

Baltic Discovery:

ESTONIA, LATVIA & LITHUANIA

with Finland Extension



Blue Dot Travel
Go somewhere different

May 2027 | 16 Days

Cost to be confirmed

Tour Highlights

- Europe's best-kept medieval towns
- Tallinn, a city straight from a storybook
- Riga's charming old town and Art Nouveau district
- Vilnius, with its baroque beauty
- The vast dunes of the Curonian Spit National Park
- Option to explore Finland's natural beauty



Baltic Discovery:

ESTONIA, LATVIA & LITHUANIA



Tour overview

Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania may share a Baltic coastline and a layered past, but each offers its own tradition, culture, and style.

Their capitals—Hanseatic Tallinn, Jugendstil Riga, and Baroque Vilnius—are among Europe's best-preserved medieval centres with red-tiled rooftops, domed churches, and castle spires shaping their skylines.

Estonia's settlement dates back to 9000 BC, and Tallinn is often likened to a storybook city, with its winding lanes, towers, and timeless charm. The successive occupations of the Vikings, Swedes, Russians, and Germans have created a truly cosmopolitan nation.

You'll see luxury European cars pull over to make way for horse-drawn carts and tech start-ups neighbouring medieval churches. Estonians have a deep love of music—accordion and flute players perform on street corners, and massed choirs of 20,000 voices gather for their national song festivals.

Compact Latvia is made for the slow life—easy to explore yet rich in history, from centuries-old castles to forest-fringed lakes. Its capital, Riga, is a visual feast, home to one of the world's finest collections of Art Nouveau architecture and a UNESCO-listed Old Town. Beyond the city, the country opens into a sparsely populated wilderness of pine forests, wetlands, and quiet walking trails.

At its height in the 15th century, Lithuania was one of the largest empires in Europe. This rich history has left a legacy of 3,719 cultural monuments—including villages, manors, castles, and churches—now protected by the state. Its architecture reflects a blend of Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, and Bohemian styles, with the capital, Vilnius, standing as a striking showcase of them all. Beyond the capital, you'll find dense pine forests, national parks and a stunning stretch of sand dune coast.

With one foot in the past and another firmly in the future, it's no wonder the Baltics are considered one of Europe's most dynamic and compelling regions to explore.

If you would like to extend your stay in the region, we're offering a 7-day Finland extension exploring the serene beauty of its lakes and National Parks.



MODERATE

Activity rating: Moderate

You must be capable of walking up to 8,000 steps daily; occasionally ascending 3-4 flights of steps; standing at attractions for 1-2 hours; boarding and disembarking transport unaided and handling your own luggage.

Depart Australia for Helsinki.

We'll provide you with a customised flight itinerary.

Day 1 : ARRIVE HELSINKI, FINLAND

On arrival, we'll be transferred to our hotel in Helsinki, the starting point for our Baltic journey. In the evening, we'll meet for our Welcome Meeting and dinner. Overnight: Helsinki **D**

Day 2 : HELSINKI

Today we'll visit Helsinki's prominent landmarks, including the unique Temppeliaukion Church, excavated directly into solid rock. Then enjoy a shared boat cruise through Helsinki's archipelago, offering a different view of the city from the water. Lasting about 90 minutes, the cruise passes many well-known sights along the shoreline and provides a clear sense of the connection to the sea. Your afternoon is free to explore on your own or sit in the main square and have a coffee, watching the world go by. (The Finns are one of the largest consumers of coffee per capita on the planet). Overnight: Helsinki **B/D**

Day 3 : PORVOO DAYTRIP

Today we'll take a day trip to Porvoo, the country's second-oldest city. Known for its charming old town, cobbled lanes, and well-preserved wooden houses, it has long been a magnet for artists and writers. The red riverside warehouses, one of the most photographed spots in the country, have become the symbol of the town. The Porvoo Cathedral is a historic stone church dating back to the 15th century, set in the heart of the old town. Overnight: Helsinki **B/D**

