight stay / BR 3\* Green / 4\* Amberton, Klaipeda
- 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\* Palmse / 4\* Vihula, Laahemaa
- 1 x overnight stay / BR 3\* Spa Hotel Rütli / 4\* Georg Ots Spa, Saaremaa
- 3 x overnight stays / BR 3\* Hestia Susi / 4\* Hestia Europa, Tallinn
- 12 x BB
- Leading English speaking guide / photographer as per program.
- Entrances: : Pazaislis Monastery, Rumsiskes Open Air museum, Rundale Palace (long route with garden), Seaplane harbor
- Tasting of kibinai, boat trip in Trakai, boat trip in Nida, tasting of local smoked fish, tasting of Rigas Balzams in Riga,
- Comfort bus according to the itinerary
- All taxes

**NOT INCLUDED:**

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