

Baltic States

Discover the Baltic States by Train

11 days / 10 nights

Nature, culture, and civilization of 3 countries through the train window

Sustainable – Responsible – Solidary

From €2755 incl. tax

Summer 2025

Small guided group of a maximum of 12 travelers: An intimate, personalized, and sustainable experience. An unusual and balanced itinerary: Discovery – Learning – Relaxation. 6 stages on regular trains: Modern and nostalgic – a total of 925 km. Central and comfortable hotels, half-board: Typical cuisine and tastings. Carbon footprint compensation: Your participation will help plant trees!



11 REASONS TO JOIN THIS TRIP

- Small group of up to 12 travelers: Everyone gets personal attention.
- Experienced local guides and tour leaders: One guide per country, licensed, and with in-depth knowledge.
- A unique itinerary designed by locals: Reducing the impact of mass tourism.
- A real treat for food lovers: Authentic meals, tastings, market visits, local dinners, and drinks.
- Scenic hikes, bike rides, and boat excursions.
- An eco-friendly, diverse journey focused on public transport: 6 trains, minibus, boat, bus, tram, cable car...
- Learning experiences: Vilnius University, Gauja National Park, Singing Revolution.
- Immersion in local life and meaningful encounters.
- A carbon-neutral, eco-friendly trip: ~20-50 trees planted (you'll receive your own certificate!).
- Drinkable tap water throughout the journey: A BPA-free reusable water bottle is provided.
- Relaxed pace with a wide choice of affordable, original, and authentic optional activities.

Itinerary

DAY 1: PARIS / VILNIUS – WELCOME AND FIRST DISCOVERY

Optional: Private transfer from the airport to the hotel by car, with a meet-and-greet service in the arrival hall by our driver.

START OF SERVICES. Check-in and free time for your first exploration of the Lithuanian capital, depending on your flight or train schedule. Many cultures have contributed to the beauty and charm of this city, including Lithuanians, Poles, Jews, and Russians. As the **most western European city in the east**, Vilnius offers a cultural crossroads atmosphere in its UNESCO-listed Baroque Old Town.

Overnight in Vilnius: 3-star hotel in the city center (Panorama or similar).

OPTION: Hot air balloon flight over the red rooftops of Old Vilnius or Trakai Castle.

DAY 2 | VILNIUS, BAROQUE PEARL, AND TRAKAI, VILLAGE ON THE WATER (60 km + 5h walk, 09:00-18:00)

At breakfast, meet your tour leader to discuss the itinerary and get to know your new travel companions. You will also receive your travel booklet with a detailed road book, a sweet treat, and a BPA-free reusable bottle.

Next, discover the must-sees of Vilnius on a walking tour: the Gate of Dawn with the remains of the city walls and the famous Chapel of Mercy, a sacred site for Catholic pilgrims and believers. The upper part reveals magnificent churches, among which the most remarkable are the Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit, the Catholic Church of St. Casimir, and that of St. Theresa. Stroll through the Town Hall Square, which houses the ancient merchant guilds, with the adjacent Jewish Quarter marking the city's rich Jewish history—before World War II, Jews made up nearly half of Vilnius' population. Visit Vilnius University: study the famous Four Seasons fresco in magical realism, wander through its 16th-century courtyards—one of which reveals the Church of St. John with its beautiful Baroque organ and 67-meter bell tower offering panoramic views of the UNESCO-listed district with its red-tiled roofs. And, of course, visit the red-brick St. Anne's Church, considered a masterpiece of Northern Gothic architecture, as well as the Cathedral of St. Stanislaus and St. Ladislaus, known for the Chapel of St. Casimir. Lunch at an inclusive and social restaurant in the old town.

In the afternoon, head to Trakai, the former capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, located 27 km from Vilnius by train (electric duplex Skoda train), in a National Park dotted with 15 lakes from the glacial period. This is a picturesque village inhabited by the Karaites from the East; today, only 60 descendants remain in the village, but they have managed to preserve their culture: they have their own temple, a school, and maintain their gastronomic traditions.

Visit the historic district with its small wooden houses, then embark on a boat trip on the lake around the famous red-brick island castle. Taste Karaites specialties at a traditional restaurant. Free time for a pleasant lakeside stroll.

Return to Vilnius in the early evening and enjoy a welcome dinner featuring Lithuanian specialties in a traditional restaurant.

Overnight in Vilnius, 3-star hotel in the city center: Panorama or similar.

