

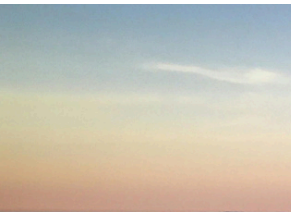
THE BALTICS

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

June 15 - 24, 2027

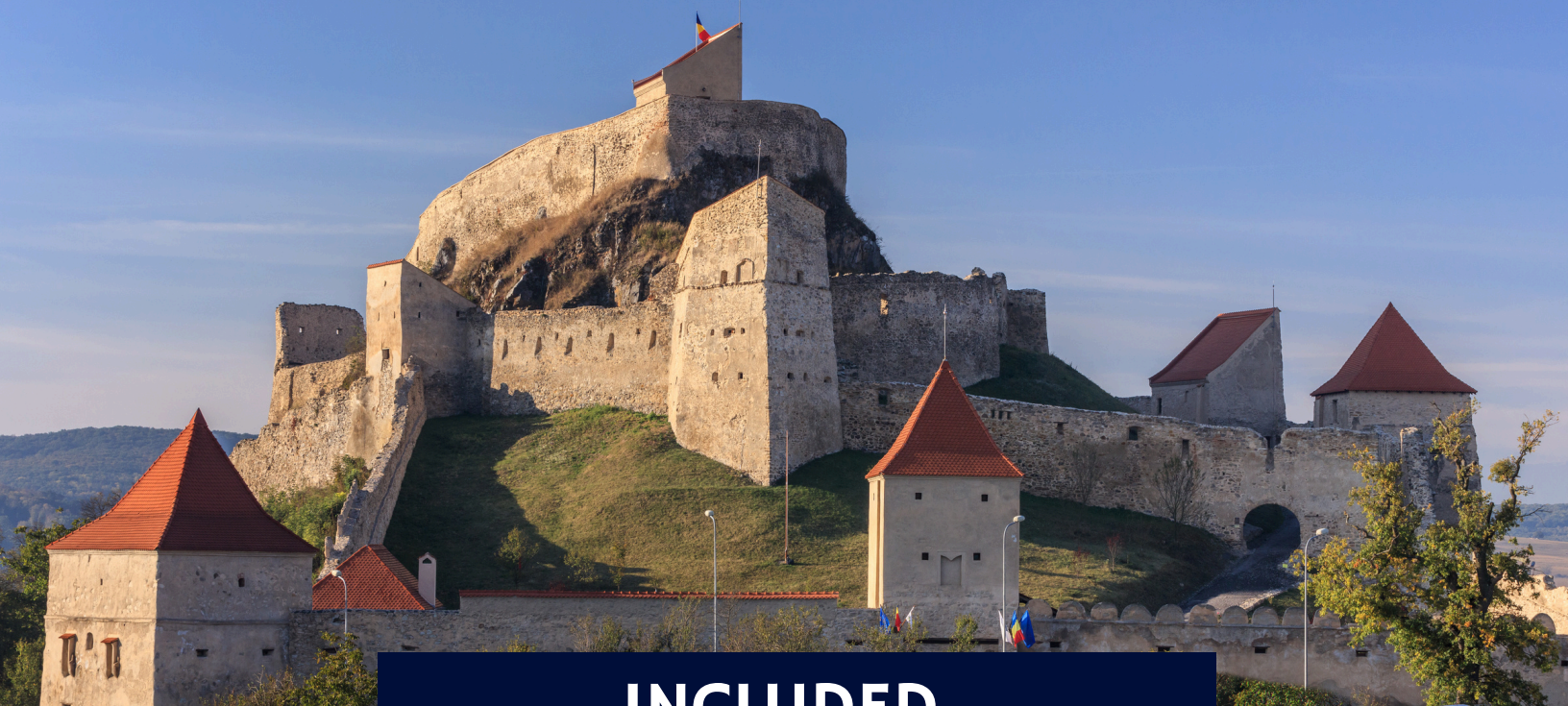


MAP TRAJECTORY



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Explore the medieval Old Town of Tallinn, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with views from Toompea Hill and landmarks reflecting centuries of Hanseatic and imperial history.**
- **Discover Estonia's cultural identity through art and architecture at the Kumu Art Museum and in the university city of Tartu.**
- **Experience Latvia's scenic heartland in Gauja National Park, visiting**
- **medieval strongholds such as Turaida Castle and the historic towns of Sigulda and Cēsis.**
- **Reflect on 20th-century history at powerful memorial sites, including Salaspils Memorial and Kaunas Ninth Fort.**
- **Enjoy the architectural splendor of Rundāle Palace, the Baroque masterpiece of the Baltic region.**
- **Visit the deeply symbolic Hill of Crosses, a place of faith, resistance, and national identity.**
- **Explore the medieval island stronghold of Trakai Island Castle, set amid the lakes of the former Grand Duchy of Lithuania.**
