



## Baltic Capitals

Explore the capital cities of Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Russia on this ten-day touring program. Riga boasts a kaleidoscope of architectural styles. Tallinn has a charming blend of medieval tranquility and urban hustle. Helsinki is quirky and an eclectic blend of western and eastern cultures. St. Petersburg, the “Venice of the North” is a gracious city whose canals are lined by imperial palaces and museums.



YOUR  
ADVENTURE  
AWAITS

10 days/9 nights

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Riga

Arrive in Riga, take an optional transfer to your hotel, Wellton Riverside 4\* or similar, for check-in or make your own way to the hotel. There will be a welcome meeting later today to introduce the guide to the group and get acquainted with your fellow travellers.

#### Day 2: Riga

Founded in 1201 by the German bishop Albert, Riga is the largest of the three Baltic capitals and boasts a real kaleidoscope of architectural styles. The walking tour of the Old Town includes Riga Castle, the Dome Cathedral, St. Peter's Church, the Swedish Gate, the Three Brothers, the Large and Small Guilds and the Freedom Monument. The afternoon is reserved for an optional visit to Jurmala, the vibrant Latvian sea resort, famous for its wooden architecture and sandy beaches. In the evening enjoy an optional Latvian dinner at the stylish Restaurant Forest.

#### Day 3: Riga - Tallinn

The tour continues along the coastal highway to the Estonian summer resort of Parnu. We do a short tour of the resort before we continue through the North Estonian land of forests and arrive in Tallinn early afternoon, check-in at the Hotel Radisson Blu Olympia (4\*) or similar.

#### Day 4: Tallinn

Tallinn is a charming blend of medieval tranquility and modern urban life. The medieval Old Town is a busy place in the summer with its many shops, galleries, souvenir markets, outdoor cafés and restaurants. The sightseeing tour takes us around the old medieval city walls and into the Old Town where we see Toompea Castle, Dome Church, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, medieval Old Town Hall and Great Guild Hall. In the afternoon an optional excursion is offered to Kadriorg Park and visit to KUMU, the award-winning new Estonian art museum, with its collections of classic and contemporary fine art. The evening offers an optional medieval dinner at Restaurant Maikrahv.

#### Day 5: Tallinn - Helsinki

This day offers first an optional day excursion to Lahemaa National Park, where we visit Palmse Manor, a memorial to the von Pahlen family, and Sagadi Manor. The tour ends with a visit to the charming 16th century Vihula Manor and the Vodka Museum. After lunch break, we head back to Tallinn to take the ferry to Helsinki and enjoy a refreshing tour through the Finnish archipelago before arriving in Helsinki. Upon arrival we are transferred to our hotel and check-in at Hotel Glo Art 4\* or similar.

#### Day 6: Helsinki

Helsinki is truly located at the crossroads of Western and Eastern culture and this is reflected everywhere in the green and lively Finnish capital. The sightseeing tour takes us around the harbours and the Senate Square with the Lutheran Cathedral, up central Mannerheim Street and by the Parliament Building, the Finlandia Hall, and the Sibelius Monument and for a visit at the famous Church-in-the-Rock. The afternoon offers an optional excursion to Suomenlinna Fortress,



a cultural treasure which construction was started in the 18th century as a sea fortress. Located on an island, fortress is a unique attraction for visitors. The evening offers optional Finnish dinner at Restaurant Salve.

#### **Day 7: Helsinki - St. Petersburg**

Today we continue eastbound to St. Petersburg. Shortly after crossing the border into Russia we arrive in Vyborg, where we take time for a short sightseeing tour and a photo-stop at Vyborg Castle. In the late afternoon we arrive in St. Petersburg and check-in at Hotel Sokos Vasilevsky 4\* or similar.

#### **Day 8: St. Petersburg**

St. Petersburg is an amazing city. Its imperial palaces and museums enjoy worldwide fame, while the Neva River and the many canals have deservedly given the city the title "The Venice of the North". During the morning sightseeing tour we get acquainted with all the splendours of the city: the Peter-Paul Fortress, the Winter Palace, St. Isaac's Cathedral, the Church of the Bleeding Savior, the Nevsky Convent and much more. The afternoon offers an optional excursion to Zarskoye Selo with the impressive Catherine's Palace and the Amber Room, which vanished during World War II and was restored for St. Petersburg's tri-centennial celebrations. In the evening enjoy an optional visit to the Nikolaevsky Palace with an exciting Russian folklore show and Russian "champagne" and snacks.

