Baltic States

With optional Viking Danube Cruise

Tour Length: 18 Days (27 Days incl cruise)

Tour Departs: 08 May 2027

There are so many spectacular sights to see as we journey through the region. The Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania exude a mixture of old-world charm and youthful exuberance having shaken off the shackles of Soviet domination. Through to Poland and the ancient and historic cities of Warsaw and Krakow then on to Budapest where our land touring concludes. For those who have opted for the cruise add-on, it will be the starting point for our 7 nights cruising through the heart of Europe up the Danube to Passau. Disembark, and travel through to magical Prague - no better place to conclude such an exciting and interesting journey.

Highlights

- Tallin, Estonia
- Riga, Latvia
- Vilnius, Lithuania
- Warsaw and Krakow, Poland
- Viking Skadi for 7 nights
- Prague

Tour Costs Per Person

Tour Cost, excluding Cruise

Twin/Double Room	$17,450 per person
Single Room	$20,500

Tour Cost, including Cruise

Twin/Double Room	$25,950 per person
Single Room	$36,500

Viking Danube River Cruise

7 Nights

In the beautiful city of Budapest, we board our luxury river cruise ship “VIKING SKADI”, for 7 nights cruising up the Danube travelling through Hungary, Austria and Germany. Highlights include Bratislava, the “City of Music” - Vienna, Linz, and Passau.

Cruise Inclusions

- Accommodation in River-view staterooms with French balcony (floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door) – Category D
- Sumptuous cuisine including complimentary beer, soft drinks and regional wines with lunch and dinner
- On-board entertainment, special tastings, educational lectures
- One complimentary shore excursion in every port of call, and other optional excursions available for purchase

Please do note that the cruise will be escorted by the Maher Tour leader – subject to minimum numbers. Otherwise, the Tour Leader will return home the day of cruise embarkation.

Call us now to find out more about this tour

0800 500 518

MAHER TOURS

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mahertours.co.nz

Tour Costs

Inclusions

- Economy Class Air Travel ex Auckland (upgrade to Business Class available at additional cost)
- Prepaid government, airport, security, port taxes and charges
- Superior hotel accommodation
- Accommodation in river-view staterooms with French Balcony (Cat D) on Danube Cruise
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary
- English speaking local hosts and guides as appropriate
- Baggage handling of 1 suitcase per person – where possible
- Tips to local guides, coach drivers, cruise staff
- Escorted by Maher Tours Leader (subject to minimum numbers)

Exclusions

- Any meals and sightseeing not specifically mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel insurance – advice and assistance offered
- Items of a personal nature such as drinks, room service, laundry, telephone calls etc.

Booking Conditions

- Initial Deposit due at time of booking:
  NZD$3,000 per person
- Second Deposit due Monday 9 November 2026
  NZD$3,000 per person
- Final Payment Balance
  Due Wednesday 20 January 2027
- This tour is not suitable for those that require wheelchair assistance or mobility assistance. A good level of health and fitness required.

To register for this tour please contact us at 0800 500 518 or tours@mahertours.co.nz

Tour Itinerary

18 Days (27 Days incl. cruise)

Day 1 | Home – Dubai

SATURDAY 08 MAY

We commence the tour with an overnight flight to Dubai.

Day 2 | Dubai

SUNDAY 09 MAY (D)

We arrive in Dubai early this morning and after clearing Customs and Immigration formalities, we are met and transferred to our hotel for an overnight stay. There is time to rest up after the flight until mid-afternoon when we visit the Museum of the Future. One of Dubai's most famous landmarks, the museum takes pride of place along the city's superhighway, Sheikh Zayed Road. Founded by the Dubai Future Foundation and launched on 22 February 2022, the museum explores how society could evolve in the coming decades using science and technology. Termed a 'living museum', it incorporates elements of traditional exhibitions, immersive theatre and themed attractions, so visitors can look beyond the present and towards the future's limitless possibilities. Visitors have the chance to engage with this game-changing technology. Each floor of the museum is designed like an expansive, interactive movie set, brought to life by expert storytellers, technologists and visionary artists. There is time for exploration before we return to the hotel for dinner this evening.

Day 3 | Dubai - Helsinki

MONDAY 10 MAY (B,D)

An early start this morning as we transfer back to Dubai Airport in time to report for our morning flight to Helsinki. On arrival in Helsinki mid-afternoon, we are met and transferred to our hotel. We enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening.

