

# HELSINKI WITH BALTIC COUNTRIES

13 days including Helsinki, Tallinn, Riga, Vilnius, Warsaw and Krakow



## Day 1, Arrive in Helsinki, Monday

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 dinner and will introduce you to your fellow travelers and to the fascinating tour that awaits you. **(D)**

## Day 2, in Helsinki, Tuesday

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 Temppeliaukio church (known also as Rock church). Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. **(B)** *Optional tour: Excursion to Suomenlinna Island*

## Day 3, to Tallinn, Wednesday

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 or join the *optional tour to Kadriorg Palace*. **(B, D)**

## Day 4, in Tallinn, Thursday

On a walking tour of Tallinn's Upper and Lower Old Town, we visit the **Alexander Nevsky Cathedral**. Next up is a visit to **Toompea Castle** and the 14<sup>th</sup>-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)**

## Day 5, to Riga, Friday

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 19<sup>th</sup>-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 or take an *optional tour Food Market experience*. **(B)**

## Day 6, in Riga, Saturday

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)**

## Day 7, to Vilnius, Sunday

This morning, we set a course for Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. On the way, we stop at the baroque and rococo **Rundale Palace Museum**. Built in the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 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 8, in Vilnius, Monday

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, the famous Gediminas' Tower, and Vilnius Castle. The afternoon is free to explore even more or *optional visit of the Trakai castle*. **(B)**

## Day 9, to Warsaw, Tuesday

Drive through the landscapes of Lithuania on your way to cross the border into Poland. Then take in the Polish countryside, cities, and





towns. Before you head the Warsaw we will enjoy a lunch break. Afternoon's arrival to the capital of Poland and free to explore city on your own before ending this day with a dinner. **(B, L, D)**

#### **Day 10, in Warsaw, Wednesday**

The 700-year-old capital of Poland has been called the "Phoenix City" because it rose again after being destroyed during World War II. Your sightseeing tour here includes a drive along the famous Royal Route from superb Castle Square to Lazienki Park and Palace, the summer residence of the last king of Poland. Then see the Palace of Science and Culture (known as a "wedding cake"), the Saxon Gardens, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Monument to the Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto, and the Barbican. Next, on a walking tour, see the Old Town, Old Market Square, and St. John's Cathedral. The rest of the day is free to stroll through a park, shop, relax, or perhaps attend an optional late afternoon Chopin concert. **(B)**

#### **Day 11, to Krakow, Thursday**

This morning, our journey continues to Czestochowa, famous for the blackened picture of St. Mary in the **Yasna Gora Monastery**, popularly called the "Black Madonna". In the afternoon, we solemnly visit the **Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum**. This former German Nazi concentration and extermination camp is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. After our visit, we continue to Krakow where we have dinner. **(B, D)**

#### **Day 12, in Krakow, Friday**

A sightseeing tour today starts with a visit to Wawel Hill, where you'll view the Royal Castle and visit the **Royal Cathedral**. Then take a walking tour of the Old Town, and see the Main Market Square, Renaissance Cloth Hall, and **St. Mary's Church**. The afternoon is free. You might want to go for a stroll, shop, or relax over some szarlotka. In the evening gather with your fellow travelers and tour director for farewell dinner. **(B, D)**

#### **Day 13, depart Krakow, Saturday**

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Krakow airport. Alternatively, you can continue your journey and join Kompas' "Prague to Budapest" Tour. **(B)**

2022 TOUR K030		PRICE
START:	END:	PER PERSON IN DBL/TWN
May - 23	Jun - 04	\$3,416
Jun - 20	Jul - 02	\$3,366
Jul - 18	Jul - 30	\$3,289
Aug - 08	Aug - 20	\$3,289
Sep - 12	Sep - 24	\$3,416
Sep - 26	Oct - 08	\$3,416
SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT		\$876

#### **Included vacation highlights:**

- Airport transfer from Helsinki airport to the hotel
- Centrally located first class hotels
- Breakfast daily
- Welcome dinner in Helsinki (glass of wine, beer or soft drink)
- 2 lunches and 4 dinners (coffee or tea included)
- Touring by modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Professional English-Speaking Tour Director throughout
- Licensed Local Guides
- Baggage handling at hotels
- Whisper technology enhanced touring
- Admission included where indicated in bold letters
- Hotel taxes and service taxes
- Departure transfer from hotel to Krakow airport

#### **Tour spotlights:**

- Helsinki's imposing landmarks
- Tallinn and its Toompea Castle
- Riga's magnificent old Town
- Vilnius, medieval quarters and baroque architecture
- Warsaw and its charming Old Town
- Yasna Gora Monastery, home to Poland's Black Madonna
- Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial and Museum
- Krakow's medieval care and Jewish quarter

\*This tour can be joined from tour Little tour of Russia

\*This tour can be extended with Kompas "Capitals of the Habsburg empire" escorted tour.

#### **Hotel list:**

- Helsinki: Clarion or similar
- Tallinn: Park Inn by Radisson Meriton or similar
- Riga: Radisson Blu Latvia or similar
- Vilnius: Radisson Blu Lietuva or similar
- Warsaw: Mercure Grand or similar
- Krakow: Novotel Centrum or similar