- **Discover the layered history of Riga, from its Gothic cathedral and skyline views to its vibrant cultural traditions.**
- **Experience Lithuania's capitals Kaunas and Vilnius, including Baroque churches, medieval towers, and sites linked to WWII and the Soviet era.**
- **Engage with Baltic traditions through local cuisine, folklore performances, and mead tasting.**



INCLUDED

8 Nights hotel accommodation with daily breakfast, in listed hotels.

Lunches and dinners as indicated in the itinerary.

Folklore show with dinner in Riga.

Special presentation in University of Tartu.

English speaking professional tour guides.

Transportation with AC vehicles & drivers.

One bottle of water per person on the bus on touring days.

Arrival and departure transfers for suggested flights.

All entry fees to places mentioned in the itinerary.

Local taxes.

NOT INCLUDED

International airfare. Visa fees if applicable. Travel insurance.

Drinks with included meals, except tea or coffee for breakfast.

Gratuities for guides & drivers.

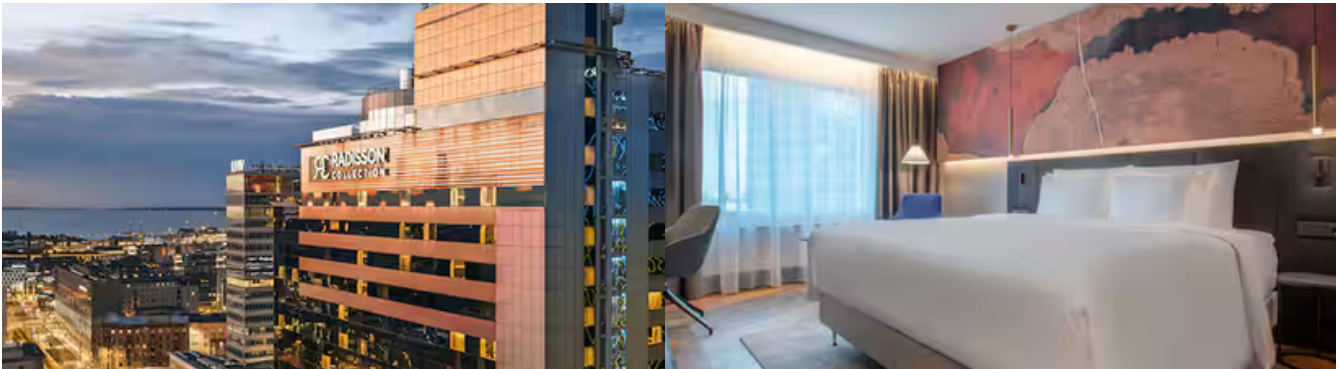
Personal expenditures like phone calls, laundry, medical expenses.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Radisson Collection Hotel

