TREASURES OF THE BALTICS

Classic Flex Tour | 14 Days | Physical Level 1

Warsaw – Masurian District – Vilnius – Riga – Tallinn – Helsinki

Uncover a fascinating corner of Europe where medieval cities, grand castles and remarkable history meet vibrant local traditions. From Warsaw through the Baltic capitals and beyond to Helsinki, experience tranquil lakes, royal palaces, unique culinary traditions and unforgettable moments along the way.

- Experience all three Baltic countries, plus Poland and Finland
- Visit Hitler's Wolf's Lair headquarters
- Enjoy a Polish vodka tasting
- Visit a secret Soviet bunker in Latvia
- Explore Helsinki's Suomenlinna Fortress
- Try your hand at making Lithuanian Kibinai

TOUR MAP

TREASURES OF THE BALTICS TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Meals as specified
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

CLASSIC FLEX TOURS:

Classic Flex tours let you see the iconic sites and signature experiences of each destination on an excellent-value, fully escorted group tour, with a little more freedom to do things your own way. Your international flights, accommodation, transportation, touring and most meals are all arranged, so you can travel with complete peace of mind. Where it works best for the destination, personal time is woven into the itinerary, giving you the chance to explore independently, seek out a local restaurant, or simply relax at your own pace. Throughout, your National Escort's unparalleled knowledge will bring each destination to life and turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Treasures of the Baltics' is rated 1 on the physical level scale. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and ferries, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time
- Sightseeing at nearly all the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing several steps, often without handrails

Of course, our National Escorts will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you require any more information about the pace of our tours, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 14 days in duration including return international flights, and the same duration based on 'Land Only'. Join the tour on Day 2 in Warsaw and end the tour on Day 13 in Helsinki.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre/post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Fly to Warsaw Meals: D

Fly overnight to the Polish capital of Warsaw. On arrival, you will be met in the arrivals hall. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer to your hotel.

Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.

Destination Information

Warsaw – Poland's capital is a city of contrasts, where beautifully restored historic buildings stand alongside modern architecture. At its heart is the colourful Market Square, surrounded by ornate townhouses, while the impressive Royal Castle stands at the entrance to the Old Town.

Day 3: Discover Warsaw Meals: B, L, D

Begin your journey with a guided tour of Warsaw, exploring the beautifully restored Old Town, Castle Square, Royal Castle, St John's Cathedral and the atmospheric Old Town Market Square.

After lunch, explore Warsaw's Communist-era heritage. See the imposing Palace of Culture and Science before visiting the Polish Vodka Museum. Learn about the 500-year history of Polish vodka production and finish with a tasting of selected varieties.

Destination Information

Old Town – Almost completely destroyed during the Second World War, Warsaw's Old Town was painstakingly rebuilt using historic paintings and plans, and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Castle Square – Castle Square is one of the city's most impressive historic squares. At its centre stands the Sigismund III Vasa Column, erected in 1644 and one of Warsaw's best-known landmarks. The square is dominated by the striking red-brick Royal Castle, which was rebuilt after being destroyed during the Second World War and was once the official residence of Poland's monarchs.

St John's Cathedral – St John's Cathedral dates back to the 14th century and has played an important role in the city's history. Originally built in the Gothic style, the cathedral was almost completely destroyed during the Second World War before being carefully reconstructed. Inside, its impressive brick interior houses historic tombs, chapels and a magnificent organ.

Day 4: Wolf's Lair & the Masurian Lakes

Meals: B, L, D

Journey north into the beautiful Masurian Lake District, a region of tranquil lakes and dense forests.

Along the way, visit Wolf's Lair, Hitler's former Eastern Front headquarters. Explore the atmospheric ruins of this vast wartime complex and learn about its role during the Second World War, including the famous 1944 assassination attempt. Continue into the peaceful Masurian countryside.

Destination Information

Masurian Lake District – Known as the 'land of a thousand lakes', it is a popular destination for boating and outdoor activities, with tranquil waterways surrounded by lush woodland and traditional villages. The region also has a fascinating history, with remnants of medieval castles and former German and Prussian settlements scattered throughout.

