

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd.
55 Dufferin Avenue, Brantford, Ontario N3T 4P6
Tel: 519-753-2695/519-756-4900 - Fax: 519-753-6376
tours@pauwelstravel.com – www.pauwelstravel.com



*St. Petersburg's Palace Square with the former Winter Palace, now the Hermitage Museum
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BEAUTIES OF THE BALTIC

Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland and - visa-free - St. Petersburg, Russia

16 days, Monday, August 5, to Tuesday, August 20, 2019

A thorough overland exploration of a fascinating part of Europe, featuring numerous UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the old towns of Vilnius, Klaipeda, Riga, Tallinn, Helsinki, and St. Petersburg, as well as wonderful coastal and inland scenery. The tour will be escorted by historian Jacques Pauwels, PhD, author of 'Beneath the Dust of Time: A History of the Names of Peoples and Places' (London, 2009), 'The Myth of the Good War' (new edition, Toronto, 2015), and The Great Class War 1914-1918 (Toronto, 2016), who will lecture on the intriguing and often tragic history of the region.

Tour cost: \$4,995 from Toronto – “Land only”: \$3,795 – Single room supplement: \$1,245

PROPOSED ITINERARY:

Day 1 - Monday, August 5: Late evening departure from Toronto for Frankfurt with Air Canada. Dinner and a light breakfast will be served on board.

Day 2 - Tuesday, August 6: Late morning arrival in Frankfurt, and connecting flight to Vilnius, capital of Lithuania. Transfer to the centrally located 4-star/first-class Hotel Vilnia (<https://hotelvilnia.lt>) and free time to settle in. In late afternoon, leisurely walking tour of the old town, followed by a welcome drink and dinner.

Day 3 - Wednesday, August 7: Morning city tour of the Lithuanian capital's outlying areas and its historical city centre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site described as “an impressive complex of Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and classical buildings” (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/541>). Afternoon free to shop and explore on your own. No group dinner this evening.



< *Vilnius Cathedral*

Day 4 - Thursday, August 8: Departure after breakfast. A short drive takes us to **Kaunas**, a quaint old university town and former capital of the country, situated on the banks of the Nemunas (Memel) River. Short walking tour of the old town and free time for lunch. In the afternoon we motor along a fine expressway to the historically important town of **Klaipeda** (German: **Memel**), strategically situated between the Baltic and the Curonian Lagoon, near the mouth of the Nemunas River, and very close to the long Curonian Spit. Dinner and overnight in the centrally-located first-class Hotel National (<https://nationalhotel.lt/en>).

Day 5 - Friday, August 9: Morning walking tour of Klaipeda, with sights such as Theater Square, the old sailing ship Meridianas, and the picturesque old town with its ancient half-timbered houses. Rest of the day free to shop and/or explore the town on your own; you may want to visit the Lithuanian Sea Museum, located in a 19th-century fort. No group dinner.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES VISITED ON THIS TOUR:
Old Vilnius– Old Riga – Old Tallinn – Historic St. Petersburg and its monuments

Day 6 - Saturday, August 10: Departing Klaipeda, we motor to the town of **Siauliai** to visit the “Hill of Crosses,” the Lithuanian national centre of pilgrimage. On into Latvia, and late afternoon arrival in the country’s capital, **Riga**, situated on a vast inlet of the Baltic Sea, the Gulf of Riga. Dinner and overnight in the first-class Hotel Radisson Blu Elizabete (<https://www.radissonblu.com/en/elizabetehotel-riga>).

Day 7 - Sunday, August 11: Morning sightseeing tour of Riga’s old town, once an important member of the Hanseatic League, with its medieval castle, the cathedral and many other churches, historical monuments, and numerous attractive old houses, especially in the Art Nouveau style. Old Riga has been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/852>). Afternoon free. No group dinner this evening.



Riga skyline

Day 8 - Monday, August 12: Today we follow the coastal road north and cross into Estonia. Via the seaside resort, spa, and small seaport of **Pärnu**, we reach the country’s capital, **Tallinn**, situated on the shores of the Gulf of Finland. Arrival in late afternoon, dinner and overnight in the centrally-locate Hotel National 4-star Radisson Blu Hotel Olümpia (www.radissonblu.com/olumpiahotel-tallinn).