Day 4 : HELSINKI – TALLINN, ESTONIA

Today we'll take the ferry across the Gulf of Finland to Tallinn—a two-hour journey that brings you into the heart of Estonia's capital. The Finns and Estonians have a long-standing and strong relationship – a little bit like Australia & NZ. We'll explore the city's Old Town, where medieval merchant houses, cobbled lanes and the towers of the old city wall tell stories of a trading past. Highlights include the Pirita Convent ruins, the Song Festival Grounds (a UNESCO site), and St. Olaf's Church, the tallest building in the world during the 16th and 17th centuries. Overnight: Tallin **B/D**

Day 5 : TALLINN

We'll start the day with a visit to Kadriorg Palace, built in 1718 by Russian Tsar Peter I. Designed by Italian architect Nicola Michetti, it's one of the finest Baroque buildings in Northern Europe, surrounded by a garden of fountains, hedges, and flowerbeds inspired by Versailles. Inside, the Kadriorg Art Museum displays European and Russian works from the 16th–20th centuries. We'll return to our hotel around lunchtime for free time to explore this storybook city. This evening we have a medieval-themed dinner at Olde Hansa, where meals are cooked according to 700-year-old recipes. Overnight: Tallin **B/D**

Day 6 : RUMMU QUARRY AND COASTAL CLIFFS DAYTRIP

Travelling beyond Tallinn today, we'll explore a mix of natural scenery and layers of recent history. Highlights include the eerie, water-filled Rummu Quarry, dramatic coastal cliffs at Türisalu and Pakri, and the 24-metre-tall Pakri Lighthouse, which we'll climb for sweeping views. Along the way, we stop at Keila-Joa waterfall, the abandoned Suurupi Naval Fortress, and the former Soviet military town of Paldiski—offering a deeper look at Estonia's coastline and Cold War past. Overnight: Tallin **B/D**

Day 7 : TALLINN – RIGA, LATVIA

After leaving Tallinn, we'll visit Sigulda Castle, which dates back to the 13th century, when it was built as a fortress by the Livonian Order. Though damaged during the Northern War in the 1700s, parts of the original structure remain, and the tower has been rebuilt. The nearby Gauja River and its wild valley create a striking natural backdrop that highlights both human-made and natural works of art. In the afternoon, we'll continue to Riga, where we'll spend the next two nights. Overnight: Riga **B/D**

Day 8 : RIGA

Once dubbed "the Paris of the East," Riga has a timeless elegance that enchants every traveller lucky enough to visit this Latvian capital. We'll explore the highlights and hidden corners of Riga on a walking tour through its UNESCO-listed Old Town. As we wander the cobbled streets, our guide will share stories behind the city's Art Nouveau facades, historic churches, and landmarks like the Dome Cathedral, St. Peter's Church, the Swedish Gate, and Riga Castle. Conclude the day at the lively Central Market— one of Europe's largest and most impressive local food halls. Overnight: Riga. **B/D**

Day 9 : RIGA – KLAIPEDA, LITHUANIA

Step into Latvia's grand past with a visit to Rundāle Palace, an 18th-century Baroque masterpiece designed by Italian architect Bartolomeo Rastrelli (who also designed the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg). Once a summer residence for the Duke of Courland, the palace features restored halls, ornate ceilings, and manicured French-style gardens. It's a striking example of aristocratic life, set in the quiet countryside south of Riga. We'll continue to the German-influenced port city of Klaipėda, Lithuania, where we'll spend the next two nights. Overnight: Klaipėda **B/L**

Day 10 : DAY TRIP TO HILL OF CROSSES

Today we'll travel approximately 2 hours to visit the Hill of Crosses, one of Lithuania's most moving and unusual landmarks. This sacred site holds over 100,000 crosses, placed by pilgrims over generations as symbols of hope, resistance, and faith. Quiet and powerful, the hill offers time for reflection and a glimpse into the country's spiritual and cultural resilience through years of hardship. We'll return to Klaipėda in the afternoon, with time at leisure before dinner. Overnight: Klaipėda **B/D**

