



# WELCOME TO THE BALTICS

*9-days through Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania*

This was a 9-day trip in late-May through Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Our journey started in Finland with the dining, pubs, and nightlife of Helsinki and continued with a ferry ride to the aesthetically-pleasing medieval town of Tallinn in Estonia. A day trip out to the drowning prison in Rummu and over to Lahemaa National Park provided some fresh air before an evening of beverages and sustenance back in Tallinn. From there we flew down to Riga, hopped in our rental car, and drove to Cēsis to drink in the ruins of the oldest brewery in Latvia and a few other attractions in and around town. Of course we then returned to the beautiful facades, cathedrals, and central market of Riga before departing for Lithuania. We landed in Vilnius and hopped in our rental car to drive through the countryside to the Curonian Spit perched along the Baltic Sea. From there we headed inland past the Hill of Crosses and beautiful castles before settling in for great food, beverages, and buildings throughout Vilnius and the Republic of Užupis. We eventually came full circle back to Helsinki for our flight home with a suitcase filled of new memories.



All information directly and indirectly accessible within this itinerary is for informational purposes only. TravelDispatch.com and its affiliates assume no responsibility or liability for any damages or injuries directly or indirectly resulting from use of this information. Users accept all responsibility for any financial, physical, or emotional impact to themselves and others when using the information herein.

Custom  
Google Map

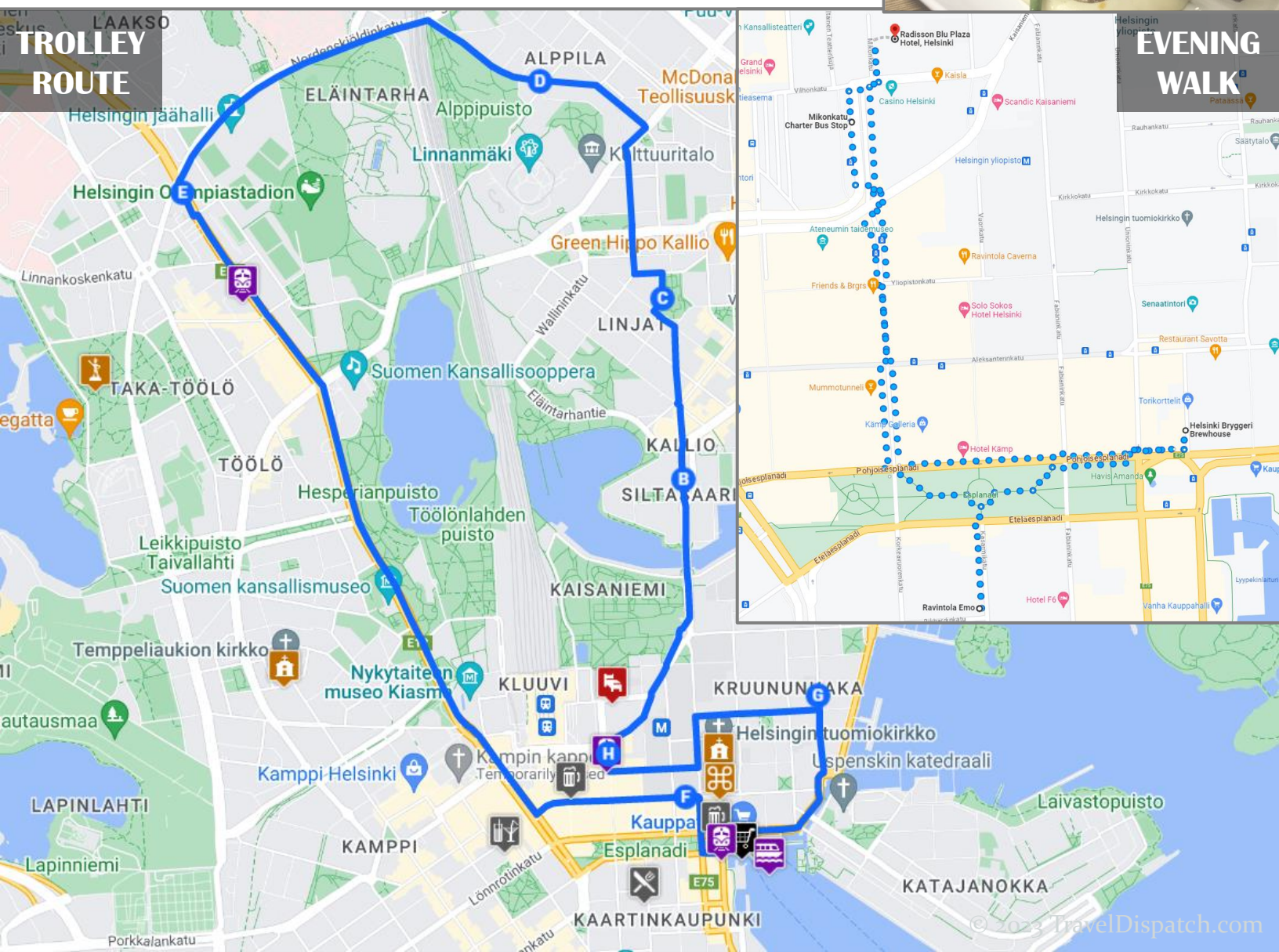




# DAY 1

Today we arrived in Helsinki, Finland and settled in. We arrived in the afternoon after a red eye flight, picked up some Euros and a 2-day transit card before heading downtown to check in and join a trolley pub tour. We found satiation at a local gastropub that evening before grabbing a night cap at a local brewery. It was a long journey in and we were definitely ready for bed by nightfall!