Day 9 - Tuesday, August 13: Morning sightseeing in old Tallinn, a maze of cobblestone streets and alleys flanked by medieval houses and churches, still surrounded by its ancient city walls. The main sights of this UNESCO World Heritage Site (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/822>) are the Russian-Orthodox Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and the historic St Mary's Cathedral, originally Catholic but Lutheran since 1561, lively Raekoja Plats

in the heart of the old town, City Hall, Estonia's pink Parliament building, and Raekoda Street with its trendy shops. Afternoon free to explore on your own, shop, visit museums, etc. No group dinner this evening.



< *The Baltic Sea on a Latvian stamp*



Tallinn seen from the sea, painting by Ivan Aivazovsky

Day 10 - Wednesday, August 14: After breakfast, transfer to the harbor in time for the departure of the ferry to Helsinki, situated just across the Gulf of Finland. The crossing takes about two hours. Arrival in Helsinki, and panoramic city tour, with as highlights the Lutheran Cathedral, the unofficial symbol of the city, the modern and very unusual Church in the Rock, the onion-domed Russian Uspenski Cathedral, the largest Orthodox church in Western Europe, and the Senate and Railway Station squares with their imposing buildings. Dinner and overnight in the centrally-located four-star Hotel Presidentti (<https://www.sokoshotels.fi/en/helsinki/sokos-hotel-presidentti>).

Day 11 - Thursday, August 15: Free time to enjoy Helsinki. You may want to visit one or more of the city's fine museums. Late afternoon transfer to the harbor and 7PM departure on the overnight ferry service of the St. Peter Line to St. Petersburg, Russia (<https://stpeterline.com>). Accommodation in comfortable, fully equipped cabins. Dinner will be served on board.

PLEASE NOTE: A RUSSIAN VISA IS *NOT* REQUIRED! UPON ARRIVAL IN ST. PETERSBURG YOU WILL RECEIVE A 3-DAY TOURIST PERMIT UPON PRESENTATION OF YOUR PASSPORT AND A COMPLETED ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE FORM.



Helsinki's Senate Square

Day 12 - Friday, August 16: Breakfast will be served on board prior to our 9AM arrival in St. Petersburg. Arrival and full-day panoramic sightseeing tour of this wonderful city, with sights such as Peter and Paul Fortress, Alexander Nevskiy Monastery, Nevskiy Prospekt, the mighty Neva River's scenic banks and bridges, the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood, Kazan Cathedral, Saint Isaac's Cathedral, the Narva Triumphal Arch, and the Rostral Columns, a symbol of the city.

Accommodation in the four-star Hotel Sokos Olympia Garden, located in the historical city centre (<https://www.sokoshotels.fi/en/st-petersburg/sokos-hotel-olympia-garden>). Dinner in the hotel or in a nearby restaurant.

Day 13 - Saturday, August 17: After breakfast, guided visit to the city's prime attraction, the world-famous Hermitage Museum, located in the Winter Palace, with masterpieces by Rembrandt, Leonardo, Michelangelo, Rubens, and many more. Rest of the day free to explore the city on your own. We recommend an optional boat tour on the scenic canals of this "Venice of the North," and this evening an optional concert or ballet performance may be available.

Day 14 – Sunday, August 18: Day at leisure, Optional excursions will be available to the palace and gardens of Peterhof, the "Russian Versailles", named after czar Peter the Great, and/or Pushkin, a.k.a. Tsarskoye Selo, the sumptuous residence of czarina Catherine I, featuring the legendary Amber Room. Late afternoon transfer to the harbour in time for the 6PM departure of the ferry to Helsinki. Accommodation as on the way over from Helsinki, and dinner on board!

Day 15 – Monday, August 19: Arrival in Helsinki at 7AM. Breakfast, followed by a visit to Helsinki's UNESCO World Heritage Site, Suomenlinna Fortress, a.k.a. the "Gibraltar of the North" (<https://www.suomenlinna.fi/en>). Around noon, we check into the Sokos Hotel Presidentti again, and the afternoon is at leisure. This evening, final group dinner in the hotel or in a typical restaurant.

Day 16 – Tuesday, August 20: Early morning transfer to the airport and return flight to Toronto, via Frankfurt.

