

Latvia and Estonia

8 days – 7 nights

**Riga, Sigulda, Birini, Igate, Ungurmuiza, Cesis, Dikli, Taagepera, Sangaste, Tartu, Alatsikvi,
Rakvere, Vihula Manor, Lahemaa National Park, Tallin**

Discovery, Fun, Culture, History

This program may be operated for individual or for groups

This is a suggested itinerary – Please call us to customize

Of the three Baltic states, Latvia is wedged between the other two, Lithuania to the south, Estonia to the north. A very low-key country in terms of tourism, Latvia is often reduced to its capital, Riga, as if only the latter had an interest in the traveler! Let us not be deceived, Latvia has many other assets, starting with its beautiful coastline, bathed by the Baltic Sea, large forests and natural areas preserved for those wishing to venture into the land, and a few small heritage cities ...

Tourism flagship of the Baltic countries, Estonia is a favorite place for nature lovers and green spaces. Bordering Latvia and Russia, the country offers varied landscapes, ranging from charming fishing villages to lush parks and gardens in the north and west. In the southern part of the country, nature also reveals its most beautiful colors. Although almost half of the Estonian territory is made up of forests, the country cannot be reduced to nature. It also combines history, culture and tradition.

Day 1: Riga

Upon arrival at Riga's international airport you'll be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free. An optional dinner can be arranged for this evening.

Recommended restaurant: Vincent's Restaurant (4.7)

Day 2: Riga

Today discover the most remarkable sights of Riga like Dom Square and St. Dom Cathedral. Attend St. Jacob's Church and enjoy the skyline of Riga from St. Peter's Church tower. The tour will take you to Riga Castle, which was founded in 1330 but today serves as the official residence of the President of Latvia as well as home for the Museum of Latvian History and the Museum of Foreign Art as well as the Great and Small Guild Halls, the fortification wall of Riga, the Swedish Gate, the Parliament building, the Monument of Liberty. The Powder Tower and city walls will make you feel the essence of the medieval era. Overnight in Riga.

Recommended restaurant: 3 pavāru restorāns "Tam labam būs augst" (4.6)

Day 3: Riga, Sigulda, Birini, Igate

Drive to Sigulda. The town is situated on a picturesque stretch of the Gauja River valley and is known as the "Switzerland of Vidzeme" because of the reddish Devonian sandstones which forms rocks and caves on both banks of the river. Situated here are a few of the most important historical monuments like Turaida Medieval Castle built in 1214, Sigulda New Castle, and sculpture garden - Dainu Hill, the biggest internal erosion cave in the Baltic States - Gutmanis Cave. The route continues to Birini Manor which is built between 1857 and 1860 and is located near a lake. In 1860 August von Pistolkors built the main building on the castle ground which remains today. The main Building is designed in a neo-gothic and semicircular style. The building had a rich décor of sculptures and bas reliefs which were lost during the First World War. The interior of the castle is done in Renaissance style. Birini Manor is surrounded by a wonderful park ideal for leisurely walks. Continue the route through the Gauja National park which is situated on the both sides of the ancient river-valley of the river Gauja to the Igate Palace built in 1880 in the neo-renaissance style. Near the castle there is a romantic park and an old water mill, with a pub serving traditional Latvian dishes. Overnight in Igate Palace.

Recommended restaurant: Pansija (4.7)

Day 4: Igate, Ungurmuiza, Cesis, Dikli

On the way to the old Hanseatic town, the Cesis route will pass Ungurmuiza Manor, the oldest wooden baroque manor preserved in Latvia. The manor house was built by Baron von Campenhausen in 1732 as the family house. At present the manor house is being restored to its former splendor. Ungurmuiza is situated in the Gauja National Park and wonderful landscapes and protected sites of nature are found in its vicinity including ancient trees, caves and cliffs, lakes and castle mounds. Visitors can enjoy the special atmosphere of the manor house by taking a walk in the park beneath the huge oak-trees or