<b>3:00PM</b>	Arrive in Helsinki (HEL) and pick up Euros and a <a href="#">transit card</a>
<b>3:43PM</b>	Take the <a href="#">P Line</a> downtown [Helsinki Airport → Helsinki Station; 28min]
<b>4:30PM</b>	Walk to check in at <a href="#">Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel</a>
<b>6:00PM</b>	Hop on <a href="#">Sparakoff Pub Tour Trolley</a> (departs @ 6PM; 45-50min tour through city; beverages included)
<b>7:15PM</b>	Walk to dinner at <a href="#">Ravintola Emo</a> (750m; 10min)
<b>9:00PM</b>	Walk for a nightcap at <a href="#">Bryggeri Helsinki</a> (450m; 5min)
<b>10:00PM</b>	Walk back to hotel for bedtime! (950m; 15min)

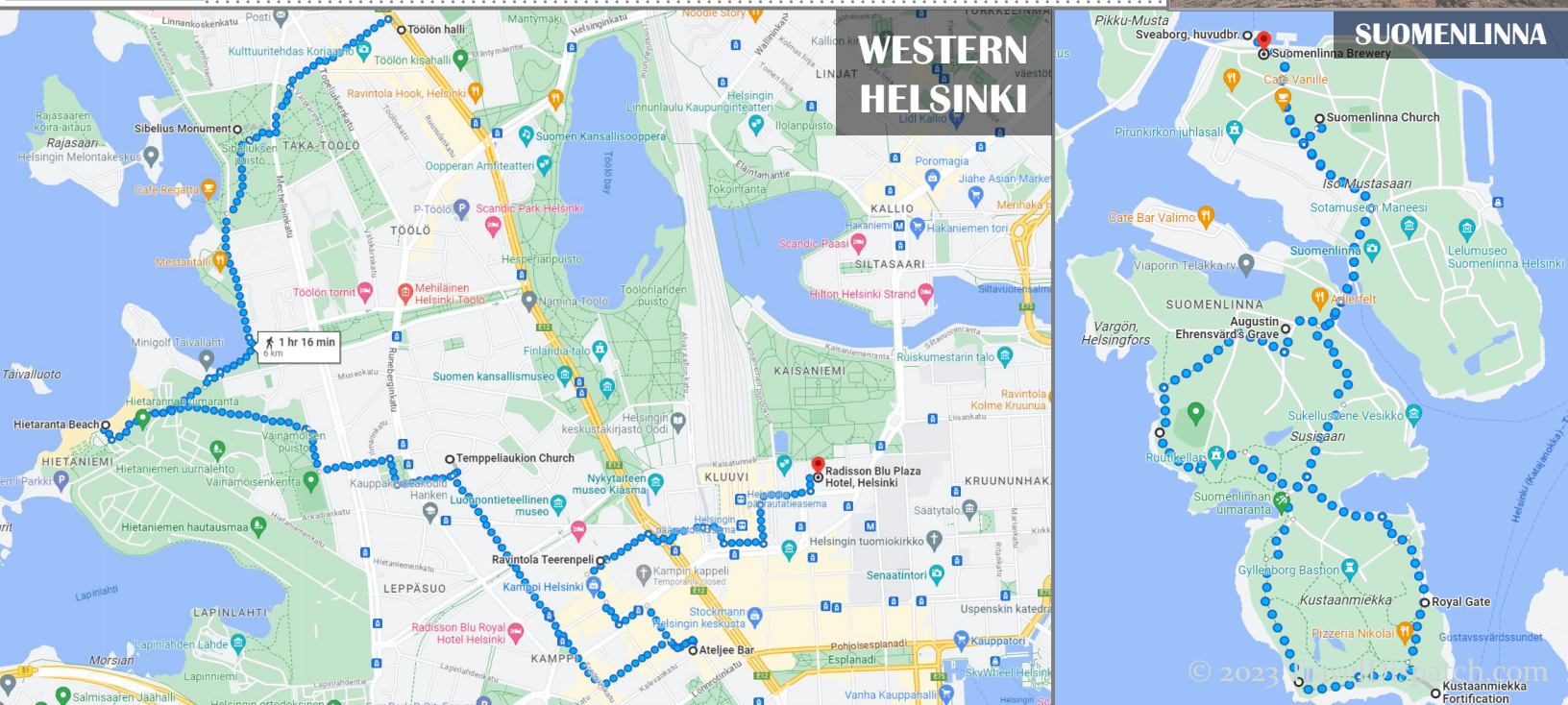
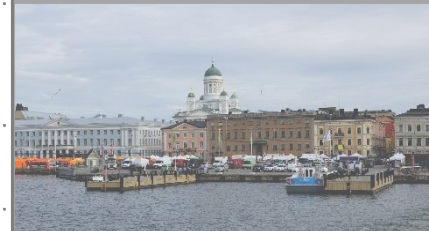
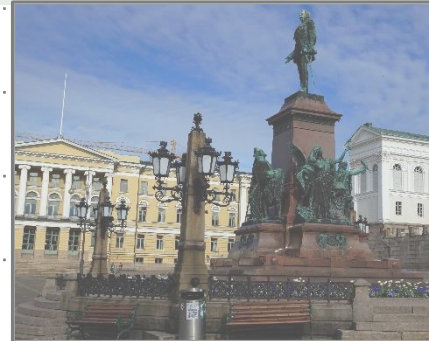




# DAY 2

Today we explored more of Helsinki, Finland. After breakfast at our hotel we wandered through Helsinki's downtown squares and cathedral on the way to the Suomenlinna Ferry to pay a visit to the old fort and take in the views and brewery on the island. Once we returned downtown we took a tram to continue wandering through the parks and attractions on the western side of the city.

<b>8:00AM</b>	Breakfast at Radisson Blu
<b>8:30AM</b>	Walk over to the <a href="#">Senate Square</a> and <a href="#">Helsinki Cathedral</a> (700m; 10min)
<b>9:00AM</b>	Wander the stalls at the <a href="#">Kauppatori Market Square</a> (550m; 10min)
<b>9:40AM</b>	Depart on <a href="#">Suomenlinna Ferry</a> [Kauppatori→Suomenlinna; 15min]
<b>10:00AM</b>	Explore <a href="#">Suomenlinna Island</a> (4km; 1hr 30min) ( <a href="#">Suomenlinna Church</a> ; <a href="#">Ehrensvard's Grave</a> ; <a href="#">King's Gate</a> )
<b>12:30PM</b>	Beverages at <a href="#">Suomenlinna Brewery</a>
<b>2:00PM</b>	Depart on <a href="#">Suomenlinna Ferry</a> [Suomenlinna→Kauppatori; 15min]
<b>2:30PM</b>	Depart on <a href="#">Tram 2</a> [Kauppatori→Toolon Halli; 21min]
<b>3:00PM</b>	Explore <b>Western Helsinki</b> (3.3km; 45min) ( <a href="#">Sibelius Monument</a> , <a href="#">Hietaranta Beach</a> , <a href="#">Temppeliaukion Church</a> )
<b>5:00PM</b>	Walk over to <a href="#">Ateljee Bar</a> for beverages and great views (1.2km; 15min)
<b>7:00PM</b>	Walk for a nightcap at <a href="#">Ravintola Teerenpeli</a> (Finland's oldest craft brewery)
<b>8:00PM</b>	Walk back to hotel for bedtime! (900m; 15min)

