

Russia & Baltic States

(16 days/15 nights)

July 22 – August 6, 2018



THE BERNARD BETEL CENTRE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE PRICE, TIME AND ITINERARY OF ANY TRIP

Price Includes:

- Return airfare from Toronto
- Luxury motor coach transportation
- 15 nights' accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- Sightseeing tours
- All entrance fees to included sites of interest
- Taxes, service charges and portage at hotels
- Tipping to guide, driver, hotel and restaurant staff

Double Occupancy: \$4,200.00

Single Occupancy: \$5,500.00

Hotels – 4 Star:

- Moscow
- St. Petersburg
- Riga
- Vilnius

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RUSSIA & BALTIC STATES: ITINERARY

Sunday, July 22

- Depart Toronto, 20:05
- Lufthansa LH495

Monday, July 23

- Arrive Munich 10:00 AM
- Depart Munich LH2528 11:25 AM
- Arrive Moscow 15:25
- Transfer to Hotel
- Afternoon/Evening free time

Tuesday, July 24

- Moscow
- Red Square, Theatre Square, Bolshoi and Maly Theatres
- Lubyanka, St. Saviour on Christ Cathedral, Tretyakov Gallery
- Sparrow Hills, Victory Park
- Free time for lunch in Kremlin and GUM area (Lunch not included)
- Kremlin, 2 Cathedrals, Cathedral Square

Wednesday, July 25

- Moscow
- Arbat, Tretyakov Gallery, Metro Tour
- Free time for lunch in Old Arbat (Lunch not included)

Thursday, July 26

- Moscow / St. Petersburg
- Sapsan high speed train to St. Petersburg
- Check into hotel, Free time

Friday, July 27

- St. Petersburg
- Yusupov Palace, Choral Synagogue, Yesod Centre,
- Peter the Great monument, St. Isaacs Cathedral, Basil Island
- 3 hour canal cruise "Aurora"

Saturday, July 28

- St. Petersburg
- Hermitage, Peter and Paul Fortress
- Nikolaevsky Palace

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Sunday, July 29

- St. Petersburg
- Peterhof, Pavlovsk
- Memorial of the Fallen Jews

Monday, July 30

- St. Petersburg / Riga
- Arrive Riga, transfer to hotel

Tuesday, July 31

- Riga
- St. Peter's Church, Dome Cathedral, Art Nouveau District, Old Town
- Riga Castle, Swedish Gate, The Great Guilds, Cat's House
- Three Brothers, House of Blackheads, Russian-inspired Cemetery, Bikerniki Site of the Ghetto and ruins of the Choral Synagogue
- Pipe Organ concert in Riga's Doms

Wednesday, August 1

- Riga
- Depart to Jurmala
- Free time
- Return to Riga

Thursday, August 2

- Riga / Vilnius
- Salaspils Concentration Camp
- Arrival Vilnius

Friday, August 3

- Vilnius
- Old Town, Vilnius University, Synagogue
- Former Ghetto, Gaon Cemetery, Jewish Museum, City Gates,
- Peter and Paul Church, St. Anne's Church

Saturday, August 4

- Vilnius
- Trakai, Trakai Castle
- Ponar Memorial

Sunday, August 5

- Vilnius
- Depart to Kaunas

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- **Synagogue, Children's Memorial, Ninth Fort, Former Ghetto, Old Town, Leah Goldberg's House**

Monday, August 6

- **Depart Vilnius to Frankfort,**
- **LH 887 -- 14:20; Arrive Frankfort, 15:30**
- **Depart Frankfort to Toronto**
- **AC 877 – 17:15; Arrive Toronto, 19:30**

PLACES OF INTEREST

Moscow (Moskva) is the capital of Russia and has a population of nearly nine million. It is most famous for the Moscow Kremlin—a treasure trove of cathedrals, palaces, and museums. In the Armoury you can feast your eyes on the nation's riches, including a selection of priceless Fabergé eggs and the 13th-century fur-capped Crown of Monomakh. Red Square features the elegant GUM Department Store and the gaudily painted St Basil's Cathedral with its labyrinth of chapels and passageways. No visitor will want to leave Moscow without seeing an opera or ballet at the Bolshoi Theatre, or hearing the wonderful choir of the Novodevichy Convent. You can shop for souvenirs in a pedestrian street named Arbat, a charming reminder of homely 19th-century Moscow, or at the colourful art market at Izmailovsky Park. The opulent Moscow Metro features stations decorated with marble, stucco, and stained glass, while the Tretyakov Gallery houses the largest collection of Russian art in the world

