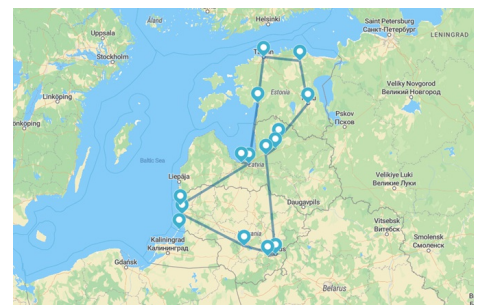




Baltic, 12 Days · Tailor-made by car

The Amber Road

This road trip passes through almost one hundred kilometres of Bronze Age and Neolithic mines. It's the route of a jewel, a trading route between the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea. Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia are the Baltic's diamonds and UNESCO recognised them by declaring their capitals' historical quarters as World Heritage Sites. A trip to this part of Eastern Europe means discovering an area of contrasts, fusing the artistic expressions of the Middle Ages and Art Nouveau in an explosion of cultural wealth complemented by stunning nature and delicious cuisine. Medieval fortresses built in unspoilt spaces and crystal-clear waters caressing the coastline make these countries a unique destination for visitors in search of relaxation, culture and leisure. Their cuisine, with Russian, German and Scandinavian influences, is a delight to the palate. The ever-surprising landscapes make this a perfect road trip, especially given how close and accessible the three countries are. Embark upon this once-in-a-lifetime journey in search of lost amber.



CULTURAL

Departure date: Departures from May 2026 till May 2027

From: Dublin, Shannon, Cork

Travel details

DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - RIGA (LATVIA)

Flight departure from the city of origin to Riga. Arrival and rental car pick-up at the airport. Day at your leisure to explore the enigmatic capital of Latvia.

Riga's stunning network of winding streets helped the historic quarter receive the World Heritage Site accolade from UNESCO. Architecture fans will love the town hall square, the famous House of the Blackheads and the Lutheran St. Peter's Church. The art nouveau style can be seen on the many wooden houses built in the twentieth century, a unique feature that you won't find in any other European country. The streets Alberta iela and Elizabetes iela are home to stunning examples of art nouveau, while Maza Pils boasts the city's oldest buildings. Venturing into the old town is like travelling back to the Middle Ages. After just a few steps you'll feel as though you're in a completely different destination. Riga is a city of contrasts. On the tranquil Bastion Hill you'll see a monument to freedom that commemorates soldiers fallen during the Second World War. This day packed with cultural visits ends on one of the peaceful terraces of Livu Square, where you can savour a delicious "piragi" (a sort of pie filled with bacon and onion) after strolling around the central market full of tourists and locals doing a bit of shopping.

Overnight stay in Riga.

● DAY 2 · RIGA - JURMALA - RIGA (LATVIA)

After exploring the picture-postcard streets of Riga, you can jump in your rental car and take a dip in the sea. Just thirty kilometres from the capital is Jurmala (which actually means beach in Latvian). This resort is brimming with traditional wooden houses and impressive art nouveau villas. Between the Lielupe River and the Gulf of Riga are the white-quartz beaches lapped by shallow waters. The quality of its waters is guaranteed, as you'll see lots of blue flags fluttering in the breeze. There are numerous spas that were set up in this city due to the fame it acquired in the 19th century when the country's wealthiest families would come here on holiday. Its thirty-three kilometres of fantastic beaches are perfect for playing sports such as volleyball and football with friends and family. If you go in spring or autumn, the famous amber stones, symbol of the country, can be found in the sea. The city has many free car parks, which is always an advantage. After enjoying a wonderful day at the beach, it's time for dinner and a drink at one of the highly attractive terraces and restaurants in the area, where you can savour typical Latvian dishes such as "kotletes" (a type of meatball) washed down with the traditional Black Balsam liqueur, which has been distilled ever since the 1700s.

Return and overnight stay in Riga.

● DAY 3 · RIGA - PÄRNU - TALLINN (ESTONIA)

Departure en route to Estonia. After a journey of some 180 kilometres along the Baltic coastline, you'll get to see the beautiful town of Pärnu.

