

Kaliningrad

Tour Date
20.07.22 - 01.08.22
Cut-off Date: 30.04.2022



CHARACTERISTICS/IDEA BEHIND THIS TOUR:

- + good for working people, not too long
- + Before / after the trip there is time for individual interests and to explore the Baltic States.
- + covers the whole region
- + in the summer
- + rooms are available near the campsite in case you want to use car/bike or bring additional travellers along
- + region is not suited for ad hoc travel due to visa and campsite restrictions.

PREPARATION:

Travel documents*: Passport (validity until 6 months after tour), international driving license, green card, visa

Visa*: The visa is included in the tour price. We require from you: passport, passport photographs, a proof of your travel health insurance and a document that you will return home. A longer visa period may be arranged upon request.

CB-radio: Not required

Car Insurance: All countries of this trip are part of the green card system. Some insurances have to be asked to cover Russia. As the local cover is rather low we recommend that you are insured fully comprehensive.

Vaccinations: None are compulsory. A Covid-19 vaccination may be necessary to enter a country/ avoid quarantine. More information at www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Pets: require a pet passport and close to departing from home attestation from an official veterinarian.

Pre-Tour Meeting: The pre-tour meeting in Germany, at which we also collect the copies of your passport takes place on May 21st and is only open to booked participants. As a service to our only-English speaking clients may take place as Online Meeting.

TOUR LOGISTICS:

Meeting Point: Official meeting point for tour start is in Malbork. As an individual meeting place we recommend a place near the German-Polish border near Küstrin. From here you may travel together with other participants.

Tour Leader: Your tour leader informs regularly about driving stages and daily programmes. If needed he has local support staff.

Driving Stages: You may drive all stages by yourselves. The tour leader offers to go with him/her, or join up with a fellow minded group member. We recommend passing across borders in the group.

Road Conditions: The roads in Poland and the Baltic States are generally okay. In the Kaliningrad Oblast the main roads are good, some roadworks. The side roads will be of all kinds of material often with potholes.

Overnight Places: The overnight places in Russia are so-called hotel sites. This is the car park at the hotel which gives us the necessary infrastructure. The other overnights are in regular campsites

of local standard, but occasionally have the characteristics of an aire. They might be chosen for being a good starting point for the city tour rather than being a holiday site.

Supplies: Electricity and water are available daily. Grey water disposal is available on most sites. The Re-Fill of gas bottles may be arranged with the tour leader if really required.

Safety & Security: Safety is guaranteed on the camping / parking spaces. In the cities, please watch out for pickpockets.

Mobility Rating: 2

See catalogue "Your Journey with Mir Tours" point 7). The required degree of mobility usually only relates to some programmes and segments of the sightseeing. If your walking is not that great, you may still join this trip. To do this, you would skip one or the other programme item or shorten it. We would be happy to discuss the trip with you in this regard. In case you use a tool such as a rollator or travel wheelchair, please note that these may also have to be lifted into the means of transport.

Food Supply:

Supermarkets with a good selection, similar to western standards are available en-route. Gluten- and lactose-free products are available in larger supermarkets.

Climate:

Best time to travel is between May and August

Clothing: ☞

Ferry: Curonian Spit – main land Crosses every 20 mins and tickets are purchased upon departure. The tariffs are as per your gross weight, i.e. up to 3,5t

Hotel: On this trip, you may also spend the night in a hotel room/cottage at all locations. This makes it easier, for example, to take friends / relatives with you or to come just by car.

MONEY MATTERS

Tour Price: 1.070,- € per person with the own car + caravan or camper when two persons travel in one vehicle Additional charge for a single driver 15%

Fuel:

In Poland and the Baltic States the fuel prices are nearly as high as Central Europe. In Russia the prices are approx. 30% cheaper

Additional costs/travel funds:

Up to 50 € per vehicle for tolls, border fees and insurances

approx. 35 - 70 € per Unit fee for the Curonian Spit incl. ferry.

approx. 20 € per person/day to cover your living expenses

Up to 2€ per person/day for tips

Also plan a little buffer for souvenirs, mishaps, doctor etc.

In Poland, the Baltic States and the major Russian cities, you can pay with a card at petrol stations, souvenir shops and the larger supermarkets.

Money Exchange: without problems ⓘ ATM machines are available for use of your debit or credit card.

☞ = like in Western Europe

ⓘ = will be discussed at length during the pre-tour meeting

All this information is subject to change and is meant for this route as part of a group tour. There might be differences if you book an individual tour to these countries.

* The information about visa and travel documents is considering that your passport is issued by Switzerland or in a country that belongs to both the EU and the Schengen area. For the other countries we will inform you individually.

