

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

11 days self-guided supported bike tour (Code SG11) - **fixed departures 2019**



TOUR CODE:	TOUR STARTS* - Sunday:	TOUR ENDS - Wednesday:	PRICE PER PERSON IN EUR:
19/SG11-1	June 30	July 10	DBL 1099 SGL 1494
19/SG11-2	July 7	July 17	DBL 1099 SGL 1494
19/SG11-3	July 14	July 24	DBL 1099 SGL 1494
19/SG11-4	July 21	July 31	DBL 1099 SGL 1494
19/SG11-5	July 28	August 7	DBL 1099 SGL 1494
19/SG11-6	August 4	August 14	DBL 1099 SGL 1494
19/SG11-7	August 11	August 21	DBL 1099 SGL 1494
19/SG11-8	August 18	August 28	DBL 1099 SGL 1494
19/SG11-9	August 25	September 4	DBL 1079 SGL 1399

*** This tour is available on any other dates May-September with min. 4 people**

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; the Curonian Spit which was previously closed to visitors; nowadays it is often called the Lithuanian Sahara; the beautiful Gauja River valleys 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. The tour begins in Vilnius where you get your tour maps with detailed program and route description. Next day your rental bikes will be ready for your first ride in Trakai. This trip is a half-guided tour ie during the whole trip, except the Curonian Spit and Jurmala, our driver with a minibus and bike trailer is with you and you can take part in city tours (Vilnius, Riga, Tallinn) lead by professional guides. Our driver will transport your luggage every day to the next hotel. If you have a breakdown, then our driver will take care of everything for you. If you have any problems – contact the driver or our office. To make certain that you are well looked after, we only employ people, who have good local knowledge and speak either English, or German.

Cycling grade & road conditions: Daily biking routes mainly on low traffic roads and cycle paths range from 21 to 60 km (13-38 miles) each day with a possibility to cycle more kilometres on some days like Day 6 (Jurmala) and Day 9 (Saaremaa Island). The terrain is varied and rolling with some gradual hills on some riding days (some steep ups and downs in the Gauja River valley) and dead flat most of the tour. **Arrival / departure airports: Vilnius / Tallinn**



TOUR ITINERARY (cycling ~358 km / 224 miles, by coach ~1245 km / 778 mi., by boat ~26 km/16 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). Check-in at the hotel. 7:00 pm (19:00) welcome meeting at the hotel with our representative.

OVERNIGHT: Vilnius; HOTEL: **TILTO***** or similar

Day 2 Monday (Lithuania): VILNIUS-TRAKAI Insular Castle-KAUNAS (cycling ~35 km/22 miles, by coach ~75 km)

After breakfast a guided tour of Vilnius Old Town. Afternoon trip to Trakai, the former capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Here you may visit the famous 14thC Gothic island castle erected 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-NIDA (cycling ~31 km/19 miles, by minibus ~185 km, by boat ~14 km)

Morning transfer along the Nemunas River to the coast. En route passing 16th-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. Take a 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. Arrive in Nida. OVERNIGHT: Nida; HOTEL: **NERIJA***** or similar

Day 4 Wednesday (Lithuania): CURONIAN SPIT NATIONAL PARK (cycling ~57 km/36 miles)

Sightseeing around Nida, one of the most beautiful resorts in Lithuania. Then cycling on the Seaside Cycle Route along the Curonian Spit famous for its amber and fine sand beaches. En route to Klaipėda you may stop at the “Dead” sand dunes, visit Juodkrantė settlement and go swimming in the Baltic Sea. Arrive in Smiltynė, take a ferry to the Old Town of Klaipėda, the main seaport of Lithuania. OVERNIGHT: Klaipėda; HOTEL: **OLD MILL***** or similar

Day 5 Thursday (Lithuania-Latvia): KLAIPĖDA-PALANGA Resort-Hill of Crosses-RIGA (cycling ~32 km/20 miles, by minibus ~290 km). Early morning ride to Palanga through the Seaside Regional Park, a former soviet military training area. Palanga is the well-known Lithuanian seaside resort. Enjoy a break here; perhaps visit the renowned Botanical Park, Amber Museum, etc. Afternoon transfer to Riga (Latvia). En-route stop at the Hill of Crosses, the unforgettable sight of thousands of crosses on two small hills. OVERNIGHT: Riga; HOTEL: **RIXWELL KONVENTA SETA***** or similar

Day 6 Friday (Latvia): RIGA & JURMALA Seaside resort (cycling ~30 km/19 miles, by train ~25 km)

