

Capitals of the Baltics

Semi-escorted tour

The Baltic Republics – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – lie side by side along the Baltic Sea. They are emerging as one of Europe's most sought after destinations. A convenient way to join this tour is by catamaran from Helsinki – a sea journey of just 1.5 hours. The tour is completely flexible and can be tailored to your own requirements.



7 days / 6 nights

Day 1: Tallinn

Arrive Tallinn, Estonia's ancient seacoast capital, situated 80 kms across the Gulf of Finland from Helsinki. Tallinn has a history dating back a thousand years as a seaport and trading centre and is one of Europe's best-preserved medieval towns. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to wander through the narrow cobblestone streets. Overnight Tallinn.

Day 2: Tallinn

This morning you take a walking tour of the Old Town, a virtual museum of medieval architecture. Visit the Upper and Lower towns

and enjoy magnificent views of the Old Town from Toompea Castle, built in the 13th century by the Knights of the Sword as a small fortress within the larger fortress of Toompea. Afternoon free. Overnight Tallinn. **B**

Day 3: Tallinn to Riga

After breakfast, accompanied by your English-speaking guide, you drive 310km south to Riga, stopping at the seaside town of Pärnu for a walking tour. Founded in the 13th century, Pärnu became a member of the Hanseatic League, and in the early 19th century it became a health resort. Its wide sandy beaches and fresh sea air have made Pärnu Estonia's most popular summer resort. Evening arrival and overnight Riga. **B**

Day 4: Riga

Your morning sightseeing of Riga, the capital of Latvia, includes the Old Town, Riga Castle, built in 1330 as a residence for the master of the Livonian Order, and the Dome Cathedral. Afternoon free to explore this cosmopolitan city rich in architectural variety – including Gothic, Baroque, Classical and Art Nouveau. Riga has been a multicultural city throughout its 800 year history. Overnight Riga. **B**

Day 5: Riga to Vilnius

After breakfast, accompanied by your English-speaking guide, travel south for 330km to the capital of Lithuania, Vilnius. Crossing into Lithuania, you will stop at the

Hill of Crosses, decorated with over 100,000 crosses donated by people from all over Lithuania. Pope John Paul II visited there in 1993. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

Day 6: Vilnius

Your morning sightseeing of Vilnius includes the oldest university in Europe and the Old Town – one of the most extensive and beautiful in Eastern Europe. It is included in UNESCO's World Heritage List. After lunch continue to Trakai – the medieval capital of Lithuania. Visit Trakai Castle, the only lake castle in Europe. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

Day 7: Vilnius. Tour services end after breakfast with your transfer to the airport. **B**

Your hotels

TOURIST

- ⓐ TALLINN – Braavo
- ⓐ RIGA – Europa City Riga
- ⓐ VILNIUS – Panorama

SUPERIOR

- ⓐ TALLINN – Domina City Inn
- ⓐ RIGA – Gutenbergs
- ⓐ VILNIUS – Artis

DELUXE

- ⓐ TALLINN – Schlossle (deluxe room)
- ⓐ RIGA – Neiburgs (deluxe room)
- ⓐ VILNIUS – Narutis (deluxe room)

■ Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Inclusions

- ① 6 nights in hotel category of your choice with breakfast
- ① Transportation by car with a driver and English-speaking guide
- ① Arrival/departure transfers by car
- ① Sightseeing as specified with local English-speaking guides
- ① Information package (City guides, etc.)

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD including breakfast & private facilities. Daily departures Jan-Dec 2010.

| Hotel | Tw'n | Sgl | 1 per only |
|----------|------|------|------------|
| TOURIST | 2095 | 2384 | 4105 |
| SUPERIOR | 2312 | 2782 | 4472 |
| DELUXE | 2924 | 3978 | 5668 |

Tour options

BY BUS

Inclusions: 6 nights in tourist or superior hotels, breakfast daily, return transfers in each city, bus tickets Tallinn-Riga-Vilnius, walking tour of each city, with Trakai Castle in Vilnius, information kits.

Not included:

Pärnu and Hill of Crosses tour

| Hotel | Tw'n | Sgl | 1 per only |
|----------|------|------|------------|
| TOURIST | 1314 | 1603 | 2411 |
| SUPERIOR | 1531 | 2001 | 2777 |

A Self-Drive option of this tour is also available. Ask your consultant for details.