

# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## Highlights of the Baltics

**With Optional 3-Night St. Petersburg post-tour extension**  
**12 DAYS: Saturday, September 5-Wednesday, September 16, 2020**  
**Per person double occupancy \$3,449 Single reservations \$3,799**

**Includes round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$450.**

A corner of Europe that's full of surprises. From historic Poland to the medieval beauty of the Baltics, you'll experience it all on this immersive tour. Start your trip in Warsaw, the shining city that rose from the ashes of World War II. Journey on to Vilnius, a multicultural Lithuanian capitol with a timeless historic center. Head north to Riga, Latvia, where you'll find ancient castles alongside Art Nouveau architecture, then continue on to the well-preserved landmarks of Tallinn, Estonia.

### Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels, 10 breakfasts, 5 dinners with beer or wine, 6 guided sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides, Private deluxe motor coach

### Included highlights

- Palace of Culture and Science, Masurian Lakes, Old Town Vilnius, Hill of Crosses, Rundale Palace
- Riga's Art Nouveau architecture, Tallinn's Town Hall



### Overnight Flight 1 night

#### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Warsaw today.

## **Warsaw 2 nights**

### **Day 2: Arrival in Warsaw**

**Included meal: Welcome dinner**

Welcome to Poland! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

### **Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Warsaw**

**Included meal: Breakfast**

On a guided tour, get to know Warsaw, a city all but destroyed during World War II and painstakingly rebuilt since 1944.

- Enter the Palace of Culture and Science, Poland's tallest building, and take in sweeping views of the surrounding city
- See the Chopin monument at Lazienki Park
- Visit the Jewish Ghetto and the Jewish Memorial
- Walk through the Old Town
- Discover Starego Miasta Square's Renaissance facades and Baroque townhouses

Enjoy a free afternoon in Warsaw or add an excursion.



### **Chopin Recital & Dinner**

**Optional Excursion at additional cost**

This evening, enjoy a private recital featuring the music of Frédéric-François Chopin. Born in 1810, Chopin is widely considered the world's best composer for piano, an instrument that's featured prominently in his compositions. Tonight, experience Chopin's genius firsthand as a pianist plays some of his greatest masterpieces. Then, sample local specialties at one of Warsaw's finest restaurants during an included dinner.

## **Masurian Lake District 1 night**

### **Day 4: Mikolajki & Masurian Lake cruise**

**Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Travel to the UNESCO-recognized biosphere of the Masurian Lake District. Stop in Mikolajki, a resort town on Lake Sniardwy, to enjoy free time for lunch. Then, embark on a scenic cruise through the city's channels and into the lake.

Sit down for an included dinner with your group this evening.

## **Vilnius 2 nights**

### **Day 5: Vilnius via Wolf's Lair**

**Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Leave Poland behind as you travel to Vilnius, Lithuania. En route, stop to enter the infamous Wolf's Lair, which served as Hitler's Eastern Front headquarters during World War II.

In Vilnius, sit down to an included dinner with your group.

### **Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Vilnius**

**Included meal: Breakfast**

Embark on a guided tour of Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital.

- Enter St. Peter and St. Paul's Church
- Discover the Baroque, UNESCO-listed Old Town

- See Gediminas Castle, Vilnius Cathedral, St. Anne’s Church, and Vilnius University
- View the 16th-century Gate of Dawn

Enjoy a free afternoon in Vilnius or add an excursion.



**Trakai Island Castle**

**Optional Excursion at additional cost**

Discover Trakai Island Castle, located in the middle of Lake Galve, on this excursion. The red-brick castle has defended the western approaches to Vilnius since 1409. The castle fell into disrepair in the 17th century but has been lovingly restored, and today, it serves as both a cultural landmark and a scenic weekend escape for residents of Vilnius. Please note: This excursion runs from April through October.

**Riga 3 nights**

**Day 7: Riga via the Hill of Crosses & Rundale Palace Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Travel to Riga, Latvia, stopping en route to visit the Hill of Crosses, a Lithuanian pilgrimage site. You’ll also stop for a guided tour of Rundale Palace and its gardens. The site is distinguished as the largest Baroque castle in the Baltics and is the former summer residence of the Duke of Courland.

In Riga, sit down to an included dinner with your group.

**Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Riga**

**Included meal: Breakfast**

Get an insider’s perspective of Riga, the center of Latvian politics and culture, with a local guide leading the way.

