

# Baltic States

**Tour Date**  
08.08.22 - 04.09.22  
Cut-off Date: 31.05.22



## CHARACTERISTICS/IDEA BEHIND THIS TOUR:

- + short stages
- + diverse programme
- + some spare time to follow your individual interests

## PREPARATION:

**Travel documents\*:** Passport or ID-Card, green card, Camping-Key-Card

**Visa\*:** Not required

**CB-radio:** Not required, should you like to travel with the tour leader, a cb-radio is recommended.

**Car Insurance:** All countries of this trip are part of the green card system.

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

**Pets:** require a pet passport.

**Pre-Tour Meeting:** The pre-tour meeting in Germany, at which we also collect the copies of your passport takes place on June 11th and is only open to booked participants. As a service to our only-English speaking clients may take place as Online Meeting. Approx. 10 days after the physical meeting, we will have a virtual online meeting to clarify any questions that have arisen in the meantime.

## TOUR LOGISTICS:

**Meeting Point:** Official meeting point for tour start is in Ruska Wies. With the tour documents you will receive a list of places to stay so that you can travel with other participants from Germany.



**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.

**Road Conditions:** The roads in Poland and the Baltic States are mostly good. Side roads and in villages the surface may lack attention.

**Overnight Places:** Occasionally we use an agrotourism site equal to a farm camping. 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.

## 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 wheel-

chair, 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. Gluten- and lactose-free products are available in larger supermarkets.

**Safety & Security:**

**Climate:** Best time to travel is between May and September

**Clothing:**

**Ferry:** We crossing to Saaremaa. The ferry runs every 1 - 2 hours and costs around 17 - 30 € / one way for a motorhome, depending on the size.

## MONEY MATTERS

**Tour Price:** 1.690,- € 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.

## Additional costs/travel funds:

- Up to 50 € per vehicle for tolls, border fees and insurances
- approx. 20 € per person/day to cover your living expenses
- approx. 40 - 60 € per Unit fee for the Saaremaa ferry.
- Up to 2€ per person/day for tips

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

In Poland and the Baltic States you can pay with a card at petrol stations, souvenir shops and the 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 in a country that belongs to the EU and the Schengen area. For the other countries we will inform you individually.

## MANDATORY INFORMATION

**Cut-off Date:** 31.05.2022

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:** 20.07.2022

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%  
Final payment due by 09.07.2022

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

## ITINERARY:

**Day 1 08.08.2022**  
**Ruska Wies**

This tour begins in the Masuria Lakeland on a campsite call Seeblick, meaning sea view. It is highly recommended to arrive a little earlier to enjoy this. From the German-Polish border you will need two leisurely driving stages to get here. In the late afternoon of this first tour day everyone meets for the official tour welcome. This is followed by dinner in the campsite's restaurant.

*camping fee, dinner*

as of booking = 10%  
day 54. - 30. before tour start = 20%  
day 29. - 10. before tour start = 30%  
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.

**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 Ruska Wies and will accompany you until Day 28. 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 an 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.

**Day 2 09.08.2022**

**Ruska Wies - Druskininkai**

The Lakeland with its hills, forests and fields seems endless until the country roads bring us to Lithuania, the first of the Baltic States. In the afternoon we place ourselves on the local campsite at Druskininkai. The spa town lies in a historic countryside Dzukija at the Ratnyčia river and is surrounded by forests. In the afternoon you may relax from the drive or take a walk to the nearby town.

*camping fee*

During the **participant meeting** (including one camping fee) you can get to know other fellow travellers and clarify all open questions about the trip.

**Information Material:** We create an 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.

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**.

**Day 3 10.08.2022**

**Druskininkai - Trakai**

After Lithuania's independence there were a lot of monuments from Soviet times left on the town squares, in the parks and in government buildings. A private collector brought them to Druskininkai, so we may visit them in the Grutas Park. In a green setting we will see the most important persons of the USSR. Then it is only a short drive to reach the campsite outside of Trakai. In the evening we enjoy a local dinner accompanied by a merry folklore troupe.

*camping fee, entrance fee, diner, folklore*

**Day 4 11.08.2022****Trakai**

In the morning we transfer by taxi or bus to the nearby tourist town of Trakai, famous for its island castle in Lake Galve. From the outside it promises more, the inside is not as spectacular and so a lot of us will soon stroll towards the amber shops and the street cafes. You should definitely stop in one of the Karaim restaurants and try the famous Kibinlar pasties.

*camping fee, transfer, local guide, entrance fee*

**Day 5 12.08.2022****Trakai - Vilnius**

Have a relaxed start into the day since the drive into the Lithuanian capital will take less than one hour and also offers some larger supermarkets en route. On the way to the capital there is still time to visit e.g. the centre of Europe or the botanical garden. In the afternoon, the tour guide and those interested make their way to the television tower. In the restaurant you can enjoy the 360 ° view over the city with a small snack.