Day 4 | Helsinki

TUESDAY 11 MAY (B,D)

After breakfast today, we enjoy a tour of Helsinki. We see Sibelius' monument, The Church in The Rock, Finlandia Hall, the Senate, markets and the domed Russian Church. The afternoon is yours at leisure to explore this fascinating city, before we enjoy dinner together this evening.

Day 5 | Helsinki - Tallinn

WEDNESDAY 12 MAY (B,D)

This morning we are transferred to the ferry terminal to join our direct ferry service to Tallin (approx. 2.5hrs). Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere on board as we cruise across the Gulf of Finland, taking in views of the Baltic Sea along the way. On arrival in Tallin, a local guide shows us the most interesting parts of the city including the medieval Old Town with one of the best-preserved Hanseatic town centres in Europe. We also see, Toompea Hill and Castle, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and the Dome Church. In the afternoon, we check into our hotel with time to refresh prior to enjoying dinner together at a local restaurant.

Day 6 | Tallinn - Riga

THURSDAY 13 MAY (B,L)

Our journey south takes us through the Estonian countryside. Enjoy a morning break at Parnu on the shores of the Gulf of Riga before crossing the border into Latvia and continuing to the capital of Riga. Riga is the largest of the Baltic capitals dating back to the 13th century and is often referred to as the “Paris of the Baltics”. On arrival, we enjoy lunch together before taking a walking tour of the old town which has a wonderful display of large and small guild houses. We also see the Freedom monument, the National Latvian Opera House and the Dome Cathedral which dates back to 1211. The evening is at leisure.

Day 7 | Riga - Vilnius

FRIDAY 14 MAY (B,D)

Leaving Riga, we travel first to Rundale Palace, built in the 17th Century for the Duke of Courtland by the baroque master, Rastrelli. After a tour of its staterooms, we cross into the last of the Baltic countries that once formed part of the Soviet Union, Lithuania. We stop at the “Votive Hill of Crosses” near Siauliai. Over the centuries, not only crosses but giant crucifixes, carvings of Lithuanian patriots, statues of the Virgin Mary and numerous effigies have been brought here by pilgrims, notwithstanding the efforts of Soviet authorities to remove them. We continue on to the capital, Vilnius, for a 2-night stay.

Day 8 | Vilnius

SATURDAY 15 MAY (B,L)

This stylish little city seduces visitors with its Old Town charm. Our sightseeing tour includes both coach and a walking tour of the Old Town. We see the baroque church of Sts Peter and Paul, the Jesuit University, the 16th century “Gates of Dawn”, the former Soviet KGB Headquarters, now the Museum of Genocide Victims, and the neo-classical St Stanislav’s Cathedral with its distinctive bell tower. After the city tour, enjoy a visit to the splendid Trakai Castle, built on a fortified island in Lake Galve and dating back to the 14th century. The evening is at leisure.

Day 9 | Vilnius - Masuria

SUNDAY 16 MAY (B,D)

Leaving Vilnius, we continue our journey southwest and cross the border into Poland. Our destination is the picturesque Mazury Lake District for an overnight stay, enjoying a scenic lake cruise en route. Today, we also visit Gierloz or Wolf’s Lair which was Hitler’s main headquarters on the eastern front during WWII. Whilst much of the structure was destroyed as the Nazis retreated, the imposing ruins of the thick walls of the bunkers make for a fascinating visit. After that, we continue on to our hotel in Masuria, located on Lake Czos.

Day 10 | Masuria - Warsaw

MONDAY 17 MAY (B,D)

After breakfast we journey to Olsztyn to see St. Jacob’s Co-cathedral Basilica (erected in the 14th century in the Gothic style, and in the 16th century its tower was added to the height of 70 m.) and The Gothic castle, dating back to the 14th century, After we visit The Folk Architecture Museum and Ethnographic Park in Olsztynek (one of Poland's oldest open-air museums. Its beginnings date back to 1909), We then continue to the Polish capital. In the late afternoon, we arrive at Warsaw for a 2 night stay, with tonight’s dinner served at the hotel

Day 11 | Warsaw

TUESDAY 18 MAY (B,D)

The city was almost totally destroyed during WWII and today's city is testament to its post-war restoration. Our morning tour will take us past the Palace of Culture, affectionately known as the "wedding cake". A stroll through Lazienki Park brings us to the Chopin Memorial. Then there is time to reflect at the Memorial of the Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto. The tour concludes with a walk through the Old Town to the Market Square. The afternoon is at leisure and this evening, lets enjoy a private piano recital featuring the music of one of the cities favourite sons, Frederic Chopin before dining at a local restaurant.

