

Amazing Journeys - RUSSIA, FINLAND, ESTONIA, LATVIA,

Baltic States, famous for well preserved medieval heritage, charming old towns and unique Art Nouveau and Baroque architecture, but that's not all. These beautiful, diverse countries have so much more to offer. The Baltics have many attractions to offer and a wide variety of places to visit. The delights of short city breaks during the weekends, the charm of smaller country villages, the best offers of Spa & Wellness at reasonable prices, thrilling outdoor sport activities, unbelievably clean environment of wide open countryside and delightful elegance of palaces and manors. The region is one of the rising top travel destinations, so why not indulge your passion for travel and perfect vacation or, holiday and try something new? We warmly welcome you on board this ultimate experience to the Baltics States. 



LITHUANIA, POLAND

the Grand



Baltic Tour



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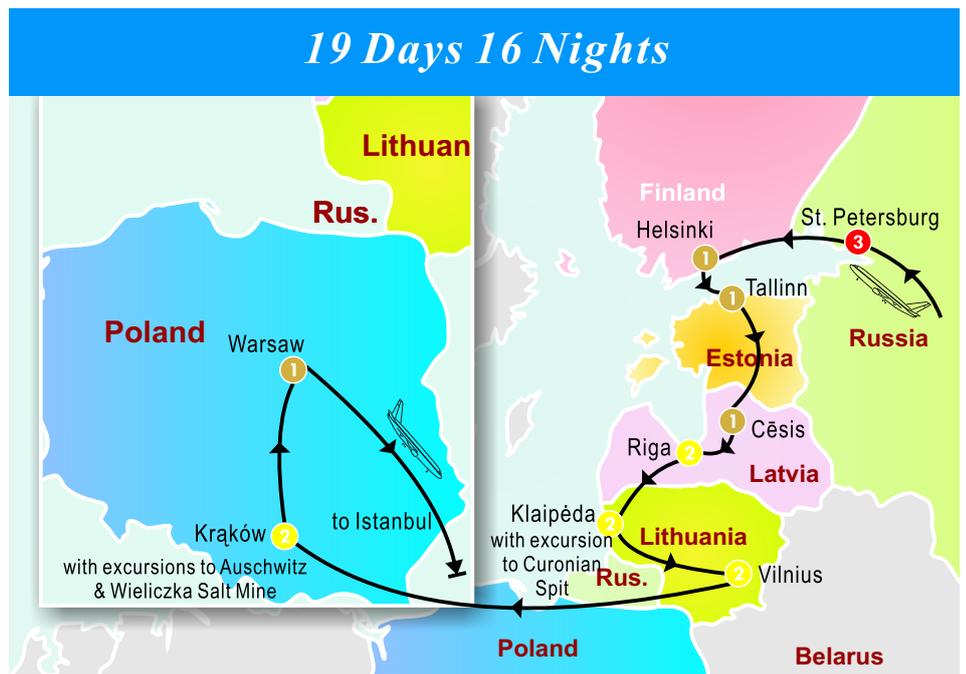


Cost from USD 6,140 per person sharing, USD 980 additional for single supplement

Included: Land & international flights ex-JNB

Category: Superior

Departure dates: 12 September 2013 / 18 September 2014 / 17 September 2015 / 15 September 2016 / 21 September 2017



Day 01 Thursday

Depart Johannesburg via TK 41 at 18h45 p.m.

Day 02 Friday Arrive St. Petersburg

The city was created by Peter the Great to rival Venice. Its 101 islands, 66 canals, and hundreds of bridges have secured its reputation as the most beautiful city in the country. On arrival, meet and transfer to hotel.

Day 03 Saturday St. Petersburg (B. L.)

Visit to Peter and Paul Fortress in the morning. After lunch, sightseeing features the former residence of Russian emperor, the Hermitage State Museum, one of the world's largest and oldest museums. It was founded in 1764 by Catherine the Great and opened to public in 1852.

Day 04 Sunday St. Petersburg (B. L.)