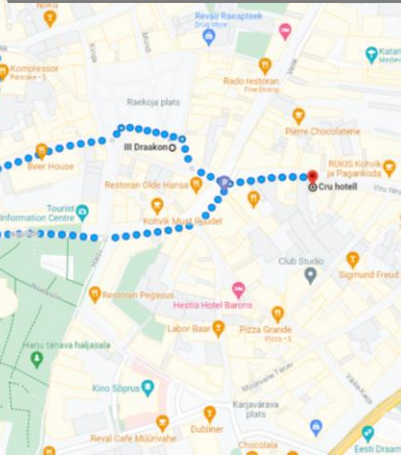
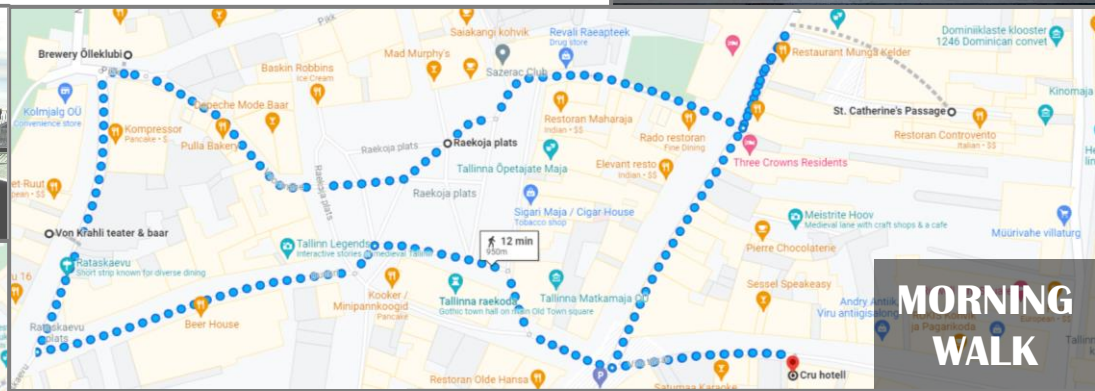
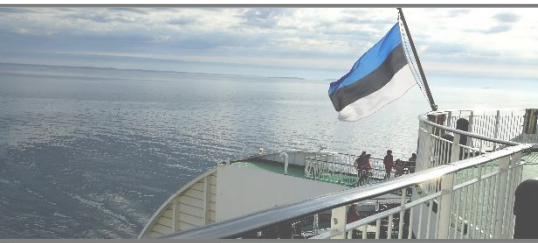
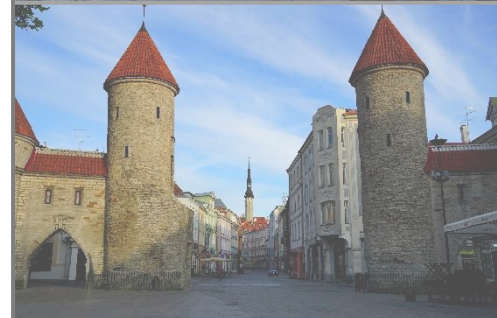




# DAY 3

Today we migrated across the Gulf to Tallinn, Estonia. We took a taxi to the West Harbor for an early ferry over to Tallinn where we dropped off our luggage and enjoyed a quick breakfast at our hotel before setting out to explore the medieval city. We wandered through time and narrow passages to explore Tallinn's castles and cathedrals, stopping for sustenance and to quench our thirst periodically throughout the day. Tallinn was one of our favorite towns in which to wander of the trip!

<b>6:30AM</b>	Take taxi to West Harbour pier [3km; 15min]
<b>7:30AM</b>	Depart on <a href="#">Tallink Silja Line</a> ferry for Tallinn (2hrs)
<b>9:30AM</b>	Taxi from Tallinn Harbor pier to hotel [4km; 15min]
<b>10:00AM</b>	Drop off luggage and have breakfast at <a href="#">Cru Hotel</a>
<b>10:15AM</b>	Walk to explore <a href="#">St. Catherine's Passage</a> and <a href="#">Raekoja Plats</a> (800m; 15min)
<b>12:00PM</b>	Stop for a beverage at <a href="#">Brewery Olleklubi</a>
<b>1:00PM</b>	Lunch at <a href="#">Von Krahli Aed</a>
<b>2:30PM</b>	Return back to formally check in at <b>Hotel CRU</b>
<b>3:30PM</b>	Walk to check out <a href="#">St. Mary's</a> (views from 69m tower) and <a href="#">Alexander Nevsky Cathedral</a> and <a href="#">Tall Hermann</a> (1.3km; 20min)
<b>6:00PM</b>	Dinner at <a href="#">Rataskaevu 16</a>
<b>7:30PM</b>	Wander around for views from <a href="#">Patkuli</a> and <a href="#">Kohtuotsa platforms</a>
<b>10:00PM</b>	Have a nightcap and snacks at <a href="#">III Draakon</a>