enjoying tea in the Tea House. Drive to Cesis. In the afternoon sightseeing in Cesis – in the garden of the castle ruins there is a workshop of a traditional jewellery, which can also be visited. The history of Cesis is linked to Cesis Medieval Castle around which the town was built. Rebuilt and expanded several times through the reigns of the Russians, Polish and Swedish. Cesis Castle acquired its architectural pattern at the beginning of the 16th century. The Cesis church and the old castle ruins with the beautiful castle park are places that allow you to relax and enjoy yourselves. Drive to Dikli Manor built in 1896 in the style of neo-baroque. There are collections of valuable antique furniture, fireplaces and interior articles inside the manor. The origins of Dikli Manor date to the 16th century. Historically a home to barons and baronesses, the palace is now a hotel that welcomes guests who want to relax, celebrate a special event, or do business in a unique atmosphere. Overnight in the Dikli Manor.

Recommended restaurant: Dikli Palace Hotel (4.5)

Day 5: Dikli, Taagepera, Sangaste, Tartu

The history of the Taagepera castle, situated on the Latvian border, begins in the 16th century, when it belonged to the von Rehbinders. Continue with drive to Sangaste castle. In it there is a remarkable Gothic-style vestibule, magnificent festive halls and an English-style Hunting hall. On the estate you can see the castle, rectangular stable with an open courtyard in its center, dairy, stable, granary and water tower. Drive to Tartu. Visit the first Baltic University and the old observatory on the top of Toomemägi hill. Overnight in a hotel in Tartu.

Recommended restaurant: Chez Andre (4.8)

Day 6: Tartu, Alatsikvi, Rakvere, Vihula Manor

From Tartu drive straight to the Alatsikvi Manor. In 1628 Swedish king Gustav Adolf II presented the manor as a gift to his secretary Johan Adler Salviusese. The Alatsikvi manor house copies design elements of Scotlands Royal Balmoral Castle. Alatsikvi Manor also has a beautiful park. En route have a stop in Rakvere to see the Rakvere castle ruins. Continue with a drive to Vihula Manor - one of the most picturesque Estonian manor ensembles with 2 main buildings and 25 other historical buildings and structures placed in perfect balance with each other and with the surrounding nature. Overnight in Vihula Manor.

Recommended restaurant: Vihula Manor Country Club (4.7)

Day 7: Vihula Manor, Lahemaa National Park, Tallinn

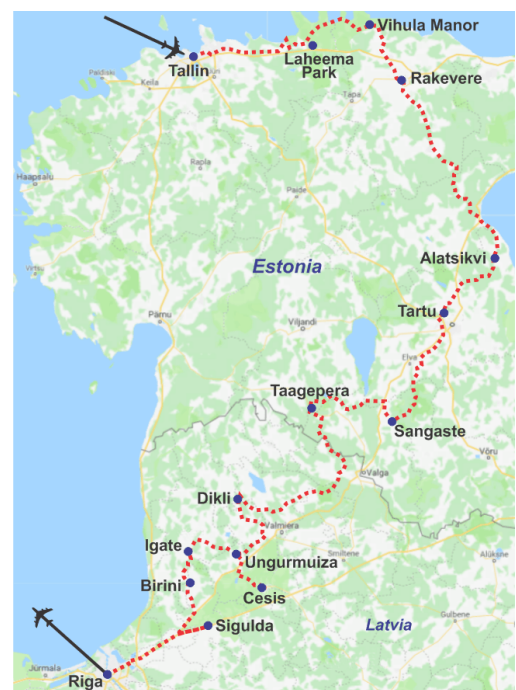
The route leads along the northern Baltic Sea coast of Estonia through the oldest Baltic National park – Lahemaa. En route visit such attractions as Sagadi Manor. The history of the baroque Sagadi Manor dates back more than 500 years. The Sagadi manor complex is an architectural monument of national importance, and it is rare due to its completeness. Trip continues to the Palmse Manor which is one of the most grandiose manor house ensembles in Estonia. Palmse Manor shows a wonderful overview of Estonian manor life and architecture through the centuries. Drive to Kolga Manor which was the largest manor in Estonia. With its 50000 hectares of land and many other smaller manors nearby, it was almost the size of some smaller German duchies. It was already founded as a manor in the 13th century and belonged to the Cistercian monastery, located on the Swedish island of Gotland. Continue to Tallinn. Free time to explore the city - Holy Spirit Church, the 600 years old Gothic Town Hall, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the world`s oldest functioning Pharmacy on the Town Hall Square and the 159 meters high Oleveste Church which was the highest structure in the world in the 16th century. Visit the Toompea Hill which offers breathtaking views over the city. Toompea Castle, built in the 13th and 14th centuries, is the seat of the nation`s parliament. Overnight in Tallinn.

