

Cycling Safaris

LITHUANIA - LATVIA - ESTONIA

VILNIUS - RIGA - TALLINN 2027

Guided Tour

Guide cycling with group | cycling 355 km / 222 miles | 10 nights / 11 days
By coach 1195 km / 747 miles | by boat/ferry 12 km / 8 miles



Explore the Baltic coast and the National Parks of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia on very scenic routes.

The tour includes the three capital cities – Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn – with their Old towns designated as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO; and the previously-closed Curonian Spit and the largest and most beautiful Estonian island of Saaremaa.

Travel from Lithuania in the south, through Latvia and on to Estonia in the north; experience a wide variety of towns, villages and countryside for an excellent introduction to the very distinct characters of these quite different countries.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 Monday (Lithuania): VILNIUS

Arrive in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania for more than 600 years. Individual transfer to the hotel (not included). Check-in at the hotel. 7:30 p.m. (19:30) welcome meeting at the hotel with tour guide.

OVERNIGHT: Vilnius

HOTEL: COMFORT HOTEL LT*** or similar

Day 2 Tuesday (Lithuania): VILNIUS-TRAKAI Insular Castle-KAUNAS (cycling ~25 km/16 miles, by bus ~115 km)

After breakfast a guided walking tour of Vilnius Old Town followed by a bus transfer outside the city. Start your first cycle ride through picturesque countryside with many lakes and gentle hills. En route stop in Trakai, the former capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, where you may visit the 14thC island castle built on a small island in Lake Galvė. Afternoon transfer by bus to Kaunas. Arrive in Kaunas, check-in at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Kaunas

HOTEL: VICTORIA KAUNAS**** or similar

Day 3 Wednesday (Lithuania): Along the Nemunas River: KAUNAS-KLAIPĖDA (cycling ~40 km/23 miles, by bus ~230 km)

Explore Kaunas by bike on picturesque cycle trail along the Nemunas River. En route stop for a picnic lunch (included). Finish the ride in Zapyškis famous for its unusual small 14thC gothic church. Bus transfer to the Baltic coast. Arrive in Klaipeda, a modern town at the Baltic Sea, check-in at the hotel for 2 overnight stays.

OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda

HOTEL: **MERCURE KLAIPĖDA****** or similar

Day 4 Thursday (Lithuania): CURONIAN SPIT NATIONAL PARK (cycling ~58 km/36 miles, by bus ~50 km)

Morning transfer by bus to Nida, one of the most beautiful resorts in Lithuania. After sightseeing around Nida, we go for the longest ride along the Curonian Spit famous for its amber and fine sand beaches. Follow the Seaside Cycle Route and enjoy beautiful views of the Curonian Spit which separates the Baltic Sea from the Curonian Lagoon. Finish your day tour with a short ferry ride to Klaipeda Old Town. Dinner at the hotel (included).



OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda

HOTEL: **MERCURE KLAIPĖDA****** or similar

Day 5 Friday (Lithuania-Latvia): KLAIPĖDA-PALANGA -Hill of Crosses-RIGA (cycling ~36 km/23 miles, by bus ~290 km)

Morning ride to Palanga through the Seaside Regional Park, a former soviet military training area. Arrive in Palanga, the biggest Lithuanian seaside resort famous for the Botanical Garden and the Amber Museum. Afternoon bus transfer to Riga, the capital city of Latvia. En-route stop at the Hill of Crosses, the unforgettable sight of thousands of crosses on two small hills. Arrive in Riga, check-in and dinner at the hotel (included).

OVERNIGHT: Riga

HOTEL: **WELLTON RIVERSIDE SPA HOTEL****** or similar

Day 6 Saturday (Latvia): RIGA – free day in the capital city of Latvia

After breakfast a guided walking tour of Riga Old Town, a medieval Hanseatic town famous for its Art Nouveau buildings. In the afternoon free time in Riga. There is an option for a return cycle ride to Jūrmala, the largest resort in the Baltic States well known for its long, white, sand beaches (40-50 km/25-31 miles), or cycle one way and return by train (tickets not included).

