

American Celebration of Music in the Baltics

Suggested Tour #4 (8 nights/10 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Helsinki, Finland

Day 2

Helsinki

(D)

Arrive in Helsinki

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

Most of Helsinki lies on a much indented granite peninsula on the north coast of the Gulf of Finland, with numerous offshore islands and rocky islets. With its scientific and cultural institutions Helsinki has been for more than 150 years the center of Finnish intellectual life. The coexistence - not always without some friction - of Finns and Finland Swedes has been a fertilizing influence

Day 3

Helsinki

(B,D)

Breakfast included at the hotel

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Helsinki including seeing the most splendid places: Lutheran Cathedral by the Senate Square, the Uspensky Cathedral, the Governmental Palace, the University of Helsinki, Sibelius Monument (a huge steel structure resembling a set of organ pipes symbolizing the music of the greatest Finnish composer) and the famous "Rock Church"

Lunch, on own

Afternoon visit to the Helsinki Music Center, a prime class concert venue providing a wide range of musical experiences for people of all ages

Performance in Helsinki as part of the American Celebration of Music in Finland*

Evening dinner included, and overnight

Day 4

Helsinki / Tallinn

(B,D)

Breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out

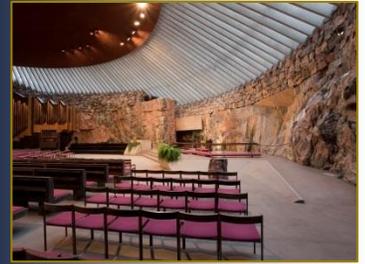
Morning excursions to Järvanpää to visit Ainola, the home of the famous Finnish composer Sibelius. Ainola stands on the scenic shores of Lake Tuusula

Lunch, on own

Afternoon ferry transfer to Tallinn

Evening dinner included, and overnight

Tallinn, the capital of the Republic of Estonia, lies in the northeast corner of the Baltic Sea region, in Northern Europe. Estonia shares land borders with Latvia and Russia, and lies across the Baltic Sea from Finland and Sweden



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Day 5 **Tallinn** **(B,D)**

Breakfast included at the hotel
Morning walking tour through Tallinn visiting the upper (Toompea fortress and Parliament, Orthodox and Lutheran cathedrals, panoramic viewpoint) and lower (Town Hall square, Merchant Guild Houses) parts of the old town
Lunch, on own
Afternoon at leisure for shopping and sightseeing
Evening dinner included, and overnight



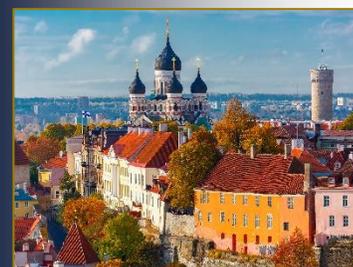
Day 6 **Tallinn** **(B,D)**

Breakfast included at the hotel
Excursion to “Rocca al Mare” open air museum. The museum houses authentic homes, farmsteads, windmills, wooden churches and fishing villages which represent different regions of Estonia through the last three centuries. On the way to the museum you will also pass the beautiful Kadriorg park with its palace, the seaside area to look at the Russalka Monument and the Tallinn Song Festival Grounds, where the famous song festivals take place
Lunch, on own
*Performance in Tallinn as part of the American Celebration of Music in the Baltics**
Evening dinner included, and overnight



Day 7 **Gauja National Park / Riga** **(B,L)**

Breakfast included at the hotel
Transfer to Riga. On the way stop in Gauja National park, surrounded by hilly river banks and sandy caves. Visit the 13th century Turaida castle, built under the order of Teutonic knight and Riga’s bishop
Lunch, included
Continue to Riga
Evening dinner on own, and overnight



Riga has always been the Baltics’ major metropolis, with far more of a big-city atmosphere than anywhere else in the region. Set on a flat plain divided by the Daugava River, the city boasts art nouveau architecture of its own and a historic old quarter with gracious parks

Day 8 **Riga** **(B,D)**

Breakfast included at the hotel
Morning excursion through Riga visiting the old town, surrounded by a water channel, with the famous Dome Cathedral, St. John and St. Peter Churches, the Freedom Monument, National Opera, Parliament, Castle, the cozy spacious squares and the remarkable Art Nouveau district
Lunch, on own
*Performance in Riga as part of the American Celebration of Music in the Baltics**
Evening dinner included, and overnight



Day 9**Riga****(B,D)**

Breakfast included at the hotel

Morning excursion to Jurmala, a beautiful Latvian resort, situated at the Baltic Coast and known for its splendid wooden architecture. Enjoy time at leisure to enjoy the Baltic Sea, along with shopping and sightseeing

Lunch, on own

Return to Riga

*Performance in Riga as part of the American Celebration of Music in the Baltics**

Evening Farewell Dinner included, and overnight

Day 10**Depart for home****(B)**

Breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to the Riga Airport for return flight home

**Subject to confirmation*

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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