The so-called "summer capital" of Estonia also has a thriving retirement community. The stunning beaches and mild climate make this place the perfect destination for unwinding, especially at the many spas. (Note: Admission to spas not included). The thermal waters and mud baths here are famous worldwide, as they were the inspiration for many of today's spas. The crystal-clear waters and white sands of the Baltic Sea coastline made this one of the favourite places for the Russian bourgeoisie to enjoy their holidays. In the Hanseatic era (between the 12th century and the 17th century), it was one of the most important commercial ports in the area. You can admire the wonderful architecture of the baroque St. Elizabeth's Church, the art nouveau Ammende Villa and the St. Catherine's Church before taking a well-deserved dip in the transparent waters. Tourism-friendly, open-minded and full of life, the city boasts an array of bars and restaurants suitable for all tastes and budgets.

After this mini beach break, the fascinating road trip then continues to Tallinn, located about 132 kilometres away. Once there, you can soak up its unique atmosphere and buzzing nightlife.

Overnight stay in Tallinn.

● DAY 4 · TALLINN (ESTONIA)

Tallinn is the capital of Estonia. Its medieval quarter, Vanalinn, was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1997. The cobbled streets and steep steps lead to medieval churches and beautiful mansions. In the very heart of the capital is the "Raekoja plats" (the Town Hall square), where locals and tourists gather to admire the multicoloured houses. The old town is home to impressive towers and towering walls. Strolling through its streets is akin to entering a fairytale world. There are coffee shops and restaurants on every corner. For lunch, we suggest a visit to "Olde Hansa", a medieval house that has become a must-visit restaurant. It's decorated with period furniture and the waiters wear medieval clothes. Get ready to experience an authentic trip back in time! Viru Street is the best option to start off any tour of the city and savour the delicious Estonian cuisine that fuses hearty local fare with Russian, Scandinavian and German influences. Looking for the best views? A great option is to head up to the viewing platform of the Tallinn TV Tower (soaring some 175 metres high), which will give you a breathtaking panoramic view of the city. (Note: Admission to the viewing platform not included).

Overnight stay in Tallinn.

DAY 5 · TALLINN - RAKVERE - TARTU (ESTONIA) (OPTIONAL BOAT TRIP ON THE EMAJÕGI RIVER)

An early start today to head over to the city of Rakvere, located an hour and a half away. Known as the "green city", Rakvere is home to the ancient ruins of Tarvanpää Castle, built in 1226. The first construction was actually in wood, but it was later replaced by the stone that we can see today. Next to the castle is the impressive Tarvas Sculpture, created by the sculptor Tauno Kangro. This sculpture of a bull is the largest in all three Baltic Countries. It weighs seven tons and measures seven metres long; a true symbol of the city. The castle also has a medieval torture chamber, a shocking display of the many atrocities that prisoners underwent centuries ago. The museum serves food using ancient medieval recipes, which is a great option for ending the visit as if you were a tenth-century inhabitant. (Note: Admission to museum not included). Then set off to the next destination, Tartu, located 125 kilometres from Rakvere.

The so-called "spiritual city" of the country is very laid-back and offers visitors an array of well-tended green areas to unwind. And get ready to admire the impressive façade of the neo-classical university with its imposing Corinthian columns presiding over the door. Inside, you can visit the fascinating prison cell where nineteenth-century students who committed crimes would be locked up. The graffiti made by these prisoners is still visible. A boat trip on the Emajõgi River is a great way to enjoy the laid-back atmosphere of this stunning city.

Overnight stay in Tartu.

DAY 6 · TARTU - VALMIERA - CESIS - SIGULDA (LATVIA)

Today's destination is Valmiera, the largest city in the Vidzeme region. Some 135 kilometres from Tartu, it's the gateway to the Gauja National Park. This is where the first settlers of Latvia settled some 9,000 years ago. Its historic quarter was rebuilt after the damage it suffered during the Second World War. The medieval past oozes through the city thanks to the many ancient ruins here.

The impressive National Park nearby boasts 9,000 species of protected flora and fauna. Hiking is the best option to admire its stunning scenery dotted with windmills and ancient castles. Its terrain include cliffs of up to ninety metres, which are best observed while taking a leisurely hot air balloon flight.