OVERNIGHT: Riga

HOTEL: **WELLTON RIVERSIDE SPA HOTEL****** or similar

Day 7 Sunday (Latvia-Estonia): Along the Baltic coast to Pärnu Resort (cycling ~50 km/31 miles, by bus ~130 km)

Morning transfer by bus to the Estonian border where start cycling along the Baltic Coast with quiet coves and sand beaches. Follow the coast road alongside wetlands where you'll see a range of birds and other wildlife among the reeds. Afternoon bus transfer to Pärnu, the summer capital of Estonia (or continue cycling extra 16 km/10 mi to finish the ride in Pärnu). Arrive in Pärnu, check-in at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Pärnu

HOTEL: **ESTONIA RESORT HOTEL & SPA****** or similar

Day 8 Monday (Estonia): PÄRNU-SAAREMAA (cycling ~50 km/31 miles, by bus ~130 km, by ferry 6 km)

Morning transfer by bus to the largest Estonian island of Saaremaa which has preserved all that is best about old Estonia. With little traffic and flat roads Saaremaa provides the perfect rural setting for cycling. Travel on picturesque roads passing by Angla iconic windmills and Kaali meteorite crater which is listed on the world's giant craters list and it is the rarest nature wonder in Estonia. Arrive in Kuressaare, the capital of Saaremaa, check into the hotel for 2 overnight stays in the old town.

OVERNIGHT: Kuressaare

HOTEL: MERI SPA*** or similar

Day 9 Tuesday (Estonia): SAAREMAA ISLAND (cycling ~56 km/34 miles, by bus ~ 50 km)

Enjoy a day ride across Saaremaa Island's wild beauty – Sorve Peninsula famous for its lighthouse. Finish the day in Kuressaare, a home to one of the finest preserved medieval Episcopal Castles in the Baltics, dating from 13thC. Free time to explore the town and the bishop's castle.

OVERNIGHT: Kuressaare

HOTEL: MERI SPA*** or similar

Day 10 Wednesday (Estonia): Along the Baltic coast to TALLINN (cycling ~40 km/25 miles, by bus ~200 km, by ferry 6 km)

Morning transfer by bus to the mainland. Cycling along the Baltic coast passing by Keila-Joe waterfall and Türisalu coastal cliffs. Finish the bike ride in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, check-in at the hotel. Take part in a guided walking tour of Tallinn Old Town followed by a farewell dinner in a city restaurant (included).

OVERNIGHT: Tallinn

HOTEL: HESTIA ILMARINE**** or similar

Day 11 Thursday (Estonia): TALLINN

Breakfast at the hotel. End of the tour.

2027 TOUR DATES AND PRICES

Guided Tour dates:

Tours start on Mondays and finishes on Thursdays (10 nights/11 days)

Low season: May 24-June 3, May 31-June 10, June 7-17, August 23-September 2, August 30-September 9, September 6-16

High season: June 14-24, June 21-July 1*, June 28-July 8, July 5-15, July 19-29, July 26-August 5*, August 2-12, August 9-19, August 16-26*

*German speaking guide only on these dates. Other dates English speaking guide

Guided group tour price

Low season:

€2230 per person sharing

€2800 single room

High season:

€2280 per person sharing

€2960 single room

Bike hire is included in the group tour

Included - Regular Bike rental

Optional - E-Bike €260 supplement

Optional - Waterproof handlebar bag with plastic cover for GPS/smartphone (Ortlieb) (€25)

