

Baltic Discovery: ESTONIA, LATVIA & LITHUANIA with Finland Extension



Blue Dot Travel
Go somewhere different

Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania | 15 days

Departs May 2027

\$9,900 per person, twin share

Solo Supplement: \$1,300

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.



Activity rating: Moderate

You should be able to maintain a steady walking pace, manage flights of stairs, stand at attractions for periods of time, and board and disembark transport independently

Depart Australia for Helsinki.

We'll provide you with a customised flight itinerary.

Day 1 : Tuesday 18th May 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 : Wednesday 19th May HELSINKI

Today we'll visit Helsinki's prominent landmarks, including the unique Temppeliaukion Church, excavated directly into solid rock, and Senate Square with its Neoclassical church. We'll take a shared boat cruise through Helsinki's archipelago, passing many well-known sights along the shoreline and providing a clear sense of Helsinki's 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 : Thursday 20th May 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 : Friday 21st May 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 Toompea Castle, the Song Festival Grounds (a UNESCO site), St. Olaf's Church, the tallest building in the world during the 16th and 17th centuries, and the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. Overnight: Tallinn **B/D**

Day 5 : Saturday 22nd May 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 the city for a free afternoon to explore this storybook city. Two museums we recommend are the Kiek in de Kõk Fortifications Museum and KGB Museum, depending on your interests. Our dinner this evening is medieval-themed, where meals are cooked according to 700-year-old recipes. Overnight: Tallinn **B/D**

Day 6 : Sunday 23rd May TALLINN AND SURROUNDS

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: Tallinn **B/D**

Day 7 : Monday 24th May TALLINN – PARNU – RIGA, LATVIA

This morning we'll drive to Estonia's "summer capital," Pärnu, a spa town dating back to the 19th century. With its beaches, vibrant promenade, and historic wooden villas nestled in its charming Old Town, it's a delightful spot for a stroll. You'll have free time to wander and grab some lunch before we continue our drive to Riga, where we'll spend the next three nights. Overnight: Riga **B/D**

Day 8 : Tuesday 25th May DAY TRIP SIGULDA AND CESIS

Today we'll visit the medieval towns of Sigulda and Cesis, which date back to the 13th century. Highlights include the Episcopal Castle, a restored 13th-century red-brick medieval fortress, Sigulda Castle, built as a fortress by the Livonian Order and St John's Church. This region is also home to Gauja National Park; a wild valley that serves as a striking backdrop for both cultural landmarks and natural beauty. Return to Riga for an evening of leisure. Overnight: Riga. **B/L**

Day 9 : Wednesday 26th May 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 10 : Thursday 27th May 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. Crossing into Lithuania, we'll visit one of its most moving and unusual landmarks, the Hill of Crosses. This sacred site holds over 100,000 crosses, placed by pilgrims over generations as symbols of hope, resistance, and faith. Continue to the port city of Klaipėda for a three-night stay. Overnight: Klaipėda **B/D**

Day 11 : Friday 28th May DAY TRIP TO CORONIAN SPIT

Today we'll visit the UNESCO-listed Curonian Spit National Park, known for its sweeping sand dunes, pine forests, and traditional fishing villages. Among the forested trails is the unique outdoor sculpture gallery known as the "Hill of Witches". After lunch at a local restaurant, we'll visit Nida, a quaint fishing village that boasts a spectacular strip of moving dunes between the Curonian Lagoon and the Baltic Sea. We'll return to Klaipėda, in the late afternoon and dinner is at leisure. Overnight: Klaipėda **B/L**



Day 12 : Saturday 29th May KLAIPĖDA AND SURROUNDS

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. Returning to Klaipėda, we'll walk take a walking tour of the city, with its German-influenced architecture and manually operated swing bridge built in 1855. After a visit to the castle museum, you'll have free time to explore before dinner. Overnight: Klaipėda **B/D**

Day 13 : Sunday 30th May KLAIPĖDA – KAUNAS – VILNIUS

This morning we'll drive South to Kaunas, known for its charming Old Town, incredible street art, and unique interwar modernist architecture. We'll take a brief walking tour, followed by free time for lunch. Then we'll continue on towards Lithuania's capital Vilnius. Overnight: Vilnius. **B/D**

Day 14 : Monday 31st May VILNIUS

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. We'll reflect on our journey with a “farewell to the Baltics” dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight: Vilnius **B/D**

Day 15 : Tuesday 1st June VILNIUS – HOME OR NEXT DESTINATION

Our tour concludes after breakfast. For those joining our Finland extension, you'll transfer to the airport for a morning flight to Helsinki. For those returning home, you'll have free time before your evening flight. **B**

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 Nuuksio National Park to the UNESCO-listed wooden buildings of Rauma and charming Turku. Stay in boutique lodges, unwind in a lakeside sauna, and explore small towns full of history and local traditions. (A Blue Dot host does accompany lead this extension, it is led by an experienced local guide).

7-day Finland Extension
\$5,900 per person, twin share
Solo Supplement: \$1,390
Excludes flight from Vilnius to Helsinki

Day 1: Tuesday 1st June HELSINKI – SAIMAA LAKE

Travelling northeast, we'll witness the landscape gradually shifting from urban rhythms to serene forests and glistening lakes. We'll stop for a leisurely lunch at the charming Tertti Manor, an idyllic estate steeped in history. 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 the resort's sauna and spa area, where Finnish wellness rituals meet modern comfort. Then, if you're brave, take a dip in Lake Saimaa! Overnight: Saimaa Lake district **B/L/D**

Day 2: Wednesday 2nd June 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 Savoy-style espressos & snacks at the Safari House. Overnight: Saimaa Lake district **B/L/D**

Day 3: Thursday 3rd June SAIMAA LAKE – NUUKSIO NATIONAL PARK

Leaving the lakes behind, we'll head south to Nuuksio 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: Nuuksio National Park area **B/D**

Day 4: Friday 4th June NUUKSIO 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: Saturday 5th June RAUMA – NAANTALI – TURKU

This morning, we'll take a walking tour of this photogenic town, with its buildings 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: Sunday 6th June TURKU

This morning we'll 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 also a must-visit destination for foodies with some of Finland's best restaurants. Overnight: Turku **B/D**

Day 7: Monday 7th June TURKU – HELSINKI – DEPARTURE

After breakfast, we'll drive approx. 2-hours back to Helsinki airport for your flight home or 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 some of the hotels on this tour. Final hotels may change, and a complete list will be shared with you.

Sokos Albert, Helsinki
www.sokoshotels.fi/hotellit/helsinki

Radisson Blu Latvija, Riga
www.radisson-blu-riga

Victoria Hotel, Klaipeda
www.victoria-hotel-klaipeda

Hotel Artis, Vilnius
www.artis.centrumhotels.com

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:

 02 9906 5770

 enquiries@bluedottravel.com.au