Excursion to Tsarskoe Selo, including visit to the Park and Catherine Palace. Enjoy a visit to the palace, stroll along the alleys of the park with its numerous features and don't forget to take a look at the Lyceum just next door. It is a 19th century school for the elite, where the famous Russian poet Alexander Pushkin and many other well-know Russian figures studied. Further down the road, visitors will find the Aleksandrovsky Palace, the favoured home of the last Russian Tsar Nicholas II. Upon return to St. Petersburg, enjoy a short boat ride under St. Petersburg Bridges.

Day 05 Monday

St. Petersburg / Helsinki (B.) via Train

After breakfast, a transfer to railway station and board express train to Helsinki (approximately 4-hour journey). Sightseeing introduces a visit to Senate Square, the Presidential Palace, City Hall, the Parliament building, Finlandia Hall, the Opera House, the Sibelius Monument and the famous Church-in-the Rock.

Day 06 Tuesday

Helsinki / Tallinn (B. L.)

This morning, take a ferry to Tallinn (Estonia). Tallinn is the oldest capital in Northern Europe putted in the map. Enjoy a walking tour in the old town. Exploring Holy Spirit Church, the 600 years old Gothic Town Hall, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the world's oldest functioning Pharmacy on Town Hall Square and the 159 metres high Oleveste Church. Onto Toompea Hill which offer breathtaking view over the city; Toompea Castle, built in the 13th century, and which is the seat of the nation's parliament.

Day 07 Wednesday Tallinn / Parnu / Cesis (B. L.)

Depart for Latvia this morning and en route a stop at the resort city Parnu. Arrive Cesis, a medieval and one of the oldest towns in Latvia. Visit to the Stone Castle of the Livonian Order, built in 1206, the St. Johns Church and the beautiful Castle Park...

Day 08 Thursday Cesis / Sigulda / Riga (B. L.)

Depart for Sigulda, a place where the beauty of nature becomes an integral part of the city. It is situated on a picturesque stretch of the Gauja River valley and is known as the 'Switzerland of Vidzeme'... Here are placed few of the most important historical monuments, museums, nature objects and attraction places like Turaida Medieval Castle (built in 1214), Sigulda New Castle, Dainu Hill, and the biggest internal erosion cave in the Baltic States – Gutmanis cave... After lunch, drive to Riga.

Day 09 Friday Riga (B. L.)

Enjoy a walking tour to Art Nouveau district. The exteriors of the Art Nouveau buildings are imaginatively decorated. It followed by a 3-hour walking tour through Riga Old Town by visiting the most remarkable sights like Dom Square and St. Dom Cathedral. Also, see St. Peter's Church Tower and St. Jacobs Church, the highest building in Riga. The tour also includes the official residence of the President of Latvia and many other historical sites. The Powder Tower and city walls will make you feel the breath of the medieval and the beautiful and elegant Blackheads House will delight lovers of glory. After lunch, enjoy a panoramic tour around the city.

Day 10 Saturday Riga / Rundale / Klaipeda (B. L.)

Depart for Rundale (approximately 2-hour ride) and a visit to Rundale Palace, known as the Summer Residence of Duke of Courland Ernst Johann Biron. After lunch, drive to Siauliai, where 12 km on north is located Hill of Crosses. Over the centuries, not only crosses but giant crucifixes, carving of Lithuanian patriots, statues of the Virgin Mary and thousands of tiny effigies and rosaries have been brought here by Catholic pilgrims. Continue to Klaipeda.

Day 11 Sunday Klaipeda / Curonian Spit / Klaipeda (B. L.)