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 10 nights stay in 3 – 4-star hotels, incl. all taxes
- Breakfast daily
- Welcome meeting with a glass of beer or wine
- 1 picnic lunch on Day 3
- 3x dinners (3 courses) (Klaipeda, Riga and Farewell dinner in Tallin)
- Mineral water at your disposal on cycling days + reusable water bottle
- English speaking cycling tour guide or driver/ guide on days 2-10*
- Rent of trekking bicycle with waterproof pannier (+ helmet on request)
- Transfers as per itinerary by air-conditioned coach /minibus
- Guided 2-hour city tours in Vilnius Riga & Tallinn
- Luggage transfer as per itinerary
- Ferry tickets to and from the Curonian Spit and to/from Saaremaa Island
- Speed boat from Nida to Klaipeda or transfer by minibus (day 4) (Self-guided tour)
- Entrance to the Dead Dunes on the Curonian Spit
- Individual information package (city guides, maps, program and route description)

*German speaking guide only on tour dates June 21, July 26 & August 16

THE TOUR EXCLUDES / OPTIONAL:

- Arrival and departure transfers
- 8 lunches (apart from day 3, picnic lunch)
- 7 dinners (3 dinners included)
- E-bike rental supplement (€260)
- Waterproof handlebar bag with plastic cover for GPS/smartphone (Ortlieb) (€25)
- Entrance fees
- Train tickets from/to Jurmala
- Tips

TRANSFER OPTION

(20% surcharge for late and early hours from 23.00pm – 07.00am)

- Arrival transfer by car for 1-3 people: €70 per transfer
- Departure transfer by car for 1-3 people: €65 per transfer
- Arrival transfer by minivan for 4-7 people: 80 per transfer
- Departure transfer by minivan for 4-7 people: €75 per transfer

PRE/POST TOUR ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel in Vilnius COMFORT LT*** or similar

Single	€110 EUR per single room per night, including breakfast
Double	€120 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

Hotel in Tallinn HESTIA ILMARINE**** or similar

Single	€130 EUR per single room per night, including breakfast
Double	€140 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

Notes

- Discount for extra bed in double/twin room for people from 3 years old – 15%
- Children under 3 years old – free of charge

Minimum group size:

2 people (fixed departures)

14 people (any other date May – September on request)

Maximum group size – 16 people with one guide and 22 people with two guides

WHAT TO BRING

Cycling gloves; cycling shorts; long pants; waterproof jacket; sunglasses; sun cream; sunhat; stiff-soled shoes suitable for cycling; water bottles. Although it is not compulsory to wear a helmet in the Baltic States, we strongly recommend that you wear one.

BIKE AND FITNESS

Here is an example of the type of touring bike used:



Aluminium frame

21 speed

Choice of a front or rear pannier bag (please note that the pannier is smaller than the one you see on the bike)

Water bottle carrier

Back carrier

Bicycle lock

Pump

Repair kit (carried by tour guide)

Map support

Helmets on request.

We rate this trip easy-going to moderate . Daily biking routes mainly on low traffic roads and cycle paths range from 28 to 58 km (18-36 miles each day). The terrain is varied and rolling with a few gradual hills on some riding days (a few steep ups and downs in the Gauja River valley) but very flat for most of the tour.

The tour covers all three Baltic States and therefore it includes a few long bus transfers between the most interesting cycling destinations and the capital cities. Our walking sightseeing tours in the capital old towns are along cobbled streets.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Weather

This itinerary takes place at the same latitude as Scotland, and the area has a continental climate – long cold winters, short hot summers, and it can rain a lot. Daytime temperatures should vary from 20C degrees to 33C degrees, cooler in bad weather. Nights will be cool to warm, never being cold – perhaps chilly in bad weather. There is generally a good amount of sunshine during summer months and the days are very long in June and July.

Passport and Visas

Lithuania was among the ten accession countries that joined the EU in May 2004. Most nationalities require a full passport that must be valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay, (the exception being a list of nationalities from EU countries who are only required to produce a personal identification card). It is your responsibility to have the correct documents and to obtain your own visa, if required. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise and any subsequent effects.

Currency

In Lithuania, the unit of currency is the Euro

Additional expenses and spending money

All lunches/drinks are at your expense.

Local Time

Local time conforms to Eastern European Time which is 2 hours ahead of GMT in Lithuania, 3 hours ahead in Belarus and 1 hours ahead of GMT in Poland.