DAY 3 | CROSSING THE ENTIRETY OF LITHUANIA BY TRAIN : Vilnius -> Klaipėda (380 km + 3h walk / 1h bike, 08:00-21:00)

This morning, board the train to Klaipėda. With 5-6 departures per day and a journey of about 4 hours, this is Lithuania's only long-distance national rail line. Over the 376 km route, pass the time on the comfortable train, which offers hot drinks and snacks, while admiring the country's landscapes: meadows, hills, valleys, towns, and villages.

Upon arrival in Klaipėda, explore this port city, formerly known as Memelburg, at the edge of East Prussia: The Exchange Bridge, the Meridianas sailing ship, Theatre Square, half-timbered houses, Friedrich Passage, the castle site, John's Hill, and the Dangė River quays with the marina.

In the early evening, take bikes and cross the lagoon by ferry to the Curonian Spit, enjoying splendid views of the port cranes and large ships. Cycle along the lagoon to the maritime gates, then through the forest to the sandy beach of the Baltic Sea. Enjoy a picnic dinner by the sea (or at a nearby tavern). Return to Klaipėda by bike and ferry.

Overnight in Klaipėda, 3-star hotel in the city center: Memel or similar.

DAY 4 | ADVENTURE ON THE CURONIAN SPIT (60 km + 4h walk, 09:00-18:00)

A day dedicated to an authentic discovery of the Curonian Spit, a narrow sand strip separating the Baltic Sea from the Nemunas Estuary. Stretching 98 km long and less than 2 km wide, this sandy peninsula is a UNESCO World Heritage site. To avoid mass tourism, we opt for local transportation: ferry and local bus to explore everything.

In the village of Juodkrantė, discover 19th-century fishermen's houses, Prussian summer villas, and richly decorated weathervanes. A mystical hike through the Hill of Witches, a forest trail on ancient dunes, unveils over 100 wooden sculptures from local folklore, featuring fairy tale characters, witches, and devils.

Upon arrival in Nida, explore the old town with its colorful houses and enjoy lunch at a traditional fishermen's tavern. Return to Klaipėda and enjoy a free evening. For those interested, we recommend extending the night at a local bar for a craft beer tasting—Klaipėda is known for its beer.

Overnight in Klaipėda, 3-star hotel in the city center: Memel or similar.

DAY 5 | TRAIN THROUGH SAMOGITIA, HILL OF CROSSES, THE "LITTLE VERSAILLES" OF COURLAND - RUNDALĖ (327 km + 2h walk, 09:00-18:00)

This morning, take the train to Šiauliai (1h45 journey), home to the famous Hill of Crosses (Kryžių Kalnas). Two twin mounds are covered with thousands of crosses, attracting pilgrims and visitors from all over the world. Originally, a few hundred crosses were erected at the end of the 19th century

as a symbol of spiritual and physical healing. The site grew significantly during the Soviet era as an act of resistance against imposed atheism and expanded even more after Pope John Paul II's visit in

1993. Enjoy a traditional lunch at a family-run restaurant, owned by people who left the Lithuanian capital to embrace the peaceful life of the countryside.

Continue to Rundale, renowned for its extravagant palace set in a bucolic landscape. Take a guided tour of this magnificent palace, designed by Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli, the imperial court's master architect and creator of the Winter Palace (the Hermitage). Explore the grand rooms of this baroque-rococo summer residence of the Duchy of Courland, including the throne hall, the white hall, elegant galleries, the duke's apartments, and the duchess' boudoir. The former Duchy of Courland, which existed from 1561 to 1795, was prosperous in agriculture, even possessing two overseas colonies. It also gave rise to Dorothea of Courland, companion of Talleyrand and heiress to his fortune.

Final stretch to Riga, followed by a free evening. The capital of Latvia and the largest city in the Baltic States, Riga has around 800,000 inhabitants. Founded in 1201, it boasts a UNESCO-listed medieval Old Town, a scenic canal, an elegant ring of gardens and grand boulevards, and the famous Art Nouveau district.

Overnight in Riga, 3-star hotel in the city center: Forums Boutique Hotel or similar.

DAY 6 | RIGA, ELEGANT METROPOLIS OF THE BALTIC STATES : HANSEATIC HERITAGE, ART NOUVEAU, AND LOCAL LIFE (5h walking, 09:00-14:00)

Walk through the Old Town to discover the essential sights: the House of the Blackheads, the castle, the Three Brothers, the Freedom Monument, the National Opera, the old city walls, St. Peter's Church, St. James's Church, St. John's Church, and the Dome Cathedral.