Day 11 : KLAIPEDA – VILNIUS

We'll begin our day at the Palanga Amber Museum, set near the Baltic Sea in a restored 19th-century palace surrounded by peaceful botanical gardens. Inside, you'll find one of the world's best amber collections. We'll continue to the UNESCO-listed Curonian Spit National Park, known for its sweeping sand dunes, pine forests, and traditional fishing villages. We'll have free time to explore this beautiful spot before continuing to Vilnius, Lithuania's capital. Overnight: Vilnius **B/L/D**



Day 12 : VILNIUS AND SURROUNDS

This morning we'll explore charming Vilnius with a walking tour through its beautifully preserved Baroque Old Town—where historic churches and grand buildings frame narrow streets and lively squares. Climb Gediminas Castle Hill for sweeping, bird's-eye views over the city from the iconic tower, a symbol of Lithuanian identity. In the afternoon, we'll visit Trakai Castle and the Trakai History Museum—located in the picturesque scenery of Lake Galvė, this fortress is steeped in medieval lore. Overnight: Vilnius **B/D**

Day 13 : VILNIUS – PARNU, ESTONIA

Today is predominantly a travel day, as we drive through Latvia and cross back into Estonia, arriving at the coastal resort town of Pärnu for an overnight stay. Known as Estonia's "summer capital," Pärnu draws visitors with its beaches, vibrant promenade, and historic wooden villas nestled in its charming Old Town. With spa traditions dating back to the 19th century and elegant architecture, it's a delightful stop before continuing our journey North. Overnight: Parnu. **B/D**

Day 14 : PARNU – TALLIN – HELSINKI

Enjoy a leisurely morning exploring the colourful historic buildings, boutique shops and cozy cafés of Parnu, before we depart for Tallinn. From Tallinn, we'll take the ferry back Helsinki, arriving in the early evening. We'll reflect on our journey with a "farewell to the Baltics" dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight: Helsinki **B/D**

Day 15 : HELSINKI – HOME OR NEXT DESTINATION

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your journey home, or join our 7-night Finland extension.

FINLAND EXTENSION

Finland is a country of serene nature and a quietly rich cultural life. On our 7-day Finland extension, you'll discover Southern Finland's most authentic places—quiet gems and local favourites from the pristine wilderness of Lake Saimaa and Nuukio National Park to the UNESCO-listed wooden buildings of Rauma and charming Turku. Stay in boutique lodges, take a seal safari in a national park, unwind in a lakeside sauna, and explore small towns full of craft, history, and everyday beauty.

Day 1: HELSINKI – SAIMAA LAKE

After breakfast, travel northeast and witness the landscape gradually shifting from urban rhythm to serene forests, glistening lakes, and peaceful villages. We'll stop for a leisurely lunch at the charming Tertti Manor, an idyllic estate steeped in history and known for its farm-to-table cuisine. Savour a seasonal meal prepared with locally sourced ingredients—an authentic taste of Finnish hospitality in an elegant manor setting. We'll continue to the heart of the Saimaa lake district, where nature takes centre stage. At our resort, you'll be greeted by pure tranquillity, luxurious design, and the serene presence of the surrounding forest and water. Enjoy 2 hours at the resort's serene sauna and spa area, where Finnish wellness rituals meet modern comfort. Let the heat, silence, and lake views restore your senses. Then, if you're brave, take a dip in Lake Saimaa! Overnight: Saimaa Lake district **B/L/D**

Day 2: SAIMAA LAKE

Today, we'll take an unforgettable Seal Safari to Linnansaari National Park. Our trained Seal Guide knows the best seal-watching spots in the region! We'll explore the rocky shores for resting seals and other inhabitants of the national park, such as ospreys, waterfowl, and sometimes even beavers. Afterwards, warm up with Savo-style espressos & snacks at the Safari House. Overnight: Saimaa Lake district **B/L/D**