Wolf's Lair – Hidden deep within the forests of north-eastern Poland, the Wolf's Lair was Adolf Hitler's heavily fortified military headquarters during the Second World War. Constructed in 1941, the vast complex included bunkers, barracks and command buildings concealed among the trees. It was here that the failed 20 July 1944 assassination attempt on Hitler took place, led by Claus von Stauffenberg.

Day 5: Trakai & Lake Galve Meals: B, L

Cross into Lithuania and travel to Trakai, the former capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Discover its multicultural heritage and the traditions of the Karaim community during a hands-on workshop to prepare traditional kibinai, followed by lunch.

Later, cruise across Lake Galvė for views of the magnificent Trakai Island Castle before continuing to Vilnius.

Destination Information

Trakai – Surrounded by lakes and woodland, the historic town of Trakai was once the medieval capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Its most famous landmark is the striking Trakai Island Castle, built on an island in Lake Galvė during the 14th and 15th centuries.

Vilnius – Lithuania's elegant capital is renowned for its atmospheric Old Town, one of the largest surviving medieval old towns in Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its winding cobbled streets are lined with colourful Baroque, Gothic and Neoclassical buildings, while the city's many churches and courtyards reflect its rich and varied history.

Day 6: Vilnius Meals: B, D

Explore Lithuania's capital, Vilnius, on a guided walking tour through its UNESCO-listed Old Town. Discover grand churches, historic streets and atmospheric courtyards before continuing to Užupis, the city's bohemian artists' quarter. Enjoy Flex time this afternoon to explore Vilnius at your own pace before dinner in a local restaurant.

Destination Information

Uzupis – Once a run-down district, Užupis has become known for its colourful street art, galleries, cafés and independent spirit. In 1997, local artists declared Užupis an independent republic, complete with its own constitution, flag and unofficial president, creating one of the city's most unusual attractions.

Day 7: Rundāle Palace Meals: B, L, D

Journey towards Latvia, stopping at Lithuania's extraordinary Hill of Crosses, a powerful symbol of faith, hope and resistance.

After lunch, cross into Latvia to visit magnificent Rundāle Palace, exploring its Baroque interiors and elegant French-style gardens. Continue to Riga for dinner.

Destination Information

Hill of Crosses – Rising from the countryside near Šiauliai, thousands of crosses have been placed here over centuries, creating a remarkable landscape of wooden, metal and stone crosses of all shapes and sizes. The site became a powerful symbol of Lithuanian faith and national identity, particularly during the Soviet occupation, when attempts were made to remove the crosses.

Rundāle Palace – Set among the peaceful countryside of southern Latvia, Rundāle Palace is one of the finest examples of Baroque and Rococo architecture in the Baltic states. Built in the 18th century as a summer residence for the Dukes of Courland, the palace features lavishly decorated state rooms, ornate stucco work and elaborate ceilings. Its beautifully landscaped French-style gardens provide a striking setting for this grand historic residence.

Riga – Founded in 1201, Riga has been shaped by centuries of German, Swedish and Russian influence, reflected in its diverse architecture and cultural heritage. Its UNESCO-listed Old Town is filled with cobbled streets, historic churches and colourful buildings, while the city's Art Nouveau district showcases some of Europe's finest examples of the style.

Day 8: Riga Meals: B, L

Explore Riga on a guided tour, discovering its medieval Old Town and admiring the city's spectacular Art Nouveau architecture. Visit Riga Cathedral and enjoy a short live organ performance before continuing to the lively Riga Central Market, housed within former Zeppelin hangars. Sample local delicacies and taste the city's famous Riga Black Balsam, a traditional herbal liqueur. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure.

Destination Information

Riga Cathedral – Built in 1211, the cathedral has been rebuilt and altered several times over the centuries, creating a distinctive blend of Romanesque, Gothic, Baroque and Art Nouveau influences. Its impressive interior is also home to a renowned 19th-century organ, once one of the largest in the world.

Riga Central Market – Housed within five enormous former German Zeppelin hangars, Riga Central Market is one of the largest and most distinctive markets in Europe. Opened in 1930, its vast pavilions are filled with stalls selling fresh produce, meat, fish, bread and local specialities remaining a lively part of everyday life in the city.

