

GUIDED CYCLING IN THE BALTICS: LITHUANIA – LATVIA – ESTONIA

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

	TOUR CODE:	Language*	TOUR STARTS – Monday**	TOUR ENDS - Thursday	Price per person in EUR:	
					DBL	SGL
	27/G1-01	EN	May 24	June 3	DBL 2145	SGL 2695
	27/G1-02	EN	May 31	June 10	DBL 2145	SGL 2695
	27/G1-03	EN	June 7	June 17	DBL 2145	SGL 2695
	27/G1-04	EN	June 14	June 24	DBL 2195	SGL 2845
	27/G1-05	DE	June 21	July 1	DBL 2195	SGL 2845
	27/G1-06	EN	June 28	July 8	DBL 2195	SGL 2845
	27/G1-07	EN	July 5	July 15	DBL 2195	SGL 2845
	27/G1-09	EN	July 19	July 29	DBL 2195	SGL 2845
	27/G1-10	DE	July 26	August 5	DBL 2195	SGL 2845
	27/G1-11	EN	August 2	August 12	DBL 2195	SGL 2845
	27/G1-12	EN	August 9	August 19	DBL 2195	SGL 2845
	27/G1-13	DE	August 16	August 26	DBL 2195	SGL 2845
	27/G1-14	EN	August 23	September 2	DBL 2195	SGL 2845
	27/G1-15	EN	August 30	September 9	DBL 2145	SGL 2695
	27/G1-16	EN	September 6	September 16	DBL 2145	SGL 2695

* Language of tour guide or 2 guides in case of larger group: EN – English speaker, DE – German speaker
** This tour is available on any other dates May-September with min 14 people

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 25 to 58 km (16-36 miles) each day. The terrain is varied and rolling with a few gradual hills on some riding days (a few steep ups and downs on the Curonian Spit) 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 ~355 km / 222 miles, by coach ~1195 km/747 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. 7:30 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 see 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 Klaipėda, a modern town at the Baltic Sea, check-in at the hotel for 2 overnight stays.

OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda

HOTEL: **MERCURE CITY 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 Klaipėda Old Town. Dinner at the hotel (included).

OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda

HOTEL: **MERCURE CITY 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 at the Baltic Seaside.

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.

THE TOUR INCLUDES:

- 10 nights stay in 3-4* hotels, including all taxes
- Breakfast daily
- Welcome meeting with a glass of beer or wine
- 1 x picnic lunch (Day 3)
- 2 x 3-course dinners (1 x Klaipeda, 1 x Riga)
- Farewell 3-course dinner in Tallinn
- Mineral water at your disposal on cycling days + reusable water bottle
- English speaking cycling tour guide or driver/guide on days 2-10
- Guided 2-hour city tours in English in the capital cities: Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn
- Rent of trekking bicycle with a waterproof pannier (+ helmet on request)
- Transfers as per itinerary by air-conditioned coach /minibus
- Luggage transport as per itinerary
- Ferry tickets to/from the Curonian Spit and to/from Saaremaa Island
- Entrance to the Dead Dunes on the Curonian Spit
- Information package (city guides, maps and program)

THE TOUR DOESN'T INCLUDE:

- Arrival and departure transfers
- 8 lunches and 7 dinners
- Train tickets from/to Jūrmala
- Entrance to museums
- Tips

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

A. RENT

- supplement for an E-bike/Pedelec with Bosch driving system – 250 EUR per person
- waterproof handlebar bag with a plastic cover for GPS/smartphone (Ortlieb) - 22 EUR

B. TRANSFERS (40% surcharge for late and early hours from 23:00-07:00):

- Arrival transfer by car for 1-3 people - 65 EUR per transfer
- Departure transfer by car for 1-3 people - 59 EUR per transfer
- Arrival transfer by minivan for 4-7 people - 75 EUR per transfer
- Departure transfer by minivan for 4-7 people - 69 EUR per transfer

C. PRE/POST TOUR ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel in Vilnius COMFORT LT** or similar**

SGL 105 EUR per room per night, including breakfast and city tax

DBL 115 EUR per room per night, including breakfast and city tax

Hotel in Tallinn HESTIA ILMARINE** or similar**

SGL 125 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

DBL 135 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

NOTES:

- Discounts for extra bed in double/twin room for people from 3 yrs. old – 15 %
- Children under 3 yrs. 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!
- Language of cycling tour guide (for groups from 8 to 16 people) or two guides (for groups up to 22 people) or driver/guide (groups up to 7 people):
 - DE** - German speaker tour guide,
 - EN** - English speaker tour guide