Recommended restaurant: Tchaikovsky (4.8)

Day 8: Tallinn, USA

Breakfast at the hotel and some free time depending on your flight schedule. At the appointed time you'll be picked-up and transferred to the airport to board your flight back home. [B]

[B] = Breakfast



Your Tour includes:

- Airfare USA-Helsinki-Tallin//Riga-USA
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Assistance at airports
- 6 nights' accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- Full sightseeing program:
 - Old Riga
 - Dome Cathedral
 - St. Jacob's Church
 - Riga Castle
 - Great and Small Guild Halls
 - Freedom Monument
 - Swedish Gate
 - Parliament
 - Powder Tower
 - Gauja River valley
 - Turaida Medieval Castle
 - Dainu Hill and Gutmanis Cave
 - Birini Manor
 - Ungurmuiza Manor
 - Old Hanseatic town of Cesis

- Dikli Manor.
- English speaking guide
- Entrance fees for sites visited
- Transportation be A/C vehicle
- All local taxes

Tour does not Include

- Any taxes and surcharges relating to airfares
- Lunches and dinners
- Travel insurance
- Wi-Fi at hotels
- Optional tours and activities
- All alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks
- Other meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Extras and gratuities
- Early check-in, late check-out (Most hotels begin check-in around 2:00pm).
- Expenses of personal nature
- Any service not specifically listed under "included"

Recommended hotels for your Tour:

City	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
Superior Tourist		
Riga	Riverside Hotel	4.5
Igate region	Spa Hotel Ezeri	4.5
Dikli region	Karlamuiza Country	4.5
Tartu	Sophia	4.5
Vihula	Vihula Manor Country Club &	4.5
Tallin	Bern	4
First Class		
Riga	Gutenbergs Hotel	4.5
Igate region	Segevoid	3.5
Dikli region	Villa Santa	4.5
Tartu	Antonius	4.5
Vihula	Vihula Manor Country Club &	4.5
Tallin	Palace	4.5
Deluxe		
Riga	Grand Palace Hotel	4.5
Igate region	Guest House Ungurmala	NR
Dikli region	Dikli Palace Hotel	4
Tartu	Antonius	4.5
Vihula	Vihula Manor Country Club &	4.5
Tallin	St. Petersburg	4.5

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Prices:

From: \$2,345 including airfare

Add-ons available from all US gateways.

Prices are per person and may change without notice

These programs can be customized for individuals and for groups

Changes to this program may be requested by phone (1855-55-TOURS) or using the web FIT Quote Request

- Airfare

We also be glad to add the necessary airfare from your gateway so you take advantage of our special discounted leisure fares

- Program

You may add or remove;

- Trip days
- Cities and sites
- Meals

- Other options

- The program was designed with private services, however, we may substitute shared sightseeing where available
- If you prefer deluxe services we may operate this program including private driver, private guide and concierge service.

- Quotation

Once we have designed the program the way you want we'll give you a quote within 2 business days.

Tour Code: LV03RIX21VT

Options:

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.

Group Quotations

- If you wish to use these programs for your group or as the basis for a customized journey please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS or use the web Group Quote Request.
- In either case our specialists will work with to refine all the details and they will get you a quote with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the land journey.
- Booking both air and land with us will represent savings for you because of our buying power and longtime relationship with the airlines.
- We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.