Day 9: Gauja National Park — Meals: B, L

Travel through the scenic landscapes of Gauja National Park before stepping behind the Iron Curtain at a secret Soviet bunker. Hidden beneath a former rehabilitation centre, this remarkably preserved Cold War time capsule reveals original maps, communications equipment and propaganda materials.

Continue into Estonia for a local cider tasting, paired with regional cheeses, before arriving in Tallinn.

Destination Information

Gauja National Park – Stretching through the picturesque Gauja River Valley, Gauja National Park is Latvia's largest and oldest national park known for its dense forests, sandstone cliffs, caves and winding river landscapes. The park is also rich in history, with medieval castles and historic estates scattered among the countryside.

Tallinn – Founded in the 13th century, Estonia's capital was an important trading centre of the Hanseatic League, and its historic centre is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Medieval towers, grand churches and atmospheric squares sit alongside a lively collection of cafés, restaurants and modern galleries.

Day 10: Tallinn — Meals: B, D

Discover Tallinn's beautifully preserved medieval Old Town on a guided tour, exploring its winding streets and historic landmarks, including Toompea Castle, Town Hall Square and the magnificent Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. Enjoy Flex time this afternoon to explore at your own pace before stepping back 700 years this evening with a medieval dinner experience, enjoying traditional dishes in a candlelit Hanseatic setting.

Destination Information

Toompea Castle – Perched above Tallinn's Old Town, Toompea Castle has been a centre of power in Estonia for centuries. Originally established as a medieval fortress, the castle has been rebuilt and expanded over time, creating a striking blend of architectural styles. Today, the grand pink Baroque façade houses Estonia's Parliament, while the castle's historic walls and towers remain a reminder of Tallinn's medieval past.

Alexander Nevsky Cathedral – Built in the late 19th century during the Russian Empire, the grand Orthodox cathedral is known for its ornate façade, striking onion domes and richly decorated interior. Its impressive collection of icons and bells adds to the cathedral's grandeur, while its position overlooking the Old Town makes it an unmistakable part of Tallinn's skyline.

Day 11: Ferry to Helsinki — Meals: B, L

Cross the Baltic Sea by ferry to Helsinki, Finland's elegant capital and a fascinating meeting point between Western and Eastern cultures. Discover the city's highlights on a guided tour before enjoying lunch in the city centre.

Later, take a short ferry ride across Helsinki's harbour to Suomenlinna, the UNESCO-listed sea fortress built over three centuries under Swedish, Russian and Finnish rule.

Destination Information

Helsinki – Finland's capital sits on the shores of the Baltic Sea and is known for its elegant architecture, green spaces and lively waterfront. Founded in 1550, the city blends historic Neoclassical buildings with striking examples of Nordic design. Its harbour, bustling Market Square and distinctive churches showcase Helsinki's maritime heritage, while its cafés, shops and wide streets give the city a relaxed atmosphere.

Suomenlinna – Spread across six islands off the coast of Helsinki, Suomenlinna is one of Finland's most important historic sites. Built by the Swedes in the 18th century, the sea fortress was designed to protect the city and became part of the Russian Empire before Finnish independence.

Day 12: Helsinki Flex — Meals: B, D

Enjoy a Flex day in Helsinki to explore at your own pace. Browse Finnish design boutiques, discover the city's renowned music scene or relax in a traditional Finnish sauna. Alternatively, join an optional excursion to Porvoo, one of Finland's oldest towns, with its charming Old Town and colourful wooden houses.
This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner.

Destination Information

Finnish Sauna – An important part of Finnish culture, the sauna has been enjoyed in Finland for centuries and remains a popular part of everyday life. Traditionally heated with wood, saunas are warm, relaxing spaces where people gather to unwind and socialise.

Porvoo – One of Finland's oldest towns, Porvoo was founded in the 14th century, and is known for its cobbled streets, colourful wooden houses and small shops, cafés and galleries. Its red-painted riverside warehouses are among Porvoo's most recognisable sights, while the medieval Porvoo Cathedral stands high above the Old Town.

Days 13-14: Fly to Australia

Meals: B

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to the airport, according to the departure time of your international flight. Late check-out is not included.

Additional nights before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.

TREASURES OF THE BALTICS TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

Australian passport holders currently do not require a visa to enter **Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Finland.** Please note that visa regulations can change at any time, often at the discretion of the relevant embassy or consulate.