Visit to Klaipeda castle and fortification bastions built in 13th century. Enjoy a stroll in the old town of Klaipeda with a stop at Drama Theatre Square, famous for its sculpture of 'Annchen von Tharau'. Wander through the net of 18th century streets, where traditional medieval urban layout is still clearly distinguishable. Afterwards, an excursion to the resort town of Neringa, situated in the beautiful nature of forests and sand dunes of the Curonian Spit National Park – a unique narrow peninsula with sand dunes and pine forests separating the Baltic Sea from the Curonian Lagoon. There, you will be brought to 'Hill of Witches' and visit the Great Dune, which is 52-metre high and it gives an opportunity to view a magnificent panoramic view to the dunes and the Baltic Sea. Finish the day with a visit to the Amber Gallery, an old fishermen's cottage, etc.

Day 12 Monday Klaipeda / Kaunas / Traki / Vilnius (B. L.)

Depart for Kaunas and enjoy a walking tour including the Old Town of Kaunas. There, you will see St. George's Church, Kaunas Castle, the courtyard of the Theological seminary, the Town Hall Square; a walk on the Central Street, Freedom Avenue bustling with street vendors, musicians, full of cafes and souvenir shops... You will also visit Ciulionis Picture Gallery and Devils' Museum. Continue to Trakai and visit the impressive Trakai castle. Continue to Vilnius after the visit.

Day 13 Tuesday Vilnius (B. L.)

Enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town visiting Cathedral Square with Dome Church and Clock-Tower, St. Anne's Church, St.

Bernhardin's Monastery and the St. Michael's Church with striking memorial of Renaissance style. Continue to the courtyards and the palace of the Vilnius University, the St. Peter and Paul's Church, the Gediminas Tower. Vilnius is often called a Baroque city. However, the ruins of castles, narrow streets, church spires, bell towers, red tile roofs, residential cellars testify that Vilnius has massive influence from Gothic style. In the 16th century Gothic intertwined with Renaissance, and in the 17th and 18th century Baroque buildings started to appear.

Day 14 Wednesday Vilnius / Krakow (B.)

After breakfast, a transfer to airport for your flight to Krakow, the old capital of Poland. The unique atmosphere of the beautiful and mysterious streets in the Old Town will allow you to escape from everyday life. Our route follows the Royal Route which goes along the most charming streets, the Slowacki Theatre, the Jagiellonian University (one of the oldest universities in Europe), and the spectacular Main Market Square (hosts nearly all the city's major festivals, parades and jamborees, including Christmas and Easter markets)... Accommodation at Holiday Inn Krakow or, similar

Day 15 Thursday

Krakow / Auschwitz / Wieliczka Salt Mine / Krakow (B.)

An excursion to Auschwitz and visit to the concentration camp established by Nazis on the outskirts of the town Oswiecim in 1940. Birkenau Concentration Camp was listed a UNESCO World Culture and National Heritage Site. Block 11, known as the Death Block, was where people were murdered also at the 'Wall of Death'. Outside the camp, there is a gas chamber, where 70,000 people were killed in 1940-1943. In 1942-1945, 1.5 million people lived and died here. Drive to Wieliczka Salta Mine, one of the most ancient mines in the world. It has been operating since the 13th century with no intermissions. It is also listed as an UNESCO Heritage site.

Day 16 Friday Krakow / Warsaw (B.)

A morning flight to Warsaw. Enjoy a city tour including visits of Old Town, Market Square, St. John's Cathedral, the Barbican and Castle Square. Drive along the Royal Route with its numerous churches, monuments, historical buildings and palaces. Stroll through the grand Lazienki Park with its 'Palace on the Water' and Chopin's monument. On the way back, pause to pay respects at the former Jewish Ghetto monument, followed by a drive past the imposing building of the Grand Theatre and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Day 17 Saturday Warsaw / Istanbul (B.)

Breakfast at hotel and the morning is free at leisure. A transfer to airport for flight to Istanbul. On arrival, transfer to hotel. Accommodation at Boutique Princess Hotel or, similar

Day 18 Sunday Depart for Johannesburg

Enjoy breakfast at hotel and spend a day at leisure. In the evening, transfer to airport and a midnight flight to Johannesburg (the actual departing date is Day 19 Monday).

Day 19 Monday Arrive Johannesburg around 09h40 a.m.

Welcome home! 