**EVENING WALK**

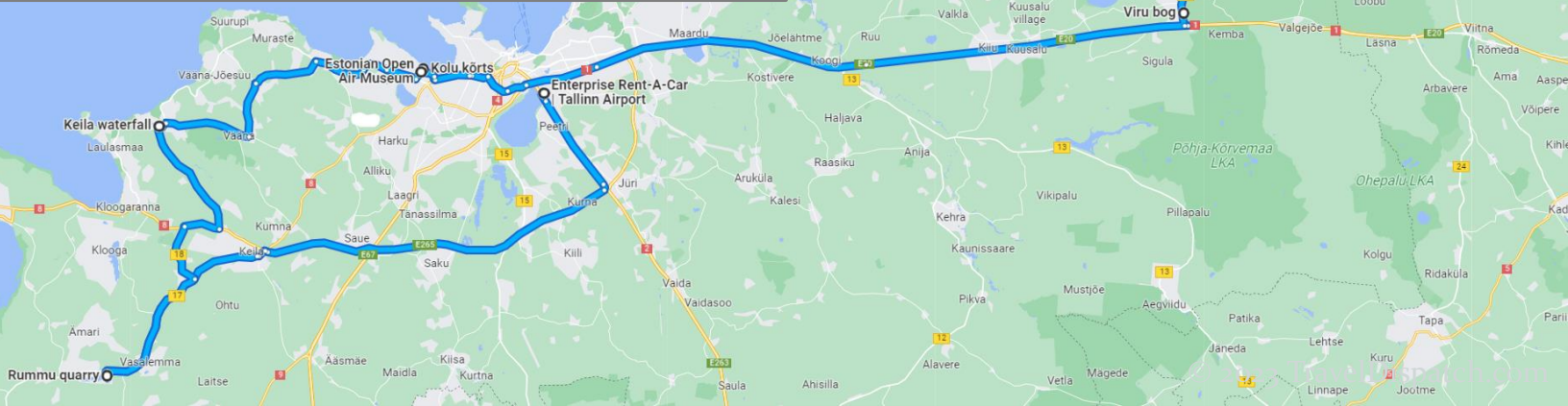
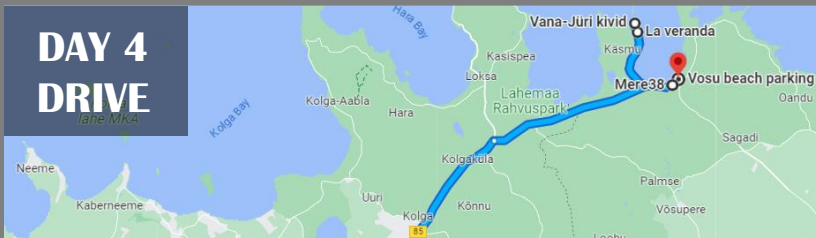
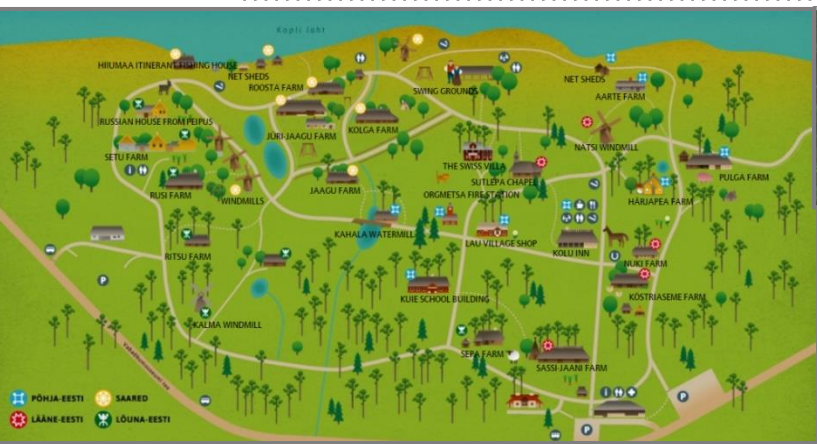
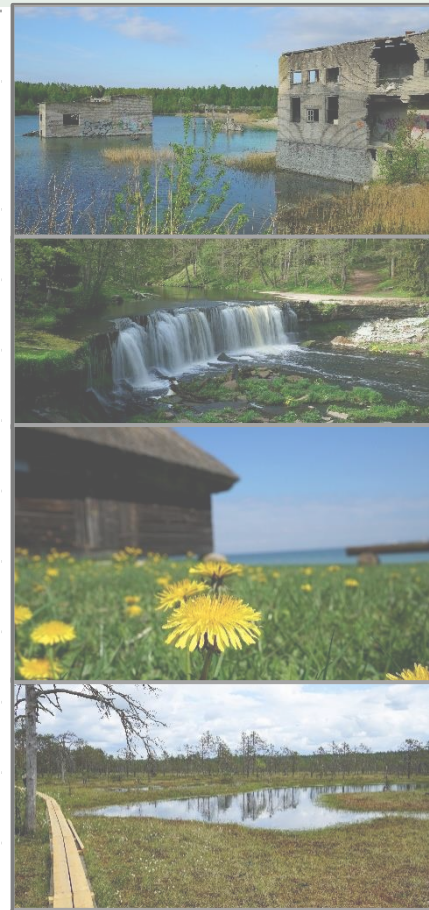
**MORNING WALK**



# DAY 4

Today we rented a car to explore the Estonian countryside. We taxied to the airport and picked up our rental so we could check out the abandoned and partially submerged Rummu Quarry Prison, beautiful Keila Juga waterfall, and Estonian Open Air Museum that morning. The expansive boardwalks across the marshes of Viru Raba and coastline of Kuradisaar Kasmu were fantastic in the afternoon. We returned to Tallinn that evening to drop off our rental; it was a long, but awesome day in Estonia.

5:45AM	Taxi to TLL pick up rental from <a href="#">Enterprise Rental</a> [5km; 20min]
6:30AM	Drive to explore <a href="#">Rummu Quarry Prison</a> [47km; 45min] <b>NOTE:</b> There were no tickets or formal tours when we went; however, it looks like there are now! Tickets are sold via the link <i>but entry is after 10AM</i> , so you may need to revise this day's itinerary.
9:30AM	Drive to explore <a href="#">Keila Juga Waterfall</a> [30km; 30min]
10:45AM	Drive to explore the <a href="#">Estonian Open Air Museum</a> [26km; 30min]
12:15PM	Lunch at <a href="#">Kolu Inn</a>
1:00PM	Drive to hike through <a href="#">Viru Raba</a> [51km; 45min] (~3km; 45min)
3:30PM	Drive to explore <a href="#">Vana-Jüri kivid</a> [27km; 30min]
	Afternoon coffee and snacks at <a href="#">La Veranda</a>
5:00PM	Drive to dinner at <a href="#">Resto Mere 38</a> [7km; 15min]
6:30PM	Explore <a href="#">Võsu Beach</a>
7:00PM	Drive back to return rental at Enterprise [75km; 1hr]
8:15PM	Take taxi back to hotel; explore old town or just relax!