MANDATORY INFORMATION

Cut-off Date: 30.04.2022

On this date we have to decide if sufficient participants to run this tour have been reached. Ideally, you should have booked by this point.

Booking Closes: 30.06.2022

Should you be unable to book earlier, this is the last day that booking is possible under the condition that you bring your documents in time and the required number of participants has been reached at the cut-off date.

Payments due: upon booking 10%

a further 10% is due by 26.05.2022

Final payment due by 20.06.2022

Cancellation fee: in percentage of tour price; is dependent on the time left to the tour start.

as of booking = 10%

day 54. - 30. before tour start = 25%

day 29. - 10. before tour start = 35%

from day 9. before tour start = 75%

GENERAL SERVICES:

Organization & Booking: We order the included programmes for your and book the overnight places. For us – as a registered tour operator – the compliance with travel law is obligatory.

Visa /Visa fees (RUS): You hand over the required documents. We will fill out the visa form and obtain the necessary visa.

Entry fees for included programme: The tour price includes the normal entry fees for the sights we have put in the programme. Should there be additional parts (special exhibitions) that are not of interest for everyone they might be at your leisure. Example: We visit the Kremlin as part of the Moscow sightseeing and we pay the entry ticket. Should you opt to see the tsars' weapon chamber you pay this out of your own purse.

The German and English-speaking **tour leader** will meet you in the afternoon of the first day in Malbork and will accompany you until Day 13. His tasks are:

- to inform you regularly about overnight places, meals, stage, fuelling, shopping and leisure options.
- offer to join him on the driving stages.
- give you support in case of mishaps like illness or vehicle break-downs

The **resignation** (travel cancellation) **insurance** is covering if you cannot go on tour due to a insured reason. The **break-off** (travel curtailment) **insurance** refunds the part of the tour price that you did not partake in due to an insured reason. More details on insured reasons can be found in the annex.

During the **participant meeting** (including one camping fee) you can get to know other fellow travellers and clarify all open questions about the trip. Approx. 10 days after the physical meeting, we will have a virtual online meeting to clarify any questions that have arisen in the meantime.

Information Material: We create a information booklet for this tour. This informs about all relevant topics from equipment to customs. Forms, brochures, booklets about sites and stages are added by us. Also, you receive GPS waypoints and map material so all participants have the same opportunities.

USEFUL INFORMATION:

When putting this trip together, we are still in the situation that the SARS-Covid19 pandemic is affecting our lives and travels. Please note our general information on this topic in the travel catalogue, as well as our **Corona** promise.

We assume that everyone who goes on a group trip has also taken advantage of the **vaccination** offer in order to protect themselves and their fellow travellers from infection. Unvaccinated persons could be refused entry or, when crossing the border - regardless of the direction – may be quarantined, which cannot be reconciled with the travel plan. Should you suffer from a medical condition that prohibits a vaccination, please contact us.

This trip takes place during the summer holidays. Because of the varied programme, this would also be the ideal tour to bring a school-age child with you. **The price for a child** as a second or third person up to and including the age of 14 is € 490; for young people aged 15-17 the price is € 740.

The withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU and the only recently concluded contracts for future cooperation may result in changes to the travel documents required. Please also note that there is a special information available for **customers from the UK**.

ITINERARY:

Day 1 20.07.2022 Malbork

Unless you arrive earlier, you should arrive in Malbork in the afternoon. Your tour guide will officially greet the participants and inform you about some of the procedures for the next few days. Afterwards we will have a meal together in a nearby restaurant.

overnight fee, dinner

Day 2. 21.07.2022 Malbork - Frombork

In the morning we walk a few hundred meters along the Nogat and meet the local guide who shows us the Marienburg. The imposing castle of the Teutonic Order has an interesting history, a heating technology that was advanced in the Middle Ages and has been lovingly restored. Back at the campsite, after a snack, we continue to Frombork, only 65km away. After a short stage, we reach the village to the east on the Vistula Lagoon. In the afternoon we stroll through the former Frauenburg. The cathedral, in which Nicolaus Copernicus developed his theories as canon in the 16th century, will not be missing. We see the rediscovered grave of the famous astronomer and also go up to the Copernicus Tower, a museum with Foucault's pendulum, from whose roof terrace you have a beautiful view over Frombork and the nearby sea.

overnight fee, local guide, 2x entrance fee

Day 3 22.07.2022 Frombork - Kaliningrad

After breakfast we go to the Polish-Russian border at Mamonovo. Since we are leaving the EU, the clearance is a little more extensive. Depending on the traffic volume, it usually takes about 2 hours before the group is in Russia. Then it is about 60 km to the parking space near the Kaliningrad Ring road. After we have all set up and inquired about the location, we get to know Russian cuisine in the nearby hotel restaurant in the evening.

