

SAMPLE TOUR: THE BALTICS

9 days

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All Educational World Tours are custom made for every group. This means this sample itinerary serves as inspiration and is not a set itinerary. Activities specific to your group can be added as well as days, destinations and sightseeing.

Day 1: **Departure Day**

- Fly from departure city to Helsinki.

Day 2: **Helsinki**

- Arrival at Helsinki international airport. After you collected your luggage continue to the arrivals hall where you will meet your European Tour Manager who will remain with you throughout the tour. Board your private coach and drive to downtown Helsinki.
- Helsinki may stand at the doorway to Russia, but its cultural links are firmly in Scandinavia. It was originally founded in 1550, halfway between Stockholm and St. Petersburg. Surrounded by water on three sides and fringed by islands, Helsinki grew up around a natural harbor overlooking the Gulf of Finland. A city of wide streets, squares, parks and sculptures. With a population of about half a million, Helsinki enjoys a certain urban sophistication -- although the locals still refer to it as "a big village." Helsinki's residents are some of the best educated, best clothed, best fed, and best housed on earth.
- City Tour of Helsinki with local guide. You will see all the main highlights such as the Sibelius Monument & Park, Finlandia Hall, the Opera, Senate Square and the Olympic Stadium.
- Group dinner and overnight at your hotel in Helsinki.

Accommodations: Moderate hotel (3 star) in Helsinki (3 nights)

Day 3: **Helsinki-Porvoo day trip**

- Breakfast at your hotel.
- Board your private coach and transfer to Porvoo.
- Walking Tour of Porvoo with local guide. Porvoo, Finland's second-oldest town, officially became a town in 1380, but even before that it was an important trading post. The town's fabulous historic center includes the famous brick-red former warehouses along the river that once stored goods bound for destinations across Europe. Now these warehouses many of these warehouses are turned into craft shops.
- After lunch return to downtown Helsinki to explore the old town of Helsinki in chaperoned groups.
- Dinner at your own arrangements.

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- Evening performance for all music groups in the Temppeliaukio Church (subject to availability). Quarried out of the natural bedrock, Temppeliaukio Church is one of Helsinki's most popular tourist attractions. The interior walls are created naturally by the rock. The church was designed by architects Timo and Tuomo Suomalainen and opened in 1969. Due to its excellent acoustics the church is a popular venue for concerts. Helsinki Radio Symphony Orchestra perform here on a regular base.

Day 4: *Helsinki - Rajaton Day trip*

- Breakfast at your hotel.
- Board your private coach and drive to local school connection in Rajaton (100 miles / about 2 hours)
- Cultural exchange program with students of Rajaton School.
- Concert in collaboration with Rajaton School
- Dinner at a local restaurant.
- Return to your hotel in Helsinki.

Day 5: *Helsinki/Tallinn*

- Breakfast at your hotel.
- Board your private coach and drive to the harbor to board your ferry to enjoy a 2-hour Cruise across the Baltic Sea to Tallinn the capital of Estonia.
- Estonia (population 1.3 million) is the most northerly of the three Baltic States and the most Scandinavian. Ethnically the Estonians and Finns are cousins, and it is partly the close links between the two that enabled Estonia to make the transition to capitalism and independence much more quickly and painlessly than its Baltic siblings.
- Tallinn, the capital of Estonia (population of 450.000), has a UNESCO status because it is an exceptionally complete and well-preserved medieval northern European trading city on the coast of the Baltic Sea. The city developed as a significant center of the Hanseatic League during the major period of activity of this great trading organization in the 13th-16th centuries. The combination of the upper town on the high limestone hill Toompea and the lower town at its foot with many church spires forms an expressive skyline that is visible from a great distance both from land and sea.
- Check-in at your hotel in Tallinn.
- Dinner at your hotel.

Accommodations: Moderate hotel (3 star) in Tallinn (2 nights)

Day 6: *Tallinn*

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- Breakfast at your hotel.
- Walking Tour of Tallinn with local guide. You will see the twin towers of Viru Gate, Town Hall square, centre of Tallinn life, as well as Toompea, with the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and Toompea Castle.
- Time to purchase lunch in town
- Free time to discover the Old Town and walk the city wall in chaperoned groups.
- Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 7: Tallinn/Pärnu & Riga

- Breakfast at your hotel.
- Board your private coach and drive to Pärnu, a beautiful town situated in southwestern Estonia on the coast of Pärnu Bay, an inlet of the Gulf of Riga in the Baltic Sea. It is a popular summer vacation resort for the locals.
- Continue to Latvia. A tapestry of sea, lakes and woods, Latvia is best described as a vast unspoiled parkland with just one real city, its cosmopolitan capital, Riga. Having been invaded by every regional power, Latvia has more cultural layers and a less homogenous population than its neighbors.
- Concert for all music groups in the Latvian University Great Concert Hall.
- Group dinner at your hotel.

Accommodations: Moderate hotel in Riga (2 nights)

Day 8: Riga

- Breakfast at your hotel.
- Walking Tour of Riga with local guide. See highlights such as the famous Riga Cathedral, St. John and St. Peter churches, the Freedom Monument, National Opera, Parliament, Castle and the cozy spacious squares, and the unique Art Nouveau district.
- Afternoon activity specific to your group.
- Farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 9: Departure from Riga

- Fly from Riga to home city.