After the visit, it's back on the road. Continuing through the valley you'll reach the town of Cesis. The walled hill here is home to a thirteenth-century castle, rebuilt in the sixteenth century, with impressive towers. This town is a prime example of the fusion between history and nature, with wildlife including bobcats, mooses and even bears. After feeling at one with nature, it's time to head over to Sigulda, located 35 kilometres away.

Overnight stay in Sigulda and surroundings.

DAY 7 · SIGULDA - RUNDALE - VILNIUS (LITHUANIA)

The "Switzerland of Latvia" is the nickname of this enigmatic town nestled in the Gauja Valley. You can visit the impressive medieval castle here, which opens from 9.00 am to 8.00 pm, Monday to Friday. It costs around two euros, with discounts for students, seniors and children. (Note: Admission to the castle not included). The verdant landscape here includes thick woodland and ancient canyons formed over the centuries. A drive along the riverbank offers stunning views of the medieval Turaida Castle, which boasts many a legend. (Note: there's a car park nearby, so you can walk up to the castle).

Afterwards, hit the road for a further 133 kilometres over to Rundale. Located in the region of Courland is Rundale, this town is famous for the palace built by the renowned architect Bartolomeo Rastrelli, who also designed the Winter Palace in Saint Petersburg. You can see the power that the nobility once held in the rooms of the palace brimming with artworks and objets d'art. In the Dutch room you can see paintings by Rembrandt, a must for art lovers. A stroll through its quiet French-style gardens is reminiscent of the Palace of Versailles. (Note: The museum opens every day from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. Admission to museum not included). There are two free car parks near the palace. And then it's time to end the day in the capital of Lithuania.

Overnight stay in Vilnius.

● DAY 8 · VILNIUS - TRAKAI - VILNIUS (LITHUANIA)

The capital of Lithuania is famous worldwide for its enchanting Baroque-style old town declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, its beautiful churches and its courtyards dotted with colourful flowers... A truly buzzing place to be, the city cherishes architectural gems such as the Palace of the Grand Dukes and the Church of St. Anne, which according to legend Napoleon wanted to transfer to Paris stone by stone. Fortunately, this never happened and today you can admire it in all its splendour. In the heart of the city is the Cathedral of St. Stanislaus and St. Vladislav (1251) and its bell tower, which at fifty-seven metres high is one of the capital's most iconic landmarks. What's more, Vilnius has picture-postcard enclaves such as Literatu Street, where you can find the artwork wall. Another must-see is Uzupis, a bohemian neighbourhood that is now a micro-nation with its own president and constitution. It even has its own national anthem! In Vilnius you can experience some of the most special moments of your road trip, as it's one of the few capitals in the world that allows you to fly over its historic quarter in a hot air balloon. Vilnius is also a great point to continue discovering the so-called "Amber Road". Galleries, museums, workshops and beauty centres are proof of the benefits of this precious 'yellow gold'. Fancy trying an amber tea? But more classic are amber souvenirs in the form of soap, incense and jewellery...

If you fancy a trip out of town, we suggest the beautiful town of Trakai, the former capital of Lithuania located just half an hour away.

The town is home to the famous fourteenth-century fortress built by the monarch Kestutis. After various uses as a prison and holiday residence, it's currently a fascinating history museum. The historical and cultural evolution of its 'inhabitants' is explained through the clothes, furniture and maps of the region. (Note: the museum opens from Tuesday to Sunday. We recommend checking the opening hours on the official tourism website of Trakai, as they vary depending on the season. Admission to museum not included). The true charm of this castle lies in its location on the island of Lake Galvé, an idyllic setting that has become a national symbol. In the summer months, renting a boat is one of the best options for leisurely exploring the lake. In the winter, though, the water tends to freeze over and people walk over the ice. Any local dishes? The "Kybyns" (meat dumplings) are a typical dish of the Karaites culture, an ancient ethnic minority that populates the region.

Return and overnight stay in Vilnius.

● DAY 9 · VILNIUS - KAUNAS - KLAIPĖDA (LITHUANIA)

Early start today to finish seeing the most emblematic buildings of the Lithuanian capital. The University of Vilnius, founded in 1579, is one of the oldest in Eastern Europe, so it's well worth seeing. Then it's back on the road over to the city of Kaunas.