Explore the Art Nouveau district. This dominant architectural style in Riga features more than 800 impressive facades. Take a guided tour through the district and visit the Art Nouveau Museum, which preserves interiors with objects and furniture from this emblematic style of Riga. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant during the tour.

Visit Riga's Central Market, which consists of five former Zeppelin hangars. This site is part of the UNESCO World Heritage, just like Riga's Old Town. The hangars date back to 1930, and each one is dedicated to a specific type of goods, such as butchery, vegetables, etc. It's a great opportunity to taste local specialties! A detour into the old Jewish Quarter provides insight into an important chapter of history.

Free afternoon for individual discoveries.

Overnight in Riga, 3-star hotel in the city center: Forums Boutique Hotel or similar.

DAY 7 | FREE DAY IN RIGA OR OPTIONAL ESCAPE TO KEMERI NATIONAL PARK : HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND HIKE IN THE BOG ; HISTORIC SEASIDE RESORT OF JURMALA

Enjoy a free day to deepen your cognitive experience of Riga: visit the Anatomy Museum or the Railway Museum, explore the typical districts of Agenskalns, Grizinkalns, and Mezaparks, learn about recent history at the Museum of Occupations, or take the train to the seaside!

OPTION: Join the optional escape to the beautiful Kemer National Park by local electric train: admire the architecture of the stations every 5 minutes. Hike through the park on the Great Bog Trail to understand the complex ecosystem of the area and observe its flora and fauna. The Kemer resort reveals dilapidated bathhouses and spas. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and discover Jūrmala, a seaside resort along 30 km of sandy beach. Stroll through the narrow streets to admire the wooden architecture and take a walk along the beach, with the possibility of swimming if the weather allows.

Overnight in Riga, 3-star hotel in the city center: Forums Boutique Hotel or similar.

DAY 8 | GAUJA NATIONAL PARK: 50 SHADES OF GREEN, HISTORY AND DISCOVERIES ; TRAIN TO TARTU, ESTONIA'S ACADEMIC CENTER (260 km, 08h-19h)

This morning, we depart from Riga and take the local train to Sigulda (53 km, 1 hour), a small wellness town that opens the doors to Gauja National Park, the most beloved park in Latvia. Cross the Gauja Valley by cable car (1 km) to admire 50 shades of green. A short hike through the forest will lead you to the Gutman's Cave.

In Turaida, spend an hour at the open-air museum. This large green space includes the manor with its typical buildings and pond system, the park of the famous sculptor Indulis Ranka, the 17th-century wooden church still in use, the tomb of the legendary Rose of Turaida, and finally the ruins of the red-brick episcopal castle.

Enjoy a typical lunch with regional specialties. Meet a renowned local artisan to learn about the traditional baking of black bread. Immerse yourself in the old ritual and taste the artisanal bread.

Continue to Valga, a border town split in two: one half is in Latvia, the other in Estonia! Take the Estonian train to Tartu, the second largest city in Estonia and a major academic hub. Check-in at the hotel and explore the authentic neighborhoods of Aparaditehas and Karlova: stroll and dinner.

Overnight in Tartu, a 3-star hotel in the city center: Soho or similar.

DAY 9 | CURIOSITIES OF TARTU AND ESTONIA THROUGH THE WINDOW OF THE TRAIN : JOURNEY TO TALLINN (190 km, 3 hours of walking)

Guided walk in Tartu, known for its university founded in 1632 by the King of Sweden, Gustav Adolf: Oscar Wilde's bench, student fountain, city hall, university campus, and the story of Struve, Angel Bridge and Devil's Bridge, cathedral, and main pedestrian street. Interior visit of the University of Tartu's botanical garden, which is already over 220 years old!

Free lunch.

In the afternoon, take the train from the beautiful Tartu station to Tallinn: the express train travels through the central Estonian meadows and the Aegviidu forests. Upon arrival in Tallinn, check-in at the hotel adjacent to the station, facing the medieval old town. Inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1997, Tallinn is one of Europe's most beautiful medieval cities with its fortifications, cobbled and steep streets, numerous churches, and beautiful houses. Over the centuries and successive occupations, the city has been enriched with many monuments built in various architectural styles: Gothic, Renaissance, Classical...

In the early evening, the first visit to Tallinn on foot and by tram: medieval ramparts, sea gates, modern city center, and finally the Kadriorg district with its elegant park: Rococo palace by Niccolo Michetti, presidential residence, KUMU museum architecture, Rusalka monument, and the popular song stage where the Singing Revolution was born – a national phenomenon that led the country to independence. Free evening in the medieval old town.