Day 3: SAIMAA LAKE – NUUKIO NATIONAL PARK

Leaving the lakes behind, we'll head south to Nuukio National Park, where the forest opens into a landscape of mossy trails, and tall pines. We'll arrive in the early afternoon at our cabin-style accommodation. Finnish cabin culture, or "mökki", is a deeply ingrained tradition where families retreat to simple wooden cottages to connect with nature and escape city life. Your afternoon is free to take a gentle walk, or simply relax and embrace the mökki concept. Overnight: Nuukio National Park area **B/D**

Day 4: NUUKIO NATIONAL PARK – NUUTAJÄRVI – RAUMA

We'll start our morning with a hike in the wonderful forested trails of the park. After lunch, we'll drive north-west to Nuutajärvi, Finland's oldest glass village, to explore the artisan workshops and watch glassblowers at work. We'll continue to the UNESCO-listed town of Rauma, whose Old Town is one of the best-preserved wooden quarters in the Nordics. You'll love wandering Rauma's cobbled streets, with its quirky museums, craft shops and cafés tucked between colourful homes. Overnight: Rauma **B/D**

Day 5: RAUMA – NAANTALI – TURKU

This morning we'll take a walking tour of this photogenic town, with its building painted in soft pastels and rich ochres. With over 600 timber structures dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries, many still function as homes, shops, or cafés, blending heritage with daily life. Then, we'll travel to Naantali, a picturesque seaside town known for its charming harbour, historic convent quarter, and as the home of Finland's presidential summer residence. With waterfront cafés and cobbled streets, you'll have no trouble finding a cosy spot for lunch before we continue to Turku in the afternoon. As Finland's oldest town, the city is full of old city charm and a thriving urban scene rich in art and culture. Overnight: Turku **B/D**

Day 6: TURKU

We'll explore Turku this morning, starting with a walk along the lovely riverbank of the Aura River from Turku Cathedral to Turku Castle. We'll visit the 13th-century medieval-style Great Old Square, and the 19th-century Market Square, now filled with shops, restaurants and cafes. You'll have free time to explore this lively harbour city. We recommend the Aboa Vetus Ars Nova museum, featuring a unique mix of archaeological ruins and contemporary art, built over an excavated medieval street or the Wäinö Aaltonen Museum of Art for modern and contemporary art. Turku is a must-visit destination for foodies with some of Finland's best restaurants, and we'll enjoy a special local meal for our farewell dinner tonight. Overnight: Turku **B/D**

Day 7: TURKU – HELSINKI – DEPARTURE

After breakfast, we'll depart for the 2-hour drive back to Helsinki airport for your flight home or onwards to your next destination. **B**





Accommodation

Our hotels are carefully chosen to capture the local atmosphere and set you up in an ideal location. You can expect accommodation that comprises a mix of standard hotels, boutique-style hotels, and smaller, independently owned establishments. Below are sample hotels on this tour:

Sokos Presidentii, Helsinki
www.hotel-presidentii-helsinki

Metropole Hotel, Riga
www.metropole-hotel-riga

Victoria Hotel, Klaipeda
www.victoria-hotel-klaipeda

Radisson Blu Lietuva, Vilnius
www.radisson-blu-vilnius

Why Blue Dot?

Travel is more than just moving from one place to another; it is an opportunity to explore this vast planet, connect with its people and marvel at its beauty. We have established a group of loyal, like-minded travellers who share this feeling and have taken multiple tours with us. With Blue Dot, you'll experience

- Thoughtfully designed itineraries with unique experiences
- Small, inclusive groups with a maximum of 16 travellers on most tours, and often fewer
- The support of both an Australian tour leader* and experienced local guides
- Programs designed to meet the needs of mature-age travellers
- Hands on, personalised service including customised flight bookings
- Tipping included in your tour cost

*Australian leaders accompany groups with more than 10 travellers.

Blue Dot welcomes solo travellers

In fact, over half of our clients are solo travellers. We understand it can be daunting to travel on your own, and we'll ensure your travel is inclusive and enjoyable, while prioritising your safety. You can confidently join our groups, knowing that we bring solo travellers together to share the camaraderie of an unforgettable adventure.

Enquiries and bookings

A \$500 deposit is required to secure your booking.

For more information:

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