- Walk through Vecriga, Riga’s Old Town
- Take in medieval sights like St. Peter’s Church and Riga Castle
- Head to the New Town for a look at the Freedom Monument
- Explore the city’s striking, UNESCO-recognized Art Nouveau district

Enjoy a free afternoon in Riga or add an excursion.



**Cultural Traditions of the Latvian Countryside**

**Optional Excursion at additional cost**

Travel to the open-air Ethnographical Museum, located on scenic Lake Jugla. A tour guide leads you through the 100-acre museum, which is home to more than 100 reassembled, traditional Latvian buildings that showcase rural life in the 18th-century. From farmsteads and churches to windmills and fishing villages, the museum’s exhibits bring Latvian history’s everyday scenes to life with stunning accuracy. After spending some time exploring, make your way back to Riga.

**Day 9: Free day in Riga**

**Included meal: Breakfast**

Spend the day exploring Riga on your own or add an excursion.



### **Old-World Latvia: Castles Valleys & Villages**

### **Optional Excursion at additional cost**

Experience the rural beauty of the Latvian countryside on a journey to the town of Sigulda, called "the Switzerland of Latvia" for its rolling green scenery and famous caves. Upon arrival in Sigulda, embark on a sightseeing tour that includes a visit to the 13th-century ruins of Sigulda Castle, destroyed during the Great Northern War. Continue toward the picturesque Gauja Valley to see the Gutman Cave, which extends more than 62 feet into the rock and is the largest cave in Latvia. Lastly, travel up to Turaida for a visit to the majestic Turaida Castle, built in 1214 by Albert of Riga. Explore the grounds and exhibitions at your leisure, and eat lunch during free time before returning to Riga.

### **Tallinn 2 nights**

#### **Day 10: Travel to Tallinn**

**Included meal: Breakfast**

Today, motor through the breathtaking countryside on your way to Tallinn.

#### **Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Tallinn**

**Included meals: Breakfast, Farewell dinner**

Uncover the charms of Tallinn on a guided sightseeing tour.

- Travel through the ancient stone gates of the Old Town
- View Toomkirik Cathedral, a Lutheran church founded in the 13th century
- See Town Hall Square and Toompea Castle, home of the Estonian parliament
- Visit Alexander Nevsky Cathedral

Then, join your group at a farewell dinner this evening.

### **Flight Home**

#### **Day 12: Departure**

**Included meal: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)**

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue on to St. Petersburg, Russia.

### **Extension to St. Petersburg \$799 pp/do**

St. Petersburg is a city of haunting magnificence. Created by Peter the Great in 1703 to be his "window on Europe," St. Petersburg combines its fascinating Russian heritage with a distinctly European outlook. Considered the cultural heart of modern day Russia, St. Petersburg is rapidly regaining its reputation as one of the Great Cities of Europe. From the vibrant colors of spring and the endless twilights of the famous White Nights to the brilliant sun of autumn and the crisp brightness of a St. Petersburg winter, the city casts its own unique spell over visitors.

### **St. Petersburg 3 nights**

#### **Day 12: Travel to St. Petersburg**

**Included meal: Breakfast**

Cross into Russia as you make your way to St. Petersburg, Peter the Great's stunning "Window on the West."

Enjoy a free evening in St. Petersburg or add an excursion.



**Russian Theatre Show & Dinner Optional Excursion at additional cost**

This evening, travel to a local restaurant for a three-course dinner of Russian specialties. After your meal, enter Nikolaevsky Palace and take in a traditional folklore performance in the palace's theater. Enjoy champagne and hors d'oeuvres as you watch musicians, singers, and dancers perform traditional pieces against a backdrop worthy of the Tsars.

**Day 13: Sightseeing tour of St. Petersburg**

**Included meal: Breakfast**

Meet a local guide for a sightseeing tour of St. Petersburg, Russia's grand imperial city.

- See Palace Square, one of Europe's great meeting places
- Walk through the St. Peter and Paul Fortress and Cathedral Church
- Drive down Nevsky Prospekt, a tree-lined boulevard
- Visit the ornate Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood
- Discover over three million pieces of art in the Hermitage Museum

**Day 14: Free day in St. Petersburg**

**Included meal: Breakfast**

Spend the day exploring St. Petersburg on your own or add an excursion.

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.



**Peterhof**

**Optional Excursion at additional cost**

Journey to the southern shore of the Gulf of Finland to visit Peterhof, Peter the Great's summer residence. On a guided tour, you'll explore the opulent palaces and gardens of Peterhof and learn how this former retreat of the czars has changed throughout Russian history.

**Flight Home**

**Day 15: Departure**

**Included meal: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)**

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.