#### **Day 9: St. Petersburg**

The morning is reserved for an optional visit to Peterhof, an uncontested masterpiece of the time of Peter the Great, with the impressive Grand Palace, Grand Cascade and Water Avenue and its wonderful parks. In the afternoon, an optional visit to the world-famous Hermitage Art Museum is offered. In the evening enjoy an optional Russian dinner at Restaurant Pryanosti & Radosti.

#### **Day 10: Departure from St. Petersburg**

Take the optional transfer to the airport to catch your flight.

#### **Optional add-ons: book in advance or locally, based on availability / pay locally**

- Transfer airport to Hotel Wellton Riverside: EUR 35.00 for private car (1-3 persons), EUR 55.00 for private minivan (4-7 persons)
- 4-hour excursion to Jurmala: EUR 40.00 pp
- Latvian dinner at Restaurant Forest: EUR 40.00 pp
- 3-hour excursion to Kadriorg Park and visit to KUMU: EUR 40.00 pp
- Medieval dinner at Restaurant Maikrahv: EUR 40.00 pp
- 6-hour excursion to Lahemaa National Park: EUR 70.00 pp
- 3-hour excursion with water bus to the Suomenlinna Fortress: EUR 60.00 pp
- Finnish dinner at Restaurant Salve: EUR 60.00 pp
- 4-hour excursion to Zarskoye Selo and visit to Catherine's Palace: EUR 80.00 pp
- Visit to folklore show at the Nikolaevsky Palace: EUR 65.00 pp
- 4-hour excursion to Peterhof and visit to the Grand Palace: EUR 75.00 pp
- 3-hour visit to the Hermitage Art Museum: EUR 50.00 pp
- Russian dinner at Restaurant Pryanosti & Radosti: EUR 50.00 pp
- Transfer Hotel Sokos Vasilevsky to airport: EUR 70.00 for private car (1-3 persons), EUR 90.00 for private minivan (4-7 persons)
- Half board at hotels (7 x 3 course dinner with coffee/tea on Day 1-Day 4 and Day 7 - Day 9): EUR 225.00 pp

## **Details**

#### **Trip Code:**

009729-W20

## **INCLUDED**

- Nine nights of centrally located 4\* accommodation
- Porterage at hotels
- 9 buffet breakfasts
- Welcome meeting with champagne-cocktail or juice
- Personalized welcome package
- Service of English and German speaking tour escort on all tours
- Service of 1st class motor coach or minivans throughout the itinerary
- Entrance to medieval Great Guild Hall in Tallinn, Church-in-the-Rock in Helsinki and Peter-Paul Fortress in St. Petersburg
- Ferry ticket Tallinn-Helsinki one-way (2nd class)

## **NOT INCLUDED**



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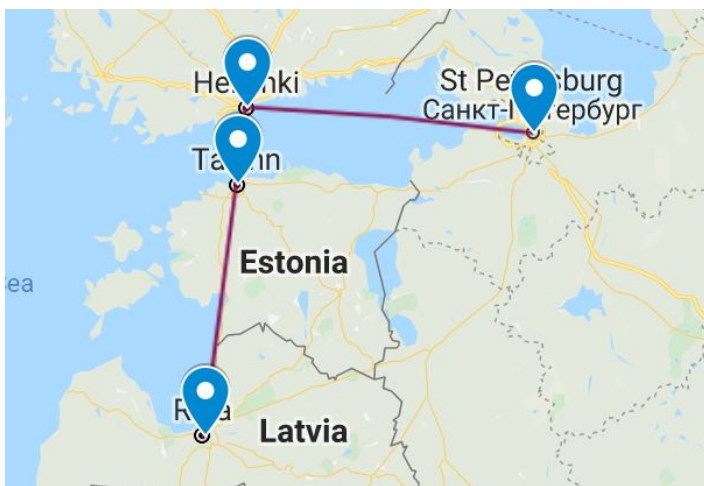
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- International airfare
- Transfers to/from airports
- Lunches and dinners (meal program available)
- Passport and visa fees
- Gratuities to local guides
- Travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature

## TOUR NOTES

*Disclaimer: We do our utmost to ensure that information posted on our website is correct at the time of publication, however trip details are subject to change without notice by the suppliers and operators involved. We update the information as soon as possible when changes are advised to us, however, we cannot assume responsibility for such changes made by the suppliers and operators.*

## ROUTE MAP



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