

# The Beautiful Baltics

*A Unique Tour of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania*

*with your hosts, Sean and Ingrida,  
founders of Baltic Imports*



**June 12 - 21, 2012**

**\$3,899.00**

**per person/double occupancy  
including round-trip air from Minneapolis**

#### **Tour features**

- ❖ **Transportation by luxury motorcoach**
- ❖ **Accommodations in first or superior tourist class hotels**
- ❖ **Breakfast daily**
- ❖ **5 dinners**
- ❖ **3 lunches**
- ❖ **Professional tour escort throughout**
- ❖ **Local guides**
- ❖ **Program and sightseeing as per itinerary**
- ❖ **Luggage handling**

## ***The Baltic Imports Story***

In the mid-1970's a young Latvian woman who had been born in a Displaced Persons Camp in Germany and her Irish fiancé journeyed to Soviet Latvia to be married in St. Francis Church, in Riga. It was an unheard of thing.

There, in the ancient city spread out along the shores of the great Daugava , the young bride brought her moment of celebration within the life of her divided family.

The young couple, moved by the graciousness they found there, continued to come to Latvia, year after year, collecting folk tales, learning folk customs, and documenting the life to be found there. He learned amber working and healing under great teachers. She learned root weaving, card and loom weaving, knitting, bronze jewelry and Latgallian ceramic traditions. Soon their children came as well.

In 1987 they supported the rise of Latvian writing, visual art, photography and film. Together with artists and family they fought for independence and began to journey into Estonia and Lithuania as well.

In 1991, Sean was invited to be the first American artist to be shown in the Foreign Art Museum. The five long rooms that came to hold his show of drawings and paintings were soon filled with row upon row of flowers, set on the floor by simple people, until there was little place to walk.

In 1991, Ingrida and Sean, moved by the collapse of the folk arts in the Baltics, established Baltic Imports, dedicated to "Preserving and Celebrating the Spirit of Traditions." The artists that they first carried are all now in National Museums. The amber masters that they still carry have now been recognized the world over.

*You are invited to join Sean and Ingrida on this wonderful journey to these countries that they know and love as their own.....*

## **TOUR PROGRAM**

### **TUESDAY, JUNE 12 ~ DEPART MINNEAPOLIS**

Today meet Sean and Ingrida at the Minneapolis Airport and begin your journey with an overnight flight to Europe and to Tallinn.

### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13 ~ ARRIVE TALLINN**

Welcome to Tallinn, the capital of Estonia and the smallest of the Baltic countries. Upon arrival at Tallinn Airport we will be met by our tour manager and transported to our hotel for check in. There will be some free time to begin exploring this beautiful city on your own before meeting the group for a welcome dinner in the hotel. (D)

### **THURSDAY, JUNE 14 ~ TALLINN**

This morning's sightseeing tour features the Hanseatic Old Town with its 15th Century Luhike Jalg Gate, and visits to the town hall and the onion-domed Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. This afternoon we will have the opportunity to participate

in a Workshop with Helina Tilk, the famous porcelain artist who has designed the cat, dog, and bird dishes. You will have the opportunity to design and paint your own cup under Helina's able supervision and bring it home as a memory of your trip to Tallinn. (Extra cost for the workshop). (B, D)

### **FRIDAY, JUNE 15 ~ TALLINN – RIGA**

Today we will travel from Tallinn to Riga, Latvia past the Estonian health resort of Parnu, a site inhabited since the early Stone Age and tracing the coastline of the Gulf of Riga. Upon arrival in Riga we will enjoy a little free time before dinner. (B, D)

### **SATURDAY, JUNE 16 ~ RIGA**

This morning's sightseeing features the historic center on the right bank of the Daugava River and a walking tour of the Old Town and the Art Nouveau Quarter. Later we will proceed to Gauja National Park with visits to Turaide Castle and Park with Gutmana Cave. We will have a Latvian lunch in Gauja Park. Later, we will visit the Tines Shop in Old Town so that you may browse and buy the wonderful wool mittens, socks, sweaters, and linen tops that you have seen at Baltic Imports. (B, L)