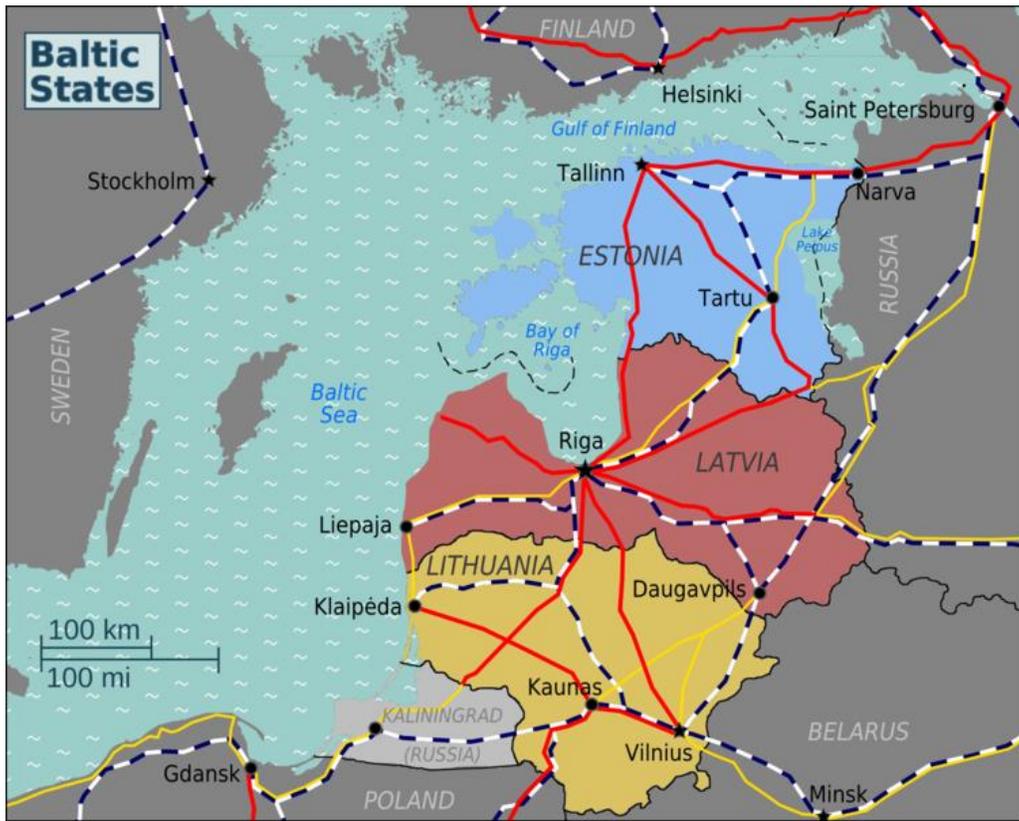
Tour cost: \$4,995 from Toronto - "Land only": \$3,795 – Single room supplement: \$1,245

Included in the price are:

- Flights from Toronto to Vilnius and return from Helsinki (via Frankfurt) with Air Canada and Lufthansa, including all airport taxes/security fees/fuel surcharges;
- Overland transportation via private coach;
- Ferry services Tallinn/Helsinki and Helsinki/St. Petersburg/Helsinki;
- Accommodation based on double occupancy in first-class/4-star hotels and comfortable fully equipped cabins on the ferry between Helsinki and St. Petersburg - the single room supplement is \$1,245;
- Daily breakfast and a total of nine dinners;
- All visits and sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary, including admission to museums and monuments as shown in the itinerary;
- Gratuities for the coach driver and local guides.

Not included:

- All expenses of a personal nature;
- Travel Insurance: if interested please call our office for rates.



TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 required at the time of registration. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and registration form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed registration form.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 61 days before departure: 25% of tour cost
60 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost
Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. We also reserve the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. We reserve the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, travel warnings by the Canadian Government etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable.

By commencing the tour, I agree to the release and agreement as included below.

RELEASE & AGREEMENT:

By placing my deposit and commencing the tour I understand and agree to the following:

1. That all tours are delivered in conjunction with other service providers, including but not limited to travel agent and booking services, airlines, hotel and accommodation providers, transportation providers including but not limited to coach, train and ferry services, restaurant providers, and local guides. We shall not be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotels, transportation and other travel services are provided subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally.
2. I know that tour programs include walking, and may including hiking and fitness programs that have potential hazardous activities associated with them. I should not participate prior to approval by my physician. I assume any and all other risks associated with these events included but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather including high heat and/or humidity.
3. To release, indemnify and hold harmless Pauwels Travel Bureau and their affiliates (which term shall include parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees of Pauwels Travel Bureau as well as Pauwels Travel themselves) (the "Released Parties") from, and agree not to sue the Released Parties for, any claims that I may have arising from, or in connection with, any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from any cause whatsoever related in any way to my participation in this tour. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from, and agree not to sue them for any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from the Released Parties' negligence other than from intentional or reckless acts by such parties. I further agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all acts of God, war (whether declared or undeclared), terrorist activities, incidents of politically motivated violence, illness or quarantine, strikes or government restrictions or the acts or omissions of any other agents over which the Released Parties have no direct or indirect control,

including, without limitation, airlines, railways, bus companies, hotels, shipping companies, guides and sub-contracted agents or tour operators. This release also includes activities not offered that may be considered risky. I further release any Tour Directors, bus drivers or other individuals involved in my tour.