overnight fee, dinner, folklore

Day 4 23.07.2022 Kaliningrad (Königsberg)

We visit Kaliningrad, the former Königsberg. From the end of World War II until perestroika in the early 1990s, the city was closed to German tourists. As you drive through the modern city you will see traces of old East Prussia in hidden nooks and crannies. We visit the rebuilt cathedral on the island in the Pregel river, where the philosopher Kant also has his grave. The amber museum is another highlight. A stroll through the market rounds off the program.

overnight fee, bus, local guide, entrance fee

Day 5 24.07.2022 Kaliningrad

A long, interesting full-day excursion is on the agenda - the great Prussian ring: Tilsit on the Memel with the Königin-Luise-Bridge, Gussew and the home of the Trakehner horses are on the program, as well as the city of Chernyakhovsk and the Salzburg community. In addition to various photo stops, we also stop where German history is cultivated by today's residents.

overnight fee, bus, local guide, entrance fee, lunch

Day 6 25.07.2022 Kaliningrad

Today is a day for individual interests. Take a taxi to the nearby city and stroll through the vibrant metropolis. Various museums such as the Art Museum or the Museum of the Oceans are waiting for you. Then there is the big market, department stores and churches - there is something for everyone. Perhaps you also want to hike in the footsteps of your ancestors? The local guide will be happy to help.

overnight fee

Day 7 26.07.2022 Kaliningrad - Svetlogorsk

Change of location: We leave the site near the city and move to the Baltic Sea; to the vicinity of the seaside resort and spa town of Svetlogorsk. Once settled in at the hotel parking, we explore the centre of Svetlogorsk and let the local guide tell us something about the former local recreation area of the Königsbergers. Since Rauschen, as it was known in German, was only slightly affected during the war, there is a lot of building fabric from the East Prussian era. The large stairs, the promenade and various restaurants are always well attended.

overnight fee, transfer, local guide

Day 8 27.07.2022 Svetlogorsk (Rauschen)

You will see the coast of Samland. In Palmnicken, today's Jantarny, the amber is mined in the opencast mine and processed in the nearby combine. We can visit the closed port city of Pillau because we have applied for a special entry permit. At the beginning of the 20th century, when Königsberg was an exclave of the German Empire, Baltisk was an important seaport; Today it is a base of the Russian Navy, as the Baltic Fleet can winter here without ice. The Samland is an idyllic area and offers many small stops: German communities, military cemeteries, mushroom sellers on the roadside and ruins of East Prussian history.

overnight fee, bus, local guide, entrance fee, dinner

Day 9 28.07.2022 Svetlogorsk

Day for individual interests: Look for the traces of your ancestors, take a walk on the beach or go back to Rauschen. With a little luck you can get a ticket for a concert in the Great Kursaal. Or how about a trip to Pioniersk? Putin has a "small" house there.

overnight fee

Day 10 29.07.2022 Svetlogorsk - Rybatschi

The path to the Curonian Spit first leads to Cranz, today Zelenogradsk; known earlier as today as a destination for the Königsbergers. In Rybatschi we have our last stop in Russia. The former Rossitten is famous for its ornithological station, which in 1901 was the world's first ornithological research station. On this part of the spit you can also find the dancing (or drunken) forest, a natural phenomenon; as the wind blows from different directions again and again, the tree trunks twist like corkscrews.

overnight fee, entrance fee

Day 11 30.07.2022 Rybatschi - Nida

The Curonian Spit has one more interesting stop on the Russian side. The second highest dunes in Europe and we say DoSwidanja = goodbye and hopefully not "goodbye". The border with Lithuania runs in the middle of the spit. After the formalities, the parking space in Nidden can be reached quickly in the afternoon. As soon as the vehicles are parked, we hike over the dunes into the village and stroll to Thomas Mann's summer house. There are various nice restaurants in the village, but the kitchen at the campsite is also good.

overnight fee

Day 12 31.07.2022 Nida (Nidden)

There is a full day tour ahead of us. We are brought to the port and experience a boat tour on the Curonian Lagoon. We see the delta of the Memel river (Nemunodeltos) nature park and drive a bit up the Minije to take a lunch break in the fishing village of Minge - the Venice among the delta villages. In the late afternoon we are back at the vehicles. The day and the journey come to an end with a drink together.

overnight fee, transfer, boat, local guide, lunch, drink

Day 13 01.08.2022 Nida (Nidden)

Make your way home towards Klaipeda, or extend your stay on site. There is still a lot to see.

As per 12/2021
Subject to change