The impressive 13th-century castle offers an amazing view over the old quarter. The Town Hall, the Thunder House, the Monastery and the Baroque-style Pažaislis Monastery are the must-sees from an architectural point of view. You could also have time for some shopping on Laisvės Aleja, a pedestrian street full of shops to get a souvenir before going home. The city's major attractions are the forts built during the Russian Empire. Today, they house the museum in homage to those who died during the Second World War. Kaunas is a city where fun is guaranteed. If you're there in springtime, you can enjoy the country's best jazz festival, while in summer and autumn the streets play host to an array of classical music concerts. (Note: Admission to the shows not included).

And then it's time to head to Klaipėda, just over 200 kilometres away. Today will be a great chance to discover the local beer. While Kaunas is home to one of the oldest breweries in the country, Klaipėda is where you'll find the famous Svyturys brewery.

Overnight stay in Klaipėda.

● DAY 10 · KLAIPĖDA - NIDA - KLAIPĖDA (LITHUANIA)

The city of Klaipėda is the main seaport of Lithuania. White-sand beaches are aplenty in this tourist resort. Located at the mouth of the Nemunas River at the entrance to the Curonian Spit, Klaipėda is a city full of stone-covered wooden houses from the 18th and 19th centuries. Our recommendation for lunch is at the Meridian, an old boat that is currently one of the best restaurants in town. One of the most beautiful landscapes is located here, the Curonian Spit. It's a narrow headland stretching almost one hundred kilometres and full of sand dunes. This beautiful setting earned it the accolade of UNESCO World Heritage Site. Further up the headland is the next destination: Nida. This old fishing port is guarded by an impressive solar clock and lies just fifty kilometres away. The waterfront is lined with houses featuring mythical weather vanes, a symbol of the city. These vanes used to feature on the fishing boats in the harbour. Strolling through the streets is synonymous with relaxation, which is why the German writer Thomas Mann decided to retire here. His house is today a museum to commemorate his works. (Note: Admission to museum not included). For dinner, it's essential to savour a fish dish in the port, accompanied by a "svyturis".

Overnight stay in Klaipėda.

● DAY 11 · KLAIPĖDA - PALANGA - HILL OF CROSSES - RIGA (LATVIA)

Today's destination is the stunning coastal town of Palanga, just thirty minutes from Klapeida.

The music from the bars, the famous nightlife, the numerous water activities and the excellent cultural attractions make this city the perfect meeting point for visitors and locals keen to enjoy an amazing day at the beach. The Basanaviciaus area is packed with restaurants and bars. In the summer months, festivals and street music events are held here. The sea bridge in Palanga, which spans 470 metres, is amazing. It's a symbol of the city. What's more, this wonderful town is home to the Tiškevičiai Palace, with a park that houses 230 species of trees and shrubs. A stroll along the pond populated by swans is the perfect end to your time here.

Back on the road.

After driving 158 kilometres, you'll get to the Hill of Crosses, a mound covered with crosses of different styles and eras. The most widespread legend about his appearance dates back to 1831 and 1863 when the Lithuanians placed a cross for each person killed in the rebellions against Czarist Russia. There are currently more than 200,000 crosses or this stunning mount. Access is free and it's open every day of the year. (Note: the visitor centre has a car park that charges just one euro).

And then it's back to the capital of Latvia.

Overnight stay in Riga.

● DAY 12 · RIGA - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Riga.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Riga.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Tallinn.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Tallinn.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Tartu.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Tartu.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Sigulda municipality.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Sigulda municipality.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Vilnius.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Vilnius.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Klaipeda.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Klaipeda.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

× Possible toll charges.

× Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Riga



Jurmala



Parnu



Tallinn



Rakvere



Tartu



Valmiera



Cēsis



Sigulda



Vilnius



Trakai



Kaunas



Klaipeda



Nida



Palanga



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.
- You must give notice that you are going to cross the border while collecting the vehicle. Authorisation may be required to drive through certain countries or areas/states (as is the case in the US and Canada). Depending on the conditions set out in the rental contract and the company hired, you might be charged a surcharge payable at the destination office.
- Suggested round-trip ferry rides are optional and not included in the final price. If you intend to take the car on a ferry, please let the rental company know at the time of pick-up to receive authorisation. Depending on the conditions agreed to in the rental contract and the company you choose, you might be charged a fee payable at the destination.