

GUIDED CYCLING IN THE BALTICS: LITHUANIA – LATVIA – ESTONIA

(Vilnius – Curonian Spit – Riga – Sigulda – Saaremaa Island – Tallinn)
11 days / 10 nights, guided cycle tour from Vilnius (code G1)

TOUR CODE:	Language	TOUR STARTS - Monday	TOUR ENDS - Thursday	Price per person in EUR:	
				DBL	SGL
21/G1-01	EN	May 17	May 27	1299	1649
21/G1-02	EN	May 24	June 3	1299	1649
21/G1-03	EN / DE	May 31	June 10	1299	1649
21/G1-04	DE	June 7	June 17	1345	1715
21/G1-05	EN / DE	June 14	June 24	1345	1715
21/G1-06	EN & DE	June 21	July 1	1345	1715
21/G1-07	EN / DE	June 28	July 8	1345	1715
21/G1-08	EN / DE	July 5	July 15	1345	1715
21/G1-09	EN & DE	July 12	July 22	1345	1715
21/G1-10	EN / DE	July 19	July 29	1345	1715
21/G1-11	DE	July 26	August 5	1345	1715
21/G1-12	EN / DE	August 2	August 12	1345	1715
21/G1-13	DE	August 9	August 19	1345	1715
21/G1-14	EN / DE	August 16	August 26	1345	1715
21/G1-15	EN	August 23	September 2	1299	1649
21/G1-16	EN	August 30	September 9	1299	1649
21/G1-17	EN	September 6	September 16	1299	1649

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.



Arrival / Departure airports: Arrive in Vilnius (Lithuania) and depart from Tallinn (Estonia).

Cycling grade: We rate this trip Easygoing to Moderate with intensive tour program. 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) and dead flat 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.

ITINERARY

(cycling ~349 km / 218 miles,
by coach ~1390 km/869 miles, by boat/ferry 12 km/8 miles)

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. 7:00 p.m. (19:00) 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 ~28 km/18 miles, by coach ~100 km)

After breakfast a guided tour of Vilnius Old Town. Afternoon trip to 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. In the afternoon start your first cycle ride through picturesque countryside on gentle hills, then transfer by coach to Kaunas. Arrive in Kaunas, check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Kaunas

HOTEL: **EUROPA ROYALE KAUNAS****** or similar

Day 3 Wednesday (Lithuania): KAUNAS-VENTĖ Horn- KLAIPĖDA (cycling ~30 km/19 miles, by coach ~290 km)

Morning transfer along the Nemunas River to the coast. In the afternoon have a picnic lunch (included) followed by a cycle ride to Ventė Horn famous for its bird observatory and the 19thC lighthouse which was used for more than 100 years. After a short bus transfer arrive in Klaipėda, the main seaport of Lithuania, check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda

HOTEL: **OLD MILL CONFERENCE***** or similar

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

Transfer by coach or boat to Nida. En-route enjoying the beautiful view of the Curonian Spit which separates the Baltic Sea from the Curonian Lagoon. Sightseeing around Nida, one of the most beautiful resorts in Lithuania. In the afternoon cycling back to Klaipėda on the Seaside Cycle Route along the Curonian Spit famous for its amber and fine sand beaches. Arrive in Klaipėda, dinner at the hotel or city restaurant (included).

OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda

HOTEL: **OLD MILL CONFERENCE***** or similar

Day 5 Friday (Lithuania-Latvia): KLAIPĖDA-PALANGA Resort-Hill of Crosses-RIGA (cycling ~32 km/20 miles, by coach ~290 km)

Early morning ride to Palanga through the Seaside Regional Park, a former soviet military training area. Arrive in Palanga, the biggest Lithuanian seaside resort for a tour which includes a visit to the Botanical Garden and the Amber Museum in the Palace of Count Tyszkiewicz, with over 25000 pieces of amber and 15000 insects on display. Afternoon transfer to Riga (Latvia). En-route stop at the Hill of Crosses, the unforgettable sight of thousands of crosses on two small hills. Continue to Riga, the capital city of Latvia. Arrive in Riga, check-in and dinner at the hotel (included).