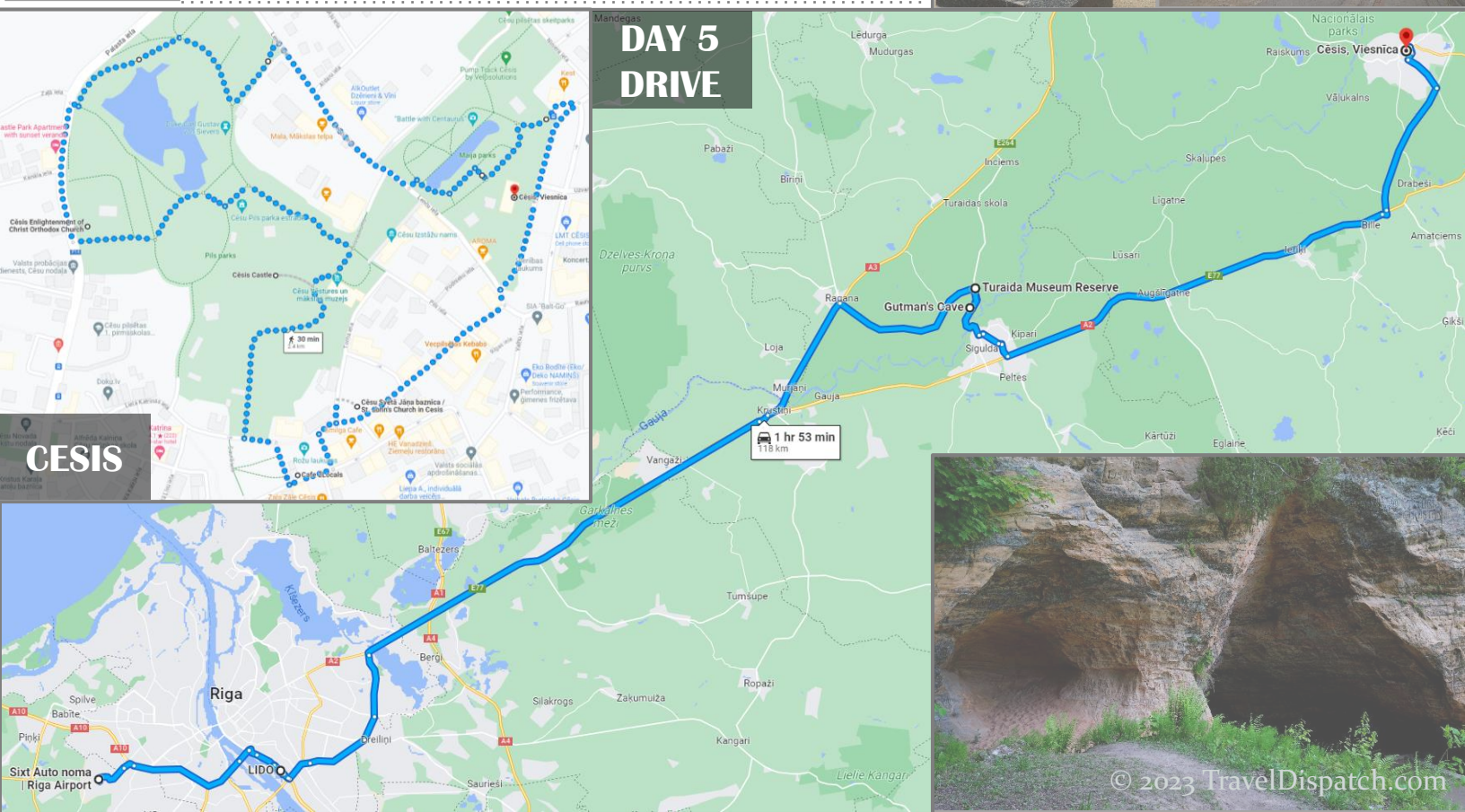
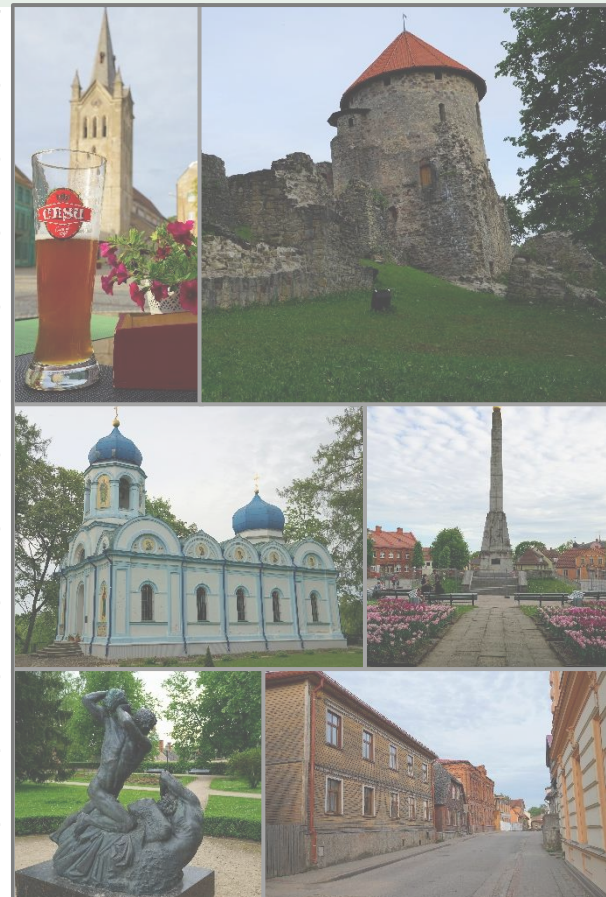




# DAY 5

Today we flew to Riga and explored the Latvian countryside. After breakfast and final wandering around Tallinn we flew to Riga, picked up our rental, and checked out a cave and castle before arriving at the small town of Cēsis. We wandered around that evening to enjoy the local architecture, food, and beverages; it was like a trip back in time to the 80's Soviet Era, but in a good way.

<b>8:00AM</b>	Breakfast at <b>Cru Hotel</b>
	Wander around old town of Tallinn
<b>11:15AM</b>	Taxi to Tallinn airport (TLL) [5km; 15min]
<b>1:30PM</b>	Depart from Tallinn (TLL)
<b>2:20PM</b>	Arrive in Riga (RIX) and pick up rental at <a href="#">Sixt Car Rental</a>
<b>3:00PM</b>	Drive to Riga for lunch at <a href="#">LIDO</a> [14km; 15min]
<b>4:30PM</b>	Drive to <a href="#">Gaujas National Park</a> [60km; 1hr]
<b>5:30PM</b>	Explore <a href="#">Gutman's Cave</a> and <a href="#">Turaidas Muzejrezervats</a>
<b>6:30PM</b>	Drive to Cēsis [43km; 45min]
<b>7:15PM</b>	Check in at <a href="#">Hotel Cēsis</a>
<b>7:30PM</b>	Dinner at <a href="#">Café 2Locals</a>
<b>8:30PM</b>	Explore <b>Cēsis</b> ( <a href="#">Cēsis Castle &amp; park</a> )





# DAY 6

Today we migrated back to enjoy the architecture and entertainment of Riga. After breakfast we drove back to the airport to drop off our rental and take a taxi into Riga. We spent the remainder of the day wandering around the city to take in the diversely beautiful architecture, graze on delicious food, and check out the local pub scene; Riga was definitely another of our favorite cities of the trip!