St. Petersburg (Sankt Peterburg), Russia's second city and former capital, is a living tribute to the ambitions of its founder, Peter the Great. The city was known as Leningrad during the Communist era. In the sumptuous apartments of The Winter Palace is the Hermitage, the largest art museum in the world, with priceless collections of Old Masters and French Impressionist art. On the opposite bank of the majestic River Neva is St Petersburg's oldest building, the Peter and Paul Fortress where you can see the sarcophagi of Russia's imperial rulers, and the dreaded prison cells where their revolutionary opponents were incarcerated. Lavishly decorated with lazulite, marble, and other precious stones, St Isaac's Cathedral is one of the world's largest. The heart of St Petersburg is the Nevsky Prospekt, a majestic avenue stretching 5 kilometres (3 miles), from the Admiralty to the Alexander Nevsky Monastery, and containing the city's best shops, theatres, cinemas, and restaurants

Riga, the capital of Latvia, is a major Baltic port occupying both banks of the River Daugava. Like most ports it has a cosmopolitan flavour, although there are few foreigners besides Russians who surprisingly make up the majority of the population. The picturesque old town is a miscellany of winding streets, brightly painted merchant houses, and steeped churches, dating back to a time when Riga was a member of the powerful Hanseatic League. The Powder Tower, where gunpowder was once stored, and Swedish Gate survive from the fortifications, as does Riga's Castle, although this is

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much altered. Pavement cafés abound in the delightful squares around the cathedral, Saint Peter's Church, and the Great Guild Hall. Modern Riga is equally attractive with its remarkable art nouveau architecture, stately boulevards, and green expanses. Only a short drive away are the resorts of Jurmala with more than 20 kilometres (12 miles) of dunes, pine woods, and white sands

Salaspils Former Nazi Concentration Camp. A 40-hectare (99-acre) memorial park, opened in 1967, occupies the site of the former Nazi concentration camp at Salaspils. Over 50,000 people, mostly Jews, were killed here between 1941 and 1944. Beyond the vast concrete gatehouse stand huge memorial stone figures and a black plinth where wreaths are placed. There is also a museum

Vilna. Gediminas Castle and Cathedral Square; the history of the Lithuanian Capital. The President's Palace and Vilnius University. The old Jewish quarter: narrow streets and courtyards of the middle-age Ghetto; the Great Vilna Synagogue and the shulhoyf; Vilna Gaon - the great Jewish scholar; Vilna - a center of the struggle between mitnagdim and hasidim; the famous Jewish sculptor Mordekhai Antokolski; the Large Ghetto; the courtyard of the Judenrat; the fight of the Ghetto prisoners against the Nazis. Visit Ponar Forest near Vilnius, where more than 100,000 people, mostly Jewish were murdered by the Nazis. Visit the only functioning Vilna Synagogue and Jewish Community Center located in the former Hebrew "Tarbut" school. The Jewish cemeteries of Vilna, their past and present; the grave of the Vilna Gaon and of other prominent Jewish figures. Jewish State museum. The "Cheap Houses" built by baron Hirsch for poor Jewish people. Building of the world famous printing house "Widow and Brothers Romm". Interesting Christian sites include the Cathedral, St.Peter and Paul's Church, the Gate of Dawn.

Ponar Memorial, near Vilnius, where the Nazis shot in the pits over 100.000 people mostly Jewish. Tour to Trakai, an ancient Lithuanian capital, famous for the lakes and sights of the area. Visit 14th century insular castle with the museum of Lithuanian history and the mode of life of different estates and ethnic groups. Karaite museum and the story of this small ethnic group (confessing Judaism), brought from Crimea peninsula on the Black Sea 600 years ago.

Kaunas (Kovna), the second largest city in Lithuania. Fort Memorialin Lithuania, including Slobodka, a Jewish suburb of Kaunas and the ghetto during WWII, the Old Jewish cemetery. The Seventh and the Ninth Forts - death sites of thousands of Jews from Lithuania and other countries. Holocaust museum and the Memorial in the Ninth Fort. The Synagogue and the Children's Memorial in its court. The house where Leah Goldberg, the prominent Israeli poetess, lived. Walking in the Old Town, Catholic churches, narrow streets and cobbled squares, cosy cafes and art galleries. Continue to the main pedestrian street, Laisves aleja, with its nice restaurants and shops.

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