Day 12 | Warsaw – Czestochowa - Krakow

WEDNESDAY 19 MAY (B,L,D)

Leaving Warsaw, we travel south through Poland with our first visit being at Czestochowa and Jasna Gora Monastery, home to the iconic Black Madonna, Poland's most famous shrine to the Virgin Mary. After a tour of the monastery, we continue south to Krakow for a 3-night stay. This evening, we enjoy dinner in the old town.

Day 13 | Krakow - Auschwitz

THURSDAY 20 MAY (B,L,D)

On our morning tour of Krakow see the once thriving Jewish district of Kazimierz including entry to its Remuh synagogue. Continue to The Eagle Pharmacy - a new permanent exhibition, located within the limits of the former ghetto area and commemorating the Holocaust of Kraków Jews and the personage of Tadeusz Pankiewicz, a Righteous among the Nations. After lunch, we visit the former concentration camp at Auschwitz, now a permanent reminder of the horrors perpetrated by the Nazi regime against the Jewish people and others during WWII.

Day 14 | Krakow

FRIDAY 21 MAY (B,D)

Krakow is one of Poland's oldest cities and its second largest. It was the capital for over 500 years during the late Middle Ages and today is regarded as a major academic and artistic centre. On our morning tour, we see the Royal Castle and Cathedral on Wawel Hill and enjoy a walk through the Old Town visiting the Renaissance "Cloth Hall" in the Market Square and the Mariacki Church. The afternoon is left free to relax or maybe wonder the streets of the old town. Alternatively, you may wish to visit the unique UNESCO "World Heritage" Wieliczka Salt Mines.

Day 15 | Krakow – Slovakia – Eger, Hungary

SATURDAY 22 MAY (B,L,D)

Leaving Krakow this morning, our scenic drive takes us first to Zakopane, Poland's major ski resort and gateway to the Polish Tatra Mountains. We enjoy a tour of the town and take the chair lift to the lookout. After a light lunch, we cross over into Slovakia and visit Spis Castle, once one of the largest castles in Europe which dates back to the 12th century and proudly dominates the surrounding landscape Then, it's into Hungary and an overnight stay in Eger, a town known for its beautiful baroque architecture including a Turkish minaret. This evening, we enjoy dinner at a local restaurant and taste some of the local wines for which the region is renowned.

Day 16 | Eger – Budapest – Join Danube River Cruise

SUNDAY 23 MAY (B,D)

We start the day with a walking tour of the Eger's historic old town before continuing through to the Hungarian capital Budapest. There is time to explore the central markets and take a lunch break before we visit the magnificent parliament buildings on the banks of the Danube and modelled on the Westminster parliament. Later this afternoon, we board our floating home for the next 7 nights, the river ship "VIKING SKADI".

NB: For those departing home today, you will be dropped at Budapest Airport en-route from Eger, in time to join your mid-afternoon flight departure. Your arrival date back into New Zealand, will be Tuesday 25 May, mid-morning.

Day 17 | Budapest

MONDAY 24 MAY (B,L,D)

On our included excursion today, take in one of Europe's great cultural capitals and see its iconic sights. Over the last few decades, Budapest has reemerged as one of the continent's iconic cities, divided by the Danube River and connected by the graceful Chain Bridge. Meet your guide for a panoramic tour, beginning in modern Pest. Along the elegant Andrássy Avenue, admire the National Opera House. Pass Heroes' Square, a spacious plaza of monuments and statues commemorating the Magyar state. Across the river, explore the more traditional Buda side of the city. Here, visit the Castle District with its massive hilltop castle complex, the turreted Fisherman's Bastion and Matthias Church. From the heights of Buda Hill, take in views of the famous Chain Bridge. Afterward, enjoy free time at Budapest's colourful Market Hall to browse an array of speciality food and handicrafts.

Day 18 | Bratislava, Slovakia

TUESDAY 25 MAY (B,L,D)

Bratislava was built on a smaller scale than other European capitals, so you will explore with ease on our included excursion today. Join your guide and set off along the Amber Road, tracing the ancient trade route that once linked Northern and Southern Europe. Stop to view the Gothic-style Universitas Istropolitana, the first university to have been founded in present-day Slovakia. Though it operated for only 25 years, it proved highly influential in the fields of mathematics and astrology. In the main square, admire the Roland Fountain, built in 1572 to provide water to the public. Around the square, you will see the rococo, late-baroque Grassalkovich Palace, residence of the president, and the rose-hued Archbishop's Palace, home to today's mayor. You will also see the Gothic St. Martin's Cathedral, home of Hungarian coronations for more than 250 years. If the church schedule allows, you may step inside to take in its splendour.