<b>7:00AM</b>	Breakfast at <b>Hotel Cēsis</b>
<b>8:00AM</b>	Drive to <b>Riga</b> via <a href="#">Vangazi</a> (blast from Soviet era past) [89km; 1hr 30min]
<b>10:00AM</b>	Explore the art nouveau facades along <a href="#">Albert St.</a>
<b>11:00AM</b>	Drive to airport ( <b>RIX</b> ) to return rental at <b>Sixt</b> [11km; 30min]
<b>12:00PM</b>	Taxi to check in at <a href="#">Hotel Neiburgs</a> [11km; 20min]
<b>1:00PM</b>	Lunch at <a href="#">1221 Restorans</a>
<b>1:45PM</b>	Wander about <b>Riga Part 1</b> (1.7km; 20min) ( <a href="#">Riga Central Square &amp; Cathedral</a> ; walk across river for skyline view)
<b>2:30PM</b>	Taxi over to <a href="#">Latvian Academy of Sciences</a> [4km; 15min] (Head to the rooftop to check out amazing views of Riga)
<b>3:45PM</b>	Wander back through <b>Riga Part 2</b> (2.4km; 30min) ( <a href="#">Central Market</a> , <a href="#">St. Peters Church</a> , and <a href="#">House of Blackheads</a> )
<b>5:30PM</b>	Stop by hotel to freshen up before dinner
<b>7:30PM</b>	Walk over for dinner and drinks at <a href="#">Folkklubs ALA Pagrabs</a>  Head back to hotel (600m; 10min)



## PART 1 WALK

## PART 2 WALK

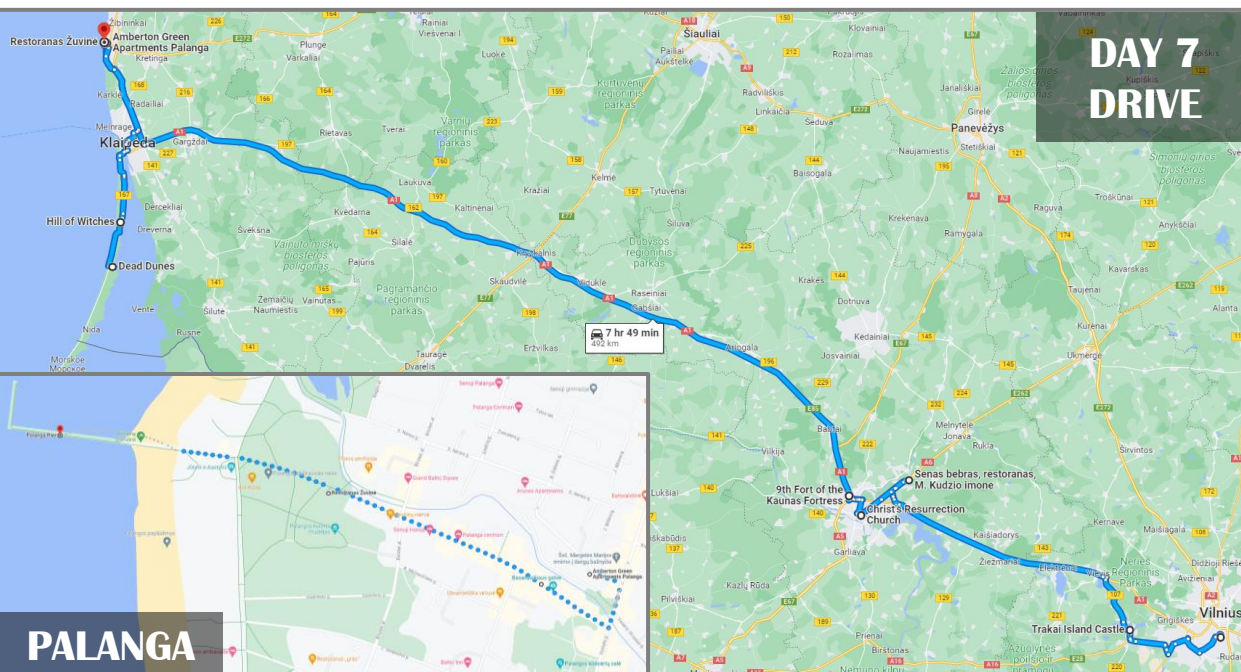




# DAY 7

Today we flew to Vilnius to explore the Lithuanian countryside. We took an early taxi to the Riga airport for a flight to Vilnius where we picked up our rental and drove past a couple castles to the beautiful coastal town of Palanga. We then ventured via ferry over to the Curonian Spit to check out the giant rolling dunes and carvings of the Hill of Witches before heading back to Palanga for sunset.

<b>5:00AM</b>	Taxi to Riga airport (RIX) [11km; 30min]
<b>7:35AM</b>	Depart from Riga (RIX)
<b>9:00AM</b>	Arrive in Vilnius (VNO) and pick up rental from <a href="#">Enterprise Car Rental</a>
<b>9:30AM</b>	Drive to explore <a href="#">Trakai Island Castle</a> [31km; 30min]
<b>11:00AM</b>	Drive to <b>Karmelava</b> [79km; 1hr]
<b>12:00PM</b>	Lunch at <a href="#">Senas Bebras</a>
<b>1:00PM</b>	Drive to <b>Kaunas</b> [20km; 30min]
<b>1:30PM</b>	Explore <a href="#">Christ's Resurrection Basilica</a> and <a href="#">IX Fort</a>
<b>2:30PM</b>	Drive to <b>Palanga</b> [233km; 2hr 30min]
<b>5:00PM</b>	Check in at <a href="#">Amberton Green Apartments Hotel</a>
<b>5:30PM</b>	Drive to <a href="#">Curonian Spit</a> [62km; 1hr 30min] <i>(requires ferry crossing at Klaipeda)</i>
<b>7:00PM</b>	Explore <a href="#">Grey Dunes</a> and the <a href="#">Hill of Witches</a>
<b>8:00PM</b>	Drive to <b>Palanga</b> [52km; 1hr 30min] <i>(requires ferry crossing at Klaipeda)</i>
<b>9:30PM</b>	Dinner at <a href="#">Zuvine Restaurant</a>
<b>10:00PM</b>	Check out sunset at <b>Palanga Pier</b>