OVERNIGHT: Riga

HOTEL: **MONIKA CENTRUM****** or similar

Day 6 Saturday (Latvia): RIGA & JURMALA Seaside Resort (cycling ~30 km/19 miles, by coach ~20 km)

After breakfast 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 to Jurmala, the largest resort in the Baltic States well known for its long, white, sand beaches, mineral waters and mud with healing properties. Transfer back by coach to the hotel in Riga.

OVERNIGHT: Riga

HOTEL: **MONIKA CENTRUM****** or similar

Day 7 Sunday (Latvia): GAUJA National Park & Bicycle Museum (cycling ~40 km/25 miles, by coach ~50 km)

Morning transfer to Saulkrasti. After visiting 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 the Gauja River valley with Gutmana Cave. En route visit Turaida Castle and the oldest Latvian Church in Krimulda (1205). Arrive in Sigulda, check-in and optional dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Sigulda

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

Day 8 Monday (Latvia-Estonia): SIGULDA-SAAREMAA (cycling ~38 km/24 miles, by coach ~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. Dinner at the hotel (included).

OVERNIGHT: Mändjala or Kuressaare (Saaremaa)

HOTEL: SAAREMAA*** or similar

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

Enjoy a day ride across Saaremaa Island's wild beauty – Sorve Peninsula famous for its lighthouse. 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. Free time to explore the town and the Bishop's castle. Optional dinner at the hotel or city restaurant.

OVERNIGHT: Mändjala or Kuressaare (Saaremaa)

HOTEL: SAAREMAA*** or similar

Day 10 Wednesday (Estonia): SAAREMAA & TALLINN (cycling ~37 km/23 miles or 28 km/18 miles, by coach ~210 km, by ferry 6 km)

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. In the afternoon transfer by coach to Tallinn. Arrive in Tallinn, check-in at the hotel followed by a guided tour of Tallinn Old Town. 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.

THE TOUR INCLUDES:

- 10 nights stay in 3-4* hotels, including all taxes
- Breakfast daily
- 1 x picnic lunch in Ventė
- 4 x 3 courses dinners (1 x Klaipėda, 1 x Riga, 1 x Saaremaa, 1 x Tallinn)
- Welcome meeting with a glass of beer or wine
- Mineral water at your disposal on cycling days + reusable water bottle
- English speaking guide escort on days 2-10
- Rent of trekking bicycle with waterproof pannier (+ helmet on request)
- Transfers as per itinerary by air-conditioned coach /minibus
- Luggage transport as per itinerary
- Excursions as shown in itinerary
- Ferry tickets to/from the Curonian Spit and to/from Saaremaa Island
- Entrance to: Ventė Ornithological station, Amber museum in Palanga, Turaida Castle, Saulkrasti Bicycle Museum and Angla Windmill Park in Saaremaa.
- Information package (city guides, maps and program)

THE TOUR DOESN'T INCLUDE:

- Arrival and departure transfers
- 8 lunches and 6 dinners
- Tips

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

A. TRANSFERS:

- Arrival or departure transfer by car for 1-3 people - 30 EUR per transfer
- Arrival transfer by minibus for 4-7 people - 59 EUR per transfer

B. RENT

- supplement for an E-bike/Pedelec with Bosch driving system – 185 EUR per person

C. MEALS:

- 4 dinners package (3 courses with coffee/tea; 1 x Kaunas, 1 x Klaipėda, 1 x Sigulda, 1 x Saaremaa) – 99 EUR per person

D. PRE/POST TOUR ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel in Vilnius COMFORT LT* or similar**

SGL 80 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

DBL 90 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

Hotel in Tallinn HESTIA ILMARINE** or similar**

SGL 99 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

DBL 110 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

NOTES:

- Discounts for extra bed in double/twin room for people from 5 yrs. old – 25 %
- Children under 5 yrs. old – free of charge
- Minimum group size:
 - 2 people (17 x guaranteed departures)
 - 15 people (any other date May-September on request)
- Maximum group size – 18 people with one guide and 25 people with two guides!
- Language of tour guides:
 - DE** - German speaker tour guide,
 - EN** - English speaker tour guide,
 - EN / DE** - mixed English/German speaking group with bilingual tour guide (smaller group) or two guides;
 - EN & DE** – separate English and German speaking groups with two guides (mixed in case of a small group)