

# 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, stop at the Hill of

Crosses, decorated with over 100,000 crosses donated by people from all over Lithuania. 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 – City Bruninieks
- Ⓜ VILNIUS – Panorama

#### SUPERIOR

- Ⓜ TALLINN – Merchant's House
- Ⓜ 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. Daily departures Jan-Dec 2011.

Hotel	Twn	Sgl	1 per only
TOURIST	1657	1947	3263
SUPERIOR	1939	2426	3725
DELUXE	2483	3573	4872

### 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	Twn	Sgl	1 per only
TOURIST	1043	1332	1902
SUPERIOR	1323	1810	2365

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

# The Baltics

## Escorted tours

### BALTIC IMPRESSIONS

10 days / 9 nights

#### Day 1: Fri: Tallinn

Arrive Tallinn. You will be met and transferred to your hotel for a welcome meeting and cocktail. Overnight Tallinn.

#### Day 2: Sat: Tallinn to Tartu & Cesis

Morning drive to Lahemaa National Park to visit the manor houses in Palmse and Vihula. Drive south to the charming town of Tartu and on to Latvia and the Hanseatic town of Cesis. Overnight Cesis. **B**

#### Day 3: Sun: Cesis to Sigulda & Vilnius

Morning drive through the Gauja National Park to the popular resort of Sigulda. See the ruins of the Episcopal Castle and Castle of the Knights of the Sword. En route to Vilnius visit the magnificent Rundale Palace. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

#### Day 4: Mon: Vilnius to Trakai & Klaipeda

This morning's sightseeing of Vilnius features a panoramic city tour and a walking tour of the UNESCO-listed Old Town. Continue to Trakai, the medieval capital of Lithuania, to visit Trakai Castle, scenically located on an island in Lake Galve. Continue on to Klaipeda. Overnight Klaipeda. **B**

#### Day 5: Tue: Klaipeda & the Curonian Spit

Today you have a full day excursion to the UNESCO-protected Curonian Spit, a narrow 100km stretch of land between the Baltic Sea and the Curonian Lagoon, with small fishing villages, pine forests and dunes. En route visit the Hill of Witches in Juodkrante and the resort town of Nida.

### Inclusions

- ① 9 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 and 4-star hotels
- ① Meals as specified
- ① Arrival/departure transfers by car
- ① Transportation by air-conditioned coach or minibus
- ① Comprehensive sightseeing as specified **conducted in English and German**
- ① Tour escort throughout

Tonight's typical Lithuanian dinner is at Luja restaurant. Overnight Klaipeda. **BD**

#### Day 6: Wed: Klaipeda to Siauliai & Riga

Klaipeda was known as the German city of Memel before it became a part of Lithuania in 1923. After your short tour of the Old Town, drive to Samogitia National Park for a walking tour around Lake Plateliai. Continue on to Siauliai to visit one of the holiest sites in Lithuania, the Hill of Crosses. Late afternoon arrival and overnight Riga. **B**

#### Day 7: Thu: Riga

Riga, founded in 1201, is the largest and most cosmopolitan of the three Baltic capitals and boasts a true kaleidoscope of architectural styles. This morning you have a walking tour of the Old Town. The afternoon is free, or you may choose to take an optional tour to Jurmala. Dinner tonight is at the stylish La Boheme restaurant. Overnight Riga. **BD**

#### Day 8: Fri: Riga to Pärnu & Tallinn

Your tour continues via the coastal highway to the Estonian summer resort of Pärnu for a short tour. Continue through the north Estonian forests to overnight in Tallinn. **B**

#### Day 9: Sat: Tallinn

Your city tour of medieval Tallinn takes you around the city walls and into the Old Town to see Toompea Castle, the Dome Church and Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. Your afternoon is free. Tonight enjoy a farewell medieval dinner at the Peppersack restaurant. Overnight Tallinn. **BD**