4. That the air carrier's liability for loss of or damage to baggage or property, or for death or injury to person, is limited by their tariffs, or the Warsaw Convention, or both.
5. That Pauwels Travel Bureau shall have no liability or responsibility for me when I am absent from activities, such as visits to friends or relatives or during stay-ahead/stay-behind option periods if the stay-ahead/stay-behind period does not include the services of a Tour Director.
6. To abide by directions of my Tour Director or other leadership personnel during my tour. Failure to do so may result in my termination from tour immediately. I understand that to disobey such rules or directions are to waive the right to any refund, and that I may be sent home at my own expense. The participant and family undertake full financial responsibility for any damage caused by the participant and agree to pay his/her return home on the first available flight, should his/her behavior be deemed detrimental to the welfare of the group.
7. To abide by all local laws when in Canada and abroad, including those concerning drugs and alcohol. (Minors must have parents' permission to use alcohol even if the local law would otherwise permit them to.) I understand that if I abuse or disobey such laws, even unintentionally, I waive my right to a refund, and Pauwels Travel may send me home at my own expense. I also understand that should local authorities be involved, I will be subject to the laws of the country I am visiting.
8. That if I become ill or incapacitated, Pauwels Travel and its employees, or a designated chaperone may take any action they deem necessary for my safety and well-being, including securing medical treatment (at my own expense) and transporting me home. Pauwels Travel retains the right, in its sole discretion, to contact the traveller's parent(s) and/or guardian or emergency contact with regard to health issues or any matters whatsoever that relates to the traveller's tour. These rights transcend any and all privacy regulations that may apply. In the event of a medical emergency, Pauwels Travel will attempt to cause appropriate treatment to be administered, and the traveller authorizes Pauwels Travel to do so. Pauwels Travel, however, makes no warranty that it will be able to cause effective (or any) emergency treatment to be administered.
9. That Pauwels Travel may use any film likenesses taken of me and any of my comments while on a tour for future publication and also use my contact information for future Pauwels Travel communications.

A WORD ABOUT *GROUP* AIRFARES:

Please note that when booking one of our air inclusive tours, Pauwels Travel has negotiated reduced rates with the airline that we are able to confirm and lock in up to 359 days before travel. While it is wonderful to share the savings and flexibility this provides with you, our valued guests, the privilege does come with some restrictions. In some cases it may not be possible to collect frequent flyer miles, you may not be able to check in online 24 hours before travel, or you may need to try checking in with your ticket number rather than your booking reference and, **in almost ALL cases we are not able to offer advanced seat selection.**

It is the airline that makes the reservation and has control over the booking so it is their policy, not ours, that prevents us from assigning specific seats. If a request is made, it is passed on to the airline by our staff when they submit the names to the airline, i.e., 30-60 days prior to departure. Calling us several days before you leave will not change this fact nor will getting upset with our staff.

If a certain type of seat is indispensable to you, we suggest that you book our tour on a "land only" basis and make individual flight arrangements, in which case you may be able to get the seat of your choice; Pauwels Travel would be happy to assist you with that reservation at absolutely no additional charge. We will offer you the best fare available, but please note that this can only be done once a tour is a guaranteed departure because your individual airfare's conditions are likely to involve cancellation penalties. We thank you in advance for your kind understanding of the above!

REGISTRATION FORM

Please book _____ seat(s) on the "Beauties of the Baltic" tour of August 5 – 20, 2019.

Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.)

I wish to book on group flights _____ OR land only _____.

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for an interim payment of \$1000.00 and the balance due 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 6 MONTHS AFTER TOUR TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.

PASSPORT NAME(S): **Please** indicate the appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth")

Address _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

If traveling alone, is a SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED? YES _____ NO _____

If sharing, what is your bed preference: twin (2 beds) _____ double (1 bed) _____?

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs or frequent flyer numbers etc here.

We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

Insurance, Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit.

I/we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

All-inclusive Package _____ Non-medical Package _____

Other _____ **OR** Decline Insurance _____

PAYMENT: Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Visa Mastercard American Express

Amount Paid: _____ Card Number: _____

Expiry: _____ Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

"I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment".

Date _____ (Signature)(s) _____

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:

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