



Russia & the Baltic Coast

Includes ➔

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St Petersburg	793
ESTONIA	806
Tallinn	806
LATVIA	821
Riga	821
LITHUANIA	834
Vilnius	834

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Varenichnaya No 1 (p790)
- ➔ V (p812)
- ➔ Miit (p826)
- ➔ Senamiesčio Krautuvė (p838)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Soul Kitchen Hostel (p799)
- ➔ Tabinoya (p811)
- ➔ Naughty Squirrel (p825)
- ➔ Hostelgate B&B (p838)

Why Go?

When it comes to cultural mileage, the central and north-eastern reaches of the Baltic is as fuel-efficient a destination as you could ever hope for. First comes Russia, the big bear that lorded it over the region during the Soviet era and still casts a mighty shadow. This epic-scale nation packs a double whammy with Moscow and St Petersburg, among Europe's most impressive and dynamic cities, graced with imperial palaces, magnificent museums and stunning streetscapes.

In comparison, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are tiny. Yet in this wonderfully compact space there are three completely distinct cultures to discover – with different languages, different traditions and markedly different temperaments. By way of example, you need only look at the three unique yet equally compelling capitals: flamboyantly baroque Vilnius, chic art-nouveau Riga and majestically medieval Tallinn.

Fast Facts

Capitals Moscow (Russia), Tallinn (Estonia), Riga (Latvia), Vilnius (Lithuania)

Emergency ☎112 (Estonia)

Currency Rouble (R; Russia), Euro (€; Baltic States)

Languages Russian, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian

Visas Russia: required by all – apply at least a month in advance of your trip; Baltic States: not required for citizens of the EU, USA, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and Australia

Time zones Russia GMT plus three hours (GMT plus four hours in summer), Baltic States GMT plus two hours (GMT plus three hours in summer)

SWEDEN
STOCKHOLM

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK: LAHEMAA NATIONAL PARK

Discover the open-air museum of stones and picturesque fishing village of Alja. (p813)

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK: ŽEMAITIJA NATIONAL PARK

Visit the Cold War Museum in an ex-Soviet nuclear missile base. (p846)

HELSINKI

Tallinn

Lahemaa National Park

Gulf of Finland

Narva

ESTONIA

Lake Võrtsjärv

Pärnu

Hiiumaa

Saaremaa

Ventspils

Kuldiga

Jurmala

Rīga

Valmiera

Cēsis

Gauja National Park

Smiltene

Sigulda

Pechory

Pskov

LATVIA

Lake Lubāns

Rēzekne

Daugavpils

Panevėžys

Šiauliai

Žemaitija National Park

Lake Lukstas

Klaipėda

Kurshskaya Kosa National Park

Curonian Spit

Svetlogorsk

Yantarny

Baltiysk

Zelenogradsk

Sovetsk

Kaliningrad

Cernyakhovsk

Olsztyn

Kaunas

Vilnius

Trakai

Druskininkai

WORTH A TRIP: KALININGRAD

Explore this tiny slice of Russia and its lovely Baltic coast. (p802)

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK: DAUGAVPILS

Check out the new Mark Rothko Art Centre. (p832)

BELARUS

MINSK

Dniipro (Dnieper)

WARSAW

Russia & the Baltic Coast Highlights

1 Moscow Russia's mega-capital offers historical showstoppers, such as the Kremlin and Red Square, as well as cool creativity. (p784)

2 St Petersburg Home to the amazing Hermitage and gilded palaces, the old imperial capital is a stunner. (p793)

3 Tallinn Explore the Estonian capital's Old Town

of polished medieval abodes. (p806)

4 Tartu Further your education among the museums and student bars of this electric university town. (p814)