## **SUNDAY, JUNE 17 ~ RIGA**

This morning, after a short drive, we will reach the Ethnographical Museum, where farmsteads, windmills, fishing villages, churches and other historic structures, more than 100 in total, have been reconstructed and preserved for posterity. We will watch craftsmen dressed in traditional costumes perform their skills. Later, we will enjoy a delicious family-style lunch. This afternoon we will visit George Romulis' amber shop in Old Town. You will meet and talk with Edite, George's wife, as you browse through their wonderful selection of amber jewelry. You'll also be able to see a part of George's lifelong amber collection at the store. Sean will be happy to share his amber knowledge and guide you with your purchases. (B, L)

## **MONDAY, JUNE 18 ~ RIGA – VILNIUS**

Today we travel to Vilnius, Lithuania, the largest and southernmost of the three Baltic countries. We will enjoy a scenic drive from the River Neris through a landscape alternating dark forests, swamps and lush pastures. We will make a stop en route to visit famous Rundale Palace, which represents a real pearl of Baroque Architecture style. Our next stop will be at the Hill of Crosses Memorial site. In the late afternoon we will arrive in the capital, Vilnius, once the splendid center of the mighty Grand Duchy of Lithuania. (B, L)

## **TUESDAY JUNE 19 ~ VILNIUS**

Vilnius' picturesque historic nucleus is clustered around the remains of a castle built by Prince Gediminas in 1323. This morning we embark on a guided walking tour from Cathedral Square through narrow winding lanes to the old university, founded by Jesuits in 1569. In the afternoon, we will visit the Vilnius Potter's Guild to see local artisans reviving ancient artistic traditions. This is the perfect place to buy a unique souvenir or gift to take home. (B, D)

## **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20 ~ VILNIUS**

This morning, we will stroll around the picturesque village of Trakai, built on a peninsula and surrounded by lakes on all sides. Protected by the Trakai Historical National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, this former capital of Lithuania has a fairytale atmosphere that is reinforced by its quaint wooden cottages and beautifully restored medieval island castle. The rest of the day is at leisure. This evening the group will gather for a farewell dinner

where we will enjoy a 4-course dinner with traditional Lithuanian music. (B, D)

## **THURSDAY, JUNE 21 ~ DEPART VILNIUS**

This morning we will leave the Baltic Countries with cherished memories of their beautiful and unique cultures and travel home to the United States. (B)

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**For more information please contact Carrie  
at Book It! Travel  
612-253-3383 or toll free at 866-265-1428  
carrie@bookittravel.com**

**\$3,899**

**per person/double occupancy/land only  
add \$400 for single occupancy  
Land only price \$2499**

### **TOUR PRICE INCLUDES**

- ~Accommodations in first class or superior tourist class hotels
- ~Roundtrip airfare from Minneapolis
- ~Breakfast daily, five dinners and three lunches
- ~All service charges and hotel taxes
- ~Arrival and departure transfers
- ~All transportation with A/C motor coach
- ~Sightseeing tours and admission fees as per itinerary
- ~Professional tour director throughout
- ~Luggage handling at hotels (one piece per person)

### **TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE**

- ~Passport fees (a passport valid six months after re-entry to the United States is required)
- ~Optional trip cancellation insurance (highly recommended). Contact Book It! Travel if you are interested in purchasing insurance
- ~Extra services not part of the tour program, such as laundry, bar services, internet etc.
- ~Charges for excess baggage
- ~Gratuities to hotel staff and porters
- ~Airline fuel surcharges

Note: tips and gratuities to the tour director, local guides and drivers are not included in the tour price. We are often asked what would be a fair amount. The tip you give should always reflect your degree of satisfaction: for example, for a good job, we suggest US \$4 to \$6 per tour day per tour member for the Tour Director and US \$3 to \$5 per day per tour member for your driver.

