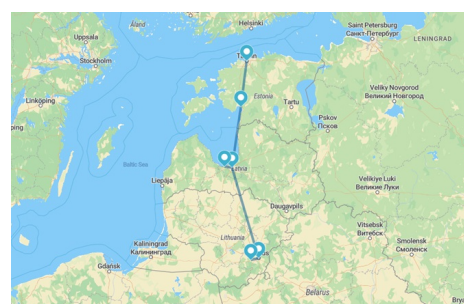




Northern Europe, 8 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route through the Baltic Countries

Science has yet to find a way to travel back in time, but visitors to Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania will come across the perfect combination to immerse themselves in the Middle Ages. That said, they'll also find a 21st-century landscape that harmoniously fuses traditional culture, stunning nature and outstanding cuisine. The Baltic States are a feast for all the senses. Lapped by the crystal-clear waters of the Baltic Sea, these three Eastern European treasures declared World Heritage Sites entice travellers to explore their enigmatic delights. This tour will definitely impress. Medieval castles, fortresses set amid natural landscapes, verdant forests typical of fairy tales and a cuisine with strong German, Russian and Scandinavian influences make this piece of land a true gem in the Baltic. The never-ending coastline boasts crystal-clear waters and white-sand beaches dotted with thermal spas and mud baths to disconnect from the everyday routine and breathe in the sea breeze. The three cities are so manageable and so close to one another that all visitors will calmly enjoy every single one of their truly enchanting attractions.



CULTURAL

Departure date: Departures from May 2026 till May 2027

From: Dublin, Shannon, Cork

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - VILNIUS (LITHUANIA)

Flight departure from the city of origin to Lithuania. Arrive, rental car pick-up and drive to the city of Vilnius. Day at your leisure to explore the capital of Lithuania. The city boasts an important cultural legacy that is reflected in its famous theatres and ballet venues. For example, the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre lays on some magnificent shows. Thanks to your rental car, you can head over to Anyksciai Regional Park, which is just 100 kilometres from the capital and is covered with pine forests. Back in Vilnius, on Pilies Street you can buy items made from the famous Lithuanian amber, which is even said to have healing properties. What's more, the historic quarter is full of wine bars and stores for a fun evening. Overnight stay in Vilnius.

DAY 2 · 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 Karaite culture, an ancient ethnic minority that populates the region. Return and overnight stay in Vilnius.

DAY 3 · VILNIUS - HILL OF CROSSES - RUNDALE - RIGA (LATVIA)

Departure to Latvia. Before arriving in Riga, you really should stop off at the Hill of Crosses, a breathtaking mountain located 220 kilometres from Vilnius and covered with crosses of different styles and eras. There are many legends about the why the crosses are there, but the most accepted account emerged between 1831 and 1863 when the Lithuanians placed a cross for each person killed in the rebellions against Czarist Russia. The hill became a symbol of the country's resistance and people would still place crosses during the Soviet occupation despite the ban on this. There are now more than 200,000 that cover the hill and are a poignant memory of times gone by. Access is free 24 hours a day and you can park at the visitor centre for one euro. Back on the road, seventy-six kilometres away in the region of Courland is Rundale, a town famous for the palace built by the renowned architect Bartolomeo Rastrelli, who also designed the Winter Palace in Saint Petersburg. The fortress is the ultimate expression of the power of the local nobility. This is evident in its many halls adorned with gilt, marble and porcelain that flaunt the wealth and power of its well-heeled residents throughout history. There's also an exhibition of works by Rembrandt, a must for art lovers. The French-style gardens are reminiscent of a peaceful stroll through the Palace of Versailles. (Note: The museum is open every day from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. Admission to museum not included). There are two free car parks nearby, so you can drop off the car and stroll around the museum and the gardens. Today's drive finishes in the Latvian capital, located eighty kilometres from this eighteenth-century Baroque treasure. Overnight stay in Riga.

● DAY 4 · RIGA (LATVIA)

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 5 · 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 6 · 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 7 · 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 8 · TALLINN - 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 Vilnius.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Vilnius.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Riga.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Riga.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Tallinn.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Tallinn.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.
- ✓ Amount of the supplement for collection and return of the vehicle in a different office.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Vilnius



Trakai



Riga



Jurmala



Parnu



Tallinn



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.