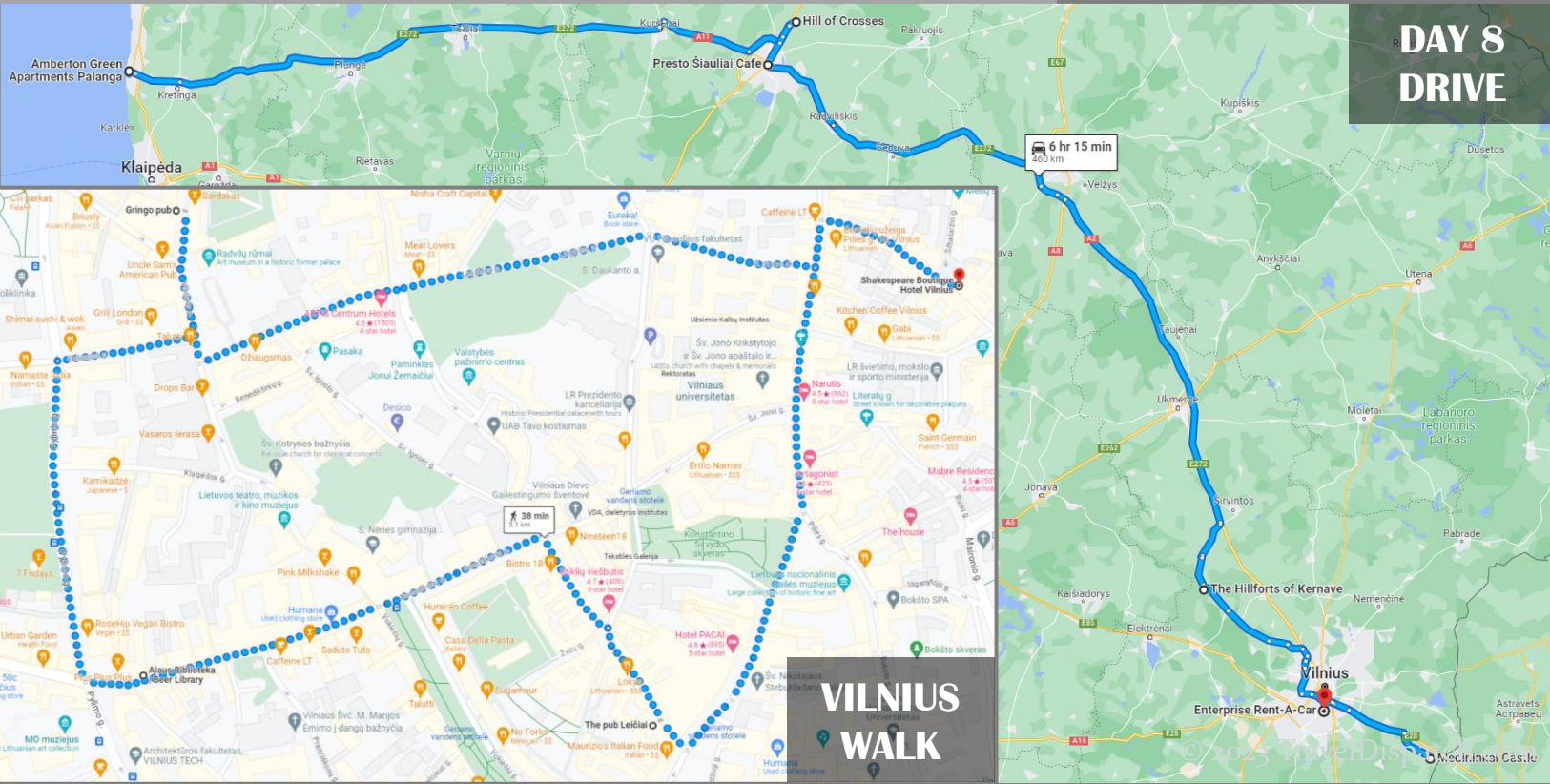




# DAY 8

Today we continued exploring the Lithuanian countryside back to Vilnius. We started the day wandering amongst the Hill of Crosses before having breakfast and stopping by the Kernave Hillforts and Medininkai Castle on our way to return our rental at the airport. We spent the remainder of the day exploring the cool capital city of Vilnius.

<b>6:00AM</b>	Drive to <b>Siauliai</b> [158km; 2hr]
<b>8:00AM</b>	Explore the <b>Hill of Crosses</b>
<b>9:30AM</b>	Breakfast at <b>Presto Siauliai Cafe</b>
<b>10:15AM</b>	Drive to explore the <b>Kernave Hillforts</b> [185km; 2hr 15min]
<b>1:30PM</b>	Drive to explore the <b>Medininkai Castle</b> [73km; 1hr]
<b>3:30PM</b>	Drive to <b>VNO</b> to return rental at <b>Enterprise</b> [31km; 30min]
<b>4:45PM</b>	Taxi to check in at <b>Shakespeare Boutique Hotel</b> [8km; 15min]
<b>5:30PM</b>	Walk for beverages at the <b>Gringo Pub</b> (1km; 15min)
<b>6:45PM</b>	Dinner and drinks at <b>Alaus Biblioteka</b>
	Nightcap at <b>Bambalyne</b> (650m; 10min)





# DAY 9

Today we took a deeper dive into Vilnius and visited the Republic of Užupis. After breakfast we walked from the Three Crosses monument past a couple notable churches and the Gediminas Tower before returning to the hotel to start packing, as this is was our last full day of the trip. That afternoon we visited the quirky Republic of Užupis before enjoying dinner and beverages. We spent the night Vilnius but taxied to the airport at 4:00AM to fly back to Helsinki and catch our flight home on 'Day 10.'

**8:00AM** Breakfast at **Shakespeare Boutique Hotel**

**9:00AM** Morning wandering through **Vilnius** (5km; 1hr 15min)  
([Three Crosses](#), [St. Peter / Paul's Church](#), [Gediminas Tower](#), and [St. Anne's Church](#))

