

HELSINKI AND THE BALTIC DOMINIONS

8 days from Helsinki to Tallinn, Riga and Vilnius

Vacation Highlights:

- ◆ Arrival transfer from Helsinki airport to the hotel; or alternatively, join from Kompas' "Alluring Russia with Helsinki" tour
- ◆ 8 day/7-night guided tour featuring:
 - Centrally located first class hotels:
 - 1 night in Helsinki
 - 2 nights in Tallinn
 - 2 nights in Riga
 - 2 nights in Vilnius
 - Buffet breakfast daily
 - A welcome reception in Helsinki (heavy hors d'oeuvres, a glass of wine, beer or soft drink)
 - A lunch in Vilnius (coffee or tea included)
 - A farewell dinner in Vilnius (coffee or tea included)
- ◆ Hotel taxes and service charges
- ◆ Fast ferry from Helsinki to Tallinn
- ◆ Touring by modern air-conditioned motor-coach
- ◆ Professional English-speaking tour director
- ◆ Sightseeing tours with licensed local guides
- ◆ Admission included where indicated in bold letters
- ◆ Luggage handling at the hotels
- ◆ Whisper technology enhanced touring
- ◆ Departure transfer from Vilnius to Vilnius airport or to Warsaw for your continuation with Kompas' "Grandeur and History of Poland" tour

Tour spotlights:

- ◆ Helsinki's imposing landmarks
- ◆ Tallinn and its Toompea Castle
- ◆ Riga's magnificent Old Town
- ◆ Vilnius, medieval quarters and baroque architecture

Special Features:

- ◆ Schnapps tasting in Tallinn
- ◆ Riga Black Balsam presentation and degustation

Hotels:

- ◆ **Helsinki:** Scandic Grand Marina (F)/Radisson Blu Seaside (F) or similar
- ◆ **Tallinn:** Original Sokos Viru (F) or similar
- ◆ **Riga:** Radisson Blu Latvija (SF) or similar
- ◆ **Vilnius:** Radisson Blu Lietuva (F) or similar

This tour can be extended with Kompas' "Grandeur and History of Poland" tour

Itinerary:

Day 1, Arrive in Helsinki, Sunday

Upon arrival in Helsinki, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is to relax or perhaps begin your own discovery. Tonight, your tour director is hosting a

welcome reception and will introduce you to your fellow travelers and to the fascinating tour that awaits you. **(WR)**

Day 2, Helsinki – Tallinn, Monday

Helsinki, the capital of Finland lies in the far south of the country, on a peninsula that is home to the busiest passenger port in the world. Our comprehensive sightseeing covers the most important and interesting areas such as the historical center, the Senate Square, the **Cathedral**, City Hall, the Presidential Palace, Finlandia Hall, and the Opera House. We stop at the Sibelius Monument and, whenever possible, at the Tempelaaikio church (known also as Rock church). In the afternoon we board a **ferry to Tallinn**, Estonia's capital, situated on the southern coast of the Gulf of Finland. Afterward, we transfer to our hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. **(B)**

Day 3, in Tallinn, Tuesday

On a walking tour of Tallinn's Upper and Lower Old Town, we visit the **Alexander Nevsky Cathedral**. Next up is a visit of **Toompea Castle** and the 14th-century Gothic Town Hall there. After the tour, we **taste some Schnapps** in a medieval house. The rest of the day is at leisure. **(B)**

Optional tour: Visit the Kadriorg Palace

Day 4, to Riga, Wednesday

We travel by motor-coach to Riga, the capital of Latvia. On the way, we make a stop in Pärnu, located on the coast of Pärnu Bay. The city is known for its 19th-century timber villas and sandy Pärnu Beach, with its shallow waters and promenade. There is free time to stroll along the beach, have a cup of coffee or even a lunch break. We then continue to Riga where the afternoon is free to explore the city. **(B)**

Day 5, in Riga, Thursday

On our tour, we see the 700-year-old Riga Castle on the banks of the Daugava River, the magnificent Dome Cathedral, the St. Jacobs Cathedral, the St. Peter's Church, the Parliament building, Liberty Monument, and the eclectic Art Nouveau buildings. After the tour, we sample **Black Balsam**, a dark and astringent liqueur made of 24 herbs and based on a 250-year-old recipe. The rest of the day is free to explore more of Riga, shop, or savor some Latvian crêpes. **(B)**

Optional tour: Food Market experience

Day 6, to Vilnius, Friday

This morning, we set course for Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. On the way, we stop at the baroque and rococo **Rundale Palace Museum**. Built in the 18th century and surrounded by a French garden, the palace is an architectural marvel and a triumph of art over nature. After a lunch break here, we continue our journey to Vilnius with a stop at the **Hill of Crosses** in Siauliai. It

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represents Lithuania's unique national and religious identity. The balance of the day is at leisure to begin exploring the city with its interesting architecture. **(B, L)**

Day 7, in Vilnius, Saturday

Vilnius is located on the confluence of the Neris and Velnele Rivers. In Old Vilnius, we visit the baroque **St. Peter and St. Paul's Church** and the striking **St. Anne's Church**. We also see Vilnius University, dating back to 1570, famous Gediminas' Tower and Vilnius Castle. The afternoon is free to explore even more. In the evening, join your fellow travelers and your tour director for our farewell dinner. **(B, D)**

Optional tour: Visit of the Trakai castle

Day 8, depart Vilnius, Sunday

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Vilnius airport. Alternatively, you can continue your journey and join Kompas' "Grandeur and History of Poland" Tour. **(B)**

Helsinki and the Baltic Dominions (K030)		
departure dates	\$ pp double occupancy	\$ single supplement
11-Apr-21	\$1.650	\$490
27-Jun-21	\$1.650	\$490
25-Jul-21	\$1.650	\$490
15-Aug-21	\$1.650	\$490
19-Sep-21	\$1.650	\$490

Rates are gross, per person, in US dollars