After breakfast you may take part in a guided tour of Riga Old Town. In the afternoon free time in Riga or cycling on a bicycle path to Jurmala, a renowned Latvian seaside resort well known for its long, white, sand beaches, mineral waters and mud with healing properties. In the evening take a local train back to Riga (30 min; not included). OVERNIGHT: Riga; HOTEL: **RIXWELL KONVENTA SETA***** or similar

Day 7 Saturday (Latvia): Riga & GAUJA National Park (cycling ~40 km/25 miles, by minibus ~100 km)

Morning transfer to Sigulda, the most popular resort in Latvia, in the Gauja River Valley. Cycling through Gauja National Park to Saulkrasti (bicycle museum), en route enjoy spectacular views of Gauja River valley with Gutmana Cave, Turaida Castle (not included) and the oldest Latvian Church, Krimulda, built in 1205. Get a transfer back to Riga or Sigulda. OVERNIGHT: **RIXWELL KONVENTA SETA***** in Riga or **SIGULDA***** in Sigulda or similar.

Day 8 Sunday (Latvia-Estonia): RIGA-SAAREMAA (cycling ~38 km/24 miles, by minibus ~330 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 Mändjala, check into the hotel for 2 overnight stays at the Baltic seaside. OVERNIGHT: Mändjala (Saaremaa); HOTEL: **SAAREMAA THALASSO SPA*****

Day 9 Monday (Estonia): SAAREMAA ISLAND (cycling ~55 km/34 miles, by minibus ~40 km)

Enjoy a day ride across Saaremaa Island’s wild beauty – Sorve Peninsula famous for its lighthouse. Historically, the peninsula had considerable military significance, dominating the Irbe Strait and the Baltic Sea route to Riga. OVERNIGHT: Mändjala (Saaremaa); HOTEL: **SAAREMAA THALASSO SPA***** or similar

Day 10 Tuesday (Estonia): SAAREMAA & TALLINN (cycling ~40 km/25 miles, by coach ~190 km, by ferry 6 km)

Take a morning ride to the Kaali meteorite crater which is listed on the world's giant craters list and it is the rarest nature wonder in Estonia. En route stop in Kuressaare, the capital of Saaremaa, a home to one of the finest preserved medieval Episcopal Castles in the Baltics (13thC). Transfer by minibus to Tallinn, followed by a guided tour of Tallinn Old Town. OVERNIGHT: Tallinn; HOTEL: **HESTIA ILMARINE****** or similar

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

THE TOUR INCLUDES:	THE TOUR DOESN'T INCLUDE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 nights stay in middle-range hotels, including all taxes - Breakfast daily - Transfers as per itinerary by air-conditioned minibus - Luggage transport as per itinerary - Guided tours with English speaking guide in Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn (any entrance fees are payable individually) - Crossing the Curonian Lagoon by boat from the mainland to Nida - A return ferry ticket to Saaremaa Island - Individual information package (city guides, GPX tracks & maps, tour programme and route description) - Emergency contact numbers for our English or German speaking representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrival and departure transfers - Lunches and dinners - Bicycle rent - Entrance fees - Tips

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

A. TRANSFERS from Vilnius Airport / to Tallinn Airport:

- Arrival or departure transfer by car for a party up to 3 people - 30 EUR per transfer
- Arrival or departure transfer by minibus for a party up to 7 people - 59 EUR per transfer

B. RENT

- Rental of trekking bicycle (*VDV, Kalkhoff*) with 24-speed Shimano derailleur gears & free-wheel, all supplied with a waterproof pannier (1 x bike) and tachometer (1 x booking) – 99 EUR per person
- Rental of E-bike/Pedelec (*VDV, Kalkhoff, KTM*) with Bosch driving system, 7-speed Shimano Nexus hub gears & free wheel, equipped with waterproof pannier – 280 EUR per person
- Rental of waterproof handlebar bag (*Ortlieb*) – 20 EUR per bicycle

C. MEALS:

- 5 dinners (3 courses with coffee/tea) package at the hotels excluding Tallinn, Riga & Vilnius – 118 EUR per person

D. PRE/POST TOUR ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel in Vilnius TILTO*** or similar

SGL 75 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

DBL 90 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

Hotel in Tallinn HESTIA ILMARINE**** or similar

SGL 95 EUR per room per night, including breakfast

DBL 105 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 (**only 9 FIXED DEPARTURES!!!**) or 4 people on any other dates May-September on request)...