### **TOUR AT A GLANCE**

June 13-15: Tallinn, Estonia  
June 15-18: Riga, Latvia  
June 18-21: Vilnius, Lithuania

**"The world is a book and those who do not travel  
read only a page." ~ St. Augustine of Hippo**

**Terms and Conditions**

In offering these travel arrangements, Book It! Travel acts solely as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel related services. Book It! Travel takes great care in selecting its suppliers, but it does not control or guarantee the personnel, equipment or operations of anyone furnishing accommodations, products or other services in connection with the travel arrangements. Therefore, Book It! Travel does not assume responsibility or liability for, and shall not be expected, asked or required to pay for any injury, damage, expense, personal injury, property damage, inconvenience or any other loss experienced during this tour in connection with the travel or services provided by suppliers. Book It! Travel's control is limited to its own employees and it is responsible solely for the acts or omissions of such employees. The type of loss over which Book It! Travel has no control and for which Book It! Travel cannot be responsible includes, without limitation; (1) any intentional, wrongful, negligent or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any supplier of services, its agents or employees not under the direct control of Book It! Travel; (2) any defect or failure of any vehicle, equipment, product or service which is owned, operated or otherwise used by a supplier; (3) any intentional, wrongful, negligent or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any other party not under the direct control of Book It! Travel; (4) any financial problems of a supplier which causes non-performance by that supplier; or (5) any other cause, condition or event which is beyond the direct control of Book It! Travel, without limiting the effect of the foregoing. During the tour, you may have the opportunity to participate in various optional activities, such as water sports and other athletic activities or excursions. Book It! Travel does not control any of these activities and will not be liable for any injury, damage, loss, expense, accident, delay, inconvenience or irregularity arising out of or relating to such participation. Book It! Travel is a company of integrity and responsibility and will do everything within its capabilities to fulfill your travel

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**Insurance**

Book It! Travel highly recommends travel insurance for your protection. Travel insurance can protect you and your financial investment in the event of unforeseen circumstances. We will provide an insurance application for you to review upon your request.

**Cancellation Policy**

All cancellations must be received in writing to **Book It! Travel, 215 East Hennepin Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55414** and are subject to the following penalties:

| cancellation date     | penalty           |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| before April 1, 2012  | \$100             |
| before April 20, 2012 | 25% of tour cost  |
| before May 8, 2012    | 50% of tour cost  |
| before May 20, 2012   | 75% of tour cost  |
| after June 8, 2012    | 100% of tour cost |

Airfare is non-refundable and non-transferable once ticketed.

**Registrations due by January 15, 2012 to**

**Book It! Travel  
215 East Hennepin Ave.  
Minneapolis, MN 55414**

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>THE BALTICS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  | <b>JUNE 12 - 21, 2012</b>                                                                                 |  |
| Traveler's Name _____<br><i>as it appears on your passport</i>                                                                                                                                                                                             |  | date of birth _____<br><i>mm/dd/yyyy</i>                                                                  |  |
| Traveler's Name _____<br><i>as it appears on your passport</i>                                                                                                                                                                                             |  | date of birth _____<br><i>mm/dd/yyyy</i>                                                                  |  |
| Address _____<br><i>street</i> <span style="margin-left: 150px;"><i>city</i></span> <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><i>state</i></span> <span style="margin-left: 50px;"><i>zip</i></span>                                                               |  |                                                                                                           |  |
| E-mail _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  | Phone (____) _____ (____) _____<br><i>daytime</i> <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><i>evening</i></span> |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to purchase trip insurance.                                                                                                                                                                                          |  | <input type="checkbox"/> I decline trip insurance at this time.                                           |  |
| I have read and understand the terms and conditions of this tour and I would like to register for <b>The Baltics</b> . Enclosed is my deposit of \$250 per person, \$100 of which is nonrefundable. Please make checks payable to <b>Book It! Travel</b> . |  |                                                                                                           |  |
| Please bill my credit card (plus a 3% service charge)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  | VISA      MasterCard      American Express                                                                |  |
| Account # _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | Expires _____                                                                                             |  |
| Signature _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | Payment in full due April 1, 2012                                                                         |  |