*camping fee*

**Day 6 13.08.2022****Vilnius**

From the campsite we visit the city with a local guide who will show us her home town. Lithuania and Vilnius have developed quickly after independence. Americans of Lithuanian heritage regarded it as their duty to assist the old homeland. Quickly the old historic buildings were up for renovation and cultural festivals did more to develop tourism. The finishing touches were put on in 2009, when Vilnius was cultural capital of Europe. Our sightseeing will include the old town, the Peter & Paul Church, the old city wall, the town hall and the church of Saint Anne. Since we use public transport today everyone may use as much leisure time as needed in the squares and alley of this very scenic old town centre.

*camping fee, bus, local guide, lunch*

**Day 7 14.08.2022****Vilnius – Kaunas**

Just before we reach our destination we will meet for sightseeing. The open-air museum of Rumõidkës is only 15km outside of Kaunas and is one of the biggest in Europe. We spend a good 2-3h here and enjoy a horse-drawn carriage or bus ride offering a good view of the rural life in Lithuania then and now.

*camping fee, bus, local guide, entrance fee*

**Day 8 15.08.2022****Kaunas**

In the morning we visit the city of Kaunas with a local guide. Relatively small, the city was once the capital of Lithuania. Various churches and the town hall are interesting. After the visit, it is worth strolling through the pedestrian zone, taking a ride on the cog railway or ... whatever you enjoy.

*camping fee, transfer, local guide*

**Day 9 16.08.2022****Kaunas - Birzai**

Birzai where we overnight today is home to the best beer brewers in Lithuania. We will meet up at the campsite near the lake and then transfer to the nearby Birzai Castle. After the sightseeing tour we will try not only the local beer but other specialities of the local kitchen..

*c. fee, local guide, castle entry & dinner progr.*

**Day 10 17.08.2022****Birzai - Sigulda**

Having entered Latvia, we see the most glamorous castle in the Baltic States. The baroque palace of Rundāle is called the Versailles of the Baltics. During our visit we will see the mirrored halls, the crypt and the French garden. Regardless of whether you spend your time in the halls, in the crypt or in the French garden, this large baroque and rococo complex will inspire you. Our destination today is Sigulda, approx 40 km east of Riga on the edge of the Gauja National Park. Sigulda is famous for its winter sports centre.

*camping fee, local guide, entrance fee*

**Day 11 18.08.2022****Sigulda**

Sigulda was founded as a fortress by knights in the early 13th century. The order was given the right river banks of the Gauja river by papal ruling and the Bishop of Riga the left bank. The city of Turaida grew out of the bishops' side. Today one can pass across the river in a 80m high cable car. Then there is the town of Cesis in the centre of the National Park. Being a member of the Hanseatic League gave the town a big boost. On this sightseeing day we will hear a lot about the different towns and their history and the National Park.

*camping fee, bus, local guide, lunch*

**Day 12 19.08.2022****Sigulda - Tartu**

Driving from Sigulda to Tartu there are

some smaller sights and a tank museum worth a stop. This stage leads us to Tartu, which we will reach in the afternoon. Settlers lived here as early as the 6th century. The town grew and later became a member of the Hanseatic League. Tartu is known for its university, founded by the Swedes it has many contacts into Russia and is truly international. From the parking space at "Charles Harbour" you may quickly reach the centre of the university town by bike.

*camping fee*

**Day 13 20.08.2022****Tartu**

Tartu is nearly 1000 years old and happens to be the second largest city in Estonia. In the morning we will have a look around Tartu to see the main sights: the old and new parts of the university, the old town and some other monuments. Have a leisurely afternoon and follow your own interests.

*camping fee, transfer, local guide*

**Day 14 21.08.2022****Tartu - Peipus See**

After about 50 km of leisurely driving through mixed forest and fields we reach Lake Peipus which is here the Eastern border of Estonia. The Eastern Part of the lake is Russian, so there is only a limited boating activity. Lake Peipus is the fifth-largest lake in Europe. On the way to the campsite on the north side of the lake, it is recommended to see a "Scottish castle" and to visit the villages of the Old Believers. We overnight at a resort on the north end of the lake. Go for a bike ride, visit the sauna or enjoy the nearby restaurant.

*camping fee*

**Day 15 22.08.2022****Peipus See - Purtse**

On this short stage we will meet up to visit the coal mine at Kohtla-Nõmme together. Before we meet up mid-day, the orthodox convent of Kuremae is worth a visit. Then it is on to Purtse, where we finally meet the Baltic Sea.

*camping fee, local guide, entrance fee, dinner*

**Day 16 23.08.2022****Purtse**

It is time for a leisure day to sleep in, rest you body and mind after all the sights you have taken in in the last days. Take a walk down to the small beach or take a bike ride.

*camping fee*

**Day 17 24.08.2022****Purtse - Tallinn**

The first stop on the way to Tallinn is scheduled at Palmse Manor, a typical landowner's home with a small museum and a well-kept garden. Driving on we see Sagadi Manor, where the forest range has put up a museum. Käsnu is known as the Captains Village because it is the home town of many Estonian seafarers. There are many more opportunities to pause and taste local beer, smoked fish and photograph the juniper bushes. In the late afternoon we all meet up at campsite in downtown Tallinn.