**12:00PM** Head back to hotel to start packing and relax

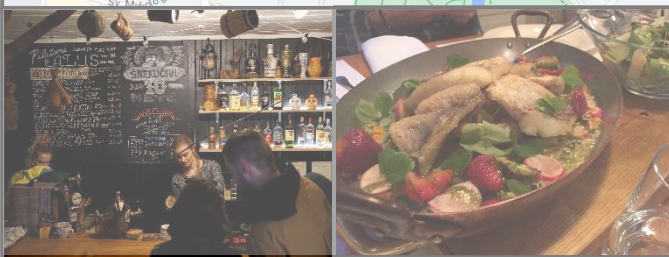
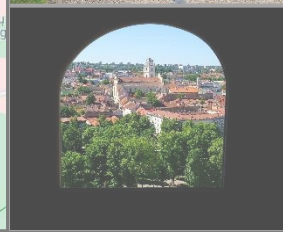
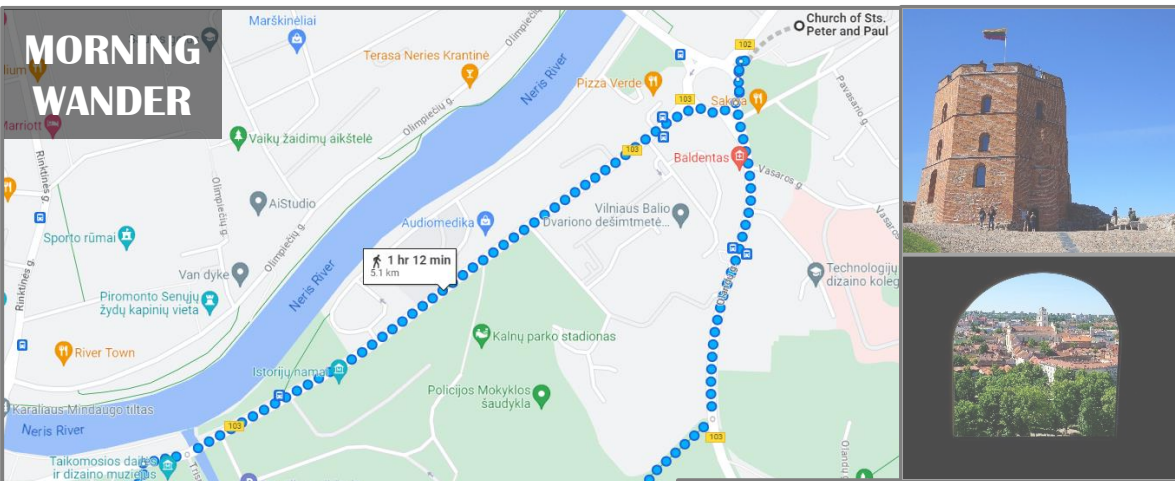
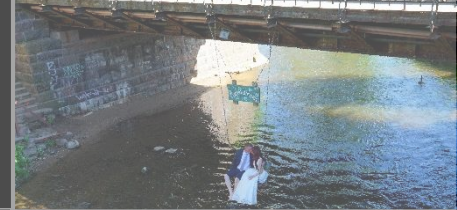
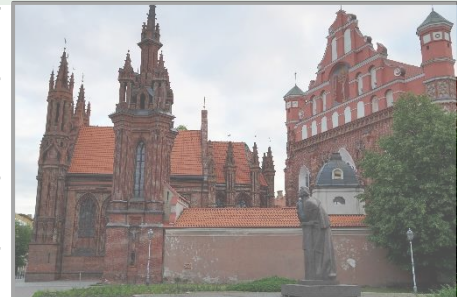
**2:00PM** Afternoon wandering around the **Republic of Užupis** (850m; 15min)  
(Swing Bridge into Užupis; Angel of Užupis; Constitution of Užupis)

**3:30PM** Beverages at **Spunka**

**5:00PM** Walk for a tasty dinner at **Snekutis** (1.2km; 15min)

Continue to wander or had back to hotel for some rest!

**4:00AM** <NEXT DAY> Head to the airport and fly back to Helsinki and home!





The lists below illustrate our top picks based on our experiences along our trip. The lists are not intended to be exhaustive and we do not have partnerships or receive incentives from any of our recommendations. We've included any available links to the providers and to 'our reviews' I've posted on TripAdvisor. We wish you memorable travels and encourage you to reach out with any questions!

## LODGING

[Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel](#) [Helsinki, Finland; Days 1 & 2] ([Our Review](#))

[Hotel CRU](#) [Tallinn, Estonia; Days 3 & 4] ([Our Review](#))

[Hotel Cēsis](#) [Cēsis, Latvia; Day 5] ([Our Review](#))

[Neibuargs Hotel](#) [Riga, Latvia; Day 6] ([Our Review](#))

[Amberton Green Apartments](#) [Palanga, Lithuania; Day 7] ([Our Review](#))

[Shakespeare Boutique Hotel](#) [Vilnius, Lithuania; Days 8 & 9]

Cozy room in a great location with a fantastic breakfast.



## RESTAURANTS

I've included our Top 5 places where we ate during this trip; *sequenced by day, not ranking*.

[Ravintola Emo](#) [Helsinki, Finland; Day 1] ([Our Review](#))

"High 5" tasting menu was quite good. Overall, staff, atmosphere, and food were all great; definitely recommend.

[Helsinki Bryggeri Brewhouse](#) [Helsinki, Finland; Day 1] ([Our Review](#))

Quality and traditional brews appropriately representing their styles; lamb was fall-off-the-bone tender and tasty.

[La Veranda](#) [Kasumu, Estonia; Day 4] ([Our Review](#))

Friendly B&B owners welcomed us with delicious cappuccino and truffles; great option to stop or stay in area.

[Café 2Locals](#) [Cēsis, Latvia; Day 5] ([Our Review](#))

The food is nothing to write home about, but great outdoor dining in center of town with clear cathedral views.

[Folkklubs Ala Pagrabs](#) [Riga, Latvia; Day 6] ([Our Review](#))

Great selection of local beer; plentiful portions of delicious food; and great energy from the band and crowd.

## EXPERIENCES

[Get lost and go back in time in Tallinn](#) [Tallinn, Estonia; Day 3]

There are plenty of little passageways and portals back to medieval times throughout the old town of Tallinn. Wander throughout the town marveling at its many minarets and towers and perch yourself at one of the viewing platforms or squares to take it all in!

[Rummu Quarry Prison](#) [Rummu, Estonia; Day 4]

It was a surreal experience to wander along the watchtower, razor wire, and blown out and partially submerged structures. Now that they have a water park and run tours, I'm not sure if it loses some of its original feel, but it's a good day trip from Tallinn so you should find out for yourself.

[Enjoy a stroll through Riga](#) [Riga, Latvia; Day 6]

Riga has fantastic architecture from its variety of churches to the Latvian Academy of Sciences Building and variety of squares and great food and bars, this city punches above its weight class.

[Curonian Spit](#) [Klaipeda, Lithuania; Day 7]

It's worth the trek out to wander about the rolling and expansive Grey Dunes perched between the Baltic Sea and Curonian Lagoon and the creepy / cool carvings in Witches Hill.