#### Day 10: Sun: Tallinn

Tour services end after breakfast with your departure transfer. **B**

### Your hotels

- Ⓐ **TALLINN** – Radisson Blu Olympia
- Ⓐ **CESIS** – Kolonna Cesis
- Ⓐ **VILNIUS** – Radisson Blu Lietuva
- Ⓐ **KLAIPEDA** – Radisson Blu Klaipeda
- Ⓐ **RIGA** – Radisson Blu Latvija

■ *Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.*

### Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Friday departures Jun–Aug 2011.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
3 Jun, 17 Jun, 24 Jun, 1 Jul, 8 Jul, 15 Jul, 22 Jul, 29 Jul, 5 Aug, 12 Aug, 19 Aug	1572	2163



Lithuania, Trakai Castle

### BALTIC HIGHLIGHTS

8 days / 7 nights

#### Day 1: Sun: Vilnius

Arrive Vilnius. You will be met and transferred to your hotel for a welcome meeting and cocktail. Overnight Vilnius.

#### Day 2: Mon: Vilnius

This morning you have a panoramic city tour and walking tour of the Old Town. This afternoon visit Trakai, the medieval capital of Lithuania. Visit Trakai Castle, scenically located on an island on Lake Galve. This evening you have a folklore dinner at Belmontas restaurant. Overnight Vilnius. **BD**

#### Day 3: Tue: Vilnius to Riga

En route to Riga, you stop at the Hill of Crosses, one of Catholic Lithuania's most holy sites. Over the border in Latvia you will visit Rundale Palace, the summer residence of the former Duke of Courland. Overnight Riga. **B**

#### Day 4: Wed: Riga

After breakfast you have an excursion to Gauja National Park with its stunning

scenery and the charming resort town of Sigulda. Overnight Riga. **B**

#### Day 5: Thu: Riga

This morning you have a walking tour of the Old Town. The afternoon is free or you may take an optional visit to the Latvian sea resort of Jurmala. This evening you will have dinner at the stylish La Boheme Restaurant. Overnight Riga. **BD**

#### Day 6: Fri: Riga to Pärnu & Tallinn

Your tour continues via the coastal highway to the Estonian summer resort of Pärnu for a short tour. Continue through the north Estonian forests to overnight in Tallinn. **B**

#### Day 7: Sat: Tallinn

Your city tour of medieval Tallinn takes you around the city walls and into the Old Town to Toompea Castle, the Dome Church and Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. Tonight you have a farewell medieval dinner at the Peppersack restaurant. Overnight Tallinn. **BD**

#### Day 8: Sun: Tallinn

Tour services end after breakfast with your departure transfer. **B**

### Inclusions

- ① 7 nights accommodation with breakfast in hotel category of your choice
- ① Meals as specified
- ① Arrival/departure transfers by car
- ① Transportation by air-conditioned coach or minibus
- ① Comprehensive sightseeing as specified **conducted in English and German**
- ① Tour escort throughout

### Your hotels

#### SUPERIOR

- Ⓐ **VILNIUS** – Radisson Blu Lietuva
- Ⓐ **RIGA** – Radisson Blu Latvija
- Ⓐ **TALLINN** – Radisson Blu Olympia

#### DELUXE

- Ⓐ **VILNIUS** – Radisson Blu Astorija
- Ⓐ **RIGA** – Radisson Blu Ridzene
- Ⓐ **TALLINN** – Savoy Boutique

■ *Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.*

### Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Sunday departures May–Sep 2011.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
<b>SUPERIOR:</b> 1 May, 5 Jun, 12 Jun, 19 Jun, 26 Jun, 3 Jul, 10 Jul, 17 Jul, 24 Jul, 31 Jul, 7 Aug, 14 Aug, 21 Aug, 28 Aug, 4 Sep	1289	1726
<b>DELUXE:</b> 12 Jun, 26 Jun, 10 Jul, 24 Jul, 7 Aug, 21 Aug	1442	2033