

GUIDED CYCLING IN THE BALTICS: LITHUANIA-LATVIA-ESTONIA (Vilnius – Curonian Spit – Riga – Saaremaa Island – Tallinn)

11 days / 10 nights – **Guaranteed Departures!!!**



TOUR CODE:	LANGUA -GE*:	TOUR STARTS:	TOUR ENDS:	PRICE PER PERSON IN EUR:
18/G1-01	DE / EN	May 20 Sunday	May 30 Wednesday	DBL 1275 SGL 1570
18/G1-02	DE / EN	May 27	June 6	DBL 1275 SGL 1570
18/G1-03	EN	June 3	June 13	DBL 1275 SGL 1570
18/G1-04	DE & EN	June 10	June 20	DBL 1275 SGL 1570
18/G1-05	DE / EN	June 17	June 27	DBL 1275 SGL 1570
18/G1-06	DE & EN	June 24	July 4	DBL 1275 SGL 1570
18/G1-07	DE / EN	July 1	July 11	DBL 1275 SGL 1570
18/G1-08	DE	July 8	July 18	DBL 1275 SGL 1570
18/G1-09	DE / EN	July 15	July 25	DBL 1275 SGL 1570
18/G1-10	DE	July 22	Aug. 1	DBL 1275 SGL 1570
18/G1-11	DE / EN	July 29	Aug. 8	DBL 1275 SGL 1570
18/G1-12	DE	Aug. 5	Aug. 15	DBL 1275 SGL 1570
18/G1-13	DE / EN	Aug. 12	Aug. 22	DBL 1275 SGL 1570
18/G1-14	DE & EN	Aug. 19	Aug. 29	DBL 1275 SGL 1570
18/G1-15	EN	Aug. 26	Sep. 5	DBL 1275 SGL 1570
18/G1-16	EN	Sep. 2	Sep. 12	DBL 1275 SGL 1570

* Language of tour guide/s: EN – English speaker, DE – German speaker, DE/EN – mixed group with 1 bilingual guide or 2 guides, DE&EN – two separate groups

Explore the Baltic coast and the National Parks of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia on very scenic routes. The tour includes the three capital cities – Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn – with their Old towns designated as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO; and the previously-closed Curonian Spit and the largest and most beautiful Estonian island of Saaremaa. Travel from Lithuania in the south, through Latvia and on to Estonia in the north; experience a wide variety of towns, villages and countryside for an excellent introduction to the very distinct characters of these quite different countries.

CYCLING GRADE: We rate this trip as Easygoing to Moderate with intensive tour program. Daily biking routes mainly on low traffic roads and cycle paths range from 25 to 60 km (15-37 miles each day). The terrain is varied and rolling with some gradual hills on some riding days (some steep ups and downs on the Curonian Spit and in the Gauja River valley) and dead flat most of the tour. It might be windy on some days. Our walking in the capital towns is along cobbled streets. You don't have to be a regular cyclist but you should be reasonably fit and active. E-bike/Pedelec is available for rent!



ITINERARY

(cycling ~310 km/~194 mi., by coach ~1341 km/838 mi., by boat/ferry ~62 km/39 mi.)

Day 1 Sunday (Lithuania): VILNIUS

Arrive in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania for more than 600 years. Individual transfer to the hotel (not included).

7:00 p.m. (19:00) welcome meeting at the hotel with tour guide. OVERNIGHT: Vilnius; HOTEL: **TILTO***** or similar

Day 2 Monday (Lithuania): VILNIUS-TRAKAI Insular Castle-KAUNAS (cycling ~26 km, by coach ~95 km)

After breakfast a guided tour of Vilnius Old Town. Afternoon trip to Trakai, the former capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. After visit to the 14thC island castle built on a small island in Lake Galvė start your first cycle ride through picturesque countryside on gentle hills, then transfer by coach to Kaunas.

OVERNIGHT: Kaunas; HOTEL: **SANTAKA BEST WESTERN****** or similar

Day 3 Tuesday (Lithuania): KAUNAS-VENTĖ Horn- KLAIPĖDA (cycling ~28 km, by coach ~240 km,)

Morning transfer along the Nemunas River to the coast. En route passing 17thC castle of Panemunė. In the afternoon cycling to Ventė Horn famous for its bird observatory and the 19thC lighthouse which was used for more than 100 years. After a short bus transfer arrive in Klaipėda, the main seaport of Lithuania.

OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda; HOTEL: **OLD MILL***** or similar

Day 4 Wednesday (Lithuania): CURONIAN SPIT NATIONAL PARK (cycling ~55 km, by boat ~50 km)

Take a morning boat across the Curonian Lagoon to Nida en-route enjoying the beautiful view of the Curonian Spit sand dunes which separate the Baltic Sea from the Curonian Lagoon. Sightseeing around Nida, one of the most beautiful resorts in Lithuania. In the afternoon cycling back to Klaipėda on the Seaside Cycle Route along the Curonian Spit famous for its amber and fine sand beaches. Arrive in Klaipėda, dinner at the hotel (included).

OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda; HOTEL: **OLD MILL***** or similar

Day 5 Thursday (Lithuania-Latvia): KLAIPĖDA-PALANGA Resort-Hill of Crosses-RIGA (cycling ~30 km, by coach ~290 km).

Early morning ride to Palanga through the Seaside Regional Park, a former soviet military training area. Arrive in Palanga, the biggest Lithuanian seaside resort for a tour which includes a visit to the Botanical Garden and the Amber Museum. Afternoon transfer to Riga (Latvia). En-route stop at the Hill of Crosses, the unforgettable sight of thousands of crosses on two small hills. Arrive in Riga, the capital city of Latvia. Check-in and dinner at the hotel (included).

