

Kaliningrad & The Baltics

DEFINITIVE JOURNEY THROUGH ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA AND KALININGRAD



Photo: Toomas Tuul / Estonian Tourist Board

Estonian folk dance

This overland journey roves the countryside and urban centers of four distinct nations: the three independent Baltic countries — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — and Kaliningrad, an exclave of Russia.

Days 1-2: Tallinn Begin in Estonia's capital, Tallinn, with its collage of narrow cobblestone streets and red-roofed buildings. Explore the Dome Cathedral on Toompea Hill and visit the famous Song Festival grounds, where the independent spirit of Estonians has been celebrated since 1988, when 300,000 people sang their way to the beginnings of independence from the Soviet Union.

Days 3-5: Sigulda, Riga Skirting Riga Bay, pause at Sigulda, entrance to Gauja National Park, before coming to Latvia's capital, Riga, with its Art Nouveau architecture. Known for its appealing Old Town and the odd sculptures adorning its old buildings, Riga is a delight to explore on foot.

Days 6-7: Klaipeda, Palanga Travel across the countryside to the Lithuanian seaport of Klaipeda, pausing at the baroque Rundale Palace and at the Hill of Crosses, a place of national pilgrimage. Explore Klaipeda's narrow streets and merchant houses and visit the Palanga Amber Museum.

Days 8-10: Curonian Spit, Kaliningrad, Kaunas Continue to Kaliningrad via the narrow, UNESCO-listed Curonian Spit, passing fishing villages, white sand dunes and the wood carvings of the Hill of Witches. Known as Königsberg until the Soviets renamed it in 1946, Kaliningrad has converted a World War II bunker into a museum. Its Gothic cathedral and its Hansa Square are reminders of an era long past.

Days 11-13: Vilnius, Trakai Lithuania's beautiful capital, Vilnius, is the final stop. Last to give up its pagan traditions and first to declare independence from the Soviet Union, Lithuania is known for its amber and celebrated for its bravery. An exploration of Vilnius ranges from the medieval, at the restored Brick Gothic castle of Trakai, to the more recent, at the KGB museum, commemorating the travails of thousands of Lithuanians. Stroll the cobbled streets of the Old Town, shopping for linen and glowing amber jewelry.

SMALL GROUP TOUR



13 Days

Premier Series Land Tour

\$6,295 per person, double occupancy

Single supplement \$1,125

Comprehensive tour inclusions listed on page 103

Group Size 5-16 travelers

2012 Land Tour Dates

April 30-May 12 • August 6-18

Stay a little longer... Combine this tour with Belarus, Ukraine & Moldova, page 91.



Photo: Autumn Lerner

Hill of Crosses

MIR Signature Experiences

- Enjoy an organ concert in old Riga at Dome Cathedral
- Pay a visit to the ominous KGB Museum in Vilnius
- Take a boat ride around Trakai Lake