Overnight in Tallinn, 3-star hotel in the city center: Shnelli or similar.

DAY 10 | TALLINN (09h-13h, 4 hours of walking)

Explore the Upper Town, dominated by the Toompea fortress which houses the Parliament, the Orthodox Cathedral, and beautiful historic mansions. Visit the Dome Church with its collection of coats of arms and tombstones. By heading up, you'll be able to admire the views offered by the Patkuli and Kohtu viewpoints. Among other things, you'll enjoy a stunning view of the city's fortifications.

Continue with a visit to the Lower Town, which has preserved its medieval spirit since the 13th century. Visit the Town Hall Square, bordered by splendid medieval buildings and wealthy Hanseatic houses that testify to the city's prosperity and the merchants of the time. Explore the St. Catherine's Passage with its Estonian artisan guilds.

In the late afternoon, free time for personal discoveries – wander through the old town of Tallinn or visit the new Port Noblessner district by the sea with its creative architecture. Nearby, don't miss the Maritime Museum, located in the former seaplane harbor – step aboard a submarine!

Join the group for the last evening of this magnificent journey: explore the Telliskivi Creative City district, once an industrial area, now a creative neighborhood with galleries, shops, restaurants, cafés, and bars. Enjoy a farewell dinner at the restaurant in the former brick factory.

Overnight in Tallinn, 3-star hotel in the city center: Shnelli or similar.

DAY 11 | TALLINN : LAST DAY IN THE BALTICS / PARIS

Depending on your flight schedule, free morning/day (breakfast included).

Fly to Paris.

Discovery of the Baltics states by train

Summer 2025

Price per person including taxes	
Adult in standard twin or double room	€2755
Single room supplement	€390

Minimum 5 people per group.

Supplement for 2-4 people: €385

Departures 2025:

- May 1st to May 11th
- June 19th to June 29th
- July 10th to July 20th
- August 7th to August 17th

OUR PRICES INCLUDE:

- Regular Air Baltic flights Paris/Vilnius-Tallinn/Paris
- Airport taxes (€148, subject to change)
- Guarantee of a small group - no more than 12 travelers
- 10 nights in 3-star hotels perfectly located for access to train stations and historic districts
- Half-board: 10 breakfasts; 6 typical lunches (with locals/local specialties); 4 typical dinners with wine/beer
- Tasting of local products
- French-speaking guide per country: native or resident of the region
- Travel by regular line trains, 2nd class: Vilnius - Trakai - Vilnius; Vilnius - Klaipeda; Klaipeda - Siauliai; Riga - Sigulda; Valga - Tartu; Tartu - Tallinn; total of 975 km by rail (for some stages away from the rail tracks and distant visits, transport by air-conditioned van (Euro 6 standard, CO2: <200 g/km): total of 290 km)
- Pedalo or sailboat ride on Lake Galve in Lithuania (if bad weather, indoor visit of the castle)
- Access to the Curonian Spit by ferry and bike ride
- Crossing the Gauja River Valley by aerial tramway (cable car)
- Cultural guided tours according to the itinerary: Vilnius, Trakai, Klaipeda, Curonian Spit, Riga, Tartu, Tallinn
- Visit to the University of Vilnius
- Visit to the Hill of Crosses and Rundale Palace
- Special visit to the Curonian Spit National Park: ferry, bus, interactive amber museum, fish smoking house, dunes
- Special visit to Gauja National Park: castles, cable car, hiking, typical lunch, artisan bakery
- Entrance fees according to the program
- Carbon compensation: 5 trees planted per traveler in a deforested area of Lithuania
- Travel journal with map of the Baltic States + reusable bottle + artisanal chocolate
- O-Nord Premium 24/7 emergency assistance
- Free assistance insurance

OUR PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Tips for the guide and local guides (if their services exceed your expectations) (suggested: €35 per traveler)
- Extra night in Vilnius or Tallinn: €110 (double room); €100 (single room)
- Transfers in Vilnius and Tallinn (station/port/airport): €45 per car per journey (1-3 travelers)

Options:

- LITHUANIA €165: Hot air balloon ride over the red rooftops of Old Vilnius or the lakes of Trakai with the island castle (3 hours, including 1 hour of flight, transfers, insurance, drink)
- LATVIA €95: Day trip by train to Kemeris National Park: hiking in the peat bog, lunch at a historic restaurant + Jurmala beach resort: wooden houses and beach stroll/relaxation (8 hours)