Please note that non-European Union passport holders travelling to the European Union will be required to use the new Entry/Exit System (EES). For more details and to keep up to date with requirements please visit https://help.wendywutours.com.au/knowledge/europe-ees

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items.

For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/.

INSURANCE:

It is a condition of your booking that you are insured for the duration of your trip. We recommend comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellation, medical requirements, luggage, repatriations and additional expenses. At a minimum, the policy is required to cover medical requirements including medical evacuations / repatriations. The choice of insurer is yours. We strongly suggest you purchase insurance at the time you pay your deposit. This is because cancellation fees and charges are payable from that time.

We may request you to provide evidence that you have taken out and paid for a policy to comply with this condition. If you fail to provide a certificate of currency of insurance within a reasonable time after our request, then this will be deemed a cancellation by you and standard cancellation fees will apply.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

EATING IN THE BALTICS, POLAND & FINLAND:

The cuisine you'll encounter across Poland, the Baltic states and Finland reflects each country's distinct traditions, with influences from Northern and Eastern Europe. Local dishes often make use of fresh, seasonal ingredients, with potatoes, rye bread, cabbage, beetroot, mushrooms and dairy products featuring regularly. Fish, including herring and smoked fish, is also popular, while meat such as pork and chicken is widely available. Depending on where you travel, you may have the opportunity to try specialities such as cepelinai (potato dumplings), kibinai (filled pastries), grey peas with bacon, kama (a traditional grain-based food) and cold beetroot soup. Breakfasts are generally hearty, with bread, cheese, cold meats, eggs, porridge, pastries and yoghurt commonly available.

Vegetarian options are generally available, particularly in larger towns and cities, although choices may be more limited in smaller restaurants and rural areas. If you have any food allergies or specific dietary requirements, please let us know at the time of booking. Your guide and local suppliers will do their best to accommodate your requirements, although we cannot guarantee that all requests can be met. Meal times may occasionally vary due to sightseeing, travel arrangements or other local circumstances.

Beer, wine and spirits are widely available, and each country has its own traditional drinks and specialities. You may also have the opportunity to try Lithuanian mead, Riga Black Balsam or locally produced beers and spirits. Tea and coffee are readily available throughout the region. Tap water is generally safe to drink, although bottled water is widely available if preferred.

DEVELOPMENT AND WHAT TO EXPECT:

Travelling across Poland, the Baltic states and Finland offers the opportunity to experience a diverse mix of historic cities, beautiful landscapes and cultures shaped by a complex and changing history. Standards of infrastructure, accommodation and service can vary between destinations and locations, particularly when travelling outside major cities. You may encounter cobbled or uneven streets, older buildings, winding roads or other aspects of local infrastructure that differ from what you are accustomed to in Australia. All Wendy Wu Tours suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum, prioritising your wellbeing throughout the journey.

The history of the region is visible in many places, from medieval old towns and historic landmarks to architecture and monuments reflecting the 20th century and the period of Soviet influence in the Baltic states. These sit alongside modern city centres, contemporary hotels and new developments. English is widely spoken in tourist areas and larger cities, although it may be less commonly spoken in smaller towns and rural areas. You may also encounter different languages and cultural traditions as you travel between countries.

As with any multi-country tour, local conditions, traffic, weather or other unforeseen circumstances may occasionally result in changes to timings or minor delays. We encourage you to approach the journey with an open mind and enjoy the opportunity to experience the distinct character, history and culture of each country along the way.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for its convenient location, comfort and character, and may range from a business hotel in a city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be simpler, reflecting the facilities available locally. Hotels are generally of a three- to four-star standard according to local classification, although hotel rating systems and standards can vary between countries. All group tour hotels have private bathroom facilities, TV and telephone.

If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and the Baltics is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognise that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a National Escort. On Classic Flex Tours, will be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu our groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 10 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

TRANSPORT:

Road conditions across the Baltics are generally good, particularly on major routes between the main cities. However, rural roads can be narrower, uneven or less well maintained, and roadworks may occasionally cause delays. Traffic and weather conditions can also affect journey times, particularly during winter. Your National Escort will keep you informed of any changes.

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used throughout the tour.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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