OVERNIGHT: Riga; HOTEL: **RIXWELL KONVENTA SETA***** or similar

Day 6 Friday (Latvia): RIGA & JURMALA Seaside Resort (cycling ~30 km, by coach ~20 km)

After breakfast a guided tour of Riga Old Town, a medieval Hanseatic town famous for its Art Nouveau buildings. In the afternoon free time in Riga or cycling to Jurmala, the largest resort in the Baltic States well known for its long, white, sand beaches, mineral waters and mud with healing properties. Transfer back by coach to the hotel in Riga.

OVERNIGHT: Riga; HOTEL: **RIXWELL KONVENTA SETA***** or similar

Day 7 Saturday (Latvia): GAUJA National Park & Bicycle Museum (cycling ~40 km, by coach ~100 km)

Morning transfer to Sigulda, the most popular resort in Latvia, in the Gauja River Valley. Cycling through Gauja National Park to Saulkrasti, en route enjoy spectacular views of Gauja River valley with Gutmana Cave, visit Turaida Castle and the oldest Latvian Church, Krimulda, built in 1205. Finish the ride with a visit to the Latvian bicycle museum followed by a transfer to Riga. OVERNIGHT: Riga; HOTEL: **RIXWELL KONVENTA SETA***** or similar

Day 8 Sunday (Latvia-Estonia): RIGA-SAAREMAA (cycling ~35 km, by coach ~340 km, by ferry 6 km)

Morning transfer to the largest Estonian island of Saaremaa which has preserved all that is best about old Estonia. With little traffic and flat roads Saaremaa provides the perfect rural setting for cycling. Travel on picturesque roads along the Baltic Sea Coast to the village of Angla where the iconic windmills are located. Transfer to Mandjala, check into the hotel for 2 overnight stays at the seaside. Dinner at the hotel (included).

OVERNIGHT: Mandjala (Saaremaa); HOTEL: **SAAREMAA THALASSO SPA***** or similar

Day 9 Monday (Estonia): SAAREMAA ISLAND (cycling ~55 km, by coach ~40 km)

Enjoy a day ride across Saaremaa Island's wild beauty – Sorve Peninsula famous for its lighthouse.

OVERNIGHT: Mandjala (Saaremaa); HOTEL: **SAAREMAA THALASSO SPA***** or similar

Day 10 Tuesday (Estonia): SAAREMAA & TALLINN (cycling ~10 km, by coach ~216 km, by ferry 6 km)

Take a short morning ride to Kuressaare, the capital of Saaremaa, a home to one of the finest preserved medieval Episcopal Castles in the Baltics, dating from 13thC. Free time to explore the town and the Bishop's castle. Then transfer by coach to Tallinn. En route stop at the Kaali meteorite crater which is listed on the world's giant craters list and it is the rarest nature wonder in Estonia. In the afternoon arrive in Tallinn, check-in at the hotel followed by a guided tour of Tallinn Old Town. Farewell dinner in a restaurant (included). OVERNIGHT: Tallinn; HOTEL: **HESTIA ILMARINE****** or similar

Day 11 Wednesday (Estonia): TALLINN. Breakfast at the hotel. End of the tour.

THE TOUR INCLUDES:

- 10 nights stay in hotels, including all taxes
- Breakfast daily
- 4 x dinners (3 courses with coffee/tea; 1x Klaipėda, 1x Riga, 1 x Saaremaa, 1 x Tallinn)
- Welcome meeting with a glass of beer or wine
- Mineral water at your disposal on cycling days
- English speaking guide escort on days 2-10
- Rent of trekking bicycle with waterproof pannier (+ helmet on request)
- Transfers as per itinerary by air-conditioned coach /minibus
- Luggage transport as per itinerary
- Excursions as shown in itinerary
- Boat trip across the Curonian Lagoon
- Ferry tickets from the Curonian Spit and to/from Saaremaa Island
- Entrance to: Trakai Insular Castle, Ventė Ornithological station, Amber museum in Palanga, Turaida Castle, Saulkrasti Bicycle Museum and Angla Windmill Park in Saaremaa.
- Individual information package (city guides, maps and program)

THE TOUR DOESN'T INCLUDE:

- Arrival and departure transfers
- Lunches and 6 dinners
- Tips

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

A. TRANSFERS (Arrival in Vilnius Airport / departure from Tallinn Airport):

- Arrival or departure transfer by car for 1-3 people - 30 EUR per transfer
- Arrival transfer by minibus for 4-7 people - 59 EUR per transfer

B. RENT

- supplement for an E-bike/Pedelec with a waterproof pannier – 150 EUR per person

C. MEALS:

- 6 dinners package (3 courses with coffee/tea) – 129 EUR per person

D. PRE-TOUR ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel in Vilnius TILTO*** or similar

SGL 70 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

DBL 85 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

D. POST-TOUR ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel in Tallinn HESTIA ILMARINE**** or similar

SGL 89 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

DBL 99 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

NOTES

- Discount for extra bed in double/twin room for people from 5 yrs. old – 25 %
- Children under 5 yrs. old – free of charge
- Minimum group size:
 - 2 people (**16 x GUARANTEED DEPARTURES!!!**)
 - 15 people (any other date May-September on request); the tour is also possible for smaller exclusive groups and higher standard hotels – prices are on request!
- Maximum group size – 21 people with one guide and 25 people with two guides