Day 19 | Vienna, Austria

WEDNESDAY 26 MAY (B,L,D)

Today, we see the magnificent architectural highlights of one of Europe's most elegant and romantic cultural capitals. Vienna was centre of arts and intellect during the reign of the Hapsburgs and beyond. Meet your guide and drive into the city for a motor coach and walking tour, focusing on the splendid buildings on the Ringstrasse, the gracious boulevard laid out on the site of the old city walls during the mid-19th century. Imposing palaces, elegant public buildings and grand residences line this world-famous avenue. See the magnificent Hofburg Palace, winter residence of the Hapsburgs and home of the Spanish Riding School with its Lipizzaner horses. Admire the Gothic St. Stephen's Cathedral, crowned with a gleaming spire and colourful roof tiles. And view the beautiful Vienna State Opera concert hall, its facade adorned with elaborate frescoes depicting Mozart's opera The Magic Flute.

Day 20 | Krems, Austria

THURSDAY 27 MAY (B,L,D)

A small university town at the eastern end of the Danube's Wachau Valley, Krems is surrounded by terraced vineyards. In its heyday, during the 12th century, Krems held even more importance than Vienna for its iron, grain, salt and wine trade. As to the latter, the city has played a long and celebrated part in the popularity of the Wachau's wine culture; the valley's south slopes in Krems are bathed in sunlight all day and create some of the best Riesling and Veltliner wines in the world. The city's cobblestone streets, taverns, wine bars and coffeehouses have a timeless appeal. There is the opportunity to join some optional excursions today.

Day 21 | Linz, Austria

FRIDAY 28 MAY (B,L,D)

Experience all the charms of this capital of Upper Austria during an included walking tour. Founded by the Romans, Linz rose to prominence under the Hapsburg Empire. Today, it remains a vibrant cultural centre. Set off on foot to explore the Danube's south bank, passing the massive Brucknerhaus concert hall, named for the famed Austrian composer, and view the modern New Town Hall across the Danube. Continue to Linz Castle, considered the most beautiful museum in the province. In the Old Quarter, see the Market Hall, the Mozarthaus, where the composer wrote the Linz Symphony, the magnificent Renaissance Landhaus tower and the elegant facade of the Landestheater. At Hauptplatz, the city's main square in the Old Quarter, you may step inside the New Cathedral if the church's schedule allows and admire its ornate interior.

Day 22 | Passau, Germany

SATURDAY 29 MAY (B,L,D)

Explore the Italianate-style streets of Passau, where three European rivers converge. Meet your local guide and begin your included walking tour through delightful old-world streets, taking in a pastel rainbow of building facades as you stroll. You will see the impressive Bishops' Residenz from which powerful prince-bishops ruled secular and religious life for hundreds of years. Continue past the 14th-century Rathaus, or Town Hall, built on the site of a former fish market on the Danube. Conclude your walk at the magnificent 17th-century St. Stephen's Cathedral. This baroque wonder houses Europe's largest pipe organ, with more than 17,000 pipes, and inspired Franz Liszt to write his Hungarian Coronation Mass. Enjoy free time to explore more of the city on your own before returning to your awaiting ship.

Day 23 | Disembark Passau - Prague

SUNDAY 30 MAY (B,D)

Sadly, this morning it's time to disembark as we join our coach and travel to the Czech border and journey through to magical Prague for a 2-night stay.

Day 24 | Prague

MONDAY 31 MAY (B,D)

Prague is a city with a 1000-year-old history preserved in time. During our tour this morning, we see some of its best-known treasures including the Old Town's Astronomical Clock, once the envy of all of Europe, the Charles Bridge with its many statues, St Vitus Cathedral and of course Hradcany Castle which has a history dating back as long as the city itself. The remainder of the day is free and this evening, our last in Europe together, we enjoy one final dinner together.

Day 25 | Prague - Dubai

TUESDAY 1 JUNE (B)

Time to say our farewells to Prague and Europe as we are transferred to the airport in time to join our afternoon flight to Dubai. Arrival time is late evening, and overnight accommodation is reserved at the airport.

Day 26 | Dubai - Auckland

WENESDAY 2 JUNE

Time for the last leg of our journey on our flight home.

Day 27 | Arrive Auckland

THURSDAY 3 JUNE

Arrival time is mid-morning.

Baltic States

And Viking Danube Cruise

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