

CYCLING IN LATVIA & ESTONIA

(Riga – Saaremaa Island – Tallinn – Lahemaa – Tartu – Riga)
10 days / 9 nights, self-/half guided cycle tour (code SG14)



TOUR CODE:	TOUR STARTS - Friday*	TOUR ENDS - Sunday:	Price per person in EUR:
21/SG14-01	June 25	July 4	DBL 1099 SGL 1469
21/SG14-02	July 2	July 11	DBL 1099 SGL 1469
21/SG14-03	July 9	July 18	DBL 1099 SGL 1469
21/SG14-04	July 16	July 25	DBL 1099 SGL 1469
21/SG14-05	July 23	August 1	DBL 1099 SGL 1469
21/SG14-06	July 30	August 8	DBL 1099 SGL 1469
21/SG14-07	August 6	August 15	DBL 1099 SGL 1469
21/SG14-08	August 13	August 22	DBL 1099 SGL 1469
21/SG14-09	August 20	August 29	DBL 1069 SGL 1399
21/SG14-10	August 27	September 5	DBL 1069 SGL 1399

* This tour is available on any other dates May-September with minimum 6 people.

The Baltic coast and National Parks of Estonia and Latvia explored on very scenic routes, including the two capital cities – Riga and Tallinn – with their old towns designated by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites. Featuring the beautiful Gauja River valleys and the largest and most beautiful Estonian island of Saaremaa; the National Park Lahemaa, which is one of the last unspoiled regions of the Baltic coast, Otepää Lakeland – the so-called “Estonian Switzerland”. Travel on a circular route starting from Riga in Latvia and following the Coast of the Baltic Sea and Peipsi Lake a major part of the tour in Estonia; enjoy a great variety of towns, villages and landscapes, and get an excellent feel for the different characters of these distinctive countries.

The tour begins in Riga where you get your tour maps with detailed program and route description. Next day your rental bicycles will be ready for your first ride to Jurmala Resort. This trip is a half-guided tour ie during the whole trip, except Jurmala, our driver with a minibus and bike trailer is with you and you can take part in city tours (Riga & Tallinn) lead by professional guides. Our driver will transport your luggage every day to the next hotel. If you have a breakdown, then our driver will take care of everything for you. If you have any problems – contact the driver or our office.



Arrival / departure airports: Riga (Latvia)

Cycling Conditions: We rate this trip as Moderate one. Daily biking routes mainly on low traffic roads and cycle paths with a few stretches on more busy roads like Day 3 (Ragana-Sigulda). Cyclin routes range from 20 to 57 km (13-36 miles) each day with a possibility for faster riders to cycle more kilometres on some days like Day 2 (exploring Jurmala Resort), Day 5 (detour in Saaremaa Island), Day 7 (more detours on a circular route in Lahemaa national park) and Day 8 (extra distance towards Tartu). The terrain is varied and rolling with a few gradual hills on some riding days (a few steep ups and downs in Otepää region and the Gauja River valley and dead flat most of the tour). The tour covers two Baltic States – Latvia & Estonia, and therefore it includes a few long minibus transfers between the most interesting cycling destinations and the capital cities. Our walking sightseeing tours in the old towns of the capital cities, Riga and Tallinn, are along cobbled streets.

TOUR ITINERARY

(cycling ~325 km/~203 miles, by coach/minibus ~1165 km /728 mi., by boat ~12 km/7 mi.)

Day 1 Friday (Latvia): Riga

Arrive in Riga. Individual transfer to the hotel (not included) where you get your tour maps with detailed program and route description. Check-in at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Riga; HOTEL: **MONIKA CENTRUM****** or similar

Day 2 Saturday (Latvia): RIGA & JURMALA Seaside resort (cycling ~30 km/19 miles, by train ~25 km)

Breakfast followed by a meeting at the hotel with our representative and bicycle collection. Then you may take part in a guided tour of Riga Old Town, a medieval Hanseatic town famous for its Art Nouveau buildings. In the afternoon free time in Riga or cycling on a bicycle path to Jurmala, a renowned Latvian seaside resort well known for its long, white, sand beaches, mineral waters and mud with healing properties. We recommend that you take the opportunity to bath in the sea and try cycling along the beach – its well worth it! In the evening take a local train – back to Riga (30 min; not included).

OVERNIGHT: Riga; HOTEL: **MONIKA CENTRUM****** or similar

Day 3 Sunday (Latvia): Riga & GAUJA National Park (cycling ~40 km/25 miles, by minibus ~50 km)

Transfer to Saulkrasti, where you may visit the Latvian bicycle museum. Start your bike ride to Sigulda, the most popular resort in Latvia. Cycling through Gauja National Park, en route enjoy spectacular views of Gauja River valley with Gutmana Cave, Turaida Castle and the oldest Latvian Church, Krimulda, built in 1205. Arrive in Sigulda, check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Sigulda

HOTEL: **SIGULDA***** or similar

Day 4 Monday (Latvia-Estonia): SIGULDA-SAAREMAA (cycling ~38 km/24 miles, by minibus ~330 km, by ferry 6 km)

Morning transfer 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 along the Baltic Sea Coast to the village of Angla where the iconic windmills are located. Transfer to Mändjala or Kuressaare, check into the hotel for 2 overnight stays at the seaside, optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Mändjala or Kuressaare

HOTEL: **SAAREMAA***** or similar

Day 5 Tuesday (Estonia): SAAREMAA ISLAND (cycling ~46 km/29 miles, by minibus ~40 km)

Enjoy a day ride across Saaremaa Island's wild beauty – Sorve Peninsula famous for its lighthouse. You may finish the day with a visit to Kuressaare, the capital of Saaremaa, a home to one of the finest preserved medieval Episcopal Castles in the Baltics, dating from 13thC. Optional dinner at the hotel or city restaurant in Kuressaare.

