

# CASTLES AND MANORS ROAD: RIGA – TALLINN – HELSINKI

6 NIGHTS / 7 DAYS

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The tour provides an insight into the history of the countries through experience of castles and manor houses, starting from massive medieval stone walls through to exquisite Baroque and Art Nouveau masterpieces.



## DAY 1: Arrival in Riga, Latvia

Riga city tour. The Dome Cathedral with one of the world's largest pipe organs, St. Peter's Church with magnificent views of the city from its steeple, the old Guild Houses, the Swedish Gate, the architectural ensemble Three Brothers, St. Jacob's Church, the Parliament House, Old Riga Castle, Art Nouveau area. The Historic Centre of Riga is a UNESCO Heritage Site. Overnight in a hotel in Riga.

## DAY 2: Riga – Sigulda – Turaida – Bīriņi DRIVING DISTANCE ~114km. PROGRAMME DURATION 9h.

The Gauja National Park with medieval castles and great views to the Gauja river valley below. Sigulda medieval castle ruins and baronial estate. The Vienkoči Park [www.vienkoci.lv](http://www.vienkoci.lv) features one-log boats and other wooden objects carved in log according to ancient methods dating back to the 9th century. Interactive programmes offer visitors to try their own hand at woodcraft. The Turaida museum reserve [www.turaida-muzejs.lv](http://www.turaida-muzejs.lv) with the ruins of a medieval Livonian Order castle. An observation tower reveals a beautiful panorama over the ancient Gauja river valley.



Farm Gundegas [www.celotajs.lv/en/e/gundegas](http://www.celotajs.lv/en/e/gundegas). The farm cultivates cranberries that were bred in Latvia. Farm excursion, products for sale.



The Bīriņi manor complex and the park (18th-19th century) [www.birinupils.lv/en/](http://www.birinupils.lv/en/).

Overnight in Bīriņi manor hotel [www.birinupils.lv/en/](http://www.birinupils.lv/en/).



## DAY 3: Bīriņi – Igate – Limbaži – Straupe – Cēsis – Dikļi DRIVING DISTANCE - 150km. PROGRAMME DURATION with 3 visits: 9h.

The timing allows for a combination of maximum 3 visits. There are the following options en route to choose from:  
1) The Igate Manor (19th century) [www.igatespils.lv/index.php/en/](http://www.igatespils.lv/index.php/en/) is built in the style of Neo-renaissance, surrounded by a romantic park and an old water mill with traditional Latvian taverna.  
2) An outdoor exhibition of medicinal herbs at farm Avotiņi in Limbaži region [www.celotajs.lv/lv/e/veselibas\\_augu\\_ekspozicija](http://www.celotajs.lv/lv/e/veselibas_augu_ekspozicija) introduces a visitor to a "green pharmacy" - more than 300 different plants.  
3) The Ungurmuīža manor [www.facebook.com/Ungurmuiza](http://www.facebook.com/Ungurmuiza) in Pārgauja region is the oldest wooden Baroque manor in Latvia with some surviving wall paintings.



4) Sightseeing in Cēsis – the Old Town and Castle Complex with impressive medieval Livonian Order castle ruins and the so called new castle (18th century) where a museum is located. Overnight in Dikļi manor hotel [www.diklupils.lv](http://www.diklupils.lv). The Dikļi Manor (19th century) is built in the style of Neo-baroque. It hosts a collection of valuable antique furniture, fireplaces and interior articles.

## DAY 4: Dikļi – Valmiera – Latvia/Estonia border – Sangaste – Otepää – Tartu DRIVING DISTANCE - 210km. PROGRAMME DURATION 12h.

The Valmiermuīža brewery saloon [www.facebook.com/valmiermuiza/](http://www.facebook.com/valmiermuiza/) popularises Latvian beers and uses beer in various dishes. Adzēlvesi hemp farm in Burtnieki region

[www.celotajs.lv/en/e/kanepju\\_seta\\_adzēlvesi](http://www.celotajs.lv/en/e/kanepju_seta_adzēlvesi) is cultivating hemp from which it produces hemp butter, roughly ground seeds, hemp oil. Sangaste castle [www.sangasteloss.com](http://www.sangasteloss.com) is



one of the best examples of Historicism in the Baltics. Overnight in a hotel in Tartu.

## DAY 5: Tartu – Alatskivi – Rakvere – Vihula DRIVING DISTANCE - 190km. PROGRAMME DURATION 9h

Short city tour of Tartu - a university town and city of youth. Alatskivi castle (18th – 19th century) [www.alatskiviloss.ee/eng/](http://www.alatskiviloss.ee/eng/) with a beautiful park.



Avinurme Wooden Handicrafts Centre [www.puiduait.ee](http://www.puiduait.ee) - local woodcraft, woodworking workshops, Estonian traditional foods. Castle ruins in Rakvere with a theme park [www.rakverelinnus.ee/en](http://www.rakverelinnus.ee/en) where visitors



can experience everyday life of the 16th century. Overnight in Vihula manor hotel [www.vihulamanor.com](http://www.vihulamanor.com). Vihula manor (19th century) is in Lahemaa National Park. It is surrounded by a nice park; the estate has an interesting pond system.

## DAY 6: Vihula – Lahemaa National Park – Sagadi – Palmse – Tallinn DRIVING DISTANCE 110 km. PROGRAMME DURATION 8h

The route leads along the northern Baltic Sea coast of Estonia through the oldest Baltic national park – Lahemaa. Huge boulders at the seaside and small fishermen's villages are typical landscapes there. In Altja traditional fishing village and tavern, visitors can taste Estonian food [www.palmse.ee/en/restaurant/altja-tavern](http://www.palmse.ee/en/restaurant/altja-tavern). Sagadi manor (18th century)



[www.sagadi.ee](http://www.sagadi.ee) hosts a forest and manor museum and a nature school. Palmse

manor (18th century) <http://palmse.ee/en> is one of the most beautiful and grandest Baroque buildings in Estonia. Tallinn city tour. The tour combines walking and bus. The walking tour includes the Toompea Castle, the 13th century Dome church, the 19th century Russian orthodox Cathedral of Alexander Nevskij, the 15th century Town Hall square, the Old Guild built to celebrate Tallinn's membership in the Hanseatic League, and St. Olaf's church. The bus tour includes Tallinn's suburbs and Song Festival Grounds, St. Brigitte's monastery and Piritä area. Overnight in a hotel in Tallinn.

## DAY 7: Tallinn – Helsinki

Ferry from Tallinn to Helsinki (2h).



Helsinki city tour and free time in the city. The Helsinki Cathedral and the Senat Square, the Parliament, the Old Market Hall and Market Square, the Esplanade park, the Kamppi Chapel of Silence, the Temppeliaukio church, the Design District Helsinki, the Suomenlinna Sea fortress.



Departure.