Tallin

<https://www.radissonhotels.com/>



Grand Poet Hotel by Semarah

Riga

<https://grandpoet.semarahhotels.com/en/>



Radisson Hotel

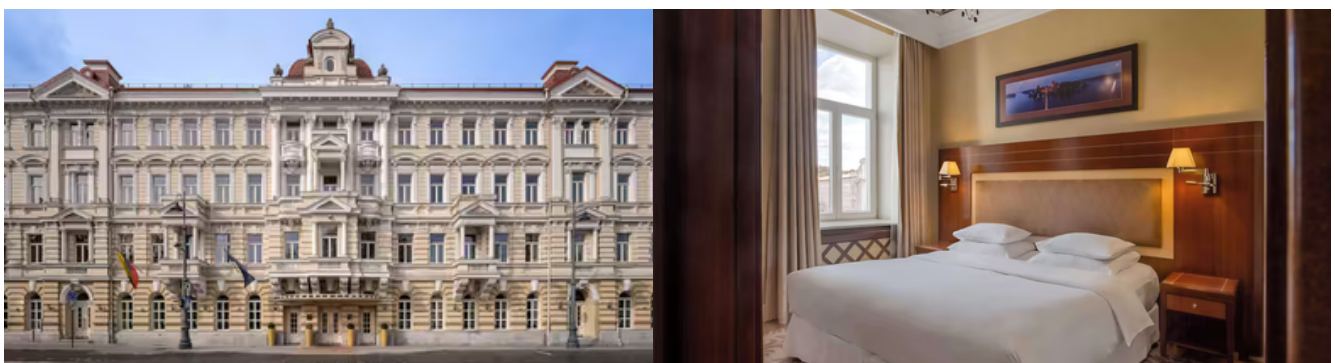
Kaunas

www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/



Grand Hotel Vilnius, Curio Collection by Hilton

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/>





PROGRAM DETAILS

Day 1: Tue, Jun 15

Leave USA

We will leave USA for Tallinn, Estonia.

Overnight en route

Meals: -

Day 2: Wed, Jun 16

Tallinn

Arrive in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, where medieval charm and a distinctly Nordic atmosphere set the tone for our Baltic journey. Upon arrival, you are welcomed by your English-speaking tour escort.

Transfer to the hotel and check in. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to rest after the journey or begin soaking in the atmosphere of this beautifully preserved city. In the evening, gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel restaurant, a relaxed introduction to Estonian hospitality and cuisine.

Overnight in Tallinn

Meals: D



Day 3: Thu, June 17

Discovering Medieval Tallinn

After breakfast, set out on a guided walking tour through Tallinn's remarkably preserved Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where centuries of history unfold at every turn.

Begin on Toompea Hill, the symbolic seat of power in Estonia. Here, the stately Toompea Castle stands alongside the striking Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, its onion domes a reminder of the city's layered past. From the Patkuli viewing platform, take in sweeping views of red-tiled rooftops cascading toward the Baltic Sea.

Descend into the Lower Town through the historic "Long Leg" gate and step into one of Europe's best-preserved Hanseatic centers. Stroll through Town Hall Square, dominated by Northern Europe's only surviving Gothic town hall, and glimpse the Raeapteek, among the oldest continuously operating pharmacies in Europe.

Continue through the evocative St. Catherine's Passage, an intimate medieval alley where artisan workshops and stone arches evoke the rhythms of daily life centuries ago.

Free time follows for lunch in the Old Town, allowing you to enjoy the city at your own pace.

In the afternoon, visit the Kumu Art Museum, the flagship museum of Estonia and a striking modern landmark set within Kadriorg Park. Its collections trace Estonian art from the 18th century to contemporary works shaped by the country's Soviet and post-Soviet experience, offering a compelling cultural perspective on the nation's identity.

This evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant in Tallinn.

Overnight in Tallinn

Meals: B – D

Day 4: Fri, June 18

From Estonia to Latvia: Tartu & Riga

After breakfast, depart Tallinn and travel south to Tartu, Estonia's intellectual and academic heart. Often referred to as the country's "city of ideas," Tartu has played a defining role in Estonian education, culture, and national identity.

At the historic University of Tartu, enjoy a special presentation introducing one of Northern Europe's oldest universities, founded in 1632. Set within elegant neoclassical surroundings, this visit offers insight into Estonia's long scholarly traditions and contemporary academic life. A coffee break follows.

Lunch is served at a local restaurant in Tartu before a guided sightseeing tour of the city.

Stroll through its compact and charming center, discovering landmarks that reflect Tartu's youthful energy and historic depth. The tour includes a visit to the University of Tartu Museum, where exhibitions illuminate the university's role in shaping Estonian thought, science, and culture.

In the afternoon, continue the journey south, crossing into Latvia en route to Riga, the vibrant Baltic capital. Upon arrival, check in at your centrally located five-star hotel.

This evening, enjoy dinner at a city-center restaurant accompanied by a traditional Latvian folklore performance—an engaging introduction to Latvia's rich musical and cultural heritage.

Overnight in Riga

Meals: B - L - D





Day 5: Sat, Jun 19

History, Nature & Highlights of Riga

After breakfast, set out on a guided excursion into the Riga region, beginning with a visit to the Salaspils Memorial. This powerful site commemorates the victims of World War II and stands as one of the most moving memorial complexes in the Baltic States, inviting quiet reflection amid its stark, symbolic landscape.