OVERNIGHT: Mändjala or Kuressaare

HOTEL: **SAAREMAA***** or similar

Day 6 Wednesday (Estonia): SAAREMAA & TALLINN (cycling ~30 km/19 miles or ~40 km/25 miles, by minibus ~210 km, by ferry 6 km)

Take a morning ride to the Kaali meteorite crater which is listed on the world's giant craters list and it is the rarest nature wonder in Estonia. En route stop in Kuressaare, the capital of Saaremaa. Transfer by bus to Tallinn. In the afternoon arrive in Tallinn, check-in at the hotel followed by a guided tour of Tallinn Old Town.

OVERNIGHT: Tallinn

HOTEL: **HESTIA ILMARINE****** or similar

Day 7 Thursday (Estonia): National Park Lahemaa, Estonia (cycling ~53 km/33 miles, by minibus ~90 km)

After a short minibus transfer go for a circular bicycle ride through National Park Lahemaa which is one of the last unspoiled regions of the Baltic coast. The National park is a nature lover's paradise. There are dense woods, marshes, lakes and waterfalls to discover. If you prefer wildlife to landscape, you can see moose, wild boars and over 220 bird species. Check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Sagadi; HOTEL: **SAGADI***** or similar

Day 8 Friday (Estonia): Along the Russian border & Lake Peipsi to TARTU, Estonia (cycling ~50 km/31 miles, by minibus ~160 km)

Morning transfer by bus to Mustvee where you'll begin a pleasant bicycle trip along Peipsi Lake shore to Varnja. Peipsi is 4th largest lake in Europe, divided in two by the Russian border. En route, you'll pass many fishing villages.

You reach your hotel after a bus transfer to Tartu, a famous, historic university town (the university was founded in 1632). Check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Tartu; HOTEL: **DORPAT***** or similar

Day 9 Saturday (Estonia-Latvia): OTEPÄÄ (“Estonian Switzerland”) – RIGA, Latvia (cycling ~28 km/18 miles, by minibus ~285 km)

After a short bus transfer to Otepää, a beautiful place with many lakes, start your cycling through the so-called “Estonian Switzerland” and begin to appreciate your surroundings. Finish your cycling of the day in Sangaste which is famous for its 19th century romantic castle built in the style of Windsor Palace. Transfer into Latvia where your destination is Riga. En route stop in Cesis where you can visit the medieval old town. Check-in at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Riga; HOTEL: **AVALON ****** or similar

Day 10 Sunday (Latvia): RIGA

Individual departure after breakfast. You can extend your stay in Latvia; please ask for details.

THE TOUR INCLUDES:

- 9 nights stay in 3-4* hotels, including all taxes
- Breakfast daily
- Transfers as per itinerary by air-conditioned minibus
- Luggage transport as per itinerary
- Guided tours in Riga and Tallinn (any entrance fees are payable individually)
- A return ferry ticket to Saaremaa Island
- Emergency contact numbers for our English or German speaking representatives
- Individual information package (city guides, maps, programme and route description)
- GPS Tracks

THE TOUR DOESN'T INCLUDE:

- Arrival and departure transfers
- Lunches and dinners
- Bicycle rent
- Entrance fees
- Tips

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

A. TRANSFERS:

- Arrival or departure transfer by car for a party up to 3 people - 35 EUR per transfer
- Arrival or departure transfer by minibus for a party up to 7 people - 65 EUR per transfer

B. RENT

- Rental of trekking bicycle (VDV) with 24-speed Shimano derailleur gears & free-wheel, all supplied with a waterproof **back pannier + handlebar bag with a plastic cover for GPS/smartphone (Ortlieb)** and tachometer (1 x booking) – **89 EUR** per person
- Rental of E-bike/Pedelec (VDV, Kalkhoff) with Bosch driving system, 8-speed Shimano Nexus hub gears & back-pedal break or free wheel, equipped with waterproof **back pannier + handlebar bag with a plastic cover for GPS/smartphone (Ortlieb)** – **229 EUR** per person
- Rental of a helmet (please send your head size in centimetres or helmet size: S, M, L, XL) – 10 EUR per person

C. MEALS:

- 5 x 3-course dinners package at the hotels excluding Riga & Tallinn – 124 EUR per person

D. PRE/POST TOUR ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel in Riga **MONIKA CENTRUM**** or **AVALON****** or similar**

SGL 89 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

DBL 99 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

Minimum group size on fixed departure dates – 2 people, any other dates May-September – 6 people.