



BALTIC STATES

Estonia Latvia Lithuania

With Warsaw, Poland

10 Days - from \$2459

2009



Of the three Baltic States only Latvia and Lithuania actually speak a Baltic language and have a Baltic culture in the strict sense; the Estonian language is closer to Finnish. The Baltic states lie on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea, and are bordered by Poland, Russia, Belarus, and Finland. A much larger area was controlled by the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 15th and 16th centuries. Latvia and Estonia were ruled by the Teutonic Knights, and the dominant culture was Livonian. The Baltic countries gained their independence in 1991 from

the former U.S.S.R. Despite their shared past and geographic grouping, the Baltic States each have a very different character, language, and currency. They are sparsely populated countries with well-preserved medieval cities, a young population and offer great cultural opportunities and modern amenities. Although they are situated close to Scandinavia and share a similar landscape to Sweden and Finland, they boast a lifestyle that is more reminiscent of Italy or Spain. Rich in culture and history, the venerable old capital cities are safe, relatively inexpensive and English is widely spoken.

Day 1 Tue DEPART USA

Depart USA for Estonia. Your flight includes meals, drinks, and in-flight entertainment for your journey

Day 2 Wed TALLINN, ESTONIA

Arrive in Tallinn and transfer to your hotel. Balance of the day at leisure. (D)

Day 3 Thu TALLINN

Full day at leisure to explore Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, situated on the southern coast of the Finnish Bay. Tallinn is filled with typical narrow medieval streets, towers and Gothic churches. This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner and orientation. (B, D)

Day 4 Fri RIGA, LATVIA

Morning tour of Tallinn, starting with a bus drive along the park of Kadriorg (founded by Peter the Great), the Song Festival grounds, and the ruins of the 15th-century Brigit's convent in Pirita. Then, continue on a walking tour of the old town, including the Toompea Castle, the 14th-century Gothic Town Hall, and the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. In the afternoon drive to Riga, capital of the Latvian Republic, situated at the mouth of the Dougava River. (B, D)

TALLINN is known for its cobblestone streets, long history and stunning gothic architecture. A city with a thriving nightclub scene, stylish bars and funky restaurants. This 12th century city by the sea has been designated a UNESCO world heritage site. It is one of the best preserved medieval towns in northern Europe without architectural influences from each of the countries that ruled it through the centuries - Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Russia.

Day 5 Sat RIGA

This morning, a tour of Riga features the city's architecture encompassing Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Classic facades. View Riga Castle, St. Jacob's Cathedral and the Liberty Monument. Afternoon at leisure (B)

Day 6 Sun VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

Depart Riga for Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, enjoying the scenic countryside along the way. (B, D)

Day 7 Mon VILNIUS

A morning tour of Vilnius includes St. Peter and Paul Church and St. Anna's Church. View Vilnius University, Gediminas Tower and Vilnius Castle in the Upper Town. Afternoon at leisure. (B)



VILNIUS is the capital and heart of Lithuania. Almost 700 years old, it displays a combination of eastern and western architecture with monumental buildings, palaces, museums, and a robust nightlife. It was one of the largest cities in Europe during the 16th Century and a part of the vast Polish empire that stretched between the Baltic and Black Seas. It enshrines remnants of ancient Lithuanian, Jewish and Polish cultures in the old town a UNESCO World Heritage site.

RIGA, Latvia's capital is a cosmopolitan city with night life to match. Despite being heavily damaged by bombing raids during World War II, architecture buffs will note that Riga still has the largest number of Art Nouveau buildings in Europe and the center of the Old Town is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Estonia



Latvia



Lithuania

WARSAW, Poland's capital was a relatively small town in the 14th century, but it eventually became the capital of the Duchy of Mazovia, ruling over small fiefdoms in central Poland. Some 85% of the city was destroyed during World War II, and nearly everything, including the charming and very "old" looking Old Town, has been around only a few decades. The Old Town was faithfully rebuilt, brick by brick, according to paintings, photographs, architectural sketches, and personal memories. The reconstruction was so good that in UNESCO included Old Town on its list of World Cultural Heritage sites.



Day 8 Tue WARSAW, POLAND

Today, depart Lithuania and cross the border into Poland. Continue to Warsaw. (B, L, D)

Day 9 Wed WARSAW

Enjoy a morning tour of Warsaw. Drive along the Royal route, from the magnificent Castle Square to Lazienki Park with its Palace, summer residence of the last King of Poland. Pass by the Palace of Science and Culture, the Saxon Gardens, the Tomb of the

Unknown Soldier, Monument to the Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto and the Barbican. Continue with a walking tour of the Old Town, the Old Market Square and St. John's Cathedral. Balance of the day at leisure (B)

Day 10 Thu RETURN USA

Transfer to the Warsaw airport for your return flight. (B)

Package Includes

- * Flights NYC-Tallinn, Warsaw-NYC.
Other departure cities available.
- * Airline fuel surcharges
- * 8 nights accommodations
 - * 2 nights Grand Hotel, Tallinn
 - * 2 nights Latvija, Riga
 - * 2 nights New Vilnius, Vilnius
 - * 2 nights Holiday Inn, Warsaw
- * All transfers
- * 14 meals: 8 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 5 dinners
- * Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- * Services of an English-speaking tour manager throughout
- * Services of local guides in all major cities
- * Entrance fees per itinerary

Not included: airport taxes, fees & September 11th Security Fee -- approx. \$110 pp.

**Cost per person starting at: \$2459 Double,
Single Supplement \$425
2009 Departures: May 12, Jun 2, Aug 4, Sep 15, Oct 6**

TRAVEL GUARD INSURANCE offers excellent coverage with low premiums: Trip Cancellation or Interruption, Travel/Baggage Delay, Lost, Stolen or Damaged Baggage, Medical Expense, Emergency Medical Transportation, Terrorist Incident, Pre-Existing Conditions Waiver.

RESERVATIONS

Return the enclosed Reservation Coupon or send your name, address and phone number to Postcard Destinations with a \$300 per person deposit payable to Postcard Destinations.

Roommates We will try to match a single traveler with a roommate if you want to share a double, however we accept no responsibility for providing any traveler with a roommate or for changes in roommate status once a reservation is made.

Cancellation Policy All tour cancellations must be received in writing and are subject to a minimum \$25 per person fee and to the following per person fees: 60-50 days prior to day of departure: \$50; 49-40 days prior: \$125; 39-30 days prior: \$300; 29-16 days prior: 50% of total tour cost; in addition any expenses incurred on your behalf will also be deducted; 15 days or less prior: non-refundable. If cancellation penalties of any contracted tour operator or cruise line are higher than those stated here the higher penalty will be enforced.

Insurance: It is highly recommended that you purchase travel insurance to protect your vacation investment. POSTCARD DESTINATIONS can secure for you comprehensive coverage with TRAVEL GUARD. It is the only company that offers coverage for preexisting conditions -- if taken out within two weeks of making your deposit.



188 Crystal Street, Johnstown, PA 15906
Email: nick@postcarddestinations.com
www.postcarddestinations.com
800-484-3250 Ex 2621; Fax: 814-532-8882