The morning continues with a visit to the Latvian National Botanical Garden, where extensive plant collections and peaceful grounds offer a contrasting note of natural beauty and calm. Lunch is enjoyed at a local restaurant in Salaspils.

In the afternoon, return to Riga for a guided city tour highlighting the capital's architectural and cultural treasures. Explore the Old Town and visit Riga Dome Cathedral, one of the largest medieval churches in the Baltics, renowned for its history and remarkable acoustics. Ascend the viewing tower of St. Peter's Church for panoramic views over Riga's rooftops and the Daugava River.

An early dinner at a local restaurant concludes the day, leaving the evening at leisure after a full and rewarding exploration of Latvia's history, nature, and capital city.

Optional: Opera/Ballet or concert performance based on schedule.

Overnight in Riga

Meals: B - L - D

After breakfast, travel into the forested hills and river valleys of Gauja National Park, often called Latvian Switzerland for its dramatic sandstone cliffs and medieval ruins. This region was a strategic stronghold during the Livonian Crusades and remains one of Latvia's most scenic landscapes.

In Sigulda, visit the Turaida Castle, a striking red-brick fortress founded in 1214 by the Archbishop of Riga. Set above the Gauja River, the castle played a key role in medieval Livonia and today forms part of a museum reserve that explores Latvian history, folklore, and the legacy of the Livonian Order. From the nearby viewing platforms, take in panoramic views toward the ruins of the Livonian Castle of Sigulda, a 13th-century stronghold built by the Sword Brothers to control trade routes through the valley.

Lunch is enjoyed at a local restaurant in or near Sigulda before continuing north to Cēsis, one of Latvia's oldest towns and a former capital of medieval Livonia. A guided walk introduces the town's historic center and its enduring importance as a cultural and national symbol.

Visit the Cēsis Space Education Centre, an imaginative and interactive space created by Latvian enthusiasts that connects science, exploration, and innovation. Continue to Ruckas Manor, where a restored 19th-century estate now hosts exhibitions of contemporary digital art, blending heritage architecture with modern creative expression.

Return to Riga in the late afternoon. Dinner at a city restaurant provides a relaxed close to a day that seamlessly combines medieval history, natural beauty, and Latvia's forward-looking creativity.

Overnight in Riga**Meals: B - L - D**

Day 7: Mon, June 21

Baroque Grandeur & Symbols of Faith: From Riga to Kaunas

After breakfast, depart Riga and travel south to one of the architectural jewels of the Baltic region, Rundāle Palace, often described as the Baroque Pearl of the Baltics. Designed in the 18th century by Bartolomeo Rastrelli—architect of St. Petersburg’s Winter Palace—this former summer residence of the Dukes of Courland exemplifies the elegance and power of the Baltic nobility under Polish–Lithuanian influence. A guided visit of the richly decorated interiors and the meticulously restored French-style gardens offers insight into court life, art, and politics in the Age of Enlightenment.

Continue the journey south into Lithuania, stopping at the extraordinary Hill of Crosses near Šiauliai. This powerful and deeply moving site, covered with tens of thousands of crosses, has been a place of pilgrimage and quiet resistance since the 19th century. During the Soviet era, when religious expression was suppressed, the hill became a symbol of national identity, faith, and resilience. A visit here offers a profound glimpse into Lithuania’s spiritual and historical experience.

Lunch is enjoyed at a local restaurant in Šiauliai, before continuing to Kaunas, Lithuania’s second-largest city and its interwar capital during the period between the two World Wars. Often called the heart of Lithuanian modernism, Kaunas played a crucial role in shaping the country’s political and cultural identity in the 20th century.

Upon arrival, check in at the hotel. Dinner at a city restaurant introduces the flavors of Lithuanian cuisine and marks the transition into the final Baltic country of the journey.