*camping fee, entrance fee, parking*

**Day 18 25.08.2022****Tallinn**

Insiders say that Tallinn is the most beautiful of the Baltic capitals. Tallinn was also the European Capital of Culture 2011. Of course, a visit to the UNESCO city is also part of the program. The bus with the tour guide brings the group to the old town quite early, after which the tour takes place on foot. After the end of the program, we will eat typical Estonian cuisine in a restaurant in town. After that, the guide will give all those who want to stroll even longer the necessary information on how to get back to the campsite. Since there is a good bus service in Tallinn, it is not difficult.

*camping fee, bus, local guide, lunch*

**Day 19 26.08.2022****Tallinn - Haapsalu**

Today there is no rush, if you want you can spend the morning in Tallinn again. The drive to the "Venice on the Baltic Sea" takes only 1-2 hours and as soon as you have left the foothills of the Estonian capital behind you, you drive through a flat landscape that is defined by forests, groups of trees and bushes.

*camping fee*

**Day 20 27.08.2022****Haapsalu – Saarema**

Saarema Island is our next destination. It is the largest of the 1500 islands in Estonia. They were already settled in the Stone Age, but their real history only began with the development of maritime trade. The Kaali meteorite crater is located in the forest not far from the route and is approx. 4000 years old. In the afternoon we gather at the campsite not far from the island's capital.

*camping fee*

**Day 21 28.08.2022****Saarema**

Saarema already had settlers in the Stone Age, but the island's real history only began with the development of maritime trade. In 1227 the Teutonic Order conquered the island but subsequently handed it over to the church. Use the leisure day to take a walk, drive around the island or look at the nearby village.

*camping fee*

**Day 22 29.08.2022****Saarema - Pärnu**

Pärnu is the next stage destination. The city is known as the summer capital of Estonia and in many places in the city you think you are in Scandinavia. You can get to the centre quickly by public transport and there is enough time to explore the city individually in the afternoon.

*camping fee, dinner*

**Day 23 30.08.2022****Pärnu - Riga**

We leave Estonia, the most northern and possibly the most advanced of the three Baltic States. The longest driving distance in one day brings us to the Latvian capital Riga. Make sure to keep your eyes open for the various vendors on the side of the road selling all kinds of berries, honey, fish and other homemade foods. We recommend an entertaining stop not far from Saulkrasti. The place Dunte is dedicated to the memory of Baron von Münchhausen. In the evening we have dinner in the campsite restaurant.

*camping fee, dinner*

**Day 24 31.08.2022****Riga**

Riga is the largest of the Baltic capitals and the whole town is rather wide-spread. Today we will explore this former Hanseatic city. The city centre with the House of the Brotherhood of the Blackheads, the art nouveau architecture and monuments from Soviet and more recent times will you see. After a good two-hour walkabout of the old town we leave you to explore by yourselves. How about going to the market halls? They are known as the Zeppelin halls, because the airships were once produced here. Anyone not wanting to return with the group can easily find the way back with public transport.

*camping fee, bus, local guide*

**Day 25 01.09.2022****Riga - Plateliai**

Leaving Riga in southerly direction you eventually reach Lithuania without any formalities. A must-see on this route is the Mountain of Crosses. In Soviet times the Lithuanians created a monument to their catholic faith. Whilst the communist regime flattened the collection of crosses several times they were re-erected again and again. Now this unique heap is continuously growing. We overnight at Plateliai. Here a former military compound has been re-developed to a cold-war-museum, which we visit in the afternoon.

*camping fee, entrance fee, parking*

**Day 26 02.09.2022****Plateliai - Klaipeda**

If you are keen on manor houses check out Plunge on the way to Klaipeda. Also there is the Orvidas Garden with many monuments and sculptures from all kind of materials. The church and Franciscan monastery at Kretinga is also worth a visit. Having reached the amber coast, enjoy a walk on the wide sandy beach. This is the most famous seaside resort area in Lithuania to end our tour.

*camping fee*

**Day 27 03.09.2022****Klaipeda**

The bus is going to show us the sights of the region. We start with Palanga, where we walk through the town and visit the amber museum in a former grand palace. After a short break we visit Klaipeda, the main port of Lithuania and its third-largest town. Until 1945, for seven centuries it was called Memel, being the northernmost city of the German empire. The half-timbered buildings in the old town, which invites you to take a stroll, are unusual. In the evening we get together to enjoy a farewell dinner.

*c-fee, bus, local guide, entrance fee, dinner*

**Day 28 04.09.2022****Klaipeda**

Time to say goodbye, the tour is coming to an end. Extend your stay, visit the Curian Spit, drive home through Poland or take the ferry to Kiel. Hope to see you soon.

As per 12/2021  
Subject to change