

THE BALTIC STATES

25 DAYS | 7TH TO 31ST MAY 2024

Early Bird Price: £3250 per unit (includes two people)

There is an additional cost of around £650 for the Keil-Klaipeda ferry / mini-cruise

Full Price: £3350 (for bookings made after 31/12/2023)

Loyalty Discount: £50 off | £500 deposit | Additional passengers £500

The Baltic States of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia are three countries that provide motorhomers with a rich variety and perhaps a few surprises. In addition to the many reminders of their recent Soviet heritage, the Baltic States also boast miles of un-spoilt and relatively undeveloped sandy beaches, numerous national parks, 18th and 19th century stately homes, three un-missable capital cities, medieval towns and architecture dating from the Gothic period through to art deco and onto the highly contemporary. Our route to the Baltic States is from Calais up to Kiel overland and then by ferry to Klaipeda. We then do a 1000-mile loop with our southern-most point being Vilnius and our northern-most point being Tallinn. In the east we will skirt the Russian border and in the west, we will be directly on the Baltic Sea.

DOVER-CALAIS FERRY INCLUDED

♥% LOYALTY DISCOUNT

£3250
EARLY BIRD PRICE



ITINERARY:

NIGHT BEFORE: We stay on a campsite in Kent where we provide a full briefing for the tour and advice on motorhoming on the continent in general. We offer a free night if you stay with us on our designated campsite. Please let us know if you wish to join us.

DAYS 1 - 2: We head to Dover for our scheduled morning ferry crossing. Travelling through France and Belgium we spend the first night near the Dutch/German border, before heading off towards Bremen where we shall spend our second night.

DAY 3: We head up to Kiel for our scheduled evening ferry. The ferry crossing / mini-cruise takes 21 hours so we spend the night on-board before disembarking on the evening of Day 4.

DAYS 4 - 5: We head straight for our campsite near Klaipeda where we will spend the next two nights. We are on the Baltic coast here very close to the Curonian Spit. Klaipeda is a port town with German-style timbered buildings and an old quarter dating back to the 12th century.

DAYS 6 - 8: We head across the Lithuanian countryside with the chance to visit Kaunas and the island castle at Trakai before arriving at the capital, Vilnius. There is a lively modern riverside stretch and pretty old town, along with an imposing Romanesque cathedral and 15th century castle.

DAYS 9 - 10: There is a real change of pace over the next two days as we head up through Lithuania and into Latvia. We have a long drive on Day 9 through un-spoilt countryside characterised by lakes, forests and subsistence farms. Our destination is the town of Cesis famed for its castle, brewery and wildlife park.

DAYS 11 - 12: We continue through the countryside towards the Russian border and the old Soviet town of Tartu. This is Estonia's second largest town and home to one of Europe's oldest universities. This compact centre houses a number of interesting museums including one dedicated to the KGB.

DAYS 13 - 15: Our route continues north today with the chance to drive up the shores of Europe's fifth largest lake, Peipus, and through the Lahemaa National Park on the Baltic coastline. Our destination for the next three nights is the Estonian capital of Tallinn. The old walled town contains many of the city's best attractions with the 'onion domes' of the Orthodox Churches and nearby Toompea Castle on the hill.

DAYS 16 - 17: We stay in Estonia for a further two nights with a visit to the resort town of Parnu on the west coast. This has long been the 'go to' location for local holiday-makers with its sandy beaches, timber villas, promenades and spas.

DAYS 18 - 20: We head towards the Latvian capital of Riga, following a route down the flat, sandy coastline. Our schedule allows for two full days in the city perhaps most famous for its Art Nouveau architecture, museums and lively cafe culture.

DAY 21: We catch the Klaipeda ferry tonight but on the way you have the chance to visit two of the Baltic States most interesting tourist attractions. In Latvia there is Rundale Palace, the Baroque palace featured on the BBC's War and Peace. In Lithuania there is the indescribable Hill of Crosses, a pilgrimage site with over 200,000 crosses scattered across a remote hilltop.

DAY 22: We spend most of the day on the ferry alighting in the evening before a short drive to our overnight stop near Kiel.

DAYS 23 - 25: We retrace our steps from Kiel via Holland and Belgium and back to Calais catching our ferry on the afternoon of Day 25.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

IN ESTONIA: Tallinn, Tartu, Parnu, Lake Peipus, The Lahemaa National Park.

IN LATVIA: Riga, Rundale Palace, The Gauja Valley, Aglona, The Latvale Lakes.

IN LITHUANIA: Vilnius, Klaipeda, The Curonian Spit, Trakai Island Castle, The Hill of Crosses.

IN THE NETHERLANDS: Eindhoven.

IN GERMANY: Bremen, Kiel and the North Coast.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS/ COSTS:

- Kiel to Klaipeda DFDS return ferry crossing (mini-cruise) estimated at £650 return.
- We recommend a low emission zone sticker for Germany.
- Please note that campsites are less developed than you may be used to in other parts of Europe, although they all have sanitary facilities and electric hook-up. Please contact us for more details.