Overnight in Kaunas

Meals: B - L - D



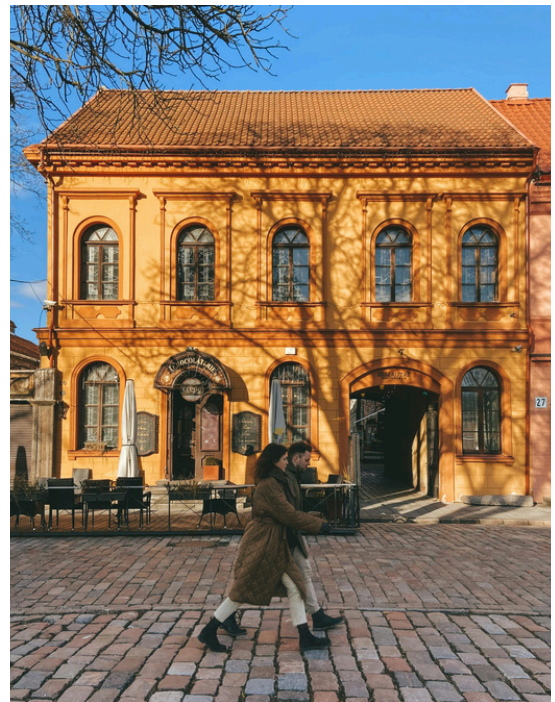
After breakfast, begin a guided city tour of Kaunas, with a particular focus on the city’s dramatic role during the Second World War. Visit the Ninth Fort of Kaunas, originally part of the Russian Imperial fortress system and later transformed into a site of mass executions during the Nazi occupation. Today, the memorial and museum stand as a stark reminder of the Holocaust and Soviet repression, offering a powerful historical perspective on Lithuania’s 20th-century experience.

Continue to the Sugihara House, the former residence of Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara. In 1940, defying official orders, Sugihara issued thousands of transit visas to Jewish refugees, saving countless lives. His actions have made this modest house a symbol of moral courage and humanitarian legacy.

Leaving Kaunas, travel to the lakeside town of Trakai, once the medieval capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Here, visit the iconic Trakai Island Castle, a 14th-century fortress dramatically set on an island in Lake Galvė. Built by Grand Duke Vytautas the Great, the castle was a major political and military center during Lithuania’s rise as one of Europe’s largest states, stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

Lunch is enjoyed at a traditional restaurant in Trakai, featuring Lithuanian national dishes and local Karaim culinary traditions, reflecting the region’s multiethnic past.

In the afternoon, continue to Vilnius, the historic capital of Lithuania. Upon arrival, check in at the hotel. Dinner at a city restaurant provides a relaxed introduction to Vilnius, a city shaped by centuries of Polish, Lithuanian, Jewish, and Eastern European influences.

Overnight in Vilnius**Meals: B - L - D**



Day 9: Wed, June 23

Layers of History & Living Traditions in Vilnius

After breakfast, set out on a guided city tour of Vilnius, combining panoramic sightseeing by coach with immersive walking exploration. With one of the largest and most diverse Old Towns in Eastern Europe, Vilnius reflects centuries of Lithuanian, Polish, Jewish, and Eastern Christian influences woven into a unique urban fabric.

Visit the richly decorated St. Peter and Paul Church, a masterpiece of Baroque art built in the 17th century as an expression of gratitude for Lithuania's survival through wars and upheavals. Its interior, adorned with more than 2,000 intricate stucco figures, is considered one of the finest examples of Baroque craftsmanship in Europe. Continue to Gediminas Tower, ascending Gediminas Hill by funicular. The tower, a surviving remnant of the Upper Castle, is a powerful national symbol associated with the founding legend of Vilnius and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. From the top, enjoy sweeping views over the Old Town and the confluence of the Neris and Vilnia rivers.

The tour also includes a guided visit to the former Lukiškės Prison, a striking 20th-century complex that once held political prisoners under Tsarist, Nazi, and Soviet rule. Today, it stands as a cultural site offering insight into Lithuania's turbulent modern history and remarkable transformation.

Lunch is at leisure, allowing time to explore Vilnius independently or enjoy one of its many cafés.

In the afternoon, a tasting of Lithuanian mead, one of the oldest alcoholic beverages in the region, deeply rooted in Baltic pagan and medieval traditions.

This evening, gather for a farewell dinner at a city restaurant in Vilnius, a celebratory conclusion to a journey through the history, culture, and spirit of the Baltic States.

Overnight in Vilnius

Meals: B – D

Day 10: Thu, June 24

Departure

Early in the morning transfer to the airport for return flight.



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OF GREATER HOUSTON**

Global Perspectives, Local Conversations

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